



2024 DKGNA Annual Meeting with Derby and Zuchtschau

Hosted by the Desert Mountain Region, Bellevue ID, May 17-18

On Thursday evening judges, handlers, breeders and guests had a fabulous Meet and Greet at the Wood River Inn in Hailey, Idaho. The Inn included a wonderful informal meeting place with an outdoor fire pit with rain protection, where everyone could make all the acquaintances he or she wanted to.



The next morning, Friday 17th, everybody went to the meeting point in Bellevue at a private ranch. The beautiful mountains and street signage showed the whole region to be a wonderful skiing and hiking area. After arriving in the testing grounds, the three groups went into their respective running fields. The Test Director, Mark Peasley, and Test Coordinator, Alec Losee, supported the judges with clear announcements where they were allowed to work.

The landscape is characterized by gentle hills with varying heights of sagebrush. The club offered three groups shown by Alec Losee to the judges. In group 1 the judges Francois Aldrich, Paul Trout and Josh Henson could evaluate siblings of the kennels "Vom Hochland" and "Vom Salbei". Group 2 very similarly experienced the same kennels with the judges Glen Bridges, Mark Peasley and the always helpful Joe Kelley. Our group 3 started with Ursula Scriba, Todd Synoground, and the new member of DK Präsidium and stud bookkeeper, Antje Engelbart-Schmidt, plus our hard-working apprentice Randall Cherry. We enjoyed the performance of the siblings coming from the "Vom Adlertal" kennel and single kennel entrants like "Von Reinheit" and "Von Canuck".

Group 3 started in high covering to test Gunfire Tolerance and had our first search. We felt that this covering was a new experience for some dogs due to the height and difficult visibility, so we decided to switch to a field with lower ground cover. Here we had full success and happy faces of our entrants, their search got brisk, roomy and fluid. All dogs showed pointing with different manners and abilities with chuckars, the typical wild birds of the area. Driven by the desire to see more, we gave some promising dogs a second chance at pointing. Eden vom Adlertal with handler Lisa Davis showed an extraordinary search with roomy performance and methodical management of field space. This indicated that Eden could get high success. Even a moving bird did not prevent her firm pointing and staying solid. She received 4h for Search and Pointing and was the best field search dog and the Search winner. Second, Finnian vom Adlertal showed firm pointing and very good manners. Likewise, his sister Freya vom Adlertal got her 4h as well for the same excellent work.

The Derby in this wonderful mountainous area with not too much sun and a slight wind brought the very good results we hoped to receive. To make it short, 14 Prize I were awarded, which included five 4h's in either Search or Pointing, not to mention that every dog passed the test.

In Group 1, Prize I's were awarded to Dwight vom Hochland with Blake Bailey, Dragon vom Hochland with Dylan Miller-Moylan, Amigo vom Salbei with Josh Purkiss, Amos vom Salbei with Lauren Ryan, for a total of four Prize I's. A Prize II, and a Prize III were also awarded in Group 1.

In Group 2, Prize 1's were awarded to Bonnie von Wasungen with Nathan Tillotson, Aster vom Salbei with Kristy Pigeon, Annikin von Salbei with Alec Losee, Anni vom Salbei with Preston Seay, and Berlin vom Hochland (4H for Search) with Andrew Trask.

In Group 3, Prize 1's were awarded to Bruno von Reinheit with Travis McDonald-Vellis, Finnian vom Adlertal (4H for Pointing) with Mitch Morris, Eden vom Adlertal (4H for Search and Point) with Lisa Davis, Freya vom Adlertal (4H for Pointing) with Wojciech Kolano. A Prize II was also awarded in this group.



The morning of the last day, Saturday, was the Annual Meeting. After a short Greeting to everybody by Frank O'Leary, the DKGNA President, Alec Losee introduced the community to the procedure of a Derby test, a very good idea to explain this first test and its administrative work to the many "First time handlers" of the Derby.

Tyler Smith caught our attention and convinced us with a presentation entitled "An organization's greatest advantage is its culture" and provided us with a recipe of Kurzhaar Kulture.

Todd Synoground followed, inviting us into the hidden angles of the preparation for VGP.

Randall Cherry introduced us to important new rules for the importation of dogs into the United States.

Josh Morris showed us how many difficult situations could show up when you decided to import a DK into the US from one of the smaller European countries.



After a tasty catered box lunch, we all went into the sunny late spring day enjoying a fabulous green field surrounded by a beautiful shelter belt of trees and bushes, making the place protected and friendly.

It was on this field that the Zuchtschau was held, with the male and the females were divided into two groups.

Francois Aldrich took care of the males. Announced were only dogs for the youth class. Francois awarded an Sg1 to Amigo vom Salbei, an SG2 to Dogtin vom Hochland, an SG3 to Dragon vom Hochland and an SG4 to Amos vom Salbei, all the others scored in the "very good" (SG) category, as well. We are looking forward to meeting these young dogs next year in the adult class with grown substance and mature personality.

Ursula Scriba, Antje Engelbart-Schmidt and Mark Peasley being our apprentice, took care of the females. Our main part were the young ones under 18 months in the youth class. In the end we awarded an SG1 to Freya vom Adlertal, an SG2 to Eden vom Adlertal, an SG3 to Dolly vom Hochland, an SG4 to Anni vom Sabei and an SG to Aster vom Salbei. The explanation for the numbers of the awards are the rules of VDH. A special applause was given to experienced mother and elegant lady Bee vom Adlertal presented by Scott Jacob in the adult class females with a V1. Compliments for our successful breeder Scott Jacob.

Finally, a fabulous, super good supper was offered in the famous restaurant The Kneadery in Ketchum. Founded in 1974, the Kneadery combines wholesome fresh food with a rustic Idaho atmosphere. Starting with an aperitif in the garden richly decorated with farmers' historical tools, we continued indoors with an excellent meal and a rich program of the Club. The restaurants decorations consisted of surprising pieces coming out of the hunting and farming world (a grizzly and a boar to mention only two of them), the show could go on. Dogs and handlers were happily handed their prizes over by President Frank O'Leary, whose family is running this extraordinary place. Thank you, Frank, for that particular highlight again. Special awards were given to Madison



Losee, Patrice Kortuem and Vito Caramia for their longtime contributions helping to run the Club. It was not so easy to find time for the honors because a Silent (and exciting) Auction was going on and people had to be very busy to keep up writing new offers and winning exciting prizes to take home. In parallel, raffle tickets were sold. There was so much activity, it was hard to keep up with it all.

Happy and tired from all the day's fun activities, we went back to our hotel and after a good cold beer our thoughts started focusing on travelling back home.

With Good Wishes from Germany,

Ursula Scriba and Antje Engelbart-Schmidt