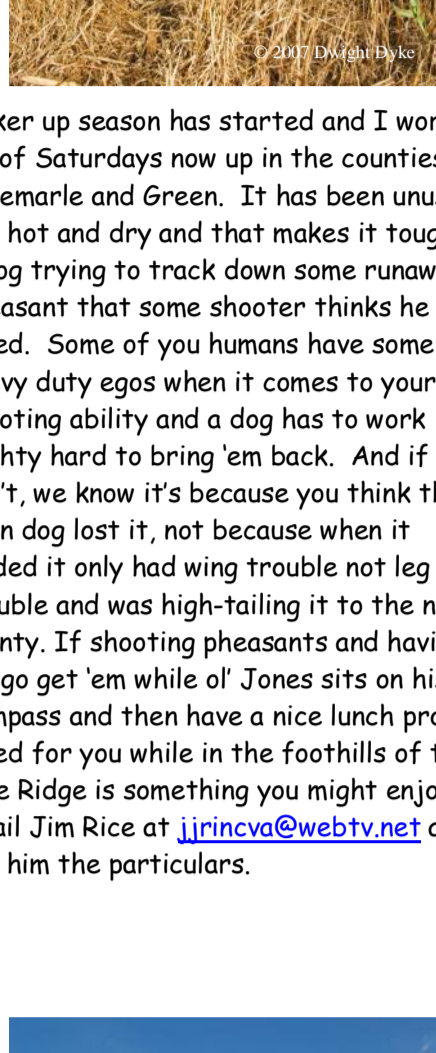


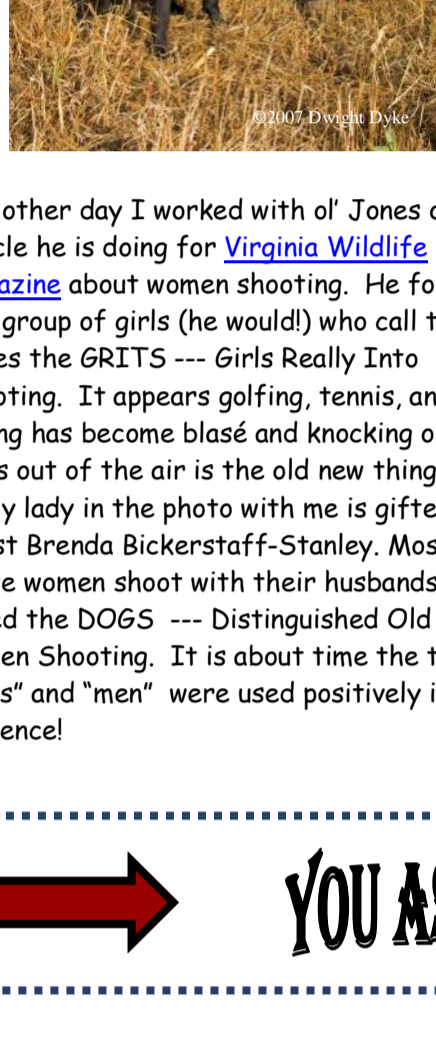
THE FIRST WORD...

It has come to my attention through credit card bills, cell phone bills, and other means that my dog has been taking liberties with the computer and sending out unauthorized correspondence to a number of you. After a long discussion (which involved a lot of barking on both parts) we have come to an agreement that a web site is needed to relay his—and sometimes my—activities. To be honest, things came to a head when I expressed my desire to keep my social life private and not have it displayed on the internet for all to see. His comment was, “What social life?” Having scored on that one I felt it best not to press the issue too much and submit to his request of a web site. And as my dog has so often pointed out, the establishment of a web site will at least give the appearance of a social life. Thank for your indulgence and will you ladies stop sending flowers and making those suggestive phone calls referring to one “style” or another to my dog. Especially you who are calling collect and you know who you are!!

Thank you,
Clarke



Picker up season has started and I work a lot of Saturdays now up in the counties of Albemarle and Green. It has been unusually hot and dry and that makes it tough on a dog trying to track down some runaway pheasant that some shooter thinks he has killed. Some of you humans have some heavy duty egos when it comes to your shooting ability and a dog has to work mighty hard to bring 'em back. And if we don't, we know it's because you think the darn dog lost it, not because when it landed it only had wing trouble not leg trouble and was high-tailing it to the next county. If shooting pheasants and having me get 'em while ol' Jones sits on his bumpass and then have a nice lunch provided for you while in the foothills of the Blue Ridge is something you might enjoy, email Jim Rice at jjrincva@webtv.net and ask him the particulars.

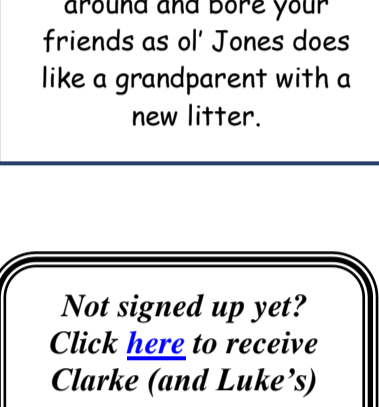


The other day I worked with ol' Jones on an article he is doing for [Virginia Wildlife Magazine](#) about women shooting. He found this group of girls (he would!) who call themselves the GRITS --- Girls Really Into Shooting. It appears golfing, tennis, and sailing has become blasé and knocking orange discs out of the air is the old new thing. The lovely lady in the photo with me is gifted artist Brenda Bickerstaff-Stanley. Most of these women shoot with their husbands called the DOGS --- Distinguished Old Gentlemen Shooting. It is about time the term “dogs” and “men” were used positively in a sentence!



LUKE'S FUN TIME

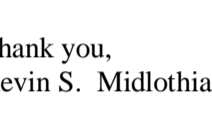
If you want to take your litter to see something different this weekend that is free and get an idea of how smart we retrievers are you should take in the Retriever Field Trial being held this weekend at the Powhatan Correctional Facility up Rt. 711 in Powhatan, Va. No, it is not being held inside the facility. You may not be aware of how much property the state owns around the facility but it's a lot. The field trial starts Friday and runs through part of Sunday. This trial is where the big dogs run and if you were ever thinking about owning a high powered charger such as myself it would be a good place to sniff out. It is sponsored this year by the Tidewater Retriever Club. Their web [site](#) can give you additional information if needed.



Most of you will be glad to know that the 2008 Black Lab Calendars are now available and you can see my picture as Mr. June and Mr. October. I have been posing for a few shots with nationally known photographer Dwight Dyke for the 2009 calendars which will come out about this time in 2008. See an example [here](#). If your dog has a litter of puppies or you have a group of friends with PURE-BRED dogs (don't mean to sound snobbish but the calendar people make the rules not Dwight) email Dwight at dwightdyke@aol.com and see how the thing works. Then you can go around and bore your friends as ol' Jones does like a grandparent with a new litter.

*Not signed up yet?
Click [here](#) to receive
Clarke (and Luke's)*

EXPEDITION



YOU ASKED!



Clarke,

I am traveling to New England with my dog and will be staying a few days near Portland. Can you suggest a dog friendly place to stay?

Thank you,
Kevin S. Midlothian, VA

Kevin,

Portland is a dog-friendly town in a dog-friendly State. I recommend you check into the [Inn by the Sea](#) which is located near Cape Elizabeth, Maine. It is a comfortable place and Portland is not far away. Email my web site and I can tell you where the locals eat, a place that will ship you a fresh-catch lobster, and a great bar to sample the local flavor.

**Go Well,
Clarke**

Clarke,

I am taking my setter with me on a pheasant hunting trip to South Dakota. Any suggestions?

Thank you,
Karen W. Greensboro, NC

Karen,

Make sure both of you are in shape for the hunt. There is a lot of walking in South Dakota and you don't want your setter so worn out from the first day's hunt that it cannot go the next day. May sure you check its eyes and feet thoroughly for seeds or burrs after each day in the field. Take plenty of water for the both of you. Although the air may be much cooler there than in NC it is also dry and you both have to watch your hydration. Email my web site for more detailed tips for traveling and hunting out west with your dog.

**Go Well,
Clarke**

Clarke

THE LAST WORD...

You learn two things rather quickly about a putting out a newsletter when you have limited computer savvy. One, it takes far more time to do it right and two, get someone who knows more than you to do the work. I want to thank both Dwight Dyke for furnishing photographs and Traceria for formatting, proof reading, and constantly cheerleading toward achieving this challenging project. Also thanks go to Luke for the inspiration for this newsletter and Kristen Hoffman who trained him to be even more special than I thought possible.

Life can throw some bitter and unexpected obstacles your way and we all look for ways to overcome them in one form or another. If this little letter does something to brighten or inform your day, tell your friends and let me know. With enough positive response, Luke and I will start working on the next one. Any negative comments send to Luke.

Go Well,
Clarke