

North Arkansas Bird Dog Club

Newsletter

NABDC inaugural meeting is in the books!

by Mark Eddings

We had a great kickoff meeting on October 20th at the Norfolk Dam Pavilion for the North Arkansas Bird Dog Club (NABDC).

Despite the fairly hot temperatures, we had some 40-50 interested bird dog owners show up for the first meeting of this fledgling group to meet other bird dog owners from the area and see what this new club was all about.

I personally met with folks who own Brittanys, German Shorthairs, Drahthaars, German Wirehaireds, Labs, English Pointers, English Setters and Llewellyn Setters. I know there were owners of other breeds I just didn't get to speak with.

This club has some great potential for local upland bird dog hunters and owners. Plans are in the works for finding and developing some local fields for training and competition purposes. Thankfully, the competition part is to be less emphasized than at some field and test trials. These trainings and competitions are to foster development and shared experiences as well as comradery and fellowship among the members.

Another great aspect of this group is the wealth of information and experience that some of the members have. Some have years of bird hunting/training, field trial, competition experience and breeder contacts. Another unexpected aspect came as I became aware of the opportunity for some buying/trading/bartering for training equipment, tools you may lack, or excess items you may have. I learned a lot yesterday just in several sidebar discussions and meeting folks with loads of experience.

Speakers included Josh Jackson, Guide at Upland Inn Hunts. Josh elaborated on the benefits and procedures of preserve



hunting; Clint Johnson, Quail Program Coordinator, Wildlife Management Division of Arkansas Game & Fish, speaking on quail numbers, habitat and hunting opportunities in Arkansas; and Mil Markle speaking for NAVHDA (North American Versatile Hunting Dog Assoc.) on training and hunt tests. All had lots of useful information, and I look forward to hearing from more similar speakers at meetings and gatherings going forward. Thank you all!

If you are an upland bird dog owner, enthusiast, or a "wanna be" owner/handler, and missed this first gathering, please stop by the NABDC booth at the upcoming Arkansas Ozarks Outdoor Expo being held on October 3-4 at the Baxter County Fairgrounds. Our booth will be in the AG barn area so that owners can bring their dogs and potentially watch some exhibitions in the small arena.

I am very excited about becoming a part of this group. For information, feel free to visit the NABDC Facebook page at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1856230851742242>

For information on the upcoming Outdoor Expo, visit their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/arozarksoutdoorexpo>



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