

ADRK Deutsche Meisterschaft VPG

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Pictures by Herbert Kiebler



The 54th ADRK Deutsche Meisterschaft VPG was held this year the first weekend of October in the city of Rottweil in southern Germany. Organizing was handled by local landesgruppen Rottweil-Süd e.V., with the city's football stadium serving as the arena for the event. A total of 36 Rottweilers had been entered into the championship, with reigning champion Oliver Neubrand and Unkas v h Neubrand defending their title. The following is our travel report on the trip to Rottweil.



Biko v Herrenholz & Heiner Pellenwessel

We traveled to Germany on Thursday to be there well in time and to meet up with some friends before the weekend. Lufthansa managed to put a bit of a damper on our trip by losing our luggage on a domestic flight in from Frankfurt. After tens of phone calls and several empty promises by the airline as to approximate delivery time, we finally got our luggage on early Friday afternoon, over 24 hours after landing. And to think that Frankfurt was only a 3-hour drive away! Not a great way to begin a trip. Of course there was an upside to this delay – we just HAD TO do some shopping!

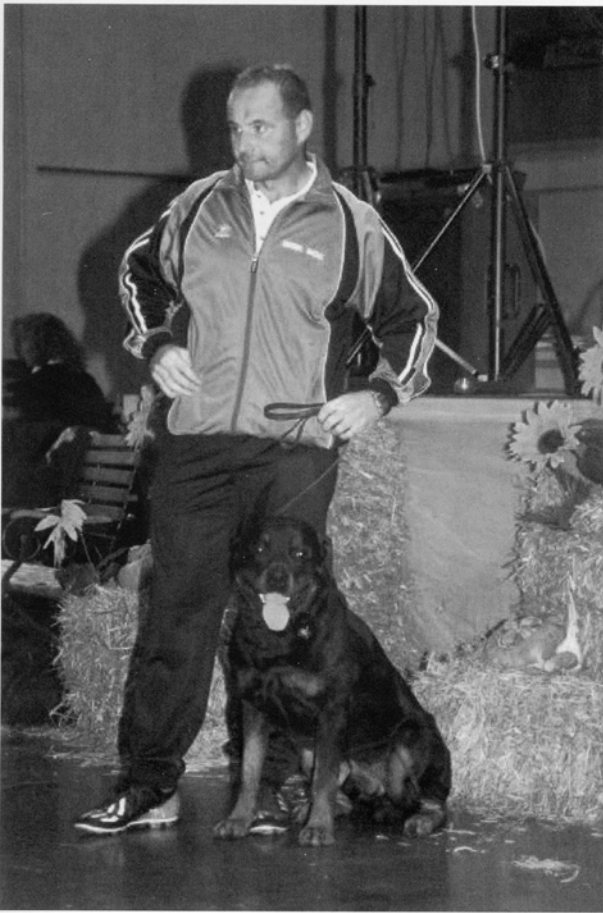


The Top Three

By the time we got to the stadium on Friday, the training was in full gear. A couple of dogs stood out immediately; Biko v Herrenholz and Heiner Pellenwessel caught our attention for excellent dog-handling. For someone wanting to see lots of drive in a dog, many of the dogs training on Friday seemed to perform rather technically in obedience. In bitework it was surprising to see so many handlers choosing to practice full blind search a day before a big event rather than settle for a drive-building session. We were told that most dogs were not accustomed to working in such a big arena and had trouble identifying blinds, and hence needed reaffirmation in that particular part.

A bit of drama occurred on the field on Friday as helper Karsten Scherf broke his collar bone while receiving Valentino v h Neubrand in the long attack during the “Y-dog” trial. With Scherf injured, Yener Yüksel took over helper duties for part 2 while Stephan Voigt did part 1. The helpers performed well throughout the weekend, although it would have been interesting to see whether working the dogs with more pressure would have made a difference – whether some of the potentially really strong dogs would have excelled when faced with real challenge. It was a championship, after all, where the best is supposed to stand out from the rest!

Equipped with borrowed umbrellas, we made our way to the Stadium on Saturday morning just in time for a cup of coffee before the day's first performances. The first interesting dog was Unkas v h Neubrand in group II. Unkas is a young male that ended up in Oliver's hands at the age of two after his original owner began having problems controlling him. The dog displayed such strong working abilities, hardness, and drive, that Oliver began training him for work while deciding to keep the dog for himself. Oliver says of Unkas that “this dog would gladly work 24 hours a day!” For those that have never seen them, Oliver and Unkas are quite an impressive pair in



Doc v Oberhausener Norden & Dirk Lablans

obedience – upright, sporty and controlled. Unfortunately this well-presented unity was broken this time by few technical mishaps that eventually resulted in 93 points in part B. In protection, the dog and handler had a clear communication breakdown in the beginning of blind search. Confused, Unkas missed his routine and never quite resumed to his true level of abilities. Receiving 91 points for protection part, and later 95 for tracking, it was obvious they would not be renewing the German championship this year. Oliver and Unkas will be in the German IFR IPO WC team and will undoubtedly be competing for the winning spot in Florida.

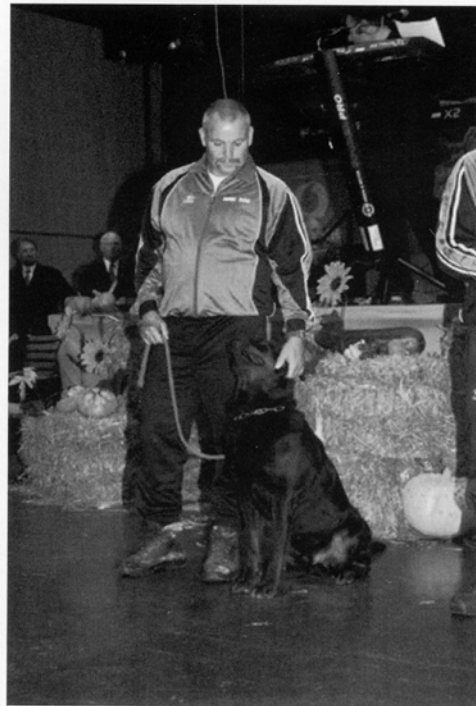
On the Saturday night, a good time was had by all! After a dinner and some entertainment at the sports hall next to the stadium, the bar opened up its charms of music and dance. And dance we did; the guitar riffs of Angus Young and AC/DC had never sounded quite so good!

On Sunday, one of the most impressive performances in protection by far was demonstrated by Max v Törnleberg and Martin Jonietz. Max had gotten 98 points from the track on Saturday and 97 from obedience and was in good form for a top spot. Having seen Max at the IFR WC in Spain the year before, we knew him as a very strong dog that - if only Martin would succeed in keeping him in control - could be unbeatable. Martin told us he had worked very hard in the last year and it showed; Max did a beautiful,

powerful and controlled blind search and was very concentrated and dominating in guarding at the blind. He was one of the few dogs that clearly capped his drive in concentration, e.g. before the escape. As someone sitting behind us during his protection work said, "it's like a malinois....", Yet it was not a malinois out there on the field but a Rottweiler filled with the intensity and strength that every working Rottweiler should display. A bit of problems with control again and 94 points from part C. With a total of 289 points Max and Martin finished fourth.

In obedience Milan Skoric and his young Pascha vom Scheldetal performed a very beautiful routine filled with lots of drive and concentration. The pair was a delight to watch, although a few technical mistakes cut down their points to 94. It was nevertheless probably the most thrilling obedience of the Championship. This was Pascha's second SchH3 trial ever. His road to the Championship was not always evident; the dog had been sold to Italy as a puppy, then on to the USA where he again was put up for sale at the age of 2 years. Milan and Pascha's path had crossed before he was sold to the US and it was there that Milan ended up rescuing the dog from a boarding kennel he was placed in and brought him home. At the age of 3 years Pasha was placed 11th at the ADRK DM with 96-94-92.

Overall the trip to the ADRK Championships was wonderful – regardless of the lost luggage and rainy weather, the trip was truly an experience. Old friends were met and many, many new ones made – and German hospitality was impeccable. It is good to know that wherever you go, the Rottweiler people do stick together.



Zonk v Kummelsee & K-H Nieratzky

Parents of the dogs in the article

Unkas v h Neubrand (Falco v Weihungstal – Romy v h Neubrand)
 Max v Törnleberg (Gringo v Handschuhsheim–Farah v Törnleberg)
 Pascha v Scheldetal (Andro v d Lauterbrücke–Inka v Törnleberg)
 Biko v Herrenholz (Onex v Schwaiger Wappen–Lea v Herrenholz)
 Valentino v h Neubrand (Eyk v Tengen–Oxana v h Neubrand)



Biko vom Herrenholz & Heiner Pellenwessel



Max von Törnleberg & Martin Jonietz (helper Yener Yüksel)



Unkas vom Hause Neubrand & Oliver Neubrand



Pascha vom Scheldetal & Milan Skoric (helper Stephan Voigt)