

Ainsworth - 2003

A new year at summer camp with lots of new young dogs and some new people too. We'll miss our old friends who can't make the trip this year but I sure hope they make it in the future. Nebraska is coming back from a 2 year drought and while they have more rain this year, they still have a ways to go. It could have a bearing on our overall bird supply but we won't know that for a couple of weeks.

Alex & Alexandra arrived in camp July 24 with Bonnie and Dennis sliding in on the night of the 25th to drop birds off and help set up camp. The crew worked all weekend, mowing, setting out birds & setting up barrels and stakes. Bonnie and Dennis brought some dogs to camp along with horses and an atv. Alex should be ready for the week ahead. Robin was due in camp this week but business has reared its ugly head and it seems she'll miss camp. Sure hope she makes it to Booneville this year. We found out this weekend that besides planning on getting a new refrigerator & microwave, the camp's stove had sinister plans to level the house so we also needed a new stove. Bonnie took on the task of going to Sears in Denver and picking us out some new appliances. Ron & Annie have donated the funds to make this happen and we sure appreciate they're generosity. They had rain on Sunday and some more during the week. This helps us all and sure makes the Painter family happy.

Back on the home front, everyone has big work issues. Bob G. & Stan are going through a major restructuring, Phil switched companies, and I'm plodding along with today's construction market but we're still going to figure out a way to make camp. Bob and Amy will be delayed (not stuck just delayed) a week. Stan will be out late with Lee Shoaf pulling the trailer out to haul horses. Phil got a positive answer to taking his planned vacation with the new company and him, Jenny and the kids (Kelly included) will make the trip with us on July 31st. We are ready!

Work on Thursday just slowed the day down but we got loaded and ready to hit the road that afternoon. Almost 3pm by the time we left Sycamore with Phil's new rig, 4 kids, 4 adults, 15 dogs and plenty of enthusiasm. We made it about 70 miles before a connection on Phil's intercooler blew and we tried roadside repairs. Lots of help from Chad and a local tow truck guy but we were forced to limp it to town to get

electricity but we got it fixed and headed out. At least got to Iowa City, had dinner then got the dogs out and a good night sleep. Up early, rolling by 7:30 and a very good travel day. Stopped in Norfolk and got some steaks and sweet corn and hit camp by 5 PM. The crew had us set up in no time and we were able to enjoy a good dinner and a nice bottle of wine and listen to some good tunes. Lee Shoaf had left with Katrina after us. He had the horses and he was able to just keep chugging out. Alex, Lee & Katrina had us unpacked and unhooked and that sure made our day easier. Camp looked great and Dennis was coming tonight with our stove and refrigerator. Camp will be rolling tomorrow.

Saturday morning, we're up and working on camp. Alex had repaired the pigeon house so we had a spot to put the new birds. Stove in, refrigerator hooked up with ice maker and many other small chores completed to have camp really fit to run. A couple of naps and everyone was smiling Saturday night as we ate Elk kabobs that Dennis brought. HMMMMMM good!!!!!!!!!!!! Roger, Janet, Devin, Jason, Gerald and Mildred were all down that night and it was great to see our Ainsworth family. Fresh corn and some beans and were we happy! Dennis roaded his crew for an hour that morning as Alex had been working them all week and they came to camp pretty fit. They have a headstart on everyone. Some nosey dogs these 1st nights, we'll have to find the culprits and get that straightened out real soon. Ed Meyer rolled in with his dog and Tompkins two and camp was pretty well filled up only Ron Talmage and Annie left to bring dogs. 27 in camp now so we have a nice size crew.

Sunday Aug.3 We're up and moving, getting the whole team ready for that first trip to the hills. Got all the kids saddled up and we're ready.

Hills Clint & Dusty - these 2 got the call to start the trip - Dusty responded by hitting a solid point at about 3 min out he looked great with a command back by Clint. Dennis was thinking turtle but he had a perfectly located chicken. Dusty ran the better of the 2 all the way but neither one really opened up with Clint getting into a turtle pattern- he picked up 5 bumped a chicken he had every chance to pin and generally didn't have it today. Dusty was seen under a bird and both dogs were corrected. 30 min. - 10-12 chickens

Bandit & Katie - Bandit ran a decent race - handling at moderate range with Katie showing independence and hunt once she got settled in. Bandit seen working a hilltop very aggressively and she flat knocked a chicken, I think she might have knocked it out of site and had marked the landing zone-plugged in she was corrected only to do it again 2 min. later - she was corrected and finished moderately with Katie slowing at the end. Nice course for the young dog. 31 min. 15 birds- 1 big bunch of young birds.

We saw Roger, Devin and some friends riding to us - they came out for a Sunday morning ride with us only we were a little quick for them. They planned on following the next brace.

Heidi & Jam - they ran short with Jam showing more speed and both got hot pretty quick. Got them in the lake and Heidi kept going in circles, I had to wade out to get her before she collapsed. The next 2 ponds she just jumped in, still a high kicker she managed to get out on her own. Jam is a nice moving pup. 20 min.

More plans for the rest of the day but finished doing chores and it got good and hot. Dennis left town for the week. Phil and company went swimming and we snoozed. Had a great dinner and visited with the Painters.

Mon Aug.4 Monday morning, I'm on the phones but the crew got ready and they're running the meadows.

Inde/Zooka - ed and phil -zooka had nice point along edge just before Sidell's pasture. Flushed a young chucker that only went a few feet. She took 2 steps toward the bird after the shot. In Sidell's pasture, she went on point again and inde came in and stole point. Put inde back, then flushed visible quail to the side..there was probably another bird in there as well. Zooka had another point with Inde behind about 50 yards. after about 3 shouts for Inde to ho, she finally stopped, just in time for Zooka to decide that there was no bird and self release. Made both stand as a correction. non productive.

a few minutes later, zooka went on point again right at a fence. Phil yelled for inde to ho, and she dropped her head and began walking toward him. We turned her around and let her watch. Turned out to be non productive. pick up zooka at 23 minutes, let ed take inde rest of course in hopes to have a clean find... Both dogs were digging in and hunting with reasonable range.

Roxy/Glory-Glory was running with reasonable intensity, but after the 2nd non-productive, we decided to pick her up. Roxy was happy to be out running, but didn't stick to the cover as much as we would have hoped. No birds.

Rocky/Layla - phil and jason

Rocky - nice point on south side of objective with johnny house after 3rd relocate in the thick weeds, he pounced in...obviously in flushing mode at this point. after he spun around looking for the bird, the bird flushed from its perch of about 2ft on a wood pile. Layla had a point in Sidell's pasture, but broke before jason could get there.... The rest of the time, it was clear that she was more interested in finding crap to roll in. She may be coming in heat...she is due soon... as Rocky tagged her around the rest of the course. When he would get independent, he would turn around and look/wait for her...

Lots of work today but Luke and I got the ATV hooked up and ready for the start of the roading program. Actually, Alex had been doing the Hidalgo string all week.

Tues Aug 5 Foggy morning but we still had plans to do young dogs.

Roading Clint, Dusty, Cali - 29 min
 Doly, Bo, Brie, Lea - 23 min
 Chopper, Bandit - 27 min

Linda's on the rig and hoping her new set up lets her rode the dogs without bothering her hands. Seems to work.

Meadows Wally, Teama, & Susie - pigeon toss and short run-10 min
Pattie, Hank & Ruddy - pigeon toss and short run-10 min
All the pups showed plenty of desire for birds.

Birdwork Went to the Sidell loop to work birds.

Inde - scenting and the young birds were tough, finally got her on a single and she handled okay with a couple of steps after the shot. Ed needs to handle it a little different.

Rocky - tried to get him on a bird but no luck so we moved to the pond.

-- worked Inde again and got a find that was okay and a wild flush that she just came to me. She's doing pretty good - likes to hunt and dig the cover.

Lea - dragging a cord she pointed stylishly and stood but the bird was right there and she broke with flush. Tried another but only had an improper stf then a checkcord bird and called it a day.

We've got Bob G & Lee hooking up to get us some older birds. All the birds seem to be a bit strange in that they don't fly up on the ledges and look out which makes them not very spooky when you go to work them. We'll have to see if they change as they get older. The kids are off to the pool and we're doing business in camp.

Wed Aug 6 Cool morning with a great view of Mars during the night. Really bright in the sky. A bit cloudy this morning with Linda into the program and off roading early. We running a few braces out of camp to triple gates. Alex and Alexandra are having their last morning on the hills, then off to the airport and back to home. They had a fun time in camp.

Meadows **Brie & Inde**- Inde a strong start and very good application, hit the edges and dug in all through the meadow. Brie kinda just going through the motions, slow for her and bouncing around. She never really got it going - by the time we hit the south meadow both were slowing down and overwhelmed

by the big field. Took them to the island and got wet, Brie had a non productive by a dried up hole and picked up a little in the low hills but not much of a race for here. In the stronger of the 2. They were happy to see the truck at triple gates.

Hills **Picabo & Katie** - ran these 2 to the east on the big hills and they show lots of promise. Katie looped pretty bad for a minute or 2 than started to get into a pattern w/Picabo the wider of the 2 - they hunted and stretched to a medium gun dog range with an occasional stretch. Chased some dinky birds and got them to water at 12 - Picabo still won't go in and Phil got down and gently wet her down to get her used to it - Katie was cool now and started to hit a lick only to have the 2 of them do a t-bone move coming off a small hill - Katie a bit tentative for a couple of minutes but she got better- Picabo really opened up and had a very strong finish with Katie doing a good job too. 32 min.

Meadows **Heidi & Bo-** ran them back from triple gates and Bo started out listening but split to the east at the island, I hit him with the collar but he kept on going, Phil and I waited while Ed and the girls ran Heidi. We just sat and watched with Bo coming back about 5 minutes later when he went past I yelled 'ho' and he tried to blink me but the power worked then and he stood. I took him back to the pond and then turned north and he went with me the rest of the way. Good race with no birds and ended up on a positive note. We got back to camp to find that Heidi pointed at the pond and while Ed was mounting, the horse took and he bailed hitting his head. He got back on and rode in but has no memory of the find, fall or ride in but he also doesn't have a headache so he seems okay. 35 min.

The kids went out to look for Ed's glasses but no luck then Phil and Ed went back and were able to find them. Ed seems fine now so we're good to go. Alex and Alexandra pulled out after saying goodbye. Ed, Jason and I went up to Roger's hay meadow south of the golf course to look for a new weed running along his field which he was having no luck getting killed. Ed will try and identify it and see what it takes to control it. We

finally had an earlier meal and were able to get a few dogs out for birdwork.

Birdwork **Roxie** - 1 clean bird with not much style for Ed and Roxie-good training for Ed.

Glory - Lucas in the drivers seat with Glory, 1 clean bird and good manners.

Lea - dragging a cord, Phil worked Lea on a bird with a very classy find, Phil held cord and I went out front to flush and through a different bird. She handled fine, we praised her and put her up.

Clint - pointed the 1st one tightly and was clean, took him to a 2nd one w/better style. The bird didn't fly too well and he tried to get in - corrected seriously and put up.

Puppy Owen and him Mom took Ginger for a walk in the meadow. She had lots of fun.

Good day with lots of dogs worked.

Thurs Aug.7 We had a great cool evening to sleep and a little rain around 4 am that just made if feel good. Trying to get a jump on it as the adults are heading to Rosebud tonight for a Wynonna Concert & dinner at Peppermill.

Roading **Clint, Rocky, Zooka, & Cali** - 33 min but Rocky forced 4 min. break, laying down and not wanting to go until Linda hosed him down completely. Rocky is not making up any ground at this point, first he picked on his roading partner yesterday and just hasn't endeared himself to the program.

Roxie, Dusty, Chopper & Penny - it worked, I read the notes from last year and found out that Penny wouldn't road for Linda on the left side last year , same the other day so the last 2 days she roaded her on the right and she's fine. 33 min.

Lea & Colleen - Colleen still in season but coming out of her shell. She did just fine on the roading rig with Lea. 26 min.

Meadows **Glory & Inde** - Glory with Lucas and Inde with Ed, they got off while I did some work. Inde the better race but she chased a bird and got corrected. Glory a better race today but no birds.

Dolly & Ona - Ona showing a lot of speed and some hunt, Dolly showing out of shape, kinda like Brie the other day, just going through the motions. Good few opening minutes but just not the conditioning and too much weight. She's got the heart though and she'll get in shape pretty quick.

Bandit & Jam - well I'm going for the whole enchilada- no power assist with Bandit and she rocked out from the get go only to hook the truck going back and Devin had to go get her, Jam hooking the scout but she had good speed and some hunt. Needs some work but has the tools. Got Bandit back only to have her hook the truck a 2nd time with Devin getting her at the pond - we got her going and her gas tank was running down so she handled well the rest of the way with a decent GD pattern but no birds. 32 min.

Wynonna just cancelled her concert. Now we'll boycott all her records until I get a letter of apology. Still going to the Peppermill only now we're taking the kids. Should be a fun time.

Great Dinner at the Pepper Mill!! WE had a fun time and took Jason & Devin with us. Back to the ranch for a relaxing night with Owen giving us his violin concert with a couple of tunes from Corrine & Lucas, Kelly on the baton. We really enjoyed the concert, Owen up to book 3 in Suzuki and all of them doing a great job. Fun to hear and watch.

Fri Aug. 8 Morning was clear and I had a full schedule of work this morning but the crew was up and ready to work for Ed's last morning on the hill. Trying to fill out the workouts for the week, remembering it's the first week of camp. Kelly riding Doc again this morning and doing a real nice job with him, they've become quite the team on the meadows.

Roading **Bo, Brie, Penny** - 32 min.

Meadows
puppies

rudy/wally/dixie

3 birds per brace worked well...1 at the stakeout, 1 on the way out, 1 on the way back. wally and dixie followed the 1st pigeon all the way to the hill past the far tree objective. on the way back wally had dixie's lead in his mouth and proceeded to do that the rest of the time. rudy brought up the rear and wasn't very expending much energy...

hank/teama/patti/suzie

3 birds per brace worked well again with devin dishing out the bird candy. pattie and suzie got into a couple of fights that seemed serious. ed recalled pattie bullying suzie the last time out, so it seems that suzie decided to fight back. it seems that this was on her mind from the get go, as she wasn't even very excited about the bird on the stakeout either, which is stark contrast to the last time we had her out.

Rocky & Roxie - Rockie 25 min & Roxie 35- Phil ran Rocky and Ed ran Roxie. Rocky gets the collar the next time out. he started by bumping and tagging roxie from the beginning. i ran him down. he stopped, but with a male dog we would have had a fight. for the most part, it was a replay of the previous time where he more concerned etc. roxie was ready to run...tail was cracking the whole time and handled well. again, she doesn't stick to the objectives as much as might be required to find birds here. ed spotted a chukar running east on the north side of the pond across from the bird house. he brought roxie in. she had to relocate a few times, but finally had a clean find in the pine trees. in the mean time, I picked up rocky.

Inde & Katie - Inde-31 min & 35 min Kelly ran Katie and Ed ran Inde. both dogs ran well and were digging in from the beginning. inde went south just before the sidell loop. ed and lucas ended up losing her until we met up again back by

the pond. she was very hot when we caught up with her, so we know she was running and may have got into birds. katie, on the other hand went on point about 5 years from the johnny house on sidell's. She held point all the way through the flush of about 4-5 quail. I went ahead and shot, and she took a step back, then took a few steps forward and went on point again. I flushed 2 more quail that were hidden. She didn't chase, so I collared her and praised her without a shot, then watered her. by the time we got to the pond and caught up with inde, ed and kelly were able to get both dogs in the pond to cool off. no other birds.

Colleen & Heidi - 22 min (Colleen's at the end of her Season and first time down) Phil ran Colleen and Corinne ran Hiedi(with help from Kelly and Lucas). It was obvious that Colleen had not been around horses before, as she got very close several times, but she handled it well. We had a hard time keeping her front, but she seemed to be having fun and digging in on the east/west line before Sidell's loop. However, in Sidell's loop she found a dead squirrel under a log that smelled good and offered plenty of shade. I hauled her out, walked her 50 yard south(to shortcut loop), and watered her. After letting her loose, she went right back. I was going to take her back in, but then she finally decided to go with the group. Heidi ran with more intensity and stayed front except for a fence that shouldn't figure out how to cross....Ed had to go back to get her. Corinne and Kelly did a good job of getting them into the pond. No birds.

Ed came in and packed up and hit the road. He's off to Colorado to drop his truck at Hidalgo's place, go the airport and fly home. The Tompkins will pick it up when they fly in. This way they get 3 dogs to camp and all get to spend a little bit of time. Jenny , Linda and Owen went garage sailing and had a good time. Phil and the other kids went up to help the Painter's hay and spent the whole afternoon. I worked but it was very peaceful and I got a lot done. Bob Geddeis met Lee at o'dark hundred to pick up our reinforcements - 12 week old chukkar. Bob's Jeep was supposed to be fixed this afternoon but they couldn't get everything done. We discussed a couple of possibilites - Lee S. offered to let him use his and then Jenny figured he could use the Excursion and that would

work the best so off they went to meet Chad and get Phil & Jenny's vehicle and off he went leaving Rockford around 7pm and planning on being here for first brace.

Sears was supposed to have the refrigerator man out to fix the ice machine. He showed up at dinner time and didn't have much luck. He said if it wasn't fixed by Monday he'd order the parts. Don't the medicine he gave it will cure it by then!!!! At least it's their problem and not ours.

We decided to go fishing near dark at the pond south of the meadows. We packed up with the kids, Devin & Jason, Phil & I and off we went to the pond. Jason and Kelly road down on the ATV and told us that there were dead fish all along the pond. We parked on the east side and started to fish with a few dead ones along the bank, then I road around and found thousands of dead minnows, perch and several good size bass. Devin & Phil went back and got fish samples and water samples to try and determine the problem.

Phil & I, Devin, Jason & Kelly sat up and talked listening to good music and enjoying the night. I stayed on after midnight then Jenny got up and their party continued but I hit the hay.

Sat. Aug. 9 Bonnie and Dennis stealthed into camp around 1:30 or so but they were up bright and early. We started getting things ready and about 7:30 Bob & Amy rolled into camp. We were ready!!!!!!! We went and put out the new birds and got ready to go south and ride the hills. Linda was out road- ing as we got ready and had her string done by the time we were heading out.

Roading **Glory, Dolly, Bo & Zooka - 33 min.**

Bandit & Lea - 31 min

Hills Well we're late with everything we had to do and it was getting quite warm already. Last day out for Phil, Corrine, Kelly - they're heading home. Corrine & Kelly are doing a great job and having fun riding the hill. Lucas is staying this week and heading home with Bob and Amy. We drove south to almost the end of Roger's land and got ready to roll.

Cali & Clint - well old Cali sure has a heart - almost 9 years of age and still hits a good lick. Clint much better than his first time down but still has a way to go. We tried to stay near the water but got too far up in the hills and they were struggling around 20 - took Clint to water, Cali had a legit stf on 10 chickens then onward we went , gave them a good watering and they hunted till the end. All in all - a decent performance. 40 min.

Dusty & Picabo - Dusty a NP at 3 with Picabo a true test of his manners. We tried to stay near water and Dusty took a different trek. Phil took Picabo to water and got off his horse and spent time walking her into the water to teach her the benefits of cooling down. She got going and finished much better than she started. 30 min. with only a chase of ducks by Dusty to score on.

Jam & Ona - we decided to head along the water to camp and ran the puppies to the next gate and see if we wanted to go farther. Jason and I drove the rigs back and when we met them and opened the gates, they had enough. 20 min good hunt - no birds but two young dogs with potential.

We headed back to camp - 89 degrees and climbing, no puppy work. Decided to concentrate on our naps. Hot in the trailer but I got some good winks, Bob on the couch, Amy in her room, Phil in the hammock then the air conditioned trailer and we are headed to a lazy Saturday. Bonnie & Dennis went to town to deliver a horse to Roger Berg. Too bad he didn't stop out and say hello but he had to get back to home.

We had this lazy afternoon and plan on going to the top of the hill for dinner with the Painter family. Hope it cools down some!