

Message from the Director

Western Regional Members,



Uschka vom
Trocken Bach in the
courtyard at
Bommers castle

I was in Germany last month to pickup Maggie and bring her home. The morning I left Walla Walla I received a call from Rita Bommers. She asked if I had left home yet, which I hadn't. Rita advised me that I may want to adjust the clothes I was bring to Germany as it was in the mid 60's there and would be for a couple more days. That sounded good to me as I was looking at the 12" of snow in the yard and a current temperature of 17 degrees. After making the necessary adjustments to my wardrobe I headed to Seattle in a snow storm that lasted until Yakima. Sure enough when I arrived the next afternoon in Frankfurt it was 62 degrees and sunny.

First stop on my trip was to visit Bommers in Dürboslar. It is always special to spend time at Burg Dürboslar and visit with the Bommers. It also enables me to pay my respects to Mr. Bommers.

Next I traveled north and spent some time with Alex Lange. Alex was the leader with the overall top young female at the Kleemann last fall owned by Poco Guzman, the President of the DK Club in Spain.

Then I traveled a short distance to the home of Stefan and Maike Middeke where I delivered Uschka vom Trocken Bach for Gil Dueck to continue her education.

The next stop was at Holger Hensel home where Maggie KS vom Trocken Bach has spent the last year preparing for her success at the 2018 Kleemann. Maggie has been in Germany since the completion of the KS to be bred to Etzel vom



Holger & Lotta take
Debby, Katy vom
Riverwoods, and Ede
for an afternoon walk

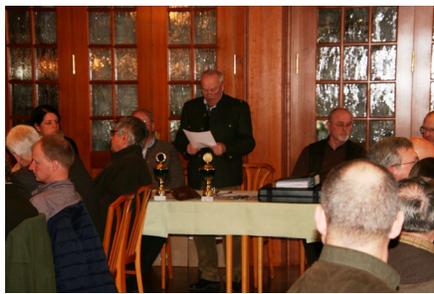
Thüringer Zipfel. Holger and his family were very welcoming and we spend two days talking about the dogs and watching Holger train his young dogs. Holger has many training techniques that I will be able to utilize, hopefully with the same success he enjoys. We also had the opportunity to observe Lotta, Maggie's Zuchtschau leader, preparing for an upcoming Dressage competition. Lotta is a very accomplished and successful horsewoman.



Ede vom Ehrenfeld in
training for the
Fuchsschleppe in the

The next stop was at Rüdiger Stilgenbauer, the owner of vom Klepelshagener Forst. Rüdiger is a Professional Hunter on a rever of approximately 2,500 acres. Within the hunting area they have wild board, deer, Red Stags, big horn sheep, hares, and some

ducks. Rüdiger also has very fine and will trained dogs. Spending time at vom Klepelshagener Forst was very interesting and enjoyable. Additionally, Rüdiger is a very good cook.



President Gerd Schad presides over the Club Kurhessen Annual Meeting

Prior to my arrival Rüdiger informed me that on Saturday Club Kurhessen, his DK club of about 325 members, would be having their annual meeting, and I was welcome to attend. Gerd Schad is the President of Club Kurhessen and made sure that I felt very welcome at the meeting. He made arrangements to have Albrecht Keil, a fifty-five year member of the club, sit beside me and translate. The

meeting was very well run and interesting. They conducted their business in a very professional and succinct manner. Interestingly enough they spend a fair amount of time discussing the potential problems that North American Breeders could be facing with the alliance that has apparently been struck between the FCI and AKC. The problem could be as limited as obtaining a transfer permit for North American DK's to travel from Germany to other FCI countries or as far reaching as North American born DK's no longer receiving Germany Ahnentafels rather registration papers from the AKC.



'18 Club Kurhessen Awards (LtoR) Helmut Merle Dr. Albert Lemmer Awarad (top VGP dog 348 pts.), Frank O'Leary, Antje Engelbart-Schmidt Leader and Breeder, President Gerd Schad

After seven days and driving 1,900 miles it was a very enjoyable and informative trip.

March 22nd – 24th in the DKV and JGHV meetings took place in Fulda, Germany. This year there was added importance for North America owners of German bred dogs. First there was a new DK club approved in North America. The Duetsch-Kuzhaar Group North America obtained full membership in the DKV. Secondly, there were discussions about the FCI/AKC and how the proposed regulations would affect North American breeders and owners of Germany dogs. I was happy to learn that discussions took place between the presidents of the DKV, DDV, and KLM in preparation for an upcoming meeting with the VDH about this matter. Hopefully, there will be a workable resolution that will enable us to continue to receive the Germany Ahnentafels.

Test season is fast approaching and there has been a change in the test schedule for the Western Region. The **Derby will be in Walla Walla, WA on May 11th and 12th**. There is an [article about the change in this publication](#).

Best of luck to all with your testing this year,

Frank O'Leary

Western Regional Director

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