

THE BART BELLON™ NEPOPO™ NEWSLETTER

“SUGARBREAD AND WHIP”™ (“ZUCKERBROT UND PEITSCHÉ”)

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

May 27, 2012

Bart Bellon Seminar
May 5-6, 2012
Burgos Kennels
King George, Virginia



SEMINAR AT BURGOS KENNELS IN KING GEORGE, VIRGINIA WAS WELL ATTENDED!

Bart and Michael arrived Wednesday at the Hospitality House in Fredericksburg and, along with kennel owner, Rick Burgos, went to work.

“We had a lot of work to do to get ready for a large crowd of about 100 people. We want this to be the standard for a Bart Bellon Seminar. We want to provide people with clean restrooms, good food, large areas to exercise and relieve dogs, and protection from the elements. We want to take care of everything so that people can relax and concentrate on soaking up everything they can from the world renowned dog trainer they came to see and learn from: Bart Bellon,” explained Michael Leighton.

Also in attendance were Richard Peterson, a professional music video videographer from Nashville, TN, and a dogsport competitor; and Sue Coppola of Sirius Photography.* Both did an excellent job documenting the event.

With check-in done by Maureen Roberts, things went flawlessly. We had participants from California to New York, from Florida to Maine, and from Canada, Costa Rica and Columbia. We had an international group with a huge mix from all over the United States. All registrants received a t-shirt and a free raffle ticket along with a wristband which was good for breakfast, lunch and water and coffee. Brian and China Hamilton brought fresh doughnuts each day, and after check-in,

participants enjoyed Starbucks coffee and doughnuts and chilled water. Lunch each day was served by the renowned Lyin’ Pigs Barbeque Team, and it was thoroughly enjoyed. Each day a GoPro and an iPad were raffled. (IPads were won by both Tony Arno and Bob Knight; the GoPros were won by Ken Steudle and Jim Duncan). On Saturday, a flexpole was given away in a free lottery and won by Margie Mills; on Sunday, a Dogtrophy was given away in a free lottery and won by Paul Harnage.

On Saturday, Bart started promptly at 9 am and the show was on....

* Pictures can be purchased from Sue’s site on SmugMug: <http://>



A View from Canada

By Marta W

Bart Bellon has been on my list of trainers to see for quite some time. Usually when an overwhelming amount of people say, you must see this person, it means they're doing some thing right and are always worth seeing. Lots of people have also called Bart the master of the e-collar and I'm always interested to see how people apply this tool creatively as opposed to like a monkey pressing the button on the highest setting. There were plenty of reasons to go and the 10h drive to get there was well worth it.

I went, I saw, and I have to say, you have to go see this man! You have to go see this man and his show, because it was most certainly a show and not just another seminar. Bart is as talented at capturing his audience as he is at communicating with the dogs.

What, you say, but he's all about e-collars, I don't do e-collars. If that is your reaction, you are sticking your head so far into the sand you can hear Chinese. I always believe you must venture outside of your comfort zone and see the unfamiliar, even see what you think you don't want to see in order to truly learn. You're not discovering the world even if you tell yourself so if you're simply walking in circles exploring your fenced in backyard dismissing what is on the other side of that fence as irrelevant to you. I think it is almost a disservice to label Bart as an e-collar trainer. Yes, the e-collar is a part of his system but it is only a part of it, and it is brilliantly applied only because it is applied to a brilliant system of foundations which any one can use without ever touching the e-collar.

I love Susan Garrett, even if I never do agility, for her brilliance and ability to split behaviours into those fun little games that create amazing clarity, drive, and control. I have often thought, I wish Susan did protection sports! Well, if she did, her name would be Bart Bellon. I see the same kind of methodology, splitting not lumping, tons of shaping of behaviours, modular and component training, no luring, over and over the emphasis in creating a free thinking confident dog who thinks he can manipulate the world around him with your assistance. I love

learning about training dogs. I read books, watch DVDs, go to seminars (I some times wonder if I love learning how to train more then the actual training!). I have had so many light bulb moments come from learning from Jean Donaldson, Susan Garrett, Michael Ellis, Bob Bailey, Steve White, Hennie Bolster... and many more wonderful people who share their knowledge with us. They all gave me bits and pieces of brilliance I can apply to what I do with my dogs (or what I want to do). Bart took all those big and small light bulbs and built a beautiful functional chandelier out of them all. He brought harmony to all these ideas that some times seemed to contradict each other yet made sense on their own.

Even if you don't believe in using adversives in your training at all, this man is brilliantly creative at shaping and capturing behaviours and moulding them into obedience and protection routines. Dogs will always choose to do what has brought them the most joy or reinforcement, whether this was done by us on purpose or not. Why fight their system? If you train dogs and think you can do better, go see this man!



Dog of Rudy Ligas (from Canada) on flexpole

“I am exhausted but OMG what an amazing event!! The seminar was awesome (though that was no surprise). Class act by everyone involved and a huge turn out! Nothing's better then spending the weekend with great people learning top training from hands down one of the best trainers in modern dog sport! I can't thank Bart, Michael, and Rick enough for having the seminar, and I wish I could have made it to the 5 day workshop! Mark your calendars 'cause there's another one in the works!! I highly recommend coming if you're committed to top training! :D”

--Nicole Malsam



“...I want to take a moment and thank you and Burgos Kennel for a Wonderful weekend. Sandy Collins and I drove from Michigan to attend the **BEST** most **INFORMATIVE** seminar we have ever attended.

Bart is so much more then the video clips on YouTube depict of him, **he is fantastic!**”

Ken Steudle Michigan, USA

WORKSHOP NUMBER ONE

For workshop number one, there were participants from upstate New York, the New Jersey area, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Florida. This was an exciting group who made a lot of progress. Well, some strong weather passed through and mauled our tent! But within 12 hours, we were back in business... Whew!

We were fortunate to have Eric Favetta of American K9 Interdiction at the workshop to do the helper work.. Every morning we had tracking, then obedience and protection. Every day we worked together and ate together.

It was a great group of people. This was a group full of energy and passion.

“If Bart was a dictator, all the people would think it was a democracy.”

Tyler Muto

(This was Bart's favorite quote from the workshop!)

Dear Michael and Bart,

I'm writing to thank you for exceeding all the preconceived expectations I had for last week. Between the quality and quantity of information given by Bart, the level of hospitality, and the quality of the field conditions; this was truly one of the best experiences I've ever had. With the economy in the state that it's in, it's easy for people to cut corners and make excuses, but you guys did the exact opposite.

I very much hope that I will have another opportunity to do something like this with you guys again.

Sincerely,

John Pastene



Bark and Hold on Dogtrophy



Target pointing on the treadmill.

For workshop number 2, we had participants from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Indiana, and Georgia. This group had a lot of experience and a lot of really nice dogs. Teamwork helped us to dismantle the tent one night before it blew us away! We certainly had a lot of adventures!

Comments from Participants:

“Bart has such a good understanding of dog behaviors and knows just how to make it to their advantage to do what it is that we ask of them. I can't imagine training Kayman without him. He truly understands my dog and knows what to do to make things work. I feel so lucky to have Bart and Michael leading us through this journey. Thank you, thank you, thank you Bart and Michael!!!”

by Theresa Currier

“Bart, Michael and Rick too! Thank you so much. What an amazing week. My brain is spinning with excitement. I wish you the best of luck, hope your long distance travels are easy. I hope to see you again soon. As they say down here: "All Ya'll are amazing"”

by Nona Luth

“I just wanted to post and sincerely thank you and Bart for the INCREDIBLE 5-day workshop!! I truly believe the workshop has been the single most valuable experience of my life! It was well thought out, productive, fun and Bart's knowledge is UNbelievable! His passion shines through with EVERY sentence he speaks and his ability to teach is another gift in and of itself!! ... Can't wait for the next workshop!!!”

By Karen Decker

Our Host, Rick Burgos:

You have been a wonderful host and have welcomed everyone to your property and to your home.

Please thank Rachel for all her help. She is an amazing asset.

It is a pleasure to work with you, and Bart and I look forward to spending time with you again next year.

With Warm Regards,

Michael and Bart



Dayton Baker with Bart
Wildlife Land Management, LLC
Cheswick, PA

