

# RONNIE SMITH KENNELS

JULY

[WWW.RONNIESMITHKENNELS.COM](http://WWW.RONNIESMITHKENNELS.COM)

2008



## WEBSITE GALLERY

[HTTP://GALLERY.MAC.COM/RONNIESMITHKENNELS](http://GALLERY.MAC.COM/RONNIESMITHKENNELS)

We have posted pictures of the dogs and some training work outs on our web gallery. Take a look and see all that is going on at the Kennels.

## CANADA TRAINING CAMP

If you haven't done so already, don't forget to send us your Reservation Form in order to have us take your dog to Canada. We are very close to having the maximum number of dogs we can take already signed up. The Reservation Forms are available on our website or email Susanna Love at [Office@RonnieSmithKennels.com](mailto:Office@RonnieSmithKennels.com)

## REMAINING 2008 SCHEDULE

### Puppy Development

August

- Ronnie Smith Kennels
- \$400

### Canada Training Program

September

- Consort, Alberta
- \$600 (plus a \$60 fuel surcharge for transport)

\*A few spots are still available if you would like your dog to have this experience. Contact us as soon as possible.

You can download a  
Reservation Form

from our website:  
[www.ronniesmithkennels.com/  
training.htm](http://www.ronniesmithkennels.com/training.htm)

### Tune Ups

October

- Ronnie Smith Kennels
- \$600



*Gabe Gaudern, Keny Glasscock, Breana Piekarz, Ronnie Smith, Sonny Piekarz, & Tom Lyles*

**LIVIN' THE DREAM**

**Spotlight on the HuntSmith Apprenticeship Program**

Over the past few years we have developed an Apprenticeship Program at Ronnie Smith Kennels that has met with tremendous success. Before the program was even officially off the ground there were Apprentices at the Kennels eager to obtain a HuntSmith Trainer Certification.

During the Apprentices' stay at Ronnie Smith Kennels they truly live the life of a professional dog trainer. Every aspect of the training business is taught to them, from canine nutrition to kennel maintenance to learning to read a dog's mental state every day. The Apprentices work hard six days a week from before dawn 'til after dusk.



*Tom Lyles & Keny Glasscock*

The Apprenticeship consists of three levels of proficiency correlating to each stage in the HuntSmith Bird Dog Training Format. The Bronze Level Certification covers the first month of the training program, which is the foundation of the entire training format. During this time the Apprentices work dogs, building prey drive while checkcording them on birds. In addition, the basic cues for quartering, here, and whoa are taught.

The Silver Level begins with the transition from the mechanical cue of the whoa post to the remote cue of the e-collar. That is when the real fun begins and dogs become more proficient at finding and working birds.

Gold Level training occurs with the transition from working pigeons to working quail and eventually the transition from an e-collar cue on the flank to a cue on the neck when the dog has reached the point of learned behavior.

We have enjoyed having all of the Apprentices here with us this year. We wish them all

REMAINING 2008  
SCHEDULE  
CONTINUED

**Guiding Quail Hunts**

November - February, 2009

-Various locales in Texas

-Select spots available for your dog to be tuned up on wild birds in true hunting situations.

**Contact**

**Ronnie Smith Kennels**

**to reserve a spot for any of these opportunities.**

**Office** 918.783.5400

**Ronnie** 361.455.3557

**Susanna** 210.831.5670



the best with their training endeavors with Lost Arrow Gun Dog's, Prairie Star Kennel, and Hay Creek Kennel.

**Lost Arrow Gun Dogs'  
Keny Glasscock out  
of Salt Lake City,  
Utah**



*Keny Glasscock & Ronnie Smith*

Keny Glasscock a former realtor from Salt Lake City made the life changing decision this year to attend our Apprenticeship Program and start his own bird dog training facility. While here working to obtain his Silver Level Certification, Keny contributed a lot to our operation. He is a Professional Canine Massage Practitioner and has used his talents in relaxing stressed dogs and helping to socialize those dogs in need of socialization skills. He also has a great working knowledge of holistic canine medications and is a wealth of information. Keny will be using the knowledge he has obtained in operating his own training facility, Lost Arrow Gun Dogs.

We wish Keny all the best in his endeavors with Lost Arrow Gun Dogs and look forward to having him back next year for his Gold Level Certification.

**Tom Lyles with Prairie Star  
Kennel**

Hailing from Montana is trainer Tom Lyles. Tom was a professional fly fishing guide out of Billings, Montana until he decided to become a professional bird dog trainer. Tom picked up his roots and his wife to move to Kansas and start a bird dog training facility upon completion of his certification with Team HuntSmith. His professional training facility will be named Prairie Star Kennel. Tom has just completed his Silver Level Certification.

Good luck Tom as you build your kennel and begin your own training business!



*Tom Lyles & Ronnie Smith*

**Sonny Piekarz of Hay  
Creek Kennel  
in Gilman, Wisconsin**

Sonny Piekarz, a Bronze Level Certified Trainer, returned this year to obtain his Silver Level Certification. Sonny is a host to the HuntSmith Seminars and has trained bird dogs utilizing the HuntSmith method for a number of years. He also guided quail hunts for us this past year at the

Mariposa Ranch. Sonny has developed a keen understanding of the HuntSmith format. He ran



*Sonny Piekarz & Ronnie Smith*

both the Champion and Runner Up dogs at the "1st Annual E-Collar National Field Trial" held at the Mariposa Ranch this past year. Sonny runs a first class operation at Hay Creek Kennels.

**THE NEW BUZZ IN  
THE BIRD DOG  
WORLD**

**Garmin announces a new  
tracking collar**

On June 26 Garmin made an announcement that reverberated across the bird dog world. In their announcement Garmin introduced a newly redesigned GPS dog tracking collar. This new DC 30 is a tracking collar that is designed to address some of the issues Garmin encountered with their original unit. The new collar is touted as having a range of seven miles. Garmin has also developed an extendable antenna for the handheld receiver that is said to increase the range by three miles.

Overall, the new DC 30 is built to be a heavy duty collar. The box is designed to rest under



the dog's chin, as opposed to the old unit that would loose at least half of it's range unless it was positioned on top of the dog's neck. The antenna follows the curve of the collar and extends up above the top of the dog's neck.

A common fear among many dog trainers this past spring was that Garmin would lengthen the refresh rate on their next collar, bringing it from 5 seconds to 8 seconds. Luckily, this collar does not implement that increase and can be set to refresh at intervals of 5, 10, or 30 seconds. This refresh rate determines how accurate the information is that you are receiving on your handheld unit. A refresh rate of 5 seconds means that the collar and the handheld communicate at 5 second intervals to update the information on the dog.

If you are interested in learning more about the Garmin Astro you can visit their website (<https://buy.garmin.com/shop/shop.do?pID=15512>). Also, we have written an article about our experiences with the original Garmin Astro unit, which is soon to be published in the Pointing Dog Journal.

## HOW DO I HANDLE MY DOG NOW THAT HE IS FULLY TRAINED?

### Training Tips

Your dog has been attending the intensive summer course How to Hunt Birds 101. You know this should change your relationship (for the better) both in the home and when working together in the field, but how do you implement that?

Here are some tips to think about as you bring your dog back home.

**Anything your dog did before he went to the trainer, he will do again when he comes home.**

As you reinsert yourself into your dog's life (and, therefore, his pack) you need to do so as the pack leader. This is a great opportunity for you to take the lead if your dog is one that has always seen himself as the head of the pack. You now have the tools to easily correct your dog to maintain a healthy relationship with him.

If your dog jumped up on you before you brought him for training, he will do it again when you go to see him at the trainer's (even though he hasn't tried that trick on anyone for months!). Jumping up on people is an effort to be above you and therefore, is a show of dominance in the canine language.

When a dog attempts to dominate you by jumping up, simply bring your knee up and allow him to bump into it as he jumps upward. Your dog's own momentum will determine the severity of the correction and therefore, he governs his own correction.

Another common way your old relationship will show itself is in heeling your dog. Remember it is not necessary to either coax or pull your dog to go with you. Your dog is very familiar with heeling. Simply cue him to heel with you, leave plenty of slack in your Command Lead, and *go with a purpose in the direction you want to go*. If your dog doesn't accept your leadership, keep moving, and cue him. The larger the infraction is,





the stronger the cue should be when heeling.

**Don't be afraid to use your e-collar.**

At Ronnie Smith Kennels we spend an enormous amount of time building a foundation on your dog so that he completely understands the meaning of a cue with an e-collar. By participating in workouts with us you will gain a basic knowledge of the possible levels of intensity your dog can be. *Pay attention to your dog's mental state.* A dog that is a Low 1 during a heeling exercise may be a High 3 when he sees a bird.

Remember the cues with the e-collar are not pain driven. It is merely a remote cue at the intensity level necessary to gain that dog's attention.

It is actually an injustice to your dog's education to not use the e-collar to cue him and keep his performance at a top level.

**Set boundaries in your home.**

If you are struggling to maintain your rank above your dog in your pack, set up rules in the house that your dog has to

obey and be consistent with those rules. These boundaries may be as simple as "Dinner doesn't begin until I give the word 'Alright'" or "Don't get on the couch unless invited." These simple rules in the house will keep your dog looking to you as pack leader for cues and will help your relationship in the field.

**Anthropomorphism?**

Yeah, we are all guilty. Anthropomorphism is defined by Webster's Dictionary as "ascribing human characteristics to nonhuman things." A dog's mind is a beautiful thing and we put up a communication barrier between that mind and ours when we try to make our dogs human. Often we will attach words or emotion to a dog's behavior that is thoroughly human and not germane to the dog's true mental state. When we sit down and talk with our dogs, confide in them, or sing to them we are giving them human characteristics. They react to the tone in our voices, but not the words we say, as we'd often like to believe.

Another example of anthropomorphism can occur when a dog puts his mouth on his owner. As long as it is a gentle hold, the owner thinks it is like holding hands with his best friend. The dog feels it is a test





C. H. HARRIS WITH L. L. HAGGIN'S POINTER, EUTAW MACK,  
AND H. A. TOMLINSON WITH WILLIAM ZEIGLER,  
JR.'S CH. MARY MONTROSE



*Mary Montrose, 3x National Field Trial Champion.*

of rank (like puppy play that establishes rank in a litter). This forms a behavior that sets the dog up to become aggressive and potentially bite when he is asked to do something out of his comfort zone.

Dogs are pack oriented and are driven by their instincts. They respect the leaders in their pack and that is why they seem loyal to us. Remember dogs are our pets and companions, but without boundaries and structure they can evolve into a liability to the owner and a danger to others.

MARY MONTROSE,  
A LADY TO BE  
REMEMBERED

Mary Montrose has been called a pointing dog equivalent to the great 1973 Triple Crown race horse, Secretariat.

**Triple National Champion Field Trial Winner**

Mary Montrose won her first National Field Trial Championship in 1917. She failed to win the 1918 Championship, but rallied in 1919 and 1920 to win

back to back Championships. Retired after her third National Championship, it was expected that Mary Montrose would have continued to spectacularly win major field trials had her owner not decided to retire her.

**Westminster Winner**

Mary Montrose went straight from winning the 1917 National Field Trial Championship to competing in the Westminster show. Complete with cuts caused by the briars during her field trial competition, Mary Montrose had the classy looks it took to win her category at Westminster.

**Hall of Fame Inductee**

The Field Trial Hall of Fame, a part of the National Bird Dog Museum, was launched in 1954. That inaugural year Mary Montrose was one of the first five pointers inducted into the Hall of Fame. Other inductees included her grandsire, Fishel's Frank, and one of Frank's offspring ... the 1916 National Field Trial Champion, John Proctor, who you may remember is buried near the current location of Ronnie Smith Kennels.