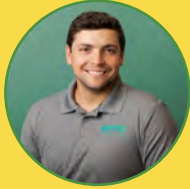


UKC®
FIELD

May 2023 ♦ *Newsletter by United Kennel Club* ♦ Issue No. 16





UKC TEAM IN THE FIELD

— *An update from Domenick Muoio*

I hope everyone has survived the pollen and the April showers. The nice spring weather has found its way down to the southeast, so I hope it spreads across the rest of the country and provides some good weather for you and your canine athletes. As importantly, I hope the weather has been favorable locally for the birds as we enter the time of the year when many of those species are brooding young to provide a fun and successful fall!

As we enter May, we wrap up the Purina Points trial circuit and hope everyone has found great success during the season. Like last year, I will attend the awards banquet and look forward to seeing familiar faces and hopefully some new ones.

To clubs hosting the last few Purina Award events, please submit all documentation correctly and promptly to ensure everything is in order for determining this year's winners.

Next on the very near horizon is the Hall of Fame election process, as always, beginning with nominations. Start thinking about any nominees you want to recognize for this election season. You may start to see some published nominations, which I enjoy reading, and the recognition some of the pillars in this sport receive! This sport has stood the test of time because of the tradition and history of dogs past and the participants within it.

As always, I want to thank the sport for everyone's continued support of American Field and belief in the value of field trialing dogs in this great venue. I wish everyone a great spring and hope you all have a safe and successful May.

— *Domenick Muoio*

Field Trial & Hunt Test Program Manager



National Champion



MILLER'S BLINDSIDER

Nick Berrong, Owner | Jamie Daniels, Handler | Fran & Jack Miller, Breeders

[Photo by Chris Mathan]

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UNITED STATES OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Touch's Malcolm Story Named Champion; Woodville's Yukon Cornelius, Runner-Up

By Ruthann Epp | Greensboro, Alabama | December 3, 2022



United States Open Championship Winners (front row): Mark McLean with Touch's Malcolm Story and Jerry Raynor with Woodville's Yukon Cornelius. (Second row): Ruthann Epp, Kirsten Givhan, Jennifer McKemie, Ray Joye (judge), Johnny Atkinson (judge), and Schley Rutherford. (Third row): Royce Lowery, John Ivester, Chris Cagle, Claudia McNamee, Judd Carlton, and Luke Eisenhart.

Topping a field of 29, the 2022-23 United States Open Champion is Touch's Malcolm Story, a 7-year-old orange and white pointer male owned by Alex Rickert of Bozeman, Mont., and handled by Mark McLean of Doerun, Ga. He wowed the crowd with five finds and a strong forward race. The runner-up, also handled by Mark McLean, is Woodville's Yukon Cornelius, a 6-year-old tri-color setter male owned by Carl Owens of Awendaw, S. C. Cornelius had four coveys flushed in front of him with a strong race as well. Both dogs have distinguished themselves at multiple trials throughout this season. This year's United States Open was another year of high-level competitors.

The United States Open Championship, for the 12th consecutive year, was held at the M. Barnett Lawley Forever Wild Field Trial Area between Greensboro and Demopolis, Ala. This 3,000-plus acre tract is owned by the Alabama State Lands Division and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Forever Wild Program. With the retirement of Bill Mason at the end of 2021, Brae Buckner took the reins of managing the area for field trials of multiple disciplines. She and her team worked with the trial leadership to develop new continuous courses allowing these big running dogs to show off their range and talent. Despite the unseasonably warm weather, high humidity, heavy cover in some places, and mud, these top-notch bird dogs showed their stamina and abilities.

Judges Johnny Atkinson and Ray Joye made the trip from Marion, S. C., to judge the contest. They are popular seasoned field

trialers who have judged events from Nevada to Florida and are regular participants as handlers, scouts, and club officials in the North Carolina Field Trial Association trials at Hoffman, N. C. This was their first visit to the Forever Wild Field Trial Area, and they were impressed with the grounds and look forward to returning. Everyone enjoyed their company and appreciated their attentive riding.

Touch's Malcolm Story's championship race began at 3:28 on Sunday afternoon with bracemate Lester's Boss Man handled by Gary Lester. They left from the parking area near Highway 32, and Story made a big cast past the cedars and around the fence line until out of sight. At 13, as the judges were going under the Brittany Pond dam, they looked to the left, and there was Story within 15 feet of them, standing at the edge of a fence row like a statue, even with the whole gallery almost on top of him. Birds were flushed, the gun fired, and the excitement began. He disappeared through Taylor Field with his handler riding calmly in the pocket, and the next time he was seen, Lester was calling point in the Wildwoods at 24 and, upon getting there, saw that Boss Man was backing Malcolm Story from 60 feet away. A covey flushed again, which was handled with impeccable manners. He then edged New Ground with a glimpse here and there and had point called at the big tree along the water tower road. Birds boiled out for find number three. Malcolm Story headed across the upper part of Gum Springs Bottom and was next seen standing under the big oaks just before crossing the road for find number four. He crossed the road, took the edge of the hayfield to finish the hour,

and just before time was called, he slammed on the brakes, and the gallery galloped across the field. It was tense for a minute when no birds could be flushed. McLean knew his dog, rolled the dice, and sent him in for a relocation. Story pinned them, and Mark stepped in front, fired his gun, and the judges said, "Pick him up." The larger-than-usual gallery rode into headquarters under a beautiful red sky with the sun below the horizon, feeling invigorated and privileged to have ridden that afternoon.

Runner-up Woodville's Yukon Cornelius ran the second brace of the trial. He was braced with Erin's Code of Honor, handled by Luke Eisenhart. Because of the thick cover, glimpses of the dogs were all you saw off the breakaway. Cornelius completed his first cast with a find at 10, just below the gap into Little Prairie Pasture. Both dogs showed speed and range, covering the big open area in Bodoc Pasture. Point was called again for Cornelius at 27 on one of the lines. The dogs were back in thick cover, so it took good scouting to keep up with the quick and agile athletes. At 38, Eisenhart's scout, Judd Carlton, called point along the fence line near the red barn for Cornelius. The gallery raced to see another impeccable find as the statuesque, high-headed setter stood for the flush and shot. Both dogs made their way across the road and showed edging the dove field before swinging back into Black Bottom Pasture, where point was called at 45 again for Cornelius. The fence line was thick, but McLean got the birds up for find number four. In the last 15 minutes, Cornelius and bracemate Code of Honor showed far in the distance and continued with a strong forward finish through two pastures up to the power plant on Cedar Hill.

The participants and gallery enjoyed the Southern hospitality that they had come to expect at this trial. Natural seasonal clubhouse decorations and evening bonfires created a festive mood. Handlers and visitors enjoyed delicious lunches and dinners, including steaks, barbecue ribs, and other local favorites. William Newman and his wife Sunette catered the meals, and homemade desserts were provided by Henrietta Mason, Theresa Justice, and Olivia Alison. Schley Rutherford managed the full bar and daily snacks and coffee for the dog wagon.

Everything ran smoothly with members affiliated with the club taking turns at marshaling: Bill Mason, Jennifer McKemie, Chris Koutras, Kirsten Givhan, Schley Rutherford, and Ruthann Epp, and hopefully, no one else was missed. John Ivester pulled a horse trailer around so trainers and scouts could swap out horses on the continuous course. With the heat and mud, and trainers running back-to-back, the club has decided that "the horse hauler" will be a permanent

addition to every championship held on these grounds. Owners present to watch their dogs were Claudia McNamee, John Ivester, Ruthann Epp, and Chris Cagle, who handled his dog as well.

The U.S. Open Field Trial Club officers, Schley Rutherford, President; Ruthann Epp, Vice-President; and Jennifer McKemie, Secretary-Treasurer, especially thank Purina and their rep, Greg Blair, for their ongoing sponsorship of this trial and their donation of dog food to the winners. Anonymous donors are also greatly appreciated and are vital to continuing this long-standing field trial tradition.

The Running

Clear Creek's Jim (McLean) and Bonner's Hot Rize (Lester) started the stake in drizzling rain and 60 degrees. There was a nice size gallery. Hot Rize had nice finds at 19 and 29, a back, and a good finish. Jim was making some good casts but took a wrong turn and did not return.

Erin's Code of Honor (Eisenhart) and Woodville's Yukon Cornelius (McLean) were covered.

Rester's Cajun Justice (Eisenhart) and Knight's Little John (Lester) turned loose at 10:35, going into Bodoc Pasture. Lester called point for Little John at 8, and Justice backed, but no birds were produced or seen for the remainder of the brace.

Touch's Midnight Rider (McLean) and Chief's Rising Sun (Carlton) started after

lunch in hot, humid conditions; both called it quits at 25.

Miller's King Poast (Lester) and Erin's Silver Lining (Raynor) were unsnapped from the rein at 1:58. At 40, Lester fired his pistol over King Poast along the Little Prairie/Bodoc Pastures' line. Both dogs fought the heat, but no more birds were pointed in the hour.

Lester's Shockwave (Lester) and Touch's Shadow Rider (McLean) started at 3:20. Rider had two finds at 10 and 25. On the second find, McLean had to look to find his dog on point. At 37, Shockwave scored a find with all in order. Rider disappeared and ran out of time, so the tracking device was taken.

Erin's Wild Atlantic Way (Eisenhart) and Haney's Storm Warrior (Cagle) started the second morning under overcast skies at 50 degrees. Atlantic Way had one find and pointed along the road on the bare ground, so Eisenhart took him on, but Atlantic Way was right; birds were there. Warrior had backed. Warrior had two finds at 36 and 46. Both dogs were strong throughout the brace.

Browntown Doc Holiday (Raynor) and Dunn's True Reign (Eisenhart) were turned loose at 9:18, and both went birdless.

Erin's Primetime (Raynor) and Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton) went birdless and were picked up before the hour.

Southern Nation (Henry) and Touch's Gallatin Fire (McLean) took the stage after lunch. They scored a find and made some

casts but did not change the standings.

Lester's Storm Surge (Lester) and Supreme Confidence (Eisenhart) put down at 2:09 for the second brace of the afternoon. At 17, the two dogs shared a find. Then at 48, Storm Surge had birds again with Confidence backing.

Lester's Boss Man (Lester) and Touch's Malcolm Story (McLean) were covered.

Erin's High Note (Carlton) and Touch's Breakaway Fred (McLean) had the first brace on Monday. Fred pointed at 9, and High Note backed, but no birds were flushed.

Shadow's Lord Magic (Eisenhart) and Lester's Storm Chaser (Lester) were released at 9:03. Storm Chaser had a stylish find at 17, and then two minutes later, Lester called point, but all that was seen was feathers. Eisenhart asked for the tracking device at 35.

Erin's Perfect Storm (Eisenhart) ran as a bye. At 11, Storm had point called with birds below Black Cow Pond dam before crossing the culvert. He made a cast around New Ground and was found pointed below VIP Pond for find number two but did not finish the hour.

Greensboro, Ala., December 3

**Judges: Johnny Atkinson and Ray Joye
UNITED STATES OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 26 Pointers and 3 Setters**

*Winner—TOUCH'S MALCOLM STORY, 1675103, pointer male, by Touch's Knight Rider-Blackhawk's Sunflower. Alex Rickert, owner; Mark McLean, handler.
Runner-Up—WOODVILLE'S YUKON CORNELIUS, 1673091, setter male, by Caladen's Davinci-A Tarheel Miss Bo. Carl Owens, owner; Mark McLean, handler.*

GEORGIA DERBY & QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Rester's Cajun Spirit Named Derby Champion; Confident Nation Wins Quail

By Nell Mobley, Austin Sherman & John Ray Kimbrell | Waynesboro, Georgia | January 2, 2023

Tradition has it for the Georgia Championship to begin on January 2 at Di-Lane Plantation, Waynesboro, Ga., the "Bird Dog Capital of the World." We are fortunate to have permanent grounds to host the trials annually.

Di-Lane is owned by the U. S. Corp of Engineers and leased to the State of Georgia. Our only expense for the venue is stable and clubhouse clean-up. Ryan Meckel, Wildlife Technician 3, manages the property very professionally. He and his staff worked many hours to groom the courses to our needs. This takes much time and expense for their preparation. Ryan is a very enthusiastic young man and has our trials at heart.

Native quail have returned to the property with Ryan's planning. Quail are released every morning at 6 by Chuck Miller. Not only does Chuck release birds, but he also runs many errands daily. He is employed by Green-Ag, managed by our Vice President, Art Lively. Art allows him to assist in any way during the day.



Georgia Derby Championship Winners (front row): Luke Eisenhart, Mike Jackson, Jamie Daniels, Rester's Cajun Spirit with Judd Carlton, Nell Mobley, Haney's All In with Mark McLean and judges, club officials, and attendees.

Nestlé Purina Pet Care provides dog food samples to hand out to the handlers, food certificates to the winners, and hats and gifts to the judges. Purina also sponsors a banquet for the owners and handlers. Purina is fortunate to have Greg Blair on its staff as a Field Consultant. Thank you, Greg, for your

continued enthusiasm.

Entries were down in both stakes from previous years. I want to thank the owners and handlers who came for our trials. Twenty-seven entries were drawn for the Derby stake and 38 for the Quail Championship.

The drawing was conducted at the home of

Secretary Nell Mobley. Gary Futch, John Ray Kimbrell, Chuck Miller, Becky Futch, and Mike Jackson were at the drawing table. Mary Kimbrell prepared the judges' books.

Judges for both stakes were George Kimbrell, Fort Mill, S. C., and Horace Earley, Richlands, N. C. Both gentlemen are well-known in the sport as both are honest and knowledgeable.

Marshals for both stakes were Gary Futch, Austin Sherman, Mike Jackson, and Jack Schwarz.

The Derby Championship

Rester's Cajun Spirit (PM) was named champion when the winners were announced. Spirit is owned by Allen Linder and was handled by Judd Carlton. Early after the breakaway, Spirit had a great find at 8 and excellent manners with all in order, covering the course in fashion. He shared a find with bracemate Clear Creek's Jim. Some great casts were made, and a find at 35 with great style was noted. Spirit continued with a classy race. The hour concluded with a very strong finish.

Haney's All In (PM) earned runner-up honors. All In is owned by Chris Cagle and handled by Ike Todd. He covered the course stylishly with finds at 11 and 15. All In ran a nice medium race and could be seen out front at pick-up.

The Others

Game Mode (Todd) and Just Between Friends (Daniels). Both dogs were released on course 1 to begin the stake. Mode ran a medium forward race, getting behind once but was quickly seen out front again. He had a great covey find at pick up with good style on find and relocation. Friends ran a medium race but had no bird work. The hour was finished to the front.

Dominator's Big Mike (Daniels) and Shagtime Sunny (Todd). Mike was harnessed at 15. Sunny had a good start with a find at 10, all in order. A second find at 45 resulted in a bird error, and Todd picked him up.

Tee's Crazy Train (Eisenhart) and Five60 Breakout (Carlton). Train was not pleasing his handler, who requested the tracker at 35. Breakout was harnessed at 42 by Carlton.

Country On (Haynes) and Beeler's White Knight (Beeler). Country On started well but was picked up at 27. Knight was missing at 41, and the tracker was requested.

Rebel Dancer (Daniels) and Hunt's Rollin' The Dice (McLean). Dancer went missing, and the handler requested the tracker at 28. Dice was running a short-range race. No birds were lifted at a point at 22, and the handler chose to pick up at 25.

Champion Rester's Cajun Spirit (Carlton) was reported earlier. Clear Creek's Gem (McLean) was gone too long, resulting in a request for the tracker at 53.

Running was delayed by fog until 9:30 a.m. on the second day.

Runner-up Haney's All In (Todd) was reported earlier. You Don't Know Jack (Haynes) backed his bracemate at 11; flight check on back at 15. Stylish finds were noted on the roadway at 18 and 38. He was picked up at 49.

Nighthawk's Rebel (Eisenhart) and Just Sayin (Daniels). Rebel was gone too long, and time ended at 47. Sayin had a bird mishap at 6 and was taken up by his handler.

Erin's Iron Man (Carlton) and Touch's Edge Patch (Todd). Early in the hour, Iron Man had an excellent stylish point on a find at 10. He was not pleasing his handler and was harnessed at 35. Patch followed with pick up at 35.

Rester's Johnny Ringo (Eisenhart) and Hunt's Fireball (McLean). It was a short time for both dogs, with the handlers requesting trackers at 40.

Mayfield Storm Charger (Lester) and Haney's Hurricane Seeker (Russell). Both dogs finished the hour to the front but no bird work.

Haney's Silver Dollar (Todd) and Erin's Rambling Fever (Eisenhart). Dollar had a big race in some places but slowed in others. He had two stylish finds at 34 and 44. He was out front at pick-up. Fever was having a bad day and had gone too long to suit Eisenhart.

It had rained all night before the last day's running. The courses were very wet with standing rain.

Miller's King Poast (Lester) and Game Surge (Todd). Post suffered a no-show of game at 26 and came through the gallery at 47. The hour was finished with no show of game. Surge had stylish finds at 7, 40, and 45. The hour was completed with a medium race.

Just Wanna Have Fun (Todd) Fun was harnessed at 7, following a mistake on birds.

Waynesboro, Ga., January 2
Judges: Horace Earley and George Kimbrell
GEORGIA DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 26 Pointers and 1 Setter
Winner—RESTER'S CAJUN SPIRIT, 1695796, pointer male, by Miller's Blindsider-Rester's Amazing Grace. Allen Linder, owner; Judd Carlton, handler.
Runner-Up—HANEY'S ALL IN, 1698756, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle, owner; Ike Todd, handler.

Georgia Quail Championship

A heavy fog delayed the first day of running until about 10:45 a.m.

After 19 braces, Stake Manager John Ray Kimbrell announced the winners. Confident Nation (PM), handled by Luke Eisenhart and owned by Scott Jordan, was named champion. He ran on the first day of the stake on course 1. Hunting was on the mind of Nation. Three all-in-order stylish finds were recorded in the first 26 minutes of the hour—at 15, 20, and 26. Covering the course and hunting in the right places, he had a final find at 55. When time was called, he was to the front running strong.

Runner-up honors went to Miller's Blindsider (PM), owned by Nick Berrong and

handled by Jamie Daniels. He ran on course 1, as did the champion. Sider knew from the beginning what the game was about. Perfect finds in deep cover were seen at 7, 14, 28, 40, and 53, and a very exciting hour concluded with a big forward race.

The Others

Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton) and Confident Nation (Eisenhart). The retrieval unit was requested at 25 for Advisory following an extended absence. Champion Confident Nation was reported earlier.

Game Ice (Raynor) and Erin's Grey Justice (Eisenhart). Ice had divided finds with his bracemate at 12 and 30, flight checked quail. He hunted the course well with birds in flight at 50 with great style. Ice could always be seen to the front and completed the allotted time. Justice shared finds at 12 and 30. Birds were raised at 28 with good style, perfect on all game finds. The handler chose to pick up at 55.

Mayfield Storm Charger (Lester) and Dominator's Wild Bill (Daniels). Charger came from behind at 10. Perfect style was noted with a find at 15. Wild Bill knew that his job was to find and point birds. No game was lifted with a point at 12. Continuing on a good find with great style was noted at 25. Wild Bill was gone for about 10 minutes but found on point at 39 with perfect style on relocation. Another all-in-order find was witnessed at 59, complemented by a medium-range race.

Haney's Storm Warning (Cagle) and Lester's Storm Surge (Lester). Storm Warning had a great find at 37. He continued on course 1 with a great cast on the second field. At pick-up, he could be seen running strong with a forward race. Surge had a find with great style at 11 and had another at 13. He was not seen for about 15 minutes but showed up to finish the hour.

Game Train (Griffin) and Hirollins Macho Man (Swearingen). Train had a very stylish find at 12. No game was raised on a point at 20, but birds were lifted at 34. A third find was recorded at 50. He came from behind through the gallery at 55 finishing the hour. Swearingen's Macho Man had a very stylish find at 15. He came from behind at 48 and was not seen afterward.

Touch's Breakaway Fred (McLean) and Flap Jacket (Carlton). Fred came from behind twice, so his handler requested the retrieval device at 55. It was a short time for Jacket when he moved on 5, at flushing.

Knight's Little John (Griffin) and Miller's Unbridled Forever. Little John honored his bracemate at 3, followed by a stylish, perfect find at 18. Not pleasing his handler, he was harnessed at 40. Forever had hunting and pointing on his mind. Perfect finds were observed at 3, 21, 25, 32, and 36. He finished the hour with a medium race.

Miller's King Poast (Lester) and Erin's Wild Atlantic Way (Eisenhart). Poast pointed at 8 and 12 with birds lifted. A find at 15 suffered a move on birds and was picked up.

Way came from behind at 15, with his handler harnessing at 20.

Dominator's Mae Belle (Daniels) and Touch's Shadow Rider (McLean). Mae Belle had a stylish find at 23 but moved on a back at 30 and was taken up. Rider had a wild covey find at 10 with all in order. A good back of his bracemate was noted at 23, with a no-show of birds at 30. He was credited with great style on finds at 38 and 40. When time was called, he was running a long-range race.

Dominator's Queen Bee (Daniels) and Erin's Code of Honor (Eisenhart). Queen Bee came from behind at 8, and her handler picked up at 25. No birds were lifted on a point by Honor at 31.

Dominator's Rebel Queen (Daniels) and Erin's Perfect Storm (Eisenhart). Queen came from behind at 12. Great finds with birds lifted at 15, 16, and 17. No game was seen at 28, and she was taken up by her handler. Storm had an all-in-order find at 20, followed by an unproductive at 40 and was taken up by his handler.

Erin's High Note (Carlton) and Touch's Gallatin Fire (McLean). Much style was noted, with a find at 30. He was gone for 15 minutes, returning to finish the hour. Fire was off to a good start with stylish finds at 5 and 15, very stylish on the first attempt to flush and again on relocation with birds in flight. Flight check on back at 30. Another nice find was in order at 40 in the deep cover. No birds were lifted at 53. The hour was finished forward.

Runner-up Miller's Blindsider's (Daniels) performance was reported earlier. Touch's Blue Knight (Watson) honored his bracemate at 14. He came from behind at 53 with his handler requesting the tracker.

Browntown Doc Holiday (Raynor) and Lester's Shockwave (Lester). Flight birds on back at 10 for Holiday. He was not pleasing his handler and was harnessed at 22. Shockwave had a great find at the breakaway, a marked flight on finds at 3 and 12. His



Georgia Quail Championship Winners (front row): Nell Mobley, Luke Eisenhart (handler), Confident Nation with Joe Rentz, Miller's Blindsider with Judd Carlton, Jamie Daniels (handler), judges, club officials, and attendees.

handler was not pleased with his performance and picked up.

Erin's Ty Breaker (Eisenhart) went missing at 29. Touch's Midnight Rider (McLean) was carded with style on a find at 14. He was missing at 29.

Chief's Rising Sun (Carlton) and Piney Grove Samson (Raynor). It was a short time for these two. Sun was missing at 25, with Sampson lost at 30.

Woodville's Yukon Cornelius (McLean) and Bonner's Hot Rize (Lester). Cornelius had stylish finds at 2 and 13. The hour was finished with a good forward race. Hot Rize backed his bracemate at 2. No birds were lifted with a point at 21. He is credited with an all-in-order find at 24. Birds were in flight with a perfect find at 52 on edge of the road. Another find was carded at pick up.

Rentz's Hijacked (Eisenhart) came from behind twice, and the tracker was requested at 26. Woodville's Saddle Tramp (McLean) had finds recorded at 26 and 46 and picked up at 47.

Beeler's Prime Design (Carlton) backed his bracemate at 10. He was not pleasing his handler and was taken up at 20. Touch's Malcom Story (McLean) had a find on the

road edge. An unproductive was noted at 23, and the handler chose to end the hour.

GEORGIA QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 34 Pointers and 4 Setters

Winner—CONFIDENT NATION, 1684546, pointer male, by True Confidence-Southern Songbird. Scott Jordan, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

Runner-Up—MILLER'S BLINDSIDER, 1674983, pointer male, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Nick Berrong, owner; Jamie Daniels, handler.

Some Sidelights

We could not do without our community support and various contributions by individuals.

The Burke County Chamber of Commerce continues paying for our UKC® Field ads. Ashley Roberts, President of the Chamber, was also on hand to help with lunches. GFTA, Salter Building Supply, and Wimberly House Ministries provided lunches. Judges' evening meals were compliments of Taylor's Express, C. D. White Commercial Refrigeration, and Brown's Seafood Restaurant.

The 2022 Derby and All-Age winners and owners, Chris Cagle, Tommy, and Bonnie Hamilton, hosted the fish fry. The Waynesboro Exchange Club members prepared the meal.

Bird Dog Motors provided the pick-up for pulling the dog wagon. John Ray Kimbrell is the driver.

Nestlé Purina Feed Co. treated the owners, handlers, and guests to a delicious grilled pork chop dinner.

The Corner Store provided ice daily.

Planers Electric Operation Round Up and Quail Unlimited granted contributions for the bird program.

I want to thank the owners and handlers who continue attending our trials. Hopefully, I can count on your return in 2024. Along with any who missed 2023 and newcomers are welcome.

PRAIRIE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Miller's Speed Dial Wins Open All-Age

By Rhonda Lee | Mayflower, Arkansas | January 2, 2023

As the calendar turned the page to a new year, the annual excitement of the upcoming trials and their pending potential in the next few months rises. The new year brings the first trial with competition at Camp Robinson Wildlife Management Area in Conway, Ark.; for this reporter, it is always a trip "home." As we see the emerging skyline of Little Rock while making our way to Camp, the excitement and emotions begin to emerge with the anticipation of the awaiting birds, grounds, lifelong friends, and camaraderie just ahead. That excitement was quickly extinguished as we began to

traverse the grounds. The current management has promoted very little in preserving and developing a healthy, thriving bird crop, which has historically been the case. The decision to hold extensive fall burning, not mowing where needed, and destroying the habitat and food supply by burying the bi-color left an empty and disappointing feeling for all involved. The week-long event proved these findings with minimal bird contacts and a landscape that solidified the realization that current management procedures are establishing a decline in the area—a sad end to our week.

The Winners

Former National Champion Miller's Speed Dial, owned by Mike Marietta and handled by Randy Anderson, was released in the third brace Wednesday morning headed toward the minnow pond. Speed Dial was found at 7 on the left in sage grass with Firefly's Invictus backing. Birds were flushed, and all was in order. It was a beautiful, reminiscent sight of which, at that point, you knew he had something to prove on that particular morning. Both dogs headed to the lake edge traversing the thick cover with energetic enthusiasm. Anderson had his hat in the air at 40 as we



Open All-Age Winners (standing, from left): Bridget Ledington with Miller's Speed Dial, Jeremy Gulick, Randy Anderson, Ronnie Miller (judge), Mike Lemons (judge), Ronnie Spears, Matt Cochran, Allen Vincent with Barshoe Forget Me Not, Dr. Fred Corder, Mike Hester, and Alex Mauck with Quickmarksman's Dan.



Open Derby Winners (standing, from left): Jeremy Gulick, Dr. Fred Corder, Ronnie Miller (judge), Randy Anderson, Rita Ornsby (judge), and Dr. Jim Mills. (Kneeling, from left): Matt Cochran with World Class Equalizer, Bridget Ledington with No Strings Attached, and Allen Vincent with Sandridge Big Iron.

crossed the gravel road headed toward Rock Hill, where scout Bridget Ledington found him pointed. He was about to put his stamp on this stake as he had done in the National Championship, once again with a majestic find, all manners in order, and birds put to flight. He was pointed out going around the fire station far to the front, which concluded what proved to be what everyone knew. The standard had been set.

Barshoe Forget Me Not, owned by Robert Gum and handled by Allen Vincent, was released in the tenth brace with Nosam's Sweet Water, handled by Larry Huffman and owned by Jeff Busby. The dogs traversed the August burning program on the first hour south of the mountain in good fashion. As we crossed the mountain towards the lake, both dogs turned to the right. Soon after, scout Matt Cochran called point for Forget Me Not at 45 on the right edge. This proved to be a big covey of birds that had yet to be seen before this morning brace.

Shortly thereafter, Nosam's Sweet Water was found pointed on the lake edge on the left with a nice covey put to flight. Forget Me Not went on from there to finish way to the front. Sweet Water was found at pick up on the lake edge where birds could not be put to flight initially. He was relocated and re-established point 15 yards closer to the lake with birds put to flight; however, a slight breach of manners was noted as the hour concluded. It was disappointing for Nosam's handler as this

would have most likely pushed the eventual winner for the top spot.

Quickmarksman's Dan, owned by Larry Earl and Sam Starnes and handled by Mike Hester, was released Tuesday morning following a rain storm we had Monday night, causing a rain delay for Monday afternoon's running. Dan crossed Rock Hill on Rabbit Ridge in good fashion showing nicely with good rapport with his handler as he managed the thick undergrowth of Camp Robinson. As we turned to the fire station, Hester's hat was in the air as the dog pointed on the far-left edge. A nice covey was flushed with a few birds leaving before the handler and judge arrived. Dan finished well to the front, and this morning course concluded a nice steady forward performance.

Mayflower, Ark., January 2
Judges: Mike Lemons and Ronnie Miller
OPEN ALL-AGE

[One-Hour Heats] – 27 Pointers and 5 Setters

- 1st—MILLER'S SPEED DIAL, 1666636, pointer male, by Miller's Dialing In-Old Road Lou. Michael Marietta, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.
 2d—BARSHOE FORGET MET NOT, 1692349, pointer female, by Whippoorwill Justified-Greypointe Invierna. Robert Gum, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.
 3d—QUICKMARKSMAN'S DAN, 1664443 pointer male, by Quickmarksman's Tony-Witt's Snow Angel. Larry Earls & Sam Starnes, owners; Mike Hester, handler.

The Derby Stake

The first and second-place Derby winners were braced together. The first-place winner was World Class Equalizer, owned by Mike

Marietta and handled by Jeremy Gulick, with No Strings Attached, owned by Dennis Beauford and handled by Randy Anderson, coming through with the eventual second-place finish. Both dogs showed plenty of range throughout the brace, having a divided find at the midway point and good manners on Nursery Pond Road. They both went on to finish, with the Equalizer having his second find along Rock to conclude the 30-minute performance. Third place was awarded to Sandridge Big Iron, owned by Dr. Jim Mills, Steve Lightle, and Natalie Cooper, and handled by Allen Vincent. Big Iron was chosen off-race as he had a good steady performance around Rabbit Pen Road.

Also notable was another performance worth mentioning by Haney's Hurricane Seeker, handled by David Russell. In this reporter's opinion, this pointer male had a nice forward race with a find in the wood's edge headed towards the minnow pond with enough range and manners.

Judges: Ronnie Miller and Rita Ornsby
OPEN DERBY – 17 Pointers and 3 Setters

- 1st—WORLD CLASS EQUALIZER, 1702344, pointer male, by Dunn's Tried'n True-Yale's Sunny Hill Dot. Michael Marietta, owner; Jeremy Gulick, handler.
 2d—NO STRINGS ATTACHED, 1696661, pointer male, by Valiant-Yee Haw Blackhawk Dee. Dennis Beauford, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.
 3d—SANDRIDGE BIG IRON, 1700919, pointer male, by Westfall's True Grit-Gin Smoke and Lies. Dr. Jim Mills, Steve Lytle & Natalie Cooper, owners; Allen Vincent, handler.

GEORGIA DERBY CLASSIC & OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Miller's Southern Gossip Wins Championship; Miller's Upgraded Design, First In Derby Classic

By Nell Mobley, John Ray Kimbrell & Mike Jackson | Waynesboro, Georgia | January 11, 2023

Signs can be seen on the street light post in Waynesboro welcoming field trialers and visitors to the "Bird Dog Capital of the World."

Since 1903, trials have been held annually. For many years, the trials were staged on the property of various landowners. For the past 32 years, we have been fortunate to have permanent grounds at Di-Lane Plantation to run our trials. The U. S. Corp of Engineers

owns the property and leases it to the Georgia government for the Georgia Field Trial Association to run our trials. Our only expense for using the grounds and clubhouse is cleaning them after the events.

Ryan Mickel, Wildlife Technician 3, and his staff use and prepare three courses. Ryan is an enthusiastic young man who has our sport at heart. He works diligently to prepare the grounds to perfection. Wildlife quail can again

be seen due to his hard work and expertise. Chuck Miller releases pen-raised birds at 6 a.m. each morning to supplement the wild quail population.

The pairing of the dogs was held at the home of GFTA Secretary Nell Mobley on Friday, January 6. The drawing was conducted by President Gary Futch, Stake Manager John Ray Kimbrell, and Mike Jackson. Chuck prepared drawing sheets, with Mary Kimbrell



Georgia Derby Classic Winners: Miller's Upgraded Design with Janet Hinkle, Miller's Little Duce Coupe with George Tracy, and Great River Stallion with Doug Ray, joined by other owners, judges, club officials, and attendees.

taking care of the judges' books.

Entries were somewhat down this season. Ten derbies were drawn for the Derby Classic and 43 for the Shooting Dog Championship.

Gary Futch, Mike Jackson, and Jack Schwarz served as marshals. John Ray Kimbrell continues to serve as stake manager and driver of the dog wagon. Bird Dog Motors allows us to use a pickup for the duration of the trials.

Derby Classic

To name the top three dogs, Derek Bonner of Mooresboro, N. C., and Scott Griffin of Charlotte, N. C., were riding in the saddles. Both sportsmen were attentive as they watched each dog perform. They own and run their dogs in competition and know the qualities to look for as each dog covers the course.

After five braces, Miller's Upgraded Design (PM) captured first-place honors. He is owned by Allen Linder and handled by George Tracy. Design was a classy running young dog with finds at 2, 47, and backed bracemate at 7, all with good style. The hour was completed with a medium, forward race. Second place went to Miller's Little Duce Coupe (PF), owned by Allen Linder and Madison McDonald and handled by George Tracy. Coupe had finds at 17, 25, and 43, all in order with good style. Coupe ran a good forward race and finished the hour to the front. Doug Ray handled Great River Stallion (PM) to third place. Great River Kennels own Stallion. He had clean finds at 12 and 15 and a stylish stop to flush at 13. The hour ended complimented with a nice forward medium race.

The Others

The first hour of the stake began on Wednesday morning with Marsh's Blind Luck (Rice) and Jackson's Vogue (Jackson). It was a short hour for these two derbies. Luck made a mistake on birds at 30 and was taken up by the handler. Vogue did not heed his training at 16 and was harnessed.

Shoemaker's Wicked Sister (Tracy) and Great River Stallion (Ray). Sister had all in order, stylish finds at 14, 30, and 41. Birds were not lifted with a point at 49. She ran a medium race. Stallion's performance was covered.

Miller's Upgraded Design (Tracy) and Tallokas New Business (Loper). Design's performance was covered. Business was running well with finds at 7, 14, and 30. Birds were not seen with a point at 12. He was lost with Loper requesting a tracker at 48.

Waybetter Thor (Tracy) and Cold Creek Thrill Tuff (Rice). No birds were noted at 8, followed by stylish finds at 45 and 49. Thor ran a solid forward race. Tuff carded a find at 40 and backed his bracemate at 15. He had a nice forward race for the hour.

Miller's Little Duce Coupe (Tracy) and CS Four Season's Gunner (Ray) ran in the final brace of the stake on course 2. Coupe's performance was covered. Gunner ran a moderate race to finish the hour. He had a find at 37 and honored bracemate at 17 and 25.

Waynesboro, Ga., January 11

Judges: Derek Bonner and Scott Griffin

GEORGIA DERBY CLASSIC – 10 Pointers

1st—MILLER'S UPGRADED DESIGN, 1700308, male, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Walden's Ice Breaker. Allen Linder, owner; George Tracy, handler.

2d—MILLER'S LITTLE DUCE COUPE, 1700309, female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Walden's Ice Breaker. Allen Linder & Madison McDonald, owners; George Tracy, handler.

3d—GREAT RIVER STALLION, 1702396, male, by B K Bonafide Stallion-B K Hirollins Wild. Great River Kennel, owners; Doug Ray, handler.

Georgia Open Shooting Dog Championship

Two gentlemen from North Carolina accepted the invitation to judge the Open Shooting Dog Championship; Whitley Stephenson of Smithfield and David Huffine of Wilmington. They have filled judicial saddles and know the qualities to look for in a Shooting Dog Championship. They rode and watched all entries intently.

Following 22 braces, John Ray Kimbrell, stake manager, announced a champion and runner-up. Miller's Southern Gossip (PF) received top honors. George Tracy handled him for owner Allen Linder. Gossip ran on course 3, the final brace of the day. This 4-year-old ran a solid forward race, always to the front. Stylish finds were carded at 2, 8, 12, 23, 26, and 28. Can you beat that performance?

I'm Spartacus (PM), handled by Doug Ray for owner Jett Ferebee, was named runner-up. Spartacus was loosed on course 1 following lunch. His race was a little short initially, but as the hour progressed, he got stronger. His finds at 34 and 54 were a sight to see. No birds were lifted with a point at 38.

The Others

The first brace of the stake began at 8 a.m. on Thursday with Cheap Thrill (Rice) and Calico's Sky's The Limit (Tracy). Thrill started well with a nice find at 14. He was not seen for some time resulting in a request for the tracker at 34. Limit had multiple finds at 26, 38, and 58, all in order. A no-show of game was recorded at 4. The hour was filled with style, and she was credited with a medium-range race.

Erin's Tough Grit (Rice) and A Buccaneer



Georgia Open Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front row): Nell Mobley, Muriel Primm (owner), Miller's Southern Gossip with Janet Hinkle, I'm Spartacus with Peyton Gunby, Kaley Lee, Doug Ray (handler), and judges, club officials, and attendees.

(Ray). Grit was lost, and the retrieval device was requested at 20. Buccaneer had nice finds at 14, 38, and 56. He pointed at 22, but no game was seen. The race shortened at times, but the hour was finished with style.

Miller's Heat Seeker (Tracy) and Nella Belgian Brew (Rice). Multiple finds with birds lifted at 9, 48, and 55 were credited to Seeker. No game was lifted with a point at 4. He honored his bracemate at 18 and 30. He was to the front when time was called. Brew had three nice finds within the first 30 minutes; one early at 2, another at 18 and 30. She backed bracemate at 9. She was not pleasing her handler and was harnessed at 45.

Runner-up I'm Spartacus's (Ray) performance was covered. Miller's Strolling For Gold (Tracy) was not pleasing Tracy resulting in a request for the tracker at 40.

Proof Nation (Rice) and Jackson's Front Money (Jackson). Money knew his plan: to point birds, run with style and finish his time. Early in the hour, he had a nice find at 10. No birds were seen with a point at 30. This would not stop Money. He had stylish finds at 40, 45, and 50. Watch for this pointer male in future trials.

Miller's Flowers And Lace (Tracy) and Pavo Thrill (Rice). A short hour for these two dogs. Lace pointed at 5, but no birds were seen, and Tracy chose to pick up. Thrill pointed at breakaway, but no game was noted. He moved on a find at 12 and handler harnessed.

Touch's Flo Rider (Jackson) and Charitable Deed (Rice). Rider had stylish finds at 7 and 14 but moved after flush and taken up. Deed carded good finds with style at 14, 24, 28, and 39. The hour was finished with a moderate race to his credit.

Miller's Just Plain Rowdy (Tracy) and Hillhavyn's Wild Child (J. Tracy). Rowdy was missing early in the hour with a request for the retrieval unit at 14. Child is credited with finds at 24 and 34. She continued but was not pleasing her handler and was taken up at 48.

Grand Prairie Thrill (Rice) and Absolute Dominator (Ray). Thrill suffered a front leg injury and was picked up at 2. Following no show of birds at 10 and 26, Ray picked up Dominator.

Lewis Bluegrass Punchline (Rice) and

Miller's Special Cinderella (Tracy). Punch Line was taken up by the handler for a breach of manners. Tracy chose to end the hour for Cinderella at 56.

Smooth Talkin (Ray) and Miller's Blazing Hot Chick (Tracy). Talkin had a nice find at 14 and honored bracemate at 10. No birds were seen, with a point at 56. Talkin had a wide race at times. The hour was finished. Hot Chick seemed to know what to do when she was turned loose. Good style was witnessed at 10 and 19. A nice back of bracemate at 14. She finished the hour and had a strong forward race.

Oahe Buck (Rice) and Miller's Upgrading The Ante (Tracy). Buck had a no-show of game at 7 and 23 and was picked up by the handler. Following a second unproductive, Ante was picked up.

Hatteras Sand Storm (Ray) and Waybetter Rocky (Tracy). Storm moved on birds at 7 and was picked up. Rocky knew what he needed to do when he was turned loose. He honored his bracemate at 7 and proceeded with stylish finds at 14, 37, 43, and 51. When time was called, he could be seen to the front with a nice forward race.

R Q's Saddle (J. Tracy) and Miller's Big Iron (Tracy). Saddle had well-spaced stylish finds at 16, 17, 19, 34, 44, and 58—a nice forward race to watch throughout the hour. Iron was not pleasing his handler resulting in pick up at 14.

Walden's Ridge Rain Storm (Ray) and Miller's Million Dollar Penny (Tracy). A find was witnessed at 20 for Storm. Ray requested the retrieval unit at 34, along with Tracy, for Penny.

Miller's Lock And Loaded (Tracy) and Real Thing Dolly (Rice, Jr.). Finds were carded for Loaded at 8, 17, and 24. The handler requested the tracker at 45. Dolly suffered unproductives at 5 and 22 and was taken up.

The Secret (J. Tracy) and Hatteras Rip Tide

(Ray). Secret had a limb find at 7 and honored bracemate at 59. She ran a moderate race, wide at times, and finished the hour.

Miller's Automatic Upgrade (Tracy) and Tommy Two Spot (Ray). Tracy requested the tracker at 27. Ray picked up Tommy Two Spot at 20.

The final brace of the stake saw Real Thing Cuz (Rice, Sr.). Cuz pointed at 25, all in order. He continued with a medium race.

Judges: David Huffine and Whitley Stephenson
GEORGIA OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 42 Pointers and 1 Setter
Winner—MILLER'S SOUTHERN GOSSIP, 1690150, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Erin's Little Rose. Allen Linder, owner; George Tracy, handler.
Runner-Up—I'M SPARTACUS, 1695668, pointer male, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Jett Ferebee, owner; Doug Ray, handler.

Some Sidelights

Birds were pointed in every brace. The handlers reported that nice grown birds were sighted. Pat Johnson raised the birds.

Many individuals and businesses contribute annually to the Georgia Field Trial Association. I am very proud to hear statements such as "we do not receive local recognition anywhere we go to equal Waynesboro's support."

The Burke County Chamber of Commerce funds advertising in the UKC® Field. Ashley Roberts, Chamber of Commerce President, is on hand to help in many ways during the trials.

An oyster roast is hosted on Thursday evening by the Chamber. Ashley solicits sponsors to defray the cost. Owners and handlers receive gifts from the Chamber.

Nestlé Purina continues to host a dinner for the owners and handlers. They also provide feed certificates to the winners, feed samples to be distributed, and hats. Greg Blair is commended for ensuring everything is on

hand before the trials.

Gary Futch, Mike Jackson, and Jack Schwarz serve as marshals. Mike has been coming from Indiana for seven years to help. John Ray has served as stake manager for over 15 years.

Chuck Miller releases birds and takes care of more duties than I can name. Vice-President Art Lively manages Green Ag and employs Chuck. He allows Chuck to be away from the job to help.

Lunches were provided daily by the GFTA. Cates Firestone and Salter Building Supply provided dinner for the judges on Saturday evening.

The Corner Store provided ice daily for the stakes. The fish fry is always a highlight. The Exchange Club members prepare the meal. David Steele, who owned the 2022 Derby winner, and Bill and Muriel Primm, who owned the Shooting Dog champion, funded the fish fry.

Operation Round Up is a program of Planters Electric Membership Corporation. Through funds from the program, they provide a grant to assist with the purchase of birds. Quail Unlimited also provides funds.

The Chamber of Commerce hosts a banquet annually for its members. Business of the Year is recognized along with Citizen of the Year.

To my surprise, I was recognized as Citizen of the Year for my service as secretary of the GFTA since 1981. Field trials have been a significant part of my life. Waynesboro citizens are aware of the financial impact that our trials have on our economy.

At 87 years of age, the time has come for me to begin training someone else to assume my duties. My grandson, Craig Elliott, has been elected as secretary. Craig has been active in the sport for several years. I will continue to be active as long as my health permits.

ABHA NATIONAL FREE-FOR-ALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Twiggy Named Champion; Faith's Maximum Justice, Runner-Up

By Kenny DeLong | LaVergne, Tennessee | January 12, 2023

The 2023 renewal of the ABHA National Free-For-All unfolded over four days in mid-January on the gorgeous grounds of Percy Priest Wildlife Area southeast of Nashville. Mother Nature gave us about everything January could offer in this part of the country, at times pausing the trial proceedings for an hour or two until she changed her mind. We all enjoyed rain, thunder, lightning, hail, wind, snow squalls, low, gray clouds, and even brisk, cool, clear mornings and late afternoons with bright sunshine. Captain (Ronnie) Rogers kept the field trial sailing smoothly, with help from Taylor and Courtney Henley, well-known professional Justin Crook, Clubhouse

and Kitchen Commanders Admiral Daphne Rogers, First Mate/granddaughter Kaitlyn, all-purpose helper Tammi Savage, Road Patrol and Dog Taxi Coordinator Gary Vitali, and Cliff Monroe at the wheel of Tony Bingham's rig (serving as a dog wagon), among many other volunteers who pitched in on the spot when asked. Sumptuous lunches (Saturday's pork roast, green beans, coleslaw, and homemade apple pie stick out in this reporter's mind) were served by the Admiral and First Mate at midday, and Captain Rogers always said grace. The attentive eyes and experienced insight of judges Taylor Henley and Chad Wheeler closely scrutinized the bird dogs in

every stake. For their efforts and expertise, we are incredibly grateful. We would also like to thank our sponsors, SportDOG (training equipment) and Valu-Pak (dog food), for helping make the winners happier.

Tony Bingham, Aaron McAfee, Cliff Monroe, James Kleve, and the Ridings family all brought their strings of good dogs to this venue for the first time, or in quite a while, anyway. Justin Crook, a regular here, also brought his string. We were happy to have a good entry of 29 quality competitors for the Championship. Fourteen full braces ran Thursday and Friday in 45-minute heats. Judges called back dogs based on their

performances in those preliminaries to run (after a day's rest) on Sunday morning in the one-hour finals. The previous year's champion automatically qualified for the finals per rule and custom.

A good number of fine shooting dog performances were carded in the preliminary heats of the Free-For-All on Thursday and Friday in frequently harsh weather conditions. Bird planting was exceptional, and bird work was plentiful across all stakes and all four days of competition, with many dogs having multiple finds. The dogs that stood out to the judges and were named to the finals were pointer females Twiggy (Monroe) and Fast Money (Crook), pointer males Gone 'N Done It and Chipster (both Bingham), and English setter male Gun's Pistol Pete (Crook). These five were to be joined by Kenny DeLong's multiple champion pointer, Faith's Maximum Justice (the previous champion). Those three braces were scheduled for Sunday morning, with Mohawk Mill War Hawk, Shovel Creek Belle (Bingham), and Cairds Lefty (Sam Ridings) in reserve. Anyone who had seen Twiggy and Fast Money each run in the last braces of Thursday and Friday late afternoon was excited to learn they were paired in the second brace of the finals. Having watched Twiggy excel and place the previous weekend in Virginia, this reporter was looking forward to an exciting, very competitive hour of quality, classic 'birddawggin'!

Sunday morning dawned clear and a frigid 23 degrees. The decision was made to delay the breakaway of the Championship finals an hour to allow the sun to warm things up a bit. Early scenting conditions are notoriously difficult at Percy Priest, and it is often not until 10 a.m. that scent rises and carries some. The first brace of the finals broke away just before 9 a.m. After three braces were completed, judges were satisfied they had what they were looking for, and no reserve dogs were called.

Cliff Monroe's pointer female Twiggy, running in the second brace, was named champion with a truly deserving performance. She and her brace mate Fast Money ("Molly"), handled by Justin Crook, put on a show, just as I had anticipated. Starting with a divided find at 2, Twiggy went on to pace herself smartly and evenly through the tighter first half of the course, adding crisp finds at 12, 17, 22, and a very nice honor of her brace mate at 26. She then settled into a pleasant, forward, moderate range for the rest of the hour, adding another divided find at 39, finishing to the front, and slamming into a picturesque point on a pair of hen pheasants just after time was called. A premium hour animated and classy on the ground, staunch and stylish on point, and one heck of a bird-finding exhibition!

Brace mate Molly had added a small covey find at 17 that required relocation before she could pin it. She then stuck birds at 26 and 34 before the shared find with Twiggy at 39. At about 42, a then supercharged Molly decided to make a high voltage cast and a half, taking the rim of a big field in what was not the most favorable direction. Justin could not turn



National Free-For-All Winners (from left): Aaron McAfee, Cliff Monroe with Twiggy, Judge Chad Wheeler, Trial Chairman Ronnie Rogers, Kenny DeLong with Faith's Maximum Justice, Tammi Savage, and Judge Taylor Henley.

her, and the scout could not reel her in, so the tracker was reluctantly called for at 48, ending her impressive bid, to the dismay of all who were watching.

Kenny DeLong's 8-year-old pointer male, Faith's Maximum Justice, was named runner-up champion. The returning champion ran in the chilly first brace with Tony Bingham's Gone 'N Done It. Justice had undergone ACL surgery three weeks after last year's Free-For-All and had spent all spring and summer intensively rehabbing but returned to compete and win in the fall. Another less severe rear leg injury in late October had Kenny doubling down on the rehab efforts in the hope that Justice would honorably defend his title at Percy Priest. Many thanks to God, Tammi, and Sammy, the Vet Tech / Rehab Specialist / training partner.

Justice broke away strong and forward, maintaining contact and navigating the tighter first 30 minutes of the course with animation and intelligence. Intently searching for Bob with long strides stretching further out, he handled smoothly and kindly, occasionally turning his head from a few hundred yards out to connect with Kenny. The course opened in the second half, and Justice responded accordingly. Each time he was out of sight for a few minutes, Kenny would raise his arm and point out his fancy running charge several hundred yards ahead, across a big field (or two!), cracking his tail and taking the line like a seasoned competitor.

After rimming a large field and showing to the front, Justice went through a break in the tree line at about 50 and turned right. He did not show forward after that. His brace mate came from a different direction, went through the cut, and hit the brakes. After some minutes, the handler and judges arrived on scene observing Gone 'N Done It honoring Justice, who had been standing out of sight in the corner. Kenny spoke to the dog to move it up. Justice took one step and looked to the right, locking up again tightly, eyes fixed. After a vigorous flushing attempt, Judge Wheeler pointed out the buried bird, and the handler got the quail airborne. The pointer stood motionless as Bob took a floppy, short flight, and Kenny fired. Justice was taken on, released, and shot quickly ahead down the tree line, searching for more birds. Reaching far

forward as time was called, Justice responded promptly to Kenny's whistle and came to the leash.

Briefly challenging the winners was Gun's Pistol Pete, Justin Crook's setter male, who was putting down a very nice race through the early part of the course and was spotted on point, buried in the tree line across from the first lake. Justin flushed as first one, then three or four more bobs, lifted from in front of the initially staunch 8-year-old, who tried vainly to resist following the covey rise as Justin fired and was heard exclaiming, "Damn! Well, hell! Go get 'em, Pete!" His brace mate satisfactorily finished the hour with multiple bird contacts and two unproductives. The judges talked briefly while unsaddling horses and were quickly in agreement. The placements were well received a short time later in the clubhouse.

The Horseback Shooting Dog drew a nice entry and was competitive, with plenty of bird work for judges to appraise. Mr. Rogers was comfortable and "in his neighborhood," running the veteran setter, Thor. The 8-year-old had visited the Fountain of Youth before breaking away; yours truly thought he was watching a dog half that age! Thor reached out big and forward, taking lines like the veteran he is, knowing the neighborhood well or better than his owner. Three stylish finds at 3, 13, and 26 sealed the deal for the team and earned them the blue ribbon. Second place went to the pointer male "Lucky" (Bingham/McAfee), who also ran a very nice race and scored finds at 4, 10, and 28 but suffered a nonproductive at 18. Justin Crook's setter, "Pete," rounded out the placements with an impressive honor at 7 and a buried line find at 15.

A dozen dogs competed in the Open Walking Derby Saturday in cool, breezy conditions under a partly cloudy sky. Again, birds were plentiful. The judges had more than a few quality performances to discuss and sort out by the time the stake was completed. Pointers swept this one, with Tony Bingham handling the hard-charging "Mickey" to three quality finds and the first-place spot. Aaron McAfee guided both the second and third-place pointers around the course and to the winners' platform. "Rebel" took the red ribbon with finds at 6, 11, and 19, laying down a



Open Derby Winners (from left): Cliff Monroe with Redbud's Lightning Catcher, Aaron McAfee with Redbud's Southern Boy, and J. D. Waters with Crow Creek Redbud.



Open Horseback Shooting Dog Winners (from left): Tony Bingham, Aaron McAfee with Hirollins B K Bushwacker, Ronnie and Daphne Rogers with Thor For President, and Taylor Henley (judge). (Back row): Kenny DeLong, Gary Vitali, Chad Wheeler (judge), and Cliff Monroe.



Open Walking Puppy Winners (from left): Chad Wheeler (judge), Ronnie Rogers with Vitali's Grouseringer Dazzle, Taylor Henley (judge), Terry Boatright with Boatrights Morning Star, Justin Crook, Gary Vitali with Vitali's Grouseringer Brew, Aaron McAfee, and James Kleve.

huge, boldly independent race that required every bit of the time available after the 30 minutes to reel him in; judges liked this dog. As the scout announced he had the dog on the lead, one glanced at his watch, leaned over, and smiled at his judging partner, whispering, "now that's cutting it close!" The yellow went to "Bern," her more moderate race yielded a divided find at 5, a very nice honor at 10, and another find at 16. Bern finished in view, going well forward.

The companion stakes wrapped up Saturday late afternoon as judges paid close attention to three braces of young ones in the Open Walking Puppy. Gary Vitali handled his setter male "Brew," the most consistent and forward of the pups, to the top spot. While Gary may have enjoyed the blue ribbon that came in a can after it was all over, this blue rosette is now on his wall in Kentucky. Terry Boatright brought his "Lucy" setter down from Kentucky as well and could sing (mostly on key) her around the course in fine, relatively forward fashion, good enough for second place. Mr. Vitali, however, was not content with just one ribbon. Those periodic trips to compete in Michigan have warmed him to the "maize and blue" as "Dazzle" showed enough stuff to earn the yellow for Gary to hang next to Brew's blue ribbon back home.

This was a great trial with many good dogs,

all kinds of weather, good food and fellowship in the clubhouse, and great gatherings at the evening buffet. What fun! There was more laughing and guffawing at the breakaway, around the course, in the barn, and parking lot than at most trials I have seen in the nearly 40 years I've been enjoying this game. We are blessed to have our dogs and each other and beautiful grounds like these to enjoy and do what drives us, two and four-legged alike.

Once again, we thank everyone who participated and helped in whatever way; a special thanks to the Rogers family for all the work running the trial. I thank Ronnie for the fine and spirited horse and for allowing me to ride every brace of a fine, healthy, competitive four days of field trialing. We emphatically thank our judges for their time and wisdom. We thank our sponsors, SportDOG and Valu-Pak.

LaVergne, Tenn., January 12

Judges: Taylor Henley and Chad Wheeler

ABHA NATIONAL FREE-FOR-ALL

CHAMPIONSHIP [Forty-Five Minute Qualifying Heats; One-Hour Callback] – 26 Pointers and 3 Setters

Winner—TWIGGY, 1690766, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Sinbad's Little Lady. Cliff Monroe, owner and handler.

Runner-Up—FAITH'S MAXIMUM JUSTICE, 1662076, pointer male, by Nelson's Van Max-Wild Apple Faith. Kenric J. DeLong, owner and handler.

Tennessee Valley Field Trial Club

ABHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 10 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st—THOR FOR PRESIDENT, 1663680, setter male, by Agent J-Forstar Dirty Dancer. Daphne Rogers, owner; Ronnie Rogers, handler.

2d—HIROLLINS B K BUSHWACKER, 1696970, pointer male, by B K Pablo Escobar-B K Hirollins Wild. Warren Parrott, owner; Warren Parrott, handler.

3d—GUN'S PISTOL PETE, 1667396, setter male, by Barker's Big Coon-Carpenter's Daisy Duke. Colby Tackett, owner; Justin Cook, handler.

ABHA OPEN DERBY – 8 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st—REDBUD'S LIGHTNING CATCHER, 1697098, pointer male, by Clayhill Bones-Santee River Ice Cream. Aaron McAfee, owner and handler.

2d—REDBUD'S SOUTHERN BOY, 1697099, pointer male, by Walker's Legacy-Redbud's Country Girl. Aaron McAfee, owner and handler.

3d—CROW CREEK REDBUD, 1697119, pointer female, by Walker's Legacy-Redbud's Country Girl. Ken Black, owner; Aaron McAfee, handler.

ABHA OPEN PUPPY – 2 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st—VITALI'S GROUSERINGER BREW, 1700649, setter male, by Vitali's Grouseringer Stogey-Vitali's Grouseringer Razzle. Gary Vitali, owner and handler.

2d—BOATRIGHS MORNING STAR, 1700324, setter female, by Woodville's Yukon Cornelius-Outcast Star Breeze. Terry w. Boatright, owner and handler.

3d—VITALI'S GROUSERINGER DAZZLE, 1700648, setter female, by Vitali's Grouseringer Stogey-Vitali's Grouseringer Razzle. Gary Vitali, owner and handler.

CONTINENTAL DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP

Nighthawk's Rebel Named Champion; Haney's All In, Runner-Up

By Steve Standley & Tim Moore | Greenville, Florida | January 16, 2023

The Continental Derby Championship began at Livingston Place on its traditional January 16 starting date. The grounds were impeccable with their mix of open fields and areas of woods. Most people know the history of this place, long called Dixie Plantation. The glory of this important venue stands on its own. This wonderful place has been evolving since the late 1930s, and it continues to do so. The grounds continue to be more remarkable each year. Also, and most significantly, the wild bird population continues to achieve incredible "birds per acre" stats, as evidenced by Tall Timbers' research and observation during quail hunts.

Clay Sisson, Director of Research at Livingston Place, brings his biologists,

technicians, and interns to these vast acres to apply science in the field. This writer has been reporting two trials a year on this property for years, and the positive changes are a true joy to witness. I encourage all bird dog people to experience it.

Manager Randy Floyd, a 29-year veteran of this plantation, remains committed to improving the grounds and is tireless in his commitment to Livingston Place.

The Livingston Place staff includes Assistant Manager John Michael McCormick, Technician Shannon Braden, Ben Melvin, and the irreplaceable Gloria Hagan.

Purina is an essential sponsor for this club, and we were all glad to see their Sporting Dog

Manager, Greg Blair.

Again, we greatly appreciate Tall Timbers Research of Tallahassee, Fla., for allowing the Continental to continue there. AgPro of Boston, Ga., provided two Gators for official use. They also make financial contributions to assist the event.

Judges Mike Jackson and Lamar Childers' time in the saddle and commitment to a fair championship is greatly appreciated by all. Mike lives in Battle Ground, Ind., and has judged many significant championships nationwide. He has served in that role for the Continental Field Trial several times. He is fair to all and a joy to ride with.

Lamar lives in Cleveland, Ga., but lived in

Snellville, Ga., for 49 years. He was an early member of the Georgia Shooting Dog Club and was very much involved in forming the Southeastern Field Trial Club in Sasser, Ga., the latter established championship status for the Southeastern All-Age and Shooting Dog Championships. His history in the sport is vast, and he is a true gentleman.

Lunch sponsors were Tracy Swearingen, Maria Bassham, and Chip Jenkins. Their generosity is appreciated.

The Winners

The winning dog in this year's Derby Championship appeared in the brace after lunch on the first day. It was a dry bluebird day in the mid-60s as Nighthawk's Rebel (Swearingen) was paired with Hunt's Fireball (McLean.) One of Fireball's new owners, Karen Norton, was in the saddle as the pointers sped away from the breakaway above the dairy barn.

By 12, both dogs stood in pearl millet and hairy indigo patch like you would want to see. It was a most attractive setting as Tracy took the find and Mark accepted the back with all in order. The dogs continued to hunt ahead with style and drive.

At 26, just out of the Big Woods, Rebel offered a beautiful stand in the tall, rough cover as Tracy put a large Livingston Place bevy to wing. Rebel was high, tight, and composed for the formalities.

Fireball had been a handful for Mark and scout Stegan Smith. Both dogs used much real estate in their pursuit of game. Mark went right toward the Long Pond, and Judge Jackson soon went in that direction for an extended time. Judge Jackson apprised us of McLean's efforts to work out a stand. No birds were produced, and they returned to the front at 33.

Meanwhile, Nighthawk's Rebel, a big liver and white male, was shown at 32 driving hard, running with strong purpose as he traveled from left to right. As Judge Jackson described, Rebel had a good find at 38.

It continued to be hot and dry, but Fireball did offer an excellent standover to the right as we approached the sand road at about 52. Next, the pair entered Long Field with Rebel on the right and Fireball on the left. Both dogs acquitted themselves in good form, especially considering the heat. Both dogs finished in the right places. Fireball, as Judge Jackson later said, displayed moments of brilliance. Nighthawk's Rebel could not be denied in his claim to this championship title.

The runner-up champion was found in the efforts of Haney's All In (McLean), with co-owner Chris Cagle, Jr. in the field. All In was braced with Five60 Breakout (Carlton) after their 9:45 breakaway from Pike's Peak. At 12, on the way to Acorn Hill, point was called for Haney's All In off to the right at the hayfield near the chimney. The dog stood in a five-acre block that had been flat-chopped, and he faced an area of sparse cover. One



Continental Derby Championship Winners (from left): Nighthawk's Rebel with Luke Eisenhart and Jamie Daniels, Haney's All In with Stegan Smith (scout) and Mark McLean, Lamar Childers (judge) and Mike Jackson (judge), surrounded by friends and supporters.

could have said the birds had already left, but Mark flushed ahead of his dog. When he swung around toward his dog, the birds lifted. Just as they led the dog off, another covey flushed ahead of the former group, such as at Livingston Place. Haney's All In handled all of this with finished manners.

We crossed at the "Y" at 21 on their westward way across the big fields. At the last field, before going back into the woods, Judd Carlton's dog made a good swing across the far edge going from left to right in an eye-catching manner.

The pair of pointers were gathered in the block near Turkey Field to be watered and sent back out. At 47 in the block of woods toward the Boy Scout house, All In would go out the end of one field as we entered.

Both dogs were to the front as we finished at Long Pond before the dirt road.

Haney's All In paired a strong forward ground effort with a polished find under challenging conditions to claim his runner-up award.

The Running

It was a sunny, clear, crisp 30-degree morning as Erin's Rambling Fever (Eisenhart) and You Don't Know Jack (Haynes) were released in the first-course breakaway field. Purina Sporting Dog Representative Greg Blair was mounted as Shannon Braden rode to marshal us through the morning courses. The action began quickly, at 9, as both dogs stood staunchly at Cindy's Oak. It was a beautiful frosty setting as Mark Haynes flushed and shot for the find as Rambling Fever scored the back.

We crossed the main road at 19, and both dogs stood across the road, in the cover on the field edge. It, too, was scenic as Luke shot for Fever, and Jack honored.

At 38, we entered the long field south of Pike's Peak as both dogs were shown deep to the fore to advantage with independent efforts. Haynes' charge took the right fore, and Eisenhart's dog was on the left fore, sweeping the likely objectives in their search for game. Point was called at the first cover on the incline as both dogs posed high and tight on opposite sides of the cover. The handlers

could not raise birds, and we continued.

The pair of pointers put on a show with their animated and driving ground effort ahead. In the closing moments, point was again called for both competitors. Both dogs were on the same chopper path, Rambling Fever stood high and proud, and the rangy Jack had his body twisted like he had hit them hard. It was most attractive as time expired during the flushing effort. Luke put the lead on Fever, and Haynes tried to work out the relocation. This writer has deemed this area the "Robin's" covey location. The birds here are jumpy and are known to move to the nearby swamp when the handlers approach. Some years ago, I witnessed Robin Gates relocating his dog toward the swamp and successfully pinning his birds deep in the swampy cover. Mark Haynes did not enjoy this successful outcome and accepted a second unproductive for his orange game pointer.

The next brace had owners Tracy Haines and Morgan Hooks in their saddles for Just Between Friends (Daniels) braced with Miller's King Poast (Lester.) Ferrell Miller, about to turn 90 years old the next day, was mounted on a good-looking grey to watch the action. As we moved toward Acorn Hill, Gary Lester called point off to the right at 15 near the chimney. His dog was high on both ends, but repeated relocations proved unsuccessful.

It was past the half before we regained the front. We soon ran along the Georgia line and toward Turkey Field with both dogs out front. Jamie finished his dog after gathering him up following a wild hog pursuit.

By 10:25, the birds appeared to have shut off, and we began the third brace at the corner of Long Pond. L J Lundstrom handled Sioux Bull Run paired with Tee's Crazy Train (Swearingen.) This brace seemed doomed from the start as Bull Run carded two unproductives and was out. Tracy Swearingen came in for his tracker at 21.

Brace No. 4 included Derby Champion Nighthawk's Rebel, as described earlier.

Brace No. 5 offered Westfall's Pioneer Pete (Daugherty) and Rester's Johnny Ringo (Eisenhart.) Cecil Rester was riding in support of Ringo. At 7, Ringo stood at a known covey location. It was in a chopper path inside a

weed field near the hay field in front of the mansion. No birds were raised.

Just past the quarter hour, the Westfall entry pointed after we had turned south across from the Quail Lodge. The scene was the big wash near Cadillac Pond. This was an excellent find.

Both dogs went on to show well across the flat chopped area past the pond. Ringo produced game at the half on the edge of the pond. Pete took this time to make a cast to the right heading toward Pike's Peak. Andy went to look for his dog as we passed the Norton water tank. Andy had Pete at 39 near Moccasin Creek. Then Judge Jackson called point for Ringo at the creek. No birds were raised, and Ringo was on the rope after a relocation.

As we regained the front at 45, Pete had a good find behind the office. By 55, we had crossed the pond dam, and Pete's range had shortened as he finished on top of Kudzu Hill.

Brace No. 6 began on top of Kudzu Hill with Dominator's Big Mike (Daniels) and Clean Creek Jim (McLean.) Both dogs remained to the front across the main road. Jamie called point in the horseshoe tract on the left, but he waved it off. As we approached, the dog was stopped, and birds lifted. Daniels collared his charge away. Right after this occurrence, Mark had a good find at 15 just before the turn at Cacklebur Bottom.

We were at the weather station near Windom Lake at 22, and Mark had a good find on the right. Jamie called point right on the course but withdrew his entry after flushing.

As Mark returned to the course, two separate coveys flushed wild. Clear Creek Jim pointed a single bird from one of these beviys at the lake edge. Jim went on to show well past Ben's Hog Pond. The McLean pointer had his next birds at Hickory Hill at 38, all in order.

As Tim Moore said, it was that time of day the birds were moving, and you didn't need to get back on your horse because the dogs would be pointing game back-to-back. These wild bird grounds offer this type of grand experience occasionally, which is quite thrilling.



Judges Lamar Childers and Mike Jackson.

Jim was pointed at 42 on Hickory Hill, and Mark decided to collar his dog away as we moved from the scene, birds flushed in the area. Jim was a couple of hundred yards to the front 10 minutes later. As Mark approached, the dog loosened up, and Mark reported a hawk leaving the area and carried his dog on. Pickup was called at Cemetery Road. Jim had exhibited a strong effort for the title.

It should be mentioned that long-time field trial patron and owner of Clear Creek Jim, Gene Brown, of Miccosukee, Fla., along with his wife, Marilyn, attended the trial. Among many other bird dog involvements, he put together the lease of the Georgia side of Dixie Plantation once Mrs. G. M. Livingston passed away. He campaigned many dogs on the circuit in the past.

Tuesday was foggy and 42 degrees, and the start was delayed in hopes of better visibility. Erin's Iron Man (Carlton) and Mayfield Storm Charger (Lester) were soon away, and Charger showed well in the early minutes. The Lester entry pointed several times and moved up on his own. This happened one time too many, and a bird took flight during the dog's motion. Gary reached for his rope.

Carlton was not seeing what he wanted from Iron Man, and he snapped a lead on at 17.

Brace No. 8 featured Just Sayin (Daniels) and Hunt's Rollin' The Dice (McLean.) At 6, just before the number one crossing, Jamie's dog pointed at the swamp edge. Daniels called flight, and when Judge Jackson could not confirm, the dog was taken on.

McLean did not have his dog at the creek crossing and sent his scout in the direction

of the office to look for him. At 23, Mark requested his tracker on top of Pike's Peak.

Jamie's dog was not having his day as he did not use the vast area to show well. At 26, Jamie withdrew him.

Brace No. 9 featured the runner-up champion and was described in the winners' section.

It was sunny and 69 degrees as the scouts released Rester's Cajun Spirit (Carlton) and Haney's Silver Dollar (McLean) on the hill above the dairy barn. Neither dog was seen after the breakaway. Mark asked for his retrieval device at 22. Moments later, Carlton did the same.

It was 2:30 near Long Pond when Mathys hit the whistle for Notorious Immortal, and Eisenhart sent Erin's Demolition Man on his way. Mathys watered his dog at 9, and when he was released, both dogs were to the fore toward Esquire Pine. Demolition Man suffered a barren stand at 24. Luke's dog redeemed himself with a forward find near the sand road.

At the end of the Long Field, both handlers threw in the towel at 43.

The last brace of the Derby had Just Wanna Have Fun (Daniels) as a bye-dog. Co-owner Tracy Haines was in the gallery to support Fun. The other owner, Morgan Hooks, had been at the trial, but she had to work this afternoon.

The pointer was rarely seen in the early moments, but once he showed, it was to the front at 21, and Jamie called point moments later. Things did not improve for this competitor, and the dog was lifted shortly after that.

Greenville, Fla., January 16

Judges: Larry Childers and Mike Jackson
CONTINENTAL DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 23 Pointers

Winner—NIGHTHAWK'S REBEL, 1701213, pointer male, by Touch's Red Rider-Long Pine Plantation, owner; Tracy Swearingen, handler.

Runner-Up—HANEY'S ALL IN, 1698756, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle, Sr., & Chris Cagle, Jr., owners; Mark McLean, handler.

TENNESSEE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Lester's Another Shockwave Named Champion; The Business Man, Runner-Up

By Ken Blackman | Dancyville, Tennessee | January 17, 2023

Too many years ago, I took a journalism class to fill a slot in my schedule. On the first day of class, the teacher, Miss Williams (fresh out of college), asked the class what the key elements of a news story were. Like a bunch of "knots on a log," she got no responses. One girl finally blurted out, "A title?" and a rousing chant came from the Peanut Gallery. Miss Williams laughed and

then rattled off a sentence that stayed with me for over 55 years. "Timeliness, accuracy, focus and a large element of interest in the subject." Well, the timeliness is gone in this article. In an age of the internet, Facebook, and Instagram, most of you already know which dogs won and who the owners and handlers were. So, I'll primarily focus on what and where we ran the 2023 Tennessee

Open Shooting Dog Championship.

For many years the West Tennessee Field Trial Club has hosted bird dog field trials on Currie Farm. Allen and his brother, Bill, have continued the legacy begun by their dad, Thomas, and the focal point of the grounds—the clubhouse. It provides shelter, warmth, and stabling for participants' horses, visitors, and mounts in warm, dry, and comfortable

facilities. As you step inside, you'll be amazed at the scores of framed pictures and memorabilia on the walls and in bookcases. A complete kitchen and creature comfort facilities are always clean and welcoming to the guests. But possibly, most impressive, those walls present the history of our sport for nearly eight decades. On the west end of the building's exterior, you'll find a mural, painted by Marty Stoots Todd, of none other than a pointer locked up on a covey of quail.

Today's keystone events are the West Tennessee Amateur trials held in December. During the same weekend of the National Championship, at Ames Plantation in mid-February, the West Tennessee Open is the first qualifying trial of the year. During decades of use, it has also hosted trials for the Volunteer Brittany Club, NBHA, U. S. Derby Invitational, and recently for the last six years, the Tennessee Open Shooting Dog Championship. Scrolling through past issues of The American Field repository at the Bird Dog Museum in Grand Junction, the reader can easily see how the demographics of the grounds used to contest field trials, near Dancyville, Tenn., have changed. Initially, the open trial started at the clubhouse, and three braces ran westward through farm fields to the old schoolhouse at the village of Dancyville on TN Hwy. 76. After a hearty lunch at the restored Dancyville School, the dogs, contestants, and gallery headed eastward on different grounds, ending at the clubhouse. With current mapping tools, those six courses would have traversed approximately 16 miles (as the crow flies) to complete the day's running. Think about that when you ride your horse in today's trials.

Currently, the club uses grounds graciously provided by several landowners. In addition to the Currie family, Dr. Gene Spiotta, Ike Todd, Fayette County Mayor Skip Taylor, Ed McClanahan, Alex Rickert, Larry UMBER, and Richie Boumeester can't be thanked enough for the use of their land. And, as long as I'm doling out thanks, the members of the West Tennessee Club officers, Dr. Marion Brown, J. P. Hathcock, Crutcher Stoots, and Dale Pool, along with the Curries, Dr. Spiotta, and a whole bunch more wives and kids who help out, certainly shows the people who come to watch and enjoy the grounds, that it takes more than just a few people to make an event like this possible. And remember, they're all amateurs!

This year's championship was seen as a tune-up to the National Open Shooting Dog Championship to be contested at the historic and iconic Sedgewoods Plantation near Union Springs, Ala. Thanks to the Harbert Family for hosting this significant event.

Our judging panel of John Lam from Makanda, Ill., and Keith St. John of South



Tennessee Open Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front row, from left): Shawn Kinkelaar, Anthony Martino with Lester's Another Shockwave, Eddie Taylor, and The Business Man with Virgil Moore. (Back row): Ike Todd, Chris Mullins, Julia Currie, Bill Currie, Allen Currie, and Jon Lam (judge).

Fulton, Tenn. (who filled in for Doug Meyer), are some of the best qualified in our region. Jon, a consummate amateur, competes with his string of high-class pointers. Keith and his brother, Shannon, were schooled in bird dogs by one of the best dogmen in our region, Greg.

Our club welcomed handlers Eddie Taylor, Shawn Kinkelaar, Steve Hurdle, Virgil Moore, and Anthony Martino, who brought 26 top shooting dogs in the Mississippi River Valley to vie for the 2023 Tennessee Open Shooting Dog Championship.

Bird dog field trials in January are always a crapsheet, as the fickle weather gods can turn grumpy and cause delays that are just part of the game. With a delay of over a week due to the issues at the preceding week's Mississippi Open Shooting Dog Championship at the Hendrix Farm near Holly Springs, Miss., we were fortunate the grounds were in good shape. We can't overstate the thanks we hand out to the owners of the Dancyville grounds. They provide outstanding country and present a challenge to the best of the pointing dogs of all breeds.

This year's champion came from the second brace on Ike Todd's training grounds. Handled by Shawn, Lester's Another Shockwave, a 4-year-old male out of Lester's Shockwave, the 2022 National Champion, was named the 2023 Tennessee Open Shooting Dog Champion. He's owned by a veritable team comprising some of the best dog people in the U. S. Dr. Tom Jackson, Jerry Moisson, Lance Schultz, Bjorn Peterson, and Todd Mann have trusted Shawn with the dog since his early training. With several outstanding finds in

open country, the judges remarked how well he challenged the grounds and handled as well as any dog in the field. His manners around the birds were impeccable, ever challenging the limits of what the standard of performance might have dictated. In some respects, one of the judges commented that he was a classic "tweener."

The judges named The Business Man, owned by Rick Thone of Russellville, Ala., and handled by Eddie Taylor of nearby Red Banks, Miss., runner-up. Running in the first brace of the second day, Eddie's charge, a son of Miller's Unfinished Business, ran a much more focused and methodical hour, ensuring that every piece of cover was examined. His bird work was solid and classic. He finished strong to the front and with style in his gait.

The entire West Tennessee Field Trial Club continues to groom and manage the Dancyville grounds to make the trials there a classic picture of what truly challenging grounds need to be. We invite all to return next year and expect to host more entries, handlers, owners, and spectators next year.

**Dancyville, Tenn., January 17
Judges: Jon Lam and Keith St. John
TENNESSEE OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP**

[One-Hour Heats] – 24 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner—LESTER'S ANOTHER SHOCKWAVE, 1691812, pointer male, by Lester's Shockwave-Miller's Stitch In Time. Dr. Tom Jackson, Jerry Moisson, Lance Schultz, Bjorn Peterson & Todd Mann, owners; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler. Runner-Up—THE BUSINESS MAN, 1689560, pointer male, by Miller Unfinished Business-Tennessee Coldwater Gal. Rick Thone, owner; Eddie Taylor, handler.

**Please submit write-ups and Essential Data forms to:
Dinora Wellmann • dwellmann@ukcdogs.com**

128TH CONTINENTAL ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Lester's Storm Surge Named Champion; Erin's High Note, Runner-Up

By Andrew Campbell | Greenville, Florida | January 18, 2023



Continental Open All-Age Championship Winners (front, from left): Woody Watson with Lester's Storm Surge and Luke Eisenhart with Erin's High Note. (Behind, from left): Billy Henley, Shannon Nygard, Maria Bassham, Kate Morton, Gary and Joy Lester, Andrew Campbell, Kent Patterson (judge), Judd Carlton, Claudia McNamee, Patty Ewer, and Julie Livingston Ripley. (Back row, from left): L. J. Lundstrom, Alex Mauck, Kristina Wall, Lee Phillips, Ronnie and Theresa Kunkle, Ben Melvin, Ben Stringer, Shannon Braden, Candus Knapp, Randy Floyd, and John Mathys. [Photo by Chris Mathan].

The 128th running of the Continental Open All-Age Championship commenced immediately following the Derby Championship and ran January 18-23. Happily, the heavy rain came immediately after the conclusion of the one-hour qualifying series giving all the handlers, horses, and dogs a well-needed rest. From a field of 42 starters, 36 pointers and six setters, the judges, Kirk Law of Dawson, Ga., and Kent Patterson of Franklin, Tenn., named Lester's Storm Surge, owned by Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton of Springfield, Ky., and handled by Gary Lester, champion. (Storm Surge had taken runner-up in this championship in 2020; this year, there was absolute unanimity between the judges as to the worthiness of his winning performance.) The judges also felt compelled to name Erin's High Note, owned by Mike Moses of Lake City, Fla., and handled by Judd Carlton, as a worthy runner-up.

It was evident from the onset that the plantation had taken full advantage of the dry summer and fall to clear out several major portions of understory and brush, allowing for clearer lines of sight all over the grounds. And while birds were miserly in their appearance last year, they were more prominent this year. Last year, relying on radio tracking information from resident Tall Timbers wildlife biologist Alex Jackson, I noted the tendency of the birds to run rather than flush, doubtlessly contributing to a very low percentage of successful relocation efforts. With only one successful relocation effort in 23 attempts last year, there were still only 3-in-27 this year. Nevertheless, we also saw some masterly finds this year—with birds being almost literally pinned without means of egress, some flushing easily ahead of the dogs, others holding en masse till almost stepped upon by handler, dog, or horse. This degree of unpredictability is another reason that makes the Continental Championship stand

out against its companions, the birds offering dogs and handlers a degree of challenge rarely found elsewhere.

The Continental Field Trial Club is extremely grateful for support from its old and new families, the Livingston Family and Tall Timbers, as well as the following companies and individuals: Nestlé Purina for its perennial support of this event in particular, and the great sport of field trialing in general; AgPro for both their monetary donation and the loan of a John Deere Gator for use during the trial; the numerous lunch and supper sponsors: Nestlé Purina, AgPro, Hunter Drew, Gary Lester, and Julie Livingston Miller; and the following donors for their sponsorship of the water tanks distributed regularly around the course: Kent Cantrell, Larron and Laura Copeland, Dr. Ron Deal, Dixie Hunting Properties, Dixie Trace Field Trial Association, Jim Hamilton, Hancock Construction, John Mathys, Karen and Bruce Norton, Alex Rickert, and Mike and Laura Shea; and the inimitable Miss Gloria Hagen for her ongoing hospitality and administrative support.

The trial could not have gone smoothly without the help of the entire Livingston Place staff, especially Shannon Braden and Ben Melvin, for their course marshaling skills; John Michael McCormick could only join us for one day due to the arrival of his newborn son.

The Winners

Lester's Storm Surge had originally run on the final morning of the qualifiers in brace No. 17, drawn with Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Jack, owned by S. B. Croy and handled by Alex Mauck. Turned loose on a nice, cool morning from the regular morning breakaway, the conditions seemed well suited for running and scenting. The action looked as though it would start early, with Mauck initially calling point

for Jack in the southeasterly-most corner of the very first field, but he would take himself on after the gallery's initial flush of adrenaline had worn off. Jack would nonetheless redeem himself just a couple of minutes later at 6 in the corridor of pines between the first and second fields on the right side of the course. He would be asked to relocate immediately upon his handler's arrival, move forward perhaps 10 feet, and set up rigid for his handler to flush a covey of birds out ahead of him. Storm Surge would also come to a stop up in the Phantom Covey Woods at 9, perhaps 50 yards west of the prominent tree line; even with an extended relocation, the birds would live up to their nickname and reputation. While Jack would prove to be a handful for both handler and scout, Storm Surge began to establish a strong, reaching race ahead of his handler. For example, he would be seen coming off Pike's Peak, turning west ahead of his handler, rimming the #4 Field, and then disappearing into the woods along the swampy edge. Shortly thereafter, erudite scouting would locate him at 47, buried in a tall oaky thicket down in the left-hand pocket before the crossing at the western end of Cadillac Pond. Happily, the judge and reporter caught the single bird flushing out behind the dog and were able to alert the handler to fire his gun. Coming over the crossing, this would be the last time we would see either dog. However, Lester would set his charge up along the southern edge of the Cadillac Field and then turn him successfully north up its eastern edge, leaving the gallery with no doubt of his strength, speed, and biddability in the final 10 minutes or so of the brace. He would drop out of sight, moving through the woods below Hay Field, with the judges having seen enough to call him back for the championship.

He would be drawn with the runner-up, Erin's High Note, in brace No. 2. With the first brace ending prematurely, the two dogs would be turned loose at the base of Gene's Field (or put differently, a little over three-quarters of a mile east of the "Y"), Lester sending his dog up over the hill directly ahead, Carlton sending his out into the wooded shoulder on the left. Coming past Turkey Field, both dogs would swing out into the pocket to the east as the course turned south towards the Boy Scout House, the call of point coming at 16 for Storm Surge some 150 yards out into the piney woods, birds successfully sent skyward ahead of him. Both dogs would be navigated successfully through the dogleg turns at the Boy Scout house and then at the head of Long Pond, High Note moving powerfully out into the Emma May Block woods to the east, Storm Surge along the lower edge of the pond. He would come to a stop roughly 150 yards along that edge near a long-fallen, bleached-out tree, having turned back to

look into the bright, flaxen perimeter of broomsedge from which Lester would be able to produce a single bird. Coming up into Big Woods, he would come to a stop at 38, standing down in a hollow to the right of where the Brown Jug had once hung, and as before, having turned back up into the northeasterly breeze, another single once more pushed out ahead of him. Down into the Brown Field Loop, with High Note still moving powerfully out to the right, Storm Surge would drop down into the woods to the left and stop at 57. Lester would call birds running through the low, oaky tangle and, to his credit, match them for speed, prompting the covey into flight ahead of his dog.

After almost an hour to this point, two remarkable things began to happen: fruitless until now, and despite his obvious effort on the ground, High Note would begin to locate birds, and Storm Surge's style would appear to rise for his successive finds. With Storm Surge coming back to the front from his last find, High Note would come to an abrupt stop at 59 up on the very top, right corner of the woods before entering the two crop fields, the birds rising out of the mess of stalks at the animated call of point and the initial clatter of hoofs on the hard, red dirt of the path. Both dogs would swing wide through this northbound turn, both seen crossing the face of the hayfield below the Hagen House as the handlers angled northeast towards the Double Pond Gap. Storm Surge would make contact at 1:09 down on the shoulder to the right above the South Pond, another covey sent into the air ahead of him.

Approaching Cypress Field, both dogs would swing down into the planted pines to the left, where they would be found at 1:15, both with high style and the birds easily boosted out of the broomsedge ahead. With the course now beginning to turn counterclockwise, both dogs would be out of sight for some significant time; High Note last seen pushing out over Paul's Hill to the west, and Storm Surge sent out to the south along the edge of the Peanut Field. As the course turned southwest towards China Berry Hill, brilliant scouting would locate Storm Surge on the southern edge of the Horseshoe Field at 1:33, some 200 yards north of the water tank named in honor of Notorious Dominator's Heir, the dog's bearing leaving no doubt of the birds' presence ahead of him. (Carlton would be able to reel his dog back in to water him up in this tank shortly thereafter.) Storm Surge would experience his first and only non-productive at 1:38 down towards China Berry Hill, setting up on the right side of the path near a right angle in the powerlines, but despite a relocation, this would prove fruitless. If Storm Surge's sixth find had been his most remarkable, High Note's third would be his *pièce de résistance*. With the course heading southwest to cross Livingston Road and Carlton's original scout nowhere to be found, Mark McLean would be drafted into the role, which he would serve impeccably, calling point at 1:44 way out to the left.

On the conventional third one-hour course,

if time is required, the final few minutes are spent turning off the powerline trail a quarter mile below the corrals and angling into a triangular hay field whose short side borders Livingston Road. High Note would be found at a bend in the trail at the sharp, pointy end of that triangle, just barely visible around the corner in tall, oaky understory, the birds easily kicked out ahead of the stylish dog. What followed can best be described as a frenzied, three-quarter mile canter back to the west across the northern base of Kudzu Hill, High Note seen against the eastern edge of Oil Drum Field, Storm Surge readily returned from the southern end of Kudzu Hill.

Erin's High Note had originally run in the 21st and final brace of the qualifiers, his bid for the championship no less dramatic. Turned loose with Touch's Dancing Nancies, owned and handled by Dr. Kent Cantrell, both dogs would break away from the top of the Horseshoe Loop, with Gene's and the former gin trash field out in front and below them. Both dogs would take a little to orient themselves before punching west up the rise towards the road. Coming up over the road crossing, High Note would be sent out left to the hay field edge, where he would come to a stop at 18, looking taut as he carried his head up into the southeasterly breeze. Sadly, neither the flushing nor extensive relocation efforts could produce anything from the ground around the trio of charred-trunk oaks he had directed his initial gaze towards. He would downshift briefly around the half-hour mark coming underneath Hay Field, but upon turning back to the southeast, he would kick back into high gear. With Dancing Nancies last seen moving out along the roadside edge and High Note climbing out of the Cadillac Pond bowl to the left, it was perhaps no surprise for the call of point to come for both dogs from way out yonder at 37. With a ride of several hundred yards back out and over Livingston Road, it was perhaps also no surprise to arrive and have both scouts declare that birds had left during the high-speed trek. Doubtless frustrated, both handlers sensibly elected to merely take their dogs on.

Back on course and approaching the prominent live oak at the northern end of Oil Drum Field, Carlton and Cantrell would point out their dogs climbing up the opposite face of Pike's Peak. While Dancing Nancies would power over the shoulder out of sight (and ultimately be declared lost at 54), High Note would turn on his handler's call and come along the lower, wooded edge of the ridge in a powerful, picturesque arc. To finish, and in what can only be described as a "Hail Flutie" type scenario, Carlton would take his dog forward along the eastern edge of Garrett Field towards the Moccasin Creek crossing. With the judges still only midway down the field edge at 58, the strident call of point would come from the other side, prompting a frenetic pounding of hooves. The call of birds in the air would come less than a minute later, the judge acknowledging their flight as he cantered into first sight of the dog standing tall down on the lower swamp edge

to the left. Like Flutie's decision in November 1984 to heave the football further than anyone imagined, Carlton made a final-moment tactical decision that paid off dividends for a dog that had also shown more than enough on the ground.

The Running

A dense fog delayed the start of the championship, and turning loose a little after 10:30 a.m., the judges elected to run a single brace before lunch. Brace No. 1 brought Shadow's Lord Magic, owned by Carl Bowman and handled by Luke Eisenhart, to the line with Touch's Breakaway Fred, handled by Mark McLean, with all of his owners, Karen and Bruce Norton, and Becky and Gary Futch, in attendance to watch their dog. The action would begin fairly quickly with the call of point coming for Fred out in the woods high on the left shoulder at 7, the dog standing some 250 yards southeast of the cow barn, pointed mid-slope, and looking high-headed uphill. The handler would flush ahead of his dog, and as he appeared to be coming back to relocate, the respectfully distant gallery would flush a covey some 50 yards behind him. The judge would instruct him to fire the gun. Crossing the entrance road, the scouts would call point at 19 for both dogs down in the oaky pocket to the left, Lord Magic pointing, Fred honoring. An extensive flushing and relocation effort would nonetheless produce naught. With Lord Magic moving smoothly out ahead through the big fields and then up onto Pike's Peak, Fred would get a little hung up on the shoulder and come up behind his handler but then appear to redeem himself by spinning to a stop in the main feed trial at 43, head high into the southwesterly breeze. Sadly, the flushing and abbreviated relocation efforts would fail to produce anything. Both dogs would finish their hour coursing out into the woods towards the Acorn Hill water tank, this year generously sponsored by Dr. Kent Cantrell and Ocala Equine Hospital.

With the weather delay in the morning, brace No. 2 would turn loose after lunch from the conventional afternoon breakaway behind the corrals, eastbound in the general direction of the Hagen House. That second brace featured Erin's Wild Atlantic Way, owned by Sean Derrig and handled by Luke Eisenhart, alongside Redeemed, owned and handled by Shannon Nygard. While Wild Atlantic Way appeared to embrace the challenge from the get-go, Redeemed would seem initially less certain about how to tackle the terrain ahead of him, nevertheless consistently ahead of his handler and making a nice sweeping move to the crossing into Big Woods and the Boyd Corner water tank, sponsored in honor of Dominator's Rebel Heir. Into Big Woods, both dogs would push out into the wire grass, and neither would be seen for an extended period. Redeemed would be successfully watered before the northerly descent towards Long Pond. In search of his dog, Eisenhart would call point for Redeemed at 33 out on the left side beyond a dried-out pond hollow, the dog almost hidden in a tall cover strip of

faded stalks. After an initial flushing effort, Redeemed lost focus and relocated himself, ending his bid. At that point, Eisenhart also conceded defeat and asked for his tracker.

Brace No. 3 brought Erin's Code of Honor, owned by Allen Linder and handled by Luke Eisenhart, to the line with Lester's Shockwave, owned by Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton and handled by Gary Lester. Turned loose heading north towards the western edge of Long Pond, both dogs would breakaway into the woods with gusto, intermittent glimpses seen of both in the corrugated terrain ahead. Coming over the 11 O'Clock Crossing past the water tank dedicated to Flush's Wrangler, through the Horseshoe Loop passing Esquire's Pine, and up around the crest of the hill, the call of point would come from deep out on the right side for Code of Honor at 19. He would be found down in the piney hollow below Gene's Field. However, all efforts to produce birds would prove fruitless.

Nevertheless, on the way back to the front, he would stop again in the northern wooded edge of Long Field at 24. The initial flushing effort would be unsuccessful, but a confident, intelligent relocation 75 yards further down the strip would pin a covey in the oaky bushes. With Shockwave absent for some time by this point, Eisenhart would bring Code of Honor across the neck of Long Field and send him out to the south, where he would stop some 150 yards parallel to the head of the field at 31, another covey successfully prompted out of an oaky thicket. At the road crossing, Lester would come for his tracker at 34, acknowledging that he had lost touch with his charge and vice versa. Swinging around under the hay field along the red clay path, Code of Honor would stop at 42, roughly parallel with the Big House, in the woods to the right, a single bird produced ahead of him. The increasing heat of the afternoon appeared to take its toll on the dog; while he would finish his hour out front, he had lost a significant degree of the punch he had started with.

Brace No. 4 featured Erin's Perfect Storm, owned by Brad Woodie and handled by Luke Eisenhart, along with Miller's Blindsider, handled by Jamie Daniels, with owner Nick Berrong riding in the gallery to watch his dog. Turned loose near the beginning of Oil Drum Field, both dogs would punch out along the obvious field edge ahead of them. As he has proven numerous times before, the heat would not prove too great a hurdle for Blindsider, and not much would be seen of him from the breakaway. Climbing up Kudzu Hill, Perfect Storm would spin to a stop at 26 just before its crest, head up into the westerly breeze; despite an extensive relocation effort, this would prove barren. At that point, Daniels would concede defeat and ask for his tracker. Moving purposefully through the next section of woods and over the main road, Perfect Storm would come to a stop at 41, roughly a quarter mile east of the road, almost hidden by the embankment of a significant drainage ditch, a single bird easily pitched skyward ahead of the stylish dog, the remainder flushing in pairs and triplets as the gallery

approached. Swinging north along the edge of Windom Lake, he would stop at 49 beneath a prominent live oak on the edge of the feed trail, but with the flight of birds unseen by the judge, as he rode forward, the dog would be taken on. Moving northbound again, Perfect Storm would swing out across the right shoulder, stopping midslope at 52, looking up into the breeze and towards a morass of tall stalks, a single bird kicked out from the mass. He would finish moving out towards Hickory Hill, his consistent forward effort in the thick, warm air enough to earn him an invitation to the championship.

The second morning saw clear weather, and brace No. 5 was brought to the line composed of Notorious Front Range, owned and handled by John Mathys, and Dominator's Wild Bill, owned by Jack and Sarah Schwartz, and Nick Berrong, handled by Jamie Daniels. The action would begin quickly with Front Range coming to a stop in the piney median between the first and second fields at 4, some 75 yards west of the main cut-through, with a nice covey of birds pinned ahead of him. Both dogs would be unseen for a good period until the gallery began dropping down towards the Moccasin Creek crossing towards Big Garrett Field. Front Range would then come forward along the swamp edge to the left, while Wild Bill would appear to get a little hung up trying to come around the swamp edge from the right. He would next be seen coming over from Oil Drum Field to swing up onto the shoulder of Pike's Peak, Front Range having moved down through the woods to the west and re-emerged from the #4 Field on the ridge's left side. Both dogs would move out over its left shoulder, the scouts calling point for the two dogs at 42 down towards the dark, swampy edge, Will Bill honoring Front Range standing tall looking downslope into a dense oaky cover square. Sadly, this would prove a fruitless stand despite a thorough relocation effort. Both dogs would finish up moving purposefully out front through the woods below the Big House, and time called roughly 400 yards before Acorn Hill.

Brace No. 6 drew Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Dallee, owned and handled by Alex Mauck, alongside Dominator's Rebel Queen, handled by Jamie Daniels, with owner Nick Berrong riding along to watch his dog. Turned loose from the water tank atop Acorn Hill, both dogs would move well through the first third of the course, Rebel Queen perhaps the slightly slower dog but more consistently forward than her brace mate. Up over and past Gene's Field and eastbound down the avenue towards Turkey Field, Rebel Queen would stop at 29 in the piney cover midway between the main path and the swampy edge, a covey readily ahead of her. Taken on, she would stop perhaps 250 yards further forward at 31, parallel with Turkey Field, the bird seen rising ahead of the taut dog. Dallee had been moving smoothly to this point, intermittently more laterally than forward. Around the head of Long Pond, past Emma May Block on the left, Daniels would call point again at 55 at the top of the downhill slope to the right, another

covey of birds located ahead of the mannerly dog. With Dallee now slightly depleted in the heat and still proving somewhat laterally minded, Rebel Queen would finish having given a more economic and more consistently forward race in the afternoon heat.

Brace No. 7 brought Miller's Heat Advisory, owned by Terry Graunke and handled by Judd Carlton, to the line with Lester's Boss Man, owned by David Thompson and handled by Gary Lester. Turned loose at the start of the Big Woods, Heat Advisory would appear to make several wide moves down through the wiregrass, Boss Man seen more frequently over on the right moving parallel to the South Pond edge. Through Boyd Corner, Heat Advisory would stop at 13 some 75 yards out to the right of the main track, but despite a thorough relocation effort, this would prove a barren stand. Down into the Brown Field Loop, Boss Man would swing in from the left side into the main, red-dirt path and immediately spin into a stop at 19, the birds immediately ahead of him. As it had been from the outset, Heat Advisory would appear to tackle larger chunks of territory as the course turned north towards Double Pound Gap, but by the time the gallery reached the Cypress Field water tank named in honor of Showtime Sam Houston, Carlton would come for his tracker at 51. Boss Man, in the meantime, had worked consistently ahead of his handler and would be last seen moving out into the piney woods to the west of the Research Field.

Brace No. 8 drew two setters together, Chief's Rising Sun, handled by Judd Carlton, with owner John Mathys riding in support of his dog, alongside Woodville's Saddle Tramp, owned by Carl Owens and handled by Mark McLean. Turned loose on the regular afternoon breakaway below the corrals, both dogs would head out into the woods south of the Hagen House, Rising Sun preferring the lower left edge, Saddle Tramp the upper shoulder on the right. McLean would call point at 8 for the dog some 250 yards up on that right slope in the feed trial but looking up into some shady oaky cover, choosing to almost immediately relocate him as his demeanor seemed to indicate that birds might have left. The relocation would sadly prove fruitless.

Temperatures had risen dramatically since the morning, the gallery shucking layers as quickly as they could as the brace went on. With Rising Sun moving well but requiring significant management, Saddle Tramp would push out consistently ahead of his handler through Double Pond Gap, seemingly unaffected by the heat. Moving past Long Pond and angling roughly northwest towards the 11 O'Clock Crossing, the call of point would come at 31, some 200 yards out to the north, the dog found standing near the edge of a crop field, a single bird kicked out of the understory. (This is one of those few fields for which no one has ever told me a name, but it is usually encountered from the north, shortly after leaving the Boy Scout House and where the dogs are turned eastward towards

the head of Long Pond.) Through the crossing and swinging up around Esquire's Pine, the marshal would see Saddle Tramp at 45, some 75 yards to the northeast, the ticking acting as an effective camouflage in the dappled light beneath the trees. With McLean over the hill looking for his dog along the field edges, Luke Eisenhart would take care of the flushing responsibilities. He would flush around the dog, concluding as McLean arrived on the scene, adding to the congregation of horses immediately in the vicinity. McLean would give his benediction to Eisenhart to relocate the dog, who would head up into the tall, oakly thicket ahead of him; Eisenhart then stepped out to the side, the covey exploding from beneath his feet! The dog, clearly at no fault, would then be whoa'ed, a shot fired, and then taken on.

In the meantime, Rising Sun had never reconnected with the course after the turn north from Cypress Pond. With Livingston Road in sight, Carlton would concede defeat and ask for his tracker at 58. Saddle Tramp would put his stamp on claiming top qualifier with his finish down Long Field before time. Once over the road, McLean would send the dog out on the long, green avenue that runs up the hill roughly southwest towards the Big House. After an initial flirtation with scent, Saddle Tramp would continue his quest and power out of sight; his effort in the afternoon heat seemingly undiminished. And in addition to being asked back to compete for the championship, Saddle Tramp would be awarded Top Qualifier.

Brace No. 9 featured Rester's Powered Up, owned by Dr. Reuben Richardson and Cecil Rester and handled by Luke Eisenhart, head-to-head with Touch's Gallatin Fire, owned by Alex and Bryanna Rickert, and handled by Mark McLean. Turned loose from the water tank on top of Livingston Road, both dogs would make bold initial casts into the woods to the west before swinging south along the swamp edge towards Cadillac Field. With Gallatin Fire swinging up through the woods on the right to gain the front, he would come to a stop up at 13 on the right shoulder shortly before the course turned down away from the road; McLean would call the flight of birds, seen by the judge as he approached in haste. Sent on down the slope, his scout would call him stopped at 18 near the Cadillac Pond edge. After an initial flushing effort through the low, oakly understory, he would be asked to relocate. He would execute masterfully, setting up taut some 50 yards further downwind, the birds directly ahead of him. In the meantime, Powered Up had swung wide around the outside of the westward turn, stopping up on the slope to the left, some 50 yards off the main trail at 23; the birds readily flushed skyward ahead of him. Coming off Kudzu Hill, both dogs would disappear into the woods beyond the trident of long, going-away fields, Powered Up out in the woods to the west, Gallatin Fire disappearing over the shoulder to the northeast. After his find, Powered Up would find himself caught out to the side on a couple of occasions, and

while certainly more consistently forward, Gallatin Fire had given the impression of modest competence in the heat of the afternoon, leaving them both to be eclipsed by others coming out of this qualifying series.

Brace No. 10 featured Touch's Blue Knight, owned and handled by Woody Watson, on the line with Bonner's Hot Rize, handled by Gary Lester, with owner Jannie Chapman riding along in support of her young dog. Turned loose eastward after the road crossing, both dogs would swing wide out to the right before arcing back around to the left to meet their handler as they climbed the rise above Windom Lake. Lester would call point for his dog on top of that rise at 10 but promptly call the departure of an armadillo before simply taking his dog on. Swinging north, the call of point would come for Blue Knight way out to the right, the dog found standing tall down on the western edge of Ben's Hog Pond, looking up into a low, oakly thicket. The birds would flush as the handler's feet hit the ground, one of the highest-quality finds of the entire trial. Swinging around to the east parallel to the dirt road and Hot Rize had been gone for some time, and as the course turned south along Hickory Hill and then angled southeast towards Paul's Hill, the anxiety would begin to mount. With Blue Knight working consistently forward in and out of sight, Lester would come in for his tracker at 36, just beyond the Dixie Hunting Properties water tank below the summit of Paul's Hill. Blue Knight would handle consistently forward through the remainder of the brace, not affected by the heat, making a solid move south along the swamp edge on the left before being gathered up to go across the triangular hayfield below the corrals immediately before Livingston Road. He would disappear out of sight into the woods across the road, his effort meriting an invitation to run in the championship.

Brace No. 11 brought Supreme Confidence, handled by Luke Eisenhart, with his owner Claudia McNamee riding along to watch her dog, to the line with Touch's Shadow Rider, handled by Mark McLean, also eagerly accompanied by one of his co-owners, Karen Norton, in the gallery. Turned loose on the first morning course, with fingers of fog still lingering in the lee of the field edges, the action would begin quickly with the call of point coming at 9 for Shadow Rider, found standing roughly 50 yards further downslope from the cow barn than Breakaway Fred had been found in the first brace. Despite an extensive relocation effort, the stand would prove non-productive. Approaching the road crossing, Eisenhart would alert McLean to Shadow Rider standing down in the southern pocket of woods just before the road crossing at 18, the judge happily seeing a single bird rise as he rode to the dog. Crossing the road and sending Shadow Rider out along the right shoulder, he would call point at 23, but with the judge missing the flight of birds as he cantered forward, McLean would take his dog on.

Into Big Garrett Field, Supreme Confidence

would be sent out wide to the right into the piney shoulder, and having made the counterclockwise sweep back in towards his handler, he would be found 100 yards east of the course, looking northbound towards Oil Drum Field, the birds still there to be flushed against that open skyline. Bringing him across the field, Eisenhart would send him west into the #4 Field, from which the dog would punch northbound parallel to the swamp edge. He would be found at 39, out in those woods to the left, looking up towards the oakly vines as the base of a single pine. Sadly, despite an extensive relocation effort, this would prove fruitless. Coming down off Pike's Peak, Shadow Rider would stop once more at 46, to the right of the Cadillac Pond crossing. This would be where Andy Daugherty and Westfall's Castaway had performed one of the most accomplished, sustained relocation efforts in 2020, ultimately pinning the rearguard of a large, running covey well over 100 yards further southeast. Sadly, it would not be a repeat performance for Shadow Rider, ending his bid. Supreme Confidence would end his hour moving out front through the woods before Acorn Hill, his effort showing both independence and handle in his consistently forward race and earning him an invitation to the championship proper.

Brace No. 12 brought Rebel Cause, owned by David Williams and handled by Jamie Daniels, head-to-head with Boumeester's Duramax, owned and handled by John Mathys. Turned loose from the base of Acorn Hill, the call of point would come for Duramax at 4, roughly three-quarters of the way up the climb towards the "Y" and down over on the left shoulder. He looked magnificent, turned back into the southwesterly breeze, looking downslope towards the swamp, head so high as if to peer over the chest-high oakly bush immediately ahead of him. Sadly, as picturesque as the scene, not even the relocation effort could locate birds for his handler. Crossing over the shoulder past Gene's and dropping down to the northeast, Duramax would be found stopped in the main track at 23, Rebel Cause honoring nicely, birds kicked out of the roadside oak bush ahead of him. He would point again at 26, some 25 yards down on the rise to the right, birds easily flown out of the tangled undergrowth. With the gallery now swinging along the avenue towards Turkey Field on the right (and the turn down towards the Boy Scout House), the call of point would ring out from the left side towards the state line at 29. Rebel Cause would be found towards the northwest corner of the large crop field to the north, but with birds unseen leaving by the judge as he cantered to the stand, the dog was merely taken on. Both dogs were carefully handled through the Boy Scout section before being turned loose at the dirt road, the dogs almost immediately ducking right on a feed trail. Rebel Cause would be found standing at 39, with Duramax honoring and a covey of birds successfully flushed ahead of them. Rebel Cause would then be sent eastwards, where he would come to a stop

in the hollow at 42, looking at the base of a live oak. Sadly, the relocation would prove nonproductive, leading to speculation that the dog had stopped on the flightpath scent from the immediately flushed covey. Time would be called climbing up into Big Woods, both dogs having disappeared over the shoulder to the right, and while consistent in terms of effort, both needing to demonstrate a little more obvious focus out front to merit a callback.

Brace No. 13 drew Showtime Game Changer, owned and handled by Larron Copeland, alongside Rentz's Hijacked, handled by Luke Eisenhart, with owners Joe and Trish Rentz, and Claudia McNamee, riding in support of their dog. Both dogs would push out hard to the left into the Big Woods, Game Changer in particular, establishing a bold, powerful race, but coming around the bottom of South Pond, it would be Hijacked reaching out around the pond edge and coming to a stop at 9. With the dog looking up into a tall, oakly thicket, Eisenhart had his work cut out to bully his way into the undergrowth, which he did, successfully ousting a covey ahead of the dog. Turning northeast, Eisenhart would be the first to successfully thread his dog through Double Pond Gap, the commotion prompting a large congregation of wood storks feeding in South Pond into flight, the black trailing edges of their wings in stark contrast to the bright white of their bodies. Game Changer would follow shortly thereafter, both dogs then seen initially arcing over the right shoulder before crossing the front to reunite with their handlers. By the time the gallery passed Joe's Oak, Game Changer had not been seen in some time; his handler was concerned he had punched out far enough to the west not to make the upcoming counterclockwise sweep towards Research Field. Hijacked would be successfully gathered up and watered in the Notorious Dominator's Heir tank at Horseshoe Field at 56, Copeland electing to come in for his tracker at this point too. Sent on, Hijacked would disappear into the woods to the west of China Berry Hill at the expiration of his hour, a competent hour on the ground but needing just a little more to be invited back.

Brace No. 14 brought Knight's Little John, owned by Scott Griffin and handled by Gary Lester, to the line with Confident Nation, owned by Scott Jordan and handled by Luke Eisenhart. Both dogs set off at a blistering pace, so much so that both were hardly seen for the first 20 minutes as the course passed under the Hagen House in the direction of Boyd Corner. And, not long after entering the Big Woods, Eisenhart would return for his tracker at 25. Through Double Pond Gap and the chicane between Long Pond and the dried-out pond bowl on the left, Lester would initially call point for Little John at 34 out to the northeast but, upon reaching him, immediately bring him on without even dismounting. He would continue to work powerfully out front through the 11 O'Clock Crossing and up around the Horseshoe Loop, but sadly despite a strong, sweeping, final move off the hill into the wooded bowl below

Gene's at 54, this would be the last sight we would have of him before the call of time.

Brace No. 15 featured Erin's Lost Creek, owned and handled by Sean Derrig, and Dominator's Queen Bee, handled by Jamie Daniels, with two of her co-owners, Jim Hamilton and Nick Berrong, riding in support. Turned loose from the foot of Long Field, headed west to the road crossing, both dogs would move out nicely. Upon crossing the road, Derrig would send Lost Creek to the edge of Hay Field, where he would turn forward to match his handler. He would stop shortly thereafter at 10 underneath a pair of live oaks, and the birds readily flushed around him. Moving smoothly around the remainder of Hay Field, both dogs would be consistently forward, Lost Creek showing an additional degree of reach. Off the roadside edge and past the bottom of Cadillac Pond, Lost Creek would be up on the high side of the slope and stop at 0:32, perhaps 100 yards east of the prominent live oak that marks the turn south down Oil Drum Field. Derrig would call the flight of birds, but they would be unseen by the judge. Both dogs would still be reaching out by the time they dove in the water tank at the Moccasin Creek crossing; Queen Bee, having descended out of the woods to the right, hit the front of Garret Field and swung around its left edge, Lost Creek having stayed up higher in those woods, then punched across the gap to the next wooded spur on the right, and then punched down to the water tank gap. Down through the woods on the left as the course passed under the Main Office, Queen Bee would stop mid-slope near a large live oak at 53, the birds seen leaving by the judge. Lost Creek would stop on the right side of the main path down to the Roger's Pond crossing at 56, but the flush and extended relocation effort would prove fruitless, bringing the brace to an end.

Brace No. 16 drew Erin's Grey Justice, owned by Sean Derrig and handled by Luke Eisenhart, head-to-head with Touch's Malcolm Story, owned by Alex and Bryanna Rickert and handled by Mark McLean. Turned loose at the base of Kudzu Hill, both dogs would soar out over the rise; one of the judges spying Malcolm Story pointed at 3 out on the left side as the gallery descended off the summit, the birds readily ahead of him. Both dogs would punch out into the piney woods at the head of the triumvirate of long-cover crop fields. As the course turned east across the main road, there would be confusion over whose dog had appeared to turn along the woodline to the left before abruptly doubling back and disappearing. It would turn out to be Malcolm Story, found on point at 16. However, with the delay in identifying the dog and alerting the correct handler, by the time McLean arrived to flush, not even an extended relocation effort could produce birds. The course would wind up over the hill to the northeast before turning north at the little Tall Timbers weather station above Horseshoe Field, Malcolm Story seen once more pointed at 23 some 100 yards downslope. Sadly, this too would prove nonproductive, at which point Eisenhart would

also concede that his dog had not turned with him across the road and come for his tracker.

Brace No. 17 would bring Lester's Storm Surge and Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Jack to the morning breakaway and is already covered in the placements.

Brace No. 18 featured Rester's Cajun Justice, owned by Dr. Reuben Richardson and Cecil Rester (with Cecil riding in support of his dog), alongside Touch's Midnight Rider, handled by Mark McLean, with his owner John Milton riding in support. Turned loose from the base of Acorn Hill, both dogs would power out on the left side. The call of point would come for Cajun Justice at 6, so deep in the woods pocket to the north that he was actually in the perimeter firebreak, the birds effectively pinned in the last of the oakly cover before the swamp and boosted into the air with ease by his handler. Shortly after the crossing at the "Y" at 9, McLean would call point for Midnight Rider roughly 100 yards off the left side of Cover Crop Field with the prominent live oak at its head, but neither flushing nor relocation effort could produce anything. Climbing over the hill past Gene's and dropping down towards the northeast, both dogs appeared evenly matched on the ground. The call of point would come for them both at 26, some 200 yards north of the course and within sight of the large cover crop field to the east, where they would be found standing together, the birds readily ahead of them, both handlers firing. Past the Boy Scout house and both dogs would punch up over the rise, Cajun Justice coming around smoothly to the east at his handler's call, Midnight Rider getting hung up in the woods to the south before ultimately battling his way through the mud and water at the head of Long Pond to rejoin his handler on the pond's eastern side. Both dogs would be last seen at the call of time as they dropped southwest off the head of rise above the Emma May Block, Cajun Justice's bird work and consistently forward race earning him an invitation to the championship.

Brace No. 19 brought Touch's Lone Dominator, owned and handled by Kent Cantrell, to the line with Woodville's Yukon Cornelius, handled by Mark McLean, with proud owner Carl Owens in the gallery to watch his dog. Turned loose into Big Woods, both dogs would move out over the right shoulder and be largely unseen for several minutes, Lone Dominator reappearing at the woods' conclusion and then swinging out to the right at the Boyd Corner, where he would be found midslope at 13 approximately 100 yards east of the water tank. However, sadly it would prove a barren stand. Coming into Brown Field Loop, Yukon Cornelius would swing out into the woods and climb the spur to the left, where he would stop at 19. (Not only was this the same location, but it was also recorded as the same exact time in the brace that Chinquapin Bill stopped to point birds for Ray Warren in the 2020 running of the championship). The birds would be flown off the ridge ahead of the mannerly dog, easily seen by the gallery on the red clay trail. Swinging north across Cover Crop Field, both

dogs would swing out along the bottom edge to the left, Yukon Cornelius disappearing at the front corner. With the call of point coming at 25 from his scout, the birds would be seen leaving by the incoming judge, the dog standing just tucked around the corner of the cover block. Lone Dominator would also stop in the dried hollow to the north at 28; despite an extensive relocation effort, this would also prove unsuccessful for him, ending his bid. Yukon Cornelius would work ahead of his handler through the Double Pond Gap and past Cypress Pond, taking large swings of territory before reconnecting and moving out. Turning west at the head of Research Field, he would come to a stop out in the woods to the north at 59. Sadly, neither judge saw birds leaving as they approached, prompting McLean to gather him up to water him before the expiration of time. Nevertheless, his effort on the ground would earn him an invitation to the championship.

Brace No. 20 drew Beeler's Prime Design, owned by Allen Linder and handled by Judd Carlton, alongside Notorious Dominator's Heir, owned and handled by John Mathys. Both dogs would move out powerfully from the regular afternoon breakaway, Heir seen pushing out through the dried-out bowl towards the Hagen House hayfields before being gathered up and sent down the powerlines on the lower, left side, Prime Design opting for the right side where he would appear to make game, and then move forward out onto the far slope only to reappear at the Boyd Corner water tank several minutes later. Into the Big Woods and Heir would remain on the lower left side, while Prime Design would initially swing up into the heart of the pines before sweeping across the front and down towards South Pond. Just before the course angles up to the northeast, a prominent drainage ditch runs down to the pond, and the call of point would come midway down that ditch at 23. Upon arrival, Prime Design appears to be honoring Prime Design two cover blocks ahead, birds readily flushed ahead of Heir, while others would also rise from the block nearer Prime Design. With Prime Design spending a little more time out to the sides than punching forward, Carlton would elect to pick up his dog beside Long Pond at 32. This would also be roughly the time that Heir would choose to disappear, and, despite some energetic scouting, Mathys would be forced to ask for his tracker at the top of Horseshoe Loop at 52.

The final brace of the qualifiers, No. 21, featured Erin's High Note (Carlton) and Touch's Dancing Nancies (Cantrell) and is already covered in the placements.

The Championship

From this initial field of 42, the judges elected to call back eight dogs with bird work, consistent effort, and forward races to compete over one hour and 50 minutes. While attention was given to avoid, as much as possible, dogs competing on the same course and one scouting conflict, the dogs were otherwise braced by the judging team. (As a reminder,

with the loss of a day due to heavy rain immediately after the running of the qualifiers, every dog had at least a full day's rest.)

The first brace featuring Saddle Tramp (McLean) with owner Carl Owens along to watch his fine dog and Erin's Perfect Storm (Eisenhart) turned loose from the regular morning breakaway, lingering fingers of fog still gripping the various piney field edges. A speck of white could be seen above the dried-out bowl of Preacher's Hog Pond through the first corridor of trees and into the second field, with Perfect Storm up in the woods to the left. No one could say what it was until the handler got parallel with him as he climbed the low rise to Phantom Covey Hill. As it had above Esquire's Pine in the qualifiers, Saddle Tramp's ticking had disguised him in the low-angle light; nevertheless, at 9, birds would be easily flushed directly ahead of him. In the meantime, Perfect Storm had also come to a stop at 9 up on top of the low hill. Despite an extended relocation, Phantom Covey would entangle and deceive another bird dog (although somewhat to the dog's credit, a significant clump of feathers was found ahead of him in the thicket). Entering Big Garrett Field, Perfect Storm would be seen moving out on the wooded shoulder on its far side, Saddle Tramp moving up through the woods to the left. Both dogs would be invisible for several minutes, although both would appear independently from the right as the gallery descended off the Pike's Peak ridge towards the Cadillac Pond crossing. Now gathered up, both dogs would punch through the crossing and then slip out of sight into the woods to the left, Saddle Tramp getting hung up and coming back to the gallery as it passed underneath the Big House hayfield. Turning largely east after reaching the water tank at the start of the Acord Hill, Saddle Tramp would spin to a stop at 1:01, roughly 100 yards east of the brick chimney, but when the birds were declared unseen by the judges, McLean would take him on. Reaching the head of the crop field immediately east of the water tank at the "Y," Eisenhart would come looking for his tracker at 1:08. By this time, Saddle Tramp had moved out along the wooded high side of the course and disappeared. In fact, by the time the gallery reached Gene's Field at the top of the rise, McLean would concede defeat and come in for his tracker at 1:28.

The second brace would star Lester's Storm Surge (Lester) and Erin's High Note (Carlton), already featured in the placements.

The third brace brought Touch's Blue Knight (Watson) to the line with Rester's Cajun Justice (Eisenhart), with his owner Cecil Rester riding to support his dog. Turned loose from the regular afternoon breakaway, both dogs would move out to the right side and then forward along the piney slope, only to reappear coming down off the hill to meet their handlers at the Boyd Corner water tank. Up into the Big Woods, both dogs would initially sweep out into their heart on the right side before swinging back across the front as the gallery began to swing northeast.

As the course angled northwest to set itself up for a northbound shot to the 11 O'Clock Crossing, both dogs would go on point at 31, Blue Knight roughly 75 yards to the left, Cajun Justice in the main trail looking up to his left. Watson would call the departure of an armadillo before he even reached his dog and then take him on, while Eisenhart would flush birds from the roadside ahead of his dog. Both dogs would sweep into Horseshoe Loop and across the piney shoulder near Esquire's Pine, still showing grace and intelligence in their cast. Coming over the knob above Gene's, there would be some confusion and amusement as both handlers claimed the dog moving out deep in the woods to the right as their own. It would prove to be Cajun Justice, and sadly, by the time the gallery had reached the road crossing above Long Field at 1:00, Watson would come in for his tracker. Cajun Justice would then swing through the woods to the right as the course moved underneath the hay fields before swinging up along the inside edge of Cadillac Field. He would stay consistently ahead of his handler through the various small turns around Cadillac Pond before punching down the pipeline on the left side of Oil Drum Field. With the afternoon heat beginning to mount, he would be watered up at the water tank midway down; Eisenhart would then send Cajun Justice out along the far edge of Oil Drum Field, at which point he would punch into the woods to reemerge at the front corner of the Big Garrett Field. He would finish his time at the base of Kudzu Hill, still moving respectably despite the warm conditions but just needing more to challenge the two dogs from the brace before.

The final brace of the championship, No. 4, brought Woodville's Yukon Cornelius (McLean), with his owner Carl Owens riding along in support, to the line with Supreme Confidence (Eisenhart), with his owner Claudia McNamee riding to watch her dog. Turned loose from the base of Kudzu Hill, both dogs moving out around the rise to the left and out into the trident of slim, going-away fields, Supreme Confidence initially working his way through the finger of woods to the left before crossing the front, leaving Yukon Cornelius to work the woods to the right of Center Field. He would be found standing near the far end of that wooded corridor at 8, unusually just a single bird flushed out of the understory ahead of him. Crossing the road and turning east, Supreme Confidence would come to a stop in the first hollow on the right at 11, looking northeast up into the oaky thicket. Eisenhart would carefully work around him to flush, only to have the birds flush 25 yards ahead of him from the middle of the main trail, barely ahead of the gallery's horses. After moving parallel to Windom Lake and turning east towards Hickory Hill, Yukon Cornelius would come in from the right side only to swing forward with his handler and move out along the left side of the trail parallel to the main dirt road. He would then stop roughly 200 yards before Hickory Hill at 31, with birds successfully flushed ahead of him. Supreme Confidence had last been seen heading north

parallel to Windom Lake but had turned east at his handler's call to be found standing at 32, parallel with Yukon Cornelius but 200 yards north, standing on the far edge of a small, skinny cover crop field just over the dirt road. Sadly, despite a thorough relocation effort, this would prove non-productive. Turning along the Hickory Hill ridge and angling southeast towards the summit of Paul's Hill, neither dog would be seen for several minutes. Although as the gallery dropped off the hill and past the Dixie Hunting Properties water tank, Eisenhart

would call point at 43 for Supreme Confidence some 150 yards south down in the woods to the right, once again looking up into the northeasterly breeze. Sadly, despite another thorough relocation effort, this would also prove to be a barren stand, bringing his bid for the title to an end. Moving south between the two large cover crop fields, Yukon Cornelius would come to a stop at the wooded edge at 51, but this would prove non-productive. With a stop to flush at 53 near the head of the easterly field, a brief conversation with the

judges about his relative performance would see McLean opt to pick up his dog, bringing the championship to a conclusion.

Greenville, Fla., January 18
Judges: Kirk Law and Kent Patterson
CONTINENTAL OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour and Fifty Minutes Heats]
– 36 Pointers and 6 Setters

Winner—LESTER'S STORM SURGE, 1681624, pointer male, by Ransom-Beane's Line Dancer. Tommy & Bonnie Hamilton, owners; Gary Lester, handler.
Runner-Up—ERIN'S HIGH NOTE, 1696464, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Erin's Quickmarksman's Mae. Mike Moses, owner; Judd Carlton, handler.

NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIPS

Southern Shadows Rick Wins Shooting Dog Derby; Lawless Georgie Girl Wins Shooting Dog

By Tony King | Grovespring, Missouri | January 18, 2023

Blessed with seasonable weather for mid-January, amateur handlers from 13 different states traveled to the Ozark Highlands region near Grovespring, Mo., to participate in the running of the AFTCA National Amateur Shooting Dog Derby and Shooting Dog Championships. Highlighted by great camaraderie, generous sportsmanship, plentiful bird work, and spectacular dog performances, this year's event was the perfect setting for the sport's pinnacle of amateur shooting dog and derby championship venues.

The Sportsmen's Association field trial grounds are near Grovespring, Mo., in Wright County. This setting features a 2,800-acre field trial complex home to many of the field trial sport's largest and most important titular stakes each year. The facility boasts large gravel parking areas, two kennel setups, RV hookups, two horse barns, paddock-style horse corrals, a clubhouse for gatherings with sleeping quarters, and three one-hour courses that provide ample opportunity to showcase the talents of any top-notch field trial dog. The three courses vary in topography and habitat, allowing handlers to show a field trial dog that runs and handles. The Sportsmen's Association also conducts an early season pre-release quail program to supplement the ongoing release of quail by field trial clubs. These features and various amenities make for a very enjoyable experience.

Judicial consistency was key in acquiring judges for these two championships. Dr. Bob Rankin from Edmond, Okla., and Tim Penn from Edina, Mo., manned the judicial saddles for five straight days evaluating 23 derbies and 33 shooting dogs. Although neither had met before, the planned pairing of these two avid field trialers was an excellent combination of consistency, pace, effort, and attitude. Their cheerful attitudes and willingness to look at every dog the same way were contagious among the handlers and trial participants throughout these stakes. These two gentlemen are genuinely passionate about the sport of field trialing and work very hard to improve it by filling many leadership roles. Dr. Rankin is the current president of the American Brittany

Club and former AFTCA Trustee-at-Large (representative of the Brittany breed group). Tim is a Region 5 officer and the National Bird Hunters Association's National Secretary. Their experience and leadership ability served them well throughout the trial, as their decisions were well received. The AFTCA Board of Directors and regional trustees appreciate their services and their dedication to the sport of field trialing.

No successful field trial is complete without a great team of patrons who donate their time, experience, and energy to the sport of field trialing. This year's team consisted of current and former AFTCA trustees and several avid field trialers to host this successful event. The AFTCA organization was well represented at this year's running as Region 17 Trustee Luke Topp helped co-chair this event with me. Purina Committee Member and Trustee-at-Large (representative of the Vizsla breed) Mark Johnson was also in attendance to run dogs and help with many logistical duties during the trial. Adam DeLude again made the long trek from Wisconsin to run dogs and help host another national AFTCA event. Earlier in the season, Adam helped co-chair the AFTCA National Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship and was an integral part of this event. Former Trustee Lou Qualtiere was the dog wagon driver extraordinaire for this event. Although it seems trivial, a great dog wagon driver eliminates many headaches during a field trial. Finally, I would like to thank Valerie Burchette and Michelle Weaver as they catered the Purina dinner. As always, Valerie and Michelle's home-cooked pasta dinner and desserts were outstanding. Thanks to all these individuals, their generosity and dedication during this event were highly appreciated.

Field trials would not survive without the help of their sponsors. The AFTCA is very fortunate to have two of the industry's best. For years now, Purina and Garmin have graciously provided product and support to AFTCA Amateur National Championship stakes. Purina provided Pro Plan Performance, and Garmin provided e-collars to the

champion and runner-up in both stakes. Furthermore, Purina representatives Greg Blair and Terry Trzcinski were in attendance for Friday evening's Purina dinner. I would like to personally thank Greg and Terry for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend. The AFTCA would like to thank Garmin and Purina for their unwavering dedication and continued support.

The National Amateur Shooting Dog Derby Championship

After significant rain showers caused a delay in the running on Wednesday, a strong field of 23 derbies was brought to the line over the following two days to showcase their young abilities. In a whirlwind of activity that included many solid performances and plenty of bird work, littermate brothers from the Lance Servais and Brian Petersen team set themselves apart from the rest of the contenders.

Pointer males Southern Shadows Rick and Red Alert Lane, sired by Lester's Prime Poison Lane out of the producing female Southern Ritz Lane, captivated the judges with their strong, forward yet showy applications coupled with crisp, mature bird work, earning them champion and runner-up honors respectively.

After an early pickup, Southern Shadows Rick for Brian Petersen and Hale's Country Strong for Jeff Hale broke away with purpose at the top of Apple Tree Hill to begin brace No. 5. Across Apple Tree and through Little Vine Loop, both were showing nicely. At 12, Rick stood boldly on the left edge of the bottom corn field with County Strong backing beautifully. After a lengthy flushing attempt, an unproductive was recorded in the books for Rick. From there and through Sycamore Bottoms, both dogs were away with purpose. Up the hill and above Andy's, Country Strong recorded a nice find at the wooded draw on the left side. Both dogs hunted nicely through Twin Barns Pasture, and after a big swing across the south hillside, Rick recorded a nice find at 55 in the fence line above the chute

entry. With the clock winding down, the pair was away and headed for Bull Pasture, with Rick taking the right edge and Country Strong hunting thoroughly along the left. At the pick-up call, both dogs were seen finishing well and reaching near the Old Blue house.

Southern Shadows Rick was biddable during the hour, required little scouting and applied himself perfectly as the course topography and habitat varied. Always on the front end, Rick continued to reach and gain confidence in his pursuit. He seemed to yield to Petersen's commands but pushed the envelope of country while hunting every step. His bird work and style were unblemished, and his timely finish could not have been more ideal. Although the judges had many quality performances to choose from, Southern Shadows Rick's total performance separated itself from the rest of the field, earning him the Derby Championship title.

The advantage of having the course to yourself can be inviting but not having a challenging bracemate can often be problematic. The situation did not hinder Runner-up Derby Champion Red Alert Lane for Brian Petersen, as he ran in brace No. 7 as a bye-dog. Promptly away at 8 a.m. on Friday, Red Alert Lane started attacking the creek bottom edges on course 1. His thorough pursuit left no haunt unsearched as he was across the creeks and through the bottoms below Andy's house towards Davis Bottom. At 24, Red Alert Lane was on board with a stylish and mannerly find in the old middle fence line in Davis Bottom. From there, Petersen guided him across the cross creek and through Island Field, with Lane taking every edge and using the wind to his advantage. At 41, he was rewarded with a mannerly find below Horse Killer Hill. Away with time to spare, Red Alert Lane made easy work of Apple Tree Hill and Little Vine Bottoms. As the call of pick-up rang out, he finished going away with purpose and uphill near the course 2 breakaway. Lane's pursuit was unwavering like his champion littermate, and his bird work was decorous. This derby required little scouting as he never left the front end, thus solidifying his spot in the winners' circle.

The Running

Brace No. 1 featured Southern Shadows Bootleg for Lance Servais and Hale's Country On for Dr. Jeff Hale. Bootleg quickly went to work with a nice find before crossing the road into Davis Bottom and finishing his hour with a stop to flush at 45 and a final find at 50. Bootleg's hour was also impressive, being very biddable, mostly forward with mannerly bird work. In many situations, this performance would have earned the opportunity to land in the winners' circle. Hale's Country On finished the hour but was unable to point birds.

Game Street for John Van Horn and Worsham's Spitfire were away in brace No. 2. Van Horn requested the tracker early as Game Street failed to make the turn. Spitfire was applying himself thoroughly but was picked up for a breach of manners at 25 near the end



National Amateur Shooting Dog Derby Championship Winners: Lance Servais with Southern Shadows Rick and Brian Petersen with Red Alert Lane. (Back row): Mark Johnson, Adam DeLude, Dr. Bob Rankin (judge), Tony King, Luke Topp, Greg Blair (Purina representative), Tim Penn (judge), Dr. Pat McInter, and Jace and Jay Lewis.

of Sycamore Bottom.

High Mountdan Man for Scott Hadley and Alliwod's Eleventh Hour for Adam DeLude went to work quickly in brace No. 3. Mountdan Man was in the harness early, but Eleventh Hour proceeded to have finds at 7, 12, and 24. Nearing the end of the brace, DeLude elected to pick his derby up as her effort faltered.

Bob Barker brought Barker's Lightning Bolt to the line with Saginaw Luke Skywalker for Mark Johnson in brace No. 4. This pair was handling well and doing a nice job as they crossed the road into Davis Bottom. Barker asked for the tracker as Lightning Bolt did not make the turn into Island Field. Johnson elected to end Skywalker's bid, in Island Field, for a breach of manners.

Brace No. 5 has been reported as champion.

Brady's Fresh Starter for Van Horn and Chaos Tempo for Schmidt were loosed in brace No. 6 near Bull Pasture. The pair were hunting well through Bull Pasture and into Climer's. This pair's bid ended near 35, above the clubhouse, as each suffered a breach of manners on different pieces of bird work.

Brace No. 7 has been reported as runner-up champion.

Dr. Pat McInter brought Nemaha Touch A Grey to the line with Valora, handled by Jeff Hale for owner Rick Thone in brace No. 8. At 7, Touch A Grey was standing nicely with Valora backing along the left edge of the cornfield before entering Sycamore Bottom. Grey's bid ended shortly after as youthful exuberance took over during the flush. Valora suffered the same fate at 17 along the creek edge in Sycamore Bottom.

Away and up the hill toward Andy's in brace No. 9, Southern Shadows Wave for Servais and Alliwod's Never Say Never for DeLude started early. At 10, Wave was on point above the wooded draw with Never Say Never backing nicely. Towards the Twin Barns, both dogs scored again at 14, each having finds in different locations. From there, both dogs hunted well but with less reach than the winners. Never Say Never was busy throughout her hour, ending up with four more well-executed pieces of bird work at 16, 26,

28, and 59. Wave finished his hour strong but endured unproductives at 22 and 59.

Brace No. 10 brought Wreak Havok for Hadley to the line with Erin's Mason Man for Roger Key. Both dogs started well, with Wreak Havoc having finds at 31, 34, and an unproductive at 25. During the brace, Roger experienced a horse wreck. Due to the quick actions of the folks on site, Roger was quickly rushed to a local hospital. Roger suffered a laceration that required stitches and swelling in his ankle. Thankfully, all preliminary tests showed no broken bones or serious damage. Special thanks to Dr. Jeff Hale, Lou Qualtiere, and Kay Morrison for looking after Roger and help getting him to the hospital.

Southern Shadows Story for Servais ran as a bye-dog in brace No. 11. Having yet another strong entry, the team of Servais/Petersen aptly guided Story over course 2. Story finished the hour with good finds at 22, 44, and an unproductive at 40. Like the other Southern Shadows contenders, Story's hour was consistent, biddable, and forward in approach.

The final brace of the Derby Championship brought Johnny Be Good for Roger Keys, handled by Jim Lawless, to the line with Blair's Holy Thunder for Greg Blair. Holy Thunder's bid ended at 33 as he was in the harness for a breach of manners. Be Good was in the harness at 50 as the dog was doing a nice job but understandably seemed out of sorts with his new handler.

This year's AFTCA National Amateur Derby Championship can best be summarized by ample opportunity and quality performances. In speaking with the judges, they seemed impressed and quite pleased with the quality of amateur derbies that attended this year's event. They were overwhelmingly complimentary and proud of the mature abilities many of these young competitors exhibited. Rough calculations showed over 25 bird contacts in two days of running. Rarely did any derby go birdless or not have the opportunity to point birds. The competition was fierce but sportsmanlike throughout.

Grovespring, Mo., January 18
Judges: Tim Penn and Bob Rankin
NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG DERBY
CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 23 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner—SOUTHERN SHADOWS RICK, 1700851, pointer male, by Lester's Prime Poison Lane-Southern Ritz Lane. Lance Servais, owner; Brian Peterson, handler.
Runner-Up—RED ALERT LANE, 1700854, pointer male, by Lester's Prime Poison Lane-Southern Ritz Lane. Brian Peterson, owner and handler.

The National Amateur
Shooting Dog Championship

After a successful Friday evening celebration of announcing the derby winners and the camaraderie offered at the Purina dinner, amateur handlers switched gears, preparing to run their shooting dogs for this year's running of the AFTCA National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship. In contiguous format, dogs were brought to the line early Saturday for an 8 a.m. breakaway. Judges Dr. Bob Rankin and Tim Penn continued their assignment by staffing the judicial saddles for this event.

Over three days, 33 of the country's top amateur shooting dogs were brought to the line to vie for this year's titles. Besting this year's field of contenders was a pair of two pointer females from the Midwest. Jim Lawless's 6-year-old female, Lawless Georgie Girl, put on quite a show in brace No. 12 as she rolled through portions of the third and first-hour courses to earn this season's championship title. Georgie Girl's stellar four-find performance and reaching forward race captivated the judges and those in the gallery to witness it.

Adam DeLude's black and white pointer female, Alliwood's Shady Shay, earned the runner-up title. She demonstrated a workmen-like approach that provided the judicial panel with what can be best described as a consistent, smooth, right-in-the-pocket shooting dog presentation that yielded three well-spaced finds to solidify her spot on the championship platform.

In the last brace of the second day of running, Lawless Georgie Girl and Topp's Cassie were turned loose at the pond above the clubhouse. Across the top and headed downhill, both dogs veered left as the handlers proceeded towards Twin Barns. Topp's Cassie never regained the front, but Georgie Girl showed nicely near the Twin Barns area. Having the course to herself, Georgie Girl quickly went to work in the chute at 15 by pinning a pair of tight-sitting birds. Down the chute and bending left towards the end of Sycamore Bottom, Georgie Girl was on point again along the right edge and below the pond at 20. All in order for flush and shot, Georgie Girl shot across the road and pinned a covey of feeding birds at 24 for her third find.

Riding confidently, Jim piloted Georgie Girl as she traversed the bottoms below Andy's house. Still going strong, crossing the creek, and bending back on course 1, Georgie Girl made easy work of the breakaway portion of course 1. She hunted every step but was strong and forward, bending to Jim's every

command. After crossing the road and into Davis Bottom, Georgie Girl grabbed the right edge and faded out of sight along the creek bottom. At 59, the call of point rang out as Georgie Girl came into view proudly standing on her fourth and final find. As with the other three pieces of work, her lofty pose indicated exactly where the birds were, as all was in order for the work. A culmination of application, biddability, range, and bird work, Georgie Girl's total performance was of the type that you could run for days and not beat. As with many braces at the end of the day, few witnessed it. For the judges, scout, Jim, Kay, and those in the gallery, I'm sure it will be remembered for years to come.

Alliwood's Shady Shay for Adam DeLude and Working Class for Steve Auxier were brought to the line in the first brace on the final day of running. It was an overcast but cool morning as both dogs were promptly away on course 1 at 8 a.m. Both dogs were to the front through the breakaway section and across the creek, with Shady Shay taking the middle of the course and Working Class searching the right side.

At 16, after crossing the creek and checking the hidden field, Shady Shay had her first find in the far-right-hand corner. Both dogs were forward from there and into Davis Bottom, with Shay working the left hillside field and Working Class staying at the creek bottom. After working the hilltop field and navigating the timber, Shay showed to the front and went to work on the middle section of Davis Bottom. At 27, this stylish and biddable female had her second find. Away and rushing forward, DeLude and Shay caught the front. Across the creek and through Island Field, both dogs were going nicely. Entering the chute below Horse Killer Hill, Working Class was towards the end, but Shay was not in sight. With DeLude riding patiently and confidently as he made Horse Killer Hill, Adam continued to sing to his dog. As the handlers topped the hill, Shay showed to the front along the Apple Tree fence line. At 52, she was on point again at a motte of trees along the right side of Apple Tree Hill. After a lengthy flushing attempt, DeLude released Shay, and she exhibited a mannerly relocation. With all in order for flush and shot, Shady Shay quickly grabbed the front end, where she never left. She diligently worked Little Vine Bottoms, hunting every lick and punching the front end. At the call of pick up, Shay finished her hour, going uphill at the course 2 breakaway. Throughout her hour, Shay was not extreme but enough. She was consistently in the pocket and seemed to hit every likely birdy location. Similarly to the champion, Shay's bird work was accurate and her presentation intelligent, thus earning her the runner-up laurels.

The Running

Brace No. 1 included Lacy's Cool Hand Luke for Ronnie Miller and Blair's Calvary Mountain, handled by Adam DeLude for Greg Blair. At 19, Calvary Mountain had a nice find before crossing the road. After that, both dogs were in the harnesses early as Luke brought

a bird back to his handler, and Calvary Mountain was lost.

Hale's High Flyer for Jeff Hale and Aim High Elhew Hadley for Scott Hadley were away in Davis Bottom for brace No. 2. Flyer went to work early and had finds at 7 and 15 and a divided find at 38. Amy covered the country nicely and had a divided find at 38 and a second find at the end of her hour. Both dogs finished the hour.

Brace No. 3 featured the only Brittany in the Championship. Mr. Stanley for Dan Campbell was away with Lester's Top Recruit for Lance Servais. This brace featured much action as both dogs hunted well and applied themselves nicely through portions of course 2 and onto course 3. Mr. Stanley completed his hour commendably with finds at 11, 19, and 50. He backed nicely at 28 and suffered an unproductive at 58. Recruit also finished his hour with finds at 11, 25, 29, and 49, where the judges did not see the birds. He backed well at 19 but suffered unproductives at 7 and 56.

Topp's First J R for Luke Topp and Touch's Mac Daddy for Klaus Schmidt were away in brace No. 4 on course one. J R's time on the ground was solid but well-applied. He had a nice find at 10 just after crossing the creek with Mac Daddy backing nicely. At 18, Mac Daddy suffered an unproductive, but J R backed nicely. At 49, J R was on point again on top of Apple Tree Hill but was put in the harness shortly after due to a breach of manners. Mac Daddy pointed a dead bird at 45 and had a stop to flush at 54. He finished the hour.

Dr. Pat McInteer brought Nemaha Magic Marker to the line with Thumper's Anything But for Mike Duvall in brace No. 5. Both dogs applied themselves nicely throughout their hours. Marker had finds at 25 and 30, a back at 37, and an unproductive at 54. Anything But backed nicely at 25 and 30 with nice finds at 34, 37, and 58. Their time on the ground was forward and applicable. Both exhibited quality bird work and finished their hours near the course 3 breakaway.

In the final brace of the first day's running, Erin's Tin Lizzie for Mark Johnson and Hale's High Demand for Jeff Hale were turned loose near the clubhouse. Lizzie was on the board early with a nice find at 17. The brace ended early, for both competitors, in the chute as both suffered a breach of manners.

Southern Shadows T Rex for Brian Petersen and Griff's Express were away in brace No. 7 on course 1. Unfortunately, the brace ended early as both dogs failed to make the first creek crossing, and the handlers pulled the trackers early.

Reed's Super Spirit (Jason Reed) and Topp's Ice Chip were loosed in brace No. 8. Spirit had finds at 7 and 20 but was picked up at 27 for a breach of manners. Ice Chip was in the wagon early as she brought a bird back to her handler.

Mike DuVall brought his second contender,

Stellar's Natural Disaster, to the line with Erin's Mason Man, for Roger Key in brace No. 9. Both dogs' bids ended early as Mason Man suffered two unproductives, and Disaster endured a breach of manners.

Ramblin Rivers Natural for Bill Stapleton had a good go in brace No. 10 with Hale's Smooth Touch for Jeff Hale. Natural was strong and applied himself nicely. He had a good find at 44 but acquired a limber tail and was put in the wagon. Smooth Touch was also going well, but two unproductives ended his bid at 50.

Brace No. 11 featured Bubba and Amy Spencer's Cocklebur Breaking Bad and Bryan Sheehan's Erin's Rebel Attraction. Away in Little Vine on course 2, both dogs were hunting well as they made the turn and headed for Sycamore Bottom. Through the cornfield area and around the bend, the pair took independent edges as they were apt to the front and through the bottom. At 24, Breaking Bad had a nice find above Andy's, demonstrating breathtaking style. Both dogs hunted independently through Twin Barns Pasture and towards Bull Pasture. At 35, Rebel Attraction was pointed on the right edge near the Bull Pasture gates, with Breaking Bad showing a picturesque back. Temptation got the best of Rebel Attraction, and he was quickly put in the harness. Having the course to himself, Breaking Bad had two more pieces of bird work before exiting Bull Pasture. On each, his style elevated, and his birds were accurately located. He finished his hour, leaving Climer's Pasture near the course 3 breakaway.

Braces No. 12 and No. 13 were previously described under the champion and runner-up champion.

Brace No. 14 brought Bromance for Jon Humphrey as a bye-dog to the line due to an earlier scratch. Bromance finished his hour with finds at 12, 27, 37, 45, and 59. A commendable performance that provided the judges with yet another dog to consider.

Lawless Speck for Jim Lawless and Wreak Havok for Hadley were away in brace No. 15. Wreak Havok was up early for a breach of manners at 7. Speck had finds at 10, 20, and 22. At 26, Speck was put in the harness for an unfortunate breach of manners.

Iron And Wine for Humphrey and Ten Oaks Annie for Jeanette Heise were loosed in brace



National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship Winners (from left): Jim Lawless with Lawless Georgie Girl and Luke Topp with Alliwood's Shady Shay. (Standing, from left): Dan Campbell, Dr. Bob Rankin (judge), Lou Qualtiere, Janet Heise, Tim Penn (judge), Tony King, and Adam DeLude.

No. 16. Both dogs applied themselves well throughout course 1. They were both strong and independent. Iron And Wine had finds at 24, 48, and a turkey find at time. Annie had finds at 12 and 51 with mannerly backs at 46 and at time.

The final brace of the Championship brought veteran Chukarhill Rimrock Eiger for Cindy Findley to the line with Klaus Schmidt's Touch's Micro Dot. Eiger had nice finds at 8 and 25 but suffered two unproductives to end his bid. Although Eiger's bid didn't go how Cindy had hoped, it was special and memorable as Cindy announced Chukarhill Rimrock Eiger's retirement from competition. Micro Dot had a find at 24 but was picked up at 42 near Twin Barns Pond as he did not please his handler.

This year's running of the AFTCA National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship was a tremendous success. The combination of

favorable weather, a great field trial venue, ample opportunity to point birds, and plenty of fellowship led to an overwhelmingly positive event. As with the Derby Championship, the competition was strong, with several championship-worthy performances for the judges to consider. The AFTCA Board of Directors and Regional Trustees would again like to thank the Sportsmen's Association, judges, sponsors, amateur handlers, and field trial patrons who attended and participated.

NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 36 Pointers, 1 Setter and 1 Brittany
Winner—LAWLESS GEORGIE GIRL, 1676697, pointer female, by Oak Grove Pacemaker-Homestead Georgia. Jim Lawless, owner and handler.
Runner-Up—ALLIWOOD'S SHADY SHAY, 1669475, pointer female, by Busterado-Seranoa's Union Station. Adam DeLude, owner and handler.



Presenting Judges Gifts: Region 17 Trustee Luke Topp, Tim Penn (judge), Dr. Bob Rankin (judge), and Region 5 Trustee Tony King.



Presentation of Raffle Prize: Region 17 Trustee Luke Topp, Mark Johnson (winner), and Region 5 Trustee Tony King.

ROUND POND FIELD TRIAL CLUB
Miller's Heat Wave Wins Amateur Shooting Dog Classic
By Cayla Key | Leslie, Georgia | January 18, 2023

The Round Pond Amateur Shooting Dog Classic was held in its usual time frame, the third weekend in January.

The judicial saddles were ridden by two well-known and very successful men in the

bird dog world, Scott Jordan and Lavon King. This great duo judiciously watched all the contenders during the whole trial. Their time and effort to come out and judge were greatly appreciated. Also, we would like to thank Cayla Key for riding and reporting this trial.

Round Pond was in excellent condition. There were plenty of Bobwhite quail throughout the entire plantation. Tracy Swearingen and Neil Walker did a great job preparing the grounds for this trial. Thanks to the Swearingen family (Tracy marshaled

every brace and Al Swearingen drove the bird buggy); Sanders Walker for monitoring the dirt roads so all the horses and dogs were safe; Purina and Greg Blair for all they do for our sport; Christy Swearingen and Debbie Hofer who helped prepare all the meals; and to Riley Anderson and David McMahan for coming out and putting on a great performance Saturday night. We would also like to thank the Walkers for allowing us to continue this trial on their beautiful grounds. If it weren't for them, we wouldn't be able to put on this wonderful trial.

Miller's Heat Wave, owned and handled by Jack and Fran Miller, was declared the winner with eight clean finds at 2, 5, 9, 11, 30, 40, 47, and 53. Her performance kept you high up in the saddle as she impressed everyone with each step she took. The judges never wanted to take their eyes off her. Each step displayed strength, high style, and lots of class. She hunted diligently and pointed birds with a strong style and perfect manners. She also had

a strong forward race and always stayed to the front of the gallery. The bar had been set at the end of her performance, and a true winner was on top.

Tee's Sweet Emotion, owned by Christy Swearingen and handled by Brian Sanchez, was declared second with four finds. At breakaway, he chalked up a divided find with his bracemate at 8. He stood with great class and manners. He chalked up two more divided finds with his bracemate at 14 and 21. He had his last find at 49, displaying perfect manners. He had a solid drive hunting with each step he took. He was all class with a nice overall performance throughout his hour. He had impeccable manners and stood beautifully. He also had a solid forward stance and never disappointed.

Lone Tree Splish Splash, owned and handled by Bill Owen, was declared third with four finds. She gave an outstanding performance on the ground, putting on an

excellent race with divided finds at 8, 14, and 21 with her bracemate, Tee's Sweet Emotion. She chalked up her last find at 30. She displayed excellent manners. She had a good forward race and a strong ground with excellent bird work.

Thank you to everyone that came out and supported this trial. Thank you to all the handlers and scouts that came out to participate. We couldn't do this without you all.

Leslie, Ga., January 18
Judges: Scott Jordan and Lavon King
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

[One-Hour Heats] – 37 Pointers and 3 Setters

1s—MILLER'S HEAT WAVE, 1675842, pointer female, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Fran & Jack Miller, owners; Fran Miller, handler.

2d—TEE'S SWEET EMOTION, 1699148, pointer male, by Touch's Red Rider-Tee's Funseekin Belle. Tracy & Christy Swearingen, owners; Brian Sanchez, handler.

3d—LONE TREE SPLISH SPLASH, 1672171, pointer female, by Frontline Shack Attack-Whippoorwill Wild Spark. Bill Owen, owner and handler.

OLD HICKORY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Virgil Beasley, Sr. Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog Classic In Honor & Memory of Harry Layne

By Jeff Blackwell | LaVergne, Tennessee | January 20, 2023

Harry Layne was an integral member of the Old Hickory Field Trial Club since his son Dereck took the club's reins in 2007. Dereck wanted to honor his mother's (Shirley Beasley Layne) Uncle Virgil, who for a time put on trials as the Old Hickory Field Trial Club and started the Classic in 2008. Harry served as the dog wagon master, money collector, snack and water provider, and, most importantly, the welcome committee. With a smile and handshake, he was always glad to see and talk to everyone that attended the trials. Harry provided a truck and dog wagon for the Old Hickory club and was almost always available for all other horseback clubs at Percy Priest WMA—Southern Circuit, Southern Comfort, Tennessee Valley, Cumberland, and McMinnville—thus earning him Region 6 Sportsman of the Year '20-'21. Harry passed away in August 2022 and is greatly missed by many he touched in the field trial world. This year's running was in honor of him.

Dereck Layne and his wife Tracy were up early and had the clubhouse smelling like home as they cooked sausage and biscuits and made coffee for all to enjoy. January weather in middle Tennessee can be uncertain, but this year was nearly perfect. Partly sunny skies and 35 degrees greeted all on Friday morning, January 20, as I welcomed our judges Kaley Lee, from Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Payton Gunby, from Valdosta, Ga. After thanking our sponsors, Purina Feed (Greg Blair) and Tennessee Farmers Co-op (Lincoln Mosley), introducing club officials, and praying for our blessings and safety, the first brace of derbies was turned loose.



Harry Layne

Joe Hughes and his pointer female, The Lovely Lady May, had a stylish find at 18 just before entering Devil's Garden and showed well on the ground. Bracemate Shepherd's Blackfoot Jane, Ronnie Roger's female setter, would not cooperate and be up early. Ronnie's day improved as Shepherds Doc Holiday, a male setter, laid down a nice ground race in the second brace but went birdless. His mate, Bryant's Give It A Rip, owned and handled by Kenton Bryant, ripped it a little too far and required the tracking unit to collect him at 15. Buddy Morrison's pointer male High Drive Trouble was trouble, and Ronnie Roger's male setter Shepherd's Blackbull was bullheaded; both dogs got out of pocket, and trackers were requested, thus ending the derby competition. The winner was The Lovely Lady May for Hughes, and second place went to Shepherds Doc Holiday and Rogers.

The Virgil Beasley Classic was underway at 9:50 a.m. in front of the clubhouse. Morrison and Rogers were back in the saddles guiding Miller's Triple Digit Heat and Painted Blackhawk Sadie, respectively. Heat scored finds at 48 in Gas Line Field, at 19 under the

Big Oak, and again at 7 in the Banana Field but was gone at time. Sadie made her first stand at 54 in very nice style, and with Percy Priest Lake in the background, she made a pretty picture. She also pointed in Gas Line Field at 50, near Carp Pond at 40, and again at 36 down the same fence row on a different bird but suffered an unproductive cutting through to the next field. A stop to flush was recorded at the Big Oak, and Sadie finished the hour doing a nice job.

After lunch, the temperature had warmed to 47 degrees with full sun and a slight breeze coming off the lake. Madison McDonald put down High Drive Avenger but picked him up early as he didn't want to participate on this day. Phil Morgan and Miller's Direct Line had the course to themselves and had bird work at 45 at Carp Pond, at 37 at the Power Line turn, and pointed again at 34 at the road crossing, but no bird was found. At 15, Direct Line pointed in a very dense hedge row, and Phil decided the old man had done enough and elected to pick up. The second brace after lunch kicked off at the "S" curve with McDonald and High Drive Bandit versus Thor For President and Rogers. Thor scored first at the end of the S-curve fence row with Bandit backing. His second was after relocation in the woods in the small bean field at 42, then at 37 at Carp Pond Field, at 30 in Gas Line Field, and his fifth and final with two minutes remaining in Banana Field. Bandit got separated from the reporter's party but scored two finds, one unproductive, then made a wrong turn, and the tracker was requested.

The day's final pairing saw Scott Little and Warrioto's Crazy Daisy and Morrison with

Windy Hill Shadow Dancer turned loose at Martin Lane. Both dogs were found standing just past the Zig Zag for a beautiful divided find at 56. Cast down Big Bean Field, across Pond Dam, and through the woods, both dogs were again side by side at the end of the Lake Field locked up on birds. As handlers approached, excitement got the best of both dogs as they decided to relocate on their own but got too close, and birds were in the air ending the day at 46.

Dereck and Tracy treated again with sausage, biscuits, and coffee Saturday morning. The 7:30 a.m. start was a chilly 27 degrees, but not a cloud in the sky. Gentry's Gus for Taylor Henley and One Day Lucky Strike for Lane Hodges broke away with much energy. Gus had home-field advantage and knew the bird locations, but Taylor couldn't produce a bird at 53 where Gus said they were, and an unproductive was noted as Strike backed. Strike pointed at 46, and all was in order at the second road crossing. Gus did have birds in Gas Line Field at 44. Both dogs went on a limb and shared a find by the lake at 30. Back on course, Gus locked up at the Power Line turn at 25, but Strike didn't honor and was ordered up. Gus had the judges and reporter busy by scoring three more times past the Big Oak at 17, in Banana Field at 7, and again at 3 on the opposite hedge row for a total of six.

Next up was Jade Todd handling DuBose's Super Dog, and Joe Hughes handling J Maple Jester. Jester pointed at 59, not 20 yards from the Martin Lane breakaway, but the bird had vanished. Super Dog found his bird at the end of the same field but failed to stand boldly and was ordered up.

Jester was again standing in the Zig Zag hedgerow, but excitement got the best of him, and the brace was over. Little and Henley put down Wariot's Mia Storm and Gentry's Little Jane, respectively. Jane scored in the lane at Poole's Knob at 57. Both dogs were smelling birds at 33, but neither could hold their feet still, bringing the brace to an end.

Bobby DuBose brought DuBose's Wander Bog to the line to run with his littermate, One Day La Bandita and Hodges. Both dogs were standing at 47 at the end of Banana Field, but Wander Bog did not stand boldly and was ordered up for breach of manners. Bandita continued solo and had game again at 19 on a pretty piece of work just off the course near Gas Line Field. She did suffer an unproductive after an extensive flushing attempt near the lake in the same spot as Gentry's Gus did earlier. Bandita pleased the



Virgil Beasley, Sr., Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog Classic Winners (front, from left). One Day Queen Bee with handler Lane Hodges, Nickajack Pathfinder with scout Caroline Leonard, and One Day La Bandita with scout Darcy Hodges. (Back, from left): Tracy Layne and Malachi, Micah, Morgan, and Mason, Bobby DuBose, Payton Gunby (judge), Ross Leonard, Kaley Lee (judge), Madi Tilley, Jade Todd, Jeff Blackwell, and Stetson Blackwell.

judges with style and a nice ground race as well. With four braces under our belts, it was time to break for lunch. Tennessee Farmers Co-op provided barbecue sandwiches, chips, cookies, and sweet tea. They also donated the Orca cooler for our winner. We appreciate the Co-op's long-time sponsorship!

It's always good to see youth at any trial. This year, we enjoyed having judge Kaley Lee's daughter Madi Tilley ride a few braces, Dereck and Tracy's boys, Mason, Morgan, and Micah, who also rode, and Malachi, the youngest, kept mom entertained at the clubhouse. Troy Headden took over the dog wagon duties and was assisted by Stetson Blackwell on Saturday.

A beautiful sunny 47-degree afternoon brought out a big gallery for the final two pairings of the classic. Hughes blew the whistle over Gal Gadot, and Hodges directed One Day Queen Bee. Gadot scored first at 52 just before the second road crossing. Both dogs were found pointed at 37 at the Big Oak and again at 34 at the Devil's Garden entrance, and divided finds were noted. Gadot had an



Amateur Derby Winners (front, from left): The Lovely Lady May with handler Joe Hughes and Shepherds Doc Holiday with handler Ronnie Rogers. (Back, from left): Tracy Layne and Malachi, Mason, Morgan, Payton Gunby (judge), Madi Tilley, Kaley Lee (judge), Arnold Hall, and Jeff Blackwell.

unproductive at 23 at the end of Banana Field, and Bee tallied a back. Bee was first to the birds after crossing Martin Lane at 18, and Gadot moved in to honor but wanted to creep closer, and it was too much for the judge, and Gadot was finished. Bee took advantage of running solo and scored twice more at 15 to the left of the Zig Zag and at 11 at the end of Big Bean Field. Bee finished the hour strong and to the front at the Knob.

Brace No. 10 saw Nickajack Pathfinder handled by Ross Leonard and DuBose's What A Dog handled by DuBose. Pathfinder was first to score at 40 near the Zig Zag cut through as What A Dog backed. The same situation at 30 entering the Knob field and a divided find was shared at 24 before Carp Pond Field. Pathfinder pointed shortly after at the Carp Pond field, and What A Dog again backed. What A Dog found game in Lake Field across the road from the clubhouse, this time Pathfinder backing. Both dogs finished the hour to close out the trial.

LaVergne, Tenn., January 20
Judges: Payton Gunby and Kaley Lee
VIRGIL BEASLEY, SR. MEMORIAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

[One-Hour Heats] – 19 Pointers and 1 Setter

- 1st—ONE DAY QUEEN BEE, 1684579, pointer female, by Heard Hill's Memory Lane-DuBose's Snow White. Lane Hodges, owner and handler.
- 2d—NICKAJACK PATHFINDER, 1680947, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Cocklebur Stripper Candie. Ross Leonard, owner and handler.
- 3d—ONE DAY LA BANDITA, 1684577, pointer female, by Heard Hill's Memory Lane-DuBose's Snow White. Lane Hodges, owner and handler.

AMATEUR DERBY – 2 Pointers and 4 Setters

- 1st—THE LOVELY LADY MAY, 1702016, pointer female, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Gal Gadot. Joe Hughes, owner and handler.
- 2d—SHEPHERDS DOC HOLIDAY, 1699421, setter male, by Daphne's Gage-Smithridge Freckled Annie. William R. Rogers, owner and handler.

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THERESA PATTERSON — A HEALTH UPDATE

Retired professional trainer, Randy Patterson, reported that his wife, Theresa, has been diagnosed with advanced stage lung cancer.

She'll begin treatments soon and would welcome prayers and support from all their friends throughout the field trial community.

Please send cards of support to:
 The Pattersons
 11905 TN Hwy. 193, Williston, TN 38076

ATLANTIC COAST OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Miller's High Heat Index Named Champion; Faithful, Runner-Up

By David Huffine | Hoffman, North Carolina | January 24, 2023

Miller's High Heat Index, a 4-year-old white and orange pointer male owned by Stanton Harrell and Casey Hollander, bested a field of 40 dogs to win the 2023 running held at the Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds in Hoffman, N. C. The Championship began on January 24. "Scooter" was handled by Mike Tracy and scouted by Bob Youngs.

The runner-up champion was Faithful, a 4-year-old white and orange pointer female owned by Susan and Roger Duerksen, also handled by Mike Tracy, and scouted by Tony Bingham.

Judges for the Championship were Jeff Haggis of Glencoe, Ontario, and Gene Hogge of Virginia Beach, Va. Both judges have significant experience judging championship trials and training and campaigning their dogs. Their expertise and attention to detail were evident throughout the trial.

Bird numbers were irregular throughout the trial. The first day produced nine finds, but numbers lagged thereafter, likely due to changing weather conditions.

Champions' Summary

The champion was released in brace No. 2 on course 2 at approximately 9:17. The frost was melting, and conditions were excellent following an early morning temperature of 26 degrees. His bracemate was Mohawk Mill Bad Boy, a handsome pointer male handled by Tony Bingham. Both dogs had perfect Hoffman shooting dog races, showing to the front consistently and stylishly. Bingham's dog had a find at 13 with Tracy's dog backing. Tony called for the tracker at 35 after an extended absence, leaving Scooter on his own. The exceptional ground race appeared in vain until a find at 55 on a large covey put him in the pole position, which he held for the remainder of the trial.

The runner-up ran in brace No. 16, which began Friday on course 1. Faith and her bracemate A Carolina's Sport, a setter handled by Calvin Curnutte, broke away at 8:02 in 29-degree weather. She immediately broke to the front and ran an excellent, consistent, continuous forward race. She had a flawless find at 53, which gave her the bird work necessary for the runner-up placement. Calvin's dog looked good on the ground. He had an unproductive at 45 and finished his hour.

The Running

The Championship began Tuesday morning with dogs breaking away on course 1 at 8:03 in a chilly 26 degrees. An unusually heavy frost on the ground, the morning sun on the frost, and the steam from the horses created a



Atlantic Coast Open Shooting Dog Championship Winners (from left): Miller's High Heat Index, Faithful, Mike Tracy, Tony Bingham, Gene Hogge (judge), Jeff Haggis (judge), Carolyn Quinn, Greg Roberson, Ginny Emerson, Gretchen Adsit, Bill Faust, Jim Emerson, and Ray Joye.

shimmering vision for the gallery.

Brace No. 1 matched Hauser's Rollin Thunder (PM/M. Tracy) with Hirollins Gone And Doneit (PM) handled by Tony Bingham. Both dogs showed nice forward races and looked classy on the ground. Bingham's dog, "Gunner," had an unproductive at 45. At 55, both dogs were found standing with Bingham's dog to the front. Both handlers flushed and fired as a nice covey of birds arose from the feed strip. Both dogs completed their allotted hour.

Brace No. 2 was previously described.

Smoke Rise Jake (PM/Bingham) and J C L's Hap (PM/Tracy) broke away for brace No. 3. Jake had finds at 16 and 42, looking good on both opportunities. Jake finished his hour. Hap backed on the first find but went with the birds as they flew his way on the flush.

Tuesday afternoon brought Steel City Alabama, a pointer male handled by Matt Basilone, and Greypointe Ponderosa (PM/Curnutte) to the line at the course 4 breakaway. Unfortunately, neither dog was able to produce birds. Matt's dog was long for most of the brace, and he called for the tracker at 50. Calvin's dog handled well and had a more modest race. He finished his hour.

Brace No. 5 was Wayward Flyin Tomato, a setter male handled by Mark Hughes, and Miller's Extreme Heat (PF/Tracy). Mark's dog had a nice, forward race, showing good range. Tracy's dog had perhaps the best race of the day, with a classy gait and showing exceptionally well to the front. Both dogs were found standing at 50 with Mark's setter slightly to the front. The handlers fired as the birds lifted from a hillside feed patch, leaving the judges to sort out what had occurred. Both dogs finished their hour.

Miller's Hopped Up Version (PF/Hughes) began "hopped up" with finds at 1 and 8

but followed the promising start with two unproductives, ending her day, and was finished. Bracemate Cheyenne Jack (PM/Tracy) spent too much time near Mike and was picked up at 14.

The weather report was a bit ominous for Wednesday morning, with moderate rain predicted at 11 a.m. and strong winds and thunderstorms to follow. Brace No. 7 began at the clubhouse with Bittersweet War Cry (PM/Tracy) and Santee River Big George (PM/Bingham) breaking away ahead of the storm. Mike's dog had an extremely impressive race that verged on all-age. It was possibly the best race of the Championship, but he could not locate birds. Bingham's dog had a more erratic race and was not seen after the midway point of the brace. Tony called for the tracker at 45.

Brace No. 8 featured Triple Nickel Carbon Copy (PM/Basilone) and Southpoint's Hog Wild (PM/Tracy). Neither dog had bird contact. Matt's dog had a moderate race, handled well, and finished his hour. Mike's dog had a medium to long race, but his ground pattern did not please his handler, and he was up at 34.

The last brace of the morning matched Hauser's Hard Line (PM/Tracy) with T's American Jake (ESM/Bingham). Tony's setter handled well early but disappeared before the creek bottom on course 3. Tony and his scout searched for the dog but ultimately called for the tracker at 20. Mike's young dog had an unproductive at 3 but did not range to the front enough to suit him and was up at 25.

The unstable weather arrived as predicted, with periodic heavy rain and winds, and the afternoon braces were canceled.

On Thursday morning, 41 degrees and clearing greeted brace No. 10. Smoke Rise Hanna (PF/Bingham) was paired with Jolene Jolene (PF/Tracy). Mike's dog had an unproductive at 5, and her race was a bit modest thereafter. She was up at 15. Hanna backed on the bracemate's unproductive and had an unproductive of her own. She showed a medium race until Tony put her in a "bird finding" mode. Unfortunately, the birds did not cooperate.

Brace No. 11 matched Bully Rock (PM/Tracy) with Harbor City Sure Shot (PF/Basilone). Tracy's dog showed a medium race early but shortened a bit later. He had an unproductive at 39. Mike picked him up at 46. Sure Shot had an unproductive at 37, and Matt picked up at 48 after a medium race.

Brace No. 12 was headlined by last year's runner-up champion, Reedy Creek Dial Tone (PM/Tracy) and Miller's Special Upgrade (PF/Hughes). Dial Tone showed the race and style that caught the judges' attention the previous

year. A find at 45 gave him the bird work to put him in contention. Mark's dog competed well with a medium to long race. He had an unproductive at 21 but couldn't produce a find.

The afternoon braces began on course 4 with Miller's Record Heat (PF/Tracy) and Knight's Last Chipster (PM/Bingham) on the line. Record Heat had a long, stylish race with a find at 7 that also made her a dog to be considered. Tony's dog shared the find at 7. He finished his hour with a nice forward race.

Sweet Grass Slim (ESM/Huffine) and Miller's War Bonnet (PF/Tracy) broke away on course 5 to begin brace No. 14. Both dogs showed well on the long field running near the highway, but Slim came back to record an unproductive. Mike's dog also had an unproductive at 25 with Slim backing. Both dogs shared in their final unproductive at 35, ending the trial for both of them.

The final brace of the day featured Suemac's Sashay (PF/Hughes) and Waybetter Rocky (PM/Tracy). Mark's dog had a find at 15, followed by unproductives at 33 and 43. Rocky had a medium race with an unproductive at 39. Rocky was not moving the dogs that had previously run, and Mike picked him up.

Brace No. 16 was previously described.

Smoke N Mirrors (PF/Basilone) and Waybetter Rebel (PM/Tracy) were in the second brace of the morning on Friday. Matt's dog had a satisfactory race but suffered unproductives at 20 and 45. Rebel had an unproductive at 20, followed by a find at 50. He finished his hour.

Brace No. 18 consisted of Gambler's Next Addition (PM/Tracy) and Doc's Haven Jake's Law (PM/Bingham). Addition was up at 22 when it was evident he was not beating the dogs on the board. Tony's dog had an unproductive at 24 and was picked up shortly thereafter.



Open Derby Winners (from left): Buffalo Junction Klaus, My Way Coal Train, Sweet Grass Skipper, Mac Hilliard, Tony Bingham, David Huffine, Gene Hogge (judge), Jeff Haggis (judge), Carolyn Quinn, Nan Hilliard, Ginny Emerson, Gretchen Adsit, Bill Faust, Jim Emerson, and John Adsit.

Brace No. 19 pitted Dunn's True Rein (PM/Tracy) and Clayhill Bones (PM/Bingham). Mike's dog had difficulty finding the front and was up at 26. Tony's dog wasn't beating the leaders and was up at 26 also.

The final brace of the Championship matched Fort River's Lucky Charm (ESM/Basilone) and Greypointe Nubarron (PM/Curnutte). Matt's dog was stylish but had a modest ground race. He finished his hour. Calvin's dog looked good and showed solid casts but had unproductives at 20 and 56. He was allowed to finish his hour.

Hoffman, N. C., January 24

Judges: Jeff Haggis and Gene Hogge
ATLANTIC COAST OPEN

OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 35 Pointers and 5 Setters

Winner—MILLER'S HIGH HEAT INDEX, 1685674, pointer male, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Stanton Harrell & Casey Hollander, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.
Runner-Up—FAITHFUL, 1684597, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Steel City Karen. Susan & Roger Duerksen, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

Open Derby

The Atlantic Coast Open Derby followed the Championship. Entries were sparse, with only six dogs being entered. Seasoned Hoffman pro, Mac Hilliard, showed everyone how it is done with a blazing race by Buffalo

Junction Klaus (PM), owned by Al and Jenna Dahl, to easily take first. Tony Bingham guided My Way Coal Train (PM) owned by J. D. Waters to second place. Sweet Grass Skipper (ESM) took third for David Huffine, owner/handler.

OPEN DERBY – 4 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st—BUFFALO JUNCTION KLAUS, 1698145, pointer male, by Sugarknoll Bushwacker-Buffalo Junction Mae. Al & Jenna Dahl, owners; Mac Hilliard, handler.

2d—MY WAY COAL TRAIN, 1700554, pointer male, by Bonner's Excalibur-Hirollins Canadian Mist. J. D. Waters, owner; Tony Bingham, handler.

3d—SWEET GRASS SKIPPER, 1698209, setter male, by Sweet Grass Slim-Tower Hill Zoey Zee. David Huffine, owner and handler.

Acknowledgments

The Duplin County Field Trial Club has sponsored this trial for several decades. Bill Faust is the heart and soul of the club and this Championship. Bill is 89 years old and plans, worries and frets over the Championship each year. Bill's incredible dog memory recalls almost every good performance he has seen at the Championship since inception, and it is a treat to hear his stories.

Carolyn Quinn helps with the drawing, keeps notes on all braces, cooks, serves meals, and fills in as club secretary/treasurer when the elected official is absent.

We appreciate Greg Robinson, who drives the gallery/dog wagon and provides beverages and snacks during the morning and afternoon breaks.

The Duplin County Club commends the North Carolina Field Trial Association for diligently implementing and continually improving the bird program at Hoffman. Weather prevented some of the scheduled releases, and birds were spotty this year, but it is not for lack of effort.

Finally, this Championship would not survive without the support of Purina, and the club expresses its full gratitude for the sponsorship.

CLARKSVILLE BIRD DOG CLUB

Rebel Survivor Wins Amateur All-Age; Southern Shadows T Rex, Amateur Shooting Dog

By Lisa Little | Huntingdon, Tennessee | January 26, 2023

The Clarksville Bird Dog Club held its amateur field trial on the prestigious grounds of the David Williams family in Huntingdon, Tenn., on January 26-30. The trial began with the United States Amateur Derby Invitational 2023 East Region Super Qualifier. We were honored to have the opportunity to co-host the event this year. Region 6 competitors have shown strongly in the Derby Invitational each year.

A field trial can only be successfully run with the expertise and work of many volunteers to fulfill all the necessary roles. The club was extremely grateful to have Keith St.

John and Chris Sellers fulfill the judicial seat for the Amateur Shooting Dog and Amateur All-Age stakes. Both gentlemen brought vast field trialing and judging experience to the event. David Williams, Phillip Barnett, and Scott Little spent several hours Wednesday in the strong winds and bitter cold, setting out 500 quail over the three courses. Dog wagon drivers Dan Warrick, Lebob Stanfill, and John Burrow were always ready at each road crossing to ensure competitors' safety, assist with loading and unloading dogs, and tend to field trialers' needs between braces. Michele Clark, Angie Williams, and Elise Warrick

were on hand with meal preparation and clean-up throughout the five-day event.

Michelle Clark, Gary McKibben, Phillip Barnett, and Scott Little also served as marshals and scouts. We are incredibly appreciative to David Williams and his family for the use of the facilities, grounds, and housing for the judges. I would be amiss if I didn't mention how thankful we are for each handler and their canine competitors, all of which are top-notch. Lastly, I thank Sportsman's Pride for supporting our amateur trial. Their generosity is shown by assisting with advertising costs and sending product gift



Amateur All-Age Winners (front, from left): David Williams with Rebel Survivor, Mike Small with Small's White Charger, and Gary McKibben with Coldwater Paradise. (Behind, from left): Angie Williams, Mason Ashburn, Keith St. John (judge), and Chris Sellers (judge).

cards for the stake winners.

The Amateur Shooting Dog stake began after lunch on Friday afternoon with a field of 18 competitors and nine handlers. Taking the top honors for the stake was Southern Shadows T Rex. This white and liver pointer male was handled by Brian Peterson and scouted by owner Lance Servais. Running on Saturday afternoon on the first-hour course, Rex had one find and a big ground-covering brace. Rex recently turned five years old and is the son of Skyfall and Miller's White Wall. Second place was awarded to Nickajack Pathfinder, a 5-year-old white and orange pointer male handled by his owner Ross Leonard. "Willy" ran Saturday afternoon on the second hour's course. He had one back, one unproductive, and a very nice shooting dog ground race. Willy is the son of Touch's Smooth Rider and Cocklebur Stripper Candie. Garnishing third place was Lester's Top Recruit for owner and handler Lance Servais. Top Recruit is a 5-year-old white and liver



Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (front, from left): Brian Peterson with Southern Shadows T Rex, Ross Leonard with Nickajack Pathfinder, and Lance Servais with Lester's Top Recruit. (Behind, from left): Scott Little, Keith St. John (judge), and Chris Sellers (judge).

pointer male by Lester's Sunny Hill Jo and Rivertons Funseeker Riley. Top Recruit ran on the third hour's course Saturday morning, no bird work occurred, but he impressed the judges with his ground race and handling skills.

The Amateur All-Age stake began Sunday morning, having a field of 16 competitors and eight handlers. The most impressive brace occurred on the third-hour course Sunday afternoon. Rebel Survivor set the standard with four finds, one back, and a forward, fast pace. This impressive performance earned "Solo" the first placement for his handler and owner, David Williams. Rebel Survivor is a 5-year-old white and orange male pointer by Rebel Pride and In Swami's Shadow. Braced with Rebel Survivor was Mike Small's white and orange male pointer, Small's White Charger. White Charger had one find and an impressive fast-running ground race and was always to the front. Small's White Charger is four years old and out of Phillips Off

Line and Phillips North Line. Earning third place honors and the only female to earn a placement during the trial was Coldwater Paradise. "Josie" is a 3-year-old white and orange pointer by Coldwater Spectre and Coldwater Belle. She made her mark on the first-hour course Sunday afternoon with a nice piece of bird work and a beautiful ground race for owner and handler Gary McKibben.

Thanks again to the handlers, owners, volunteers, and sponsor for helping make this a fun and successful trial!

Huntingdon, Tenn., January 26
Judges: Chris Sellers and Keith St. John
AMATEUR ALL-AGE
[One-Hour Heats] – 14 Pointers, 1 Setter
and 1 Irish Setter

1st—REBEL SURVIVOR, 1680246, pointer male, by Rebel Pride-In Swami's Shadow. David Williams, owner and handler.

2d—SMALL'S WHITE CHARGER, 1687724, pointer male, by Phillips Off Line-Phillips North Line. Mike Small, owner and handler.

3d—COLDWATER PARADISE, 1684062, pointer female, by Coldwater Spectre-Coldwater Belle. Gary McKibben, owner and handler.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
[One-Hour Heats] – 13 Pointers, 2 Setters
and 3 Irish Setters

1st—SOUTHERN SHADOWS T REX, 1682853, pointer male, by Skyfall-Miller's White Wall. Lance Servais, owner; Brian Peterson, handler.

2d—NICKAJACK PATHFINDER, 1680947, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Cocklebur Stripper Candie. Ross Leonard, owner and handler.

3d—LESTER'S TOP RECRUIT, 1681841, pointer male, by Lester's Sunny Hill Jo-Rivertons Funseeker Riley. Lance Servais, owner and handler.

ROLLING FORK BIRD DOG CLUB

Coal Camp's Annie Wins Open Shooting Dog; Places Second In Amateur Shooting Dog

By Magda Lear | Berea, Kentucky | January 27, 2023

The Rolling Fork Bird Dog Club trial was held on Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area grounds the last weekend in January. The grounds were in excellent condition, improving each year, thanks to the relentless and educated care of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife.

You never know what to expect from the weather in the middle of Kentucky winter; this year, the weather was beautiful. It was sunny and cool with favorable scenting conditions. The birds were plentiful, and each brace had multiple bird contact. During the first brace of the day, a pre-released covey of birds lifted from the first big field, smart enough to leave the course but visible enough to elate the mood of the participants (human).

Ten dogs of four breeds competed in the Amateur Shooting Dog stake. First place went to Scott Luther's English setter Bang Bang's Longshot ("Max"), a first-year shooting dog. Max had four mature finds with outstanding bird manners and a nice forward hunting race.



Open Shooting Dog Winners (from left): Jim Hupp (judge), Adam Thomas with Coal Camp's Annie, Kenny DeLong with K Del's Eagle Magnum Hotshot, and Jonathan Dunn with Island Dancer.

Second place was awarded to Jim Humphrey's English setter female Coal Camp's Annie under Adam Thomas's handling. This little female is a great bird dog checking every part of available cover. Third place was awarded to Annie's bracemate Kenny DeLong's Brittany male K Del's Eagle Magnum Hotshot ("Shooter"). Shooter's race was strong and forward but less diligent than Annie's.

The Open Shooting Dog followed with

eight dogs competing. Coal Camp's Annie, handled by Adam Thomas, placed first for her continual busy hunting. At the time of her run, the birds were hiding in heavier cover, and she was finding birds where other dogs did not hunt; five broke finds with no mistake. Second place went to Brittany K Del's Eagle Magnum Hotshot (Kenny DeLong). Shooter proved that he is a serious hunter and competitor. He was far-reaching, running all edges, and ended with three finds. Third place went to a young English setter female, Island Dancer (Jonathan Dunn). She was still a derby but showed a good hunting race with nice steadiness on birds. She had two well-spread finds and looked gorgeous on point. We look forward to seeing her in the future.

Six dogs were entered and competed in the Open Derby. First place went to English setter male Boatright's Maverick, owned by Terry Boatright and handled by James Kleve. This young setter ate the country and showed his birdiness with one solid find. Second place was awarded to pointer male



Open Derby Winners (from left): James Kleve with Boatright's Maverick, Kenny DeLong with May's Legacy of Justice, and Kelsey Kleve with Outcast Starfire.

May's Legacy of Justice, owned and handled by Kenny DeLong. This pointer ran a strong, well-forward race with one nice broke find. Third place was awarded to English setter female Outcast Starfire, owned by James Kleve and handled by Kelsey Kleve. This littermate of the winner had a nice race but was closer ranging, with two good finds. Another competitor, an English setter female handled by a newcomer, is worth mentioning. The setter had a very nice hunting-range run, always busy and looking for birds, and ended with two finds but needed a little more manners to finish in the winning circle of present competitors.

Thanks to our judges, Jim Hupp of Custer, Ky., and David Riddle of Mt. Vernon, Ky., who gave their time and attention to all competitors. Their judgment was well appreciated. Also, thanks to all participants for bringing and showing their dogs. Hopefully, everyone had a great time, and see you next year!

**Berea, Ky., January 27 – One Course
Judges: James Hupp and David Riddle
ABHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 6 Pointers
and 2 Brittans**

1st—COAL CAMP'S ANNIE, 1687566, setter female, by Full Blast-Herbie's Asta La Vista. Jim Humphrey, owner; Adam Thomas, handler.

2d—K DEL'S EAGLE MAGNUM HOTSHOT, 1685770, Brittany male, by Magnum High Velocity-K Del's Eagle's Chance To Soar. Kenric J. DeLong, owner and handler.

3d—ISLAND DANCER, 1699150, setter female, by Islander-Island Girl. Jonathan Dunn, owner and handler.

**Judges: James Hupp and David Riddle
ABHA OPEN DERBY – 1 Pointer and 5 Setters**

1st—BOATRIGT'S MAVERICK, 1694705, setter male, by Rufus Del Fuego-Outcast Starburst. Terry Boatright, owner; James C. Kleve, handler.

2d—MAY'S LEGACY OF JUSTICE, 1695469, pointer male, by Faith's Maximum Justice-Chasehill Mighty May. Kenric J. DeLong, owner and handler.

3d—OUTCAST STARFIRE, 1697384, setter male, by Rufus Del Fuego-Outcast Starburst. James C. Kleve, owner and handler.



Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (from left): Jim Hupp (judge), Scott Luther with Bang Bang's Longshot, Adam Thomas with Coal Camp's Annie, Kenny DeLong with K Del's Eagle Magnum Hotshot, and Magda Lear.

ABHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 1 Pointer, 5

Setters, 2 Brittans and 2 Irish Setters

1st—BANG BANG'S LONGSHOT, 1696304, setter male, by North Creek Scooter- Blue Ridge Molly. Scott Luther, owner and handler.

2d—COAL CAMP'S ANNIE, 1687566, setter female, by Full Blast-Herbie's Asta La Vista. Jim Humphrey, owner; Adam Thomas, handler.

3d—K DEL'S EAGLE MAGNUM HOTSHOT, 1685770, Brittany male, by Magnum High Velocity-K Del's Eagle's Chance To Soar. Kenric J. DeLong, owner and handler.

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SANDLAPPER FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial Held At Sawtooth Plantation

By Tim Ruff | McBee, South Carolina | January 27, 2023

The Sandlapper Field Trial Club held its spring trial January 27-29 at the Ivester family's Sawtooth Plantation in McBee, S. C., the premier place to run bird dogs in South Carolina. John Ivester has graciously allowed South Carolina clubs to run trials on these beautiful grounds for the last five years.

Securing good judges is the biggest task of putting a trial together. I want to thank Sammy Giddens and Chad Adams for judging the Amateur Shooting Dog and Derek Bonner for helping me with the Derby stakes.

Thanks also to Greg Blair and Purina for sponsoring the Sandlapper trial again this year, to all participants for attending, and a special thanks to Nida Giddens for her assistance. I'd also like to commend club members Dr. Billy McCathern, Bill Britt, and Tim Ruff for making this trial a success.

The running started with the Open Derby Friday morning. First place was I Dream of Jeannie, owned and handled by Kyle Whitfield; second was Saddled Up Sadie, owned and handled by Mark Hughes; third was Mulberry Fields Molly, owned by Norm Meeder and handled by Mark Hughes.

The Amateur Derby followed with I Dream of Jeannie taking first, Miss Money Penny, owned and handled by Gary Miller, second, and Jolene, owned and handled by Bill Adams, third.

The Amateur Shooting Dog started Saturday



Open Derby Winners (from left): I Dream of Jeannie with Kyle Whitfield, Saddled Up Sadie with Gary Miller, and Mulberry Fields Molly with Mark Hughes. (Standing): Tim Ruff (judge) and Derek Bonner (judge).

morning with cool weather throughout the day. First place was Clayhill T Bone, owned by Harry Cook III, with five finds and a good race. Second place Cottonwood Banjoe was handled to a three-find performance and a good race for owner and handler Tim Ruff. Third place Harbor City Pride handled a two-find performance and good race for owner and handler Tom Brigman.

**McBee, S. C., January 27
Judges: Derek Bonner and Tim Ruff
OPEN DERBY – 9 Pointers and 2 Setters**

1st—I DREAM OF JEANNIE, 1699099, setter female, by Hot Blooded-Shamrock's Miss Grace. Kyle Whitfield, owner and handler.

2d—SADDLED UP SADIE, 1699757, pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Beaver Meadow Rose. Joe Cammisa, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

3d—MULBERRY FIELDS MOLLY, 1698754, setter female, by Stillmeadow's Benjamin-The Eiger. Norm Meeder, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.



Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (from left): Clayhill T Bone with Harry Cook III, Cottonwood Banjoe with Tim Ruff, and Harbor City Pride with Tom Brigman, joined by participants.

AMATEUR DERBY – 5 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—I DREAM OF JEANNIE, 1699099, setter female, by Hot Blooded-Shamrock's Miss Grace. Kyle Whitfield, owner and handler.

2d—MISS MONEYPENNY, 1701988, pointer female, by Erin's Country Rebel-Quickmarksman Brave Heart. Gary Miller, owner and handler.

3d—JOLENE, unreg., pointer female, breeding not given. Bill Adams, owner and handler.

**Judges: Chad Adams and Sammy Giddens
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
[One-Hour Heats] – 22 Pointers**

1st—CLAYHILL T BONE, 1663185, male, by Clayhill Bones-Doc's Haven Meg. Harry W. Cook III, owner and handler.

2d—COTTONWOOD BANJOE, 1675918, male, by Cottonwood Reward Bandit-Class Act Kasey. Tim Ruff, owner and handler.

3d—HARBOR CITY PRIDE, 1695400, male, by Mohawk Mill Legacy's Pride-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Tom Brigman, Jr., owner and handler.

PELICAN OPEN ALL-AGE

Haney's Storm Warning Wins 2023 Running

By William Smith | Holly Springs, Mississippi | January 28, 2023



Pelican Open All-Age Winners (front, from left): Andy Cline with Game Wardon, Bridgett Lexington with Miller's Speed Dial, and Randy Anderson. (Back, from left): Guy Hendrix, Fred Corder, Daniel Bolden (judge), Sheriff Kenney Dickerson, and William Smith (judge).

The dual event of the Prairie Open All-Age and the Pelican Open All-Age was scheduled to begin beginning January 1 at Camp Robinson Field Trial Grounds in Mayflower, Ark. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission scheduled a youth deer hunt after the Prairie, thus eliminating the running of the Pelican. The club president, Dr. Fred Corder, had no other options available and sought to relocate the trial. When Dr. Fred Corder approached Guy Hendrix, he readily agreed to host the event at his farm near Holly Springs, Miss.

The Hendrix Farm is the site of several all-age amateur and open events, including the Mississippi Open Shooting Dog Championship. The Pelican began on Saturday, January 28, after the Southern Championship. The event was slated to start at 8 a.m. but was delayed until 10 a.m. because of steady rain. Resident Daniel Bolden and your scribe were the judiciaries. Daniel has the eyesight of an eagle, and it was a pleasure to work with him. There were 33 all-age dogs drawn to compete and 21 derbies.

Guy and son Burke make every effort to ensure each trial held on their farm is a quality event. The Pelican was no exception. Hot lunches were served daily at no charge to anyone who took advantage of their hospitality and generosity. Guy drove the dog wagon and brought snacks that hit the spot between the braces. The recent rains had made the field roads excessively muddy, but Guy shifted the Jeep into 4-wheel drive and was always on time at the end of the braces. He was not concerned about the ruts he made on the field roads; he wanted everyone to enjoy their time there. The three one-hour courses are equal as far as being equally challenging, and Guy makes sure that enough birds are available on each course.

Purina also sponsored the trial with their contribution of paying for the ad in the UKC® Field and sponsoring a winners' dinner. Their

sponsorship is very much appreciated.

The Running

Brace No. 1—Coldwater Odyssey (Bennett) was independent and was lost. Whippoorwill Vette (Huffman) found a covey at 36 and finished with no other bird work.

Brace No. 2—Como Thunder (Hurdle) scored a nice relocation at 28 and a barren stand at 40 and finished the brace. Bonner's Bulletproof (Anderson) failed to back at 28 and was picked up.

Brace No. 3—Painted Owyhee Toad (Ledington) scored early at 1, backed his bracemate at 15, and finished the brace. Coldwater War Cry (Bennett) also had a find at 1. He was credited with two barren stands at 15 and 23 and was picked up.

Brace No. 4—Coldwater Thunder (Hurdle) was scratched for medical reasons. The bye-dog could not be moved up because his handler was in this brace. Raw Sugar Trouble (Hester) found coveys at 53 and 60.

Brace No. 5—Bozeann's Rex (Hester) had a find at 17 and backed his bracemate at 31. He had a stop to flush on a relocation and was picked up. Game Wardon (Corder) scored finds at 28, 48, 52, and 59 and a barren stand at 31.

Brace No. 6—Touch's Cocaine Blues (Anderson) failed to back at 18 and was put in a harness. Haney's Storm Warning (Cagle) pointed a covey at the pond's edge after a long cast to the front at 18. He also had finds at 25 and 38 after long searching casts. Extra territory had to be covered to allow the full 60 minutes.

Brace No. 7—Papa Joe (Hester) had finds at 10 and 57 but was picked up at 57 when he moved at the flush. Superstition's Final Touch (Byrd) was lost early in the heat.

Brace No. 8—Touch's Fire Away

(Anderson) committed a fatal error when the covey flew. Como Rain (Hurdle) was out of pocket for too long, and the tracker was taken.

Brace No. 9—Bonner's Hot Rize (Rinehart) was lost at the halfway mark. I'm Gallant (Anderson) laid down a good race but was birdless.

Brace No. 10—Haney's Hurricane Seeker (Russell) scored on a single bird at 9 and finished with no other bird work. Heisman (Hester) scored two finds at 18 and 36 and finished with no other bird work.

Brace No. 11—Slick Water Frac (Anderson) pushed out a covey and was harnessed. Five60 Breakout (Hendrix) was not suiting the handler and was picked up.

Brace No. 12—Miller's Speed Dial (Anderson) notched a find at 15 after a long forward cast. He finished staying to the front, making searching casts, and was scouted sparingly. Lester's Storm Chaser (Henry) had a covey find at 9 and a back at 15. This was an exciting brace, with both dogs covering much ground and doing it quickly.

Brace No. 13—Nosam's Sweet Water (Huffman) located a covey at 13 and had a stop to flush at 18. Barren stands at 25, and 43 ended his bid. Superstition's Jake (Byrd) was credited with two backs at 13 and 43. He had a find at 24 and a barren stand at 30 and finished the heat.

Brace No. 14—Both Game Heir (Corder) and Quickmarksman's Dan (Hester) were picked up at 56.

Brace No. 15—Both Matt Dillon (Byrd) and Beeler's Texas Jig (Beeler) were picked up at 45.

Brace No. 16—Late Hit (Shenker) was scratched. Quickmarksman's Excalibur (Hester), the bye-dog, moved up and had a barren stand at 45. Lester's Stem Winder (Anderson) was picked up at 45.

Regrettably, the Derby stake had to be canceled due to forecasted freezing rain and sleet that would last for the next several days.

Holly Springs, Miss., January 28

Judges: Daniel Bolden and William Smith
PELICAN OPEN ALL-AGE

[One-Hour Heats] – 32 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—HANEY'S STORM WARNING, 1691416, pointer male, by Valiant-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle, owner and handler.

2d—GAME WARDON, 1676189, pointer male, by Caladen's Rail Hawk-Game Creek. Dr. Fred Corder, owner and handler.

3d—MILLER'S SPEED DIAL, 1666636, pointer male, by Miller's Dialing In-Old Road Lou. Mick Marietta, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.

U.S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY & CLASSICS

Hirollins Gone And Doneit Wins Robert E. Lee Classic; Wildland Wild Man Wins Futurity

By Verlene Stephenson | Boydton, Virginia | January 30, 2023

The annual U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association Robert E. Lee Shooting Dog Classic, Futurity, and the Les Hobbs Puppy Classic began on Monday, January 30, at 8 a.m. and lasted until Thursday, February 2. This year's location was the well-known grounds of the Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area in Boydton, Va.

This WMA is named for former Department of Game and Inland Fisheries executive director, wildlife biologist, and field trial judge Dick Cross. It features gently rolling land with elevations varying from 200 to 300 feet. Much of the area was once a cattle farm, and evidence of that operation remains. The area's 1,400 acres are primarily open upland, maintained as old fields, or cultivated to benefit wildlife.

Dick Cross is in good shape this year due to the efforts of a hardworking and well-organized group of field trialers known as the "Friends of Dick Cross WMA." There are several courses on these grounds. Due to the extremely wet conditions on the courses, we used the top part of the area, consisting of fields, meadow-like clearings, woods, paths, and ponds. These are great places to show a dog and are used throughout our season by horseback and walking clubs for many weekend trials and championships.

The Robert E. Lee Shooting Dog Classic was first run in 2003. The stake honors Robert E. (Bob) Lee for being a founder of our organization. The USCSDA Futurity began in 1996. A 30-minute Puppy Classic has always accompanied the Futurity, but starting in 2017, it was renamed the Les Hobbs Puppy Classic. Les Hobbs was an avid supporter of the U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Association, and a revolving trophy displaying his name goes home with the Puppy Classic winner each year.

We thank our national sponsors, Purina and Garmin, for their continued support. Purina provided bags of dog food and hats for participants. Futurity winners received certificates for multiple bags of dog food. Garmin provided a collar for the Futurity winner. Also, our local sponsor, Stinger Supply, provided leashes for the Futurity winners. All ten placements received gift certificates from Lion Country Supply, brought to us by Eric Munden, Lion Country Supply representative.

I have been the Futurity secretary since 2012. It takes a year of planning and recruiting nominations to ensure a successful Futurity. In the summer of 2022, I asked my friends in Virginia if they would be willing to assist with the trial if it were to be held at Dick Cross WMA; they said yes. So, we took a leap of faith and held the three stakes at the Dick



Robert E. Lee Classic Winners (front, from left): J. D. Waters with Hirollins Gone And Doneit, Jimmy Crandall with Lancaster's Hit Man, and Robert Ecker with Ramapo Mountain Doc. (Standing, from left): Jeff Smith (judge), Tony Bingham, Art Cohen (judge), Rich Wartars, and Lee Flanders.

Cross WMA, a very different place than the usual trial at the Drop Zone in North Carolina.

During the week, we experienced all forms of precipitation, rain, sleet, and snow. Conditions were wet when the trial started and only got worse. We had arranged for a gallery wagon so spectators could watch the action. Unfortunately, the best we could offer was the view from the back of a 4-wheel drive pickup truck, and after the first two days, not even that was possible. Walking the course proved challenging for the handlers, especially those with back-to-back braces.

Thanks to much teamwork, we had a great trial despite the rain, sleet, snow, and mud. Everyone pitched in and did their job. Any time a problem arose, there was someone with a solution. Many, many thanks go to Bobby Phillips, Greg Isenberg, Ashby Morgan, Lee Flanders, and Eric Munden, the bird planters; Jimmy Crandall and Dave Hughes, the truck drivers; Yvonne McKeag, for our lunches and the use of her truck for a gallery wagon; Jameson Crandall for obtaining the necessary permits; Hunter Sainato, Virginia Wildlife Officer, who opened gates and solved numerous problems for us; Mark Hughes and Eric Munden, for stepping in as Puppy judges at the last minute and anyone else that helped in any way and I forgot to mention.

Doug McMillen, the owner of last year's Bob Lee Shooting Dog Classic winner, Double Deuce Zeke, sponsored Tuesday night's handlers' dinner at Pino's Pizza. Doug also sponsored the Futurity lunch sandwich tray and sides on Wednesday in honor of his 2022 Futurity winner, Double Deuce Jack. Thanks, Doug!

Robert E. Lee Shooting Dog Classic

The Winners

Thank you to Jeff Smith of Chase City, Va., and Art Cohen of Skipwith, Va., for judging this renewal of the Classic.

Brace No. 13 produced the winner, Hirollins Gone And Doneit ("Gunner"), a strong orange



Futurity Winners (front row, from left): Krysta Munden with Wildland Wild Man, Eric Munden with Wildland Hide The Wine, Joe Edwards with Come Back Misty Red, and J. D. Waters with Hirollins Cover Girl. (Standing): Mark Hughes, Dave Hughes, Bobby Phillips (judge), Greg Isenberg (judge), and Tony Bingham.

and white male pointer owned by Warren Parrott and handled by Tony Bingham, and the third place dog, Ramapo Mountain Doc, a black and white male pointer owned by Bob Shaban and handled by Robert Ecker.

Gunner scored four picturesque finds with good manners. He was always to the front with a solid forward race. Doc scored three well-mannered finds and one back.

The second-place dog was Lancaster's Hit Man. "Mugsy" is a 5-year-old male pointer owned and handled by Jimmy Crandall. Mugsy had three stylish finds and one unproductive with a very good, consistent race.

Boydton, Va., January 30 – One Course

Judges: Art Cohen and Jeff Smith

ROBERT E. LEE SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

[One-Hour Heats] – 18 Pointers and 10 Setters

1st—HIROLLINS GONE AND DONEIT, 1679825, pointer male, by Fastforward's B K Gunner-Littlewing B K Tia. Warren Parrott, owner; Tony Bingham, handler.

2d—LANCASTER'S HIT MAN, 1679423, pointer male, by Waybetter Rocky-Calico's Touch of Class. James Crandall, owner and handler.

3d—RAMAPO MOUNTAIN DOC, 1680932, pointer male, by Bo of Piney Woods-Sweet Valley Stevie Nicks. Robert Shaban, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

The Futurity

The 27th USCSDA Futurity was capably judged this year by Greg Isenberg of Kingsport, Tenn., and Bobby Phillips of Jonesborough, Tenn. This year 22 litters were nominated. Two of the 22 were sired by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior. Other notable producers of this year's nominated litters are Double Deuce Zeke, Long Gone DeQuan, Bonner's Excalibur, and Erin's Blew By You. We are grateful to the breeders who nominated these litters and hope to receive even more great litter nominations next year.

All placements received certificates for Purina dog food. The first and second placements received Garmin collars. All placements received a leash provided by Stinger Supply in Boydton, Va. All handlers received small bags of Purina Pro Plan Sport.

The Winners

Male pointer Wildland Wild Man set the bar high in brace No. 4 of the Futurity with a remarkable performance. At the end of the running, he was named the winner. "Wayne" is an attractive white and liver pointer owned by Krysta and Eric Munden, expertly handled by Krysta, and bred by Joe Cammissa from Butler, Pa. He is of well-recognized pointer blood, with his dam being Beaver Meadow Rose (going back to Chasehill Little Bud) and his sire being Double Deuce Zeke, a consistent winner in U. S. Complete stakes. Wayne had three stylish finds, a back and one unproductive. Wayne had a nice forward race, always to the front and responding to his handler.

Littermate Wildland Hide The Wine, a male pointer also owned by Krysta and Eric Munden and handled by Eric, took second place. "Chuck" scored one stylish find with good manners and had one back and a forward reaching ground race until the finish.

Third place was Come Back Misty Red, an Irish setter female, owned and handled by Joe Edwards from Rose Hill, N. C. Joe was also the breeder for this litter. Her dam is Hatcreek Misty Blue, and her sire is Come Back Billy Boy. Misty scored four finds with a medium race. She responded well to her handler.

Fourth place went to Hirollins Cover Girl. Cover Girl is a female pointer owned by Warren Parrott and handled by Tony Bingham. Her sire is Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior, and her dam is Hirollins Fantasy Girl. The breeder of the litter was Gary Winall. Cover Girl scored four stylish finds with good manners.



Puppy Classic Winners (front row, left to right): Robert Ecker with Blue Ribbon River, Bobby Phillips with Bob's Gray Street Macy, and Greg Isenberg with Tenacee Moxie. (Standing): Mark Hughes (judge) and Eric Munden (judge).

She stayed to the front with a classy race.

Judges: Greg Isenberg and Bobby Phillips
U. S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY
– 16 Pointers, 4 Setters and 4 Irish Setters
1st—WILDLAND WILD MAN, 1695981, pointer male, by Double Deuce Zeke-Beaver Meadow Rose. Krysta & Eric Munden, owners; Krysta Munden, handler.
2d—WILDLAND HIDE THE WINE, 1697105, pointer male, by Double Deuce Zeke-Beaver Meadow Rose. Krysta & Eric Munden, owners; Eric Munden, handler.
3d—COME BACK MISTY RED, 1699334, Irish setter female, by Come Back Billy Boy-Hatcreek Misty Blue. Joe Edwards, owner and handler.
4th—HIROLLINS COVER GIRL, 1696674, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Hirollins Fantasy Girl. Warren Parrott, owner; Tony Bingham, handler.

Les Hobbs Puppy Classic

The judges for the Puppy Classic were Mark Hughes of Grampian, Pa., and Eric Munden of Philipsburg, Pa. Mark and Eric are both qualified, experienced field trialers. They both graciously agreed at the last minute to step in and judge this stake. Thanks, guys!

Blue Ribbon River, a female pointer owned

by Marty Festa and handled by pro Robert Ecker, bagged first place. River impressed the judges with a fancy forward hunting pattern and stylish way of moving. She handled obediently for her handler while seeking birdy objectives.

Second place went to Bob's Gray Street Macy. Macy is owned and handled by Bobby Phillips. Macy was always forward with nice moves. She had slightly less range than the first-place dog.

Greg Isenberg secured third place with Tenacee Moxie, a pointer female. Moxie caught the judges' attention with a classy, far-reaching, easy-gaited ground race.

The Les Hobbs Puppy Classic ran on Thursday afternoon, concluding a very enjoyable trial. It was good to see old friends and welcome some new ones.

The futurity secretary wishes to sincerely thank everyone who made this trial possible, especially the national sponsors of our organization, Purina and Garmin. We look forward to seeing you next year.

Judges: Art Cohen and Jeff Smith
Judges: Mark Hughes and Eric Munden
LEE HOBBS PUPPY CLASSIC – 4 Pointers
and 2 Setters

1st—BLUE RIBBON RIVER, 1701966, pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Huckleberry's Lucky Penny. Marty Festa, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.
2d—BOB'S GRAY STREET MACY, 1702075, pointer female, by Touch's Grey Street-Bandit's Hill Lady. Bobby Phillips, owner and handler.
3d—TENACEE MOXIE, 1701535, pointer female, by Elhew Moneymaker-Crossroads Elhew Dot. Greg Isenberg, owner and handler.

NORTH CAROLINA FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Pendy's Good Grace Wins Amateur All-Age

By Thomas Stargell | Hoffman, North Carolina | February 3, 2023

The North Carolina Field Trial Association trial was held February 3-5 at the Bob Gordon Gamelands, known and revered as "Hoffman." The February weather cooperated, with temperatures in the high 40s and only one five-minute shower during the running. It was perfect field trial bird hunting weather.

Association President Ray Joye and spiritual guidance from the injured Johnny Atkinson assisted Trial Chairman Grayson Francis. Meals, clean up, and the trial kitchen were in the capable hands of Gretchen and John Adsit. The judicial saddles were manned by two popular professional dogmen, Tony Bingham and Jerry Raynor. Both rode hard and gave ample attention to all entries. All aspects of a well-run and enjoyable weekend were in place. Thanks to you all!

This was a well-attended trial, as proven by 35 dogs being drawn to run. The large All-Age field required the cancellation of the Derby. The judges complimented the quality of the

dogs entered. Three dogs earned an honorable mention. Rocky River Loaded, owned by Ray Joye, ran with the trial winner in brace No. 11. At 20, he carded a covey find to go with his flashy ground performance. The other two dogs ran together in brace No. 4; Mohawk Mill Knight Hawk, handled by Gary Winall, and Walnut Tree Blue, handled by Steve Mills, had a divided find at 50 to go with their all-age ground race.

The three winners were all pure class, each a joy to watch. The first-place dog was Pendy's Good Grace, handled by Matt Pendergest in brace No. 11. Her two finds came at 15 and 45, and each exhibited her exquisite style and composure around her game. Her race was described as the absolute best of the stake.

Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior gained second-place honors for handler Gary Winall. His strong showing came in brace No. 8. His find came at 20, past Bruce Jacob's house. He had an unproductive at 25. His hour was a strong ground effort the entire time down.

The third-place dog was Knight's Little John for Scott Griffin in brace No. 14. His find at 15 presented a pretty picture with his style, his bracemate backing perfectly, and a covey pegged nicely right ahead. He showed a good race to cap his hour down.

The North Carolina Association would like to thank Purina and representative Greg Blair for their generous support. Equally so, sincere thanks go to the state of North Carolina for making the Hoffman grounds available for this great sport of field trialing.

Hoffman, N. C., February 3
Judges: Tony Bingham and Jerry Raynor
AMATEUR ALL-AGE

[One-Hour Heats] – 34 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st—PENDY'S GOOD GRACE, 1664858, pointer female, by Reloaded-Dialed In. Matt Pendergest, owner and handler.
2d—MOHAWK MILL TRAIL WARRIOR, 1676193, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Hirollins Fancy Lady. Gary Winall, owner and handler.
3d—KNIGHT'S LITTLE JOHN, 1697531, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-Bonner's Platinum Doll. Scott Griffin, owner and handler.

ALABAMA OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Touch's Fire Away Named Champion; Haney's Storm Warning, Runner-Up

By Tessa Hughes | Blue Mountain, Mississippi | February 4, 2023

Touch's Fire Away returned this year to seize the Alabama Open All-Age Championship trophy for the second time in a row out of a field of 25 pointers and setters when we held our annual National Championship qualifier on February 4-5. Fire Away is owned by Dr. Greg and Mrs. Carmen Adams and handled by Randy Anderson. Bridget Ledington scouted him to his win. This year's runner-up champion was Haney's Storm Warning, a white and liver male pointer running in his first all-age year owned by Chris Cagle, Sr., and Chris Cagle, Jr., and handled by Cagle, Sr. Cagle Jr. served as the scout.

The stake was held on its traditional grounds, the Hell Creek Wildlife Management Area, in Blue Mountain, Miss. Many thanks to our sponsor, Nestlé Purina, for supporting our Championship and for the gift of Purina Pro Plan dog food to the winners. We also appreciate our judges, Jon Lam of Makanda, Ill., and Joey McAlexander, of Holly Springs, Miss. Both were well-qualified and gave their full attention to each dog on the ground. And the Alabama Field Trial Club cannot express enough appreciation to the Mississippi Department of Game, Wildlife and Fisheries members for all their hard work to keep the grounds immaculate, birds plentiful, and road crossings safe. We also appreciate Jack Coleman of Mississippi Game & Fish for his continued support.

Much appreciation also to Carolyn Page and Melissa Bain, who ensured everyone had delicious lunches each day of the trial. We were also able to serve breakfast and dinner this year for all participants, and we enjoyed spending extra time with our friends, some of whom we only see once a year. We appreciate their time traveling to our trial and their continued support. We are also grateful to our faithful dog wagon driver, long-time club member, and this author's father, Ronald Thrasher. Marshals included Greg Bain, Joe Hughes, and this author.

The Champion's Brace

As mentioned, Touch's Fire Away, is a repeat winner, winning in 2022. He made it look easy again this year when he swept the championship trophy with a beautiful, confident ground race and excellent bird work, all on the third-hour course Saturday morning. Touch's Fire Away was the Purina All-Age Dog of the Year for 2022, and there is a reason for this, he is a magnificent bird dog. He has something we all like to see in a field trial dog, he's simply honest. When he points, you can believe him, as there will be birds there. He is also beautiful, standing up on his toes both on the ground running and on point. He has the classic "Touch" look, almost all white, with



Alabama Open All-Age Championship Winners (from left): Ronald Thrasher, Greg Bain (club secretary & stake manager), Bridget Ledington (scout) with Touch's Fire Away, Joe Hughes (club president), Randy Anderson, Joey McAlexander (judge), Jon Lam (judge), Chris Cagle, Jr. (scout) with Haney's Storm Warning, Chris Cagle, Sr., Tessa Hughes (reporter), and David Russell.

the dainty head and tail set high on his back that is typical of Touch-bred dogs.

The weather for the brace that happened to be the one the championship turned on was cold and clear, with highs in the low 50s. Fire Away and his bracemate, Raw Law Sugar Trouble, a pointer male handled by Mike Hester, were away fast at the third-hour breakaway. Fire Away scored a beautiful find in the first field at 4 and stood well for wing and shot. Fire Away swept around the far side of the Bear Trap field, with Anderson pointing him out as he made a magnificent cast. Many championships have been won (and lost) at this turning point, and Fire Away decided today was the day to give it all to Randy because he flipped sideways and slammed into point for a second time in the far distance. When we arrived, Anderson put birds in the air for his dog, who once again looked marvelous for wing and shot.

We continued, with both dogs to the front. They moved at lightning speed through the pines and swept across Hell Creek at 30. Fire Away showed beautifully on the far-left fields, always casting to the front, with folks in the gallery pointing him out. Both dogs were away across the small ditch at the far end of the course, with their handlers pointing them out, sweeping back toward the clubhouse at 35. Fire Away then swung into point in the first field on the way back in the line of hardwoods under Lucy's Oak Tree at 38. He once again looked magnificent as we rode to him. Anderson flushed, and Fire Away stood up like the champion he is, flawless for wing and shot. Both dogs were then seen to the front in the next fields, but Hester decided to put Sugar in the harness by the time we reached the steel bridge. Fire Away finished his race with beautiful, ground-eating casts around the horseshoe fields, showing us he could still go the distance at pickup. Fire Away showed us he has the stuff of which champions are made, and his running at the Alabama demonstrated

why he is already qualified for the National Championship.

The Runner-Up Champion's Brace

Haney's Hurricane Seeker, pointer male (Russell), and Haney's Storm Warning, pointer male (Cagle), comprised brace No. 10, securing our runner-up champion. These dogs also ran the third hour, as had Fire Away. Both dogs left at a scorching pace from the clubhouse to the right. Point was called for both at 2 at the far end of the first field, and we arrived to see Storm Warning doing his thing, for which he has become a little bit famous. He stood beautifully on point, his nose completely vertical and his tail high. Both handlers went into flush and shot, and Storm Warning stood like a statue until Cagle returned to release him. Having not seen Storm Warning run before, I reflected that it is upon this bird work that this young dog must be winning these championships. But I was not entirely correct because Storm Warning had more in store for us in his hour. He and Hurricane Seeker swept on into the Bear Trap field, and things got wild, with both dogs moving at a lightning clip and sweeping far out into the distance, making it around the big field. Everyone was sitting up in their saddles, with people yelling and pointing, trying to decide whether the dogs were stopping, were on point, etc., as the dogs reached the far side. They were not tagging or tracking but switching back, hunting the side cover, and moving on. Watching a field trial dog cover the country doing what he was born to do is always breathtaking, hunting big edges at that speed.

Both dogs turned to the left and crashed through the long stretch of pines. Their handlers gathered and got them across Hell Creek, and things were on again. We also enjoyed both dogs making great casts in those big farm fields.

I think that what fully secured Storm

Warning's runner-up spot was not all I've described up to this point, but his finish. Because, at 55, he was still hunting like a madman and going strong when we turned left to make our way to the Horseshoe fields. Cagle did not know how to turn into the final bend of the course at this juncture (as he had never been to this point), and Gary Lester yelled out to Cagle to put him on the left-hand side of the first Horseshoe field and let him roll. Cagle must have agreed because that's what happened next, with Cagle blowing the whistle. It was hot and muddy, almost 65 degrees and sunny, yet Warning just wheeled around and steamed on, careening into those Horseshoe fields at the same speed and intensity as he had at 15 in the Bear Trap field. He was still "skinning it" in the far distance, switching back and forth, scenting game, and kicking up water in the fields at 58. Cagle had a hard time finding him at pickup, but he did. And that is how Storm Warning seized his runner-up trophy.

The Running

Whippoorwill Vette, pointer male (Larry Huffman), and Painted Owyhee Toad, pointer male, handled by the previously mentioned Bridget Ledington from Idaho, started us off in brace No. 1 Saturday morning away from the clubhouse to the right. We were delighted to have Ledington with us, given that she is a newcomer to our trial. In addition, Toad had qualified for the National Championship, and she would be his handler. It had been well over ten years since Ames had a female handler at the National. Ledington showed she might be new to us, but she and her dog knew what they were doing, as Toad scored a beautiful find at 4 in the first field on the left, standing well for wing and shot. Vette and Huffman had continued, and we encountered them next, after coming through the thicket after the pond on the right, to see Huffman calling point for Vette at 9. However, upon relocation, Huffman chose to put Vette in the harness.

Toad scored another find before the rock road crossing at 15 on the left, where coveys are frequently found, and once again, he looked excellent on his game. All in order for the flush and shot, we continued on solo through the pines behind the clubhouse. At 19, Toad scored another find behind the clubhouse, looking excellent on point again. He then had a find in the long bottom beside Hell Creek, for which he was also mannerly, and again found birds at 40, which he also handled well again. Ledington elected to pick him up shortly after that time.

In brace No. 2, Quickmarksman's Excalibur, pointer male, handled by Hester, and Como Rain, handled by Blackwell, were up. They left from the site of the old Game Warden's house, running fast and setting down ambitious ground races. Como Rain made a beautiful cast in the field below Steve's old house. Blackwell called point for his dog at 33 in Rock Hill Field, and David Russell got off to shoot for Blackwell. Both dogs continued across the rock road, but then Excalibur suffered an absence for some time; he was

found on point in the line of pines across from the plum trees. When Hester shot for his dog, he stood well, and all was in order. Both dogs finished the hour with strong casts in the long bottom on the way back to the clubhouse, going toward the chute back to the Bear Trap field.

The championship brace (No. 3) has been covered.

Brace No. 4 started exciting from our clubhouse to the left again, with Miller's King Poast, a talented young derby pointer male, and the beautiful Touch's Cocaine Blues, a pointer male (Anderson). Both dogs swept through the first few fields, and the next time we saw them, both were briefly on point on the left in the field before the rock road. And then, after a breach of manners, both handlers placed their young charges in the harness, thus concluding their braces.

In the second brace after lunch, we returned to the clubhouse to start again from our first breakaway. Nosam's Sweet Water, pointer male (Huffman), and Quickmarksman's Dan, pointer male (Hester), comprised this brace. This time, things went slightly smoother for a little while. Both dogs were once again away at lightning speed. When this pair of dogs reached the covey in the last field before the rock road, Sweet Water held fast at the point, looking beautiful at 11, and Dan backed nicely. Huffman flushed, and all was in order. We continued across the road, and this time Hester called point in the pines behind the clubhouse at 14 for Dan, with Sweet Water backing. The dogs looked beautiful, but when Hester went into flush, Sweet Water suffered a breach of manners, and Huffman had him in the harness. Dan stood firm for wing and shot, and scout Brody Bird carried him on for Hester. Dan went on only about 100 yards upon release before he locked down again on the other side of the course at 16. Hester flushed for his dog repeatedly; all was in order. We continued across the road with Dan solo, but by 35, Hester had him in the harness.

Next was Bozeann's Rex, setter male (Hester), and I'm Gallant, pointer male (Anderson). We were away strong from the old Game Warden's house site, with Rex scoring a beautiful find at the corner of Rock Hill. He stood well for wing and shot. Shortly thereafter, Anderson called point for Gallant on Rock Hill, and he looked nice as we arrived. However, Anderson was placing him in the harness after a breach of manners. Unfortunately, at this point, Anderson's horse unintentionally kicked Ledington in the knee (he was perhaps kicking at the dog) while she was assisting Anderson with placing Blues in the harness. This injury made her unable to walk without crutches or mount her horse with ease. She subsequently had to request the officials at the National Championship to allow her father and co-owner of Toad, Jim Ledington, to flush for her, which they granted. Still, things looked grim at first, immediately after her injury. Ledington remained cheerful during our Championship, and she spent much of her time in the clubhouse on the sofa with

ice on her knee, chatting with Bain, Page, and others as we came and went.

Rex continued this brace alone, running an aggressive race, but suffered an unproductive before the 20th Century crossing. Hester then called point for him in the field near the Game Warden's house, but Rex was up after a breach of manners.

Bonner's Hot Rize, pointer male (Gary Lester), and Beeler's White Knight, pointer male (Scott Beeler) started us off the following day. They were an exciting pair of dogs, running hard and fast from the breakaway to the left. They scored a beautiful divided find at 12 on the left with the faithful covey before the rock road, both dogs looking excellent on point. Both dogs then continued, moving rapidly again, running with their tails wringing. We then found them again, behind the clubhouse in the pines at 18, once again on point. They thus notched another divided find, as both held beautifully for wing and shot. Both dogs, when released, cast forward quickly and were sighted across the rock road going into the big fields to take them along Hell Creek. White Knight continued with a solid forward race, always casting well to the front. He finished the three hours, always hunting with intensity. However, Hot Rize was lost at pickup. Neither dog had further bird work.

Next up were Superstition's Final Touch, pointer male (Bird), and Lester's Stem Winder, pointer male (Anderson). Although these handsome boys looked fabulous in the first few fields, running strong races, these two beauties also fell prey to the dangers of the first covey of quail in the field before the rock road. They were both up at 10 after a shared mishap.

The always beautiful Bonner's Bulletproof, pointer male (Anderson), ran as a bye-dog on the second-hour course after Coldwater Thunder, pointer female (Blackwell), was scratched. Bulletproof left strong from the old Game Warden's House Place, putting down an ambitious race. He scored his first find on the hill before the little pine cut through before the curve in the road at approximately 30, where birds are frequently found. He looked stunning on point and held well for Anderson for wing and shot. He then scored another find after he crossed the rock road at approximately 42, once again handling his bird work impeccably. Bulletproof then suffered an unproductive at 49 in the field below the Game Warden's House Place at 49. He finished well in the long bottom that takes you back to the chute to the Bear Trap field.

The runner-up champion brace (No. 10) has been covered.

Lester's Boss Man, pointer male (Lester), and Superstition's Jake (Bird) were next, away from the clubhouse to the left. Both dogs were away strong and hustled hard, making strong casts to the front. Boss Man was then absent for a significant time but returned. Boss Man garnered a find at 45 on the hill on the left before we go through the pine cut-through

before the curve in the road with Jake backing nicely. Boss Man stood beautifully for wing and shot and scored another find at 53 after we came through the pines on the right, but Jake was up after a breach of manners. Boss Man finished his hour with no further bird work.

Como Thunder, pointer male (Russell), and Coldwater Odyssey, pointer male (Bennett), left strong from the Game Warden's House Place. They made good casts in the second field below the house place. However, Odyssey was not pleasing Bennett and was in the harness in the Rock Hill field. Como Thunder continued solo, with his scout calling point for him, but Russell produced no birds. He continued running an aggressive ground race but otherwise went birdless.

Blue Mountain, Miss., February 4

Judges: Jon Lam and Joey McAlexander

ALABAMA OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 24 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner—TOUCH'S FIRE AWAY, 1679602, pointer male, by House's Ring of Fire-Touch's Maswood Anne. Greg & Carmen Adams, owners; Randy Anderson, handler.
Runner-Up—HANEY'S STORM WARNING, 1691416, pointer male, by Valiant-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle, Sr. & Chris Cagle, Jr., owners; Chris Cagle, Jr., handler.

The One-Hour Open Derby Classic

This year's Derby Classic winner was Beeler's White Knight, a white and orange pointer male owned and handled by Scott Beeler. He garnered this trophy from a field of 20 pointer and setter contenders. Knight scored a beautiful find on the first-hour course in the field before the rock road on "the



Open Derby Classic Winners (from left): Joey McAlexander (judge), Joe Hughes (scout & club president) with Beeler's White Knight, Scott Beeler, Korry Rinehart (scout) with Mayfield Storm Charger, Tom Shenker, Ike Todd (scout) with Game Surge, Jon Lam (judge), and Greg Bain (club secretary & stake manager).

dependable covey" to secure his trophy. He also had an aggressive forward race, always hunting hard and to the front to seize first place. He is an exciting dog to watch run, and he and his handler clearly have an incredible bond.

Mayfield Storm Charger, pointer male (Lester), took the second-place trophy. He ran a very exciting, ground-eating race on the second hour, always to the front, and he scored a lovely find almost at pickup in the field in front of the clubhouse. He handled his bird work well.

This year's third-place winner was the impressive Game Surge, a male pointer owned and handled by Dr. Fred Corder. Surge had a

forward, hard-running race on the first-hour course, scoring two very nice finds, one at 3 in the first field and one at 11 in the pines behind the clubhouse. He suffered an unproductive at 56 but was still going strong at pickup to seize his third-place honors.

OPEN DERBY CLASSIC

[One-Hour Heats] – 18 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—BEELER'S WHITE KNIGHT, 1700938, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Touch's Wildwood Flower. Scott Beeler, owner and handler.
2d—MAYFIELD STORM CHARGER, 1701588, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-R W Susie Q. Scott Mason & Jake Davis, owners; Gary Lester, handler.
3d—GAME SURGE, 1700091, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Maggie. Dr. Fred Corder, owner and handler.

ABHA WESTERN REGIONAL WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Bye Bye G G Named Champion; Warjam's Big Mac Daddy, Runner-Up

By Jim Corpening | Eskridge, Kansas | February 5, 2023

The Rock Springs Field Trial Club held the ABHA Western Regional Walking Shooting Dog Championship and Robert Lais Walking Derby Classic on the beautiful rolling flint hill grounds near Eskridge, Kan. The championship had a great draw of 20 dogs that competed. The Robert Lais Derby Classic had an entry of six dogs. We want to thank our landowners, Norma Jean Vilander and Sandy Jenson, who, without them and the use of their grounds, this trial would not be possible. Our sponsors, Valu-Pak and SportDOG, are very generous to us and all field trials.

Named champion was Bye Bye G G, a pointer female owned and handled by Robert (Bob) Lais. G G had a strong forward race coupled with great bird work.

The runner-up champion was Warjam's Big Mac Daddy a pointer male owned and handled

by Jim Corpening. Mac also had a strong forward race coupled with great bird work.

When all was done, the judges had a callback to decide who would be champion and runner-up. So, they had the two dogs do a run-off which didn't take long to decide. G G had a find at about 3, with Mac backing; all was good. Handlers led dogs away from the find, but it was not far enough for first-year dog Mac. Congratulations to G G and handler Bob Lais. G G was on a roll as she had just won the Region 17 Walking Championship a few weeks prior.

The Robert Lais Derby Classic winner was Dexter Reddog Taylor, an Irish setter male owned and handled by Brad Taylor. This is the inaugural running of this Derby Classic, and no better fitting than to have Brad win this as he is from Wichita, as is Bob, who has

helped Brad through the years. In second was Backyard Lucy, a pointer female owned and handled by Andy Neria.

Eskridge, Kan., February 5

Judges: Harold Gerhardt and Luke Topp

ABHA WESTERN REGIONAL WALKING

SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 17 Pointers, 1 Setter

and 2 Irish Setters

Winner—BYE BYE G G, 1663449, pointer female, by Merrill's Bravo-Kanza. Robert Lais, owner and handler.
Runner-Up—WARJAM'S BIG MAC DADDY, 1692715, pointer male, by Boumeester's Duramax-Oday Nation. James W. Corpening, owner and handler.

Judges: Tyler Buche and Jim Corpening

ABHA BOB LAIS OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

– 5 Pointers and 1 Irish Setter

1st—DEXTER REDDOG TAYLOR, 1695641, Irish setter male, by Waycross-Stillito. Brad Taylor, owner and handler.
2d—BACKYARD LUCY, 1698207, pointer female, by Miller's On Line-Raymond's Lacy. Andy Neria, owner and handler.

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SBHA NATIONAL HORSEBACK OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

Miller's Heat Seeker Wins At Conecuh Station

By Marty Robinson | Union Springs, Alabama | February 9, 2023

The SBHA National Horseback Open Shooting Dog Classic was held February 9-15, 2023, at Conecuh Station in Union Springs, Ala. Sixty-six dogs were drawn and turned loose in a quest for this prestigious event.

This trial was only an idea on a mild summer day in July of 2022. I had the privilege of spending the better part of a day with Mr. Tony Gibson (owner of Conecuh Station), in which we discussed this trial and set forth the event's parameters for it to become a reality. That July day also included Mr. Gibson showing me through the plantation and much of the internal workings of Conecuh Station. It is a huge understatement to state that Conecuh Station is an enterprise within itself. Tony showed me one of his latest projects which was an authentic log cabin deep inside the plantation in such a pristine and serene setting that would cause one to feel as though a painting had come to life. The year-over-year improvements are evident as Tony shares his continued vision for one of the highest-quality field trial venues in the country. Not only is Tony a visionary, but he is also a man of action who, in short order, brings his visions to bear. The SBHA and everyone attending the event remain very thankful to Tony and Becky Gibson for their unfaltering generosity and unequalled Southern hospitality.

As the start of the trial approached, the weather forecast looked like the first three days would be quite wet with rain forecasted. It is February in the South, and rain is a big part of this season. It's akin to a wet blanket you learn to partner with and work in tandem with. While rain suits were adorning the back of almost every saddle, Thursday remained dry, and Friday was dry for most of the day, with a few showers showing up occasionally. Saturday, however, was a bit of a different story. The radar showed nothing but dark green and yellow with periods of red for the entire day, so trial officials and judges agreed to suspend running for the entire day. This proved to be an excellent decision as almost two inches of rain found its way to the ground. The remaining four days were dry and pleasant, with temperatures ranging daily from the mid-40s to mid-60s. The rain left plenty of water on the courses for the dogs, but the horses felt like they were working out with ankle weights due to the mud in places.

The judges for the trial were Wallace Reichert of Whitesburg, Ga., and Jeff Gibbons of Prattville, Ala. Both these gentlemen were such a pleasure to have in the judicial saddles. They both are very knowledgeable of bird dogs, always give each dog the attention required, and are always helpful to handlers during the running. Every entry received a fair and unbiased opportunity to perform. We



Miller's Heat Seeker
First in the SBHA National Horseback Shooting Dog Classic

appreciate Jeff and Wallace's willingness to give their time and dedication to this great sport. We appreciate the above measure.

The marshaling duties were superbly handled by Bo Brewer, who is always a delight to work alongside. The dog wagon was adeptly manned and operated by Bill Clem, and it was always apparent that Bo and Bill were always in sync as the transition from one brace to the next was always efficient and seamless.

Contestants and attendees were greeted each morning with a freshly prepared breakfast. Mr. George Cole and Steve Hutto prepared these early morning delicacies. Steve wore many caps before and during the trial as he was very instrumental in the coordination of activities as well as trailering horses back at the end of each morning and afternoon's running.

Lunches and dinners were professionally prepared daily by "Banjo" (Ban) Stewart with help from his lovely wife, Allison, and daughter Amelia. The meal's quality and expert preparations had everyone clamoring for the next meal.

Sponsors are always appreciated and worthy of much recognition and support. SBHA is fortunate to have some of the best to be found. Fortunately for us, we also had representatives from two very important sponsors. From Eukanuba, we had our sponsor representative Lynn Carradine and one of the most capable nutritionists in the pet food industry, Russ Kelly. Lynn has been so supportive of our goals and has been instrumental in allowing our organization to eliminate all membership fees and the suspension of dog taxes required by the organization. Her support plays a significant role in our ability to put on prestigious events such as the National Open Shooting Dog Classic. Also in attendance was Eric Byrd of Kinetic. Kinetic is also a sponsor who has supported SBHA from the start and is committed to the goals and values of the organization. Our other sponsors are as follows: James O'Neal Dodge (Bremen, Ga.), The Saddle Guy, Hillbilly Mudd, Dogs Unlimited, SportDOG, and Gun Dog Supply.



Bully Rock
Third in the SBHA National Horseback Shooting Dog Classic

We ask that you support these sponsors as you can and thank them for their support of our great sport.

The Running

The Winners

Miller's Heat Seeker, owned by Muriel and Bill Primm, Jack and Fran Miller, and Dennis Hood and handled by George Tracy, emerged as the winner. Heat Seeker is no stranger to the winners' circle and ran in brace No. 26. At 4, he was found backing his brace mate, Phillips Wind Line. Point was called from deep into the pines at 17, and Seeker was found by scout Mike Tracy and was standing like a Trojan. George Tracy dismounted, but unfortunately, no birds could be flushed. A relocation was attempted and performed thoroughly, but the birds weren't cooperating.

Heat Seeker was sent on and put on a ground race clinic hunting with purpose and maturely adjusting to the different terrains. Speed and drive would accurately describe the ground effort of this attractive white and orange pointer. Point was called at 52, and again, Seeker stood with majesty and confidence. Birds were, this time, put to air; Tracy shot, collared his dog, and he was again off in pursuit. Seeker strolled past the area of the pet cemetery, out through the bottoms, and point was again called at 56. Again, great style and manners were displayed with birds flushed, gun fired, and dog collared. All riding knew a rewarding performance had been unfolding in front of all. Seeker continued to reach deep, and time was called in pines near the sawmill.

Waybetter Rebel, a white and black pointer male owned by Muriel and Bill Primm and Allen Linder, handled by Mike Tracy, garnered second place. Rebel is a well-put-together young pointer male who should also see the winners' circle many times in the future. Rebel ran in brace No. 24, the last brace on Monday. Rebel scored a find at 25 with all in order. Point was called at 29, but no birds could be moved after a flushing attempt and relocation. Rebel's ground effort was

strong reaching, and he made a point to hunt through the right places where birds should be found. His efforts were rewarded with finds at 36 and again at 50. He finished the hour with speed and range and pushed hard for the top honor. According to the judges, Rebel was the closest performance to the winner.

Bully Rock, a white and liver pointer male owned by Muriel and Bill Primm and Karen and Ernie Saniga, garnered third place. Bully Rock was handled by Mike Tracy and ran in brace No. 21. Bully Rock ran an industrious race and was business for the full 60 minutes. He scored finds at 9, 32, and 43. Point was called for Bully at 15, but a group of wild piglets was seen leaving the area, so he was taken on. He finished the hour in Phelps Bottom, still hunting and moving forward.

Brace No. 1—Southpoint's Hog Wild (PM/Tracy) with Call Me Clyde (PM/Martino). The morning started slowly as dogs hunted hard and pushed forward, but the birds did not cooperate. Clyde had an unproductive at 19, but both dogs finished the hour without bird work.

Brace No. 2—Steel Valley Raven (PF/Jeanette Tracy) with Bittersweet War Cry (PM/Mike Tracy). Point was called for Raven at 45 and 54. Both stands produced no birds, and Raven was taken up. War Cry hunted hard for the hour but had no bird contact.

Brace No. 3—Pineywood's Legacy (PM/D. Hendley) with Miller's War Bonnet (PF/Tracy). Point was called for Legacy at 4. A large covey was spread all around the dog, and at flush, he moved slightly forward and was taken up by the handler. War Bonnet scored a find at 7, ran a classy forward race, and finished the hour.

Brace No. 4—Trumped (PM/Tracy) with Check It Out (PM/Martino). Trump had finds at 23 and 50. The find at 23 required a relocation attempt that was performed admirably. Trump had a strong-flowing race and finished the hour. Check It Out had a find at 24. A minor infraction occurred after the flush, and the handler chose to pick up.

Brace No. 5—Miller's High Heat Index (PM/Tracy) with Sandspur Belle (PF/R. Moorer). High Heat Index started fast with finds at 9, 12, and 14. Index was strong and forward but out of pocket for an extended period. The tracker was asked for at 42, and as it sometimes happens, just after the tracker was on and attempting to sync, the dog showed up. Belle also had finds at 28 and 40 and finished the hour.

Brace No. 6—Miller's Lock And Loaded (PM/Tracy) with Sunbelt's Repete (PM/Martino). Loaded had finds at 19, 28, and 36 and suffered an unproductive at 48. He finished the hour. Repete had his sneakers strapped on, and the handler asked for the tracker at 26 after an extended absence.

Brace No. 7—Miller's Upgrading The Ante (PF/Tracy) with C S Grace (PF/Martino). Ante hunted hard during the brace, but the birds weren't cooperating. Grace had finds at 3 and

again at 48. She hunted the country with speed and purpose, but a slight bobble at 48 led to her being taken up.

Brace No. 8—Pineywoods Showstopper (PF/D. Hendley) with Reedy Creek Dial Tone (PM/Tracy). It appeared these two dogs made a bet while in the dog wagon as to which could log the most miles the quickest. Both were gone from the breakaway and up upon returning around 15.

Brace No. 9—Miller's Special Cinderella (PF/Tracy) with World Class Moonshiner (PM/S. Lee). Cinderella suffered unproductives at 10 and 36 and was taken up. Moonshiner had a find at 5, suffered a slight bobble at flush, and was taken up.

Brace No. 10—Miller's Flowers And Lace (PF/Tracy) with S B Always Dreamin (PF/B. Owen). Point was called for Lace at 17 but proved unproductive. She hunted hard for the hour but went birdless. Dreamin had a nice find at 23 and hunted classy and industrious for the hour.

Brace No. 11—The Secret (PM/J. Tracy) with J C L's Hap (PM/Tracy). Secret took off at breakaway and was not seen. The handler requested the tracker at 26. Hap was hunting nicely but was birdless at 31 and was taken up.

Brace No. 12—Hauser's Rollin Thunder (PM/Tracy) with Backcountry Buddy (PM/Martino). Thunder pinned a large covey on the ridge at 8 and was found backing his brace mate at 24. These two were way forward and eating up real estate. The tracker was requested for Thunder at 37. Buddy had a nice find at 24. He had long absences, and the tracker was requested for him at 42.

Brace No. 13—Ironstone's Dark Horse (ESM/Martino) with Dunn's Ever'n Onward (PM/W. Dunn). Dark Horse had a find at 28. He hunted hard for the hour but was birdless after the one find. Onward was wide and forward and not seen very often throughout the hour.

Brace No. 14—Hauser's Hard Line (PM/Tracy) with Hillhavyn's Good Time Rail (PF/Martino). Hard Line hunted through the landscape but with no birds, was taken up at 44. Rail had a picturesque find at 10 with a nice covey being flushed. Point was once again called at 59 but proved unproductive.

Brace No. 15—Hillhavyn's Wild Child (PF/J. Tracy) with Miller's Million Dollar Penny (PF/Tracy). Wild Child scored a nice find at 17, with all in order. After moving on, Child found a small bevy of wild piglets. She was taken on, reaching deep on the edges and making an excellent ground effort. She got deep and out of pocket, and the tracker was requested at 45. Penny had a find in a feed strip at 11. She hunted well and later shortened slightly and was taken up at 45.

Brace No. 16—Miller's Newest Version (PF/B. Owen) with Jolene Jolene (PF/Tracy). Version scored a find at 49 and busily hunted the hour. Jolene was off to take someone's man and was not seen after the breakaway; the tracker was requested at 18.

Brace No. 17—Dunn's True Reign (PM/Tracy) with Face To Face (ESM/Martino). Reign ran large and forward throughout the brace but went birdless. Face had finds at 4 and 20. Point was called again at 51, and no birds could be flushed after a relocation attempt. Another find was scored at 57. Face's range had shortened the last half of the brace.

Brace No. 18—Dunn's Sneak'n In (PM/W. Dunn) with Miller's Automatic Upgrade (PM/Tracy). Sneak'n In was strong and forward. He rimmed the Chopper field and went deep. The tracker was requested at 21. Upgrade also was off to the races shortly after the breakaway, and the tracker was requested at 20.

Brace No. 19—Backcountry Pure Gold (PF/Martino) with Calico's Sky's The Limit (PF/Tracy). Pure Gold was a very light-footed and attractive dog on the ground. She floated through the country and had a find at 54. Limit was on point at 4, but no birds could be produced. Point was called for her again at 17, and after a relocation attempt, birds could not be produced, and she was taken up.

Brace No. 20—Miller's Record Heat (PF/Tracy) with Hillhavyn's Major Tom (PM/Martino). Record Heat was heated up as she was off to the races after the breakaway, and the tracker requested at 25. Major Tom hunted the hour with a solid forward race rimming fields and cutting up the piney woods but had no bird work.

Brace No. 21—Bully Rock (PM/Tracy) with McFay's Dire Straits (PF/Martino). Bully Rock was covered earlier. Dire Straits hunted hard and garnered backs at 15 and 43.

Brace No. 22—Faithful (PF/Tracy) with Steel City Avenger (PM/J. Tracy). Faithful suffered an unproductive at 7 after being found on point and a relocation attempt. She hunted busily, and after a discussion with the judge, the handler elected to take her up at 35. Avenger was gone early, and the tracker was requested at 25.

Brace No. 23—Deception's Wild Justice (PM/Martino) with Lone Tree Splash (PF/B. Owen). Wild Justice was out of pocket early, and the tracker requested at 20. Splash had finds at 38 and 45. She hunted busily for the hour.

Brace No. 24—Waybetter Rebel (PM/Tracy) with R Q's Saddle (PM/J. Tracy). Waybetter Rebel was covered earlier. Saddle ran a strong forward and reaching race but eventually was out of pocket, and the tracker requested at 48.

Brace No. 25—C S Trump (ESM/Brewer) with Miller's Extreme Heat (PF/Tracy). Trump got off to a strong start with a limb find on a ditch line deep into the piney woods. A large covey was flushed, and the dog demonstrated superb manners. This was a great way to start a new day. Unfortunately, Trump was out of pocket after this find, and the tracker was requested at 28. Extreme Heat scored a nice find at 26 in a plum thicket. At 42, the handler checked with the judges, and Heat was up at 44.

Brace No. 26—Phillips Wind Line (PM/Martino) with Miller's Heat Seeker (PM/Tracy). Miller's Heat Seeker was covered earlier. Wind Line ran a strong forward race. He scored a find at 4 with his bracemate backing. He also scored a find at 45 and then failed to back his bracemate at 52, which ended his bid.

Brace No. 27—C S Plains Drifter (PM/B. Brewer) with Waybetter Rocky (PM/Tracy). Drifter hunted hard but was birdless at 36 and was taken up. Rocky suffered an unproductive at 9, had a find at 14, and then scored immediately following at 16 while getting back to the front. Rocky was bird hunting and was harnessed at 36.

Brace No. 28—Neely's Business Man (PM/J. Neeley) with Miller's Southern Gossip (PF/Tracy). Business Man got down to business and laid down a solid forward race throughout the hour. He was pointed at 30 near the propane tank with all in order. His race was impressive, and more bird work could have changed the outcome. Gossip pointed a group of wild piglets at 29 and was taken on. Point was called at 49 with birds flushed. Gossip was not pleasing her handler and was taken up.

Brace No. 29—Erin's Big Casino (ESM/Tracy) with Electronic Warfare (PM/B. Goodwin). Casino had a back at 12. An extended absence ensued, and he was taken up at 32. Warfare had a find at 12 but had a slight breach at flush and was harnessed after

discussion with the judge.

Brace No. 30—Cheyenne Jack (PM/Tracy) with Stride (PM/S. Hurdle). Jack suffered an unproductive at 33 and was taken up. Stride had finds at 29 and again at 41. Stride wasn't pleasing his handler and was taken up after flush at 42.

Brace No. 31—Charlie's Zip Tie (ESM/B. Owen) with Miller's Strolling For Gold (PF/Tracy). Zip Tie was out of pocket early, and the tracker was requested at 37. Strolling For Gold had a dug-up find at 12 with all in order. Shortly after the find, she was out of pocket and eventually picked up at 37.

Brace No. 32—Bronco Bully (PM/Tracy) with Towncreek Hardaway Red (PM/Martino). Bully got forward and deep early. When not seen at the end of Chopper Field, the tracker was requested. Red was hunting hard but came up with an injured foot at 25 and was taken up.

Brace No. 33—You could not set up a better ending to such an excellent and competitive trial. How about bringing two heavyweights, George Tracy and Steve Hurdle, to the line to conclude the trial? George brought Miller's Blazing Hot Chick (PF) to the line, and Steve brought C S Code Blue, who had just won the National Open Shooting Dog Championship the week prior at Sedgfields Plantation. You can't write a script like this! Chick had a find at 22 on pine ridge and shortly after at 24 as she entered bottoms. Her final find came at 43.

Code Blue had a stylish find at 22 in bottoms past the graveyard.

This trial was hugely successful, with competitive performances, great fun, and unlimited sportsmanship. The accounting of the braces is as accurate as my notes allow, but if something was missed or inaccurately reported, please forgive me. Writing on a horse during the action is challenging, but nothing was written to be inaccurate or offend anyone.

After the trial, when the winners were announced, Mr. Gibson said he would like this trial to continue. We plan to return this trial to Conecuh Station during the week following the National Open Shooting Dog Championship. We will work diligently to improve the trial and continue improving each year. We appreciate everyone who supported the trial in any way, and we hope to have another great trial in February of 2024.

Union Springs, Ala., February 9

Judges: Jeff Gibbons and Wallace Reichert

SBHA NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 61 Pointers and 5 Setters

1st—MILLER'S HEAT SEEKER, 1674886, pointer male, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Bill & Muriel Primm, Dennis Hood, Jack & Fran Miller, owners; George Tracy, handler.

2d—WAYBETTER REBEL, 1689139, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Calico's Country Song. Allen Linder, Muriel & Bill Primm, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

3d—BULLY ROCK, 1674970, pointer male, by Bully Bragg-Bullerina. Muriel & Bill Primm, Ernie & Karen Saniga, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

U. S. COMPLETE NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Glassilaun War Paint Named Champion; Hirollins Gone And Doneit, Runner-Up

By Margaret C. Drew | Hoffman, North Carolina | February 9, 2023

Once again, February brought the U. S. Complete National Open Shooting Dog Championship to the prestigious Robert Gordon Field Trial Area of Hoffman, N. C. These 950 acres designated for field trials by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission began its development in 1949, with the first trial being held in 1954. Since then, additional courses have been added to six equal one-hour courses. A systematic plan is in place for mowing, clearing, and planting strips over the approximate 32 miles of course. The courses are now marked every mile for assistance should an emergency occur. All of the main connecting dirt roads now have names and road signs. There are horse corrals, dog kennels, a horse barn with stalls, running water in several areas, electrical hook-ups, and a first-class clubhouse facility. The lands were originally acquired by a federal government grant to preserve wildlife and forestry, especially longleaf pine. Each course has manufactured water holes; a few have brook crossings, with cleared strips 70 yards wide, bound by piney woods. These strips have planted crops to invite wildlife. Since 1981 the wildlife commission has worked with

the North Carolina Field Trial Association to release quail in October. The association has purchased a tractor and feed hopper to feed the six courses weekly. The wildlife crew at the local wildlife maintenance depot is responsible for burning, clearing, planting, and mowing the courses. A special thanks to the great job done by the state, especially Lee Criscoe.

Although horseback events at Hoffman use the six one-hour courses as laid out, the walking handlers use about 45 minutes of the usual 60-minute horseback course. We break away at the bottom of the hill below the clubhouse and follow course 1 for a short distance, finishing part way onto course 2. We finish the morning behind the barn, where the normal horseback morning concludes. We begin our afternoon on course 4 on the corner beyond the wooded area adjacent to the barn and continue until done. The state has a dog/people wagon pulled by a pickup during each brace. During 2022-23 there are two drivers. Before arriving in time, these gentlemen make a thermos of coffee, hook up the dog wagon, go around to trailers and gather in dogs, and report to the 8 a.m. breakaway. There is also

soda and water, and of course, cookies for our break times. Greg Robinson was the driver for the six-day Championship and Derby event. Greg had the usual for break times, along with bananas, apples, and tangerines on some days. He ensured dog boxes had clean hay, doors were closed and locked, and reminded riders that the wagon had cushions for those who wished for a softer ride. There is also a water tank on the wagon to refill bottles to water dogs when the temperatures rise, a much-needed service this year.

Returning Championship Chairman Tony Bingham was assisted for the second year by David Huffine and continued help by Earl and Margaret Drew. Judging this year's National Open Championship and companion Derby was John McIltrout from Roundup, Mont., and Sammy Giddens from Faison, N. C. These two have extensive judging experience in all kinds of bird dog events. Those participating appreciate their long hours in their vehicles getting to Hoffman and then sitting in the saddle for five long days to judge the Championship. Bobby Youngs, Ellerbe, N. C., assisted John in judging the Derby. Judging a trial is made easier with good

judging books for recording. Calvin Curnutte has judges' books for sale that easily record points, backs, nonproductives, and room for brief notes.

The clubhouse and meals are organized and prepared by Gretchen Adsit, assisted by Ginny Emerson and other friends of field trials at Hoffman. John Adsit always keeps the clubhouse looking spic and span. Thursday noon, we were treated to homemade chili by Bingham's wife; Gretchen Adsit prepared all other days. No one goes away hungry.

On Friday evening, we had a buffet catered by Seaboard Station in Hamlet in honor of last year's champion, Sweet Grass Slim, and his owner David Huffine. David recognized the judges and presented them with hooded jackets. He also gave your reporter a new saddle pad. On Saturday night, about 47 folks gathered for the Purina dinner. It was also the evening that David Huffine presented plaques from the summer voting for the U. S. Complete Hall of Fame. Receiving a plaque for her dog's induction was Verlene Stephenson in honor of Verlene's Ringo Star. Bobby Phillips, Earl Drew, and Margaret Drew received plaques for people inducted.

After dinner on Saturday, Earl celebrated his 80th birthday, which was the following day. The group gave him a round of "Happy Birthday" and cakes and cupcakes to share with all. Grace Ecker was visiting her son Robert from Pennsylvania, and when she learned of Earl's birthday, she baked two well-received chocolate cakes. They were exceptional and appreciated. A few cupcakes were left for dessert on Sunday as well.

Purina is the main sponsor of U. S. Complete. We thank Purina for its support, including small bags for all sent to the Championship, food certificates for the champion and runner-up, and three large bags for the Derby. The winners were also presented with engraved trays. The Association added \$1,000 to the purse this year and offered an oil painting of the champion by Mary McPherson. Thanks to our other sponsor Garmin for the presentation of collars for the winner and runner-up.

The Champion and Runner-Up

The champion, Glassilaun War Paint, is known as "Bat" to his friends, while Hirollins Gone And Doneit is fondly called "Gunner." Glassilaun War Paint ran a wide, very animated race, requiring very little scouting as he consistently popped out in front when we thought he might be missing. At 20, he and his bracemate stood like two statues before and after shot; Hirollins backing at this time. This was the most exciting brace of the stake, with a large gallery staring in all directions to glimpse a black dog or a light dog pushing through the tall grasses or marching excitedly through piney woods. At 43, Glassilaun War Paint poised tall and solid for another covey to rise. As we continued on course, a voice rang out "point" for Gone And Doneit, whom we had not seen for a few minutes; however, there he stood as a carved statue with Glassilaun



Championship Winners (standing, from left): David Huffine, Greg Robinson, John Melltrot, Sammy Giddens, Earl Drew, Karl Forsberg, Rich Warters, Gretchen Adsit, Jim Emerson, Margaret Drew, and Nida Giddens. (Front, from left): Robert Ecker with Glassilaun War Paint, Jamie Nee, Mark Hughes with Hirollins Gone And Doneit, and Tony Bingham.

War Paint backing. As handlers approached and entered the thick grassy cover, a covey lifted. Both dogs remained as carved objects until collared by their handlers. The last five minutes saw both dogs watered and marching to the front before handlers demanded their return. Hirollins Gone And Doneit is known for his active tail and powerful attacking of cover. He and his bracemate were constant in their forward races, lucky for the gallery Gone And Doneit is orange and white, while War Paint is black and white. Today, Gone And Doneit was in sync with Warren, requiring very little scouting as he scooted everywhere he should have gone. He scored a nice covey find at 50, which put the frosting on his bid for a championship. This was his fifth runner-up placement.

On Thursday, February 9, the 2023 Championship began with Miss Clinique, a pointer female owned and handled by Gary Miller, in brace No. 1. She ran an animated short race with a stop to flush. Her bracemate was Dennis and Hope Beauford's pointer male, Knight's Last Chipster, with Tony Bingham. He covered the hour course with frequent self-hunting rather than working with his handler. Dennis and Hope Beauford were on the grounds to watch their dogs run and run one themselves in brace No. 12.

Brace No. 2 had Doug Forgrave's pointer male, Kelly's Blitz'n Wheel Hank, with Adam Dubriske. He had a strong forward race with no bird contact. Rich Warters was present and driving the handler's truck to watch his pointer male, Bo of Piney Woods, with Robert Ecker. Bo was forward with good style at a medium range.

Brace No. 3 saw Mike Husenits's pointer male, Warrior Zeke, with Mark Hughes, and Tony Bly with English setter male, Stokely B's Ricky, belonging to him and his wife Marie, as the bracemate. These two dogs got the first hot brace of the trial. Both dogs moved eagerly off the line; however, they soon hunted closely and often checked with handlers. Just before 30, both handlers elected to leash their dogs due to conditions.

After a slight delay due to communication

difficulties, brace No. 4 was put down to hunt back toward the clubhouse on course three. Doug McMillen's pointer male, Double Deuce Oscar, with Mark Hughes and Sam Ridings handling bracemate Georgia Born Windstorm, a pointer male belonging to Sam and Margie Ridings. The judges reported that Oscar showed them what every judge wants to see except them pointing a quail. He ran a very animated race with a strong front finish. Bracemate Georgia Born Windstorm had a good front-running race with moderate speed and range.

Brace No. 5 had My Way Little Bud, a pointer male owned by J. D. Waters, with Tony Bingham. He was out of sight early and returned to check with his handler. At 20, the dog was watered and tapped on. At 27, Little Bud moved through the tall season grass and was birdy for a few minutes before continuing deeper in the tall grass. The handler blew him on as quail erupted out of the cover. Pedja Kazic's English setter male, Island Fantasy, with Robert Ecker, was the bracemate. Fantasy had a short excursion through thick cover and, by 23, was getting overheated and picked up by his handler.

Brace No. 6 called veteran English setter female Miss Penn Star with Robert Ecker to the line. George Najor, the owner of Miss Penn Star, was present to watch. This 11-year-old setter ran like a 2-year-old with animation and speed to die for. She hunted hard every minute of her time. She, unfortunately, scored two unproductives, one at 33 and one at 50. She often dug deep into the cover and was found buried deep while standing so tall that only her nose tip and tail were visible. The scout found her standing at 50. Bracemate Attakullakulla, an English setter male owned by Daryl Grantham with Tony Bingham, covered the course by jumping forward on the easy path, followed by a turn into the cover for swinging hunting casts, sometimes in the woods, other times in the deep season grasses. He was leashed at 55.

Brace No. 7 had Pistol Grip, a pointer male in Mark Hughes's string, another owned by Mike Husenits, and Georgia Born Apache Wind (Ridings). Pistol Grip made his way despite the heat, standing at 32. As he awaited Hughes to flush, his bracemate approached, ran around him, and was rounded up by his handler. Pistol Grip showed his polished manners by standing until Hughes reached him. After a conversation with the judges, it was decided not to attempt flush but take him on. He returned to hunt. Georgia Born Apache Wind ran a happy animated race. He was heard yipping frequently. He showed some immaturity at 32 and was leashed after interfering by not backing and circling Pistol Grip.

Day two began with brace No. 8. Billy McCathern's pointer male, Doc's Haven Jake's Law, with Tony Bingham, had a long opening cast which by 27 had turned into a spiral pattern. He was returned to the wagon early. English setter male, Sweet Grass

Skeeter, owned and handled by David Huffine, was the bracemate. Skeeter started slowly returning to his handler frequently. He then made some ranging casts with good tail action and a happy gait. No quail were located.

Brace No. 9 called upon Tim Runyan's English setter female, Glassilaun Parabellum, with Robert Ecker. She checked in at 10 and was watered. Her pattern was scattered, although very fast, on the ground. She scored a nonproductive at 30. While passing the soldier camp, both dogs covered the area at a reasonable distance and with plenty of style. Fred Rose's pointer female, Smoke Rise Hanna, under Tony Bingham's whistle, was the bracemate. Hanna broke away with an eight-minute forward cast. Her hour was forward and fluid for the entire hour, although like so many others lacked bird contact.

Brace No. 10 found Jeff Allen's pointer female, Rebel's Orange Crush, with Tony Bingham. Orange Crush ran an inconsistent race, although making several good casts. At 28, handlers took their dog to the water hole; however, unfortunately, a small covey of quail was ridden up by gallery horses. Forsberg's Hello Dolly, a pointer female owned and handled by Karl Forsberg, was the bracemate. Dolly made her way attractively through the cover, hitting the right areas but coming up short. She had a nonproductive at 50 and a second at 57. Time expired as the handler attempted to locate the elusive quail.

Brace No. 11 had the Beaufords present to watch English setter male Attitude's True Grit with Robert Ecker. True Grit ran an animated forward fast race. Point was called at 24; however, he was tapped on to relocate when no birds were flown. Instead of relocating, he marched to the left while quail were seen lifting from the right behind him. Judges felt he had not smelled the game due to heat and breathing through his mouth. Both dogs hunted well despite the heat. True Grit went on to score the first find of the Championship. Cheers and clapping were heard from the top of the dog wagon and among the mounted gallery; finally, a covey of quail had been located and handled well. While bracemate Double Deuce Sage, Doug McMillen's pointer female with Mark Hughes, stood for a covey find at 50, True Grit obediently backed. At 55, True Grit scored a second tall and solid point on a covey. He hunted the woods in a swinging forward pattern and feed strip edges. Sage showed plenty of style and a good nose with finds at 47 and 50. She had a 15-minute slower start before finishing her forward race, always to the front, with a high-on-both-ends style on point. She was carried until the last morning by the judges.

Brace No. 12 called upon pointer female owned by Marty Festa, Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella, with Robert Ecker. Harper was fast forward for about 20 minutes, then she began to show the effects of the heat and, by 30, was picked up. Dennis Beauford owns and handles her bracemate, pointer male Erin's Battle Cry. He ran the race of a veteran, pacing himself in the heat while hitting the objectives that

should have resulted in quail contact. He finished his hour without bird contact.

Brace No. 13 found Fred Rose's pointer male, Smoke Rise Jake, with Tony Bingham. Jake ran a wide-reaching, well-patterned race. He pointed at 6, with bracemate backing, and all in order for both dogs. Jake had a strong moving race and stood tall on both ends, especially on a find in the woods at 48 while the handler flushed a covey. Jake remained as solid after flush as before. He had 12 minutes of challenging behavior before finishing well after mounting the hill below the barn on course 5. His bracemate, a pointer male belonging to Travis and Meghan Riggs, was veteran Cairds Lefty. Lefty came close to placing in this Championship some years back under another handler. This year he was under the whistle of Sam Ridings. He scored a back at 6 before making a valiant effort of locating quail. He required water often, showed much heart, and never quit as a dog could display. To see him run despite his ongoing treatment for Addison's Disease is amazing, especially in the heat.

Brace No. 14 called Meghan and Travis Riggs's other pointer male, Meghan's Special Edition, to the line with Sam Ridings. This liver and white, muscular, well-built male applied himself well for the whole hour. He hunted along edges, as well as in the piney woods. He carried a very high tail in a happy hunting manner and completed his hour. His bracemate was Earl Drew, and his pointer female, Naname Emma. She broke away with her bracemate, both eager to get to the front. Emma checked back at 5 and stretched to the front and off to the side. A retrieval unit found her well to the front at 25 near the Chicken Coop with quail.

Brace No. 15 called upon Tom McClusky's pointer female, Shoal Creek Belle, with Tony Bingham. Belle looked ready on the start line; however, by 30, she was among the missing. A retrieval unit used by scout Mark Hughes returned her to the wagon. Home Cookin Ellie Mae, a pointer female owned and handled by Karl Forsberg, was the bracemate. Ellie Mae is a slightly built female with a drive to please her handler. She scored a nice covey of quail at 21 with good manners. She then hunted at a close distance and was leashed early by her handler.

Brace No. 16 called another of Mike Husenits's pointers, A Distant Spec, pointer female, with Mark Hughes. Today was not her day. She went through the motions of hunting, lost her bracemate almost immediately, and gave little display of desire on this early morning; consequently, she was leashed early by her handler. Her bracemate was Georgia Born Braveheart, a pointer male owned by the Ridings and handled by Marge Ridings. Braveheart was brought to the breakaway; however, his energy was misplaced as he decided that the course had been laid out incorrectly. He made a reverse cast and did not respond to the scout when attempting to turn him forward. He was early in the dog wagon.

Brace No. 17 had another of J. D. Waters's pointers, Mohawk Mill War Hawk, with Tony Bingham. Mohawk Mill War Hawk had a good race and easily finished his hour, but no birds kept him from the winners' circle. Mike Rosano's English setter male, Lightning Flash Moose, with Adam Dubriske, was the bracemate. Flash Moose is a setter down for winter training from the north. Unlike most southern setters, he had not had a haircut. Despite this slight disadvantage, he moved through the cover, making several exceptional casts with no quit in his vocabulary. His handler picked him up at 50.

Brace No. 18 paired pointer female, Twiggy, owned and handled by Cliff Monroe, and Miller's Hopped Up Version, a pointer female belonging to Carlos Escalante in Mark Hughes's string. Twiggy runs with excitement in a quick animated style. Her forward casts would be rewarded with a find; however, a nonproductive at 27 and a slight stand at 55 did not produce quail. Hopped Up Version sped quickly to the front, passing to the side with scouting required for her and her bracemate. When the two returned to the course, she was seen reaching forward, turning deeper into the woods. A retrieval unit rounded her up from a great distance.

Brace No. 19 carried the Drews English setter male, Island Blue Genes, to the line under the whistle of Earl Drew. Gene moves consistently while carrying a high head and a very active tail. He had a good ground pattern. He had a nonproductive with his bracemate backing and a back from a very long distance, while his bracemate had a nonproductive at 45. His bracemate, Double Deuce Zeke, a pointer male belonging to Doug McMillen with Mark Hughes, hunted fast and maintained a constant hunting pattern. His actions fast in an excellent forward march. This pair were fun to follow as they swapped sides and marched forward.

In brace No. 20, Bob's Elhew Sage, a pointer female owned and handled by Bobby Phillips, was braced with Suemac's Sashay, a pointer female owned by Roger and Suzie McPherson, with Mark Hughes. Sage was eager to be off the truck and quick to jump forward. She made a long opening cast so we could barely watch her round the knoll at the far end and disappear. Despite a thorough scouting attempt, a retrieval unit located her over 20 minutes later. Suemac's Sashay had owner Roger McPherson riding to watch the day's event. She made appropriate casts as she visited the proper bird covers. When no birds were located, Sashay closed her range and continued a birdless race. With 15 minutes to go, she was returned to the truck.

Brace No. 21 saw Santee River Pawley Girl, a pointer female owned by Mike McKinney, with Tony Bingham, as bracemate with Carlos Escalante's pointer female, Miller's Special Upgrade, a pointer female, with Mark Hughes handling. Santee River Pawley Girl departed with determination up the opening incline requiring a location device when she did not check back in by 20. Miller's Special

Upgrade ran with a smooth, easy gait moving forward continuously. At 47, she stopped, making everyone hold their breath; however, she smelled the air and then self-relocated and moved away. She remained down for the hour.

Brace No. 22 saw Backwoods Wild Fire, a pointer male belonging to Justin Mason, with Mark Hughes, and bracemate Neo, an English setter male belonging to David Theroux, with Adam Dubriske. Backwoods Wild Fire runs with a snappy fast animated gait, while Neo has a smooth stretching stride. These two had good races as they covered all the spots one would expect to find quail at an appropriate range; however, once again, the judges sadly reported: NO BIRDS!

Brace No. 23 was Waybetter Flyin Tomato, an English setter male belonging to Anne Smith with brother Mark Hughes. His bracemate was English setter male Dun Rovens Midnite Ike, with Robert Ecker. These two setters complimented each other with the first one and then the other seen casting through a distant field of high grasses or taking a tour across a piney woods area. Both were always forward, Flyin Tomato perhaps a little more reaching. At 38 and 50, Ike locked up tall and proud; however, birds had either left or were dug down deep. With the second nonproductive, Ike was taken to the truck. Flyin Tomato locked up at 50; however, once again, no quail were flown. As he was tapped on, he moved forward 50 feet, once again stopping at 58, although self-relocating as time was called.

Brace No. 24 saw Hirollins B K Bushwacker, a pointer male owned and handled by Warren Parrott, as bracemate for Ramapo Mountain Doc, a pointer male owned by Bob Shaban, with Robert Ecker. This brace started looking promising, with a pair of determined pointers immediately going to work searching for their quarry. Both dogs were to the front and beyond a water hole without glancing at a drink or quick dip. Mountain Doc stopped near the water hole to point, although no quail were located by the handler. Bushwacker stauched up at 20 for a well-located good-sized covey along a feed strip. His race continued wide and forward with intelligent searches of all the right places. At 37, he was found standing again with all in order for flush and shot. However, at 47, he was seen jumping through the clear water in the brook and starting up the adjacent hill with thick grasses only to flush a huge covey without using the manners we had watched him use during the last part of the hour. Doc was already up when this happened, as he had suffered a second nonproductive at 25.

Brace No. 25 found Greg Isenberg with his pointer male, Tenacee Rowdy, as bracemate for Lee Layman's pointer male, Triple L's Ben, with Bingham. Lee is usually present at this trial to see his dog work; however, he was missed this year. Triple L's Ben worked the cover well for about 25 minutes before casting to the left of a feed patch and disappearing. The scout later located him where he had

drifted off course and forward, now standing for a small covey. Tenacee Rowdy ran with an attractive gait, powerful and smooth on the ground in a very reaching pattern. His hour ended as the rain increased and the fog rolled in without any quail contact for Rowdy.

Brace No. 26 was called to the line at 8 a.m. on Monday under much-improved conditions. Mark Hughes came to the line with Bruce Mueller's English setter male, Doodle Ridge Elroy, as bracemate for Cliff Monroe and his pointer male, Treasure Chest. On this cool morning, both dogs were eagerly out of sight, with determination and proximity showing each wanted to be in the front. We often saw them at a distance, sometimes together, other times independent, always moving with positive motion. At 30, Treasure Chest stood high on both ends, with Elroy backing. When no quail were located, both dogs were tapped to continue their good forward-reaching races in a medium range until the hour ended.

Brace No. 27 held the champion and the runner-up. Hirollins Gone And Doneit, a pointer male owned and handled by Warren Parrott, was named runner-up champion, and Glassilaun War Paint, a pointer male owned by Jamie Nee, with Robert Ecker, earned the champion title. Once again, owner Jamie Nee and Mariangela Souza were down from New England to participate in the Championship, as he had done for the Open Invitational in early December 2022. This is his fourth championship. (This brace is covered under the winners).

Brace No. 28 saw Braggabull, a pointer female owned and handled by Mark Hughes, with Upper Ammonoosuc Poison Ivy, a pointer female belonging to Jameson Marquis, with Adam Dubriske. This brace had two medium-ranging pointers who needed to adjust quickly to the weather conditions or the terrain during their moderately-ranging tour of the course. Both were picked up before they completed the hour.

Brace No. 29 was called to the line at 1:30 p.m. following lunch and under warm conditions. Bill Britt, the owner of pointer male Clayhill Bones, was mounted to watch his dog, whom Tony Bingham handled in this brace. Last year's champion, English setter male Sweet Grass Slim owned and handled by David Huffine, was the bracemate. Veteran entry, Clayhill Bones, checked with his handler several times as he swept the terrain for game. Handler Bingham offered water to Bones several times before putting him in the dog wagon at 20. Sweet Grass Slim hunted the front well with a high tail and happy motion after a good opening cast. He shortened his range and was up before the hour expired.

Brace No. 30 was removed from the dog wagon and collars attached after dogs were wet down and whistled away at 2:13. Mark Hughes brought Doug McMillen's pointer male, Double Deuce Butters, as bracemate for Southland's Johnny Ringo, a pointer male owned and handled by Karl Forsberg. Double Deuce Butters began his hour with a

forward cast, crossing the water and casting to the left up through the grassy cover, where we watched a large covey rise with Butters eagerly under them. Southland's Johnny Ringo is a snappy moving pointer with a constant attack to the cover. At 45, he was making a cast on the left as the course traversed down a hill and up the hill toward the bunker area. When Ringo was not seen to the front, and scout saw him casting away, the handler requested his receiver, and his hour ended. A vehicle was sent to transport Karl and his dog, as the wagon had to move to the next breakaway with the next brace. (State Timber clearing activities had begun in the area, causing a slight by-pass as we crossed the dirt road and bear left on the course.)

Brace No. 31 found Tony Bingham with Steve Ferrell's pointer female, Low Country Kate, as bracemate for Jim Millett's English setter male, Sterlingworth Jack, with Robert Ecker. Kate rapidly departed with no trace seen by her handler, scout, or gallery. When the locating device was turned on, she was seen to have turned left and was headed in the wrong direction. She was soon gathered up with the help of Dave Hughes and a vehicle. Jack was also turned around before 25, leading to an early pick-up.

Brace No. 32 called Bingham to the line with Forrest Cook's pointer female, Cook's Katie. Not having a bracemate did not please her, which was displayed by a close and hesitant start. After a few minutes and some toots on the whistle, she took the hint. Unfortunately, she did not complete her hour.

Hoffman, N. C., February 9
Judges: Sammy Giddens and John McIltrout
U. S. COMPLETE NATIONAL
OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 47 Pointers and 16 Setters

Winner—GLASSILAUN WAR PAINT, 1667331, pointer male, by Sugarknoll War Paint-Neely's Hot Pepper. Jamie Nee, owner; J. Robert Ecker, handler.
Runner-Up—HIROLLINS GONE AND DONEIT, 1679825, pointer male, by Fastforward's B K Gunner-Littlewing B K Tia. Warren Parrott, owner and handler.

Open Derby

Following the National Open Championship, a companion Open Derby stake was scheduled. Due to a large number of entries in both the Championship and the Derby, as well as weather conflicts and the grounds being booked for another trial immediately after, the Derby was reduced from 45 minutes to 30 minutes. Judging the Derby was John McIltrout, Roundup, Mont., and Robert Youngs, Ellerbe, N. C. John had traveled to the historic Hoffman Field Trial Grounds to assist with judging the Championship and was also willing to evaluate the derbies. John is a professional dog trainer at Seranoa Kennels in Broadview, Mont. Robert (Bob) Youngs recently moved from Pennsylvania to North Carolina, bringing a wealth of experience with field trials, dogs, and horses. The association was fortunate to have two well-qualified judges. Derby winners received a purse, Purina dog food, an engraved glass mug, and ribbons.

The Derby commenced on Tuesday morning with a drawing of 27 derbies; however, with one scratch that left 13 braces to run. The weather began pleasantly; however, it warmed during the day. In the mid-afternoon, a slight breeze developed, and the last two braces were more comfortable.

The bird situation at Hoffman was less than adequate for the Derby stake, with one covey pointed after picking up as handler Mark Hughes called to his dog for pick-up and the other ridden up by a handler earlier in the afternoon.

Honorable mention went to Suemac's Hoodoo Man, a pointer male owned by the McPhersons, with Mark Hughes, and to Santee River Law Man, a pointer male owned by Mike McKinney under the whistle of Tony Bingham. The latter dog impressed the judges so much that they said he would have had a placement if he had not been gone the last five minutes.



Derby Winners (back, from left): Barbara Youngs, Earl Drew, Tony Bingham, Bob Youngs (judge), John McIltrout (judge), and Greg Robinson (wagon driver). (Front, from left): Mark Hughes with Sweet Grass Skipper and Dave Hughes with Sweet Grass Scout.

The number one spot went to Sweet Grass Skipper, an English setter male owned and handled by David Huffine. Second-place recognition went to Sweet Grass Scout, an

English setter male also owned and handled by David Huffine. These two orange and white fancy setters are equally as fancy running. They cover the ground with high heads and tails, seeming to skim over the ground cover and breeze through the tall grasses dramatically. They appeared to be able to apply themselves to whatever the territory presented in well-applied races. There was little need for the handler to assist as the handler and dog were as one with the sole purpose of reaching outward and forward; dogs were always in touch with the handler and always in the front.

**Judges: John McIltrout and Robert Youngs
OPEN DERBY – 20 Pointers and 7 Setters**

1st—SWEET GRASS SKIPPER, 1698209, setter male, by Sweet Grass Slim-Tower Hill Zoey Zee. David Huffine, owner and handler.
2d—SWEET GRASS SCOUT, 1700663, setter male, by Shag Time Bobo-Black Cloud's Angel. David Huffine, owner and handler.

GEORGIA FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Georgia Amateur Celebration

By Nell Mobley | Waynesboro, Georgia | February 10, 2023



Georgia Amateur Celebration Shooting Dog Winners (front, from left): One Day La Bandita with Lane Hodges, Cottonwood Banjoe with Tim Ruff, and One Day Queen Bee with Darcy Hodges. (Behind, from left): Chad Chadwell, Nancy Brown, Nell Mobley, Randy Marsh, Steve Mills, Ben Lorensen (judge), Kyle Merrill (judge), Gary Futch, and Alan York.

I am pleased to report that we had a good entry of dogs in our Amateur Celebration sponsored by the Georgia Field Trial Association. The Celebration consists of three stakes: Shooting Dog, All-Age, and Derby.

To name the best performances, Ben Lorensen of Allendale, S. C., and Kyle Merrill of Corinna, Maine, were riding in the saddles. They primarily run their Brittany breed. However, they knew what to look for in English pointers, setters, and Vizslas. Ben and Kyle watched the performance of all dogs as they covered the course.

Pen-raised birds raised by Pat Johnson Game Birds were released before running, with additional ones replacing any that moved. Alan York and Ron Lambert assumed these duties. Serving as marshals were President Gary Futch and Randy Marsh.

Nineteen entries were drawn for the Shooting Dog stake. First place went to One

Day La Bandita, owned and handled by Lane Hodges. This 4-year-old pointer female took to the course with hunting and pointing birds on her mind. She ran a classy forward race that maximized the course to its fullest potential. She had five pieces of bird work and a finish in the back green field that left no doubt in the judges' minds of an excellent overall performance.

Cottonwood Banjoe is a 5-year-old pointer male owned and handled by Tim Ruff. He was named second place. He had four well-spaced finds. His race was commendable for a shooting dog. When time was called, he could be seen to the front.

Third place went to One Day Queen Bee, owned and handled by Lane Hodges. Queen Bee is a littermate of One Day La Bandita, and her performance could be compared to her sister. She ran a big forward race that always showed her to the front. Queen Bee handled

kindly and had one bird contact, earning her a spot in the winners' circle.

Others running in the Shooting Dog stake were Secret Agent Attitude (Marsh), Pele's Wiki Aloha Spirit (Chadwell), Dal (Adams), Jake (Lambert), Reve's Royal Hawaiian (Chadwell), Luxy (Cerofolini), Sugar Cane Express (Chadwell), Crouch's Red Bird Girl (Crouch), Rolex (Cerofolini), Reb (Adams), Mia's Hour of Kalua (Chadwell), Dominator's Kid Rock (Ruff), and One Day Lucky Strike (Hodges).

Walnut Tree Blue was awarded first place in the All-Age. Blue ran a very nice forward race, hunting in the right places. He had no bird contact and was judged on his groundwork. This pointer male is owned and handled by Steve Mills.

Chad Adams handled Bud Adams to be named in second place. This 3-year-old showed great potential with a forward race with finds at 20 and 30. He got lateral off to the side at 45 but corrected himself and finished the hour.

Beckworth's Wildfire WF was named first in the Derby competition for owner/handler Alan York. His race was forward with bird contact at 12, and a point at 15 was fruitless. His 30 minutes concluded in the dove field.

An excellent race was witnessed for Walnut Tree Buddy, handled and owned by Steve Mills. The judges made note of a promising future. Third-place honors went to Beckworth's Quick Fire, owned and handled by Alan York. Fire had bird contact in the dove field—an excellent job for a 1-year-old derby.



Georgia Amateur All-Age Winners (front, from left): Walnut Tree Blue with Steve Mills and Stoney Run's Buddy with Chad Adams. (Behind, from left): Randy Marsh, Benn Lorensen (judge), Kyle Merrill (judge), Gary Futch, and Alan York.

Others in competition were Montana Dream (Macke), Nicks (Crouch), Nell (Crouch), Jolene (Adams), and Crouch's Sunny Mill Jo (Crouch).

I look forward to seeing everyone return in 2024. If you missed this running, hopefully, the Celebration will be on your agenda next season.



Georgia Amateur Derby Winners (front, from left): Beckworth's Wildfire with Alan York, Walnut Tree Buddy with Bill Adams, and Beckworth's Quick Fire with Brad Macke. (Behind, from left): Nell Mobley, Ron Lambert, Ben Lorensen (judge), Kyle Merrill (judge), and Gary Futch.

Waynesboro, Ga., February 10
Judges: Ben Lorensen and Kyle Merrill
GEORGIA CELEBRATION
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

[One-Hour Heats] – 15 Pointers and 4 Vizslas

1st—*ONE DAY LA BANDITA*, 1684577, pointer female, by Heard Hill's Memory Lane-Dubose's Snow White. Lane Hodges, owner and handler.

2d—*COTTONWOOD BANJOE*, 1675918, pointer male, by Cottonwood Bound Bandit-Class Act Kasey. Tim Ruff, owner and handler.

3d—*ONE DAY QUEEN BEE*, 1684579, pointer female, by Heard Hill's Memory Lane-Dubose's Snow White. Lane Hodges, owner and handler.

GEORGIA CELEBRATION AMATEUR ALL-AGE

[One-Hour Heats] – 5 Pointers

1st—*WALNUT TRUE BLUE*, 1680850, male, by Walnut Tree Fred-Dialing Kate. Steve Mills, owner and handler.

2d—*BUD ADAMS*, 1702121, pointer male, by Stone Run's Buddy-Muddy Belle Kate. Chad Adams, owner and handler.

AMATEUR DERBY – 10 Pointers

1st—*BECKWORTH'S WILDFIRE WF*, 1699937, female, by Touch's Mega Mike-Beckworth's Fired UP. Alan York, owner and handler.

2d—*WALNUT TREE BUDDY*, 1697324, male, by Walnut Tree Fred-Walnut Tree Buddy. Steve Mills, owner and handler.

3d—*BECKWORTH'S QUICK FIRE*, 1703237, female, by Lester's Shockwave-Pleasant Run Gal. Alan York, owner and handler.

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MEMPHIS AMATEUR FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Lester's Top Recruit Earns Top Spot In Shooting Dog

By Rachel Russell | Blue Mountain, Mississippi | February 10, 2023



Amateur Shooting Dog Winner (from left): David Russell, Lance Servais with Lester's Top Recruit, Brody Byrd, Brian Peterson, Billy Blackwell with granddaughter Anniston Russell, and Gary McKibben. Second and third-place dogs not pictured.



Amateur All-Age Winners (from left): David Russell, Mike Small with Phillips Linebacker, Gary McKibben with Coldwater Paradise, and Brody Byrd. Third place dog not pictured.



Amateur Derby Winners (from left): Scott Beeler, David Russell with Haneys Hurricane Seeker, Michelle Clark, David Williams with Rebel Maid, Brody Byrd, Lance Servais with Red Alert Lane, and Brian Peterson.

We had a great trial for the Memphis Amateur, starting with the Shooting Dog stake turned loose on Thursday, February 10, at 12:58 p.m. under sunny skies and 58 degrees with Brody Byrd and Gary McKibben in the judges' saddle. Taylor's Simply Southern, owned and handled by Jeremy Taylor, had a find before the first road crossing and followed with a flawless back at the end of the long bottom alongside Hell Creek for his bracemate, Lester's Top Recruit, before finishing the brace at the grain bins.

Lester's Top Recruit, owned and handled by Lance Servais, set the bar high early as he scored his first find at the end of the pines after the first road crossing, followed by a second one at the end of long bottom on the left, a third find in the second field down from the house and a fourth one at the end of the big field just across the mile-long bottom. Lastly, Servais called the flight of birds on the right line across from the pines after crossing the road, but no birds were officially seen, and he took the dog on before finishing at the grain

bins.

Cocklebur Breaking Bad, owned and handled by Bubba Spencer, had two finds in brace No. 2, the first just across from the pines after the road crossing on the second course and the second one at the end of the first field just down from the old house. Breaking Bad finished in the long bottom. His bracemate, Cooper's Rebel Buddy, handled by Bryson Cooper, was picked up after a breach of manners at Breaking Bad's first find.

In brace No. 3, Southern Shadows T Rex, handled by Brian Peterson, scored his first find on the right side of the breakaway field and a second find in the second field before going through the pines before he requested the tracker at 45. His bracemate, Bryant's Give It A Rip, handled by Kenton Bryant, had his first and only find at the end of the pines before crossing Hell Creek and finished the hour in Horseshoe Field before the next Hell Creek crossing.

The final brace of the Shooting Dog stake

turned loose on Saturday morning, sunny and 40 degrees. Southern Ritz Lane, handled by Lance Servais, had his first find at the end of the pines after the first road crossing and second at the end of the big field before the second road crossing in the cane. He finished the hour alongside his bracemate, Shearjoy's Smooth As Silk, handled by Betty Shearouse, but did not produce any bird work.

The All-Age stake began immediately after the conclusion of the Shooting Dog, under judges Brody Byrd and David Russell, with Misty Morn Masked Man, handled by Joey McAlexander, who scored his first find on one of the edges before the church and a second one immediately after the second road crossing behind the old house. He finished the hour in the mile-long bottom with his bracemate, Imagine, handled by Jim Pendergest.

Phillips Linebacker, handled by Mike Small, took the third course with a find at the end of the second field down from the clubhouse and was unable to produce birds

after pointing a second time but showed feathers and continued to finish the hour strong in Horseshoe Field alongside his bracemate, Shearjoy's Landkreuzer, handled by Betty Shearouse.

Nosam Silver Dollar, handled by Mason Ashburn, was turned loose as a bye-dog after lunch on Saturday in brace No. 3 under cloudy skies and 52 degrees. He pointed in the cut before the mile-long bottom at the end of the long bottom alongside Hell Creek. He could not produce live birds but showed a dead bird and continued to finish the hour near the grain bins. Kenton Bryant, who ran Bryant's Give It A Rip in all three stakes, called point for his dog down from the grain bins before going up the hill to the second road crossing and was unable to produce birds but showed feathers and continued to finish the hour in the mile-long bottom. Betty Shearouse requested the tracker at 44 before the second road crossing for his bracemate, Shearjoy's Triple Threat.

The last brace of the day included an unproductive for Nosam's Little Big Town, handled by Mason Ashburn, at the end of the pines before crossing Hell Creek, where birds had previously been found and a divided find between him and his bracemate, Coldwater Paradise, handled by Gary McKibben, at the end of the horseshoe field before crossing Hell Creek to head to the clubhouse.

The last two braces of the All-Age stake turned loose Sunday morning under sunny skies and 37 degrees. Rebel Dreams, handled by David Williams, and Small's White Charger, handled by Mike Small, were in the first brace of the morning. Rebel Survivor, handled by David Williams, was in the final brace of the stake, and all three dogs completed the hour without any bird work.

The Derby stake began shortly before lunch on February 12, judged by professional handlers Brody Byrd and Scott Beeler. There was no bird work, but all three dogs that earned placements showed a strong, forward race that set them apart from their competitors.

Thank you to Sportsman's Pride, who generously donated gift cards to the winners, our judges, and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, which allowed us to run on their beautiful grounds.

**Blue Mountain, Miss., February 10
Judges: Brody Byrd and Gary McKibben
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG**

[One-Hour Heats] – 6 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st—LESTER'S TOP RECRUIT, 1681841, pointer male, by Lester's Sunny Hill Jo-Rivertons Funseeker Riley. Lance Servais, owner and handler.

2d—COCKLEBUR BREAKING BAD, 1689927, pointer male, by Cocklebur King Tut-Cocklebur Regent Runaway. Bubba, Amy & Colt Spencer, owners; Bubba Spencer, handler.

3d—TAYLOR'S SIMPLY SOUTHERN, 1657191, pointer female, by Miller's Happy Jack-Blue Collar Lady. Jeremy & Tammy Taylor, owners; Jeremy Taylor, handler.

**Judges: Brody Byrd and David Russell
AMATEUR ALL-AGE**

[One-Hour Heats] – 10 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st—PHILLIPS LINEBACKER, 1695679, pointer male, by Phillips Off Line-Phillips Silver Lady. Orrin Ingram & Nathan Phillips, owners; Mike Small, handler.

2d—COLDWATER PARADISE, 1684062, pointer female, by Coldwater Spectre-Coldwater Belle. Gary McKibben, owner and handler.

3d—MISTY MORN MASKED MAN, 1667341, pointer male, by Miller's Dialing In-Mac's Inspiration. Joey McAlexander, owner and handler.

**Judges: Scott Beeler and Brody Byrd
AMATEUR DERBY – 14 Pointers and 3 Setters**

1st—HANEY'S HURRICANE SEEKER, 1698759, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. David Russell, owner and handler.

2d—REBEL MAID, 1701830, pointer female, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Rebel Maiden. David Williams, owner and handler.

3d—RED ALERT LANE, 1700854, pointer male, by Lester's Prime Poison Lane-Southern Ritz Lane. Brian Peterson, owner and handler.



NATIONAL RED SETTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

2023 Series Held At The Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds

By Bonnie Hidalgo | Hoffman, North Carolina | February 16, 2023

The National Red Setter Club's National Shooting Dog Championships trial kicked off Thursday, February 16, at the Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds on the Sandhills Gamelands near Hoffman, N. C. The trial moved to Hoffman this year after ten straight years at the Jim Edgar/Panther Creek WMA near Chandlerville, Ill. The main reason for the change of venue was that in Illinois, many of the courses would be burned just a few days before the trial, rendering much of the ground unusable. Hoffman is a well-established ground with six well-groomed courses for running bird dogs; it has all the amenities one could desire. Birds are pre-released here, and no additional planting is permitted. With birds being released in the fall and a steady schedule of field trials conducted here, the birds, for the most part, are pushed off course.

Four coveys were moved during the running of the National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog Championship, all found during brace No. 6. Only one dog, out of 16 competing, finished with bird work. Undoubtedly, this was a contributing factor when the judges opted to withhold the title and revert to an Open Shooting Dog stake with three placements given. Between the two Championships and

the Futurity, with 44 dogs running over the six courses, only six found game.

The walking stakes were run at the Tilley Road location, off the typical field trial courses, where planting birds are allowed. The NRSFTC purchased birds for planting for each brace of the walking stakes to give those contestants an excellent opportunity to point game. The Walking Shooting Dog course was a very nice "cover dog" type which was popular with the handlers. The Walking Derby course consisted of various habitats, from piney woods and brush to open grassy fields.

Judges for this event were Gary Miller, from nearby Jackson Springs, N. C., and Buck Heard, Moultrie, Ga., accompanied by his lovely wife, Lynn. Gary knew these grounds and was indispensable for guiding the handlers through the courses, and knowing the shortcuts back to camp at day's end. Gary runs all-age pointers and currently has a nice derby that he works and competes.

Buck is well-known on the amateur shooting dog circuit for having highly competitive dogs. Buck is a generous patron of the sport who believes in giving back to it in many ways, including judging. The Club wishes to thank Gary and Buck for hours spent

in the saddle, watching our red dogs.

The National Red Setter Field Trial Club greatly appreciates its generous and faithful sponsors: Purina, Garmin, and SportDOG. Purina produces an incredible product in Purina Pro Plan, which fuels our dogs and keeps them in tip-top performance shape. Purina shows incredible dedication to the sport of field trials with its many sponsorships, but its best support is in what it adds to the health and performance of our canine athletes. Purina sponsored a banquet with our annual meeting. They provided dog food for the winners and financial aid for some of the trial's expenses. Greg Blair and Terry Trzcinski represent Purina well; they are always very helpful to clubs and individuals. Thank you, Purina, for all you do for all of us!

Garmin provided their highly sought-after products for the winners of the Championships and National Futurity. The club appreciates Garmin's continued contribution. The winners were excited to receive the quality equipment that Garmin provided.

SportDOG donates products for fundraising, which aids in the trial's financial column. SportDOG representative Jim Morehouse is always ready and willing to

teach or assist anyone with product support and use questions. Thank you, SportDOG, for your unwavering support of the NRSFTC.

Special thanks to Greg Robinson for his expert driving of the dog wagon. He supplied refreshments and shared his knowledge of the area. He is an amiable man and was enjoyed by all.

Respected local pro Calvin Curnutte aided Robert Ecker with his Futurity entries. He graciously shared his knowledge of the grounds and helped the trial chair, Ed Liermann, lay out the courses for the walking stakes. Robert Ecker and his sweet niece, Gina Yocum, were also a great addition to this event.

Thanks to the many NRSFTC members who contributed to the success of this event. Joe Edwards is appreciated for his efforts in attaining dates at Hoffman and for the work that he put in, helping Ed Liermann get this event organized. Ed Liermann paid attention to detail and kept the event running to a timely conclusion which would have been in jeopardy had he not come up with the courses to run the walking stakes concurrently.

Thanks also to Wendy Schaefer, Linda Beauchamp, and Brenda Edwards for their attention to serving meals in the clubhouse and running numerous errands. Linda also tended to her duties as club treasurer, with her husband Don working as the collection agent. Tom and Linda Coppedge graced us with their entries, friendly presence, and dozens of cookies that Linda baked. Milt Schafer and Don Beauchamp were available to lend a hand in various facets of the field trial, from in the field to evening gatherings. Club President Dennis Hidalgo baked pizza for all attending before Wednesday night's board meeting. He also served his specialty, chicken Alfredo, to the entire group on Thursday evening. Thanks to Linda Coppedge and Andy Weik, who assisted Dennis with the cooking of the Thursday dinner. Andy also contributed two bottles of his delicious maple syrup to the silent auction. Clayton Thompson served as the official videographer; his video creation will likely be best viewed on the Redbeard Outdoors channel on YouTube.

Amy and Jerry Gauthier were on hand to help. Amy, in addition to running her dogs, served in her capacity as club secretary. Jerry led us all in a blessing Sunday morning, preceded by Lynn Heard reading from the bible and Kristine Hammons singing a beautiful hymn.

Horseback members pitched in to aid with the running of the walking stakes. Kelli Aitken planted the Walking Shooting Dog course; Ed Liermann planted birds for the Futurity callback and the Open Walking Derby. Tim and Kristine Hammons graciously agreed to judge the Walking Derby.

The local trial contingent also provided a gentleman named Dave to be on road patrol while running the walking stakes for the safety of the dogs running near the corner of Hoffman and Tilley Roads. Bob and Barb



National Open Shooting Dog Winners (from left): Dennis Hidalgo with Firefly's Beeline, Bonnie Hidalgo, and Kelli Aitken with Quantonas Reciprocal. [Absent were Come Back Trump and Joe Edwards.]

Youngs were also on hand and were friendly and informative about the grounds and facilities before and during the trial.

There was an air of friendship and harmony during the entire trial, which caused one local bird dog person to remark that "you all came from so many different states, and you all get along so well; I've never seen a group that likes to hang out and socialize like this!" It is safe to say that all had a good time!

National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog Championship (title withheld)

Firefly's Beeline won first place in the Shooting Dog Championship turned Shooting Dog stake. She appeared in brace No. 6, the last to run on Thursday. Dennis and Bonnie Hidalgo own her; Dennis handled her.

Beeline pointed at 19, on the opposite end of a thicket from where her brace mate had established point a moment before, neither dog in view of the other. Neither handler put up a bird; Dennis collared Beeline so the brace mate could relocate. Things went wrong for the brace mate, and Beeline was sent forward alone. Beeline went down the hill, where she scored a nice find at 23, with all in order. Beeline was sent forward, crossed a road, and pointed in a thicket at 32. Dennis didn't think she had them and whistled her up, she locked on, but he didn't think it looked right and told the judges he was taking her on. He had her collared when a big covey lifted. Sent on from this, she continued a forward, kind handling race, hunting the cover at good range and speed. At 45, she was seen making game and then disappeared. Her scout checked the area and found her standing. Flush was unsuccessful, and she was relocated. Beeline did a great job maneuvering to get downwind, expertly pinning a covey, pointing with high style. Her manners and composure were good for flush and shot. Beeline finished the hour forward, still performing a good shooting dog race.

Quantonas Reciprocal, an 8-year-old female owned and handled by Kelli Aitken, placed second. Reason ran a beautiful, consistently forward race. She handled kindly; unfortunately, she did not encounter birds.

Come Back Trump was placed third on the quality of his ground performance. He hunted mainly forward in pattern and handled kindly. No birds were moved. He was handled by his owner, Joe Edwards.

Windfall (Boser) and Silver Creek Wild Again (Hammons) were consistently forward for the hour. Windfall pointed at 50, with Wild Again backing; it proved unproductive. Windfall pointed at 58; Wild Again came in for another back, and relocation netted no game as time expired. A pair of quail were ridden up by a scout, but no dogs made contact this hour.

Cedar Creek Sixgun (Liermann) and Red Bird's The Fifth Element (Aitken) were nicely forward from the start, Sixgun the stronger of the two. Griffin slowed late in the hour and was picked up at 50. Sixgun ran a big, predominantly forward race for the hour. He was absent at time but came in a few minutes after the hour. His was a nice ground race.

Firefly's Lucky Penny (Hidalgo) and Come Back Billy Boy (Edwards) began with promise, fast and forward. Lucky suffered two lengthy absences and was picked up at 54. Billy ran the hour, hunting the edges at good range, and was mostly forward. No birds were moved during his brace.

Gratitude (Boser) and Come Back Delta Dawn (Aitken) were forward in pattern early. Gratitude went right into the timber, and Delta showed forward. Gratitude appeared to the front, where he remained until 20. He then disappeared and was not recovered under judgment. Delta pointed at 39, but no birds were produced. She pointed again at 44, and birds were heard but not produced. She finished the hour forward.

Come Back Trump's (Edwards) hour was described earlier. Hotrod Ricky Joe (Hammons) ran an excellent shooting dog race, showing nicely on the edges. He finished well but without game contact.

Firefly's Beeline's (Hidalgo) winning performance was described. Little More Shine (Hammons) pointed at 18; upon relocation, she ran over a bird to end her bid.

Dawson's High Chaparral (Hidalgo) was lost at 20. Come Back Bo (Edwards) started well but shortened by 40. He was picked up with no game contact.

Firefly's Power Play (Hidalgo) was a handful and was eventually lost. Quantonas Reciprocal (Aitken) placed second, and her performance has been described.

Hoffman, N. C., February 16 Judges: Buck Heard and Gary Miller NATIONAL RED SETTER OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] - 16 Irish Setters [Title Withheld]

1st—*FIREFLY'S BEELINE*, 1674096, female, by Dawson's High Chaparral-Firefly's Hot Tip. Dennis & Bonnie Hidalgo, owners; Dennis Hidalgo, handler.

2d—*QUANTONAS RECIPROCAL*, 1686166, female, by Heiligsepp's Blick-Russell's New Day. Kelli Aitken, owner and handler.

3d—*COME BACK TRUMP*, 1673917, male, by Come Back Audie-Celtic's Spectacular. Joe A. Edwards, owner and handler.

51st National Red Setter Futurity

The first series of the Futurity is a 30-minute heat. Dogs that point game

adequately in that series need not be brought back to demonstrate point in the callback series. Dogs that impress the judges with their races but have no opportunity to demonstrate pointing ability are called back, in the order of their ranking, by the judges. There was one dog, Celtic's Gretchen Leigh, out of the 13 that proved herself a competent bird dog in the initial series.

Judges Gary Miller and Buck Heard called back three additional dogs and named two others to a standby list. The dogs in order were: Come Back Apache (Edwards), Celtic's Danger Close (Ecker), and S H F Chrome (Bell). The standby dogs were Come Back Bullet (Edwards) and Wayward (Boser). In this 51st Futurity, only one standby dog was worked.

The dogs in the callback are run one at a time from horseback over a short, bird-planted course. The performances in the callback and the placements are reported in the next segment; the original races of all dogs, except that of the winner, are listed under "Futurity First Series."

In the absence of Futurity Secretary Jim Inbody, who could not attend, former Futurity Secretary Al Fazenbaker graciously stepped up to apprise the judges of the Futurity standard.

Futurity Callback and Winners

Celtic's Gretchen Leigh was the only Futurity dog to find and point game on course; it was not necessary for her to be called back to show pointing ability. She won this stake in her 30-minute heat. Gretchen scored a stylish find at 5 with acceptable manners. She pointed at 16, but no birds were produced. Gretchen handled well and stayed forward at a consistent range. Gretchen is owned by Paul Ober, and Celtic Kennels of Reading, Pa. Pennsylvania pro Robert Ecker expertly handled her.

Come Back Apache earned second place money based on his combined performances. He is owned and handled by Joe Edwards of Rose Hill, N. C. In the callback, he was forward into the bird field. He caught scent quickly and struck a beautiful pointing stance. He stood for the flush with minimal movement upon shot.

Celtic Danger Close, handled by Robert Ecker for Paul Ober, was next to perform in the callback. He failed to point on his first contact, then pointed a second bird but not to the judges' satisfaction. He was not placed, and his actions made it possible for the first standby to be called up.

S H F Chrome was the third to work. He pointed stylishly and allowed his handler to flush but made some movement at flight. S H F Chrome placed third for his owner and handler, Daniel Bell of Kenansville, N. C.

Come Back Bullet, owned and handled by Joe Edwards, was first on standby and was called up. Bullet pointed his bird with fine style but went with the flush. Bullet earned fourth place.



51st National Futurity Winners (front, from left): Robert Ecker with Celtic's Gretchen Leigh, Joe Edwards with Come Back Apache, Daniel Bell with S H F Chrome, and Ed Liermann with Come Back Bullet. (Standing, from left): Gina Yocum, Greg Gibson, Gary Miller (judge), Francis Fountain, Buck Heard (judge), Don Beauchamp, and Bonnie Hidalgo.

Wayward, owned by Roger Boser, was next on standby but wasn't needed as the judges already had their placements.

Futurity First Series

Come Back Apache (Edwards) and Celtic Danger Close (Ecker) were mostly forward in pattern. They were stylishly gaited; Apache was somewhat bigger going, but they were very closely matched.

S H F Chrome (Bell) was forward in pattern and displayed a good way of going. Firefly's Sunsetter (Hidalgo) was lost at 10. Neither dog encountered no birds.

Come Back Misty Red (Ecker) and Come Back Dash (Edwards) were both lost.

Come Back Bullet (Edwards) was not as forward as he could have been but ran with an easy gait. Wayward (Boser) was attractive on the ground and similar in range to Bullet.

Cedar Creek Jules (Liermann) made good moves early but seemed to weaken as time went on. SHF Fire (Bell) was inconsistent in his pattern.

Come Back Rebel (Edwards) did not show the range and drive his handler expected, and he was picked up early. Conneaut Creek Tigger (Fazenbaker) hunted well but not at the range of the dogs that were called back.

Celtic's Gretchen Leigh (Ecker) was drawn as a bye. Her winning performance was described earlier.

51st NATIONAL RED SETTER FUTURITY – 13 Irish Setters

1st—*CELTIC'S GRETCHEN LEIGH, 1702360, female, by Celtic's First Down-Celtic's Game Face. Paul Ober, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.*

2d—*COME BACK APACHE, 1700071, male, by Come Back Billy Boy-Hatcreek Misty Blue. Joe A. Edwards, owner and handler.*

3d—*S H F CHROME, 1703037, male, by Come Back Billy Boy-Hatcreek Misty Blue. Daniel Bell, owner and handler.*

4th—*COME BACK BULLET, 1700072, male, by Come Back Billy Boy-Come Back Bree. Joe A. Edwards, owner and handler.*

Jack Carter Red Setter Open Walking Shooting Dog

This stake ran on Saturday morning after the Futurity callbacks. It was run simultaneously with the Walking Derby in locations where bird planting was permissible. (The one-hour courses are pre-released birds only.) The course was described as a 'cover



Jack Carter Open Walking Shooting Dog Winners (from left): Brenda Edwards, Linda Coppedge, Amy Gauthier with Cedar Creek Asa's Reign, Jerry Gauthier with Cedar Creek Braden, and Milt Schaefer. Absent were Conneaut Creek Lake Erie Storm and Al Fazenbaker.

dog' course and seemed quite popular with the handlers. Judges for this stake were Buck Heard and Gary Miller.

Conneaut Creek Lake Erie Storm emerged as the winner for owner and handler Al Fazenbaker. Stormie ran a nice race at a desired range. She hunted smartly and scored one beautiful and well-mannered find.

Cedar Creek Asa's Reign handled well for Amy Gauthier; he placed second. Asa scored two stylish, mannerly finds. He did not cover as much ground in his hunt as the winner. Amy and Jerry Gauthier of Wabash, Ind., own Asa.

Cedar Creek Braden also came through for Amy, winning third-place honors. Braden put on a nice hunting race with one mannerly find. Amy and Jerry Gauthier own him.

RED SETTER JACK CARTER OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 10 Irish Setters

1st—*CONNEAUT CREEK LAKE ERIE STORM, 1651488, female, by Come Back Superfire-Come Back Bee Gee. Allen Fazenbaker, owner and handler.*

2d—*CEDAR CREEK ASA'S REIGN, 1692805, male, by Cedar Creek Talon-Cedar Creek's Skyline Belle. Amy Gauthier, owner and handler.*

3d—*CEDAR CREEK BRADEN, 1664951, male, by Cedar Creek Skyliner-Cedar Creek Rocket Baby. Amy Gauthier, owner and handler.*

Red Setter Open Walking Derby

This stake was judged by long-time NRSFTC members Kristine and Tim Hammons of Berea, Ky. It covered a variety of habitats and was well-planted with quail.

Come Back Misty Red turned in an excellent race to win this stake for handler Robert Ecker and new owner Paul Ober. Misty Red scored two pretty finds with top manners.

In second place was S H F Chrome, owned and handled by Daniel Bell. Chrome scored three finds, allowing his handler to flush. He was shorter range than the winner.

Conneaut Creek Tigger was placed third on race. He hunted diligently but found no birds. His chances may have been diminished because a hunter and his dog were found on the course during Tigger's brace. Tigger is owned and handled by Al Fazenbaker.



Red Setter Open Walking Derby Winners (from left): Robert Ecker with Come Back Misty Red and Daniel Bell with S H F Chrome. (Standing, from left): Gina Vocum, Kristine and Tim Hammons (judges). (Back row, from left): Don Beauchamp, Bonnie Hidalgo, and Buck Heard.

**Judges: Kristine Hammons and Tim Hammons
RED SETTER OPEN DERBY – 7 Irish Setters**

1st—*COME BACK MISTY RED*, 1699334, female, by *Come Back Billy Boy-Hatcreek Misty Blue*. Paul Ober, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

2d—*S H F CHROME*, 1703037, male, by *Come Back Billy Boy-Hatcreek Misty Blue*. Daniel Bell, owner and handler.

3d—*CONNEAUT CREEK TIGGER*, 1697071, male, by *Come Back Trump-Come Back Little Bit*. Allen Fazenbaker, owner and handler.

**National Amateur Red Setter
Shooting Dog Championship**

Judges for this stake were Buck Heard and Gary Miller. It commenced on Saturday afternoon, following the conclusion of the walking stakes. A brief lunch period was taken as the judges had decided to fit in three braces of the Championship that afternoon. Their plan was successful, and the entourage returned to camp just after 6 p.m. This left five hours of running for Sunday. Afternoon courses start on designated course 4, from behind the barn. The morning braces begin on course 1, immediately across the road from the clubhouse.

Red Bird's The Fifth Element, handled by Kelli Aitken, emerged as the obvious winner of this stake. "Griffin" ran a predominantly forward race at near-ideal range. He made a wrong turn at the beginning of the hour but was always where he should be once he

overcame that. This dog moves gracefully and has speed; he is in tune with his handler. At 45, he pointed, but Kelli felt unsure, so she relocated him. Griffin quickly pinned his quarry, standing with lofty composure. The covey was flushed while Griffin stood high and tight. His was a beautiful performance. Clayton Thompson capably scouted him. Red Bird's The Fifth Element is co-owned by Kelli Aitken and her good friend, Kristi Gallino.

Silver Creek Wild Again appeared on Sunday afternoon in brace No. 8, the final brace of the Championship. Runner-up honors were earned by this young dog, who has yet to reach his third birthday. Wild Again is owned and handled by Tim Hammons, Berea, Ky.; Kris Hammons scouted him. Wild Again ran a consistent, medium-range shooting dog race. He was never anywhere but forward during the hour. At 18, he pointed with high style on both ends and was mannerly through flush and shot. He was a shoo-in for runner-up.

The Running

Firefly's Lucky Penny (Hidalgo) was lost by 20. Red Bird's The Fifth Element's (Aitken) hour is reported under the winners.

Hotrod Ricky Joe (Hammons) and Gratitude (Boser) put down good races and were mainly forward in their patterns. No birds were seen this hour.

Firefly's Power Play ("Puck"/Hidalgo) pointed stylishly at 16 beside a tall, grassy thicket. Come Back Trump (Edwards) came in for a back. A large covey was flushed, and Trump went with them. Puck displayed perfect composure throughout. At 30, Puck pointed in a brushy thicket; relocation was required. He was successful, but it ended as a stop to flush. After some discussion between the judges, Puck was allowed to continue. He pointed again at 47, but this proved unproductive. His race, for the most part, was forward. Puck finished the hour with energy to spare.

Sunday's first hour turned loose across from the clubhouse, on course 1, following a devotion ceremony. Quantonas Reciprocal



National Red Setter Amateur Shooting Dog Championship Winners (from left): Clayton Thompson with Red Bird's The Fifth Element and Tim Hammons with Silver Creek Wild Again. (Standing, from left): Bonnie Hidalgo, Kelli Aitken, Gary Miller (judge), Greg Gibson, Kristine Hammons, Buck Heard (judge), Ed Liermann, and Dennis Hidalgo.

(Aitken) ran a pretty race at a good range. Cedar Creek Sixgun (Liermann). put down a big race and was predominantly forward. Neither dog found game.

Little More Shine (Hammons) and Firefly's Beeline (Hidalgo) ran solid races and hunted the likely places. Unfortunately, neither was successful in finding game. They finished the hour well forward.

Come Back Billy Boy (Edwards) ran the hour with a forward pattern at a good range. Windfall (Boser) ran a nice shooting dog race for 45 minutes when he slowed noticeably. He was picked up at 48. No birds were seen this hour.

Dawson's High Chaparral (Hidalgo) and Come Back Delta Dawn (Aitken) had their agendas, and both were lost.

Come Back Bo (Edwards) was scratched. Silver Creek Wild Again (Hammons) was named runner-up; his performance is reported under the winners.

**Judges: Buck Heard and Gary Miller
NATIONAL SETTER AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP**

[One-Hour Heats] – 15 Irish Setters

Winner—*RED BIRD'S THE FIFTH ELEMENT*, 1687076, male, by *Eshod's Barn Burner-Red Bird's River Wild*. Kellie Aitken & Kristi Gallino, owners; Kellie Aitken, handler.

Runner-Up—*SILVER CREEK WILD AGAIN*, 1692221, male, by *Zansett Ricky O'Ryan-S C Miss Behaving*. Tim Hammons, owner and handler.

ROGER W. MARTENS

1937—2023

We are saddened to report the passing of long-time field trial patron Roger Martens of Ridgeville, Ontario. Roger passed away on March 11, 2023, at age 85.

During the 70s, 80s, and '90s, Roger and his devoted partner and wife, Donna, campaigned numerous dogs on the major horseback shooting dog circuit, most carrying the prefix kennel name of "Springtime." Roger was a fierce competitor and an excellent amateur handler, who

also campaigned dogs on the open circuit with professional George Tracy for many years. Roger's winners included Springtime Buddy, Springtime Jim, Kay, Yankee, Rocky, Aberdeen Abby, Cross Rail, and Kelly's Girl, to name a few.

Roger campaigned dogs and served the sport as a leader in many ways. He donated his talent to assist with several organizations, including the National Shooting Dog Futurity, U. S. Quail Shooting Dog Futurity,

National Open Pheasant Shooting Dog Championship, AFTCA Region 13, and Ohio-Pennsylvania Open Shooting Dog Championship, plus several others in the capacity of director, vice president, and president.

Roger will be sorely missed. Rest in peace, my friend.

—Mike Husenits
West Lebanon, Pa.

WEST TENNESSEE OPEN ALL-AGE & DERBY STAKES

Touch's Malcolm Story Wins Open All-Age; Haney's Hurricane Seeker, Derby

By Jim Atchison | Dancyville, Tennessee | February 17, 2023



All-Age Winners (from left): Scott Mason, Marshall Stoots, Gordy Jones (judge), Haynes Stoots, Ike Todd with Touch's Malcolm Story, Mark McLean, Hailey Moreland, Crutcher Stoots, Ferrell Miller (not visible), Korry Rinehart with Miller's King Poast, Gary Lester, Jerry Rainer, David Huffine (judge), Carl Owens with Woodville's Yukon Cornelius, J. P. Hathcock, Allen Currie, Bill Currie, and Chris Mullins.

Touch's Malcolm Story, owned by Alex and Bryana Rickert and handled by Mark McLean, won first place in the Open All-Age stake hosted by the West Tennessee Field Trial Club at Dancyville, Tenn., February 17-20. Second place was won by Miller's King Poast, owned by Jannie Chapman and handled by Gary Lester, while third place was awarded to Woodville's Yukon Cornelius, owned by Carl Owens and handled by Mark McLean. Rickert, Chapman, and Owens were each in the galleries to enjoy the performances of their respective winners. The All-Age stake drew 28 pointers and eight setters.

The Open Derby stake was run February 20-21 with Haney's Hurricane Seeker, owned and handled by David Russell, winning first place. Haney's Silver Dollar, a littermate to the first-place winner, bred and owned by Chris Cagle, Sr. and handled by Ike Todd, won second place. Mayfield Storm Charger, owned by Scott Mason and Jake Davis, won third in the Derby stake and was handled by Gary Lester. Twenty-one derbies competed in the Derby stake.

The warm and inviting atmosphere at the West Tennessee Club was in full force and graciously shared with all who attended. Bill Currie, Allen Currie, J. P. Hathcock, Crutcher Stoots, Ike Todd, Chris Mullins, and Gary Brown led the effort and carried on the traditions that have been a hallmark of the West Tennessee group for almost seven decades. While carrying on their many responsibilities, they quickly acknowledged and thanked Purina for their generous corporate sponsorship and the landowners in the Dancyville community who permit the club to use their land for the three excellent one-hour courses upon which the trials are run. Those owners included the Currie brothers, the Honorable Skip Taylor and Mrs. Jan McCloud, Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Spiotta, Jr., Rich Boumeester, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Humber, Ike and Marty Todd, Alex and Bryana Rickert, Austin Turley, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed McClanahan.

Judges for the All-Age competition were Gordy Jones from Salem, Utah, and David Huffine from Wilmington, N. C. Jones, a home builder, drove over 3,000 miles round trip and trailered his horses for the Tennessee sojourn. Huffine, a retired attorney, drove over 1,500 miles during his round trip from the east coast and back. Both gentlemen were overwhelmingly generous relative to their travel expenses, and their services were greatly appreciated.

The Derby stake was judged by the husband-and-wife duo Bubba and Amy Spencer from nearby Hickory Valley, Tenn., in Hardeman County. Both are employed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and are avid amateur field trialers who have spent much time on the West Tennessee field trial grounds.

The All-Age Winners

Touch's Malcolm Story won first place with his outstanding performance in brace No. 13, wherein he found birds easily flushed at 6, 22, 32, and 36. Alex Rickert from Bozeman, Mont., rode in the gallery and enjoyed watching the 7-year-old pointer work beautifully for Mark McLean from Doerun, Ga. The winner won second place in this same stake in 2022 and returned to earn the top honor this year resulting from his strength, stamina, responsiveness, and intellectual search for game while looking outstandingly stylish while running and standing as four successful flushing efforts produced game.

Jannie Chapman, from Memphis, rode in the gallery and enjoyed watching her Miller's King Poast produce this winning 60-minute effort for Gary Lester. His outstanding performance produced birds five times, with the first find being at 1, in the middle of the fallow breakaway field. The other finds followed at 6, 16, 22, and 37. The 20-month-old derby performed in brace No. 1 of the contest, with the weather cool and breezy. Everything he did throughout the hour was pleasing, and his effort easily appealed to

the judges and earned their decision.

Woodville's Yukon Cornelius, one of several setters competing in the stake, won third place, with his owner, Carl Owens from Awendaw, S. C., scouting while Mark McLean was handling. The 6-year-old entry had birds at 32, 38, and 42. At 42, both dogs in brace No. 3 were standing, but the bracemate moved during the flushing effort, yet Yukon Cornelius stood steadfast until the covey was flushed. He then finished the hour well near the Coffee Gap Road finish.

The Other All-Age Dogs

Miller's Heat Advisory, owned by Terry Graunke and handled by Judd Carlton, competed in brace No. 1. He backed his bracemate at 16 and finished the hour but had no independent finds during the hour.

Alex Mauck had Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Jack, owned by Steve Croy, in brace No. 2. The setter was gone during the effort and did not finish under judgment.

The bottom dog in brace No. 2 was Touch's Breakaway Fred, handled by Mark McLean for owners Bruce and Karen Norton and Gary and Becky Futch. He had unproductive stands at 30 on the Humber tract and again at 38 on the Todd tract and was picked up.

Mayfield Storm Charger, owned by Scott Mason and Jake Davis, was loosed by Gary Lester in brace No. 3. He had an unproductive near the former Russell Grove Church at 16 and then stood again at 42 but moved during the flushing effort and was put into his road harness.

With the early morning temperature at 26 and abundant frost, brace No. 4 started at 8 a.m. on Saturday. Haney's Silver Dollar, owned and handled by Chris Cagle, Jr., was braced with Cochise B, owned and handled by Dr. Marion Brown. Silver Dollar found birds once, at 35, and then both dogs finished the hour, but no other birds were found.

Weldon Bennett lost Coldwater Odyssey, owned by Andrew and Debra Agnew, while Luke Eisenhart loosed Erin's Silver Lining, owned by Audie Brown. Odyssey pointed, and Bennett flushed birds at 32 on the terraced hill approaching Coffee Gap Road, and then the pair shared a divided find at 42 before finishing the second hour course.

Erin's High Note and Lester's Storm Surge went next in brace No. 6. High Note, handled by Judd Carlton for Mike Moses, had an unproductive at 30. Then he and Storm Surge, owned by Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton and handled by Gary Lester, stood again at 41, with Storm Surge backing High Note's superior position while birds were raised. Both dogs then finished the hour, but no more birds were found.

Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Ajay, owned and handled by Alex Mauck, and Touch's Gallatin Fire, owned by Alex and Bryana Rickert and handled by Mark McLean, went together at 1 p.m. in brace No. 7. Gallatin Fire had a good hour and finished with three finds, at 24, 27, and 37. Ajay had an unproductive at 19 and was picked up at about 40.

Next, Weldon Bennett had Coldwater War Cry, which he co-owns with Paul Melton, and Larry Huffman had Whippoorwill Vette, owned by Dale Bush. The pair was released in the bottom near the double bridges. War Cry had an unproductive at 9 and then moved at 26 while pointed at Boumeester's. Whippoorwill Vette had birds at 37 along the edge of a bean field on the Todds' land and then finished the hour.

Como Rain and Touch's Midnight Rider were in the last brace on Saturday afternoon. Steve Hurdle had Como Rain for the partnership of Doug Arthur, Billy Blackwell, and David and Rachel Russell, while Mark McLean had Night Rider for his owner, John Milton. Como Rain had birds at 5 and 46 but was lost at time for pickup, and Hurdle asked for his tracker. Midnight Rider backed his bracemate at 46, but McLean picked him up.

Larry Huffman was back on the course Sunday morning in brace No. 10 with Nosam's Sweet Water, owned by Jeff Busby. Jamie Daniels was there, too, with Dominator's Wild Bill, owned by Jack and Sarah Schwarz and Nick Berrong. At 6, Sweet Water pointed, and Bill backed, but the effort proved unproductive. Bill had the first birds at 24. Then Sweet Water had birds at 34 and 40, with Bill backing both times. Both finished the hour well.

Stride was handled by Steve Hurdle in brace No. 11, with owner Larry Esterline in the gallery. Luke Eisenhart had Erin's Wild Atlantic Way, owned by Sean Derrig, as the second dog in the brace. Eisenhart got his tracker at 24 before crossing Fayette Corners Road at Boumeester's. Stride had an unproductive at 30 and was picked up at 45, thus ending the brace early.

C S Code Blue, owned by Tony and Becky



Derby Winners (front, from left): David Russell with Haney's Hurricane Seeker and Ike Todd with Haney's Silver Dollar. (Back, from left): Bubba Spencer (judge), Dale Poole, Bill Currie, Amy Spencer (judge), and Colt Spencer.

Gibson and handled by Steve Hurdle, was then paired with Erin's Perfect Storm, owned by Brad Woodie and handled by Luke Eisenhart. Both dogs were picked up before the end of the hour after they had one unproductive each.

Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Dallee, owned and handled by Alex Mauck, was braced with the first-place winner in brace No. 13. He found birds at 39 but was picked up soon after.

Lester's Shockwave, owned by Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton and handled by Gary Lester, was then off the line with Miller's Blindsider, owned by Nick Berrong and handled by Jamie Daniels. (Blindsider's successful run to win the National Championship was over, but no announcements had been made yet.) After being released to run the second hour course, both dogs continued north through both bottoms before circling McClanahan and finally back to the front on Dr. Spiotta's land. Blindsider's scout found him pointed at 18 and flushed before continuing to the front. Shockwave had an unproductive at 33 on Humber, and then the pair had a divided find at 58.

Woodville's Saddle Tramp ran alone in the last brace Sunday afternoon. Mark McLean had the whistle while Carl Owens, the owner, scouted. Saddle Tramp had an unproductive at 28, and McLean asked for his tracker at that time.

The final brace was run Monday morning. Gary Lester had Bonner's Hot Rize, owned by Jannie Chapman, and Steve Hurdle had C S Smoke Roll, a setter owned by Tony Gibson.

Neither dog was finding any birds, and both handlers got their trackers by about 40. The All-Age competition ended, and the Derby judges were expected to arrive at noon to start that competition.

Dancyville, Tenn., February 17 – One Course
Judges: David Huffine and Gordy Jones
OPEN ALL-AGE

[One-Hour Heats] – 28 Pointers and 8 Setters

1st—TOUCH'S MALCOLM STORY, 1675103, pointer male, by Touch's Knight Rider-Blackhawk's Sunflower. Alex Rickert, owner; Mark McLean, handler.

2d—MILLER'S KING POAST, 1702090, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-R W Susie Q. Jannie Chapman, owner; Gary Lester, handler.

3d—WOODVILLE'S YUKON CORNELIUS, 1673091, setter male, by Caladen's Davinci-A Tarheel Miss Bo. Carl Owens, owner; Mark McLean, handler.

The Derby Winners

The quality of the entries in the Derby stake was excellent. The winners, as well as several other competitors, all had birds. The Derby contest provided evidence that many all-age competitors will come from it.

Haney's Hurricane Seeker, owned and handled by David Russell, won first. He was gone for about the first seven minutes of the half-hour but then came into view to the front and pointed. He looked great while pointing and then finished the hour with a powerful demonstration of power and style that earned his placement.

Haney's Silver Dollar won second and was handled by Ike Todd for owner Chris Cagle, Jr. Silver Dollar ran a smooth and forward race with birds pointed and flushed at pickup.

Mayfield Storm Charger won third for Gary Lester and his owners, Scott Mason and Jake Davis, as he produced a big run and found birds once during the 30-minute effort.

Judges: Amy Spencer and Bubba Spencer
OPEN DERBY – 18 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st—HANEY'S HURRICANE SEEKER, 1698759, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. David Russell, owner and handler.

2d—HANEY'S SILVER DOLLAR, 1698758, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle, Sr., owner and handler.

WEST VALLEY BIRD DOG CLUB

Tian Butterbean Named Region 11 Amateur Shooting Dog Champion; Copper Jim's Little Bud, Runner-Up

By Janice Corbitt | Valley Springs, California | February 17, 2023

The West Valley Bird Dog Club and Region 11 Officers co-hosted the three-day event, culminating with the Region 11 AFTCA Amateur Shooting Dog Championship and the Region 11 AFTCA Amateur Shooting Dog Derby. We were blessed with sunshine, blue skies, and temperatures from the mid-50s to the low 60s. Recent rains provided plenty of water on the courses, with creeks and streams running.

The venue offers amenities such as a 10-20 bed bunkhouse, wood stove, shower, and bathroom for the comfort of attendees. The main house's garage is the headquarters for the event, where West Valley provides three meals a day and socializing. The drawing for Friday's qualifying events was held Thursday night in the garage, and a hot meal was served to early arrivals.

Friday morning began with the 72nd

running of the Pete Cunningham Puppy Classic, which was first run in 1948. A field of six youngsters vied for top honors. First place went to G R B's Gestapo (GSHM) for owner and handler Cliff Mesnard. Second was G R B's The Dirtiest Deed (GSHM) for owner and handler Gina Bosio, with third place going to G R B's TNT (GSHF), also owned and handled by Gina Bosio. Interesting to note that these three pups are littermates. The judges



Region 11 AFTCA Shooting Dog Championship Winners (from left): Tian Butterbean with Gina Bosio (scout), Cliff Mesnard, and Copper Jim's Little Bud with Marc Cuneo. (Standing, from left): Brad LaVerne, Leslie Arestad, Mike Wilkin (judge), Cliff Mesnard, Corinne Cuneo, Nard Bailey, and Jarry Walton (judge).

were Tom Griffin and Terry Erickson.

The Hal Mayer Amateur Shooting Dog followed. First place went to P'n D's Spot On (PM) for owner and handler Jim Rose. Second place was awarded to D C R's Mo Money (GSHM) for owner and handler Don Pool. Third place was M D K's Shadow Knows Rush (GSHM), also owned and handled by Don Pool. In the judicial saddle for this event were Gina Bosio and Cliff Mesnard.

The qualifying events finished with the running of the Paul Rose Open Shooting Dog Derby. Gina Bosio, owner and handler, took first with G R B's One Final Dirty Deed (GSHF). Second place went to Horizon's Sage (ESF) for owner and handler Terry Erickson. Third place was G R B's The Dirtiest Deed (GSHM), also owned and handled by Gina Bosio. Mike Wilkin and Tom Griffin judged the stake.

The Region 11 AFTCA Amateur Shooting Dog Championship and Amateur Shooting Dog Derby drawings were held Friday evening. We want to give a big thank you to Greg Blair and Purina for sponsoring the Region 11 stakes. Judges for both events were Region 11 President Mike Wilkin and Region 11 Trustee Jerry Walton, both from Reno, Nev.

The Region 11 Shooting Dog Championship was won by Tian Butterbean (PM) for owner and handler Cliff Mesnard. Copper Jim's Little Bud (PM), owned and handled by Marc Cuneo, secured the runner-up spot. Both dogs exhibited a forward race with drive, desire, and hunt. According to the judges, Butterbean had five finds with plenty of style and manners, and Bud had eight finds with style and manners. The champion proved to be more consistent through the hour in all aspects. Both dogs deserved their titles.



Pete Cunningham Puppy Classic Winners (from left): G R B's Gestapo with Cliff Mesnard, G R B's The Dirtiest Deed with Gina Bosio, and G R B's TNT with Leslie Arestad.

The Region 11 Shooting Dog Derby winners showed plenty of potential. The winner was G R B's The Dirtiest Deed (GSHM) for owner and handler Gina Bosio. Second Place went to Horizon's Bea (ESF) for owner and handler Terry Erickson.

We want to thank all our judges for their time and expertise in the saddle, Greg Blair and Purina for sponsoring the Region events and providing Purina Pro Plan to the Region stakes' winners, and all our attendees for their continued support making our trials successful. Thank you to Gina Bosio and Leslie Arestad for the delicious breakfast burritos. Thank you to WVBDC President Jim Rose and his wife Patti for the hard work and culinary expertise throughout the weekend, especially those ribs Saturday night. Thank you to Brad Laverne for planting birds, filling water troughs, doing odd jobs, and setting up and cleaning up throughout the weekend. West Valley extends our deepest gratitude to Lynn Stinson for allowing us to use his beautiful ranch for the last 18+ years for our trials and to the benefit of the sport of field trialing and bird dog enthusiasts.

Valley Springs, Cal., February 17
Judges: Terry Erickson and Tom Griffin
72ND PETE CUNNINGHAM PUPPY CLASSIC
- 3 Pointers and 3 German Shorthairs

- 1st—G R B'S GESTAPO, 1702940, German Shorthair male, by M V S's G R B's Beefy-M V's G R B's Una. Cliff Mesnard, owner and handler.
 2d—G R B'S THE DIRTIEST DEED, 1702939, German Shorthair male, by M V S's G R B's Beefy-M V's G R B's Una. Gina Bosio, owner and handler.
 3d—G R B'S TNT, 1702938, German Shorthair female, by M V S's G R B's Beefy-M V's G R B's Una. Gina Bosio, owner and handler.



Hal Meyer Shooting Dog Classic Winner: P'n D's Spot On with Jim Rose. (Behind, from left): Leslie Arestad, Cliff Mesnard (judge), Gina Bosio (judge), and Brad LaVerne.



Region 11 AFTCA Amateur Shooting Dog Derby Winners (from left): G R B's The Dirtiest Deed with Gina Bosio, Mike Wilkin (judge), Horizon's Sage with Terry Erickson, and Jarry Walton (judge).

Judges: Gina Bosio and Clifford L. Mesnard II
HAL MEYER AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CLASSIC - 3 German Shorthairs, 5 Pointers
and 3 Setters

- 1st—P'N D'S SPOT ON, 1692932, pointer male, by Dunn's Tried'n True-Yale's Sunny Hill Dot. Jim Rose, owner and handler.
 2d—D C R'S MO MONEY, 1678419, German Shorthair male, by Kono's Blue Mojo Rising-Blue River Kit. Don Pool, owner and handler.
 3d—M D K'S SHADOW KNOWS RUSH, 1687706, German Shorthair male, by D C R's Mojo Rising-Mdk Kmk Snake River Delta v Greif. Don Pool, owner and handler.

Judges: Tom Griffin and Mike Wilkin
PAUL ROSE OPEN SHOOTING DOG
Derby - 3 German Shorthairs, 2
Pointers and 1 Setter

- 1st—G R B'S ONE FINAL DIRTY DEED, 1702937, German Shorthair female, by G R B's Dirty White Boy-M V's G R B's Una. Gina Bosio, owner and handler.
 2d—HORIZON'S SAGE, 1701690, setter female, by See Johnny Run-Horizon's Americus. Terry Erickson, owner and handler.
 3d—G R B'S THE DIRTIEST DEED, 1702939, German Shorthair male, by M V's G R B's Beefy-M V's G R B's Una. Gina Bosio, owner and handler.

Judges: Jarry Walton and Mike Wilkin
REGION 11 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] - 3 German Shorthairs,
4 Pointers and 4 Setters

- Winner—TIAN BUTTERBEAN, 1681744, pointer male, by Gotta Little Project-Tian Elhew Verbena. Clifford L. Mesnard II, owner and handler.
 Runner-Up—COPPER JIM'S LITTLE BUD, 1693048, pointer male, by Booneville Explorer-Wells Fargo Daisy. Marc Cuneo, owner and handler.

REGION 11 AMATEUR DERBY
- 4 German Shorthairs and 1 Setter

- 1st—G R B'S THE DIRTIEST DEED, 1702939, German Shorthair male, by M V's G R B's Beefy-M V's G R B's Una. Gina Bosio, owner and handler.
 2d—HORIZON'S SAGE, 1701690, setter female, by See Johnny Run-Horizon's Americus. Terry Erickson, owner and handler.



Paul Rose Open Shooting Dog Derby Winners (from left): G R B's One Final Dirty Deed with Gina Bosio, Leslie Arestad, Horizon's Sage with Terry Erickson, and G R B's The Dirtiest Deed with Cliff Mesnard.

UNITED STATES SHOOTING DOG INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Upfront's Southern Star Named Champion of 35th Running

By Joyce Taylor | Conway, Arkansas | February 18, 2023

As the formal mailed invitations stated, this was “The 35th Proud, Annual Running” of the United States Shooting Dog Invitational Championship, held February 18-20, 2023, at the Camp Robinson Wildlife Management Area near Conway, Ark. This premier event was perceived and started by Hall of Famer John Seawright of Arkansas to honor the top 12 shooting dogs in the nation, perhaps in the world, and pit them against each other in a three-day competitive format. Each dog runs for 60 minutes on the first two days, and then finalists, chosen at the judges’ discretion, return for a rigorous third-day 90-minute stand-off. This is a true endurance trial, the proven best-against-the-best, determined by the Purina Top Shooting Dog Awards points system from the previous season. All luck is removed when contestants compete three days in a row, are drawn out in the afternoon if in the morning the day before, on a different course, and with a different bracedmate each time at the line. It’s the trial to qualify for and certainly to win!

After some years of running the trial, Seawright handed the leadership reins over to Robby Robinson of Dardanelle, Ark. Robinson later moved trial management to Joyce and Johnny Taylor of Little Rock, Ark. The Taylors, joined later by Connie Crowell, have run the Invitational Championship for 27 years.

The Winner

Earning the coveted 2023 Invitational Championship title this year was Upfront’s Southern Star (“Roo”), a white and liver, 7-year-old pointer female owned by Lance Schulz of Bismarck, N. D., and handled by Shawn Kinkelaar of Effingham, Ill. The judges were looking for a three-day consistent performance, and Roo delivered. Each day she dug hard, forward, busting the cover and hunting. She took advantage of the country offered, rimming the edges. She was the best dog with remarkable performance, befitting a quality championship win.

[Lance Schulz is quite proud of “Roo.” A post-trial interview with Lance may be found with the Invitational Championship results at www.americanfield.com.]

The VIPs (Judges, Owners, Sponsors)

Judges for the Invitational Championship were well-known and beloved retired Purina representative Bob Barker from Inola, Okla., and filling in for Mike Griffin, who suffered a horse wreck just the week before, was Steve Messick of Greenbrier, Ark. We were most grateful to have both these fine men arbitrate the 2023 Invitational Championship.



United States Shooting Dog Invitational Participants (front, from left): Wind Ridge Sugar Plum with Eddy Taylor (handler), Upfront’s Southern Star with Shawn Kinkelaar (handler), Chelsea’s Mae West with Zack Hilton, Touch’s Shameless with Dr. Richard Steckley (owner), Touch’s Big Whiskey with Chuck Stretz (handler), and Tug O’War with Virgil Moore. (Back, from left): Hale’s High Flyer with Eli Taylor, Sun’s Out Gun’s Out with Rick Thone (owner), Hale’s Kickstarter with Dr. Jeff Hale (owner), Doc’s Second Wind with Michael Plate (owner), Highwall To Rebel Hell with Matt Cochran (handler), and Oahe Buck with Tommy Rice (handler).

The Invitational begins with a welcoming reception and dinner, followed by a program of introductions of handlers and owners, and each of the dogs’ wins warranting their invitation to compete, a Calcutta and the trial drawing for order of running.

We are honored and delighted to have owners present for the trial. To all the owners who have the passion and appreciation of the well-trained, thrilling, hard-driving bird dog and are willing to help support the handlers and their string of dogs to keep this exciting sport possible, we salute you!

Owners traveling to be with us this year were Eugene Spiotta of Germantown, Tenn., Lance Schultz with wife Marcie of Bismarck, N. D., Ron Prewitt of Hudson, Ill., Dr. Richard Steckley of Wichita, Kan., and Bjorn Peterson of Delano, Minn. Dr. Jeffery Hale and his beautiful family, of Russellville, Ark., Rick Thone with his wife Harriett and granddaughter Rayne of Russellville, Ark., Michael Plate of Alma, Neb., Brian Williams, and his significant other, Dacia Teeman, of Haskell, Okla., also attended.

Kind and generous sponsors make the Invitational Championship what it is. Purina sponsors the beautiful and treasured Ross B. Young painting that goes to the winning owner and provides dog food to the winning handler. Garmin provides an Advanced Training System with Tracking to the handler, and Tri-Tronics Pro 550 Electronic Training Collar. A beautiful commemorative Montana Silversmith belt buckle donated by Dr. Debbie Ozner and George Hickox goes to the winning owner. Leather Brothers provides trophy leather collars with name tags on each to the handlers and multiple prizes that are distributed through the evening programs. SportDOG also generously provides prizes for handlers and owners, as does Circle Y Saddlery, Collar Clinic, and Jack Haggis Saddlery. World Class Bird Dogs sponsors the bar all three evenings. Melanie and Dr. Jeff

Hale sponsored the Friday night dinner. Carol and Witt Stephens sponsored the Saturday evening meal, and Sunday night’s steak dinner was sponsored by Dr. Tom Jackson, owner of 2022 Invitational Champion Chelsea’s Thunder Bolt. Maria Woody and Mike Taylor sponsored a large custom cake with Chelsea’s Thunder Bolt’s likeness.

Invitational benefactors who make the \$8,000 purse possible are Lee Cruse, Charlie and Linda Jackson, Randy and Lynn Potter, Ron Prewitt, Jack, Audrey and Brian Sanchez, and Johnny and Joyce Taylor. Our most sincere gratitude goes out to each sponsor.

The Championship Running

Saturday morning

After the customary group photo of dogs, handlers, owners, and judges, we rode for the Saturday morning breakaway on what could not have been a more beautiful field trial day. The sun was shining gloriously, and the temperature was nice and cold. A jovial, nice size gallery was riding for the first day with all handlers and several owners present. Hoodies were pulled tight over heads and ears and caps were pulled low to shield the sunshine. A brisk 27 degrees burned away to mid-30s as we turned loose Tug O’War (“Tug”), handled by Shawn Kinkelaar of Effingham, Ill., and Doc’s Second Wind (“Willie”), the only setter of the 12 dogs, handled by Eddie Taylor of Red Banks, Miss. Owner Bjorn Peterson had traveled from Minnesota and was riding in support of Tug, and one of Willie’s owners, Michael Plate of Alma, Neb., was riding in support of Willie.

In the first half of the first-morning course, the cover was low due to a late fall Game & Fish burn, and we could view the dogs fly along edges and to the forefront. Tug had a nice race and an excellent finish, circling the big dove field to conclusion. Willie also had a good race, sometimes spending time out of range and view and again at pick-up.

In the second morning brace was Hale's High Flyer ("Betty"), handled by E. Taylor. His owner, Dr. Jeffery Hale of Russellville, Ark., was on hand for the entire trial as well as several family members. Also down was Touch's Shameless ("Lip"), handled by Chuck Stretz of Blackwater, Mo., and owned by Dr. Richard Steckley, Wichita, Kan. Betty put down a good race for her full hour. She had a rabbit find at 31 and an unproductive at 57 while Lip stylishly backed. Powerful Lip had a nice race; he thrilled us as he cast deep through the big bottoms—no birds for their hours.

Dogs in the third brace of the morning were Sun's Out Gun's Out ("Pete"), handled by E. Taylor and owned by Rick Thone of Russellville, Ark., and Chelsea's Mae West ("Mae"), handled by Kinkelaar, co-owned by Ron Prewitt of Hudson, Ill., who rode the dog wagon each day with dog wagon master Roger Martin, past area manager. Pete was a powerful, front-running dog for his hour brace. Mae hunted forward without the reach of bracemate. Pete turned with the course and for the handler to show on front impressively. From the mountain crossing, both dogs dug deep on the left, and handlers were dispatched, but both dogs swung on their own and showed as we turned toward the dead horse curve. No birds.

Saturday Afternoon

For the fourth brace Wind Ridge Sugar Plum ("Sugar"), handled by E. Taylor and owned by and present for her performance by dog wagon Eugene J. Spiotta of Germantown, Tenn., and Touch's Big Whiskey ("Big") handled by co-owner Stretz, and co-owner Dr. Richard Steckley riding, were released from the ridge top. Sugar had a nice big race. She had a little absence then showed to the far front on ridge edge—out big, then gone some—to return on front. Big also had a nice race with an unproductive at 30.

Upfront's Southern Star ("Roo") is handled by Kinkelaar and owned by Lance Schulz of Bismarck, N. D. Lance rode each brace, and was accompanied by his wife, Marcie. Roo showed off with a nice find in the field beyond the road and pine trees toward the lake, great composure and style on point, and impeccable style after wing and shot. She finished with a nice front race. With Roo was Hale's Kickstarter ("Bud"), handled by E. Taylor and owned by Dr. Jeffrey Hale, his second dog in the trial. Bud's race was a more moderate but adequate shooting dog race. He had an unproductive just after the nursery pond.

The final brace of the first day of running paired Oahe Buck ("Buck"), handled by Tommy Rice of Pavo, Ga., and owned by Mac Stidham of Rembert, S. C., with Highwall To Rebel Hell ("Bill"), handled by Matt Cochran of Reydon, Okla., and owned by Brian Williams of Haskell, Okla. Brian and his significant other, Dacia Teeman, were with us for the drawing and the morning running but had to return home for obligations. Both dogs had very fluid nice running performances. Bill had a bit of a long absence. Nice moving



United States Shooting Dog Invitational Champion Upfront's Southern Star with Bob Barker (judge), Steve Messick (judge), Shawn Kinkelaar (handler), Tommy Rice (scout), and Lance and Marci Schulz (owners).

Buck had a nice race, hit objectives, and needed birds.

Sunday morning

Another beautiful cold, overcast morning greeted us for the Sunday morning running. Upfront's Southern Star ("Roo") had a nice race, running big and hard, out and away twice, once with the handler bringing her back on course. She finished strong with Kinkelaar pointing her out to the front. Highwall To Rebel Hell ("Bill") had a reportedly decent race. Cochran called point for him outside bird alley but dismounted and took the dog on. The dog came from behind a couple of times, regaining the front. The handler again called point for Bill, deep in the finger toward the lake, yet no gunfire, no birds.

Wind Ridge Sugar Plum ("Sugar") and Oahe Buck ("Buck") were released in the woods past Dove Field and into Big Horseshoe, where Sugar quickly established point at 3 in the road at the beginning of Big Horseshoe, all good. Here, Buck took advantage of the open country and reached the road first to check left, then right. Pretty Sugar caught the front, and both dogs drove forward with nice races. Sugar had an unproductive at 55.

Touch's Big Whiskey ("Big") had a nice race, slowing a bit at the end of the big fields behind the clubhouse as we turned into the wind and handler hunted him in heavy grass for the evasive Camp Robinson quail. Hale's Kickstarter ("Bud") had a driving but sometimes erratic race; he made some nice forward casts yet was behind a couple of times—no birds for the brace.

Sunday Afternoon

Sunday afternoon, the temperature warmed to the 60s for Hale's High Flyer ("Betty") and Chelsea's Mae West ("Mae"). Both dogs ran big races, Mae, much bigger than the previous day, yet with a couple of absences. Betty had a good find just off the road edge as we passed the pine trees toward the Big Horseshoe with Mae backing mannerly.

Tug O'War ("Tug") and Sun's Out Gun's Out ("Pete") put down nice, big, showy, comparable races. Pete came from the back a couple of times. Point was called for Pete past the lake, deep to the left at 50. When we arrived here, we also discovered Tug

even deeper along the tree edge pointed. Birds were promptly raised for staunch Pete, but none would show for Tug on flush or relocation.

Doc's Second Wind ("Willie") is a showy, handsome setter. He was powerful to the front, impressing the judges and the gallery with his willing turns as urged by his handler from afar. He had two unproductives, one at 39 in the pines beyond Rabbit Patch Ridge and one at 45. Touch's Shameless ("Lip") had his own unproductive with Willie backing him in big country toward the fire station. Both were hard, front-running dogs, with lots of go and speed, Lip with some exuberant voice—good races for both.

Sunday evening, after a well-received steak dinner hosted by Dr. Tom Jackson, and cocktails from World Class Bird Dogs, the anticipated finalists were announced. The judges called back Upfront's Southern Star and Sun's Out Gun's Out. On standby were Wind Ridge Sugar Plum and Touch's Big Whiskey.

The Finals

Upfront's Southern Star had a glorious race throughout her 90-minute final heat, maintaining her strength, taking in the front and beyond. She demonstrated a good rapport with her handler, pausing for directional commands and turning on the front from afar. At approximately the one-hour mark, point was called for both dogs in heavy grass as the course turned to the right and back toward Dead Horse Curve. Both dogs stood majestically as both handlers flushed for a nice covey rise. Likewise, both dogs exhibited excellent manners. A bit more biddable on the ground than her bracemate, Roo finished going away just past Nursery Pond. The handler rode in pursuit, returning with Roo proudly riding the saddle with Kinkelaar. Owner Lance Schulz rode every brace of the trial and enjoyed Roo's championship performance and win.

Sun's Out Gun's Out, was seriously busy from the start of his 90-minute final. He scored a steadfast find off the breakaway on a nice covey, all in order. He did an excellent job on the ground, yet was to the side or behind some. The handler brought him through the woods from the right and Seawright Cut. At one hour, Pete scored his second find, the duel find with Roo at 60. He, too, finished his hour strong and to the front. Proud owner Rick Thone and granddaughter Rayne were also in the gallery riding and enjoying their fine dog.

The standby dogs were not called.

Conway, Ark., February 18
Judges: Bob Barker and Steve Messick
UNITED STATES SHOOTING DOG
INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
[Sixty-Minute Heats; Ninety-Minute Finals]
- 11 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner—UPFRONT'S SOUTHERN STAR, 1662579, pointer female, by Ransom-Double Wild. Lance Schulz, owner; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.



Calvin Curnutte | Cell: (910) 995-7902
 Facebook: DC Bird Dogs



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Pointers

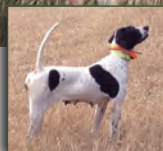
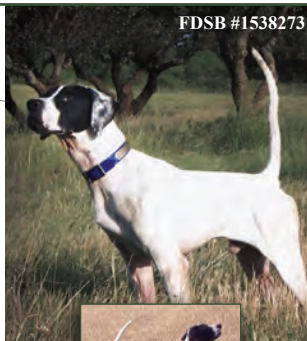
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Field Trials



ARCADIA FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA, USCSDA & ANEFTC • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

MAY 6-7 • WALKING TRIAL • STARTS 7:00 A.M.

Grounds: Arcadia Management Area, Exeter, RI. Directions: Driving north or south on I-95, to exit 13A, to Rt. 102 South, to Rt. 3 South, to Rt. 165 West, to right on Frosty Hollow Rd. Drawing: WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 7:00 P.M., at the home of the chairperson. One course on liberated quail. Food and refreshments will be available. Scouting from horseback is permitted. Club reserves the right to run stakes on alternate course if necessary. Note: Handicapped handling will be allowed in any Amateur stake per USCSDA guidelines. A current State Handicapped Certificate/Placard must be provided prior to brace.

STAKES AND ORDER OF RUNNING:

(Sat.) OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.)—40% divided 50-30-20 & Rosettes	\$40.00
OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—40% divided 50-30-20 & Rosettes	\$45.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—40% divided 50-30-20 & Rosettes	\$50.00
(Sun.) AMATEUR PUPPY (20 Min.)—Rosettes	\$30.00
AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.)—Rosettes	\$40.00
AMATEUR GUN DOG (30 Min.)—Rosettes	\$40.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Rosettes	\$40.00

Judges: To be announced



Jamie Nee, Janice Gregory and Lanny Dellinger, Co-Chairpersons

Entries to: RICHARD GIULIANO

148 Gibson Hill Rd., Greene, RI 02827 • (401) 225-5281 (Texts preferred)

The Club, solely at its discretion, reserves the right to exclude any individual from participation in this and/or subsequent events for actions and/or conduct deemed prejudicial to the sport of field trialing.

MID-COAST MAINE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

MAY 6-7 STARTS 7:30 A.M.

Grounds: Costigan Farm, Ward Rd., Prospect, ME. Call for directions to grounds. Accommodations: Best Western Whitehouse Inn, Hampden, ME—(207) 862-3737. Drawing: Sunday, April 30, 8:00 P.M., at the home of Russ Ogilvie. To be run on liberated birds.

(Sat.) OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.)	\$25.00
OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)	\$40.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)	\$40.00
(Sun.) GUN DOG CHALLENGE (20 Min.)	\$25.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)	\$40.00
OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)	\$40.00

— Ribbons for all placements —

Judges: To be announced

Entries to:

RUSS OGILVIE, President

Phone: (207) 248-2020

Email: epointer74@gmail.com

JON CULLEN, Treasurer

Phone: (207) 991-7039

Email: Jonathancullen7@gmail.com

— Email entries must be confirmed —



MOUNTAIN VIEW BIRD DOG CLUB

Member USCSDA & AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

May 6 • 279 Faller Rd., Lake Ariel, PA

Drawing: Wednesday, May 3, 7:00 P.M., at home of the trial chairman.

(Sat.) AMATEUR PUPPY—Ribbons	\$30.00
AMATEUR DERBY—Ribbons	\$40.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG—Ribbons	\$45.00

Judges: To be announced



Entries to: THOR KAIN

348 Upper Powderly St., Carbondale, PA 18407

Phone: (570) 702-6670 • Email: Tkain63@gmail.com

Landowner and club officials are not liable for injuries to persons or dogs.

— MIDWEST FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION —

NORTHWEST FIELD ASSOCIATION TRIALS

Member AFTCA & MWFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!



MAY 12-14 • STARTS 8:00 A.M.

Grounds: Sheyenne National Grasslands, Hankinson Unit, Hankinson, ND. From Hankinson, west on ND-11, right on 165th Ave. SE 1.5 miles, left on 91st St. SE 1.2 miles, right 1.6 miles, left on 89 St. SE to camp. Only certified weed-free hay permitted. Drawing: Monday, May 8, 7:00 P.M., at the home of the trial chairman.

OPEN ALL-AGE (30 Min.)	\$55.00
OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)	\$55.00
OPEN WALKING SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)	\$55.00
OPEN WALKING DERBY (30 Min.)	\$55.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)	\$55.00

Judges: To be announced

Entries to: IAN MacTAVISH, Chairman
4851 Norcrest Ave. S, Afton, MN 55001

Phone: (651) 302-3797 • Email: ianmactav@gmail.com

The NWFA, its officers, and members are not, in any way, responsible and cannot be held liable for accidents involving anyone participating in the trial.

DAIRYLAND BIRD DOG CLUB

Member AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

MAY 20-21, 2023

YELLOWSTONE WMA, FAYETTE, WI



Entries Close/Drawing: Wednesday, May 17, 6:00 P.M. (CDT), at the home of the field trial secretary.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG	\$55.00
AMATEUR DERBY	\$55.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG	\$55.00
OPEN DERBY	\$55.00


Judges: To be announced

Mike Northwood, Co-Secretary

Entries to: ADAM DeLUDE, Secretary

N3403 Timberlane Dr., Campbellsport, WI 53010

Phone: (920) 579-0344 • Email: Adam@alliwood.net



SUMMERHILL FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member SBHA, AFTCA & EPFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

May 6-7 • Horseback Trial • Starts 8:00 A.M.
Points for SBHA Handler & Dog of the Year,
SBHA Mega Invitational and Mega Derby Invitational


Grounds: George Tracy Training Grounds, 7923 Main St., Glenville, PA 17329 (next to Snyder's Grain Mill). Drawing: Friday, May 5, 8:00 P.M., at the grounds.

AMATEUR RESTRICTED DERBY (30 Min.)	\$50.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)	\$50.00
AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.)	\$50.00
*YOUTH STAKE	FREE

*Saturday, 2:00 P.M., or later depending on entries; Not recognized

Judges: To be announced

Entries to: KAREN SANIGA, Nottingham, PA
Cell: (610) 350-7373 • Email: ksaniga@hotmail.com


CENTRAL CONNECTICUT BIRD DOG CLUB

Member AFTCA, USCSDA & ANEFTC • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

MAY 19-21 • STARTS 7:00 A.M. SHARP

Grounds: Dr. John Flaherty Field Trial Area, East Windsor, CT. Handlers responsible for own horse arrangements. Drawing: Tuesday, May 16, 7:00 P.M., at the home of the chairman. Club reserves the right to change judges and starting times.

OPEN RESTRICTED SHOOTING DOG	\$50.00
SCOTTY CREEL OPEN DERBY	\$50.00
GUARD RAIL OPEN SHOOTING DOG	\$65.00
AMATEUR DERBY	\$45.00
MILO WILKENS ON AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG	\$45.00

Purse: Open Stakes—50%, less \$10.00 per dog, 50-30-20; Amateur Stakes—Ribbons and Certificates.

Judges: To be announced • Reporter: Tom Gates

For entries & information, contact:

GENE CASALE JR., Chairman

Phone: (860) 202-1143 • Email: gacasale@gmail.com

Central Connecticut Bird Dog Club, its officers and members are not responsible for loss, injury or theft.



KALAMAZOO SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN FIELD TRIAL CLUB

— On behalf of the Association of Michigan Field Trial Clubs, Inc. —

MAY 27-28 • STARTS 7:30 A.M.

Horseback/Walking • Courses 1 & 2 • AMFTC & USCSDA Points Trial

Grounds: Ionia State Recreation Area, Ionia, MI. Overnight electrical fee \$20.00.

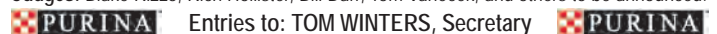
Drawing: Wednesday, May 24, 7:00 P.M., at the home of the secretary.

(Course 1) OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.)	\$40.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)	\$55.00
OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)	\$50.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)	\$50.00
OPEN WALKING PUPPY (20 Min.)	\$40.00
OPEN WALKING SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)	\$55.00
OPEN WALKING DERBY	\$50.00

Purse: 50%, 50-30-20 after deduction of \$12/entry for Assn. grounds fees.

Rosettes awarded to each placed dog.

Judges: Blake Rizzo, Rich Hollister, Bill Darr, Tom Vaneccek, and others to be announced.



Entries to: TOM WINTERS, Secretary

Phone: (810) 522-8707 • Email: KazooSWMiFTC@gmail.com

Kalamazoo Southwest Michigan Field Trial Club, its officers and members will not be held responsible for loss or damage to property or injury at trial.

OREGON SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted by the Pacific Coast Field Trial Club

Member AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!



Starts Wednesday, May 10 • Imperial River Cattle Ranch, Maupin, OR

Grounds: Imperial River Cattle Ranch, 941443 Hinton Rd., Maupin, OR 97037. **Directions:** *From Maupin*—Take Hwy. 197 to Bakeoven Rd.; turn left on Bakeoven Rd. for 17 miles to Hinton Rd.; turn left for 0.6 miles and turn right into the gravel pit area. *From U.S. 67*—Go to Bakeoven Rd. towards Maupin, OR, for 7.5 miles to Hinton Rd.; turn right for 0.6 miles and turn right into the gravel pit area. **Drawing:** Tuesday, May 9, 6:30 P.M., at Imperial River Co. Lounge, Maupin, OR (Appetizers to be served at the drawing). **Accommodations:** Imperial River Co., Maupin, OR—(800) 395-3903 or Deschutes Motel, 616 Mill St., Maupin, OR—(541) 395-2626.

OREGON SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP (1 Hour) Entry Fee: \$185.00

— A PURINA TOP SHOOTING DOG & HANDLER OF THE YEAR POINTS STAKE • AFTCA AMATEUR POINTS TRIAL —

Purse: \$65.00 of entry fees (less \$10.00 grounds fee and \$5.00 Region 10 fee) divided 70-30 to winner and runner-up.

Eligibility: A placement in a recognized Open Shooting Dog or Open Derby stake.

Judges: Jim Cochran, Fall City, WA, and Patrick Clark, Flagstaff, AZ

OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—Run at the discretion of the club..... Entry Fee: \$ 40.00

SHOOTING DOG DERBY (30 Min.)—Run at the discretion of the club..... Entry Fee: \$ 40.00

Judges: To be announced • **Dog Truck Driver:** Adam Meifert • **Reporter:** Todd Schaaf

Entries to: TODD SCHAAF, 106 NE 389th St., Woodland, WA 98674 • **Phone:** (503) 267-4853

Email: taschaaf@emsco.com • **Make checks payable to:** Todd Schaaf or Pacific Coast

Thanks to our sponsors: Purina & SportDOG

Entries are accepted with the understanding that the Oregon Shooting Dog, its officers and landowners are not in any way responsible and cannot be held liable for accidents involving any one attending the trial, their horses, dogs or equipment.

SPRUCE BROOK BIRD DOG CLUB

Member AFTCA & ANEFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns only!

May 26–29

Flaherty Field Trial Area, East Windsor, Ct



A PURINA TOP AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG AWARD & AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL
Drawing: Tuesday, May 23, 7:00 P.M., at the home of the chairman. Lunches available. Dinner (Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings) provided by club.

*OPEN ALL-AGE \$ 50.00
*OPEN RESTRICTED SHOOTING DOG..... \$ 50.00
*OPEN DERBY \$ 50.00
*OPEN SHOOTING DOG..... \$ 65.00

**Purse: 50%, 50-30-20 less \$10.00 grounds fee per dog*

AMATEUR DERBY \$ 45.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour)..... \$100.00

Judges: OA-A, ORSD & OD—Brian Sanchez, Gene Casale, Dave O'Brien, Alene LeVasseur, and John Malone; OSD—Tom Tracy and Bill Bonnetti; ASD & AD—Matt Basilone and Marcus Ramseur.

Entries to: ALENE LEVASSEUR

Phone: (860) 634-3263 • **Email:** alenev721@gmail.com

Club, officers and landowners are not responsible for accidents, injuries or loss of any kind.



MOHEGAN BIRD DOG CLUB

Member USCSDA & AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

SUNDAY, MAY 28 • WEATHERLY, PA • STARTS 7:30 A.M.

Grounds: Freeland Kennel Club, 258 S. Stagecoach Rd., Weatherly, PA 18255. Run on native and liberated birds. **Drawing:** Thursday, May 25, 5:00 P.M., at Midnight Kennel.

OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.)—No purse; Ribbons..... \$20.00
OPEN DERBY—No purse; Ribbons \$40.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG—Ribbons \$40.00

Judges: Jon Ferdinand, Samantha Adams, Marty Festa, and Brad Blanner



Entries to: ROBERT ECKER • (570) 778-3009

Club members and landowners not responsible for accidents.

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Listen on:



NGSPA REGION 4 CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Ionia Recreation Area, Ionia, MI
Monday, May 8 — Friday, May 12**



OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP Entry Fee: \$175.00

Purse: \$500 to Winner; \$250 to Runner-Up (16-dog minimum for payout)

Leather Plaques to Winner and Runner-Up

Judges: Jim Cipponeri and Bill Branham

Stake Manager: Marc McKinley

OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP..... Entry Fee: \$175.00

Purse: \$400 to Winner; \$200 to Runner-Up (12-dog minimum for payout)

Leather Plaques to Winner and Runner-Up

Judges: Jeff Haggis and Bill Branham

Stake Manager: Tom Davis

DERBY—Time permitting Entry Fee: \$100.00

Purse: \$150 to Winner; \$100 to Runner-Up; \$85 to third (12-dog minimum for payout)

Leather Plaques to placements

Judges: To be announced

Stake Manager: Lee Wagoner

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP Entry Fee: \$175.00

Prizes: \$500 Visa gift card to Winner; \$250 Visa gift card to Runner-Up

Leather Plaques to Winner and Runner-Up

Judges: Jeff Haggis and Lee Wagoner

Stake Manager: Dan DiMambro

Drawings: *Open Shooting Dog*—Sunday evening, May 7, at the Ionia clubhouse.

All other stakes will be drawn the night before each is to begin.

Entry fees must be paid before dog enters the starting line of each stake!

FDSB# and DNA# required to be drawn • Club keeps purse if Champion not named

Mail or phone entries to:

DAN DiMAMBRO, 17085 12 Mile Rd., Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: (231) 301-3290

— Thanks to PURINA —

CLUB DOES NOT ASSUME LIABILITY FOR PERSONS OR ANIMALS AT THIS TRIAL.

NATIONAL FIELD TRIAL CHAMPION ASSOCIATION (NFTCA), INC.

Standards of Qualifications for the 125th Running of the National Championship beginning February 10, 2024

— Check #5 to make sure the event you attend is listed as a “Qualifying Trial” —

1. All entries must have at least two first place wins in Qualifying Trials as specified in this notice to initially qualify, except for 4 trials which are deemed “One Time Qualifiers”. Those “One Time Qualifier” trials are: 1.) Continental All-Age Championship; 2.) Georgia Derby Championship; 3.) Missouri Open Championship; and 4.) Quail Championship Invitational. **The second-place winner in qualifying trials with a minimum of 80 entries, will count as a win towards qualifying status as well.** Dogs which were eligible for the 2023 or earlier National Championships must have a placement (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) since February 11, 2023, to compete in the 2024 National Championship. All entries made with the understanding that **all participants must either be at the drawing and/or have a representative at the drawing to represent that dog's interest in the 2024 National Championship, and all participants must use a solid barrel gun when flushing during the competition.**

2. The 2023 winner will be eligible for the 2024 National Championship, but must re-qualify for subsequent years.

3. All entries qualified as of December 31, 2023, must be submitted in writing with full particulars, accompanied by the nominating fee, DNA & Registration Certificate, and **must be in the Ames office by February 1, 2024.** Dogs qualifying after the December 31, 2023 deadline must have their entries in before the drawing, February 10, 2024. There is no provision for a dog that is qualified by the December 31, 2023 deadline to “re-qualify” for the 2024 National between January 1, 2024, and February 10, 2024.

4. All entries must be registered in the *UKC/American Field Dog Stud Book* and all wins entered in the permanent files of *UKC/American Field*. Entries may be made only in the name of the owner(s) of record in the *UKC/American Field Dog Stud Book* and a copy of the **Registration Certificate** must be submitted with all entries, as well as an approved and accepted **DNA Certificate** on file with *UKC/American Field* and a photocopy of the same **DNA Certificate and Registration Certificate** must be submitted with the official nomination form. Starting fees must be paid before the dog competes.

5. The following trials, when conducted on a minimum of three individual one-hour courses for a minimum scheduled period of one hour per brace in either first or second series, are designated as Qualifying Trials for the 2024 National Championship:

- Alabama Open All-Age Championship
- Alberta Classic
- All-America Derby Championship
- All-America Prairie Championship
- All-America Quail Championship
- American Derby Invitational Championship
- American Quail Classic Open All-Age
- Benton County (MS) Open All-Age
- Bill Andrews Open All-Age (Central Carolina FTC)
- Black Belt (AL) Open All-Age Classic
- Buck-Tuck Open All-Age Classic
- Cajun Classic
- California Bird Dog Championship
- California Chukar Championship
- California Open Championship
- California Pheasant Championship
- California Quail Championship
- Cascade Open All-Age Championship
- Cecil Proctor Open All-Age
- Continental Derby Championship
- Continental Open All-Age Championship*
- D.E. Hawthorne Open All-Age Border Classic
- Dixie Open All-Age
- Georgia Derby Championship*
- Georgia Quail Championship
- Heartland Open All-Age
- Hell Creek (MS) Open All-Age
- Hobart Ames Memorial Open All-Age Classic
- International Pheasant Championship
- Kansas Prairie Open All-Age Classic (Jayhawk OA-A)
- Kentucky Lake Open All-Age
- Kentucky Open All-Age Championship
- Kentucky Quail Classic
- Lee County (GA) FTA Open All-Age
- Lynn Taylor Open All-Age (Carroll County FTC [TN])
- Masters Open Quail Championship
- Mid-America Open All-Age Championship
- Mississippi Open All-Age Championship
- Missouri Open All-Age
- Missouri Open Championship*
- National Chukar All-Age Championship
- National Derby Championship
- National Free-For-All Championship
- National Pheasant Championship
- North Carolina FTA Open All-Age
- North Carolina Open Quail Championship
- North Dakota Open All-Age Classic
- Northwest Chukar Open All-Age Championship
- Oklahoma Open Championship
- Pacific Coast Derby Championship
- Pacific Coast Open Championship
- Pelican State Open All-Age
- Prairie Open All-Age
- Quail Championship Invitational*
- Region 8 Preston Trimble Memorial Open All-Age Championship
- Rend Lake Open All-Age
- Robin Gates Quail Classic (formerly Bluegrass Quail Classic)
- Southeastern Quail Championship
- Southern Field Trial Championship
- Southland Open All-Age Championship
- Southwestern Championship (Central Arkansas FTA)
- Stillwater Open All-Age
- Sunflower (KS) Open All-Age Classic
- Sunshine (FL) FTC Open All-Age Classic
- Tar Heel Open Championship
- United States Chicken Championship (Northern States)
- United States Open Championship
- West Tennessee Open All-Age
- Western Open All-Age Championship
- Win Ingersoll Memorial Inola Open All-Age

*One-Time Qualifier

Entries in open events must not be restricted due to time limitations. **All Qualifying Trials MUST include the names of the judges in their initial advertisement. REPLACEMENT OF ANNOUNCED JUDGES MUST BE EXPLAINED IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY, NFTCA, Inc.** Failure to comply with this requirement will IMMEDIATELY DISQUALIFY the event as a Qualifying Stake for the National Championship. It is recommended that all Qualifying Stakes have a minimum of 15 entries.

6. Qualifying Trials will be reviewed annually in February for eligibility.

7. Qualifying Trials as designated above that are NOT conducted, for whatever reason, during the time February 11, 2023 to February 10, 2024, must send **written notification to the Secretary, NFTCA, to retain “Qualifying Status.”** A copy of the **Form For Essential Data recognizing the official winners and judges** submitted to the UKC/American Field must also be submitted to the Secretary, NFTCA.

8. Clubs sponsoring Qualifying Trials as designated above and desire to **RELOCATE** their running grounds OR experience a substantial change in **officers and directors must formally petition the NFTCA for continuation of their qualification status prior to actual relocation or running of their event.** Forms to expedite this process are available from the secretary, NFTCA.

9. Clubs which are not included in the above and approved list of Qualifying Trials and desire to conduct a qualifying event for the 2025 National Championship may request an Application Form from the Secretary, NFTCA, Inc., P.O. Box 389, Grand Junction, TN 38039 or call (901) 878-1067. The NFTCA will receive applications until February 1, 2024, and will announce changes, if any, in the Qualifying Trials and/or standards prior to March 31, 2024.

10. **“Qualifying Certificates” must be purchased before a Qualifying Trial conducts their event for the 2024 National Championship.** Cost for the 2024 “Qualifying Certificate” is **\$200.00** and may be purchased from the Secretary, NFTCA, Inc., P.O. Box 389, Grand Junction, TN 38039. **Clubs not purchasing “Qualifying Certificates” may be dropped from the list of qualifying events for the 2025 National Championship.**

11. To facilitate an increase in the Purse of the National Championship and to fund the many activities that makes **THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP** the premier bird dog event in North America, all Clubs hosting National Championship qualifying events will be required to collect a “Participation Fee” of \$20/dog starting in the 2013/2014 Field Trial Year (beginning August, 2013 and forward). This “Participation Fee” is “over and above” each Club’s “normal” entry fee and is not to be included in the club’s purse. Each club will then forward a check to the Secretary of the NFTCA. **Example: a 40-dog stake x \$20/dog = \$800 sent to the Secretary, NFTCA. Clubs NOT submitting their surcharge funds will immediately be disqualified.**

12. Any dog qualified for the 2024 National Championship as a result of placements only in Derby competition may, at the discretion of the owner(s) and with proper notification to the Secretary, NFTCA, can compete in either the 2024 or 2025 National Championships. All Standards for the year elected for competition are applicable.

Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America

www.aftca.org

Piper Huffman, Secretary
Phone: (662) 223-0126
Email: piper.huffman@aim.com

American Bird Hunters Association

www.facebook.com/trialabha/

Ronnie Rogers, President
Phone: (865) 712-9229
Email: esetter34@yahoo.com

National Bird Hunters Association

www.nbhdog.org

Ken Sauer, President
Phone: (281) 960-2508
Email: kfsauer@sbcglobal.net

Tim Penn, Secretary
Phone: (660) 341-1165
Email: tpennhwy6@gmail.com

National German Shorthaired Pointer Association

www.ngspa.org

Natalie Inderman, Secretary
Phone: (806) 777-2769
Email: Nataliealicia@ymail.com

National Red Setter Field Trial Club

www.nrsftc.com

Ed Liermann
Phone: (414) 625-0715
Email: eal1886@aol.com

National Vizsla Association

www.thenva.org

Robert Tomczak
Phone: (715) 829-8104
Email: shilohkl@aol.com

Southern Bird Hunters Association

www.southernbirdhunters.org

Marty Robinson, President
Phone: (770) 862-6568
Bruce Mercer, Secretary
Phone: (470) 345-6369
Email: mercerbruce@hotmail.com
Georgia Casey, Treasurer
Phone: (618) 638-2952

U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Association

www.uscomplete.org

Chris Catanzarite, President
Phone: (724) 884-7244
Email: Catanzarite@fairpoint.net
Bill Bonnetti, Vice-President
Phone: (508) 648-0598
Email: bonnetti-william@comcast.net
Mike Spotts, Secretary/Treasurer
Phone: (570) 590-4708
Email: mikespotts09@yahoo.com

Futurities

Grand National Grouse Futurity

Thor Kain
Phone: (570) 702-6670
Email: TKain63@gmail.com

Midwest Vizsla Futurity

Rodney Albin
Phone: (636) 366-9746
Email: rodneyalbin@centurytel.net

National Bird Hunters Assn. Futurity

Jim Ogle
Phone: (417) 388-0734
Email: jojoesnglishsetters@gmail.com

National German Shorthaired Pointer Assn.

Jeff Wallace, Futurity Manager
Phone: (641) 891-9513
Email: jeffwallace@iowatelecom.net

National Red Setter Futurity

James Inbody
Phone: (330) 306-8065
Email: BonasaHunter72@aol.com

National Shooting Dog Futurity

Mark Hughes
Phone: (814) 591-3540
Email: mdh275@gmail.com

National Walking Shooting Dog Futurity

Chris Catanzarite
Phone: (724) 884-7244
Email: catanzarite@fairpoint.net

New England Shooting Dog Futurity

Margaret Drew
Phone: (910) 206-0079
Email: margaretdrew39@gmail.com

North American Woodcock Futurity

Joe Dahl
Phone: (207) 478-3063
Email: JosephDahl@aol.com

Southern Bird Hunters Assn. Futurity

Bruce Mercer
Phone: (470) 345-6369
Email: mercerbruce@hotmail.com

U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Assn. Futurity

Verlene Stephenson
Phone: (252) 589-1521
Email: verlene_stephenson@ncsu.edu

United States Quail Shooting Dog Futurity

Margaret Drew
Phone: (910) 206-0079
Email: bmdrew@windstream.net

Recognized Field Trials

Region 14 (AFTCA) Amateur All-Age Championship

May 1 / Winnett, MT
Contact: Austin Turley / Phone: (406) 860-7161

Mid-Coast Maine Field Trial Club

May 6 / Prospect, ME
Contact: Russ Ogilvie / Phone: (207) 248-2020
Email: epointer74@gmail.com

NGSPA Region 4 Championships

May 8 / Ionia, MI
Contact: Dan DiMambro / Phone: (231) 301-3290

Oregon Shooting Dog Championship

May 10 / Maupin, OR
Contact: Todd Schaaf / Phone: (503) 267-4853
Email: taschaaf@emsco.com

Northwest Field Trial Association

May 12 / Hankinson, ND
Contact: Ian MacTavish / Phone: (651) 302-3797
Email: ianmactav@gmail.com

Central Connecticut Bird Dog Club

May 19 / East Windsor, CT
Contact: Gene Casale, Jr. / Phone: (860) 202-1143
Email: gacasale@gmail.com

Spruce Brook Bird Dog Club

May 26 / East Windsor, CT
Contact: Alene LeVasseur / Phone: (860) 634-3263
Email: alenev721@gmail.com

Atlantic Sportsman's Club

August 19 / Caledonia, NS
Contact: Ian Corbett / Phone: (902) 354-0026
Email: ikcorbett@msn.com

ABHA TRIALS

(No trials scheduled)

NBHA TRIALS

(No trials scheduled)

SBHA TRIALS

Summerhill Field Trial Club

May 6 / Glenville, PA
Contact: Karen Saniga / Phone: (610) 350-7373
Email: ksaniga@hotmail.com

English Setter Club of America

May 11 / Medford, NJ
Contact: Karen Lordi / Phone: (609) 820-5744
Email: klordi47@gmail.com

USCSDA TRIALS

Arcadia Field Trial Club
May 6 / Exeter, RI
Contact: Richard Giuliano / Phone: (401) 225-5281

Mountain View Bird Dog Club

May 6 / Lake Ariel, PA
Contact: Thor Kain / Phone: (570) 702-6670
Email: TKain63@gmail.com

Maine Bird Dog Club

May 13 / Fryeburg, ME
Contact: Deb Kennedy / Phone: (603) 795-4633
Email: debkennedy2000@gmail.com

Kalamazoo Southwest Michigan Field Trial Club

May 27 / Ionia, MI
Contact: Tom Winters / Phone: (810) 522-8707
Email: KazooSWMiFTC@gmail.com

Mohegan Bird Dog Club

May 28 / Weatherly, PA
Contact: Robert Ecker / Phone: (570) 778-3009

Questions or concerns?

Please contact:

Advertising

Gina Smith
gsmith@ukcdogs.com

Essential Data Forms & Write-Ups

Dinora Wellmann
dwellmann@ukcdogs.com

Field Dog Stud Book

Jason Lee
jlee@ukcdogs.com



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A Life Lived for the Betterment of Our Sport



David Williams for Field Trial Hall of Fame

The inauguration of the HOF was announced in the June 19, 1954 issue of the American Field: "The Field Trial Hall of Fame is intended to honor dogs and persons of permanent high stature in our sport. Persons who have made outstanding contributions to the bird dog game over a span of years is considered a major requirement."

David Williams not only meets that lofty requirement but far, far exceeds it. For nearly half a century, virtually every aspect of our sport has benefitted from David's tireless giving of his time, knowledge, resources, generosity and commitment.

- For 30 years, David has provided numerous field trial clubs the grounds, complete with facilities, to host hundreds of stakes. His farm, home to the Carroll County Field Trial Club near Huntington, TN comprises some of the finest field trial grounds in the country. Through his inexhaustible efforts, they are immaculately groomed and maintained for wild and pre-released quail. His expansive holdings host prestigious field trials, both open and amateur, as well as multiple National Championship Qualifiers throughout the field trial season.
- Active in field trial clubs as a member and officer since 1980, David has generously given of his time, knowledge and professionalism volunteering on countless committees and boards. He has served as AFTCA Trustee for Region 6 since 2009, has been president of numerous clubs since 1988, and was AFTCA President for the 2017-1019 term during which he spearheaded the development of the highly beneficial Land Contribution Program.
- Respected for his integrity and experience, David has been sought out and a myriad of times filled the judicial and reporting saddle for field trials across the country.
- Born and raised in Tennessee, David began quail hunting at the age of 10 and two years later got his first bird dog. His first significant field trial win came in the late 1980s when he handled his Hawk's Royal Rebel to Runner-Up Champion in the Region 8 Amateur All-Age. Since that time, David has been a successful amateur trainer and handler as well as a breeder of his Rebel line of pointers. When not blowing the whistle over his dogs himself, he has supported numerous professional trainers/handlers over the years.

To this day, David Williams continues to quietly and selflessly devote his life to the betterment of our sport.

Please join us in honoring David's nearly 50 years of dedication to field trials with your support.

— Thank you, The Committee to Elect David Williams to the Field Trial Hall of Fame



United Kennel Club
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Kalamazoo, MI 49002

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