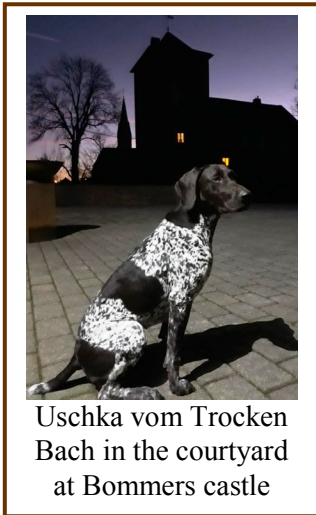


Quick Visit to Germany

by Frank O'Leary

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I was in Germany last month to pickup Maggie and bring her home. The morning I left Walla Walla I received a call from Rita Bommers. She asked if I had left home yet, which I hadn't. Rita advised me that I may want to adjust the clothes I was bring to Germany as it was in the mid 60's there and would be for a couple more days. That sounded good to me as I was looking at the 12" of snow in the yard and a current temperature of 17 degrees. After making the necessary adjustments to my wardrobe I headed to Seattle in a snow storm that lasted until Yakima. Sure enough when I arrived the next afternoon in Frankfurt it was 62 degrees and sunny.

First stop on my trip was to visit Bommers in Dürboslar. It is always special to spend time at Burg Dürboslar and visit with the Bommers. It also enables me to pay my respects to Mr. Bommers.

Next I traveled north and spent some time with Alex Lange. Alex was the leader with the overall top young female at the Kleemann last fall owned by Poco Guzman, the President of the DK Club in Spain.

Then I traveled a short distance to the home of Stefan and Maike Middeke where I delivered Uschka vom Trocken Bach for Gil Dueck to continue her education.

The next stop was at Holger Hensel home where Maggie KS vom Trocken Bach has spent the last year preparing for her success at the 2018 Kleemann. Maggie has been in Germany since the completion of the KS to be bred to Etzel vom



Thüringer Zipfel. Holger and his family were very welcoming and we spend two days talking about the dogs and watching Holger train his young dogs. Holger has many training techniques that I will be able to utilize, hopefully with the same success he enjoys. We also had the opportunity to observe Lotta, Maggie's Zuchtschau leader, preparing for an upcoming Dressage competition. Lotta is a very accomplished and successful horsewoman.



Next I was off to see Rüdiger Stilgenbauer, the owner of vom Klepelshagener Forst. Rüdiger is a Professional Hunter on a revere of approximately 2,500 acres. Within the



Rüdiger with his old girl Biene KS vom Klepelshagener Forst

hunting area they have wild board, deer, Red Stags, big horn sheep, hares, and some ducks. Rüdiger also has very fine and will trained dogs. Spending time at vom Klepelshagener Forst was very interesting and enjoyable. Additionally, Rüdiger is a very good cook.

Prior to my arrival Rüdiger informed me that on Saturday Club Kurhessen, his DK club of about 325 members, would be having their annual meeting, and I was welcome to attend. Gerd Schad is the President of

Club Kurhessen and made sure that I felt very welcome at the meeting. He made arrangements to have Albrecht Keil, a fifty-five year member of the club, sit beside me and translate. The meeting was very well run and interesting. They conducted there business in a very professional and succinct manner. Interestingly enough they spend a fair amount of time discussing the potential



President Gerd Schad procides over the Club Kurhessen Annual Meeting

problems that North American Breeders could

be facing with the alliance that has apparently been struck between the FCI and AKC. The problem could be as limited as obtaining a transfer permit for North American DK's to travel from Germany to other FCI countries or as far reaching as North American born DK's no longer receiving Germany Ahnentafels rather registration papers from the AKC.

After seven days and driving 1,900 miles it was a very enjoyable and informative trip.

Best of luck to all with your testing this year,
Frank O'Leary

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'18 Club Kurhessen Awards (LtoR) Helmut Merle Dr. Albert Lemmer Awrad (top VGP dog 348 pts.), Frank O'Leary, Antje Engelbart-Schmidt Leader and Breeder, President Gerd Schad