

RONNIE SMITH KENNELS

MAY

WWW.RONNIESMITHKENNELS.COM

2008



2008 FOUNDATION SEMINAR AT SILVERBROOK RANCH, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS

We have almost completed a wonderful 2008 seminar season! We'd like to give a special note of thanks to all of the hosts who make these seminars possible. Our hosts work very hard at securing facilities, organizing meals, and coordinating people for these seminars. A warm thanks to Ken Welch of Silverbrook Ranch, Rick Ellis with Gunnerman Kennels, Steve Snell of Gun Dog Supply, Jim and Kim Lewis with Mason-Dixon Game Outfitters and Londa Warren with Team Huntsmith.

OUR CANADA TRAINING TRIP IS FILLING UP FAST!

Ronnie Smith Kennels has been given the opportunity to spend the month of September in Alberta, Canada training dogs on wild birds in big country. If your dog has been trained with us, this is a great chance to give that dog daily exposure to a significant number of wild birds in preparation for a successful 2008 hunting season. We are taking some of the younger dogs that are going through our May Training Rotation, as well as older dogs that just need a tune up. We are scheduled to leave Oklahoma the later part of August and return early October. Cost is \$600 per dog. Please contact us if you'd like to include your dog!

**See pictures from our
Seminars at our online
gallery:**

[http://gallery.mac.com/
ronniesmithkennels](http://gallery.mac.com/ronniesmithkennels)

RONNIE'S REMAINING 2008 SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Intermediate Level

May 29 - June 1

Dogs Unlimited

Hudson, CO

Alan Davidson

303-536-4373

NEW FACE AROUND
RONNIE SMITH KENNELS

**Gabe Gaudern of Bitterroot
Gundog Training**

Many of you may already be familiar with this hardworking man from Montana, but for those you of that have not yet met him, let us introduce our new Assistant Trainer. Gabe Gaudern of Bitterroot Gundog Training, joined us in January as a Guide on the Mariposa Ranch and will also be working here at the Kennels as an Assistant Trainer.

Gabe is 19 years old and has been around animals all of his life. He hunts and breeds German Shorthairs. Before moving to Oklahoma, Gabe was a framing sub-contractor in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.



Delmar Smith with Gabe Gaudern demonstrating at the Train to Retrieve Table during a Seminar at Ronnie Smith Kennels.

We are excited to have Gabe with us. He has a good, soft way with animals and is dedicated to making himself a great dog trainer. Be sure to meet him if you come by the Kennels!

THE 2008 SEMINARS
From Baird, Texas to Pylesville, Maryland '08 Seminars have been a tremendous success

SILVERBROOK RANCH:
CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS

Ronnie began his 2008 Seminar Circuit at Silverbrook Ranch in Callahan County, Texas. This was the first time for a Huntsmith Seminar to be held at Silverbrook. Thanks to Ken Welch the seminar came off with out a hitch. Ken gathered a wonderful group of attendees and the Ranch could not have been a more beautiful place to hold a seminar.

GUN DOG SUPPLY:
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

Also a new addition to the seminar circuit is the Starkville, MS seminar hosted by Steve Snell of Gun Dog Supply. The actual seminar was held at Quail Ridge, a superb private preserve near Lewisville.

There were some fabulous dogs there, ranging from a nice black lab owned by Vernon Hathcock to a hard to find Braque du Bourbonnais pointer owned by Willie Verret.

MASON-DIXON GAME
OUTFITTERS: PYLESVILLE,
MARYLAND

Attendees may have had tough weather in Maryland, but their dogs were nearly picture perfect. A lot of the attendees credit Mason-Dixon Game Outfitters for their dog's

RONNIE SMITH
KENNELS
TRAINING PROGRAM

Training Rotation

May 1- July 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 STILL LIKE
TO SEND A DOG TO OUR
MAY ROTATION!**

CANADA

September 1 - 30

- We will receive dogs the later part of August and begin training on wild birds in Canada on September 1.
- \$600 a month

Tune Ups

September & October
- \$600 a month



A young Braque du Bourbonnais relaxes in the shade during the seminar.

performance. Mason-Dixon has put on many training days throughout the year to help owners train using the HuntSmith method.

RONNIE SMITH KENNELS:
BIG CABIN, OKLAHOMA



Attendees at the Foundation Seminar at Ronnie Smith Kennels

We hold the Big Cabin Seminars during three consecutive weekends in April. These are particularly enjoyable seminars for us. We feel that we get to spend more time with each individual attendee and get to develop some lasting friendships with some wonderful people. Every Saturday night we cook a big dinner for all of the seminar attendees and have a great time.

Ronnie's uncle, Delmar Smith, made an appearance for the Intermediate Seminar. He stayed the weekend and entertained us with his story telling and insight on life, bird dogs, and horses. We were even able to get Delmar to give a quick hour and a half talk on the Train to Retrieve tablework.



We were also blessed with the presence of Richard Tyson of Auckland, New Zealand. Richard has gone through two HuntSmith Seminars in New Zealand, but decided to come up to Oklahoma to work with us for his next Intermediate and



A happy seminar attendee...Abbey, a black roan French Brittany owned by Homer Griggs of Texas.

Advanced Seminars. Londa Warren was kind enough to loan him a dog (an Irish Red Setter named Twinkie) for both seminars and a horse (a blue roan named Frosty) for the Advanced Seminar this weekend. We applaud Richard for the effort he has put toward becoming proficient in HuntSmith training technics and welcome him to Oklahoma!

OLD BARN, JOHN PROCTOR & THE FILMING OF AN INTERMEDIATE TRAINING VIDEO

For those of you who have your dog off the whoa post and are struggling with where to go from there, the Intermediate Level Video is on its way!

Late December of 2007 found Rick and Ronnie walking through the pasture in different directions as they mumbled to themselves trying to determine the most efficient way to convey the concepts of the Intermediate Training Level to their audience on tape. After days and numerous requests to "Try it again from the top," the HuntSmith Producer, Craig Smith, had over an hour's worth of critical information on tape. Guess what...it was not enough! Rick and Ronnie were both concerned they were leaving out too much information in trying to cut the video down to a standard viewing time. So March found the duo at it again, adding more



left: Craig Smith, Rick Smith & Ronnie Smith filming the closing of the Intermediate Video over the grave of John Proctor, National Champion in 1916. right: National Champion John Proctor

information they thought would ease people through tough spots in their training.

One of the unique aspects of the video is the bird dog history that is involved in it's filming. The introduction takes place at the old red barn on the original Smith property...where Delmar and Ronnie Smith Sr. grew up and first learned the art of dog training, almost 70 years ago. Also, not far from the site of the current Ronnie Smith Kennels, is the gravesite of the 1916 National Champion, John

Proctor. This Hall of Fame Inductee's wins were sufficiently notable to be written up in the New York Times. The Smith's showed their respect to this fine old champion in closing their video at this spot.

Back to those of you with a whoa post rope in one hand, wondering what to do next, hang on! We are still expecting the video to be out of production and on shelves by late summer. We will keep you posted!

John Proctor Field Trials Winner

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 25.—John Proctor, the entry of A. L. Curtis of Bolton, Texas, handled by C. H. Babcock, was declared winner tonight of the free-for-all stake of the National Field Trials Club. This stake carries a purse of \$1,500 to the winner, the largest paid by any field trials club in the United States or Canada. Last Saturday John Proctor won the national championship stake run at Grand Junction, Tenn. De Soto Frank, owned by A. G. C. Sage of New York, ran a great race in the second series of the free-for-all stake. John Proctor's superiority in his footwork won for him.

The New York Times
Published: January 26, 1916

An interesting aside; John Proctor's great grandfather was a black and white dog named Rip Rap (whelped in 1888). The following is an excerpt off of the English River Website regarding Rip Rap:

"Rip Rap" was one of the first white and black Pointers to make a big mark in the field trial world. For many years prior to his appearance, black in a Pointer was frowned upon with suspicion, but it was not long before this prejudice was dispelled. So prominently did his name become associated with the white and blacks that to this day many of those not so well informed as they consider themselves refer to every white and black Pointer as a "Rip Rap". Rip Rap sired 19 field trial winners, many of them fine producers. His best son was "Young Rip Rap", a brilliant performer and a successful sire." -- *The Sportsman's Bookshelf, Volume XIII, Hunting Dogs and Their Uses: The Stackpole Company, Harrisburg, PA, 1951*