



SASKATOON RETRIEVER CLUB (SRC)
SPRING RETRIEVER TRAINING CLASS

The Saskatoon Retriever Club is a group of people who enjoy the retriever breeds and the activities these dogs were originally bred for. Some of our members are primarily interested in training their dog to be an excellent hunting companion while others are interested in participating with their dog in competitive Hunt tests, Working Certificate Test or Field Trials. Many members are just interested in having an opportunity to meet and socialize with other members and their dogs for some outdoor fun.

The club actively sponsors activities including a Retriever Training Class, Educational Seminars, barbecues and parties, regular practice sessions, Working Certificate and CKC Hunt Tests and a Spring Field Trail which attracts dogs and handlers from all over North America.

We would like to welcome you as a new member of Saskatoon Retriever Club and invite you to take part in our activities and functions. As well, you are welcome to use our land for training, hikes, family picnics, etc and to make use of our clubhouse. A map to the Retriever Club property is enclosed. It is approximately 30 B 40 minutes from Saskatoon.

Club Events Scheduled for 2008;

Retriever Class Graduation

April 26, 2009

Spring Field Trial

May long weekend

Working Certificate Tests

TBA

Hunt Tests

TBA

Brief History of The Saskatoon Retriever Club

The Saskatoon Retriever Club (SRC) was founded in 1947. Membership consisted of Pat Randall, Martin West, Pitt Graham, Phil Ellison and Frank Sommers. The SRC held an unlicensed picnic trial in 1950, held an unsanctioned trial in 1951, and the first recognized trial in 1952. The club has held a Recognized Field Trial every year since that date. The first National Open Stake for Retrievers and Irish Water Spaniels was held in Saskatchewan and organized by the club in 1962 as well as a National Open Stake in 1973 and 1985, with a National Amateur Open Stake in 1993 and also in 2001.

In 1975 the SRC purchased 80 acres of land and in 1985 another 150 acres was purchased on which the present clubhouse is located. This land has been improved with mounds, trees, spits, island, electrical camping sites and a beautiful clubhouse. Due to

these land improvements, the club grounds are recognized as one of the best training and trialing grounds in North America.

In 1987 the SRC held their first Working Certificate Test, and in 1995 held their first Hunt Tests.

In 2002 land improvements began once again for a technical training pond with completion expected in 2004.

In 2005 the club was fortunate to acquire another quarter section of land 1 mile east and a mile south of the clubhouse. It consists of rolling terrain dotted with ponds and bushes. The new grounds have been seeded back to native grasses. It offers a whole new environment and training possibilities.

The SRC currently holds approximately 50 to 60 family memberships.

Retriever Training Class

The Spring Retriever Training Class run by the Saskatoon Retriever Club is designed to teach the handler to train his/her dog on the way to being an excellent hunting companion. It will also teach valuable skills that will be important to those anticipating progressing to competition in CKC Hunt Tests, Working Certificate Test and Field Trials.

Objectives of the Class

1. To reinforce basic obedience skills which are necessary in order to work with a dog in the field.
2. To teach each handler the skills they will need to train their dog to be basic retrievers of birds or thrown objects on land and in water.
3. To provide individual assistance and guidance to each handler as they train their dog to be a good, well mannered retriever and valuable hunting companion.

Equipment

You will need:

- A six foot leather or nylon leash
- A chain collar (properly sized)
- A leather or heavy nylon collar
- A light long line (at least 50 feet) with a clip, no retractable leads
- A wooden dumbbell (provided)
- A whistle (mandatory)
- Five or more training dummies (after week 5)
- A pair of leather gloves the dog can practice holding

Suggested Training Reference=s:

- Retriever Training for the Duck Hunter by Robert Milner.
- Tritronics Retriever Training

Obedience Classes

It is important that you dog attend an obedience class before starting the Retriever Training classes in order to learn the basic commands (sit, stay, down, come and heel) and become accustomed to working in the presence of other dogs. It is a good idea to continue this obedience training (formally or individually) during the Retriever class and after the class is ended in order to make your dog a good, well mannered retriever and valuable hunting dog.

Description of the Class

The training class will consist of:

1. An introductory session and orientation (without dogs) where the program and plan for the class will be explained and demonstrated. This will be on Monday January 19, 2009 at 7:30 pm at the Morari residence.(40 Simpson Cres.Saskatoon.)
2. Indoor training sessions where obedience (sit, stay, down, come and heel) will be reviewed and practiced. The dog will be taught to **HOLD** objects in his/her mouth, the dog will be taught to **GIVE** objects to the handler upon command and the dog will be taught to **FETCH** objects on command. The Aconditioned retrieve@ or Aforce fetch@

method will be used for reinforcement of the **FETCH** command. As dogs progress they will also be taught to **WHISTLE SIT, COME** on a whistle and take basic directions (**BACK, OVER**) if time permits.

3. Outdoor training sessions where indoor lessons will be reviewed, dogs will be introduced to **birds** and basic **retrieving drills** will begin. Simple **single retrieves** will be taught and, as dogs improve, the retrieves will progress in length and difficulty. Handlers interested in progressing to **handling drills** will have the opportunity to practice this skill also, if time permits.
4. Graduation will be on the last scheduled day (April 26, 2009 the class will be at the Retriever Club land. A barbecue will be held for the families of the graduates and then the dogs will demonstrate what they have learned in a practice session/mock trial.

Please Note:

The Spring Retriever course offered by the SRC is a very intensive course and homework is a must to succeed. It is expected that every participant devote some time EACH DAY to training their dog and doing their homework. Even so, each dog will progress at a different rate. Club members teaching and assisting in the class are happy to help you to overcome any difficulties you may encounter.

No dog will be completely trained as a result of this course. We hope, however to teach the handler what they will need to know to continue to train their dog for whatever purpose they wish. We will encourage handlers in the class to form Training Groups to continue practicing when the class is finished. Remember that THE CLUB WILL SHOW YOU HOW but ONLY YOU CAN TRAIN YOUR DOG.

Course Outline, 2009

- All times at EJ Racing stables (2010 Cartwright Street) are from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm on Sunday evenings.
- Times for the Outdoor sessions will be given at a later date.

January 19, 2009 - orientation, distribution of dumbbells and handouts, supplies

7:30 pm to 8:30pm- demonstration of HOLD and GIVE

- practice HOLD and GIVE for next 2 weeks

February 1, 2009 - . EJ Racing stables (2010 Cartwright Street)

- basic obedience review (sit, stay, come, heel)

- work on HOLD, GIVE in class

Feb. 8, 2009 - continue basic obedience drills

- practice hold and give

- learn HOLD and WALK, HOLD and COME, HOLD and SIT

Feb. 15, 2009 - continue basic obedience drills

- learn WHISTLE SITS

- practice hold and give, walk, sit or come

-learn FETCH

Feb. 22, 2009 - continue basic obedience drills

- work on whistle sits

- practice hold and give, walk, sit and come

- practice fetch, extend distances if ready

Mar.1, 2009 - continue basic obedience drills

- work on whistle sits

- practice hold and give, walk, sit and come

- practice fetch, extend distances if ready

Mar 8, 2009

- continue basic obedience drills
- work on whistle sits
- practice hold and give, walk, sit and come
- practice fetch, extend distances if ready

Mar 15, 2009

- continue basic obedience drills, whistle sits, handling, hold and give, walk, sit and come
- practice fetch
- **introduction to dummies**

Mar. 22, 2009

- continue basic obedience drills, whistle sits, handling, hold and give, walk, sit and come
- practice fetch
- **introduction to dummies**

March 29, 2009

- outdoors (weather permitting) and location to be determined
- review basic obedience drills, whistle sits, handling, hold and give, walk, sit and come
- practice fetch, hold and fetch dummies
- **single retrieves (bumpers)**
- **introduction to gunfire**
- if ready, walking fetch and stick fetch introduction
- introduction for throwing

April 5, 2009

- outdoors (weather permitting) location to be determined
- review obedience drills, whistle sits, hold and give, walk, sit and come
- practice fetch, hold and fetch dummies, gunfire
- single retrieves

- review stick fetch if necessary
- **introduction to birds**

April 12, 2009 - Easter Sunday **NO CLASS**

- April 19, 2009
- basic obedience drills, whistle sits
 - practice hold, give, hold and walk, fetch using birds/dummies, gunfire
 - progressively more difficult single retrieves
 - back to back single retrieves
 - practice single retrieves with birds and bumpers
 - introduction to handling drills
 - discussion of teaching water retrieves and blinds

- April 26, 2009 - outdoors, SRC land
- 12:00 B ?
- AGraduation@ festivities and family barbecue
 - AMock trial@ depending on dog=s ability, may include single retrieves,
back to back singles and basic handling

Schedule is subject to change depending on the rate at which dogs within the class progress.

When classes are held outside, the location may change. Keep in touch with your instructors if you miss a class so that you are kept informed. Maps enclosed to cement plant and club land.

If there is very severe weather the class may be cancelled or moved indoors if an outdoor session was scheduled.

THE INDOOR SESSIONS ARE IN A ENCLOSED ARENA, PLEASE BRING WARM CLOTHING AND GLOVES TO WEAR. IT MAY STILL CHILLY INDOORS. THE FACILITY HAS LIMITED HEATING CAPABILITIES.

CLASS INSTRUCTORS: JEFF MORARI: 955-4607

JOHN MCDONALD: 955-1668