



Brittany A "Dual" Dog

Northern Virginia Brittany Club Newsletter: June 2008

This is the link to the NVBC Hunt Test page:

http://www.northernvirginiabrittanyclub.com/Hunt_Test.htm for information on the October 5/12th Hunt Test and a copy of the premium. The 2008 fall Field Trial has been cancelled. We need volunteers to run this event.

Please remember, if you renew your dues with the ABC directly, also let me know: jparker@sysplan.com or 703-356-9537.

I want you all to be up to date so you don't miss any club news and the ABC only posts renewals and new people once a quarter!

NVBC Board of Directors 2008

BOD Name/Phone/E-mail

President	Joann Anders 540-894-5826 RJAbritnys@aol.com
1st Vice Pres. & Immediate Past President	Sue Drazek 301-948-5067 sdrazek@comcast.net
2nd Vice Pres.	Greg Storey 703-361-0334 storey@comcast.net
Secretary	Judi Parker 703-356-9537 jparker@sysplan.com
Treasurer	Paul Douthit 202-841-0884 psdouthit@yahoo.com
Director at Large	Herb Reid 703 503-7912 herb.reid@siemens.com
Webmaster	Tom Mauter 505-466-6511 tjmauter@comcast.net
NVBC website	http://www.northernvirginiabrittanyclub.com/index.htm

Calendar of Events 2008

July 13	Pool Party-Picnic 12 noon, The Drazek's 14821 Spring Meadows Dr. Darnestown, MD
Early Oct (4 or 11)	Fun Trial/Training Day McKee Beshar WMA Seneca, Maryland
Early Oct (5 or 12)	Fall Hunt Test McKee Beshar WMA Seneca, Maryland
CANCELLED	Fall Field Trial
December 6	Annual Meeting & Awards & Holiday Party 1 PM The Drazek's Darnestown, Maryland

Attention all members: Please look over the events our Club is hosting. We are in need of volunteers to help make them a success. Any Chairperson will be glad to find the right job for you! Hunt Test, Field Trial, Training Day, Holiday Dinner—Pick one and volunteer now!

Events/Chair/Phone/E-mail

Hunt Test Chair Mike Spencer 301-622-1076
Hunt Test Co-Chair Paul Sullivan 703-404-9629

Field Trial Chair volunteer needed

Field Trial Secr'y volunteer needed

Specialty Chair volunteer needed

Training Day Greg Storey 703-361-0334

Web Master Tom Mauter 505-466-6511
tjmauter@comcast.net
www.northernvirginiabrittanyclub.com

Letter from your President

It's summer and the heat and humidity are knocking at our door. For many of us that means vacations, cookouts, boating and swimming. Be sure to keep a watchful eye on your Brittanys if they join you in these activities. If your crew is like mine they do love the outdoors and it's important to be sure they have water and shade available to keep them cool. Be sure to check our calendar of events and plan on coming out to join us and volunteer to help with some of them. We can always use help. If any of you are thinking you would like to get more involved with the club please don't hesitate to contact any of us on the Board. We'd love to hear from you. Hope to see many of you at the club events. Have a great summer.

Joann Anders

From the 'slightly broken' Secretary

You got it, once again I must thank Sue and Joann for getting the newsletter out to all of you. I am currently at the Brian Center I, Durham, NC., having been released from Duke University hospital. They had to replace my recent knee replacement. Now I am rehabbing again but hope to be home in 2-3 weeks. So until then I am checking phone messages, having my mail sent down, and playing computer games.

If you have anything you would like to see in the newsletter (pictures of your Brittanys, stories of the exploits, or fun things you have done, you can reach the Club Secretary at 703 356 9537 or jparker@sysplan.com. If you use e-mail, just be sure to put either Brittany club or NVBC in the subject line. In these days of spam and phishing, I tend to delete things I don't recognize.

My mailing address is:

Judi Parker
1453 Wasp Lane
McLean, VA 22101

Northern Virginia Brittany Club Specialty Show 2008

May 17, 2008, NVBC held our Specialty Show in conjunction with Mattaponi KC dog show. Our entry was small this year but we had beautiful weather and several nice Brittanys to watch. Best in Sweepstakes went to Hybrittin's Nitro To Go owned by Art & Judy Cohen and Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Sweepstakes went to CH Brookewood's MardiGras owned by Susie and Lee Osmansky. CH Triumphant's Absolut' On Ice won the Best of Breed. He is owned by Linda McCartney Roy. Judy & Art Cohen's Hybrittin's Nitro To Go was Winners Dog and Best of Winners and finished his championship. The Best of Opposite went to Tonan-Rao Halfmoon's Nite Mist owned by Dorothy Moon & Charles Kanopsic. Our only veteran was CH Keili's Dixie Christmas CDX MX MXJ JH owned by Susie and Lee Osmansky. Love to see the veterans out there. Several club members came to cheer the exhibitors on and enjoyed just seeing all the beautiful Brittanys.

New American Field Champion
AmFC /FC/ AFC RJA's Paws-Z-Trac
'Nick'



Nick earned his American Field Champion title in January 2008 winning the Tarheel Shooting Dog Championship for his proud owners Bob and Joann Anders. Nick had three finds one being a covey, all very stylish with excellent manners. He ran a strong forward race with little handling. Thank you, Nick, for a wonderful field trial season.

Keili



CH MACH Brookewood's Shooting Star UD RA JH
Nov 19, 1997 – March 31, 2008

While not my first Brittany, Keili was my first in so many ways: breed Champion, agility champion, Utility Dog, Junior Hunter, field trial dog and dam of my first litter of puppies. So eager to work and play. She loved every person and every dog she ever met.

My sweet Keili developed complications from anesthesia while undergoing surgery to repair a torn

ACL. Her esophagus was ulcerated and developed a stricture that blocked her ability to eat and drink. The internal medicine veterinarian tried multiple times to open the stricture but it kept recurring. With a heavy heart I elected to have her euthanized. After a walk looking for squirrels, she settled on the couch, had lots of vanilla ice cream and died peacefully in my arms. Oh, too soon to have left me.

Thanks to all of you for the contribution NVBC made in her name to the American Brittany Rescue, Inc. I can't think of a better way to recognize Keili.

Sincerely, Sue Drazek

My Continuing Adventures with Ollie:

A Week's Worth of Whistle Work

Submitted May 7, 2008 by Tom Maurer

This past Tax Day (April 15th) marked my one year anniversary with Sigbrit Ollie. It's been a year of new adventures for both Ollie and me, not to mention our cat, Fraidy.

Moving from the lush green lawns of Virginia to the cactus and sand of the Santa Fe high desert was a major transition for Ollie. The nasty stickers of the Cholla cactus precluded Ollie's rapid movement in our open spaces.

Instead, we began obedience work practicing every day with notable gains. After taking two obedience courses through the Los Alamos Dog Obedience Club, Ollie and I ventured into the Rally obedience ring. Four competitions later, Ollie had his first title: Rally Novice. In his three back-to-back qualifying scores he earned two placement ribbons. (He would have done even better if his handler didn't cost him a few points along the way!)

Having shown an aptitude and desire to do obedience work, it was time to train in the field. I thought Ollie would enjoy it being a Brittany and that his breeding should put him in good stead in the field. His litter mate, Sigbrit's Catch Me Now, was the 2006 ABC Central Futurity Gun Dog winner. The challenge, however, for Ollie was he had never been on birds, not even in a backyard setting. My challenge was that I had never trained a dog for field competition. After all, I shoot with a Canon Digital SLR. Think of the blind leading the blind.

My early attempts at introducing Ollie to field work involved taking him into our greenbelt on a check cord.

He spent his time side stepping the nasty stickers of Cholla cactus and prickly pears which are in ample supply. I spent my time making sure the check cord wasn't caught in the cactus plants. We came upon a covey of at least 10 Scaled Quail about 40 feet in front of us. Between us and the quail were numerous Cholla cacti. Ollie was focused on avoiding the pain he rightly associated with the Cholla stickers and did not move on the quail.

At this point we both needed help . . . and a pain-free environment! I turned to Bill Bradford of the Central New Mexico Brittany Club. We worked with Bill on the West Mesa outside of Albuquerque. He planted hobbled quail and worked Ollie twice on a check cord. Ollie was on scent followed by a strong point within seconds both times. That answered the question about Ollie being birdy.

Ollie and I continued to work in our greenbelt with him learning to work across in front of me into the wind. His avoidance of the Cholla limited his gait but he responded to my verbal commands and hand signals. The Scaled Quail were no were to be found and it was the first of April. I decided to enter Ollie into a Hunt Test to see where we were.

On April 12th we headed to Las Cruces, NM for a combined Hunt Test sponsored by two German Shorthaired Pointer Clubs from Las Cruces and El Paso, TX. This format provided us with two Hunt Tests on a Saturday. Ollie was ready as he bolted from the starting line and in short order found a bird on the back course, went on point until I flushed it and fired my blank pistol. With the bird airborne, Ollie took off in hot pursuit. My calls fell on flapping ears. Ollie did double back to the spot he found the bird and continued to work that area looking for more birds. By the time I was able to convince him that we needed to move on to the bird field we had less than a minute left in the test and did not find any birds there. The excitement of running in a field free of cacti and full of birds was all so thrilling to Ollie . . . thrilling to the point of ignoring me. We needed to talk!

After lunch we had our second Hunt Test opportunity. Our conversation paid off as Ollie again quickly found a bird on the back course. This time he did listen to me and we headed to the bird field where he found more birds . . . and earned his first HT qualifying score. It was clear that his excitement and my ability to control him were also a test.

The following weekend we headed to Kiowa, CO for Hunt Tests on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday was close to a repeat performance of our previous Hunt Test. Ollie

again qualified but was not by much. In both tests, our lowest score was in "Trainability".

This was underscored on Sunday. Running the same course, Ollie took a hard left from the starting line towards the bird field. He remembered its location from Saturday! I convinced him to come with me on the back course. It was here he took off and found a number of birds along the tree-lined river bank. Two problems: first it was way off course and second he was happy to find and chase those birds and ignore me until after time had been called. Result: a well earned trainability score of 0!

Four Hunt Tests, two qualifying scores and more than 1400 miles and \$500 in fuel and hotel bills. And time was running out on spring Hunt Tests. Our last opportunity until the fall was in two weeks in Agate, CO another 800 mile round trip with two nights in a motel.

Could using a whistle make a difference? Virtually all other participants in the Hunt Tests used a whistle. Could I train Ollie in time to qualify both Saturday and Sunday? And how would I go about this training?

First stop: Google. Results: good to whistle-train a dog. Missing was the how-to. Knowing our obedience training daily routine, I inserted the whistle into my commands. Ollie's recall command became: Ollie front (whistle). Ollie responded with his usual burst of energy and a running recall and centered front. With repetition, the moment of truth came. He did a recall and centered front on a whistle command only. Success! Maybe we were on to something. We continued this practice graduating to out of sight recalls with a whistle. It worked!

Then the testing got more serious. The spring in Santa Fe brings with it salamanders. Last year these were Ollie's first prey and he remembered just where they live . . . amongst the rocks of our retaining wall aside our home. It was while he had located a salamander and was on watch for it to emerge that I blew the whistle. He left the salamander for me! Wow, we just may have a chance.

Last weekend was the Spring Hunt Tests of the Skyline Brittany Club in Colorado. Saturday morning was cool with the residue of snow on the ground. By the time our fifth brace arrived the temps were in the upper 40's with sunshine and a slight breeze – great weather for the dogs. Ollie took off from the starting line and headed out on course and worked far and wide. When he headed back towards the starting area the moment of truth was at hand. I blew my whistle. Ollie arched backed past me back on course! The whistle training worked!

He qualified both days earning his Junior Hunter title! He maintained his great enthusiasm for running, finding, pointing and chasing birds. To these, he added responding to the whistle proving that he is "Trainable!" What a difference a week made!



Remembering Why Obedience Training Is Important

Submitted May 26, 2008 by Tom Mauter, NVBC Member

I've learned that working with your dog daily on obedience is the foundation for enjoyable and safe activities ranging from field work to frolicking in the park and you name it in between.

I admit that my focus in obedience work with our Brittany Ollie has been, to a large degree, earning titles. And he has been successful beyond my expectations. In about a year of us being together, Ollie has earned a Rally Novice (RN), Junior Hunter (JH) and is one qualifying leg away from a Companion Dog (CD) title.

In fact, if he could have held a sit stay for sixty seconds he would have earned his CD three weeks ago.

We competed in back-to-back-to-back obedience trials in Albuquerque the second weekend in May. Ollie was the first dog scheduled to compete in each trial. This required us to be on the road by 5:45 a.m. to travel the 80 miles to the match each day. This competition marked the only the second weekend we've competed in Novice Obedience competition.

Ollie qualified both Friday and Saturday making me very proud. Of course my expectations were then raised

that we would complete the "trifecta" for his title on Sunday. After completing the healing on and off lead, the figure-eight, stand for examination, and recall and finish, Ollie was well on his way. Entering the ring with the other dogs, the one-minute sit-stay and three minute down-stay were all that was between us and another title. Ollie had been letter perfect on his sit-stays and down-stays Friday and Saturday.

I left Ollie on his sit-stay, proceeded across the ring and turned to face him for what is "the longest minute" in Novice Obedience. I noticed his eyes getting heavier and heavier. Uh-oh, the early to rise three days in a row had taken its toll. Plop! In a matter of seconds Ollie dropped down. Poof – no title today.

Disappointed, I reminded myself how far we have come in our year together. So we have two more Novice Obedience trials in Colorado Springs the first weekend in June. I'm optimistic that Ollie will "get it done" there.

It was the very next day that Ollie put all this obedience work into its proper perspective.

With the front door open enjoying a comfortable breeze, I was e-mailing some friends when I heard Ollie barking rapidly and persistently. I immediately left my computer and went out to the courtyard to find Ollie barking at a snake. Standing in my stocking feet I was at about twenty feet away from Ollie and a coiled snake. We were separated by a long gravel pathway. Without moving I told Ollie to: "Leave it", "Back", "Stand" and "Stay". He followed all commands quickly and to the tee putting some six to eight feet between himself and the reptile. I then walked by the snake to take hold of Ollie until I could identify it. It was a bull snake - not poisonous but still capable of inflicting a painful bit with its teeth. From a distance they look like rattlesnakes.

It's great to qualify and earn ribbons and titles in obedience trials but the real purpose of obedience training is to have your dog obey in critical times. Ollie's performance brought that sharply into focus.

On a related note, Ollie's been vaccinated against rattlesnakes. I'm also working with other members of the Central New Mexico Brittany Club to hold a rattlesnake proofing clinic. In the event of a venomous rattlesnake bit, anti-venom shots for dogs alone may not be enough to save your dog and can cost \$600 to \$800 each underscoring the importance of vaccination. Additionally, my veterinarian informed me in early May that there has been a back-log on anti-venom injections for some time. Living in the high desert of New Mexico rattlesnakes are part of the environment.

In Maryland there are two poisonous snakes: the timber rattlesnake and copperhead. Both are not that common. Virginia has both of these snakes along with cottonmouths. Both copperheads and cottonmouths, as in Maryland, are not that common in Virginia. Timber rattlers are more prevalent in the mountainous sections.

If you travel with your Brittany for hunting, field work, or hiking vaccination should be considered as well as rattlesnake proofing. A rattlesnake clinic's cost of between \$40 and \$60 maybe one of the best investments for you and your Brittany.

Reminder

For your competition dogs, keep a record of the name of the Obedience trial giving club, the trial date, the numerical score earned, the number of dogs competing, the number of dogs beaten, and the placements (1st-4th) earned for each qualifying score.

The schedule of points for the Hunt Test category includes Master, Senior and Junior test levels . Members shall provide the sponsoring club, the date of the event and the qualifying score received.

If your Brittany has been awarded a *Field Champion, Amateur Field Champion, Show Champion, a Master or Senior Hunter, an Obedience Title or an Agility Title* during the year, please provide Joann Anders with a copy of the appropriate **AKC** certificate.

New for the Website

The Northern Virginia Brittany Club would like to inform its members that they may post information about their Kennels (Breeders List), Brittanys for sale and dogs standing at stud on our website. **This service is only available to full members whose dues are current.** Send your information to Kathy Shannon, 434-969-4945, Shannon.m@att.net.

Breeders List will include: Name, Address, Phone, Email, Breed Lines and Kennel Name

Stud Service

For those members wishing to advertise a dog for stud service, the dog needs to have an AKC title and OFA

Certification. This information will be included on the website.

Photographs

If you have photos of your Brittanys-cute puppies, new titles, old dog lazing in the sun.....please send them to Tom Mauter, our Web Master for inclusion on the NVBC website. tjmauter@comcast.net

NVBC Logo

Embroidered shirts (various types), nylon jacket, canvas bag, towel, and apron are available to be finished with NVBC logo. We need to have at least 12 items to place an order. The following is a list and prices for anyone who wants to make a purchase. Shipping is extra.

Hooded Sweatshirt	\$40
Sweatshirt	\$30
Nylon Jacket	\$42
Sport Shirt	\$28
T-Shirt	\$20
Denim Shirt	\$38
Tote Bag (Large/Small)	\$30/25
Apron	\$25
Towel	\$15

Following are available now:

We have some Tote bags, door mats, T shirts, golf shirts, denim shirts and hats available now.

To order (colors selection available) or buy what we have on hand please contact Joann Anders at 540-894-5826 or rjabritnys@aol.com

