

Palmer shoots to the top of youth bird hunting

By Rachel Johnson
Editor

With both parents working veterinarians, it was inevitable that 16-year-old Jamie Palmer would grow up surrounded by animals, but it was something of a surprise when he began competing in bird dog challenges just over a year ago. Palmer has been a quick study, however, and will be receiving an award for Dog of the Year for the Amateur Pointer Division of the Wisconsin Championship Hunting Series this April at the Invitationals.

Palmer received the German short hair pointer as a reward for good grades at the end of eighth grade. Dog bird trainer and family friend Craig Steinbach of Fly n’ Gun Kennels in Thorp knew just the dog. Palmer was happy to get the last of the litter, and he named the puppy “Trigger.”

Palmer had been bird hunting before with his father, but not competitively. Steinbach convinced him to try tournament hunting. Trigger received basic puppy obedience lessons and at about the age of one year began training with Steinbach.

Chasing the birds is a natural instinct, but from the beginning Palmer worked at honing the dog’s natural impulses. “The first year, we try to build up prey drive so that he wants to find the birds more,” Palmer said. “His drive for the birds is all natural.”

The training teaches him to “hold point so that he doesn’t try to catch the bird,” Palmer explained.

The dog should sit until the person comes and flushes the bird out. “When he was really little, that was tough for him, but he’s gotten really good at it,” Palmer said.

Palmer travels all over Wisconsin for the competitions which begin in early fall and last until April. The junior at Wrightstown High School doesn’t usually miss school for tournaments except last October when he went to Guthrie, Iowa for the World Championships. There, he competed in the doubles pointer division with Steinbach and finished third out of the top 46 pointing dogs in the country. The event will be televised on The Outdoor Channel.

To compete nationally, you have

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photo by Rachel Johnson

Rockland teen Jamie Palmer has shot to the top with his dog, Trigger. Palmer will be receiving the Dog of the Year for the Amateur Pointer Division of the Wisconsin Championship Hunting Series this April at the Invitationals. Palmer has been competing for a little more than one year.

Wrightstown continues probing possibilities for areawide YMCA

By Jim Pinkham

For the Wrightstown Area Spirit

Wrightstown trustees approved the next exploratory step Monday toward an area YMCA, authorizing \$1,500 of a \$5,000 venture to have engineers McMahon Associates:

- Develop an architectural rendering and floor plan that could support fund-raising efforts.
- Offer an opinion about the probable cost of YMCA-related facilities.

• Attend a kickoff meeting and task force meeting to present the project results.

McMahon has agreed to pick up the \$3,500 remainder of project costs as a community service project, according to terms of the agreement.

“We’re appreciative of the donation of time that they’re willing to give,” trustee Brett Wallace, a leader of the YMCA task force told

fellow village board members.

The project should be complete by April 1, he said, and ready to roll out to the community a couple of weeks later.

By late spring or early summer, Wallace said a second survey will go the community.

Last year’s survey focused on gauging the level of community interest in an areawide YMCA, par-

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Arts extravaganza to be March 2

Mark your calendars for the bi-annual WMS Arts Extravaganza to be held Sunday, March 2. There will be local and student art on display, music and entertainment, make and take stations for the younger crowd, and open mic all day.

The committee is still looking for volunteers to help with set up on Saturday, March 1. Contact Linda Galow at 532-4818, ext. 2530.

Look for more information in the March 1 edition of the Spirit.