

Southeast Chapter Derby

March 5, 2022

by Paul Kennedy



As I sit here on a Tuesday afternoon, my mind wanders back to this winter's preparation of my first Deutsch-Kurzhaar Derby. Like most amateur dog handlers, the training season was filled with trials, tribulations, and triumphs. It was my pleasure to host the Southeast Chapter's first test of the season in Salters, SC on March 5th. My young pup, Capi was lucky enough to score a Prize One. I spent the remainder of the week with an ear-to-ear smile on my

face thinking of how lucky I am to have created this bond with my companionable gun dog and every week since then working hard towards the Fall Solms.

“In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely try to train him to be semi-human. The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming partly a dog.” — Edward Hoagland

We had a great turnout of dogs and handlers from all over the Southeastern. The weather forecast had called for it to be unseasonable warm, however we were fortunate enough to have a mix of fog and overcast skies which made for a perfect Derby Day. Post Derby, Samantha, and Ben Goebel (both dear friends from childhood and DKGNA members) were gracious enough to have a beautiful Southern BBQ lunch for handlers, judges, and spectators. The afternoon skies cleared for a beautiful sunny Zuchtschau.



In true German fashion, once the last dog had run, it was time for the beer dog. Prost! Several judges, volunteers and handlers were able to stay around for a beautiful afternoon in South Carolina, where stories of dogs,

hunting, and Kurzhaar Kulture was enjoyed.

I would like to personally thank the Judges - Jörg Kaltenecker, Dave Peasley, and Dan Myshin for giving up their weekend to better our breed through our breed

testing. A special thanks to Tyler Smith, Frank O'Leary, and Mike Grimes for their guidance in hosting my first Deutsch-Kurzhaar Group North America event. I would like to thank all the volunteers and handlers that made the weekend a success and I look forward to hosting the Southeast members for future training days and the Fall Solms.

All the best,
Paul W. Kennedy, AIA, LEED AP