

# Member Profile

*by Michael Albert*



Blair von den Sieben

My name is Michael Albert and I love the outdoors. I was born in a small town outside of Los Angeles, California but my parents were able to raise me as if we lived in the country. I grew up with horses, chickens, cows, goats, and rabbits in our back yard which made for a great field trip for my classmates in elementary school. Throughout my childhood, my parents had springer spaniels that were great at lying on the couch, but not so keen on hunting.

My father introduced me to hunting when I was about 8 and we would frequently go to the San Bernardino or Sierra Nevada mountains in search of mountain and valley quail, chukar, dove, and the occasional pheasant. I quickly became a fan of spending quality time in the field with my father and (a few years later) brother who enjoyed wing shooting as well. We never had the opportunity to hunt behind a dog, but I always had the desire to. Around my high school years, I was introduced to waterfowl hunting in addition to big game hunting and quickly became addicted. The thrill of a mixed bag of ducks was something I was and still am passionate about. Waterfowl hunting is really where I found myself wanting a four-legged companion to hunt with.

Fast forward 10 years and I have graduated with my MBA degree, I am married to the most amazing woman in the world, I relocated from California to Utah, I have a 1 year old son (Colt), and I own a wonderful Deutsch Kurzhaar; Briar von den Sieben.

I had always wanted a “German Shorthair Pointer”, and when my wife and I decided it was time to get a dog, we started researching breeders and kennels. We came across DK’s and were very intrigued as there appeared to be many benefits vs a GSP. The more we investigated DK’s the more we fell in love and that is when we found Max Barker’s kennel (Deutsch Kurzhaar von den Sieben Sohnen) in southern Utah.



Colt and Blair

We spoke with Max and knew that this was the right breed of dog for us. A great hunting companion was just the start of what we were looking for. We wanted a dog that could in essence do it all. A great temperament around children and family, a dog that would have good energy levels but not over the top, a dog to cuddle up with on those cold winter evenings, and one that could be easily trained. Well, Briar is all of this and much more. Her playful personality is one of a kind and she can definitely brighten up anyone's bad mood. She has a natural ability to hunt, like most DK's do, and she learns very effortlessly and quickly. She is incredibly intelligent, always looking for new ways to do things she knows she shouldn't be doing!

As I am new to dog training, and the DK breed, I jumped at the chance to get connected with a group of guys and gals who had similar situations and who had new puppies around the same age as Briar. We would meet up at organized training day events to learn what the breed is capable of and learn some of the tricks needed to easily train a dog. Tyler Smith has been an awesome asset for all the local DK owners to use as a resource for information. He has been willing to help with every step of the training process. I am glad to have made good friends through the entire process of training and look forward to days afield with fellow DK owners.



Blair with her 2018  
Wanderpreis Award

Briar is about 2 ½ years old now, and to this point she has tested in the Derby and Solms. She scored a Prize I in both, with perfect scores across the board. Briar was the recipient of the Wanderpreis award for 2018 which is a national traveling award given to the top scoring dog. To this point she has shown that her bloodlines, natural abilities, and personality represent what everyone loves about their DK's. She has become a loved member of our family and we look forward a life full of fun memories with our Briar!