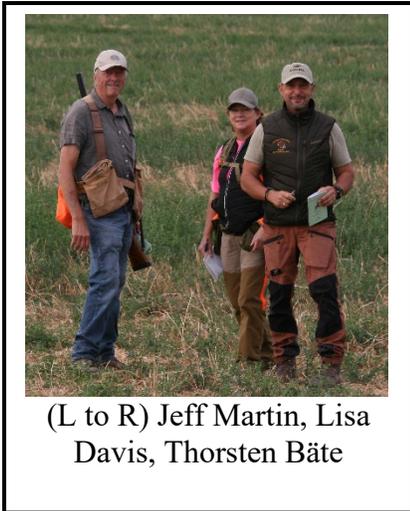


Walla Walla, WA

VGP/SOLMS/Zuchtschau

by Frank O'Leary



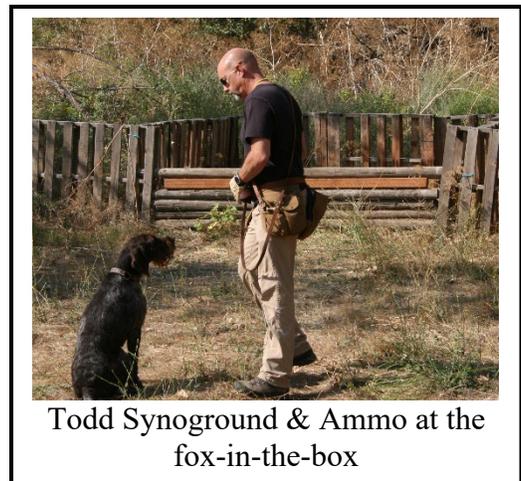
(L to R) Jeff Martin, Lisa Davis, Thorsten Bäte

September 30th – September 2nd the Western Region of the DKGNA hosted a VGP/SOLMS/Zuchtschau, in Walla Walla, WA. The VGP took place the first two days of the test, with the SOLMS and Zuchtschau being held on the final day.

The test was very well run by the judging team of Lisa Davis, Test Director; Thorsten Bäte, Senior Judge, and Jeff Martin. Three dogs participated in the VGP, two DK's and one DD. It was clear from the outset that the handlers had put forth a great deal of time and effort in preparing their dogs for the two-day test. The first day the field work, water work, and much of the obedience work took place.

By the end all three dogs were still positioned to pass the test.

The second day we moved to the forest and the challenges that it presents. The first discipline was the rabbit drag and all three did well. On to the close in hunt and the fox drag. One of the dogs had trouble with the fox drag but had done well doing the fox-in-the-box so she still survived. Next would be the blood tracks!! The first two dogs completed the task, unfortunately both had call backs. The third dog was unable to complete the blood track and was eliminated from the test.



Todd Synoground & Ammo at the fox-in-the-box



Tyler and Berlin at the water

The final discipline was the independent search. Both dogs completed the task and had completed the test. Congratulations to Amo vom Whittingfield handled by Todd Synoground and Coco vom Hügel-Hafen handled by Joshua Morris. Both dogs passed with Prize III.

The VGP was great watching, especially when you don't have the pressure of running a dog. I personally want to congratulate all three handlers for their efforts in preparing the dogs for the test and presenting them during the test. It was clear from the outset that Ammo vom Whittingfield, led by Todd Synoground, was the



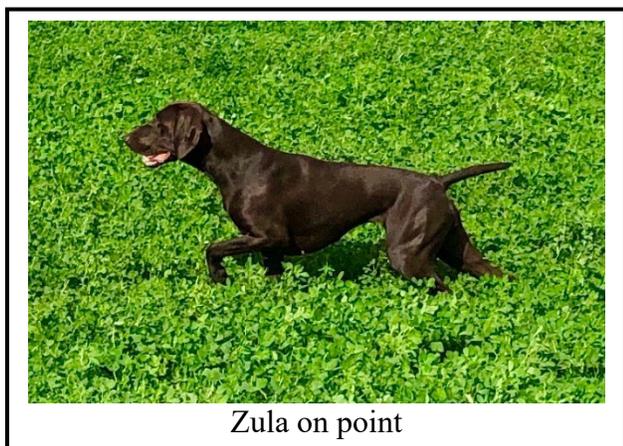
Group at O'Leary's following VGP

best prepared dog. In my opinion, Coco vom Hügel-Hafen, led by first time VGP participant Joshua Morris, was the best dog. In any case all three will have excellent hunting dogs to enjoy for years to come.

Following the completing of the test everyone retired to O'Leary's for pizza,

beverages, and much earned relaxation.

Sunday morning back to work with the SOLMS on the docket. Everyone meet at Frenchtown Hall. The day would see two tests, necessitated to eliminate Judge's conflicts.



Zula on point

Test #1 would be evaluated by Lisa Davis, Test Director, Thorsten Bäte, Senior Judges; and Todd Synoground. The test got off to a rocky start with the first dog being excluded from the test during the field work. However, things got better immediately. Jeff Marin brought



Zula vom Trocken Bach with Jeff Martin (white hat) & Frank O'Leary the breeder

Zula vom Trocken Bach into the field and put on a show. The young female work perfectly, and the pointing was phenomenal. She handled the rabbit and duck drags without a problem, on to the water. Zula handled the gun sensitivity and blind flawlessly. During the live duck search it was determined that Zula should have expanded her search and she received a deduction. Congratulations Zula and Jeff Prize II.

Unfortunately, there was an injury during the test when Judge Todd Synoground stepped in a hole and broke his leg. Todd is recuperating at home and had to cancel his Montana hunting trip. Get better quickly Todd!!!!

Test #2 started later in the day and would be judged by Jeff Marin, Test Director; Thorsten Bäte, Senior Judge; and Frank O'Leary, emergency Judge replacing injured Todd Synoground. Wayne Touve presented Flirt vom Wüstenjäger for evaluation, and Flirt didn't disappoint!! The field work was very good and the point stylish and very,



Flirt delivering rabbit to
Wayne Touve

very steady!! Just as impressive was the rabbit drag. Flirt followed the drag perfectly and retrieved the rabbit to hand with out issue. It should be noted that the rabbit was huge! The duck drag was completed without flaw. At the water the gun sensitivity and blind were flawless. However, the dick search mirrored the earlier one and she received a deduction. Congratulations Flirt and Wayne Prize II.

Back to O'Leary's for a steak bar-b-que, beverages, and the

Zuchtschau. Three dogs, all Adult Females were presented to Jeff Martin, SZR. Wildrose vom Trocken Bach, led by Marianne O'Leary, was the V1 female. Coco vom Hügel-Hafen, presented by Joshua Morris, was the V2 female. Flirt vom Wüstenjäger, led by Wayne Touve received a SG.



Wildrose vom Trocken Bach V1

Congratulations to all the participants and breeders. The test was very successful, except for Todd's mishap, and hopefully everyone had fun.