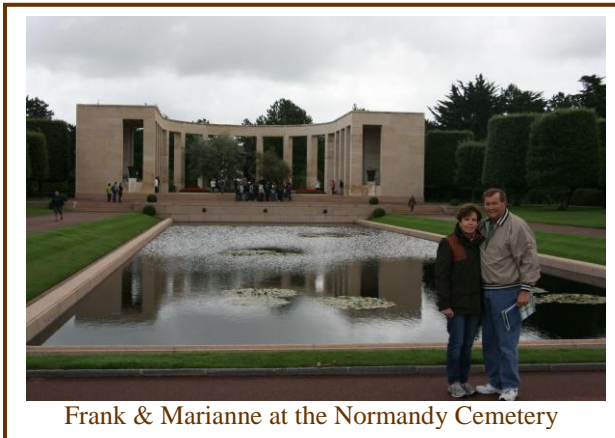


# 2012 KLEEMANN in ISERNHAGEN, GERMANY

by Frank O'Leary



Frank & Marianne at the Normandy Cemetery

We made our way to the Kleemann via Amsterdam, The Netherlands and then to the Normandy Region of France. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the Normandy Region you need to do so for a history lesson and a reality check. The sites and information provided by our tour guide was truly moving. Other than the visit to Normandy I am convinced I never need to visit France again. It is the only country we have visited in Europe where the people

were ruded and unfriendly. Enough said onto Germany and the business of the 2012 Dr. Kleemann Prüfung.

We arrived in Isernhagen, Germany near Hannover in the early evening and found a very nice facility and very friendly staff. The Hotel Hennies was more of a convention center with an excellent staff than the usual Germany Inn we have visited. It was nice to see people that you had not seen since the last Kleemann but it was clear everyone was anxious for the activities to start.



Entry to Kleemann Office

Thursday morning came soon enough and the breakfast area at the hotel was full of participants all preparing for the events to get underway. The registration provided the opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. It is the first time most of the participants are in one place and you can

see and visit almost everybody. It was nice to see so many Americans in attendance. Jeff Martin from our Western Region was there along with a strong contingency from Team Riverwoods including Rob Engelking, Julie Griswold, and Diana Calandra.

The Zuchtschau started at 1:00 PM and the crowd moved from the hall to the field behind the hotel. After the opening ceremony concluded judging started in two rings for the males and two for the females. There were a total of 135 dogs to be evaluated with 85 of them being females.

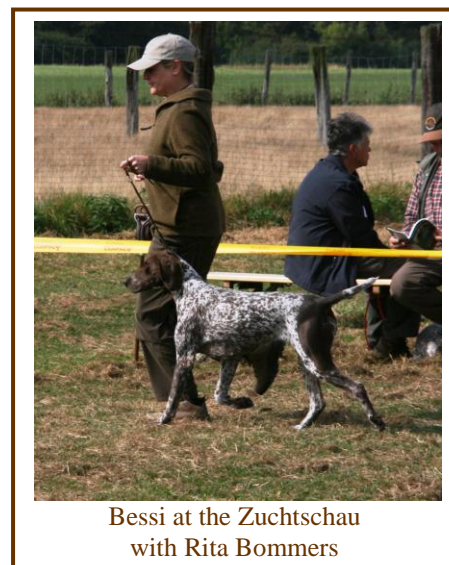
We had three females to be evaluated: Fender vom Trocken Bach with Mr. Siegfried Hofstetter, Bessi vom Trocken Bach with Mr. Klaus Bommers, and Dakota vom Trocken Bach also



Dakota at the Zuchtschau with Mr. Bommers

lead by Mr. Bommers. Although we have had five dogs participate successfully at the Dr. Kleemann Prüfung since 2006 this would be the first time they were dogs that we had raised. A fact that made things more interesting but also more nerve racking.

We knew going in that all three females were positioned well to be evaluated as “V” dogs. Bessi had been the V4 female at Club Rheinland, Dakota the V5 dog at Club Rheinland, and Fender the V2 dog at Club Baden-Süd. The ring that our dogs drew had a very tough group of judges so we knew it would be a challenging day. As the events unfolded “tough” was the word of the day. Dog after dog who entered the ring as a “V” dog left with an “SG”. Our three would enter the ring one after another Bessi first, then Dakota, and then Fender the most elegant of the three. Bessi



was led by Rita Bommers, Mr. Bommers’ daughter. Bessi showed well and the judges were impressed awarding her a “V”. Next would be Dakota led by Mr. Bommers. Dakota is very driven and she brought that to the ring. The judges looked closely and when they had concluded their evaluation she was awarded a “V”. Next would be Fender and we could relax a little. Fender is very elegant and Mr. Hofstetter is considered by most to be the best leader in Germany in the field and water work and a very accomplished leader in the ring. Fender looked great and the Germany leaders sitting by us said “V” but the judges said “SG” – what???? We had no way of knowing her bad week had just begun.

After all dogs had been evaluated each ring selects their top 10 from those which received “V”. It was our good fortune to have both Bessi and Dakota selected in the Top 10 from ring #4. Now the top 20 females (10 from Ring #3 and 10 from Ring #4) are evaluated and the top 10 from that group will compete for position V1 – V5 at the 2012 Dr. Kleemann Prüfung. Bessi was one of the first selected to move forward and we were very pleased. In the final evaluation for the top five spots our girl had pressing bathroom business that took most of the ring time and was passed over, but we were very pleased she was in the ring. When the day was over two of our three dogs had received “V”. Two were in the top 20 and one made the top 10, in all we had a very good day. Now on to the field and water work.

Friday morning we meet behind the hall across the street from the Hotel. Bessi and Dakota would be in Group #29 with Mr. Bommers. Fender, who is Marianne’s dog, would be in Group #30 with Mr. Hofstetter. I would go with Bommers’ and Marianne would go with Hofstetter’s. Marianne and I decided that we would call one another every two hours for updates starting at 10:00 AM. Off to the fields we went.



Bessi on point during search

There were four dogs in our group and Bessi would work second and Dakota fourth. When it was Bessi's turn Mr. Bommers told me to come with him. She worked great producing three pheasants, two hairs, two roe deer, and a covey of partridge. Dakota's turn came and she was equally impressive. She produced both feathered and fur game and managed each perfectly. Both dogs are very proficient and very different. Bessi is very smooth and efficient with a great nose that leads her through the

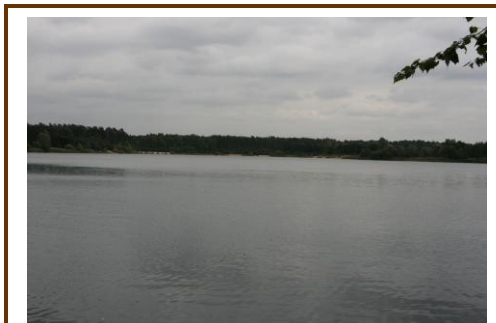
field. She is exactly like her mother, Atlanta, in her every move – just better looking. Bessi performed each of her searches without a mistake and looked great doing it. Dakota is a more powerful female with a very impressive nose that takes her to the game and directs her movements in the field. She has a beautiful point and is flawless in her management of the game. Dakota is equally impressive to watch just different. In all each dog worked four times and produced game. They were steady on both fur and feathered game and perfect on the shot. We would move to the water in great shape.

Unfortunately, during the field work for Bessi and Dakota, Fender had been at the water. I received a text from Marianne around 9:00 but it made no sense and I demised it as nothing. When we talked at 10:00 I learned the bad news. Fender had failed at the water and I was shocked. Mr. Hofstetter's dogs are always great in the water work. Marianne said I would not believe the water they had and hoped we were not coming



Dakota on point during search

there. She said Mr. Hofstetter was very upset with the water and the judges – more on that later. Obviously Fender was not having a good week. Our best looking dog received a SG at the Zuchtschau and now, with the best leader in Germany, she is out of the Kleemann – wow – what next. I told Bommers that Fender was out and they could not believe it. They said Mr. Hofstetter's dogs never fail and are always the best at the water – what happened??? We were off to the water and could not be concerned with the disappointment of Marianne's dog failing. We could only hope we would have different water.



View of the test water for our dogs

Just as we arrived at the water Marianne called again. She asked me to describe the drive into the water. When I did she said you are at the same water we were at. GREAT, how bad is it. When we cleared the trees I could see – so much for the German ponds – this is a very large lake – I mean very large. We got out of the cars and the leaders and judges just

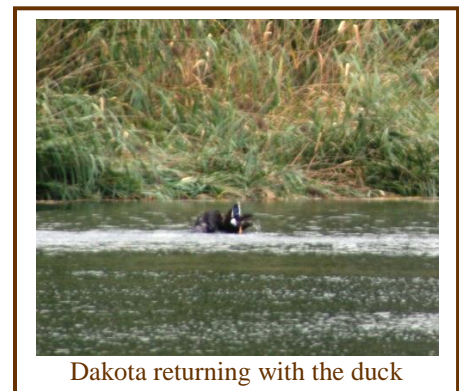
stood there. I was near the judges and one who spoke very good English looked at me and said “this is stupid”! After huddling for a period of time and looking the situation over I was summoned by the judges and told to go with one of them around the edge of the water part way down the right side, next to the auto-bond, with one of the shooters. To put this in prospective the young man that was shooting said the lake was 2.2 KM from end to end and 1.2 KM across. I don’t know if that is correct but it was really big – stupid big. There was no way to set up a hunting scenario from the position we were assigned. Anyway let the water work begin.



The other leader’s dogs were both five years of age and handled the water as well as could be expected. For their efforts they deservedly received a score of 4h, one for search without the duck and the other for search behind the duck. Bessi, who is three, was our first dog in the water. I was positioned approximately two hundred yards

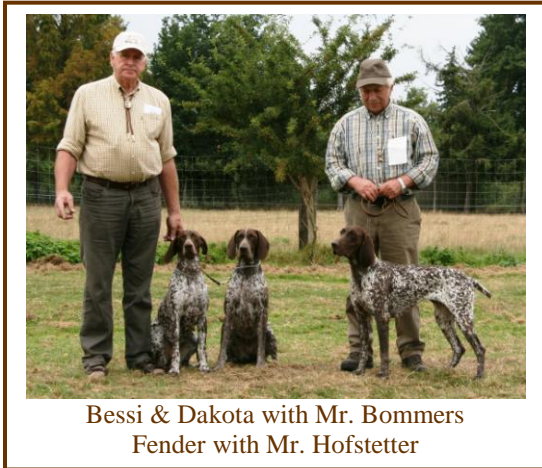
from where the dogs would enter the water through a narrow channel and they swim into the lake out of sight of the leader and two of the judges (we had four judges in our group for some reason). Bessi came out into the lake and searched to the left and then to the right (towards us) around the corner and up almost to where we were standing. She was then called back and would be sent for the live duck. Bessi made fast work of the live duck and all was good. Now Dakota must go. Dakota is a year younger than Bessi and the younger dogs had not been doing well at this water. At one point 7 of 9 dogs at this water had failed.

Dakota enter the water and searched to the left. She went up into the reeds and searched where a duck had been found earlier. Back to the water and she searched to the right towards us along the reeds. We could not see her and she needed to make the turn and come towards us to make the search sufficient. Finally, her dark head appeared along the reeds coming directly at us. Pëter Eppel, the judge with me, signaled the others and she was called back. The live duck was sent for and that search began. Dakota immediately located where the duck had entered the reeds and began the search. Shortly out came the duck and was immediately shot by the shooter from the far bank. Dakota was still in the reeds and when she cleared the reeds the duck was dead approximately fifty yards out in the lake and she had no idea where it was. This was not good! Dakota searched around in front of the reeds and found nothing. She expanded her search and still found



nothing. She expanded it more and finally located the duck and returned with it immediately.

All four dogs in our group had passed and would receive their KS. I can say without hesitation the water part of the test was over the top. The 2012 Kleemann was very well organized and the Hannover Club should be complimented for their efforts. However, this water was ridiculous.



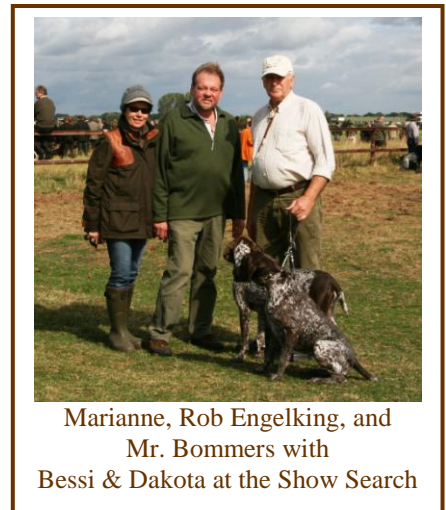
Bessi & Dakota with Mr. Bommers  
Fender with Mr. Hofstetter

For Trocken Bach the week has to be considered successful by any measure. We had three dogs in the Prüfung. At the conformation show two received “V”, one was in the top ten, and two were in the top twenty. In the field and water work two of the three received their “KS”. In all we have had eight dogs at the Kleemann since 2006 and seven have received their “KS”.

Fender returned to Walla Walla with us and will be sold.

Bessi and Dakota remained in German to be bred and then will come to Walla Walla for whelping.

We had a meaningful trip to Normandy, a wonderful time seeing old friends and making new ones at the Kleemann. Additionally, we enjoyed our time at Hofstetter’s and Bommers’ following the Kleemann. By any measure this was a very successful Prüfung for Zwinger vom Trocken Bach and we are very proud for our dogs and their leaders.



Marianne, Rob Engelking, and  
Mr. Bommers with  
Bessi & Dakota at the Show Search