

RONNIE SMITH KENNELS

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VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

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Thanks to the ladies at COWs International Inc. for all of their hard work on our website! Rhonda Vergouwen has done a great job. We plan to have our online store up and running when we return in March.

WE ARE CURRENTLY TAKING
RESERVATIONS FOR TRAINING

Let us know if you are planning to bring a dog in for training. We will send a packet to you in order to ensure your dog has a spot in either our May or August Training Rotation. We are very excited about the training season. It looks like we will have a great group of dogs going through our program. Thanks to all of you sending dogs to us for training!

TRAINING ON WILD BIRDS IN CANADA!

Don't miss the opportunity to get your dog on wild birds in Canada! This September we plan to be taking a group of dogs to Alberta for 30 days of training. This is an excellent chance to put an extra polish on your dog. Contact us to reserve a spot for your dog!

RONNIE'S 2008
SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Foundation Level

Feb. 29 - March 2

Silver Brook Ranch

Baird, Texas

Londa Warren

405.348.0071

March 7-9

Gunnerman Kennels

Poway, California

Rick Ellis

858.486.4600

March 14-16

Gundog Supply

Starkville, MS

Steve Snell

800.624.6378

March 28-30

Mason-Dixon Game
Outfitters

Pylesville, MD

Jim or Kim Lewis

410.452.8472

April 11 - 13

Ronnie Smith Kennels

Big Cabin, OK

Londa Warren

405.348.0071

HUNTING WITH THE LEGENDS

Pointing Dog Journal's Steve Smith does it again

Always a first class act, Steve Smith knows how to make a stir amongst the bird dog world. For the 2008 Quail Season, Smith initiated a "Hunting with the Legends" essay contest in the Pointing Dog Journal (PDJ), the winner of which would get to hunt with Smith and TV host Chris



Dorsey of Bird Hunter's Journal. The legendary hunt was to take place at the 45,000 acre Mariposa Ranch in Brooks County, Texas and was to be guided by none other than our dear Rick Smith and his cousin Ronnie Smith.

PDJ was overwhelmed by the response when over 800 essays were submitted. The ultimate winner was a gentleman named Josh Manahan from Maine who was a first time quail hunter. At ease in front of the camera and quick to notice the details, Josh proved to be a valuable asset to the hunt. Josh seemed thoroughly happy as he intensely watched the dogs work off of the truck. It did not take long for Josh to shoot his first Bobwhite Quail!

As always, Steve Smith and Chris Dorsey were a pleasure to hunt with. Josh Manahan makes a superb addition to a great activity - the endless hunt for the illusive Bobwhite Quail.

PAST TRAINEES

Clients take advantage of wild bird hunts

We've been lucky enough to bring some of the dogs trained during last summer's rotation to the Mariposa Ranch this year.

These dogs get a wonderful opportunity to hunt wild bob white quail almost every day of the season. The experiences these dogs gained during their time at the Mariposa Ranch will make them proficient bird

finders the rest of their life. You simply can't beat months of daily wild bird contact under the rough conditions in South Texas.

SOUTH TEXAS BOBWHITE QUAIL HUNTING SEASON 2007 - 2008

What happened with the Quail?

Summer rains brought high expectations for the quail crop. The faucet turned off in late summer though, and food sources began to dry up. By December many ranches in South Texas were noticing a



Gage (owned by Roger Hill) on point with Steve Smith & cameraman Jeff McMichael.

RONNIE'S SEMINAR SCHEDULE CONT...

Intermediate Level

April 17 - 20

Ronnie Smith Kennels

Big Cabin, OK

Londa Warren

405.348.0071

May 29 - June 1

Dogs Unlimited

Hudson, CO

Alan Davidson

303.536.4373

Advanced Level

March 31 - April 2

Mason-Dixon Game

Outfitters

Pylesville, MD

Jim or Kim Lewis

410.452.8472

April 24 - 27

Ronnie Smith Kennels

Big Cabin, OK

Londa Warren

405.348.0071

drop in number of coveys. Some theorized the decrease was due to competition with a booming mouse population for food and others contributed it to lack of available green food sources. Either way, there was a noticeable impact on the Bobwhite Quail. The Mariposa Ranch however, was able to sustain a hunt-able population by feeding the quail all season.

THE MARIPOSA RANCH FIELD TRIAL

Quail hunting guides from the four winds came together and competed at the Mariposa Ranch

Sitting around a South Texas campfire, listening to the sounds of the night, and rehashing that day's performance of the bird dogs, sounds peaceful to most of us. However, you never know when a competitive notion may be hatched among friends. Such is the way the Mariposa Field Trial was begun. Rules? Naturally,



Above: Front Row (L to Rt): Sonny Piekarz with Clancy, Gabe Gaudern, with Piper. Back Row (L to Rt): Jeff Vincett, Nicole Ball, Ronnie Smith, Susanna Love, Tommy Woods

e-collars were a must for each handler. No guide who recently



Above: Lucio Sanchez of the Mariposa Ranch holding a quail just retrieved by Sandy (owned by Ronnie Smith Kennels).

discovered the marvels of the Garmin Astro would be willing to completely do away with that safety precaution. Nicole Ball of Alberta, Gabe Gaudern of Montana, and Susanna Love of Oklahoma were to judge, assisted by the Garmin Astro.

Competitors were the 2008 hunting guides at the Mariposa Ranch; Jeff Vincett of Alberta, Tommy Woods of Oklahoma, Sonny Piekarz of Wisconsin, and Ronnie Smith of Oklahoma. Both Jeff Vincett and Sonny Piekarz are graduates of the Gold Level HuntSmith Certification Program.

Sonny Piekarz ran two exceedingly nice braces. Piper, a white and black Setter of Sonny's, won runner up. Sonny's white and liver English Pointer stud dog, Clancy, stole the gold.

RONNIE SMITH KENNELS TRAINING PROGRAM

Training Rotations

May 1- July 31

August 1 - October 31

- Dogs will be received the first week of the Rotation.

- \$600 a month

Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to send a dog to the May Rotation!

Puppy Development

April 1 - 31

July 1 - 31

- Pups will be put on birds and prepared for the formal training of the next Training Rotation

- \$400 a month

Tune Ups

July 1 - 31

October 1 - 31

- \$600 a month



T-BONE
owned by Jim Greenwood