

Member Profile

by John Heiner

My name is John Heiner, from American Fork, Utah. I live there with my wife Melanie, our four daughters, and our son. Professionally I work in the Technology Software industry and in Real Estate Development.

I was drawn to the Deutsch-Kurzhaar breed nearly two years ago my cousin Paul Swenson went missing. We were searching fanatically to bring Paul home to his wife, his daughter, and the rest of his family and friends. Due to massive interest in Paul's story, it made national headlines. Many people joined in the effort including Tyler Smith of vom Hochland DK. Tyler is connected by family to Paul as well. Tyler showed up with his dog and spent hours searching. We never found Paul during those searches, but I learned a ton about the German DK breeding system and the versatility of the DK. Paul's body was later discovered which devastated all those who loved Paul. It was during that time that I decided I had to have a DK.



In Utah for Rey's first real pheasant hunt and one I won't soon forget. Her natural ability was on display! In her training up until this point we had focused on a foundation of obedience and cooperation but hadn't introduced her to much by way of birds. It was amazing to see instinct kick in coupled with high cooperation and obedience. Izzy helped her understand the game and we slayed the pheasants.

We had had dogs in the past. We just lost our beloved Miniature Schnauzer Bella. I was raised with springer spaniels and somewhere in all that an English bulldog. That said, at this time you could say we are all in on DKs. Currently we have two female DKs, (Izzy) Isobel Vom Hidden Creek and (Rey) Braya Vom Hochland. Both Izzy and Rey will enter their first test with the Derby April 2019. Testing is new to me as we've historically had simple hunting companions that were effective in the field.

I have been hunting my whole life. Bird hunting has always been a passion of mine. Much like my love for hunting birds is a passion for big game hunting which has taken me all over the US and Canada. Hunting is a way of life and one that started with my father and hunting pheasants in North Utah County off I15 and mule deer in Henefer, Utah and American Fork Canyon.



Chukar hunt in Utah's West Desert. This chukar served as a consolation prize for me, Rey, and Izzy. Turns out I can't hit the broad side of a barn when it comes to those fast-little birds! The dogs weren't really dialed in at this point as well. Growth as a handler and pup is part of the fun and journey. We left fired up for the next adventure.

Currently I hunt whatever, wherever, and whenever I can! I spend some time in Idaho hunting pheasant, ducks, geese, and partridge. We obviously spend time in Utah with a desire to somehow become better at hunting chukar. That said, bucket lists hunts would include the Dakota's for pheasants and ptarmigan in the Uinta Mountains for Utah.

My other hobbies include photography, gaited horses, hiking, family, travel, camping, and fishing.

I look forward to participating in the DKV testing system and being an active member of the DKGNA. I look forward to meeting more DKGNA members at the tests this year.

Happy Hunting,
John