

From the Publisher's Desk

Welcome to the February/ March issue of Bird Dog & Retriever News. Thank you, subscribers, and advertisers for supporting us.

This issue went to press a bit later than it should, though the bird seasons have been ending the banquet and show seasons are in full tilt. Ellen and I spent a few days in Las Vegas a couple of weeks ago at the SHOT (Shooting, Hunting Outdoor Trade) Show the Shooting Industry Show and are bringing you the latest news and pictures from that. Two days ago, we attended the Pheasant Forever Pheasantfest and will bring you pictures of that next issue.

In addition, we are in the midst of doing a major rewrite of www.Bdarn.com our website which is by a factor of 20 the largest in the industry. We just added or corrected links to about 1500 new club and organizations so you can find the people in the industry that can help you out.

We also have donated to about a hundred conservation and dog organization banquets. If you have a banquet coming up, you can request a donation on our website.

So, what's in this issue, it's jammed packed. First I show you some of the highlights of the show on my article just to the right. Then Frank Neumayer looks at a shooters Duties & Responsibilities. The Brays Plantation Island of South Carolina sent us a great brief article on Five Ways to become a better Shot. Then we have eight new must have products for you to drool over. Next we have a nice article by George Hickox on training our dogs to pattern and hunt in range. Followed by the most complete calendar of events in the industry. As dogs age, many get Fatty Tumors, our rescue Vizsla, Jersey has them, we look at them on page 10. Then a couple pages of state news and finish up this issue with pictures of the SHOT Show and an industry update. Enjoy!

See you in the field and at the shows & events!

Dennis Guldan
 Publisher Bird Dog & Retriever News
 E-mail: Publisher@Bird-Dog-News.com Worlds largest read hunting/dog publication A great publication, that makes you smile!

This Year's Vegas Industry SHOT Show

By Dennis Guldan

As one ages and we find out both Santa Clause and Easter Bunny don't exist the fun things in life slowly fall away. Though soon Ellen and I will have a grandchild, there are few things I look forward to months away. The Shooting, Hunting, Outdoor Trade (SHOT) show, our industry "show & tell fair" is one of them. It is held in January in Vegas as our season are coming to the end.

There are a few reasons I look forward to the show. First if you anyone of any notoriety in the hunting/guns/outdoor industry that is where you will be during that week. If there is a new product to be introduced in our industry that is the first place it will be revealed. And lastly it's a giant show about guns, hunting and the outdoors in Vegas, it's the things Mens Dreams are made of.

On page 14 and 15 I have two pages in this issue and next dedicated to some of the brands and people that are at the SHOT Show. In this column, I highlighted a few things that caught my eye.

There are several manufactures of Electronic Dog collars. But finally, ONE got the controls right, DTS Systems. Brian Lasley showed the new hand held control that still allowed you to handle a dog and shoot without a dangling necklace. It was a GREAT Step up!

About half the people at the show are from the states surrounding MN and we have great products here. One of the best is Red Wing and Irish Setter Boots represented by Kim Emery who we saw twice this year, once to see their new boots and once for the beer party, we LIKE parties!

Another of our regular booths we make a trek to is Coast Flashlight. Haley Chapman sends us flashlights we regularly feature in new products. We have a dozen of the best flashlights around our house, in our vehicles in hunting & dog bags and they all work great.

We spent two days at the show walked 17 mile and have pictures from 50+ booths look for them in this and the upcoming issues.

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Haley Chapman Tradeshow & Marketing Coordinator from Coastportland with a great new rechargable flashlight new this year. Look for it under New Products soon!



Kim Emery of Firefly Publicity whowing off the latest Irishsetter & Redwing Boots



Brian Lasley Marketing Director of D.T. Systems showing off the new E-collar control fits on your hand with fingers free!

Shooting

Shooter Responsibilities, Duties, and Conduct

By Frank Neumayer

Question: *As a long-time clay target shooter, it seems to me that many shooters have lost their manners! Plus, I don't think they fully understand their duties and responsibilities either. You've been around the sport for a while... what are your thoughts on this?*

Answer: First off, safety will always be the primary responsibility of every shooter, whether on or off the range, at practice or in competition. Also, every shooter is expected to follow the posted rules at any club or range they visit, as well as to understand the official rule book for whichever clay target sport they're engaged in. For safe gun handling, the rule books will cover every aspect of a shooter's duties and responsibilities. You'll receive a copy of the official rules when you join an association, and current copies are most always available at any registered shoot you attend. The rules can also be found online at the association's websites. I certainly can't cover everything here, but whichever clay target sport you participate in, the official rule books (PITA, ATA, NSSA, NSCA, etc.) will always explain in explicit detail the duties and responsibilities expected of each shooter as it relates to firearm safety, on the range or off, when engaged in any registered shooting event.

Now... what the rule books won't tell you is what a shooter's conduct should be toward their fellow shooters (including all shoot personnel) when on the range as well as off. Again, for safety and liability reasons, the official rule books are quite explicit when it comes to gun handling and responsibilities... but a shooter's personal manners and etiquette are left up to the individual. It's basic human nature to want to be accepted, respected,

and appreciated, but how you are perceived by others is entirely up to you. Just remember... *you reap what you sow!* As a standard practice, I've always found that if you put forth good manners with courtesy, and treat others with respect, regardless of who they are or what they do, these positive attributes will most certainly come back to you in equal or greater measure. With that said,



let's take the elements of shooter responsibilities, duties, and conduct and apply some basic logic and common sense understanding to each.

First Point: It's every shooter's *responsibility* to know the rules and procedures for whichever clay target game they're shooting. As you read the official rule books, it's important to keep in mind that if any shooter's conduct is judged unsafe, unsportsmanlike, or disruptive to the harmony of the shoot, they can, or will be, asked to leave. So... let's start with first things first. This may not seem like much, but shooters should always keep their average cards up-to-date, and their latest rolling averages calculated. When you arrive at a

shoot, the first thing you'll do is present your *Membership Card* and current *Average Card* to the folks at the classification table. When you don't have your cards with you (especially your average card) and they're not up to date, it makes it very difficult, if not impossible, for shoot management to get you classified and squaded properly.

Simply put, the proper classification for singles and doubles is entirely based on the current averages on your card. Plus your card also displays your correct handicap yardage position as well. Without a current average card you could easily end up being penalized by having to shoot in a higher class or at a

target" and get squad member consensus of acceptability. 3) They will then lead-off the sub-event by calling the first target and taking the first shot. 4) As the squad rotates through each post, they will acknowledge the post one shooter is ready before taking the first shot at a new post. 5) When each sub-event is concluded, the squad leader will review the scores for accuracy, initial the score sheet, and then carry it on to the next sub-event. 6) At the end of a 100 target event, the squad leader makes certain the score sheet is complete and legible and that it gets into the hands of shoot management for recording. If there's been any corrections made on the score sheet the squad leader is to make certain everything is legible and that all corrections are properly initialed. (Note:

Shoot management will always verify all scores before official posting).

Remember, it's every shooter's own responsibility to make certain their scores are correct as they move through an event. If questions come up, the squad leader will try to resolve the issue through consensus and validation from the squad members and the score keeper. Squad leaders are *not* responsible to watch and critique every single target break from every member of the squad. They are *not* serious dispute resolvers, nor the supreme final authority on anything. If any issue needs escalating, the squad leader will simply stop the squad and defer the problem to the shoot authorities for resolution. At some point every shooter will be faced