

UKC®

# FIELD

---

December 2023

*A Newsletter by United Kennel Club*

Issue No. 23

---





# UKC TEAM IN THE FIELD

— *An update from Domenick Muoio*

The eagerly awaited Hall of Fame election has concluded. The voting committee has determined this year’s inductees, but first, I want to congratulate all the nominees for the recognition by the field trial community. To be recognized as a person or dog worthy of the Hall of Fame is an accomplishment and speaks volumes about your impact on the sport. The 2023 Hall of Fame inductees are...



## DAVID WILLIAMS

David Williams is credited with giving back to the sport in a plethora of ways, including decades of providing grounds on which to host field trials at his farm. Regardless of the sport, it is no secret to the dog world that finding good grounds to host events is next to impossible at times. David’s farm has not only been made available for countless events across the pointer field trial spectrum but the quality of the grounds is said to be of the highest tier. Grounds are one of the necessities of a field trial, and the donation of his grounds and the efforts to maintain them are reasons his peers recognize David’s contributions to the sport, but it is not his only contribution. David has been an active member of the field trial community since 1980 and, since then, has found a way to serve in some capacity from his time on various boards and committees. He spent time in positions as AFTCA trustee and president and was president of various clubs throughout his almost half a century in field trialing. David has also amassed countless hours in the saddle selflessly as both reporter and judge over the years. Join me in congratulating David Williams on his induction to the Hall of Fame!

Bob was trained and handled by Frank; during that time, he was run as the amateur-owned dog he was, competing almost exclusively locally and as his owner had time. Even with a more limited schedule as compared to dogs on a pro’s trailer running the circuit, Bob still found success with a handful of runner-up placements in championships and a couple of championships as well at some notable events. To see Bob have access to more opportunities and see his full potential, Frank put him in Luke Eisenhart’s string, which gave Bob the opportunity to showcase his true consistency. Bob has won trials on five different species everywhere, from the buttes of South Dakota to the Piney woods of the Southeast. Even more of an example of Bob’s consistency is the fact that Frank took him to his last trial as an 11-year-old to allow him to showcase his work and get to compete as he loved one last time at the Hawthorne Open All-Age Classic, an event where Bob earned his last win before retirement. Congratulations to owner Frank LaNasa, Luke Eisenhart, and everyone who contributed to True Confidence’s Hall of Fame-worthy career.



## RICHARD ROBERTSON JR.

“Richie” is a second-generation field trailer. He has been around the field trial world for all his life. Since following in his dad’s footsteps by taking on his own string of dogs in 1983, he has made a reputation for himself in such a manner that his peers have acknowledged his positive impact on field trialing and selfless nature. From taking new trainers under his wing to help shape them into successful trainers to helping mold notable dogs in the sport, Richie has cemented himself into the sport of field trialing. An account of Richie’s personality from his peers maintains the sentiment of his selfless nature. While he is driven to succeed, he is also extremely willing to help others succeed as well. His sportsmanship and kindness are some of the echoing themes from his peers throughout his career and his nominations this year. It is my pleasure to congratulate Richard Robertson Jr. on his induction into the Hall of Fame.



## HOUSE’S RAIN CLOUD

House’s Rain Cloud, owned by David Nutt and Dr. Larry Mitchell, has had an impact on the sport that is clear to see. As a 6x champion and 6x runner-up, his impact extends past himself and shows on the pointer breed. He produced 74 winners and almost 400 placements across his progeny. “Jack” has also placed in 37 trials across his career. The most notable of his wins was the Quail Championship Invitational for three consecutive years (1996, ‘97, ‘98), which boasts his greatest attribute of being a true endurance dog and setting a record yet to be beaten. He was a pleasure to watch for galleries, reporters, and judges alike. So much so that in one of his championship wins, the judges elected not to name a runner-up because his work was so far above that no other dogs proved to be second to him. Such an animal was bred by Buddy Smith and acquired as a puppy by Joe Don House, who was instrumental in his early development, putting a runner-up all-age championship on him before being acquired by David Nutt and Dr. Mitchell and placed in the capable hands of Mike Matney. Congratulations to his owners, breeder, and all those involved in his illustrious career.

## TRUE CONFIDENCE

True Confidence, also known as “Bob” or, if you were close to him or owner Frank LaNasa, you may even know of another less eloquent alias. Bob’s reputation can be summed up in numbers by his record as a 6x champion, 11x runner-up champion, and consistent producer of champion and winning dogs. One attribute of Bob that can’t be quantified in numbers is his easygoing, biddable, and intelligent personality. From 7 months to about 5 years old,



.....  
Once again, congratulations to this class of Hall of Fame inductees. As much as I would love the opportunity to congratulate these individuals and owners personally, my wife and I will be eagerly awaiting the birth of our first child, which is expected to be the week of the induction ceremony. While I will not be the one to hand each of you your scrolls, I will certainly be there in spirit. I look forward to crossing paths with our recipients soon to congratulate them in person!

— *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]

# FEATURES

- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 4  | Purina Events Sponsorship Program & The AFTCA Store         | 33 | Region 19 (AFTCA) Amateur All-Age Classic |
| 6  | National Brittany Open Grouse Championship Association      | 34 | Northeastern Open Championship            |
| 7  | Southwestern Championship & Open Derby                      | 36 | York Pointer & Setter Club                |
| 11 | NGSPA Hungarian Partridge Championships                     | 37 | Northern Michigan Cover Dog Championship  |
| 15 | Big Sky Field Trial Club                                    | 39 | Tar Heel Open Championship                |
| 17 | National Shooting Dog Futurity                              | 41 | National Red Setter Championships         |
| 19 | National Amateur Grouse Championship                        | 46 | Spencer Farms Field Trial Club            |
| 20 | New England Open Grouse Championship                        | 47 | Pennsylvania Grouse Championship          |
| 24 | NGSPA Region 8 Championships                                | 49 | Coalfield Bird Dog Club                   |
| 27 | Northeastern Grouse & Woodcock Championship                 | 51 | Remembering Eddie Rayl & The Rayl Family  |
| 30 | Region 13 (AFTCA) Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship | 52 | National Open Pheasant Championship       |
| 31 | ABHA Central Regional Championship                          | 57 | West Kentucky Field Trial Club            |
| 32 | North Missouri Field Trial Club                             |    |   |

## CH. NOTORIOUS DOMINATOR'S HEIR

2022 Continental Champion

John Mathys, Owner • Photo by Chris Mathan

# ON THE COVER

# PURINA EVENTS SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM & THE AFTCA STORE

## Program Launch

By Frank LaNasa & Piper Huffman

In partnership, the AFTCA and Purina are excited to announce the launching of the Purina Events Sponsorship Program and the AFTCA Store!

The Purina Events Sponsorship Program is available to all AFTCA member clubs hosting either Open or Amateur events. The program will provide Pro Plan dog food and substantial AFTCA Store coupons for your event's awards, gifts, and apparel.

This exciting new program will allow Purina and the AFTCA to deliver benefits directly to member clubs, elevating their events while providing a convenient one-stop AFTCA Store for quality awards, apparel, and gifts.

The program is now ready to accept Sponsorship requests, and the AFTCA Store can now take Member Club orders for events starting on or after January 1, 2024. Clubs are encouraged to submit their online sponsorship applications immediately to meet six-week deadlines. Get the word out and start applying for your event sponsorships today!

### Frequently asked questions:

#### • What is the Purina Events Sponsorship Program?

Purina remains committed to supporting pointing dog field trials. With this program, member clubs can now seek targeted Sponsorship for their Club event in the form of Pro Plan dog food and significant AFTCA Store coupons for their event awards, apparel, and gifts.

Using the Event Sponsorship online application on the AFTCA website, member clubs will submit their request for Sponsorship at least six weeks before the event date. If the application is successful, Purina will award both Pro Plan Dog food for your event as well as a \$200 AFTCA Store coupon for Club weekend events, a \$300 AFTCA Store coupon for Club Classic and Special Events, and a \$500 AFTCA Store coupon for Championship events. The combined value of food and coupons is a significant commitment to helping member clubs provide quality events.

#### • What is the AFTCA Store?

The online AFTCA Store is available for both Club and Individual member purchases on the AFTCA website [www.aftca.org](http://www.aftca.org). Only Clubs are eligible for Sponsorship coupons, but Individual members are encouraged to shop the apparel and gift items. Currently, the AFTCA Store provides over 50 quality awards, apparel, and gift products. As priced, all products will include the Sponsorship Logo, custom printing, engraving, shipping, and handling. You must log in to the AFTCA website to see the AFTCA Store.

#### • What Clubs can apply for Sponsorship?

Only AFTCA member clubs can receive Pro Plan dog food and AFTCA Store Coupons. Whether your club hosts Open or Amateur events or both, this benefit is available to AFTCA Member Clubs. Club memberships are \$100 for the season from July 1 until June 30 each year, regardless of when you join. If your club is not a member, we encourage you to join and take advantage of this and many other outstanding benefits by contacting the AFTCA Secretary, Piper Huffman, Office phone: (662) 223-0126 or email:



[piper.huffman@aim.com](mailto:piper.huffman@aim.com). Membership is simple, convenient, and quick.

#### • If my club is not a member of the AFTCA, can we receive Purina Pro Plan Dog Food for our events?

Purina Pro Plan Dog Food delivered to your event is now part of the Purina Events Sponsorship Program and requires Club membership in the AFTCA (exempting those events with active contracts with Purina that pre-date the launch of this program).

#### • If my club is not a member of the AFTCA, can we buy products in the AFTCA Store for our events?

Only member clubs can have access to the AFTCA Store for their events.

#### • Where can I apply?

On the AFTCA website, [www.aftca.org](http://www.aftca.org). Once logged in as a member, you will find the Event Sponsorship Application under the Club Area tab on the AFTCA home page. Complete the simple 11-question application for your club event and hit the submit button! That's it! The whole process takes less than 5 minutes. This method is the ONLY method allowed to request Sponsorship.

#### • When can I apply for Sponsorship for my club event?

To meet shipping requirements for food and fulfillment requirements for items in the AFTCA Store, applications for Sponsorship must occur at least SIX (6) WEEKS before the event's advertised date.

#### • How are we notified if we are awarded a Purina Sponsorship for our event?

Once you complete your application and hit the "Submit" button, you will receive an online confirmation that your request has been sent, and it will go directly to Purina for review. If approved, you will receive a Sponsorship notification by email, which will let you know the amount of dog food, the Coupon amount, and your club's AFTCA Store Coupon Code. If denied, you will receive an email explaining the denial, which can be appealed if further review warrants.

#### • How does my Purina Coupon Code work in the AFTCA Store?

Once logged in, you can shop for your event awards, apparel, and gifts. Your awards can be customized to your event. When your shopping is completed and you go to your cart, you will see the notice of an available coupon, which will reduce your cost by the coupon amount when applied. For example, your shopping cart has Awards and Gifts totaling \$595 for a Championship event, which would be discounted \$500 when you use your coupon, leaving a total to be paid at checkout of \$95 with your credit card.

#### • Who can use the Clubs Coupon in the AFTCA Store?

Only the person submitting the sponsorship application will be able to use the Club coupon.

#### • Can I use my Purina Discount Coupon at other Stores?

The coupon can only be used in the AFTCA Store.

• **Does my Purina Coupon expire?**

Yes, the coupon will expire two weeks after your event's advertised date.

• **Can I use a part of my coupon in one shopping event and use the balance in another?**

If a balance remains on the coupon after a shopping event, you may use it on another visit to the AFTCA Store up to 2 weeks after your event's advertised date.

• **Can a Club receive Sponsorship for more than one event a year?**

Yes. Each event is considered an individual request and will be reviewed by Purina for Sponsorship.

• **As an Individual AFTCA member, can I purchase items in the AFTCA Store?**

Individual members are encouraged to shop in the AFTCA Store for high-quality apparel and gift items. Branded apparel includes Eddie Bauer, Carhart, North Face, Columbia, Crown, Richardson, and more high-quality garments designed for outdoor use. The price shown on the item includes the logo, shipping, and handling.



The impact of the Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America (AFTCA) organization is felt directly across the entire Open and Amateur sport of UKC/American Field events and indirectly across competition events held for other Pointing Dog Registries. With a strong 100+ year history of providing leadership in the design and format of the highest standards of performance in pointing dog competition and all that it requires, the AFTCA's influence is undeniable.

**What does the AFTCA do for the sport of field trialing**

*Mission Statement: The AFTCA's mission is to advocate and support Amateur Bird Dog Field Trial competition in quality events and to strive to make available to amateur participants extraordinary Upland Bird venues on which to compete.*

*To foster and increase interest in and knowledge of Upland Game Birds and their conservation in order to perpetuate them for future generations.*

*To organize for the purpose of strengthening our capacity to meet our objectives of improving the status and existence of Upland Birds and the genetics and performance of Bird Dogs.*

1. Governing and Managing body for the sport of Amateur Field Trialing

- a. Grassroots organization comprised of 15 Regions with approximately 300 hundred clubs across North America and Japan and approximately 2,000 individual members.
- b. Provides rule and regulation oversight.
  - i. To more than 1,000 Amateur stakes across the country
  - ii. Hosting 16 National Amateur Championships
  - iii. Sanctions 45 Regional Championship events for both horseback and walking handlers.
- c. AFTCA awards over 2,000 winner certificates from more than 1,000 amateur stakes annually to individual members.

2. Works as a liaison between UKC/American Field and Amateur field trials. Provides more than \$250,000 of volunteer boots-on-the-ground annual labor, oversight, participation, and feedback using Regional Trustees at events around the country.

- a. Affords regional voice in field trial club business via a defined trustee/member-at-large representation protocol, including holding an annual trustee and open membership meeting.

3. Established the *Standards to Field Trial Procedures, Judicial Practices, Handler, and Bird Dog Performance* as adopted by all FDSB field trials.

- a. Makes necessary updates, clarifications, and interpretations.

4. Establish Minimum Requirements, Rules, and Regulations for field trials as adopted by all FDSB field trials.

- a. Makes necessary updates, clarifications, and interpretations.

5. Principle collaborator with AF/UKC and their FDSB registry regarding matters of joint interest.

6. Developed the 20th Century Fund and distributed more than \$325,000 to date to field trial clubs across the country.

7. Development and Management of the Land Contribution Program

- a. Tax benefit program to landowners that allows clubs to host trials on their land and use their facilities.

8. Development and Management of the AFTCA Dog Wins Data Base and Winners Certificate Program

9. Development and Management of the AFTCA Top Amateur Handler Awards Program

10. Promote Amateur competition, including the youth program.

11. Organizes and contracts key sponsors to help offset organizations' full expenses, which includes regional as well as national events.

12. Developed and maintains member access website.

13. Host the Purina Event Sponsorship Program for Open and Amateur Events for our member clubs.

14. Provide a Retail Store of event merchandise for member clubs and individuals.

# NATIONAL BRITTANY OPEN GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP ASSOCIATION

*Open Stakes Held At Gladwin Game Refuge*

By Kenny DeLong | Meredith, Michigan | August 27, 2023



Open Shooting Dog Winners (l-r): Grouse Hill Bella with Marc Forman, Bruce Barlow (judge), Springpond C Note with Mike Brown, Brian Ralph (judge), and Hifive's Golden Nugget with Mike Lareau.

The last weekend in August saw several dozen bird dog enthusiasts gather at the Gladwin Game Refuge, enjoy pleasant summer weather, and witness some admirable canine performances on native grouse and woodcock. Once again, we thank Purina for their support, the Hollister family for their horses, Steve and Shelly McKalko for the awesome lunches, all participants for their entries, and everyone who lent a hand moving vehicles and marshaling braces. Birds were plentiful. Ten single grouse and a brood of eight young birds, along with nine woodcock, were moved over the weekend competition.

The Open Shooting Dog Qualifier saw 10 hopefuls run under the careful observation of judges Brian Ralph from Pennsylvania and our local DNR fave Bruce Barlow. Both woodcock and grouse were moved in this stake. First place was awarded to the pointer female "Bella," handled by Marc Forman. Running very forward and athletically in the last brace on course 5, Bella and her bracemate "Dot" (also a pointer female) alternately came upon a dispersed brood of eight grouse. Each dog established a solid point (Dot

arriving in the area several seconds after Bella) on different birds in the thick cover out of sight of one another. Two birds got up in front of Dot, and a running single was flushed in front of Bella. Eventually, all eight birds took flight as the dogs stood. Dot's more moderate race, coupled with fine work on grouse, earned her a yellow ribbon for Mike Lareau. Second place went to Mike Brown's setter male "Luther," who put down a very nice race on course 3, locking up staunch and stylish on an adult grouse not too far off the path.

The Open Derby drew 20 dogs watched by Ken DeLong and Chris Wasserman on



Open Derby Winners (l-r): Ponderosa Ace with Scott Chaffee, Chris Wasserman (judge), Shady Hills Lefty with Deb and Marc Forman, Ken DeLong (judge), and Rouge River Pig Pen with Mike Brown.

Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Judges presided over a very competitive stake and enjoyed every brace! Mr. Brown finished out a nice weekend with his younger setter male, "Archie," who laid down a truly excellent race and pointed grouse at 11 and 15 on course 14 Sunday morning. Judges were in total agreement, awarding the blue ribbon to this outstanding, mature performance. "Lefty," a pointer female handled by Marc Forman in brace No. 5 late Saturday afternoon, ran well and finished strong, having established a very stylish point on grouse at 19 on course 10. Judges agreed this was good enough for the red ribbon. Long-time veteran professional Scott Chaffee handled the young male setter "Percy" around course 7 shortly after Saturday lunch. Percy ran a moderate race and STUCK a very young grouse (second hatch?) at the 18-minute mark, securing this team the third-place spot.

We were blessed with a great weekend of wild bird field trialing for all to enjoy!

Meredith, Mich., August 27

Judges: Bruce Barlow and Brian Ralph

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 4 Pointers, 5 Setters, and 1 Brittany

1st-GROUSE HILL BELLA, 1699351, pointer female, by Silver Ko Kane Ty-Smoke'm Up Jill. John Capocci, owner; Marc Forman, handler.

2d-SPRINGPOND C NOTE, 1677261, setter male, by Springpond Rockin Autumn-Wild Bird Faith's Beauty. Michael J. Brown, owner and handler.

3d-HIFIVE'S GOLDEN NUGGET, 1675697, pointer female, by Titanium's Hammer-Leet's Sinderella. Mike & Kathy Lareau, owners; Mike Lareau, handler.

Judges: Kenric DeLong and Chris Wasserman

OPEN DERBY – 5 Pointers and 15 Setters

1st-ROUGE RIVER PIG PEN, 1702926, setter male, by Chip's Charlie Brown-Rouge River Wing Nut. Michael J. Brown, owner and handler.

2d-SHADY HILLS LEFTY, 1703772, pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Shady Hills Zeena. Debra Nihart, owner; Marc Forman, handler.

3d-PONDEROSA ACE, 1701552, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Meredith Grade Mae. Bruce E. Cartwright, owner and handler.

Please submit write-ups and Essential Data forms to:

Dinora Wellmann • [dwellmann@ukcdogs.com](mailto:dwellmann@ukcdogs.com)



## SOUTHWESTERN CHAMPIONSHIP & OPEN DERBY

*“Where Legends Are Made”*

By Claudia McNamee | Trail City, South Dakota | August 31, 2023

After a four-year hiatus due to the pandemic and unseasonably dry conditions last year, the 2023 edition of the Southwestern Championship finally returned to the Johnson Ranches in Trail City, South Dakota. This year's conditions were the best this reporter and other participants had experienced in many years due to more seasonal rain events. In early September, it's extremely rare to see pastures so green and lush, with such a great diversity of prairie vegetation. And, of course, this made for plentiful wild game, giving all contenders equal opportunity to showcase their hunting prowess. These ranch grounds are rolling prairie above the Missouri River Valley used for pasturing cattle rather than crops or hay. Punctuated by water courses and draws, it is a country of sweeping, stunning vistas where an all-age performance has infinite possibilities. And this year's field of contenders did not disappoint! To ride across this country on a good Tennessee Walker and be witness to this quality of competition and performance is exceptional in today's world, and those of us here are very fortunate indeed.

The task of judging both the Derby and All-Age stakes was in the capable hands of Jason Williams of Blakely, Georgia, and Shawn Kinkelaar of Effingham, Illinois. Both dog men have broad experience in field trialing and bird hunting and were well-qualified to observe and place judgment on the 16 derbies and 33 all-age dogs in this 2023 renewal. Always maintaining a professional observance and demeanor, they were quite impressed with the field of talent competing for top honors over the period of August 31 to September 3. The three continuous courses were charted out so that no course was more advantageous or desirable than the others. The weather was the only factor that wouldn't be quite so equitable, and the high afternoon temperatures certainly played into many a dog's overall performance.

With the experience and oversight of Director John D. Seawright, President Garland Priddy, and Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Priddy, the team assembled to conduct the trial successfully and without incident. Alan Johnson, our consummate host, traveled from Hermosa, South Dakota, with his wife, Collette, to take the dog-wagon wheel once again. Knowing the grounds and how to navigate the challenging terrain is critical in this role,



Southwestern Championship Winners (l-r): Erin's Code of Honor with Lee Phillips and Miller's Heat Advisory with Ben Straughn. (Standing, l-r): Luke Eisenhart, Brody Byrd, Collette Johnson, Claudia McNamee, Alan Johnson, Angie Jones, Kathy Priddy, David Williams, Jason Williams, Tracy Haines, Jamie Daniels, Tierra Hadley, Judd Carlton, Shawn Kinkelaar, Garland Priddy, and Steve Hurdle.

and Alan's maneuvering was flawless. He was timely and always where he needed to be, which is necessary for the trial to stay on schedule. Lee Phillips, a longtime veteran of this undertaking, wore many hats, including setup/breakdown at the grounds and the most critical role of gatekeeping manager. Luke Eisenhart, in addition to handling about one-third of the contenders, also jumped in to rebuild the dog wagon and helped with setup/breakdown at the grounds. Candus Knapp rode the dog wagon every day and documented with photography. Chris Mathan also rode to capture the days' events. Others who sprang to action when needed for "gatekeeping" and meal preparation were Jamie Daniels, Judd Carlton, Tommy Rice, Brody Byrd, Tracy Haines, Tierra Hadley, and Alan Johnson. Garland and Kathy Priddy also used their horse trailer to strategically deliver dogs and pick up judges at the end of long days. This role is also necessary for the trial's smooth running given that we deadhead often, and returning to the barn on horseback can take nearly one hour.

A Landowners' Supper was held on Thursday, August 31, at the Trail City Town Hall for a total of about 50 guests. The caterer was the Country Market Grocery Store located in Timberlake, South Dakota, and owned by Patty and John Linderman. Food and drink were plentiful, making for a fun and memorable evening with field trialers and local friends who generously share their great land with us.

### *The Winners and Honorable Mentions*

Named champion was Erin's Code of Honor, a 3½-year-old white and orange pointer male (Erin's Redrum-Erin's Miss Maggie). This young contender was handled by Luke Eisenhart, scouted by Lee Phillips, and is owned by Allen Linder of Livingston, Tennessee. "Tip" ran on Saturday morning in the second brace and had one limb find toward the end of his hour. His race and hunting style were consistently bold and courageous, finishing with a quintessential all-age knock-out punch that was thrilling to watch.

Earning runner-up was Miller's Heat Advisory, a 5-year-old white and orange pointer male (Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat). "Mick" was handled by Judd Carlton, scouted by Jamie Daniels, and is owned by John Mathys of Green Bay, Wisconsin. He also ran on Saturday morning in the third brace following the named champion. He was always forward, casting long and wide the entire hour, with three impressive finds and finishing with style.

In addition to named winners, the judges considered five other dogs to have champion-quality performances worthy of mention. In order of brace running, these notables are: Miller's Blindsider (Daniels), Oahe Buck (Rice), Erin's High Note (Carlton), Supreme Confidence (Eisenhart), and Erin's Silver Lining (Eisenhart).

## The Open Derby

The program at the Southwestern began with the Derby stake on Thursday, August 31. Sixteen (16) young contenders competed in eight 30-minute braces for three placements. We broke away under clear skies and temperatures in the high 60s at 7:30 a.m. (CT). The judges were impressed with the strong roster of talent, and bird work was respectable. A strong prairie derby performance should demonstrate all age potential more than finished qualities — purposeful and bold hunting, a forward ground pattern, and attentiveness to the handler. Most importantly, derbies should show the physical and mental tendencies and characteristics that will lead to successful future all-age performances.

First-place winner, CKC Gun Runner, appeared in the second brace under the whistle of Judd Carlton with Warbird for Luke Eisenhart. Both dogs were well away early and had game contact. Gun Runner ran a big race with bird work at 12 and 25. He checked with his handler at the right times, moved effortlessly through the country, and had a strong finish. Gun Runner, a white and orange pointer male (Dogwood Cash-Hunt's Flat Bottom Girl), is owned by Kent Cantrell of Ocala, Florida.

Second place was claimed by Comanche (Touch's Red Rider-Southpoint's Dixie Chick) in the third brace of the morning. Handled by Luke Eisenhart, "Will" broke away with bracemate Erin's Doc Holliday for Jarrett Bell. At 2, Will was standing, and a single was flushed by his handler with Doc Holiday backing. There was no further game contact in this 30 minutes, but Will demonstrated a mature purpose in his hunting effort, ran a strong race, and finished with style. Owner Tucker Johnson of Hope Sound, Florida, hopes Comanche will eventually pick up where his sire left off.

Third place was awarded to setter male Steens Hurricane Murphy (Tekoa Mountain Jettsun-Shearjoy's Morning Glory) for Jamie Daniels and one of his owners in the gallery, Anne Tyson of Washington. Showing off his tri-color tail feathers, Murphy was braced with the only other setter derby, white and orange male Valor's Lucky Tucker for Luke Eisenhart. This was the fourth brace of the morning, and both dogs ran strong races. Murphy had two stylish finds at 15 and 29 and demonstrated good manners around his game. Murphy's other owners are Jim Hamilton and Nick Berrong, both of Tennessee.



Open Derby Winners (front, l-r): Ben Straughn with CKC Gun Runner, Luke Eisenhart with Comanche, and Tierra Hadley with Steens Hurricane Murphy. (Standing, l-r): Judd Carlton, Claudia McNamee, Jamie Daniels, Tracy Haines, Alan Johnson, Lee Phillips, and Rob Englert.

Trail City, S.D., August 31

Judges: Shawn Kinkelaar and Jason Williams

**OPEN DERBY – 14 Pointers and 2 Setters**

*1st-CKC GUN RUNNER, 1705398, pointer male, by Dogwood Cash-Hunt's Flat Bottom Girl. Kent Cantrell, owner; Judd Carlton, handler.*

*2d-COMANCHE, 1705324, pointer male, by Touch's Red Rider-Southpoint's Dixie Chick. S. Tucker Johnson, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.*

*3d-STEENS HURRICANE MURPHY, 1704493, setter male, by Tekoa Mountain Jettsun-Shearjoy's Morning Glory. Anne Tyson, Nick Berrong & Jim Hamilton, owners; Jamie Daniels, handler.*

## The Championship Running

The Southwestern Championship began immediately following the completion of the Derby stake on Thursday afternoon and was completed midday on Sunday, September 3. A total of 33 dogs were entered, and 32 competed. Nine handlers participated, including Steve Hurdle (4 dogs), David Williams (2), Luke Eisenhart (11), Jamie Daniels (4), Judd Carlton (5), Tommy Rice (2), Austin Turley (1), Jarrett Bell (1), and Brody Byrd (3). Owners present included Mike Sweet from Sebring, Florida, for Erin's High Note; Joe and Tricia Rentz of Brooks, Georgia, for Rentz's Hijacked; and this reporter, Claudia McNamee from Chattahoochee Hills, Georgia, for Supreme Confidence and Rentz's Hijacked.

We broke away each morning at 7:30 a.m. (CT) and started back promptly one hour after we returned from the morning braces, usually around 12:30-1:00 p.m.

Weather conditions during the championship challenged all dogs who ran in the afternoon hours. Temperatures steadily climbed higher each day, well into the 90s, and great care was taken by handlers to ensure their charges' well-being with frequent watering, and if a contestant wasn't hitting the mark, their handler picked them up before the end of the hour. Morning braces were met with milder temperatures in the 70s and sunshine. At times, there were light winds, and no precipitation occurred at any time during the trial. The champion and runner-up came out of morning braces on Saturday,

Nos. 10 and 11, respectively.

## The Champion: Erin's Code of Honor

The second morning brace (No. 10) on Saturday proved to be one for the books. At 9:24 a.m., with temperatures rising, Erin's Code of Honor for Luke Eisenhart and C S Rester's Speculation for Steve Hurdle broke away with great spirit — they'd had enough of the dog wagon and were ready to make a bid for the title. Speculation hunted down a nice covey at 22. Both dogs were running with purpose and intensity and, at 35, were being pointed out by their handlers...this was an all-age championship! There would be no other game contact until 53; Tip was hunting and covering the prairie hills with a fierce mission, and his focus was rewarded with the limb find of the trial. Equally remarkable to his bird work was how, in the final minutes of the hour, he mustered the vigor to finish as only a champion could. In 90-degree temperatures, Eisenhart heeled Tip through the gallery and past the dog wagon, which had all stopped, to sprint to the front for a quintessential all-age finish. This contender had only one thing on his mind — to get out in this country and win this championship!

## The Runner-Up: Miller's Heat Advisory

Saturday's third morning brace (No. 11) also delivered a decisive winner, with Miller's Heat Advisory pulling out all the stops for handler Judd Carlton. Bracemate C S Dirty Harry for Steve Hurdle didn't fare as well and was picked up around the 30-minute mark. Mick had three beautiful finds at 25, 40, and then 58. Birds were directly in front of him each time he was found standing, making it easy for Judd to flush into flight. Temperatures were rising, but the heat didn't seem to be a deterrent. Mick ran a bold and intelligent race and was stylish and intense on his game, demonstrating all the characteristics of a top-tier all-age competitor. He is certainly a force to be reckoned with and could have secured top honors if only he'd finished with the same fierceness he'd run with earlier in the hour.

## The Other Contenders

At 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, immediately following the final brace of the derby, we cut loose the first brace of the championship. Brace No. 1 paired 2023 National Champion Miller's Blindsider for Jamie Daniels and Erin's Wild Atlantic Way for Luke Eisenhart. Both dogs exploded onto the scene across the Indian Pasture, promising to provide a true all-age show! At 34, Luke raised his hat for Cap, but then he moved himself on without any bird work. At 45, we heard yelling from the dog wagon behind us



where Alan Johnson had stopped to close a gate; Luke went back for Cap and decided it was too hot to continue. Blindsider put down a memorable championship race for the entire hour, always on the edge, out of sight, but showing up with seemingly strategic precision. Unfortunately, he wasn't able to locate game, but his performance on the ground earned him an honorable mention.

Brace No. 2 would be the final brace of the day, and high temperatures made it difficult for Smoke Roll (Hurdle) and Cold Creek Thrill Tuff (Rice). Neither dog had any bird work, and both were picked up by their handlers, Tuff at 20 and Smoke Roll at 45.

Friday morning started with the third brace of the championship, No. 3, in which Erin's Three Leaf Shamrock (Eisenhart) and Rock Acre Yellow Hawk (Byrd) were paired together. Temperatures started off in the low 60s, and skies were clear. Both dogs broke away into the rising sun, running directly east on the first course, so they were a little hard to see, but they were forward and moving well through the country. At 26, we saw birds get up on the other side of a knoll, and Brody called point, but judges didn't see, so Hawk was taken on. At 30, Three Leaf was standing with Hawk backing while Luke flushed a single. At 41, Three Leaf stopped again, and Hawk did as well but didn't back with manners, so judges gave Brody his tracker. Luke took Three Leaf on but then picked him up at 47 — he wasn't running enough for his handler.

Brace No. 4 let loose at 8:25 a.m. and presented Dominator's Queen Bee (Daniels) and Northern Confidence (Eisenhart). Bee had two nice finds at 4 and 8 but wasn't all that comfortable sharing the course with cattle and became a little affected, according to her handler. And then running through caucus wasn't fun either. Jamie picked her up at 26. Luke also needed to stop twice and pull cactus out of Tyke's feet but continued on. At 36, he was found standing stylish and intense, but even with a relocation, birds weren't flushed. With one unproductive and impeded race due to cactus, Luke picked him up.

The final morning brace on Friday was No. 5 with Erin's High Note (Carlton) and Oahe Buck (Rice). Contenders broke away at 9:15 a.m. with clear determination. By 9:30 a.m., we were watching them traverse the hill on the other side of the dam effortlessly — both dogs putting down strong all-age races. At 25, Tommy's hat was in the air for Buck, and Judd followed because Bo was backing. Unfortunately, even with a relocation, birds remained

elusive — disappointing for all. Owner Mike Sweet watched from the gallery with pride, regardless of the challenges. Buck stood again at 29; this time, his handler put a single in the air! Time was taken to water both dogs just inside the next gate — it was very hot at this point. Tommy again called point at 43 quite a ways over the right-side ridge. By the time Judge Williams got there, the birds had already lifted, and sadly, he did not see them. Luckily for Tommy, Buck yet again stood for game at 49, and this time birds were flushed successfully. Both dogs demonstrated true grit the entire hour and finished strong. Buck did a great overall job with bird work and was the dog to beat...we now had a field trial! Both of these athletes were worthy of honorable mention.

The second half of Friday's running started at 12:30 p.m. with temperatures in the low 90s, a light breeze, and thin cloud cover. We were all hoping we'd get a break from extreme heat this afternoon, but that wasn't the case. Brace No. 6 paired up Superstition's Jake (Byrd) and Supreme Confidence (Eisenhart). Both of these dogs' callnames are Jake; they looked similar running and ran in similar patterns the first 30 minutes, which created some confusion identifying them from the gallery. Eisenhart's Jake is owned by this reporter. At 15, Supreme Confidence stood intensely and stylish on his game for what would be his one and only find. Both contenders hunted boldly through the Indian Pasture and ran independently for the remainder of the hour. Superstition's Jake navigated the course to the left, and Supreme Confidence veered west to the north end of the pasture. It took Luke time to call him out of that corner and back on the course, but once he did, Jake took control in spite of the heat and demonstrated desire, intelligence, and grit. At 47, Byrd's Jake went on point, which unfortunately resulted in an unproductive. At 56, Eisenhart's Jake also had an unproductive but ran out of the country with a strong all-age finish. Supreme Confidence was the only dog in the stake who ran in the afternoon heat, hunted up birds, and had a powerful finish, earning him an honorable mention.

Next to the line in No. 7 were Rebel Dreams (Williams) and B G K's Luke (Bell). Together, they hunted the country enthusiastically until the scouts, Allison Bell for Jarrett and Jamie Daniels for David, called point simultaneously at 17. Located quite a ways down the hillside in a small valley, they were side-by-side with a divided find. Twelve minutes later, at 29, Bell raised his hat again for Luke with Rebel Dreams backing. Unfortunately,

this ended with an unproductive, and both dogs were taken on. Jarrett and Allison skillfully kept Luke moving forward as a team — this was not their first rodeo! Both contenders finished the hour in good standing, albeit with races that weren't consistently all age range.

Friday afternoon finished with No. 8 presenting Confident Nation (Eisenhart) and Touch's Dancing Nancies (Carlton). Temperatures were in the low 90s, and the cloud cover had all but disappeared. Confident Nation overheated quickly, and his handler picked him up at 13. Dancing Nancies stayed on the ground most of the hour. She ran a good race and hunted with determination, but after attempting two relocations at 52, Carlton asked for his tracker.

The third day of the championship began quite differently, with temperatures in the mid-60s and dense fog that we needed to wait out. These conditions resulted in a stunning sunrise as we stood at the breakaway until about 8:15 a.m. The fog had lifted enough to see the dogs, and we let loose about an hour later than previous mornings. Forecast projected quickly rising temperatures.

The first brace on Saturday morning was No. 9 with Aucilla Jim (Daniels) and Erin's Silver Lining (Eisenhart). It was actually easier to see the dogs in residual fog than bright sunshine, and they didn't disappoint as they broke away! Both handlers navigated their charges through a herd of cattle coming down to the small dam before traversing the hill on the other side. The two contenders were well out front as we passed through the first gate on top of the hill. At 22, Eisenhart's hat was in the air, and Silver Lining looked regal in his stance. The birds got up before we reached him, and Eisenhart shot his gun. Aucilla Jim moved, and the birds flew, resulting in an early pick-up. Again, at 25, Silver Lining stood intensely for birds, but they flew prematurely before the judges arrived, so Eisenhart took him on. From this point on, Silver Lining put down an exciting all-age race, staying out front and out of sight and then appearing just when you thought he wouldn't. Judge Kinkelaar rode higher ground and pointed him out more than once. Silver Lining didn't have any other bird work but consistently pushed the envelope and kept the judges and gallery on the edge of their seats — just the reaction we hope for in an all-age championship and earning Silver Lining honorable mention.

Brace Nos. 10 and 11 closed the Saturday morning session and produced the champion and runner-up, respectively, described earlier in this report.

Saturday afternoon broke away with No. 12 at 12:30 p.m. Touch's Amazing Greyce (Turley) and Game Ice (Eisenhart) were faced with temperatures approaching 98 degrees and light 10 mph winds. Game Ice gave it his all but didn't have any bird work, and his handler asked for the tracker at 30. Greyce, on the other hand, kept going — this petite pointer female had gumption! At times, she ran a shorter-than-ideal all-age race but never wavered in her determination to hunt and handle for Turley. Although no game contact was made, dog and handler finished the hour and clearly enjoyed being out there giving it their all on these South Dakota prairies!

Brace No. 13 had a change in dogs because C S Code Blue was scratched by Steve Hurdle, and the No. 17 bye-dog was moved up. At the line were Nighthawk's Rebel (Eisenhart) and Rester's Cajun Spirit (Carlton). This was, unfortunately, a brace that ended relatively quickly; both dogs got hot quickly. Carlton picked up Spirit at 13, and Eisenhart did the same at 20.

The final brace this afternoon was No. 14 and broke away at 2:45 p.m. with Dominator's Wild Bill (Daniels) and Rentz's Hijacked (Eisenhart). Joe and Tricia Rentz rode in the gallery to see their National Derby winner, Speck, try to overcome temperatures hovering around 98 degrees. This reporter, also partner/owner, watched on, knowing the odds were stacked against him. Even though both contenders sprang into action off the breakaway, the conditions were unsurmountable. Wild Bill was picked up at 13 and Speck at 22; it was simply too hot to continue.

The last two championship braces, Nos. 15 and 16, were run Sunday morning. Temperatures were around 68 degrees, with full sunshine and no breeze. No. 15 presented Erin's Perfect Storm (Eisenhart) and Rebel Survivor (Williams). Survivor wasn't on the ground for long. At 7, Judge Kinkelaar observed him move on birds, and Williams took his tracker. At 13, Colt was standing stylishly, but his handler didn't produce any birds. Continuing on for

another 20 minutes, Colt hunted with intent and focus, but he wasn't beating what had already been done, so Eisenhart asked for his tracker at 33.

The final brace of this trial was No. 16 with Notorious Dominator's Heir (Carlton) and Superstition's Final Touch (Byrd). Right off the breakaway, Notorious stood with certainty and style, but even with two promising relocations, Carlton wasn't able to flush any birds, and an unproductive was noted. Final Touch was intentionally hunting, but his range could've been greater. He didn't have any contact with game either. Both dogs were picked up by their handlers before the end of the hour.

And this concluded the 2023 edition of the Southwestern Championship.

**SOUTHWESTERN CHAMPIONSHIP**

**[One-Hour Heats] - 30 Pointers and 3 Setters**

*Winner-ERIN'S CODE OF HONOR, 1696057, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Erin's Miss Maggie. Allen Linder, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.*

*Runner-Up-MILLER'S HEAT ADVISORY, 1685672, pointer male, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. John Mathys, owner; Judd Carlton, handler.*

**GENE CASALE HONORED**

*By Tom Gates*

The New England Field Trial fraternity gathered on October 10 to show appreciation to Gene Casale Jr. of Marlborough, Connecticut, and Pinewood, South Carolina. Mr. Casale was presented with a Life Patron Plaque from the Bird Dog Foundation in recognition of his 40+ years of dedication and service to our sport. The event was held at the Handlers' Dinner of the Northeastern Championship at Flaherty Field Trial Area in East Windsor, Connecticut.

Gene Casale has continuously been a binding part of field trials in New England. His knowledge, leadership, and application have raised the level of



(L-r): Jon and Heather Whalen, Pam Casale, Gene Casale Jr., Kevin and Anna LaRose.

competition and kept field trials alive in New England.

As a contributor, Gene has been president and field trial chairman of the

Central Connecticut Bird Dog Club and the Northeastern Championship for over 35 years. As a breeder, judge, and competitor, he is a leader of national recognition. Thank you, Gene, for your dedication and leadership!

I would like to note that this presentation was made possible through the fantastic efforts of Tonya Brotherton, Executive Director of The Bird Dog Foundation. Tonya is everything to field trials and a great person to get to know. If you don't know her, give her a call, or better yet, stop by and say hello. Thank you again, Tonya!

**www.americanfield.com**



No log-in required!

Downloadable PDF forms available:

- Registration • Litter Enrollment
- Canine Artificial Insemination • DNA Test Submission
- Frozen Semen Collection Verification
- Essential Data • Brace Sheet
- Field Trial Checklist

## NGSPA HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

*Back-to-Back Championships Held At Richardson Ranch*

By Keith Richardson | Cheyenne, Wyoming | September 13, 2023

The 21st running of the “Hun” Championship was well attended and was a big success. The added Handler of the Year points for a species trial are a big attraction. It ran from September 13 until September 22. The weather was near perfect for running dogs. A little warm a few afternoons, but there is plenty of water on the course. A little wind and rain didn’t slow any dogs down. The Richardson Ranch is nearly 7,000 feet in elevation and very dry, and attendees are always advised to drink a lot of water and use ample sunscreen.

The “Hun” Championship and Region 8 are held back-to-back at the Richardson Ranch and are two of the premier NGSPA Championships. The challenging grounds and difficult birds provide an extreme test for dogs and handlers. Most folks stayed for both events. The two courses are remarkably different, each with its own challenges. The end of the day brings a relaxing time in the Bunkhouse, including a wonderful homemade meal, beverages of choice, friendship, and hospitality.

We enjoyed the best lunches and dinners of any trial in the country, expertly prepared by Marya Kerchner. Marya had the outstanding assistance of Diane Crabbs at all meals. Finely aged wines from Keith’s cellar were served by Gary Kercher, who ably filled in for our “Field Trial Sommelier,” David Quinn, who was missed and promises to rejoin us next year.

Other benefits of the facilities enjoyed by all were showers, laundry, electrical and water hookups, round pens and enclosures for horses, plus ample areas for staking out dogs. Judges enjoyed first-class accommodations in either the Guest House or the Bunkhouse.

These two championships provide unrivaled “on-the-job training.” The large number of challenging multiple chukar and Hun finds, running coveys, large explosive covey flushes, and concentrations of “old” scent will teach the dogs things that cannot be learned in training setups.

The Hun is the only trial in the American Field (and the entire country as far as we know) that uses pen-raised Hungarian partridges. The birds were young, strong, great flyers, and remarkably like wild Huns. Large covey rises, with birds exploding in all directions, tested the steadiness of every dog. A dog making it clean through the Hun Habitat continues up



NGSPA Hungarian Partridge Open Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front, l-r): Rich Robertson Jr., Reston Haberkorn, and April DiMambro. (Standing): Chris Bryant, Josh Nieman, Mick Cheshire, Andy and Becky Dynkiewicz, and Dan DiMambro.

Derby Draw to Derby Rim, where mixed coveys of jumpy chukar and Huns lurk. The immense pressure of many difficult, multi-bird contacts places the Hun Championship at a level of difficulty arguably exceeding that of the wild bird trials. Dogs that survived the “bird challenge” were able to demonstrate their endurance during a mile of undulating prairie with a draw on one side and a drop to the Habitat on the other.

During our two weeks of championships, we were pleased to have several pros in attendance for some or all of the stakes: Dan DiMambro, Josh Nieman, and Rich Robertson Jr. We were happy to welcome a number of amateurs from outside of the region: Dean and Diane Crabbs (OR), Andy and Becky Dynkiewicz (OH), Drs. Fred and Ann Ryan (OH), Hank and Dina Lewis (OH), Dr. Kirk Loftin (TX), Sherri Tangsrud (MO), Tom Kosmack (UT), Larry Metter (AZ), Shannon Yancy (TX). Our “local” amateurs from Wyoming and Colorado included Brandon and Jennifer Blum, Alan Davison, Keith and Cathy Bryant, Mike Patrick, and Robin Lambourn. Terry Zygalski (CA) provided horses for judges and guests.

We had a slate of excellent judges, and our thanks go out to each of them. Our Open Shooting Dog stake was judged by Mick Cheshire (Highlands Ranch, Colorado) and Chris Bryant (Centennial, Colorado); Open Derby by Mick Cheshire and Mike Patrick; Amateur All-Age Championship by Mick Cheshire and Brian Gingrich (Prewitt, New Mexico); and the

Amateur Shooting Dog and Open All-Age Championships by Justin Hess (Exira, Iowa) and James Messer (Needeville, Texas).

The Hun course gives the judges an opportunity to evaluate a dog’s “total package.” The cast-off crosses a half mile of rolling short-grass prairie before entering the “Hun Habitat,” which is a three-mile flowing line of dense willow-lined creek bottom bordered by large mown fields, stands of wild plum thickets and an irrigation ditch with dense grass and shrubs. The course then heads up the steep Derby Draw. Many dogs take the road up the middle, but it is exciting when they take either the left side up Chukar Hill or the right side with a steep escarpment strewn with large rocks and dense shrubs. A right turn at the top takes the dogs along Derby Rim, a flat bluff with a steep rim and many pockets holding birds. The course continues along the Badlands with deep drop-offs and steep draws, which tend to draw the dogs backward. This demanding course finishes (time permitting) through the High Gate onto the rolling prairie.

We are grateful for our sponsors. Purina provided financial support and a pallet of Pro Plan for the winning dogs. We also welcome the sponsorship of SportDOG with their generous gifts of excellent training collars and bark collars. We missed seeing our friend, Jim Morehouse, but hope to see him next year. Beautiful Hungarian partridge mounts, generous cash prizes, gift cards, Purina product, and SportDOG collars were among the gifts

to champions and runners-up. Our good friends, Eldon and Terry Hongo, who own the local Bunkhouse Bar and Grill, kindly gave \$50 gift certificates to all champions.

A special thanks to the organizational abilities and hard work of Bobbi Richardson, without whom these trials would not be successful. A big thanks also to all of the other folks who helped: Joe and Japheth Frauendienst and David Clifton (bird catching, planting, feeding, and water sled filling); Gary and Chris Kercher (bird planting and organizational details); and Andy Dynkiewicz, who also planted birds. All participants were grateful to the dog wagon team: Kaitlin Gaukel, Rob Beeler, and Nancy Kutchara, who booted all dogs with best-in-class boots from Ruff-Wear to protect them from cactus. They also picked up dogs and helped keep us on schedule. Other behind-the-scenes heavy lifting was done by Justin Peppers and Brittny Haberkorn.

### **NGSPA Hungarian Partridge Open Shooting Dog Championship**

Huns can often be at a premium during the first stake of the trial, but this year, they were plentiful and flew as strongly as wild birds. The cover was denser than in prior years, and this made producing birds a bit tough at times. Birds could run into the cover rather than flying, and very few birds were caught in the open.

Autry's Natural Chromoly Steel ("Molly"), handled by Josh Nieman and owned by Heath Autry, was named champion.

Molly had three finds in the Habitat at 17, 25, and 30, a stop-to-flush at 33, and a fourth find at 46. She was cast off in drizzling rain and made a huge move to the far fence line, dropping into the far east end of the Habitat. Throughout her run through the Habitat, she hugged the meandering willow line without breaking off, a move no other dog duplicated. She stood a good ways off her birds and never crowded them, displaying perfect manners and impressive style. She was watered and cast-off up Derby Draw. She headed to the thick cover on the east side of the Suicide Hill escarpment, hunting it thoroughly, rounding the upper corner, and hunting the rim where she was found pointing a covey of chukar. Molly had a big finish after passing through the High Gate onto the prairie, nearly reaching the far fence before time. She was to the front the entire hour, exhibiting a powerful and fast shooting dog race. Her style on birds was beautiful, with no movement as birds were flushed. She was hunting the entire time with no wasted effort. Molly handled kindly with no hacking and little scouting.



NGSPA Hungarian Partridge Amateur All-Age Championship Winners (front, l-r): Jennifer Blum and Brandon Blum. (Standing): Justin Hess and James Messer.

Slaterock's Mountain Heart ("Rommel"), handled by Dan DiMambro and owned by James and Andy Dynkiewicz, was named runner-up. Rommel had three finds in the Habitat at 10, 16, and 30. His style was gorgeous, and his birdwork was impeccable. Rommel had a huge cast-off heading to the far east fence before dropping into the Habitat. Rommel had his first find on the willow line after entering the Ferguson gate. After passing through the double gate, he took the right side of the Habitat, where he had his second find. Rommel then powered to the far west end of the Habitat for his third find. After watering, Rommel was cast off up Derby Draw, and he worked the difficult right escarpment before climbing over the top. He worked the entire Derby Bench with no bird contact and continued through the High Gate onto the prairie, where he had a strong finish. He had a big shooting dog run, handling nicely with speed and power. He required some scouting to keep him in the pocket but never showed from behind. Overall, the champion's race flowed a bit better.

#### **Cheyenne, Wyo., September 15 – One Course Judges: Chris Bryant and Mick Cheshire NGSPA HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] - 35 German Shorthairs**

Winner-AUTRY'S NATURAL CHROMOLY STEEL, 1675658, female, by Slicks Cuttin Wild-Autry's California Gold Rush. Daniel Autry, owner; Josh Neiman, handler.  
Runner-Up-SLATEROCK'S MOUNTAIN HEART, 1675343, male, by Hi N's Bodacious-Slaterock Mattie Clark. James & Andy Dynkiewicz, owners; Dan DiMambro, handler.

### **NGSPA Hungarian Partridge Amateur All-Age Championship**

Day One was very difficult for the dogs. For some unknown reasons, the Huns tended to be out in the open, where they were camouflaged in the grass, only to explode before the dog could wind them. Over 75% of the dogs could not handle these wild-acting birds.

B M B'S Samsquanch ("Sam"), handled by Brandon Blum and owned by Brandon and Jennifer Blum, was named champion. Sam had a very strong breakaway heading

to the far east fence and dropping into the Habitat. When the judges crested the hill above the Habitat, they caught a fleeting glimpse of Sam as he disappeared to the front. Sam stayed on the willow line until breaching the double gate, where he took the line on the left in a strong forward move. He passed quickly through the Habitat at range without any Hun encounters. He was gathered up at the end and shot up Derby Draw, where he crested the hill and was found standing on a covey of Huns. He was standing tall and looking great through the flush, and not too long after being released, he established point again around the corner of the rim near the water tank with a challenging chukar flush with all in good order. Sam soon passed through the High Gate onto the prairie, where he finished strong way to the front. The judges were impressed with his birdwork because he stood like a statue until birds were flushed and handler collared him. Handler went about his flushing attempts without needing to caution his dog, showing his deep trust in Sam. Throughout the hour, Sam was consistently far to the front and always in the pocket, requiring little or no hacking or scouting.

B M B's Free Ride ("Lewey"), handled by Brandon Blum and owned by Brandon and Jennifer Blum, was named runner-up. Lewey had an impressive and unusual breakaway where he crested the ridge at Cathy's Bench and dropped into the Habitat. He had his first find at 19 after the double gate with manners in order. He then struck off and covered the rest of the Habitat with plenty of power until he was watered at the end and sent up Derby Draw. Lewey hunted deep along the escarpment and crested the top of the Draw, where he was found standing at 38. He looked great on a large covey and was watered. Once cast off, he worked his way through the High Gate and passed into the rolling prairie, where he disappeared over the edge near Cathy's Bench, where he was found standing at 58 on a large covey of 30-40 chukar. He pointed with a nice high head and tail and looked great until collared. Overall, Lewey had a strong all-age race with a bit less ground speed than the champion, and he required some hacking and scouting.

#### **Other Nice Runs**

Slaterock's Mountain Heart ("Rommel"), handled by Andy Dynkiewicz and owned by James Dynkiewicz. Right from the get-go, Rommel impressed with the speed and power of his breakaway, which he carried as he passed through the double gate and powered through the Habitat, where he had one non-productive.

He made a nice move up Derby Draw, rimming Derby Bench and going on point down the steep hill at the end, where he had his second non-productive. Handler picked him up.

Hi N's Allison Miranda ("Allie"), handled and owned by Dr. Kirk Loftin, had a terrific breakaway and an impressive race through the Habitat, passing through the stretch gate at the end where she ran through a large covey of Huns hidden in the cover, and her bid was lost.

Chicoree's Glitter and Gold ("Glitz"), handled and owned by Dr. Fred Ryan, was on an all-age roll for the first 30 minutes as she showed a big breakaway and a powerful race through the Habitat until, at the very end, she encountered a covey of jumpy Huns, which flushed in front of her, and she failed to apply her brakes.

Lambourne's Surface Air Missile ("Sam"), handled and owned by Robin Lambourne, made the move of the stake as he rimmed the bowl along the escarpment on the back side of Suicide Hill. He carried this huge stunning move until the escarpment bent to the north, where he disappeared, and his tracker eventually requested.

**Judges: Mick Cheshire and Brian Gingrich**  
**NGSPA HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE**  
**AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**[One-Hour Heats] - 18 German Shorthairs**

*Winner-B M B'S SAMQUANCH, 1669573, male, by Trubli's B D K Ace Inthe Hole-Time To Pay The Piper. Brandon & Jennifer Blum, owners; Brandon Blum, handler. Runner-Up-B M B'S FREE RIDE, 1660979, male, by Kimber Tactical-Time To Pay The Piper. Brandon & Jennifer Blum, owners; Brandon Blum, handler.*

**NGSPA Hungarian Partridge**  
**Open Derby Classic**

Twenty-three dogs is one of the largest NGSPA Derby Classic stakes ever. The judges were impressed with the quality of the dogs and made the comment that the future of the GSP breed looks bright indeed. One judge said it was the strongest derby he had ever judged and was better than some of the Futurities he had seen. It was really fun to watch. The derby is run on an out-and-back course from one end of the Habitat to the other, and there are some wide-open vistas, so the bigger-ranging dogs can be seen really well. There are no cacti, so the dogs do not need to be booted. There was a strong headwind going west and a strong tailwind heading east.

KC Moen's Freedom's Belle ("Belle"), handled by Brian Gingrich and owned by Scott Kragerud, earned first place. Belle ran directly into a fierce headwind, and the judges were impressed with the fact that her power and speed were unaffected. She hunted the objectives and cover



NGSPA Hungarian Partridge Open Derby Classic Winners (front, l-r): Larry Metter, Josh Nieman, April DiMambro, and Keith Richardson. (Standing): Brian Gingrich, Mick Cheshire, Mike Patrick, Bobbi Richardson, and Rich Robertson Jr.

like a mature dog. Her run was pristine and impressive for a derby dog. She earned "extra credit" for showing such an impressive run into the wind.

P W Lightning Bolt ("Bolt"), handled by Rich Robertson Jr. and owned by Keith and Bobbi Richardson, earned second place. Bolt followed the first brace dog, going the opposite direction with the wind to his back. He had an eye-catching gait that was speedy and fluid while appearing light on the ground. He ran the meandering willow line until he was lost to sight without breaking off. He showed in the distance at appropriate times so as to keep in touch with his handler.

P W Catch Me If You Can ("Sprint"), handled by Rich Robertson and owned by Keith and Bobbi Richardson, earned third place. Sprint was also running into the wind as a bye-dog and started off slower, but her speed increased until, by the end, she was running with impressive speed and power. Her application was that of a mature dog as she hunted the likely cover and stuck to the lines. She responded well to her handler.

**Other Nice Runs**

P W High Voltage ("Ellie"), handled by Rich Robertson and owned by Keith and Bobbi Richardson, was carried in third place until the very last brace when Sprint ran. Ellie had a strong forward race with the wind to her back. She was light on her feet and carried the willow line like a mature edge-running dog.

Stoney Hills Runnin DaRidge ("Ridge"), handled by Kirk Loftin and owned by Larry and Kirk Loftin, had a good race with a strong finish. He took the fence line to the end of the Habitat in a big forward move, getting stronger and stronger. His run was not as mature as the placing dogs.

Nike's Frozen Arrow ("Arrow") handled and owned by Larry Metter. At 13 months, Arrow was one of the younger dogs and showed a lot of promise. She had good range and was really birdy with three finds. She didn't have much of a handle.

Tak's Longmire ("Walt"), handled and owned by Tom Kosmack, had birds, which he handled nicely for his 14 months of age. He had a good hunting application, and he worked the cover hard. His range was not as big as the placing dogs.

**Judges: Mick Cheshire and Mike Patrick**  
**NGSPA HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE**

**OPEN DERBY CLASSIC - 23 German Shorthairs**  
*1st-KC MOEN'S FREEDOM'S BELLE, 1705721, female, by Hawk's Doublea Baker-KCMoen's Freedom Isn't Free. Scott Kragerud, owner; Brian Gingrich, handler. 2d-P W LIGHTENING BOLT, 1702025, male, by P W Ben There Done That-P W Penny Singing The Blues. Keith & Bobbi Richardson, owners; Rich Robertson Jr., handler. 3d-P W CATCH ME IF YOU CAN, 1705761, female, by P W Evolution's Recreation-P W Race To The Front. Keith & Bobbi Richardson, owners; Rich Robertson, handler.*

**NGSPA Hungarian Partridge**  
**Amateur Shooting Dog Championship**

This was a very difficult stake. Less than 25% of the dogs got around, mostly due to the strong wind and its effect on the Huns. The Huns were found in coveys of 20-30 birds, and they were extremely jumpy, taking out a lot of dogs. They would explode at the sight of the dogs, with another wave exploding when the horses approached. All dogs had to push the wind for half of the course. It is a great course to judge big-running dogs because the dogs can be seen at an extreme range.

Uodibar's Robbi Jo ("Robbi"), handled by Dr. Kirk Loftin and owned by Sherri Tangsrud, was named champion. Robbi had three finds and a stop to flush. She had a strong breakaway heading to the far east fence line. She was seen hunting forward in the Habitat. After passing through the double gate, she went on point at the plum thicket on the right side. In the meantime, her bracemate stole point and ripped the birds while Robbi stood beautifully with classic style during all of the commotion with no letdown until collared. Robbi had another Hun find in the Habitat before being sent up Derby Draw, where she hunted her way around the upper corner and disappeared. After an extensive search along Derby Rim, she was found standing down a steep draw on a huge covey of moving chukar—an impressive limb find. She was sent on, and after passing through the High Gate, Robbi had a big finish on the prairie. All of Robbi's bird work was exceptional. She handled kindly with little scouting and was always to the front.

Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee ("Dee"), handled and owned by Kirk Loftin, was named runner-up. Dee broke away across the prairie in the direction of the east fence and dropped into the Habitat, where she was seen as judges were riding down the road. She ran the willow line, following it around towards the house where she was



NGSPA Hungarian Partridge Amateur Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front, l-r): Sherri Tangsrud and Keith Bryant. (Standing): Justin Hess, Kirk Loftin, and James Messer.

found standing by the tall lone tree. The Huns must have been running because it took her two relocations to finally pin them for handler to flush and fire. Handler brought her to the front, and she went on to have a second find along the dense willows at the far end of the Habitat. More running Huns, and after relocation, the birds were pinned, and during the flush, about 15 Huns blew out of the cover. Dee was watered and sent up Derby Draw, where she made a beautiful move along the right escarpment, aggressively hunting the dense shrubs and rock cover. She was found on point around the top of the draw on the rim for her third find. After being cast off, she passed through the High Gate onto the prairie and nearly reached the far fence before time was called. Dee had an impressive run—her bird work was pristine, she handled like a dream and was strong through the hour. She was always forward, but her power was a bit less than that of the champion.

#### **Other Nice Runs**

Aunt Troji's Dirty Nike ("Nike"), owned and handled by Larry Metter, had a medium cast off into the Habitat, where she went on point by the gate. She was relocated, and birds were flushed, but she moved a bit. After release, her application through the Habitat was beautiful as she ran the willow lines and had her second find. While handler was starting to work the bird, her braced mate came in and ripped the bird while Nike stood solid and got credit for the find. She ran up Derby Draw, cresting the top, where she was found standing on her third find. After being sent on, her pace slowed a bit but picked up, and she had a good finish in the prairie.

Slaterock's Mountain Heart ("Rommel"), handled by Andy Dynkiewicz and owned by James and Andy Dynkiewicz, had a huge cast-off and was finally seen pointed just past the double gate. His second find was midway, and his last find in the Habitat was at the moat at the end. He ran the road up Derby Draw and had his fourth find on top. He had a really strong and powerful race and was beautiful on point, handling

his birds with style. He was penalized for not hunting his way up Derby Draw.

#### **Judges: Justin Hess and James Messer NGSPA HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] - 18 German Shorthairs**

Winner-UODIBAR'S ROBBI JO, 1662507, female, by Uodibar's Against All Odds-B D K's Sin City Casino. Sherri Tangsrud, owner; Kirk Loftin, handler.  
Runner-Up-STONEY HILL'S PINNACLE DEE, 1694168, female, by Simons Gunner-Shadowrocks Mighty Mouse. Kirk Loftin, owner and handler.

#### **NGSPA Hungarian Partridge Open All-Age Championship**

The judges were impressed with the level of sportsmanship exhibited with pros helping amateurs and vice versa. Everything ran smoothly and efficiently. The weather was perfect for running dogs. The slight rain didn't detract. The Huns seemed to hold tighter than the prior stake, and there were plenty of finds.

Chicoree's Riden High Trixie ("Trixie"), handled by Dan DiMambro and owned by Rondal Alexander, was named champion.

B M B's Free Ride ("Lewey"), handled by Brandon Blum and owned by Brandon and Jennifer Blum, was named runner-up.

#### **The Running**

The champion and runner-up ran in brace No. 4 on Day One. Both dogs were "toe to toe" throughout the brace, garnering the excited attention of the judges. Both had far-reaching cast-offs across the prairie, through the Richardson section of the Habitat and were seen heading north at the double gate where they rimmed the bowl on the back side of Suicide Hill, completing the move by flowing down the line of rock outcroppings back into the Habitat. It was a huge, demanding move as they hunted deep into the rock hill face. No other dogs in the stake made this move.

Lewey had his first find buried in a ditch near the Habitat fence line with manners in order and classy style. Trixie had her first find through the far gate at the far end of the habitat with pretty style and no letdown at the flush of Huns. Lewey had his second find at the moat before the far gate. Both dogs were watered and sent up Derby Draw. Both dogs took the right side of the draw and hunted the steep escarpment strewn with large boulders and dense mountain mahogany shrubs. Trixie was in front of Lewey, with both splitting the cover at different elevations. Both had separate finds around the large rock near the top of the Draw. From there, Lewey climbed up and over the rim, where he was later found standing. A covey of chukar was produced, and all was in order. Trixie also had a chukar find on the rim, and handler shot her across the prairie.



NGSPA Hungarian Partridge Open All-Age Championship Winners (front l-r): April DiMambro and Hank Lewis. (Standing): Dan DiMambro, Justin Hess, James Messer, Terry Zygalski, Brandon Blum and Eda.

Both dogs went through the High Gate, entering the prairie and coursing to the front in all-age fashion. Trixie had amazing power, continuing to build until time was called, while Lewey slowed a bit at 55. Both dogs looked great on their birds, handled well, and required little scouting. Both stayed to the front with consistent all-age range. It was an outstanding brace.

#### **Other Nice Runs**

High Standing Cuttin Edge ("Woody"), handled by Dan DiMambro and owned by Anthony and Dayna Rusciano, had a big race with two finds. He did a really nice job. He required very little scouting and was to the front hunting all the right spots. His finds displayed exceptional style, but he didn't show the power of the placing dogs.

B M B's Freeloader ("Hewey"), handled by Brandon Blum and owned by Brandon and Jennifer Blum, held the attention of the judges as he ran the course nicely with several finds. He did a classy job but lacked the range and power of the two top dogs.

Hi N's Dirty Secret ("Badger") owned and handled by Hank Lewis, was "making money" until he bumped a bird. Not an uncommon occurrence in this stake where the Huns were jumpy and required very little pressure to flush explosively.

P W Race To The Front ("Raycee"), handled by Rich Robertson Jr. and owned by Keith and Bobbi Richardson, did a good job overall, taking the far edge of the habitat with speed and power and never breaking off until her move was completed. She had two finds but took the road up Derby Draw, which detracted from her run. She was lost at 50.

#### **NGSPA HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] - 24 German Shorthairs**

Winner-CHICOREE'S RIDEN HIGH TRIXIE, 1685125, female, by Riden High Rudy-Chicoree's Sparkle In Her Eye. Rondal Alexander, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.  
Runner-Up-B M B'S FREE RIDE, 1660979, male, by Kimber Tactical-Time To Pay The Piper. Brandon & Jennifer Blum, owners; Brandon Blum, handler.



## BIG SKY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

### U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association Spring Walking Trial

By Taylor Todd | Barber, Montana | September 16, 2023

This year's fall USCSDA trial was hosted by the Big Sky Field Trial Club at the Table Rock Ranch in Barber, Montana, on September 16 and 17. Over 30 dogs were entered in four different stakes for the weekend. A late wave of fall heat swept over central Montana, creating difficult conditions for both the dogs and handlers, but fun was still had, and birds were found throughout the two days of running.

Table Rock Ranch harbors good populations of native sharptail grouse as well as Hungarian partridge and pheasants. As an all-wild bird trial, the variability of birds is always a concern, and this weekend, birds were more scarce compared to previous outings at the ranch, but there were still enough birds for dogs to showcase their talents. BSFTC would like to thank the Rickert family for their kind hospitality and allowing the use of the grounds for trials throughout the year. The bird habitat is pristine, and it's truly hard to beat watching bird dogs run on this property.

Judging the Open Shooting Dog and Open Derby were Alex Rickert of Bozeman, Montana, and Marcos Puiggari of Missoula, Montana. Both Alex and Marcos bring years of experience watching bird dogs, and the club thanks them for their time in the saddle.

All placements in the Open Shooting Dog were based on the dogs' race, with first place awarded to Sweet Grass Skipper, a white and orange male setter who is owned and handled by David Huffine. Skipper ran big through the large CRP field at Table Rock Ranch while staying forward and aware of his handler.

Second place went to Sweet Grass Skeeter, a white and orange male setter owned by David Huffine. Skeeter was forward and strong during his half-hour and kept a stylish gate that caught the eye of many in the gallery.

Third place went to the beautiful Touch's Micro Dot, a female pointer owned and handled by Sonny Clark. Dot drew an afternoon brace in the heat of the day and proved tremendous heat tolerance by finishing nearly as strong as she started the brace. However, her handler succumbed to the Montana heat at about 10 minutes, and a substitute, David Huffine, stepped in to help Dot finish the 30 minutes. The effort



Open Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Sweet Grass Skipper with David Huffine, Sweet Grass Skeeter with Mandy Drysdale, and Touch's Micro Dot with Sonny Clark. (Standing): An unknown visitor, George Isham, Johnny Banks, Ann Kunsak, John Holt, Brad McCardle, Taylor Todd, and Alex Rickert (judge).

by Dot, David, and Sonny was highly applauded when placements were called.

The Open Derby had 12 dogs competing, and better scenting conditions led to more bird work for the young dogs. First place went to LBF Up In Smoke, which is owned and handled by Brad McCardle. Smoke had a broke stop to flush early in the brace and finished with a strong race to secure the win.

Second place went to Bridgers Insane Bolt, a white and liver male pointer owned and handled by John Holt. Willy pointed a young pheasant on course 1 at Table Rock while running a nice forward and biddable pattern to showcase his future potential.

Third place went to Sweet Grass Scout, a white and orange setter female owned and handled by David Huffine. Scout ran an animated race with a high and happy tail that made her a pleasure to watch.

The Open Puppy was judged by Mandy Drysdale and Brad McCardle. First place went to Crazy Mountain Pearl, a female setter handled by David Huffine. Second place went to Table Rock's Mocking Jay, a pointer female handled by Frank Ilijanic. Third place went to Seranoa's I Love Lucy, a pointer female handled by John McIltrout.

The fun and exciting weekend of walking trials was wrapped up with the Amateur Gun Dog, which was also judged by Mandy Drysdale and Brad McCardle. Six dogs were entered, and two placements were awarded. First place went to Dun

Rovens Lonesome Call, a male setter owned and handled by Frank Ilijanic. Dutch ran a nice forward race in the heat to secure first place in the stake.

Second went to Passione's Point Breeze, a male setter owned and handled by Ann Kunsak. Ann is a first-time field trial handler, and BSFTC was excited to see her and Breeze enjoy the day of running dogs.

An honorary third-place ribbon was given to Rhett, a male setter who lives with the Rickert family at Table Rock. Rhett made an impromptu appearance during the derby when he escaped from an ATV in the gallery and made a nice move to the front before his owners got him back.

BSFTC would like to extend a very robust thank you to the Rickert family for the use of Table Rock Ranch for the weekend. The Rickerts not only graciously allow the use of their land for field trials but also provide great companionship and are an integral part of the field trial community in Montana.

There were many club members who assisted with this trial behind the scenes to make things possible. First and foremost is David Huffine, who has not only been the trial chairman for the three walking trials BSFTC has put on but is also responsible for bringing the USCSDA to the region and introducing the concept of walking trials in the area. We can't thank David enough. We'd also like to thank those who put in extra effort and time surrounding the trial. It goes without saying that there are hours



Open Derby Winners (front, l-r): LBF Up In Smoke with Brad McCardle, Bridgers Insane Bolt with John Holt, and Sweet Grass Scout with David Huffine. (Standing): Keith Anderson, Taylor Todd, John McLtrot, Michelle Sutton, Alex Rickert (judge), Al Rickert, Marcos Puiggari (judge), Sonny Clark, Ann Kunsak, and Johnny Banks.



Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Dun Rovens Lonesome Call with Frank Ilijanic, Passione's Point Breeze with Ann Kunsak, and Rhett with Alex Rickert. (Standing): Isham Family, John Holt, Brad McCardle (judge), Mandy Drysdale (judge), David Huffine, Johnny Banks, and Al Rickert.



Open Puppy (front, l-r): David Huffine with Crazy Mountain Pearl, Frank Ilijanic with Table Rock's Mocking Jay, and Michelle Sutton with Seranoa's I Love Lucy. (Standing): Isham Family, John Holt, Alex Rickert, Brad McCardle (judge), Mandy Drysdale (judge), and Johnny Banks.

of prep work, and everyone who pitched in is greatly appreciated. BSFTC is looking forward to continuing the tradition of walking trials in Montana.

Barber, Mont., September 16

Judges: Marcos Puiggari and Alex Rickert

**OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 5 Pointers and 6 Setters**

1st-SWEET GRASS SKIPPER, 1698209, setter male, by Sweet Grass Slim-Tower Hill Zoey Zee. David Huffine, owner and handler.

2d-SWEET GRASS SKEETER, 1693872, setter male, by Sweet Grass Slim-Seranoa's Glimpse of Glory. David Huffine, owner and handler.

3d-TOUCH'S MICRO DOT, 1692164, pointer female, by Touch's Diamante-Seranoa's On Guard Annie. Klaus Schmidt, owner; Sonny Clark, handler.

**OPEN DERBY – 11 Entries**

1st-LBF UP IN SMOKE, 1702242, pointer male, by Touch's Diamante-Empire On Line. Brad McCardle, owner and handler.

2d-BRIDGERS INSANE BOLT, 1702589, pointer male, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Upfront's Southern Star. John Holt, owner and handler.

3d-SWEET GRASS SCOUT, 1700663, setter female, by Shag Time Bobo-Black Cloud's Angel. David Huffine, owner and handler.

Judges: Mandy Dysdale and Brad McCardle

**AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 6 Entries**

1st-DUN ROVENS LONESOME CALL, 1692279, setter male, by Waymaker Super Sam-Backus Creek Sadie. Frank Ilijanic, owner and handler.

2d-PASSIONE'S POINT BREEZE, 1691228, setter male, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-Quickmarksman's ZZ Top. Ann Kunsak, owner and handler.

**OPEN PUPPY - 4 Pointers and 2 Setters**

1st-CRAZY MOUNTAIN PEARL, unreg., setter female, by Caladen's Andy Warhol-Caladen's O'Keefe. Tracy Clower, owner; David Huffine, handler.

2d-TABLE ROCK'S MOCKING JAY, unreg., pointer female, by Touch's Malcolm Story-Seranoa's On Guard Annie. Frank Ilijanic, owner and handler.

3d-SERANOA'S I LOVE LUCY, 1705772, pointer female, by Touch's Malcolm Story-Seranoa's On Guard Annie. John McLtrot, owner and handler.

**WILLIAM "BILL" EUGENE FAUST**

With a heavy heart, Bill Faust of Warsaw, North Carolina, passed away on July 8, 2023, at his home surrounded by friends and family. Born and raised in La Grange, North Carolina, he was one of six children of the late Edna and Fred Rouse. He worked at New River Nursery in Jacksonville for 11 years until he met Mary "Tina" Bland Jones from Bland's BBQ on his many trips to Warsaw Floral Co. With his two sons, Donny and Bill Jr., and her two sons, Wayne and Doug and the promise of "going out every day after lunch with his dogs," they married on June 25, 1965. They later had a daughter, Cindy. Bill opened his own nursery next to the restaurant in which he specialized in rose gardens. If you drive by a rose garden in Duplin County, it was most likely created by Faust Nursery.

Bill was a Scout Master for 11 years for Troop 20. His proudest accomplishment is helping 52 boys obtain their Eagle Scout status. He also led these scouts on 100-mile pilgrimages to Bath and Halifax. Because of his scouting achievements, he earned the Silver Beaver Award.

He was an avid outdoorsman with quail, dove, and pheasant hunting. He was a



Bill Faust

judge in the National Wild Food Cooking Contest for 25 years, which led him to be in the Wild Food Hall of Fame in Parkersburg, Virginia. He helped establish the North Carolina Wild Food Weekends, which has been going on for over 45 years. He was famous for his earthworm cake and loved the reactions of any new unsuspecting victims. He also attended the Wild Flower Pilgrimage for 40 years at Blackwater Falls, Virginia. Bill was the president of the Duplin County Gun Club for 25 years, where he hosted the Eastern Carolina Championship Bird Dog Trials. His most famous dog was Mac, who won the Eastern Carolina Championship.

If you didn't know how to speak "dog," "flowers," "hunting," or his various

interests, then he didn't have too much to say. When bringing home friends, they were always warned, "I hope you like hugs." Bill loved to hug a woman. He always said he thought it helped brighten their day. His philosophy on life was "10 hugs a day and learn something new."

He was preceded in death by his spouse, Mary Grey Bland, and sons, William Eugene Faust Jr. and Robert Wayne Jones. He is survived by sons Donald Wayne Faust, William Douglas Jones and wife Paulette, Tony Randal Faust and fiancé Lynn, Cynthia Diane Faust and wife Katherine, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The greatest thanks to special friends Carolyn Quinn and Dr. Corazon Ngo, who took on the primary role of caring for him after his automobile accident and during this journey as well. Special thanks to his granddaughter Buffie Niebauer Barnett, who also helped with caregiving during this time. Many thanks to ECU Hospice for your professionalism and compassion. Many thanks to the community of Warsaw and the many friends whom he has touched with his generosity and kindness.

## NATIONAL SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY

### *Mo's Curtain Call Named First In Breeders' Derby Classic*

By Mike Husenits | Bloomingdale, Ohio | September 19, 2023

The 60th renewal of the National Shooting Dog Futurity was conducted September 20 at the Mingo Sportsman's Club grounds near Bloomingdale, Ohio. The Futurity and its companion National Open Pheasant Shooting Dog Championship have been conducted at Mingo since departing from their original founding location of Baldwinsville, New York, where the Futurity ran for some 56 years, the Pheasant Championship even longer.

The writer apologizes for not being in attendance at the trial due to a family illness. The information in this report is based on observations made by the secretary and notes from the judges. Thanks to all.

The Futurity appreciates the hospitality extended by the Mingo Sportsman's Club members for providing this excellent venue, complete with a field pavilion where lunches are available, electric hookups, sanitary outhouses, and a nearby main clubhouse with shower facilities and a restaurant.

The primary sponsor is Purina; they have generously supported this trial for many years. Thank you, Greg Blair and Karl Gunzer. Thanks also to Lion Country Supply representative Eric Munden for providing gifts and awards.

Weather conditions were a bit on the warm side by afternoon, with temperatures hitting highs around 75 degrees, clouds, and light wind but no rain in sight.

As breeders' stakes, futurities require that all entrants be duly nominated. The nomination process has been simplified to encourage breeders to enroll their litters within 60 days of whelping. However, in spite of this simplification process, many owners who call to enter their derbies discover their litter was not nominated, and a late penalty fee is then required. In these cases, the breeder's share of the purse goes to the party that paid the nomination. This fact gives reason aplenty for breeders to nominate litters as soon as possible after whelping to avoid confusion later on.

The 26 entries were all whelped in 2022 from 14 nominated litters. The list of breeders with entries included Jack and Fran Miller with five, Tim McClurg and Casey Hollander with three each, Chris Catanzarite, Larry Earls, Tom Brigman, and Sandy Maclean with two each plus



National Shooting Dog Futurity Winners (front, l-r): Mo's Curtain Call with Madison McDonald, Backcountry Champagnesupernova with Chris Catanzarite, Mac's Slim Jim with Tim McClurg, and Pal's Prestigious Pete with Will Dunn. (Behind): Rylan Foster, Mike Tracy, Brian Riggle (judge), Aaron McAfee (judge), Mark Hughes, and Lou Palazzolo.

seven with a single entry.

One of the trial highlights was the oil painting presentation of gifted artist Mary McPherson of last year's Futurity winner Backcountry Pure Gold, an orange-marked pointer female owned, bred, and handled by Chris Catanzarite, for sure one of Mary's finest. Chris and Nina Catanzarite accepted the painting and provided a catered dinner at the pavilion in honor of Gold's win.

As is the case at most field trials, the bulk of the work falls on the field trial secretary, in this case, Mark Hughes. Mark handled the pre-trial paperwork, advertising, procurement of judges, winner's painting, and sponsors' assistance, plus obtained a supply of chukars for release. Futurity Vice President Chris Catanzarite marshaled, obtained, and released the pheasants. Dave Hughes handled the dog wagon duties, and Carl Bishop generously shared his side-by-side.

Judging was in the capable hands of Aaron McAfee of Clinton, Illinois, and Brian Riggle of Graysville, Pennsylvania. Both brought many years of experience, rode attentively, and rendered their decision based on the performances they witnessed and potential for farther down the campaign road.

#### **The Winners**

Mo's Curtain Call, a white and orange marked pointer female owned by Theresa and Jim Morrel and Tim Moore of Fort

Gains, Georgia, bred by Casey Hollander and handled by Mike Tracy, gained the judges' fancy for the top spot. From a litter whelped January 31, 2022, sired by Miller's High Heat Index, her dam Osceola's Seminole Wind. Her pedigree is stacked with prominent pointer winners and producers influenced by the genes of Just Irresistible, Dominator's Rebel Heir, Miller's Bring The Heat, extending back to the great Miller's Silver Bullett.

Second-placed Backcountry Champagnesupernova, an orange-marked pointer female owned, bred, and handled by Chris Catanzarite of Scenery Hill, Pennsylvania, was a strong contender for the top spot, from a litter whelped April 1, 2022, sired by consistent winner Dragonfly, her dam Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Dragonfly is by The Crowd Pleaser x Miller's Calamity Jane Lady. Chris won this Futurity last year and nearly repeated with another fine-looking prospect this year. The dam's side shows multiple champions—Waybetter Rocky, Belfield Silver, and Island Grove Brute.

Named third was Mac's Slim Jim, an orange-marked pointer male owned, bred, and handled by Tim McClurg of Fowler, Ohio, whelped January 6, 2022, sired by Tim's winner Mac's Silver Chief x Mac's Silver Shadow—a line strong in the genetics of Belfield Silver, Miller's Silver Bullett, Rocky River Hank and Bases Loaded, et al. Over the past two decades, Tim McClurg has been quite successful with this bloodline.



Judges Aaron McAfee and Brian Riggle.

Pal's Prestigious Pete, a pointer male owned by Lou Palazzolo of Clarksville, Maryland, and handled by Mike Tracy, was fourth. The stylish youngster was whelped January 10, 2022, from a litter bred by Billy Kerr of Beaufort, South Carolina, sired by Waybetter Jay x Clarendon's Black Eyed Sue. Jay is a progeny of Carl Bishop's line of winning Waybetter bloodlines.

### The Running

Pride N Joy (Martino) and Rivertown Gunslinger (M. Tracy). Joy ran an attractive forward workmanlike ground race, notched a barren stand at 18, and recorded a fall derby find at time. Gunslinger, the only English setter in the stake, performed well with a medium-range forward race, pointed stylishly once but unproductive.

Millers Big Upgrade (Fran Miller) and Mac's Slim Jim (Tim McClurg). Upgrade covered ground in attractive fashion at a somewhat restricted range. He tallied a nice back, an unproductive and a mannerly find. Jim rendered a winning performance, being rewarded with third place after rendering a wide forward ground race where Jim showed mature application, a pheasant find at 5, and a chukar at 26, both handled with high tight pointing style and approved manners.

Backcountry Snake Eyes (Catanzarite) and Harbor City Moon (M. Tracy). Eyes hunted at medium range, notched an unproductive early, then contacted birds on several occasions where she gave way to merry chase. Moon ran at medium range, scored an early find, then disappeared and counted out at 27.

Dunn's 10 West (Will Dunn) and Glenmere's Silver Roo (Jeff Haggis). West

started fast with an unclear bird contact off the breakaway, continuing on with a very classy wide-range ground race that could have altered the outcome with more definitive bird work. Roo got off to a fast start but soon shortened after notching a well-handled find.

Reason To Believe (Martino) and Hollander's Drinkaby (M. Tracy). Believe hunted hard and wide but failed to connect with birds. Drink was well forward with plenty of style at medium range, scoring a pair of finds at 9 and 20, shortening up at the finish.

Mo's Curtain Call (M. Tracy) and Millers Authentic Version (Fran Miller). Curtain Call won this Futurity on the merits of a consistently applied wide-ranging ground heat combined with four well-earned evenly spaced finds, all handled with superb pointing style and advanced manners. The judges felt his application was most mature, handling response precisely and finish going away strong. Version hunted the fore with an attractive way of going and notched a pair of stylish barren stands, a bit short on overall range.

Miller's Dusty Version (Mark Hughes) and Getaway Driver (Martino). Dusty was forward with fancy running style and scored stylishly on a large covey of chukar at 28 with fall derby manners. Driver made a fast getaway, turned the wrong direction, and soon counted out of contention.

Pal's Prestigious Pete (M. Tracy) and Glenmere's Cruiser (Jeff Haggis). Pete's performance was impressive, earning this black-marked pointer fourth place in the winners' circle on the virtues of a hard-driving forward race with a fancy way of going, a stylish, well-handled find at 6, and a strong finish. Cruiser's performance had him in contention with a steady forward race and a pair of finds at 16 and 19, shortening just a little to finish.

Wicked Pursuit (Sandy Maclean) and Jack Daniel's If U Please (M. Tracy). Pursuit started fast and wide but soon shortened in the heavy cover. Please ran an overall short to medium-range ground race, scoring a pair of immaturely handled contacts.

Caladen's Sterling Ridge (M. Tracy) and Backcountry Champagnesupernova



Painting of 59th Futurity Winner. Nina and Chris Catanzarite accept Mary McPherson's painting of Backcountry Pure Gold.

(Catanzarite). Ridge started fast with a divided find at 6, then stretched wider and wider until counted out at 22. Nova's performance earned the nearly all-white classy pointer second place. In addition to the divided find at 6, Nova added solid mannerly finds at 20, 23, and 26, then a strong finish following her wide-ranging, consistent ground race.

Millers Enhanced Upgrade (Fran Miller) and GJF Oakley (M. Tracy). Upgrade started fast and wide but failed to maintain a forward pattern. Oakley hunted hard at short range, no contacts recorded.

Gimmie Some Sugar (Mark Hughes) and J C L's Joleene (Martino). Sugar had a slow start but widened as time advanced, scored a well-handled find early, and unproductive at 27. Jolene scurried away quickly but soon out of pocket, returned by scout too late.

Miller's Upgraded Dot Com (Fran Miller) and Harbor City Bell (M. Tracy). Dot Com got through the country with fancy style to burn but failed to hold the front. Likewise, Belle ran with pleasing animation but short in overall range, no finds recorded.

**Bloomington, Ohio, September 19 – One Course  
Judges: Aaron McAfee and Brian Riggle  
60th NATIONAL SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY  
– 25 Pointers and 1 Setter**

*1st-MO'S CURTAIN CALL, 1705285, pointer female, by Miller's High Heat Index-Osceola's Seminole Wind. Tim Moore, Jim & Theresa Morrell, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.*

*2d-BACKCOUNTRY CHAMPAGNESUPERNOVA, 1701699, pointer female, by Dragonfly-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.*

*3d-MAC'S SLIM JIM, 1700897, pointer male, by Mac's Silver Chief-Mac's Silver Shadow. Tim McClurg, owner and handler.*

*4th-PAL'S PRESTIGIOUS PETE, 1702741, pointer male, by Waybetter Jay-Clarendon's Black Eyed Sue. Louis Palazzolo, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.*

Plant a seed in the minds of your customers by placing an ad in the UKC® Field.  
For more information, please email: [gsmith@ukcdogs.com](mailto:gsmith@ukcdogs.com)

## NATIONAL AMATEUR GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

### *Sudden Silence Named Champion; Flambeau River Meg, Runner-Up*

By Dick Brenneman | Philipsburg, Pennsylvania | September 22, 2023

The National Amateur Grouse Championship was held at the Black Moshannon State Forest on September 22-23, 2023. The Black Moshannon Trial Club hosted the event.

The winner was Sudden Silence, a pointer female owned and handled by George Hetrick. She was the bye-dog on course 3. She had a limb find at 20 on a woodcock. She was scouted by Doug McMillen, who pointed the handler in the right direction. After a five-minute search, she was found high and tight with perfect manners. Her race was steady and classy on the ground, with excellent rapport with her handler. She hunted the full hour always to the front.

Runner-up was Flambeau River Meg, a female setter owned and handled by Joe Colglazier. Meg ran a big and classy moving and forward championship-type race. She had some difficulty with sharp curves. Meg was called back for a second series with her bracemate Doodle Ridge Elroy. The two dogs were put down for 20 minutes in a woodcock area. Meg had a divided find with Elroy on a woodcock at 10 and a find at 18 in which she had perfect manners.

This was only the fifth field trial ever held on these grounds. Jeff Keller was a one-man crew laying out nine one-hour courses last winter, spending countless hours. He had some help from Rob Boos, Brian Ralph, Bruce Mueller, Mark Hughes, Dave Hughes, Eric Munden and your reporter. Jeff has continued to change the courses as needed in order to get into better bird areas and eliminate areas where we were not finding birds.

Moving cars can be a challenge as this is a large area, with some courses taking the full hour to move all the cars. George Tinkerhoff and I were the primary movers, with help from Brian Ralph, Joe Colglazier, Bruce Mueller, John Capocci,

and Marty Festa.

Jeff Keller and the Black Moshannon Field Trial Club hosted a lunch after the running at his home in Sandy Ridge. At the end of the running on Saturday, lunch was served at the Black Moshannon State Park, where the winners were announced. Purina sponsored a dinner on Saturday evening at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Sandy Ridge.

Judges for the trial were Justin McGrail of Nunica, Michigan, and Dave Hawk from Athens, Ohio. Justin has trained bird dogs and has also guided bird hunting for many years. Dave had many outstanding field trial dogs, including several champion English setters. The judges gave each dog their full attention.

The first brace was turned loose at 8:10 a.m. on course 6. Eagle Magnum was hunting to the front, where he had a nonproductive at 3. His first half was good, but after the unproductive, his race was interrupted by a number of stops. Two grouse were flushed. Ralph's Hillbilly was not willing to handle and was picked up at 20.

The second brace was turned loose at 10:10 a.m. after a coffee break. GTF Jack's made some nice casts but was on the path too much because of heavy cover. Doodle Ridge Fern was a classy-moving setter but was also having trouble with the heavy cover, which kept her on the path too much. Two grouse were seen.

The third brace was on course 2 starting at 11:40 a.m. Bell Stop Boomer had a woodcock find at 54. He had a hard-driving race but was behind at times. Faith's Maximum Justice was too much dog on this day with a number of absences. He had an unproductive at 50. Three woodcocks were seen during this brace.

The fourth brace was underway at 1:15 p.m. on course 3. Grouse Hill Bullet Proof

ran a large, classy race but was a little rough at times, being gone for periods of time. Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella ran a nice, forward race. She had a woodcock at 40. She also had a stop to flush on a grouse at 55 and an unproductive at 58.

The second day started at 8:12 a.m. on course 6 in the rain. Mountain Top Ryn was a classy running dog that hunted the course well, but with the rain, the handler had a difficult time hearing the bell, so the dog was hard to keep to the front. Dust Devil Maisie ran a big, strong race but was erratic as the handler also had a hard time hearing the dog with the rain. Five grouse were flushed during the brace.

The second brace of the day started at 10:18 a.m. on course 1. Stokely B Annie had a grouse find at 10. She ran a classy race at a modest range. Grouse Hill Pepper ran a big race but was gone for periods of time and stayed on the path in heavy cover.

The third brace of the day ran on course 2 starting at 11:37 a.m. in hard rain. Doodle Ridge Elroy and Flambeau River Meg both ran big races. The judges commented that both races were championship caliber. Both dogs were called back for a second series. Meg was previously covered. Elroy had a divided find with Meg, ran a big race in the callback, and was picked up at 20.

The fourth brace was a bye with Sudden Silence. She was previously covered.

Philipsburg, Pa., September 22

Judges: David A. Hawk and Justin McGrail

NATIONAL AMATEUR GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 7 Pointers, 7 Setters,  
and 1 Brittany

Winner-SUDDEN SILENCE, 1688968, pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Bucket List Bella. George Hetrick III, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-FLAMBEAU RIVER MEG, 1670686, setter female, by Grouse Busters Zeke-Cornerwood Mya Storm. Joe Colglazier, owner and handler.

### *Planning a Field Trial?*

Submit your Fixture information as soon as dates have been confirmed.

Please include: Name of club, start date, location of grounds (city and state), and contact name, phone number and email address.

Questions? Email [gsmith@ukcdogs.com](mailto:gsmith@ukcdogs.com)

## NEW ENGLAND OPEN GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

*Kilkenny White Mountains, The End of An Era; The Start of Our Second Century*

By Jim Hathaway | Berlin, New Hampshire | September 25, 2023



New England Open Grouse Championship Winners (front, l-r): John Stolgitis with Boomer of Blackwater and Adam Dubriske with Super Storm Nell. (Standing): Tony Bly, John Olfson, Lloyd Murray, Jamie Nee, and Jim Hathaway.

Since the fall of 1924, the Setter Club of New England has held a fall trial. It started as a wild bird, grouse trial in Escoheag, Rhode Island, and went through various changes, running on any variety of wild and liberated birds. In 1995, the Setter Club of New England's fall event that had been running at Willowdale State Park in Ipswich, Massachusetts, as the one-course John N. Burnham Grouse Classic, was granted championship status and moved to the Kilkenny section of the White Mountain National Forest and renamed the New England Grouse Championship. Ever since then, for the last 28 years, Lloyd Murray, Tony Bly, Bob Lang, Craig Doherty, and others have organized, run, and done almost everything to keep this championship at the top of New England's wild bird trials. Life being as it is, it was inevitable that the management of this championship would someday pass into younger hands. Well, that time is here. But more on that later.

### Day One

All the ride from our motel in Gorham to Kilkenny was fogged in. The turn onto York Pond Road, the entrance to Kilkenny, was like a whole new world. The fog was gone, and the sun was just starting to fill the Valley. If you haven't been to Kilkenny, the road in has small farms, some residences, and seasonal camps. A couple of miles from the turn, off Route 10, the

first left is the start of Loop Road. Right there, at the intersection, is the meeting area. Here, we get everyone on the same page. Judges get their books, instructions, and recommendations. Vehicles are consolidated to bring as few as necessary into the trial grounds. Then, right at 7 a.m., as advertised, the caravan leaves.

Loop Road, of course, is dirt, rocks, and potholes the whole 12 or more miles. Brace one on the Moosehorn course is a 15-20-minute ride in at no more than 30 miles an hour in any stretch.

Before we get to the breakaway for the first brace, I need to let the reader know that most of the dogs running in this championship are owned by individuals and handled by professionals. Yet others are handler-owned, and their handlers are usually amateurs. Either way, in my writing of the happenings in each brace, I will write what I saw or heard. At no time should anyone consider what I write as a negative commentary on their dog. If you handled your dog here, you had an upfront, honest view of your dog's performance. If your dog was professionally handled, they should better assess his running for you.

### *To the breakaway of Moosehorn for the first brace*

Championship Chairman Lloyd Murray performed the announcements for the opening of the New England Open Grouse

Championship and the Setter Club of New England's 99th annual fall event. Cairds Cracklin Rosie and Mooselook Texas Star broke away at 7:25 a.m. Neither of these pointers is new to the grousewoods. Each applied themselves forward and to either side of the course from the breakaway. Just six minutes in, Rosie's bell either stopped or was lost to her handler, John Stolgitis. John sent his scout, Adam Dubriske, into the cover on the left. Star's bell was well forward now. Jack McNulty, Star's handler, pressed on with his dog. John slowed his pace a bit. Rosie's bell was heard to the front two minutes later. Both dogs hunted the course as best as possible for the muddy conditions. With 10 or so minutes left in the brace and after the brook crossing, Adam first, then John went into the cover looking for Rosie. Again, her bell was forward. Nothing changed for the last minutes of the brace. The only bird contact was a woodcock that flushed wild across the course not long after crossing the brook.

Getting the first brace done is always a feeling of accomplishment—a big sigh of relief. Then, with the direction of Tony Bly, the stakes manager, comes the push to get the entourage up the road for brace No. 2 at the Ammonoosuc course put-in.

Lloyd Murray and his setter, Long Gone DeQuan, are veterans of the Kilkenny courses. Likewise, John Stolgitis, regardless of the dog he is handling, is never at a disadvantage. This may be the muddiest course of the three used in this championship. The rains all summer in New England broke records and caused flooding where none had been reported for a century or more. Most of the course's downhill paths were moving water, but that never stops the running, and as the stakes manager would have it, after introductions, brace two left the line at 8:48 a.m. On the Ammonoosuc course, about 10 minutes in, on the left and up a bit from course level, a stretch of obvious grouse cover opens up. Neither the handlers nor their dogs miss their chance up there. Today, DeQuan's bell stopped there 12 minutes into the run. When found, DeQuan had to be relocated. A grouse was flushed, and the shot was taken. The first clean piece of birdwork on a grouse was in the judges' books. John Stolgitis and Sunkhaze Vera Masardis finished the hour strong and forward. DeQuan's was the only bird contact on Ammonoosuc this morning.





Vista at Loop Road Overlook

For brace No. 3, Goldenrod, travel is a “You can’t get there from here” kinda situation. So, we have to backtrack to the meeting area and around Loop Road in the other direction to avoid an extra five or so mile drive. Tony Bly was set up at the meeting area with his tailgate down and goodies out, waiting for us to come down and stop for a coffee break. Well, when the caravan came. Signals got confused, and everybody passed up Tony in a rush to get to Goldenrod. It took Tony a few minutes to pack up his goodies and meet us all at the put-in to Goldenrod for the coffee break and homemade cakes by Marie Bly.

Dogs on the line and introductions made, the breakaway for brace No. 3 went off at 10:37. The first 10 minutes of this course can make or break a dog or the whole brace. The cover is quite open with a fern carpet and is home to grouse and woodcock. Did I say woodcock? Only five minutes running, both bells were in the same area. The bells stopped and started. A woodcock did get up. But the bells were moving away from the flight, so it was chalked up as a nonevent. Three minutes later, Panola Bacon, John Stolgitis’ pointer, seemingly stopped a bit more forward, and John went off course looking for him, but a few minutes later, Bacon’s bell was heard to the front. To keep things cooking, David Theroux’s setter Henry’s Susieq Dot stopped deep in a wet bottom to the left of the course. His scout, then David, and a judge went down to help the search for Susieq. John had gone forward on the course to take Bacon with him, but Bacon circled back and scoured the cover just to the right of where David and the judges were searching for his setter. Bacon did get forward with John, relieving the confusion in the search for Susieq. David commanded Susieq to move or relocate. She did, but to the right, where bacon had been working. Susieq was unable to relocate any bird, so David got her back on course. The rest of the hour was uneventful up until the last minute. Here, Susieq stopped forward, downhill, and to the right of the course in full view of the handlers and the judges. With time up, David flushed and then relocated Susieq. No bird was found.

Though no birds were pointed, I walked up a grouse from the back of the gallery while stopped writing notes. Also, there was the nonevent woodcock, and another one walked up later in the brace. So, by my count for the morning, that’s two grouse and three woodcock.

The drive back to brace No. 4 on Moosehorn goes back through the meeting spot. This time, everyone did stop before moving up to the Moosehorn course. Nobody passes up lunch. Here, food only gets trucked in once, and when it’s done, we gotta get up the road because daylight hours are getting shorter in the mountains in late September.

Almost 1 p.m. until brace No. 4 breaks away. Both dogs in this brace were female setters, and from the start, both were evenly matched on the ground. Adam Dubriske’s dog, Super Storm Nell, was the first to stop 13 minutes in. She was found standing nicely on the right of the course. After a short flushing attempt, Adam touched Nell for the relocation. The relocation was short, simple, and perfect grouse work. Shot fired and all in order, Nell was taken on. Meanwhile, John Cullen was working Bandit’s point a bit further up the course. Unfortunately, Bandit couldn’t relocate what she stopped for. So, John took her on up the course. For the next 30-plus minutes, both dogs scoured the course until a bell stopped with 10 to 15 minutes left in the brace. Both dogs had stopped. John flushed up a woodcock for Bandit. Adam was on the left, too, with Nell on the same side of the course, not on the same bird. Adam relocated Nell after his initial flushing attempt, but Nell came up empty. The last 10 minutes played out on the ground between both these setters.

Moosehorn and Ammonoosuc courses break away from the same put-in, with one going right and the other left. Both finish close to the same takeout. So, back on the road, we go for brace No. 5 to the Ammonoosuc course. I had some hope that the afternoon sunlight would bring out the grouse to feed on this course. As Lloyd and DeQuan had one grouse find here in the morning, I was hoping for at least three this afternoon. I was braced with my setter Wizard’s Cas Dubh and John Stolgitis with Ralphy’s Chasehill Rip. Both dogs equaled each other on the ground for the first 40 minutes. However, at 45, with no birds, my dog slowed. Rip continued at a healthy pace, but not a bird was found by the dogs or seen by the judges or gallery. Sometimes it just is that way.

One more brace left to finish the day. The judges were bone tired. Judge Jamie Nee had driven from his home in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, to Exeter, Rhode Island,



The crossing on the Ammonoosuc course.

on Sunday for a field trial. He judged an 11-dog shooting dog stake there before making the five-hour drive to Gorham, New Hampshire, for this assignment. He rolled into the motel after 11 p.m. and only got a couple of three hours sleep before his 5 a.m. wakeup call.

The last brace of the day broke away on Goldenrod at 3:46 p.m. Adam was handling a young setter, North Country’s Soda Pop. She only made it nine minutes into the brace. She was moving too fast and got too close to a woodcock. Chasehill Snoop Dog put down a great ground race for his handler, John Stolgitis, for 45 minutes before his bell stopped. A good flushing attempt and a relocation later, no bird could be flushed. Snoop finished his hour in style, but no birds.

### Day Two

This morning was pretty much a repeat of yesterday. In Gorham, the fog was thicker, and its temps were a little cooler. But like yesterday, by the time we got to York Pond Road, it was clearing fast. Tony wasn’t in such a rush to keep to his 7 a.m. caravan time. We had six braces today to finish the championship, and the three braces of derbies would wait until tomorrow morning.

After introductions, brace No. 7 broke away right at 7:40 a.m. If you had walked this Moosehorn course yesterday, you could tell it was drying up quite a bit. However, if this was your first day on these courses, today’s 4 inches of mud may have just as well been yesterday’s 6 inches. At about the same time into the course and the same area as brace No. 7, where Super Storm Nell had her grouse find yesterday, Long Gone Juniper’s Bell stopped. A grouse flushed wild but not in Juniper’s area. When Lloyd Murray found Juniper standing, he tried but couldn’t flush anything. With seven minutes left in the brace, Chasehill Wicked Wilma was found standing by her handler, John Stolgitis, with Juniper backing. John flushed a grouse. And with all in order, the brace ended shortly thereafter.

All three of the Kilkenny courses we used this year are on the inside of Loop



Derby breakaway on the Beaver Hole course.

Road, and all head downhill at the start. So, the mud starts there, and off we go on brace No. 8 at 9:07 a.m. Lloyd Murray was handling Tony Bly's setter, Stokely B's Ricky, and Tony was scouting. Just where the course levels off a bit, there is a nice stretch of sunny cover uphill on the left. About 10 minutes in, Lloyd sent his scout Tony to check for Ricky. His bell had gone silent up there. Then Boomer of Blackwater, John Stolgitis' pointer who had been more to the front, worked his way back along the same cover Ricky had been working. Boomer's bell stopped dead. Both John and Lloyd went in looking for their dogs. Stuff happens fast in the grousewoods. Well, the grouse got up. Shots were taken. Boomer stood. But it was more than Ricky could stand for, and he went with the bird after the shot. Boomer was credited with a divided find. Ricky came back to the course on a leash. Once back on the course and sent ahead, Boomer ran about 20 yards forward, then broke right, downhill a bit, and stopped again. Grouse number two for Boomer and John in less than five minutes. All in order, Boomer completed the next 43 minutes of his brace strong and going away.

Off to Goldenrod, brace No. 9. As always, before the breakaway for brace No. 9, it's coffee break time, and more of Marie's cakes to go with the coffee. This time, Tony was waiting for us at the Goldenrod put-in.

Two well-matched dogs for this brace—last year's champion, Neo, handled by Adam Dubriske, and the pointer Duck Hook, handled by John Stolgitis. As I said earlier, the first 10 minutes of this course can make or break the rest of the hour. Today, the entire run can be summarized by the first seven minutes. It all happened quite quickly, so I might have gotten the order scrambled a bit. Neo's bell stopped in the cover to the left. Duck Hook made a pass within sight of the course. A grouse flushed wild from a tree limb. John shouted an expletive; Adam shot for Neo's woodcock find. And that was it for the next 57 minutes. Both dogs pressed on. But were unable to put their noses to anything else.

Back to Moosehorn for the last go-round of the courses for the day and the championship. Two pointers on the line here—Partridge Hollow, Adam Dubriske handling, and Chasehills Wango Tango. About 10 minutes after the 1:05 breakaway, Tango was coming in from the left and let out a good yelp. He continued on strong, but a minute later, John called him in for a check. He must have looked okay because John sent him on. A minute later, Tango's bell stopped. John must have seen something in Tango's manner he didn't like. Possibly, Tango was injured. His run was over. Partridge Hollow hunted strong for his hour, with one nonevent. At 40, Adam's dog stopped. Adam sent Partridge Hollow to relocate before flushing. He locked up quickly again, but no bird was produced.

Brace No. 11 was the brace of the Kellys—Kelly Hays with her setter Lightning Flash Frank and Kellie Short with her setter Tucker. The first half hour was pretty much uneventful. Frank was handling easier for Kelly than Tucker was for Kellie. But that was pretty much it until three quarters into the brace. First, Frank stopped. A grouse got up before Kelly had gotten to Frank. Frank was found on point nearby, so he got the credit. Minutes later, Tucker stopped in the alders on the right for a nicely handled woodcock find. He repeated the process again hardly a minute later for two more woodcock. From there, both setters settled in and finished the hour in nice form.

The last brace of this championship couldn't be taken lightly if you thought your dog might be at the top of the judges' list. Chasehill Poison Ivy was running as a bye-dog in the brace No. 12. Ivy has been on the winners' podium with her handler, John Stolgitis, at the New England Open Grouse Championship twice in her last two runs. She was champion in 2021 and runner-up champion last year. Ivy was in fine form from the 4:16 breakaway. She wasted no time, only four minutes to her first solid point on a woodcock. Ten minutes later, she was on point again. However, this didn't work out as planned. No bird was produced, and John relocated Ivy. Things being what they are here. Ivy needed a grouse on this relocation to stay in the game. However, no bird was found. John must have figured out what was needed to place here today and knew Ivy couldn't pull it off with that unproductive point. So, Ivy was leashed, and the running of the 2023 New England Open Grouse Championship was done.

Back down at the meeting spot, everything was set up for the awards ceremony and naming the champion and



Bill Kearns Memorial Open Derby Winners (front, l-r): Kellie Short with Paueck's Rocky Road, Adam Dubriske with Braeval Rags 2 Riches, and James Welch with Wild Apple Paskungameh Peat. (Standing): Kelly Hays, Tony Bly, and Lloyd Murray.

runner-up. First, a thank you went out to the judges. As I mentioned earlier, Jamie Nee made a mad dash from Buzzards Bay to Exeter, judged 11 braces of shooting dogs, and then drove five-plus hours to Gorham to fulfill his commitment here, to judge. John Olfson had judged here for two years a while back, so he knew what he was in for. Judging the New England Open Grouse Championship in Kilkenny is no easy feat. Even if you are prepared for the tough terrain, the weather can make this assignment miserable. Fortunately for John and Jamie, the weather cooperated, without rain on both days. Also, a lower number of entries this year kept their feet out of the Kilkenny mud for a third day, which is usually the standard.

Now, the winners! Named the 2023 Champion of the New England Open Grouse Championship was Boomer of Blackwater, a pointer male owned by Cole Cullins of Masardis, Maine, and handled by John Stolgitis of Ashaway, Rhode Island. The runner-up was Super Storm Nell, a setter female owned by Thor Kain of Carbondale, Pennsylvania, and handled by Adam Dubriske.

### **Bill Kearns Memorial Derby**

This morning was the crisp and clearest day of the three needed for this year's championship and derby. Entries were a bit light this year. I believe we are still recovering entry numbers that we lost during Covid. I remember puppy stakes around these parts last year were thin, and some stakes were canceled or run with just two or three puppies in the stakes. So, it holds that this year's derby stakes should be thin. However, get ready! The weekend before this championship, an Amateur Puppy stake in Arcadia, Rhode Island, drew eight braces and 15 puppies. So, derby entries will rebound next year.

There are three separate courses for our derby. The first is a shortened version of the championship Ammonoosuc course. Roy Hargreaves with his young setter, Leia, and Eric Rizza with his pointer, Basil, broke away right at 8 a.m. Roy's setter

got herself into woodcock in the first 10 minutes. Four minutes later, this is one of those “you had to be there stories,” I was last in the gallery line. The judge, a couple in front of me, slipped and almost fell. She was helped back on the course. I came through the same slippery edge. Watching my foot spots carefully, I suddenly realized the spot I was going to step was right on a woodcock, right on the path, right where the judge had already nearly landed on the little guy. He flushed right up between my knees. How he stayed there through the previous commotion makes no sense. Both dogs applied themselves for the last half of the course, but no more birds were produced.

We use part of an old championship course, Beaver Hole, for our second derby brace. Two Red setters were running in the derby this morning. The first is Andy Week’s Ginny. Braced with them was Kellie Short’s setter Roadie. Roadie got the better of Ginny today, having woodcock finds at 18 and 25 on the course. Ginny hit every likely cover on the course but came up empty. Roadie handled forward, strong, and effortlessly for Kellie.

The running of the final brace was on a shortened championship Goldenrod course, with an emphasis on running. Wild Apple Paskungameh Peat, Jamie Welch’s pointer, and Red setter Braeval Rags 2 Riches, handled by Adam Dubriske, tore up every inch of this course. Whatever cover on the course one dog didn’t hit, the other got to it in short order. Even though no birds were put to wing by either dog, their potential as top-notch shooting dogs was evident to both judges.

That’s it for another year’s running here in Kilkenny. We got back to the meeting area and made the derby announcements just as soon as everyone arrived. As always, before the placements, we need to thank the judges. Though only three braces,



Lloyd Murray and Bob Lang

walking for an hour-and-a-half walk through the mud over rocky ground leaves an impression. Thank you again to Kelly Hays. This is at least her second go-round as a derby judge here. A special thank you to Lloyd Murray. He stepped in to fill the second judging spot when a cancellation of our advertised judge left us short.

Placing first in the 2023 Bill Kearns Open Derby was Paucek’s Rocky Road, owned and handled by Kellie Short; second place was Braeval Rags 2 Riches, owned by Bradley Trotta and handled by Adam Dubriske; and third place, Wild Apple Paskungameh Peat, owned and handled by James Welch.

Thank you to Purina and Greg Blair for their continued support of field trials and our championship.

Lastly, as I alluded to in the opening paragraph, this is the end of an era. Since the beginning of the New England Open Grouse Championship in 1995, this championship has been managed by a notable handful of field trailers. Earliest, Tony Bly chaired. Craig Doherty, in addition to reporting this championship for five years, chaired it in 1996. Bob Lang aided the management for longer than I can remember, only retiring a couple of years ago. Top of the list has been Lloyd Murray. Since the beginning, he has been the one constant, holding the management

of this championship together while others of us came, went, and came back again. And so it goes. Lloyd has decided it is time for younger hands and possibly new ideas. With Lloyd’s retirement, Tony Bly has also decided to end his time on the front lines of the championship. As this era ends and a new one begins, the Setter Club of New England membership is prepared to fill the positions needed to move forward into our second century.

As secretary of the Setter Club of New England, I (we) wish to extend our gratitude to these four—Lloyd Murray, Tony Bly, Bob Lang, Craig Doherty—and others who, from the start of creating and cutting the first course, made the New England Open Grouse Championship what it is. Now, on the verge of the Setter Club’s 100th Anniversary, 1924-2024, much more has yet to come.

See you all next year for the 100th annual running of the Setter Club of New England’s fall field trial and the 30th New England Open Grouse Championship.

**Berlin, N. H., September 25 – One Course**

**Judges: Jamie Nee and John Olsson**

**NEW ENGLAND OPEN GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**[One-Hour Heats] – 12 Pointers and 11 Setters**

*Winner-BOOMER OF BLACKWATER, 1676576, pointer male, by The Guardian-Let’s Roll Possum. Cole Cullins, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.*

*Runner-Up-SUPER STORM NELL, 1687466, setter female, by Blast Zone-Bridgewater Mt. Pemi. Thor Kain, owner; Adam Dubriske, handler.*

**Judges: Kelly Hays and Lloyd Murray**  
**BILL KEARNS MEMORIAL OPEN DERBY**  
**– 6 Entries**

*1st-PAUCEK’S ROCKY ROAD, 1704261, setter female, by Long Gone Porky-Paucek’s Mandy. Kellie Short, owner and handler.*

*2d-BRAEVAL RAGS 2 RICHES, 1703536, Irish setter male, by Braeval Ghillie-Braeval Skye. Bradley Trotta, owner; Adam Dubriske, handler.*

*3d-WILD APPLE PASKUNGAMEH PEAT, 1704941, pointer male, by Elhew Snakewood-Wild Apple Tiger Lily. James Welch, owner and handler.*

## UKC® HUNTING OPS PODCAST

The UKC® Hunting Ops Podcast is produced by United Kennel Club®, the world’s leading dog sports organization since 1898. UKC® Hunting Ops covers Coonhounds, Beagles, Cur and Feist Squirrel Dogs, Pointing Dogs, Retrievers, and more.

Each week we’ll discuss aspects of one of our hunting dog sports, with topics like competition rules, UKC events, and discussions with today’s top competitors along with the legends of yesterday.

Listen on:



## NGSPA REGION 8 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Series Held At Richardson Ranch

By Keith Richardson | Cheyenne, Wyoming | September 25, 2023



NGSPA Region 8 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front, l-r). Brandon Blum with Aunt Troji's Dirty Nike and Sherri Tangsrud with Uodibar's Robbi Jo. (Standing): Larry Metter, Howard Burbach, Kirk Loftin, and Lisa Pollock.

The NGSPA Region 8 Championships was a huge success, with a strong entry in all stakes with participants coming from all over. Most of the competitors also attended the NGSPA Hungarian Partridge Championship held previously.

The venue is not only scenic but also provides great objectives for dogs to hunt and display their ability to find and handle difficult game birds. The course is unlike any other in the country. The cast-off is over several hundred yards of prairie to Suicide Hill, named for the large number of birds inhabiting it and the fact that most infractions may be seen ¼ mile away. There are two large coveys on this hill, a low covey, and a high covey. Then, around the hill's base is a cove defined by Chukar Bench, a curving high bench about a mile long with a steep escarpment holding large rocks and dense shrub cover. We pass Derby Draw and continue along the bottom of the escarpment until heading up at Shooting Dog Draw. We climb to the top of the bench and spend 15 to 20 minutes hunting the upper brushy edge of this steep chukar habitat. The next leg offers a run through the prairie on the left or a steep series of draws known as the Badlands on the right. The High Gate is entered, and the dog finishes in the prairie, where its stamina and range are clearly visible.

The dogs will experience running coveys, large explosive covey flushes of 20 or more chukar, with birds flying back over their heads, and concentrations of "old" scent left by recent coveys that have flown

off. The birds are healthy, young, and strong fliers. Any dog that completes this course is ready for Eureka, a few weeks away!

We were pleased to have had several pros in attendance: Dan DiMambro, Josh Nieman, and Rich Robertson Jr. We were also happy to welcome a large number of amateurs: Dean and Diane Crabbs (OR), Keith Bryant (CO), Brandon Blum (CO), Tom Kosmack (UT), Kirk Loftin (TX), Sherri Tangsrud (MO), Hank and Dina Lewis (OH), and Shannon Yancy (TX). Terry Zygalinski (CA) brought a nice group of horses for the judges and gallery.

We brought in some top-notch judges with deep experience judging championships. It was a pleasure to spend time with them and to see how watchful they were as they evaluated our dogs: Amateur Shooting Dog, Open All-Age, and Open Derby—Howard Burbach (Pleasant Hill, MO) and Lisa Pollock (Lucas, IA); Open Shooting Dog—Glenn Johnson (San Dimas, CA) and Terry Zygalinski (Watsonville, CA).

We are grateful to our sponsors. Purina provided financial support and a pallet of Pro Plan for the winning dogs. Their support of the Purina Handler of the Year program is also very important, as contenders often travel to championships hoping to earn points. We encouraged all contestants to feed Purina. We also welcome the sponsorship of SportDOG with training collars and bark collars. Cash purses, gift certificates, Purina food, and

SportDOG collars made up the offering of prizes.

A special thanks to the organizational abilities and hard work of Keith and Bobbi Richardson. A big thanks also to the other folks who helped: Joe Frauendienst, David Clifton, and Japheth Frauendienst (many tasks including catching and planting birds), Gary and Chris Kercher (bird planter and paperwork). Marya Kerchner prepared the best lunches and dinners at any field trial in the country. Diane Crabbs was a phenomenal help to Marya, along with Taci Peppers. Our ranch crew helped in many ways, often unseen but always with a smile; Justin Peppers, Brittney Haberkorn, Kaitlin Gaukel, Rob Beeler, and Nancy Kutchara ran the dog wagon and booted all of the dogs.

### NGSPA Region 8 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

The stake was postponed on the first day because of winds from 40 to 45 mph with gusts over 60. The next day, we began with nice weather. There was a lot of great bird work. Some of the dogs displayed some all-age moves and were out of pocket too much for a shooting dog stake. There were no birdless dogs.

Aunt Troji's Dirty Nike ("Nike"), owned and handled by Larry Metter, was named champion. Nike headed directly up Suicide Hill on the cast-off for her first find at 5. She showed impressive style on the large covey of chukar. She then followed the curvature of the Suicide Hill escarpment and had her second find at 15 on a steep rock incline. Nike was released and hunted along the steep escarpment before Shooting Dog Draw, where she climbed a boulder high on the face and went on point while standing on the boulder at 21. The handler's horse had some trouble and spun around near the dog, and the handler fell before finally flushing a huge covey of chukar that exploded in all directions, including over the dog's head. It was an impressive limb find, and Nike withstood a lot of extra pressure with incredible manners and style. She was returned to the bottom of the hill and had her fourth find at 29 at the corner of Shooting Dog Draw. After reaching the top, she worked the rim beautifully but didn't find any more birds. She went through the High Gate and powered across the rim of the prairie,

where she entered the habitat far to the front when time was called. All of her finds had birds that were tough to produce while maintaining perfect manners and intense style with high head and tail all the way through the work until collared. Her gait was fast and flowing, showing power and stamina until time. She wanted to please her handler and needed no hacking as she would turn to see his direction and follow his lead. Scouting was not required except to find her on point.

Uodibar's Robbi Jo ("Robbi"), handled by Dr. Kirk Loftin and owned by Sherri Tangsrud, was named runner-up. Robbi's first find was on Suicide Hill at 5, with excellent manners and style. After her release, she followed the rock face, climbed a steep area, and went on point at 10. Her handler ran and stumbled up the hill to produce a covey of Huns that blew out of the cover. Robbi impressively stood tall and tight throughout all. After release, the scout called point at 13 near the water tank, but after three relocations, no birds were produced, and she was sent on. Robbi hunted the rock face all the way to Shooting Dog Draw, which she crested, continuing to hunt the rim with a nice flowing style. She had a find at 48, and it took a lot of work for the handler to produce the birds on the steep boulder-strewn slope. She had a nice finish a few minutes after passing through the High Gate. Robbi seemed to have an easy "handle," but the handler was quite vocal, which detracted. She required minimal scouting. Robbi had good power and flowed well along the course but not as nice as the champion.

#### **Other Dogs of Note**

B M B's Madison Avenue ("Madison"), handled by Brandon Blum and owned by Brandon and Jennifer Blum, was a close contender with a find at 4 on Suicide Hill and a second find at 8 around the corner of the Hill in the rocks. Very nice style and manners on both finds. She hunted the cover well and headed up Shooting Dog Draw to the top of the rim, where Madison had her third find at 30. Everyone was surprised by the size of the covey, which seemed to be over 100 birds, some running all around the dog and some tearing off in all directions. She was unmoved and beautiful in her stance. She hunted the rim to the High Gate, where she spent 10 minutes on the Prairie with a good finish. She was less fluid than the placing dogs.

Hi N's Curtain Call ("Charlie"), handled and owned by Hank Lewis, was a contender at the end of Day One. His first find was on Suicide Hill at 3, with his second find at 20 on a large covey of running chukar. He pointed at 30, and the handler worked it hard, including a



NGSPA Region 8 Open All-Age Championship Winners (front, l-r): Keith Richardson, Radley Haberkorn, April DiMambro with High Standing Cuttin Edge, and Hank Lewis with B M B's Freeloader. (Standing): Dan DiMambro, Lisa Pollock, Howard Burbach, and Brandon Blum.

relocation, but no birds were produced. Charlie had a good race that was to the front, and his bird work was very nice. His run was not as impressive as the placing dogs.

**Cheyenne, Wyo., September 25 – One Course**  
**Judges: Howard Burbach and Lisa Pollock**  
**NGSPA REGION 8 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**  
**– 18 German Shorthairs**

*Winner-AUNT TROJI'S DIRTY NIKE, 1668620, female, by Hardcore High N Tight-Dcr's White Sky. Larry Metter, owner and handler.*

*Runner-Up-UODIBAR'S ROBBI JO, 1662507, female, by Uodibar's Against All Odds-B D K's Sin City Casino. Sherri Tangsrud, owner; Kirk Loftin, handler.*

#### **NGSPA Region 8** **Open All-Age Championship**

High Standing Cuttin Edge ("Woody"), handled by Dan DiMambro and owned by Anthony and Dayna Rusciano, was named champion. Woody's first move was around the base of Suicide Hill, where he dropped under the fence into the Habitat and took it all the way to the end, working the cover as he went. He was seen standing on point at the very end, and it took the handler and judge about five minutes to reach him while he maintained an intense point. His manners were perfect, and he was watered and cast off towards Shooting Dog Draw, where he reached the point at the base of the draw and disappeared in the cover. He was found standing at 22, and chukars were seen running up the hill, shot fired, and manners were perfect. His third find at 30 was on the upper rim, not far from the water tanks. At 35, he had his fourth find pointed and standing on a ledge over the rim on Derby Bench with 30 to 40 birds running all around him. He stood with a high head and tail and no let down until collared. Woody was released and headed through the High Gate, where he had a huge finish making it to the far east fence line, apparently dropping into the Habitat, where he was spotted and rounded up at time. Throughout his race, Woody ran with flowing power and went with handler, requiring no hacking or scouting. His polish and style during all of his bird work

were impressive. His race was consistently all-age and always to the front. Woody possessed all the qualities of an all-age champion.

B M B's Freeloader ("Hewey"), handled by Brandon Blum and owned by Brandon and Jennifer Blum, was named runner-up. Hewey broke away toward Suicide Hill and searched, but no chukars were home, and he dropped down the hill and followed it around to the back side where he had a back at 9 at the base of the slope by the water tank. After being released, his pattern was somewhat inconsistent, and his ears seemed plugged. Once he got to the top of Shooting Dog Draw, he seemed to regain his handle and application, and he had his first find at 29. All was in order, and he had his second find along the rim at 35, a nice covey of chukar with nice style and manners. His third find was on Derby Bench at 40, where he was watered and released, later passing through the High Gate at 50. He had a nice all-age finish in the prairie. Overall, Hewey was less consistent than the champion.

**NGSPA REGION 8 OPEN ALL-AGE**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**  
**– 18 German Shorthairs**

*Winner-HIGH STANDING CUTTIN EDGE, 1675198, male, by Slicks Cuttin Wild-C L K's Point Me The Way. Anthony & Dayna Rusciano, owners; Dan DiMambro, handler.*

*Runner-Up-B M B'S FREELOADER, 1678664, male, by B M B's Free Ride-Hightailing Saddle's Mandolin. Brandon & Jennifer Blum, owners; Brandon Blum, handler.*

#### **NGSPA Region** **Open Shooting Dog Championship**

Hi N's Allison Miranda ("Allie"), handled and owned by Dr. Kirk Loftin, was named champion. At her cast-off, Allie went around the corner of Suicide Hill and dropped into the Habitat, where she had her first find at 7 and was intense with no movement through the shot. She then made a big move through the Habitat, searching the cover but finding no birds, and then heading up towards Shooting Dog Draw, where she had a find at the base of the turn at 20. It was a large covey with running birds and an explosive flush, with Allie standing tight and classy. Her next find was on the upper rim at 27, and it was another large chukar covey, and her manners were stellar. Allie's last find at 35 was down the steep hill at the end of Derby Rim. She made an impressive move to reach this spot and was rewarded as her handler flushed a large covey of running and flying birds while she stood staunch and statuesque. She had a big finish and was always to the front. She required no backing or scouting, and except for one flat spot mid-run, she had a big shooting dog race. All of her bird work was made challenging by the large size of the coveys of unpredictable chukar,



NGSPA Region 8 Open Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front, l-r): Keith Richardson, Sherri Tangsrud with Hi N's Allison Miranda, and Bobbi Richardson with P W Penny Singing The Blues. (Standing): Keith Bryant, Kirk Loftin, Glenn Johnson, Terry Zygalski, and Rich Robertson Jr.

yet she handled each find with beautiful style and intensity through the end—a fine championship performance.

P W Penny Singing The Blues (“Boo”), handled by Richard Robertson Jr., owned by Keith and Bobbi Richardson, was named runner-up. Boo had a powerful cast off reaching to the higher covey on Suicide Hill where she pointed, but handler could not produce a bird. After being released, she made a huge, powerful move, gaining the front and cresting over the rim above Derby Draw, and headed up Chukar Hill on the opposite side of the Draw, where she was lost to sight. Boo was found pointing at 17, and handler and judge had an energetic ride to get there while her brace mate had apparently roaded in on her. Boo stood through all of this and handled a nice covey of chukar that she had pinned. She quickly worked the birdy cover as she rounded the corner of Shooting Dog Draw and disappeared to the front. Boo was found standing on the rim at 25, where she showed good style and intensity but was seen taking a step. She had a back on Derby Bench at 40 and was released to hunt the Badlands before the High Gate, where she showed off her remaining power and stamina. The judges said Boo handled better than any other dog in the stake and had a consistently big shooting dog race with a huge finish. She also distinguished herself by never taking a road. Boo was penalized for taking a step on her second find.

#### Other Dogs of Note

P W Evolution’s Recreation (“Spike”), handled by Richard Robertson Jr., is owned by Keith and Bobbi Richardson. The judges claimed Spike had the best run of the stake. His ground coverage was intelligent, his run powerful and fast, and he was always to the front at a big

shooting dog range. His first find was on Suicide Hill at 4, and he took a few small steps while handler was undergoing an extended flush. He had a find at 20 with all in order and excellent style. His third find at 28 was another extended flush, and he took a few small steps again. His last find was at 58 on a large chukar covey below Cathy’s Bench, which he handled perfectly. It was an impressive limb find, and he was the only dog in the stake to make this move. Although he had the best run in the stake, the judges could not overlook his “catwalking.”

Monkeyshines Callme The Breeze (“Breezy”), handled by Dan DiMambro, is owned by Dan and April DiMambro. Breezy had a find on Suicide Hill at 6, a back at 17, and a find at 25. She looked outstanding on point and handled her birds with class. She had nice shooting dog range and power, but she was not consistently forward. She handled very nicely. She is certainly a dog to keep an eye on.

**Judges: Keith Bryant and Glenn Johnson**  
**NGSPA REGION 8 OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**  
 – 20 German Shorthairs

*Winner-HI N'S ALLISON MIRANDA, 1676665, female, by Hi N's Feed Jake-Chicoree's Sparkle In Her Eye. Kirk Loftin, owner and handler.*

*Runner-Up-P W PENNY SINGING THE BLUES, 1674964, female, by P W Penny For Your Thoughts-P W Dark Energy. Keith & Bobbi Richardson, owners; Richard Robertson Jr., handler.*

#### NGSPA Region 8 Open Derby Classic

##### The Course

We use the Hun course in the Habitat. It is a three-mile section of creek lined with willows and dense cover, with open-cut grass and plenty of objectives between the willow line and the fence line. This course does not have cactus, so dogs are not booted. It is an out-and-back course. There is good visibility of the dogs so that a dog with all-age potential can be seen making huge moves.

P W High Voltage (“Elli”), handled by Rich Robertson Jr. and owned by Keith and Bobbi Richardson, earned first place. Elli cast off with grace and power as she immediately grabbed the willow line and coursed along it with a ground-covering, light-footed gait that was like poetry to watch. Never breaking off the line, she quickly disappeared to the front around a corner and showed with fleeting glimpses as she completed an all-age move to the



NGSPA Region 8 Derby Classic Winners (front, l-r): Bobbi Richardson with P W High Voltage, April DiMambro with Toney's Bushwacking Rooster, and Kirk Loftin with C C's Deadman's Hand. (Standing): Keith Richardson and Dan DiMambro.

end of the line. She then worked back along a long plum and willow thicket and was seen as she reversed direction and headed through the double gate. She kept in touch with her handler as she ranged at distance and was seen from time to time on the willow edge. She was glimpsed, breaching the upper gate into the Richardson Habitat, where she disappeared. Handler and riders rode on while straining to catch a glimpse of her when she popped out of the willows, showing to the front as if to say: “Oh ye of little faith,” and immediately powered off hunting to the front until time. To quote one of the judges, “Elli is the real deal!”

Toney’s Bushwacking Rooster (“Rooster”), handled by Dan DiMambro and owned by Melissa Toney, earned second place. Rooster had a really nice forward race with an intelligent hunting pattern. He handled well and covered the ground nicely. Rooster had a solid derby run and demonstrated that he has what it takes.

C C’s Deadman’s Hand (“Ace”), handled by Dr. Kirk Loftin and owned by Cassidy Chedester, earned third place. Ace had speed and power and liked to hold the distant front, but he also liked to take the easy way forward by running the road when he could. If he had more hunt to go with his big run, he would have placed higher.

**Judges: Glenn Johnson and Terry Zygalski**  
**NGSPA REGION 8 OPEN DERBY CLASSIC**  
 – 8 German Shorthairs

*1st-P W HIGH VOLTAGE, 1702024, female, by P W Ben There Done That-P W Penny Singing The Blues. Keith & Bobbi Richardson, owners; Rich Robertson, Jr., handler.*

*2d-TONEY'S BUSHWACKING ROOSTER, unreg., male, by B D K's Jax's Original Fire Chief-Freeman's Hope Does Float. Melissa Toney, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.*

*3d-C C'S DEADMAN'S HAND, unreg., male, by Patrick's Hi Tailyn Buck-Hi Tailyn Nakia. Cassidy Chedester, owner; Kirk Loftin, handler.*

#### Did you know?

Whether you're registering a dog or submitting trial results, everything you need is right at your fingertips!  
 Printable forms are available at: [www.americanfield.com](http://www.americanfield.com)



## NORTHEASTERN GROUSE & WOODCOCK CHAMPIONSHIP

*Duck Hook Named Champion; Wynot Lottie, Runner-Up*

By Russell Ogilvie | Frankfort, Maine | September 29, 2023

On a hill in the small town of Frankfort, Maine, judges, handlers, owners, dogs, and others gathered for the 2023 edition of the Northeastern Grouse & Woodcock Championship. With favorable weather conditions for this time of the year but having one of the wettest springs and summers that could be remembered, anticipation and apprehension was abound. The courses, the judges, and, more importantly, the dogs and handlers were ready. This year's champion, Duck Hook, an orange and white male pointer owned and handled by Mike Flewelling, came out of the third brace on Powerline. Brute was paired with Sudden Silence (PF/Hetrick). Both dogs raced down the two-track from the breakaway. Brute was making strong moves right from the start. Both dogs made it to the first turn, with Brute deep to the front on the left of the course. Belle would be to the right. Brute's bell fell silent at 15. The thick vegetation made the search difficult. A grouse was walked up, but no sign of Brute. As the search continued, a tinkle of a bell gave just enough direction, and Flewelling was able to locate his dog. On the flush, a woodcock would take flight with all in order. Brute was taken back to the course, where he powered forward, never letting down. Belle was picked up at the crossing. The combination of the ground performance and the limb find set the tone early and carried him to the end.

The runner-up, Wynot Lottie (PF/Robbins), came out of the seventh brace on the cut. Lottie was braced with Elhew Snake Dancer (PF/Doherty). Lottie started strong right from the start, returning to only power forward and deep. She zipped through the pole timber, and when she finally got to the cut, she went to work. Her bell fell silent at 46. Ideal for birds but not for a dog to be found, Lottie was finally located, and a woodcock fluttered out. Taken back to course, Lottie headed back down into the cut, and her bell fell silent again at 57. A little easier to find this time, and Robbins did his due diligence on the flush, sending the woodcock skyward. Lottie finished strong, impressing the judges to the end. Lizzie had a good ground race for Doherty but was unable to connect.

The Mid-Coast Maine Field Trial Club would like to thank Purina and Greg Blair for their continued support of our sport. This year, we had 31 dogs take their shot at the grounds. Thank you to all the handlers



Duck Hook, Winner of the Northeastern Grouse and Woodcock Championship

and owners for entering dogs, especially those traveling far and wide to attend. While there were only two take-home ribbons, the judges had a number of dogs to consider, so it came down to splitting hairs. Those judges, Bruce Mueller and Jamie Leitch, had their work cut out for them, and we appreciated the three days of climbing hills through mud holes and over logs to watch every dog with a keen eye. Given the never-ending rain, the course was in very good shape thanks to the dedication of the club members. For those that do not know, we run on town-owned land. The town of Frankfort supports what we do by repairing the road for access, and in turn, the trials we cut get used for walking and skiing. With the weather this summer, we knew the grouse numbers would be down. We ended up moving 32 woodcock and 11 grouse for the three days. As tradition lends itself to, the Saturday evening meal of steak and lobster was enjoyed by all. There is nothing better than ending the day sitting around with friends and sharing a meal on a warm afternoon. Till next year!

### The Running

#### *Day One*

Brace No. 1: Sunkhaze Vera Masardis (PF/Flewelling), braced with Elhew Snakewood (PM/Doherty), kicked off the 2023 edition of the Northeastern Grouse & Woodcock Championship. Vera, a young but bold dog, took to the woods early. She drove deep and out to the right. Cobe also went right and to the edge of the bell. Both dogs showed up and swung left before Vera went deep right. Cobe would be the first to strike when he stopped at 33. With the

flush, Doherty sent the woodcock up and away. Vera, coming from the big woods, went deep into the cut on the left of the trail. Her bell fell silent at 48. After a long search, she was located in the thick cut with a woodcock as well. Vera would finish strong.

Brace No. 2: Cairds Cracklin Rosie (PF/Stolgitis) took to the Beaver Hole course paired with Magic Mist Sydni (ESF/Dahl). Rosie, already having a tremendous fall, went to work early when her bell stopped at 5 on the edge of the powerline. Stolgitis quickly produced a woodcock for her. Rosie made a brief stop at 16 and was moved on. Sydni was deep and to the left. Both dogs made it past the beaver pond, and that is when Sydni became too much, and the tracker was called. Rosie, having the course to herself, stopped again at 40, and another woodcock was produced. Just before the powerline crossing, Rosie would stop again at 49. This didn't end well as she moved up during the flushing attempt, ending her bid.

Brace No. 3 was previously mentioned.

Brace No. 4: Asper Hill Bandit (ESF/Cullen) and Ellwood (PM/Robinson) had the second go around of the cut. Both dogs ran smooth-forward races. Ellwood stopped in the trail just at the edge of the cut. After a quick flushing attempt, he was moved on. As the handler and judge took a few more steps on the course, a woodcock was seen walking away, but credit could not be given. Bandit would move into the cut, and both dogs stopped at 30. Cullen flushed, a woodcock lifted, and a divided find was given. Once back on course, Ellwood would stop quickly with Bandit honoring. Robinson was unable to move a bird. Bandit dove down to the left of the course and stopped at 36. After a little search, Cullen scored on another woodcock. Ellwood, running a smooth forward race, carded two more woodcock finds at 41 and 52. Bandit was strong on the ground and finished that way—a nice brace to watch.

Brace No. 5: Pee Dee (PF/Joyal) and Wild Apple Hard Cider (PF/Doherty) worked their way around the Beaver Hole course. The temperatures had warmed a bit. Cider had an unproductive at 34 and a second at 40. Doherty picked her up after an unsuccessful relocation. Pee Dee would take an unproductive at 34.

Brace No. 6: Bell Stop Boomer (PM/Hetrick) and Wynot Roscoe (PM/Robbins) finished the day. Boomer and Roscoe covered some ground. Boomer would go birdless. Roscoe stopped first at 50, and nothing was produced. Once he was returned to the course, he would go forward and cut to the left, where his bell stopped at 54. Robbin was able to send the woodcock to flight with all in order.

**Day Two**

Brace No. 7 was previously mentioned.

Brace No. 8: Old Glory Ben (ESM/Parsons) and Mohawk Mill Double E (PF/Stolgitis). Ben and Doll broke away strong down the edge of the powerline. Ben would hunt the strip along the powerline and stop at 8. The scout called point and went to the front. Parson was unable to produce a bird, so Ben was sent on. Doll suffered an unproductive of her own at 12. Doll stopped again at 24, and already riding one unproductive, was sent on, and the young dog popped a bird, ending her day. Old Glory Ben and Parson connected just before the powerline at 38 on a woodcock. Crossing the powerline and going strong, Ben stopped at 46, right on the edge of the trail. Parson opted to flush without success. Ben tapped on but without success and was picked up.

Brace No. 9: Movelle's Chewy (PM/Movelle) and Ralphy's Chasehill Rip (PM/Stolgitis) headed down the two-track. Both dogs cut in, and Rip was strong. Chewy made it to the powerline and was picked up. Rip, having the course to himself, went hard and deep. As we turned back onto the two-track, Rip went in on the left and stopped. Even knowing where the dog was, it was challenging to find him. He was located, and a woodcock was produced. Rip would finish strong.

Brace No. 10: Chasehill Snoop Dog (PM/Stolgitis) and Tucker (ESM/Short) took their chances on the cut. Tucker



**Wynot Lottie, Runner-up in the Northeastern Grouse and Woodcock Championship, with Al Robbins**

would quickly dive to the right in prime bird cover, and his bell would stop. A long search finally located him, but nothing was home. Being behind, Tucker started forward and went deep into the cut where he was MIA. Snoop scored on a grouse at 34 and finished with a strong race.

Brace No. 11: Boomer of Blackwater (PM/Flewelling) and Kalamity Cinder (ISF/Sloan) took it to the Beaver Hole. Boomer laid down a strong race but was unable to score. Cinder was solid, but she moved on a bird, ending her day.

Brace No. 12: Chasehill Poison Ivy (PF/Stolgitis) and Bluey (PF/Joyal) finished the day on the powerline course. Ivy laid down the race of the trial. She was smooth, strong, and to the front. Ivy would stop to the right at 50, and a woodcock was walked up, but credit was not given. Bluey finished the hour.

Brace No. 13: Wynot Sullie (PM/Forrest) and Crown (Joyal) were cut loose. Sullie had a quick woodcock find at 3; however, his steering was a little off and was picked up at 30. Crown was good on the ground and scored at 29 with a woodcock for Joyal. Joyal got to fire his gun a second

time when Crown stopped at 53.

Brace No. 14: Wild Apple Pop's Dorothy (PF/Doherty/Steingraber) and Chasehill Wicked Wilma (PF/Stolgitis). Dottie is strong on the ground and fancy. However, on this day, she could not come up with a bird. Wilma was strong as well and had a stop at 55. She was tapped on, and without success, she was picked up.

Brace No. 15: Panola Bacon (PM/Stolgitis) and Wynot Pete (PM/Forrest) drove down the two-track. Bacon was strong and deep. Pete was similar but stopped to the left of the course at 12. He looked good at the start of the flush but loosened up and took the unproductive. Back running hard, both dogs had to be worked to get across the powerline. Pete stopped to the right of the course, and Forrest fired his gun as a pair of grouse took flight. Both dogs made it to the turn headed up the two-track when they stopped to the left. Forrest finally found Pete. Stolgitis had just found Bacon and fired. Pete wasn't looking sure of himself and was sent on. A woodcock popped, ending his day. Bacon finished going away.

Brace No. 16: Chasehills Wango Tango (PM/Stolgitis) finished the trial as a bye-dog. Often, dogs lack a little drive when braced alone, but Tango maintained his tempo going strong. The young dog suffered an unproductive at 3. He stopped again at 43, and at this point in the trial, it had to be all or nothing. Tango ended up going with a bird to end his bid.

**Frankfort, Me., September 29**  
**Judges: Jamie Leitch and Bruce Mueller**  
**NORTHEASTERN GROUSE AND WOODCOCK**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 27 Pointers,**  
**3 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter**

*Winner-DUCK HOOK, 1668288, pointer male, by Erin's War Creek-Brave Heart Cassie. Michael Flewelling & Richard Straub, owners; Mike Flewelling, handler.*  
*Runner-Up-WYNOT LOTTIE, 1696083, pointer female, by Woodcock Haven War Paint-Woodcock Haven Fire Sky. Allen Robbins, owner and handler.*

# FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@ukchuntingops
 @ukccoonhounds
 @youtube.com/ukcdogs

**DONALD E. HILLIARD**  
*October 16, 1924-September 22, 2023*

**D**onald E. Hilliard, 98, of Queen City, Missouri, formerly of Lancaster, Missouri, passed away on Friday, September 22, 2023, at the Northeast Regional Medical Center in Kirksville, Missouri.

The son of Merville Arnold Hilliard and Merle (Watson) Hilliard Oliver, he was born on October 16, 1924, in Granger, Missouri. Don attended Granger School and Black Oak School and graduated from Granger High School in 1941. On December 23, 1946, in Troy, Kansas, he was united in marriage to Donna Jean Drummond, and to this union, three children were born: Jackie Wayne, Penny Sue, and Donald Rex.

Don is survived by his daughter, Penny Probasco, and husband, Rick of Lancaster, Missouri; two grandsons, Cory Alan Probasco and wife, Andrea of Denver, Colorado, and Donald Erik Probasco and wife, Shannon of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin; three great-grandchildren, Hilliard Probasco of Denver, Colorado, Rylen and Kylie Probasco of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin; one sister-in-law, Nita Cragg of Gallatin, Missouri; nieces and nephews and other family members.

Don is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Donna Jean Hilliard, on April 27, 2023; two sons, Jackie Wayne and Donald Rex, in infancy; and one brother, Edwin Arnold Hilliard.

Don enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1943, serving in World War II, and was honorably discharged in 1945. While in the service, he was a Radio Operator on a B17 aircraft. Following his military tour, he primarily farmed. He and Donna lived in LaBelle, Lancaster, and Downing, Missouri, returning to Lancaster in 1958. With the encouragement of friends attending Kirksville State Teachers College in Kirksville, Missouri, he joined their daily commute. He went to school in the morning and worked for Beeler Motor Company in the afternoon. He earned his BS in Education in 1962 and his M. A. in 1965.

Don began teaching Math at Queen City High School in Queen City, Missouri, in August of 1962 and shortly after became the principal. After the reorganization of the county schools, he



Don Hilliard

served the Schuyler R-I Schools as High School Principal of the Queen City Unit, Junior High Principal, and eventually went back to teach high school math. After 32 years, he retired from teaching in 1994 and went back to farming but continued to support the school by running the time clock for Schuyler R-I basketball and football games. During these years at Queen City and Schuyler, Don also taught night classes during the school year and workshops in the summer for the College.

Don and Donna were members of the Lancaster Christian Church in Lancaster, Missouri, and attended regularly as long as their health permitted. He was baptized there in 1964 on the same day as his daughter, Penny, and served the Church as a deacon and several terms as Chairman of the Board. He was initiated into Phi Delta Kappa at Northeast Missouri State College (formerly Kirksville State Teachers College) on March 21, 1970, and was a member of and supported several professional organizations. He was a member of the Schuyler County American Legion Post 784, VFW in Scotland County Post 4958, and a 50-year member of the Glenwood Masonic Lodge 427.

Don almost always owned a dog and usually had a horse. He was a member of the North Missouri Field Trial Association, served as treasurer of his local group for many years, and helped set up and run many field trials. He judged field trials on horseback and on foot in Missouri and the surrounding states. He raised and trained pointers and

ran them in field trials, earning many first and second-place trophies.

Don was a long-time member and secretary/treasurer of the North Missouri Field Trial Club. We could always count on Don to handle the preliminary tasks to host a field trial. He was always ready to step in and do whatever it took to get the job done. We also could always count on Don to keep everyone in line and keep the trial moving at a pace to make sure we were able to finish when we were supposed to.

Don taught school for years at Schuyler County. I remember in high school, I had completed all of my math requirements but decided to take Geometry my senior year. Don told me the story that on the first day of class, he walked in and saw me sitting by my future bride, and he thought that I was going to be trouble. The fact of the matter, I was no trouble, and I am sure he gave me a passing grade because he knew that I would have a hard time making it without my helper Heather.

I was just getting started field trialing, and one morning, Don and I were sitting in the truck warming up, and our friend, Bob Catlett, rode by on a big sorrel mare that moved out like a dream. Don looked at me and told me that he was going to go home with that horse, and he did. Don had some good horses, but this mare was his favorite. To this day, she is still the best horse that I ever had the pleasure to ride.

Over the years, Don had some good dogs. I didn't have the opportunity to see some of Don's early winners, but I did get to see one of Don's special dogs. It was a dog that had been passed around to several owners, including me. The female pointer, Bell, was a good dog, but no one seemed to be able to win with her. Don got a chance to run her, and instead of calling her Bell, he called her Nell, and what do you know, he won some stakes with her. He told all of us that we just had her name wrong, and I believe he was right.

Don was a good judge of character and a very good friend to me and a friend to many. He will be sorely missed.

— Kevin Western

## REGION 13 (AFTCA) AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

*Tupelo Honey Named Champion; Pine Straw Fatbottom, Runner-Up*

By Ann Naus | Meredith, Michigan | September 29, 2023



Region 13 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship Winners (l-r): Diane and Bob Wheelock with Tupelo Honey, Scott Forman (judge), Dale Ash with Pine Straw Fatbottom Girl, Harold Holmes, and Robert Ecker (judge).

This year's Region 13 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship started on Friday, October 1, and was judged by Robert Ecker from Midnight Kennels alongside Scott Forman from Shady Hills Kennels.

Day One began with cooler temperatures that continued into the afternoon with overcast skies, a stark difference from the high humidity and temperatures during the week. The dogs of the first seven braces performed well as a result. There were birds pointed on every course throughout the day, with the fifth brace showcasing a performance that would carry through to the top placement.

The winning run was on courses 11-12, drawn for Tupelo Honey, a female setter owned and handled by Bob Wheelock. She had a big race from the blast of Bob's whistle, showing an enthusiastic and strong run, handling to the front easily. Bertie's bold casts for more cover rewarded her at 40 when her bell was last heard deep on the left, near the end of course 11. With the judge in-tow, Bob found Bertie after a couple minute search with a nice grouse pinned. She maintained good manners and steadiness with the flush and shot. All in order, she continued on to finish strong, to the front and still searching in the scrub oaks just past the beginning of course 12.

The runner-up came from the first brace of Day Two. Pine Straw Fatbottom Girl, handled by Dale Ash, drew course 1-2. This female setter utilized all of her course and took advantage of the cooler

temperatures of the early morning. She ran with lots of energy and determination. She required minimal handling and was always to the front. Her bell stopped at 36 midway through course 2, just on the left of the path. With a nice grouse find, she was on to the aspen cut of the course. Fatbottom Girl added a woodcock find to run, finishing strong and spirited.

The derby stake was on Sunday and showcased the great management of the Gladwin grounds, providing an exciting display of training and development as dogs made contact with grouse and woodcock on every course.

Mia Star, a female setter handled by Steve McKalko, took the top prize with a solid run and a grouse find at 25 on course 6. Second place went to Archie, a male setter handled by Mike Brown, with two



Judges Robert Ecker and Scott Forman.

woodcocks at 5 and another woodcock find at 18 on course 9. Third place went to Breeze, a female setter handled by Chris Wasserman, with her grouse find at 18 on course 5.

The puppy stake is always a joy to watch the future potential of young dogs. No one was disappointed this weekend with a lively group of puppies and a new course to challenge them and their handlers. Out of nine entries, three came out on top. First place went to Sunny, a pointer female handled by Chris Wasserman; second went to Salute, a setter male handled by Gary Vitale; and third place went to Pinyon, a pointer female handled by Sarah Gomes.

Congratulations to all the winners; your hard work and dedication to this sport have paid off. Keep it up!

Big thanks to everyone who entered dogs, walked braces, moved cars, and provided meals, support, and encouragement; it is always greatly appreciated and keeps this sport going strong year after year. A gracious thank you goes to Purina for all their continued support in all field trial events.

Meredith, Mich., September 29

Judges: Robert Ecker and Scott Forman  
REGION 13 AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING  
DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]  
- 6 Pointers, 21 Setters, and 1 Brittany

Winner-TUPELO HONEY, 1681583, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Out of the Shadows. Bob & Diane Wheelock, owners; Bob Wheelock, handler.  
Runner-Up-PINE STRAW FATBOTTOM GIRL, 1692898, setter female, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-Pine Straw Sweet Tea. Dale Ash & Reeves, owners; Dale Ash, handler.

Judges: Abraham Downer and Marc Dozeman  
AMATEUR PUPPY - 2 Pointers and 7 Setters

1st-CREEKSIDE'S SUNSHINE, 1704976, pointer female, by Creekside's Riptide-Creekside's April Fools. Chris Wasserman, owner and handler.  
2d-VITALI GROUSERINGER SALUTE, 1705007, setter male, by Emert's Grouse Ringer T-Emert's Sho Me Patty. Gary Vitale, owner and handler.  
3d-CAL PEAK MATTER OF OPINYON, 1705501, pointer female, by Double Deuce Miles-Sandland Dolly P. Sarah Gomes, owner and handler.

Judges: Christy Forman and Sean McKelop  
AMATEUR DERBY - 1 Pointer and 11 Setters

1st-MIA STAR, 1702751, setter female, by Windstar-Hometown Queen. George Najor, owner; Steve McKalko, handler.  
2d-ROUGE RIVER PIG PEN, 1702926, setter male, by Chip's Charlie Brown-Rouge River Wing Nut. Michael J. Brown, owner and handler.  
3d-CREEKSIDE'S AUTUMN BREEZE, 1701601, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Meredith Grade Mae. Chris Wasserman, owner and handler.



Amateur Puppy Winners (l-r): Creekside's Sunshine and Chris Wasserman, Abraham Downer (judge), Vitale's Grouseringer Salute with Gary Vitale, and Cal Peak Matter of Opinyon with Sarah Gomes.



Winning Championship Handlers: Dale Ash and Bob Wheelock.



Amateur Derby Winners (l-r): Christy Forman (judge), Steve McKalko with Mia Star, George Najor, Mike Brown with Rouge River Pig Pen, Sean McKellop (judge), and Chris Wasserman with Creekside's Autumn Breeze.

## ABHA CENTRAL REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

*The Treasure Chest Named Champion; Hirollins Gone and Doneit, Runner-Up*

By Ronnie Rogers | Berea, Kentucky | October 5, 2023

The ABHA Central Regional Championship and companion stakes kicked off at the Central Kentucky WMA near Berea, Kentucky, on October 5. First to the line were the horseback all-age dogs. Besting the field was Joe and Brittany Hopkins' male setter, Seven of Diamonds, handled by Joe. Capturing second and third place was Ed Stevens with his female pointers, Rattle Snake's China Doll and R S Shiney Penney, respectively.

Next up were the horseback derbies. Emerging to the top of the pack was C. W. and Patty Moore's female pointer, Pretty In Pink, under the whistle of Justin Crook. Justin also garnered second place honors with female pointer Prince's Rebel Queen for owner John Prince. Rounding out the placements was female setter Shepherd's Blackfoot Jane, owned and handled by Ronnie Rogers.

By the time the horseback shooting dogs came to the line, temps had crept up near 80, and combined with already dry course conditions, bird work was put at a premium. Nevertheless, Justin Crook's pointers fresh off summer camp in Nebraska showed grit, capturing all three placements in this 12-dog stake.

Fortunately for the championship contenders, Thursday night brought much-needed rain to the area. In addition to the rain, temps were much more manageable Friday through Sunday. Forty-three champion title hopefuls came to the line over the next three days with handlers from as far away as Florida. We were fortunate to have professional trainers Justin Crook, Tony Bingham, and Sam Ridings enter their strings; we appreciate their support.

Long-time field trialer and Kentucky



ABHA Central Regional Championship Winners (l-r): Barry Stumbo (judge), Ronnie Rogers (judge), Gary Vitale, Tony Bingham with Hirollins Gone and Doneit, J. D. Waters, Daphne Rogers, Mike Fox, Cliff Monroe with The Treasure Chest, Scott Luther, Justin Crook, and Brian Stockrahm.

Field Trial Association fixture Barry Stumbo of Versailles, Kentucky, came out and judged for us. ABHA President and Trial Chair Ronnie Rogers stepped up to judge after losing a judge the morning of the championship due to a family emergency. Ronnie was fresh off five days of judging the National Open Pheasant Shooting Dog Championship in Ohio. We appreciate both our judges' dedication to this trial and the sport as a whole.

The clear winner was a liver and white male pointer, The Treasure Chest, owned and handled by Cliff Monroe of Mooresboro, North Carolina. Chess laid down a strong performance boasting six finds during his hour bid, handling well for Cliff running a deliberate forward race adapting well to the changing course. Chess placed second on these grounds two weeks prior in the Plain Fields Bird Dog

Club's 20-entry open shooting dog stake. As a second-year shooting dog, we hope to see great things from this dog in years to come.

Runner-up honors were not so easily decided. Ronnie Rogers said in 40 years of judging, it was one of the most difficult decisions he's made. The two dogs in consideration were Irish setter female Foxy Lady Sadie (Fox) and pointer male Hirollins Gone and Doneit (Bingham). Sadie ran the final day of the championship, finishing her hour with five finds and a stop to flush. Likewise, Gunner had five finds running at the end of the day Saturday. In the end, it came down to a slightly more concise ground effort that gave the nod to the pointer. Gunner is owned by Warren Parrot of Scranton, South Carolina, and was handled by Tony Bingham. Gunner has had an illustrious career, this making

for his 10th title.

Other performances of note to the judges were Lincoln County Jack (Bingham), Hirollins B K Bulletproof (Bingham), Good Reason Farkleberry (Elvin), and Tenace Franklin (Isenberg).

Due to limited time, the walking derbies were run on a separate course simultaneously with the championship. Daphne Rogers and Scott Luther were assigned to the task of judging. Emerging to the top of the pack was Justin Crook's female pointer, Sugar. James Kleve of Outcast Kennels earned second and third place with well-built setters owned by Terry Boatright. Setter male Boatrights Iron Eagle earned second, and setter female Boatrights Morning Star captured third. You can always count on Terry and James to turn loose some high-class young dogs.

The walking puppies saw Daphne Rogers and Scott Luther returning to the saddle. First place was Prince's Rebel Queen, handled by Justin Crook. In second was Boatright's Audubon Outcast, owned and handled by Terry Boatright. In third was Pretty In Pink, handled by Justin Crook.

With any event like this, there are always more people to thank than I will ever remember. First and foremost, I would like to thank Ronnie and Daphne Rogers,

and the rest of the Tennessee Valley field trial crew. Daphne, with help from Donna Boatright and Dee Stevens, provided meals for all participants on all four days of the trials. SportDOG and Valu-Pak have been constant supporters of the ABHA, and we are privileged to have their support.

**Berea, Ky., October 5 – One Course**  
**Judges: William R. (Ronnie) Rogers and Barry Stumbo**  
**ABHA CENTRAL REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**[One-Hour Heats] – 28 Pointers, 13 Setters,**  
**and 2 Irish Setters**

*Winner-THE TREASURE CHEST, 1692516, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Legacy's Pride-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Cliff Monroe, owner and handler.*  
*Runner-Up-HIROLLINS GONE AND DONEIT, 1679825, pointer male, by Fastforward's B K Gunner-Littlewing B K Tia. Warren Parrott, owner; Tony Bingham, handler.*

**Judges: Scott Luther and Daphne Rogers**  
**ABHA OPEN DERBY – 3 Pointers and 2 Setters**

*1st-SWEETNESS, unreg., pointer female, breeding not given. John Gaines, owner; Justin Crook, handler.*  
*2d-BOATRIGTHS IRON EAGLE, 1700325, setter male, by Woodville's Yukon Cornelius-Outcast Starbreeze. Terry W. Boatright, owner; James Klencoe, handler.*  
*3d-BOATRIGTHS MORNING STAR, 1700324, setter female, by Woodville's Yukon Cornelius-Outcast Starbreeze. Terry W. Boatright, owner; James Klencoe, handler.*

**ABHA OPEN PUPPY – 6 Pointers and 4 Setters**

*1st-PRINCE'S REBEL QUEEN, unreg., pointer female, breeding not given. John Prince, owner and handler.*  
*2d-BOATRIGTH'S AUDUBON OUTCAST, 1705038, setter female, by Audubon Americus-Circle B Burning Stardust. Terry W. Boatright, owner and handler.*  
*3d-PRETTY IN PINK, unreg., pointer female, breeding not given. C. W. Moore, owner; Justin Crook, handler.*

**Judges: Terry Boatright and Adam Thomas**  
**ABHA OPEN ALL-AGE – 4 Pointers and 3 Setters**  
*1st-SEVEN OF DIAMONDS, 1682461, setter male, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-Diamond's Blue Girl. Joseph & Brittany Hopkins, owners; Joseph Hopkins, handler.*  
*2d-RATTLE SNAKE'S CHINA DOLL, 1691706, pointer female, by Hackberry's Ice Patch-Hackberry's Oakley Ice. Rattle Snake Creek Kennel, owner; Ed Stevens, handler.*  
*3d-R S SHINEY PENNEY, 1694807, pointer female, by Valiant-Reed's Winter Spirit. Ed & Dee Stevens & Rattle Snake Creek Kennel; Ed Stevens, handler.*

**Judges: Daphne Rogers and Adam Thomas**  
**ABHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG**  
**– 10 Pointers and 2 Setters**

*1st-CHELSEA'S THUNDERSTRUCK, 1697295, pointer male, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Double Wild. Brad Sadler, owner; Justin Crook, handler.*  
*2d-TWO SEAMER, 1688946, pointer male, by Rock Acre Shortstop-Frozen Desert Blizzard. Colby Tackett, owner; Justin Crook, handler.*  
*3d-UNFINISHED BUSINESS, 1665852, pointer male, by Unabridged-Momo's Rock Solid. John D. Gaines, owner; Justin Crook, handler.*

**Judges: Terry Boatright and Adam Thomas**  
**ABHA OPEN DERBY – 5 Pointers and 2 Setters**

*1st-PRETTY IN PINK, unreg., pointer female, breeding not given. C. W. Moore, owner; Justin Crook, handler.*  
*2d-PRINCE'S REBEL QUEEN, unreg., pointer female, breeding not given. John Prince, owner and handler.*  
*3d-SHEPHERD'S BLACKFOOT JANE, 1701280, setter female, by Daphne's Gage-Katlyn's Jan. William R. Rogers, owner and handler.*

## NORTH MISSOURI FIELD TRIAL CLUB

### Horseback Trial

By Kevin Western | Grovespring, Missouri | October 6, 2023

The North Missouri Field Trial Association hosted a weekend horseback field trial on October 6-7 at the Sportsmen's Grounds near Grovespring, Missouri. The stakes were both open and amateur. We were pleased to see some new faces as well as some familiar faces at our trial. The weather cooperated, and the grounds were in good shape to really show the dogs off. We want to thank all who participated, and a big thank you to Danny Draffen, Steve Auxier, and Tim Penn for sitting in the judges' saddles and giving the dogs their full attention. We also want to thank Jack Glover for helping out with dog wagon duties and early morning breakfast duties, as well as Tony King for his all-around help with the trial.

We would like to thank Purina Pro Plan



Amateur All-Age Winners (l-r): Joe Worsham with Bocomo Dutchman. (Back row): Danny Draffen (judge), Jay Lewis, Jace Lewis, Tony King, Tim Penn (judge), and Jack Glover.

for helping sponsor this event. Purina does so much for our sport, and we really appreciate their sponsorship. It is the work and participation of all that help make up a great event. The participation and

dedication of the good folks who come to these trials make all the hard work worthwhile.

**Grovespring, Mo., October 6**  
**Judges: Danny Draffen and Tim Penn**  
**AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats] – 10 Pointers**  
*1st-BOCOMO DUTCHMAN, 1691795, male, by Westfall's Black Cloud-Bocomo Miss Molly. Jay Lewis, owner and handler.*

**OPEN DERBY – 7 Pointers**  
*1st-WILD COVEY SUNDIAL, 1701529, male, by Miller's Speed Dial-Wild Covey Jackie. Brad Calkins, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.*  
*2d-QUAIL WOODS PINE, 1701043, male, by Touch's Fire Away-Wynona's Valiant Rosietta. Gregory Adams, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.*  
*3d-WILD COVEY DERECHO, 1701530, female, by Miller's Speed Dial-Wild Covey Jackie. Tony King, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.*

Visit [www.americanfield.com](http://www.americanfield.com) for more news!



**Judges: Steven Auxier and Danny Draffen**

**AMATEUR DERBY – 5 Pointers and 1 Setter**

*1st-WILD COVEY DERECHO, 1701530, pointer female, by Miller's Speed Dial-Wild Covey Jackie. Tony King, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.*

*2d-PENROSA FORBIDDEN EVE, 1703804, setter female, by Penrosa Hidncash-Shamrock's Tish. Tim Penn, owner and handler.*

*3d-WORSHAM'S SUPERTRAMP, 1705871, pointer male, by Lester's Sunny Hill Jo-Dialing Up Sugar. Joe Worsham, owner and handler.*



Open Derby Winners (l-r): Lisa and Andy Daugherty with Wild Covey Sundial, Jace Lewis, and Tony King with Wild Covey Derecho. (Back row): Jack Glover, Jim Santerelli, Steven Auxier, Danny Draffen (judge), Tim Penn (judge), and Joe Worsham. [Not pictured: Quail Woods Pine, handled by Randy Anderson.]



Amateur Derby Winners (l-r): Tony King with Wild Covey Derecho, Tim Penn with Penrosa Forbidden Eve, and Jace Lewis with Worsham's Supertramp. (Back row): Jack Glover, Steve Auxier (judge), Danny Draffen (judge), and Joe Worsham.

## REGION 19 (AFTCA) AMATEUR ALL-AGE CLASSIC

*Erin's Southern Comfort Wins At Namekagon Barrens Grounds*

By Todd Manns | Danbury, Wisconsin | October 9, 2023

The Northwest Field Trial Club hosted the AFTCA Region 19 All-Age trial at the beautiful Namekagon Barrens. We had 24 dogs entered and had a total of 22 dogs run. It's always enjoyable to meet new handlers as well as see the veterans of the Barrens. The weather was very cooperative, with highs in the 50s and lows in the 40s at night. We want to thank all who attended and a special thank you to Jerry Moisson and Sean Anderson for sitting in the judges' saddles and giving the dogs their full attention. In addition to donating their time, they also generously donated all their expenses and fees to the Namekagon Barrens grounds fund. This says a lot about their dedication to the sport and their love and appreciation of this amazing wild bird venue. Don Dack also has our sincere appreciation for his outstanding handling of the dog wagon duties. We would also like to thank our valued and generous sponsors, Purina Pro Plan and SportDOG.

As most know, this is one of the few championship wild bird venues in the country. We are fortunate to have a healthy Sharptail population spread over three one-hour courses. Unfortunately, in late fall, it can be a challenge to get wild birds to hold for a point that allows the handlers to flush in front of their dogs. We had a good number of bird contacts, but they were just not able to get a championship performance that allowed the judges to see the handlers flush over the dogs. At this year's running, a champion and runner-up



Region 9 Amateur All-Age Classic Winners (front, l-r): Scott Jordan with Erin's Doc Holliday, Dave Moore with Cold Creek Single Malt, and Sean Patrick Derrig with Erin's Southern Comfort. (Behind): Krysten Moisson, Jerry Moisson (judge), Todd Manns, Ian MacTavish, Dean Reinke, and Sean Anderson (judge).

could not be named, and the stake reverted to a classic based on quality all-age runs.

**Danbury, Wis., October 9**

**Judges: Sean Anderson and Jerry Moisson**

**REGION 19 AMATEUR ALL-AGE CLASSIC**

**[One-Hour Heats] – 22 Pointers and 2 Setters**

*1st-ERIN'S SOUTHERN COMFORT, 1693833, pointer male, by Erin's Lone Star Law-Erin's Irresistible Jane. Sean & Sean Patrick Derrig, owners; Sean Patrick Derrig, handler.*

*2d-COLD CREEK SINGLE MALT, 1697085, pointer male, by Dominator's Bull Market Bud-Erin's Lullaby. Ian MacTavish, owner and handler.*

*3d-ERIN'S DOC HOLLIDAY, 1704304, pointer male, by Erin's Lone Star Law-Erin's Little Lullaby. Jarrett Bell, owner and handler.*

Consistent advertising can make your kennel or business a household name!

Advertise now in the UKC® Field!

## NORTHEASTERN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

*Hirollins Bad Boy Wins Title; Waybetter Rebel, Runner-Up*

By Tom Gates | East Windsor, Connecticut | October 9, 2023



Northeastern Open Championship Winners (front, l-r): Matt Basilone with Hirollins Bad Boy, Craig Santos and wife with Waybetter Rebel, and Pete LaBella. (Behind): Chris Catanzarite (judge), Tom Gates, Ed McKay, Mike Tracy, Kevin Stuart (judge), and Gene Casale.

The winning pointer male duo was braced together Wednesday morning, October 11. It was by far one of the most thrilling braces ever run at Dr. John Flaherty Field Trial Area in East Windsor, Connecticut.

Hirollins Bad Boy is owned by Ed and Megan McKay of Wall, New Jersey, and was handled by popular professional Matt Basilone. The 3½-year-old white and liver pointer male was a sight to behold.

Waybetter Rebel is co-owned by Muriel Primm and Allen Linder. The classy black and white 3½-year-old pointer male was handled by our good friend Mike Tracy. Really the kind of dog that you want to take home with you!

Braced together, they were loosed in the ninth brace on Wednesday morning. It was quite evident, right from the breakaway, that this brace was something special! Their ground race was something to behold. High-cracking tails and an abundance of speed had the duo out of sight in a minute. Bad Boy on the right edge and Rebel on the left behind the pond saw Bad Boy scoring the first find with a single. Boy was high and tight, motionless at shot as Rebel backed from 30 feet away. In the back area, Rebel was found standing a single at Fox Hill. Very impressive pointing style! Perfect at flush. At the Tobacco Barn, Bad Boy had the find with Rebel backing. This looked like a Herb Booth or John Donaldson painting! Wow!

Up toward the clubhouse, Rebel was

found standing off to the right edge. A covey of quail was flushed for the pretty pointing dog. All in good order. Out to the Dearborn property, Rebel carded another sizable covey find. It was more than thrilling to see birds lift over the head of this handsome pointer – who didn't move a muscle – staying perfectly high and tight! Bad Boy traded ends at the back corner with a pair of bobwhites taking wing at shot. These dogs didn't let up one bit but just got bigger and better as time went on! Always taking an edge or seeking great objectives, both dogs exhibited a fantastic style running. Bad Boy scored his fourth find near time before taking the left edge at the end. Rebel was a driving dot on the edge at time. Awesome brace!

I must take a minute here to commend these two handlers. There's a huge difference between running a dog and showing a dog. In today's world, many handlers and judges don't know the difference. These men are as good as they get as professionals. There was no 'push and pull' at this event. These men exhibited a huge amount of respect and professionalism for each other, complementing each other's moves. Also, it was evident that these two dogs were 'in tune' with Mike and Matt. They looked as if they were having a good time, having fun. Watch how a dog flows with the handler's horse or how the dog reacts to handler after a find. This was special, right to the point where Rebel jumped up on Mike at pick-up and licked his face. I enjoyed watching these two men and these

two dogs. Great job. Thank you both!

The judges named two dogs for Honorable Mention that were close to the winners. Southpoint's Hog Wild, a pointer male, who was handled by Mike Tracy and owned by Mark Janier (who rode every brace), was awesome. Hog Wild tallied four exceptional finds and a very competitive race. R Q's Saddle in the 14th brace impressed everyone for Jeanette Tracy. His three finds, and stellar ground race made him a top contender.

### **The Field Trial**

The 65th renewal of this prestigious championship was staged October 9-12, at the popular Dr. John Flaherty Field Trial Area in East Windsor, Connecticut. Gene Casale Jr. again chaired the event. Gene has run this trial for more than 30 years. His attention to detail and dedication to the running has greatly elevated the stature of the Purina-sponsored event.

Judges for this year's renewal were Kevin Stuart of Schenectady, New York, and Chris Catanzarite of Scenery Hill, Pennsylvania. I have run dogs and judged many championships with Kevin since the mid-1970s. There is not a more dedicated or qualified judge. Chris needs no introduction. He is also a tenured championship-caliber judge with many titles to his credit. We wish Chris good luck with his champion, Backcountry Bruiser, at the National Amateur All-Age Invitational! Thank you both. The decisions were well made and applauded by all in attendance.

The Club would like to thank Mike Tracy, Matt Basilone, and Jeanette Tracy for their entry and continued support of the trial. Missing this year was our old friend, George Tracy, of Glenville, Pennsylvania, due to a medical issue. I cannot remember a year since the early 1970s that George has not had dogs in this championship. I believe George has won this event 20 times and earned over 28 runner-up titles!

This championship has always been known for its professionally detailed structure and famous Handlers' Dinners. Working with Dick Frawley, president of the Dr. John Flaherty Field Trial Association, and Anne Kilpatrick of Connecticut DEEP, Gene Casale labors all year with the help of David O'Brien to ensure that the grounds are perfect. This year was outstanding! The well-planned mowing, culvert replacements,

and clubhouse work must be applauded. In the 50-plus years I have been running dogs at this venue, I have never seen it as perfect as this fall. Thank you to the State of Connecticut DEEP and all the Flaherty Association club members for a job well done!

John Olfson and Anna (Casale) LaRose were out every brace to help with bird planting. Mark Janier, Kevin Joyce, Craig Santos, Gary Tavares, Tony Forte, Dick Frawley, David O'Brien, and Pete La Bella were in attendance, lending a hand when needed. Thank you all!

Purina has sponsored the Northeastern Championship for as long as I can remember, which is over four decades! Greg Blair of Purina is a very knowledgeable dog man who provides a huge amount of assistance and support to this championship. A great man and a great dog food! Purina is the choice of everyone that I know in New England. Thank you again, Greg!

Even though retired, Sue Way of Manchester, Connecticut, caters breakfast and lunch for this event every day and every year. For over 25 years, Sue has supported the Northeastern. Thanks again, Sue! "Chef" Tony Forte called me in June after recovering from a debilitating fall to proclaim that he was again planning an Italian Handlers' Dinner for this event. With more than 40 years of cooking for the New England field trial fraternity, the 84-year-old outdid himself this year with a generous dinner of sausage, onion and peppers, chicken parmesan, meatballs, ziti, salad, and all the fixins' on Tuesday night. Wow, what a great meal. Thank you, Tony!

Gene Casales's wife, Pam, presented a fantastic fried chicken dinner Wednesday night. To top that, she served leftovers and pizza after the running on Thursday. Thank you, Pam!

### **The Running**

Away at 8:11 on Tuesday morning, the coveted event saw perfect New England fall weather. Sunny and temperatures in the 40s and 50s prevailed all day.

Brace No. 1: Trumped (PM/M. Tracy) with Smoke N Mirrors (PF/M. Basilone). Off to a hard-driving start, Trumped was found standing with Smoke stylishly backing. Smoke carded a single midway with good manners. This was the only bird work for the two pointers.

Brace No. 2: Hillhavyn's Wild Child (PF/J. Tracy) with Raag's Rich and Rare (PM/M. Tracy). The two stylish pointers were off to a very competitive start. This became a foot race, and neither dog was seen again under contention.



"Chef" Tony Forte

Brace No. 3: Miller's High Heat Index (PM/M. Tracy) with Limbsmoke Urban Lullaby (PF/M. Basilone). This hard-charging duo was exciting to watch. On the right, Lullaby was found standing a single with Index backing. Rolls reversed at Fox Hill; Index logged the find with Lullaby backing from 25 feet away. Nice job. Index scored a single again out on the Dearborn corner. Both dogs finished driving on an edge.

Brace No. 4: Pine Straw Hot Chocolate (ESF/J. Tracy) with Miller's Extreme Heat (PF/M. Tracy). Loosed at 1:30 after lunch, the pointer female brace went bird hunting! Heat scored first with a stylish find on a single. Five divided finds were then recorded with dogs high and tight. Chocolate then logged a covey at time.

Brace No. 5: Jolene Jolene (PF/M. Tracy) with Island Fantasy (ESM/M. Basilone). These two looked fantastic off the breakaway but got bigger and bigger, eventually being lost.

Brace No. 6: Miller's Strolling For Gold (PF/M. Tracy) with Steel Valley Raven (PF/J. Tracy). Gold was a powerful running dog, almost being lost on two occasions. Raven was found standing off course behind the first pond, but birds could not be produced. Attacking the course, Raven scored three picture-perfect singles before a nice finish.

Brace No. 7: Harbor City Sure Shot (PF/M. Basilone) with Miller's Miss Congeniality (PF/M. Tracy). The first brace away on a sunny Wednesday morning at 8:15 under crisp cool skies, although Jeanette Tracy had reported a brief rain shower an hour before. I had promised sunny, clear skies all week! These two were intent, anxious, and deliberate on the ground. Shot logged a nonproductive off-course behind the pond. Congeniality stood a single in good fashion on the right of the road. She was found standing, a covey near Fox Hill with Shot recording a

fashionable back. Congeniality was again found standing at the top of the hill, but no birds could be produced. She scored another single five minutes later with all in order. Congeniality logged a nice quail covey going into the Dearborn property, and Shot had a classy quail find in the back of the Dearborn property, then finished far to the front.

Brace No. 8: Iron Bull (PM/M. Tracy) with Steel City Avenger (PM/J. Tracy). A good match for each other, these pointers were powerful and aggressive going. Iron Bull was fast and purposeful on the ground. His only find was near Fox Hill with perfect style and manners. Avenger had an absence after the breakaway but managed to get to the front. He scored a small covey while looking like a picture on point!

Brace No. 9: This brace has been covered.

Brace No. 10: Pine Straw Sweet Tea (ESF/J. Tracy) with Faithful (PF/M. Tracy). An eye-catching brace of pointer females was off at 1:23 after lunch. Sweet Tea took the lead with a stylish single find on the right. At Fox Hill, Faithful was found standing with Sweet Tea backing. Each dog had a find in the Tobacco Barn area with perfect manners. Sweet Tea scored twice more with impressive finds before finishing hard on the left edge.

Brace No. 11: Erin's Big Casino (ESM/M. Tracy) with Fort River's Lucky Charm (ESM/M. Tracy). These two setter males were big-going and a handful at times. Big Casino scored first with a fine covey on the right. Lucky Charm was found standing a single in the backside near Fox Hill. Big Casino added a second covey find out to the Dearborn property and finished strong. Lucky Charm also added a covey near the end with a powerful driving race.

Brace No. 12: The Secret (PF/J. Tracy) with Miller's Automatic Upgrade (PM/M. Tracy). The Secret had a huge, powerful opening cast for Jeanette and was found well to the front with a small covey. Upgrade was on fire, racing forward and swapping ends near Fox Hill for a single. He added a very nice pair of bobwhites at the top of the hill near the Tobacco Barn site.

Brace No. 13: Red Alert Lane (PM/M. Basilone) with Miller's Upgraded Design (PM/M. Tracy). Breaking away under sunny but chilly skies at 8:10 on Thursday morning, these two pointer males were off like a rocket! Their races got bigger and bigger, with neither being found under contention.

Brace No. 14: Miller's Lock and Loaded

(PM/M. Tracy) with R Q's Saddle (PM/J. Tracy). Saddle was an exciting dog to watch. He was just incredible on the ground with an abundance of style running. Saddle was found standing an off-course single behind the pond on the left with a high head and on his tiptoes! Perfect at flush. Both dogs had a single at Fox Hill in good order. Saddle found a big covey near the corn at the Tobacco Barn, looking classy on point. Very nice find! Loaded traded ends out back in the Dearborn edge. A pair of bobwhites exploded out low at flush. Both dogs finished strong on the left edge.

Brace No. 15: Southpoint's Hog Wild (PM/M. Tracy) with Southern Shadows Rick (PM/M. Basilone). Hog Wild owner Mark Janier was in the gallery to see a very exciting performance by his handsome pointer. Hog Wild was found standing a covey on the right with more than adequate style. Wow! Nice running dog – he made

you look at him with his animated gait and high tail. Rick scored a single at Fox Hill with great pointing style. Hog Wild locked up on the Tobacco Barn covey. Nice find! He traded ends for an off-course single toward the clubhouse. Rick got the covey at the barway going into Dearborn. Aggressive and driving on the ground, Hog Wild scored again in the back of Dearborn on an elusive single. He finished just like he started – driving hard on an edge. Nice dog!

Brace No. 16: Miller's Heat Seeker (PM/M. Tracy). Bye-Dog. Scratched.

Brace No. 17: Miller's Southern Gossip (PF/M. Tracy). Bye-Dog. Ride this dog if you want to see a stellar ground race. What a nice dog! Gossip started very strong and finished the same way – running the edges and hunting the oak tree islands in fine form. She had one covey find at Fox Hill. With more bird work, this dog would have

been a contender.

Brace No. 18: Miller's Little Duce Coupe (PF/M. Tracy). Bye-Dog. Another nice running Tracy charge, Coupe found a sizable covey on the right. Nice style on point. A prolonged relocation at Fox Hill and the dog moved on. Her last find was at the Tobacco Barn, with a running single finally taking flight. Great edge running dog.

**East Windsor, Conn., October 9 – One Course  
Judges: Chris Catanzarite and Kevin Stuart  
NORTHEASTERN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP  
[One-Hour Heats] – 28 Pointers and 5 Setters**

*Winner-HIROLLINS BAD BOY, 1689634, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Hirollins Fancy Lady. Ed & Megan McKay, owners; Matt Basilone, handler.  
Runner-Up-WAYBETTER REBEL, 1689139, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Calico's Country Strong. Allen Linder, William & Muriel Primm, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.*

## YORK POINTER & SETTER CLUB

### *The Secret Wins Eisenhart Open Memorial; Gratitude Wins Tracy Amateur Memorial*

**By Ernie Saniga | Rossville, Pennsylvania | October 14, 2023**

The York Pointer & Setter Club held its fall trial October 14-15 at the York Club grounds near Wellsville, Pennsylvania. These grounds were purchased by the members of the club in the early '60s. Readers might recognize some of the names from those days: Gerald Tracy, Merv Eisenhart, and Gene Strausbaugh. The members bought the grounds and built a cinder block clubhouse. Gerald Tracy, a bricklayer before a dog trainer, laid the brick.

Merv Eisenhart was chairman from at least 1972 until a few years ago. I say 1972 since I ran my first dog here that year in the Amateur Shooting Dog stake. I hunted her all day on Saturday and ran her here on Sunday. Bill Primm ran his hunting dog, too. We finished with birdwork, fairly clean, we thought. Neither of us placed, but we got to see the best dogs of the day, all of which ran every weekend in half-hour stakes and collected titles during the week.

We rented horses to watch a few braces. That cost \$2 a brace. I remember seeing Ch. Sandyacres Frank, a great dog of that time or of this time for that matter. There were other very special ones, too.

The hook was set, as they say, and 51 years later, it is still set. When Merv died, Gene Strausbaugh's son Greg took over the helm of the club, and he ran this trial.



**Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (l-r): Bob Verderosa, Roger Boser with Gratitude, Bart Hastings, Ernie Saniga with Bella Bulli, Greg Strausbaugh, and Larry King with Bull Finch.**

Four stakes were run: Open Shooting Dog, Open Derby, Amateur Shooting Dog, and Amateur Derby.

The Open Shooting Dog was the first stake on Saturday, which was a cold day with steady rain. This reporter judged with Bart Hastings of lower Delaware, himself a veteran trialer. Bart judged all the stakes in this trial.

Mike and Jeanette Tracy ran all the dogs in the stake. Jeanette won the stake with The Secret, a pointer male owned by Lisa Pollock. Secret never left the front, swinging and hunting at the limits, perfectly in tune with his handler. He scored three times with high style and finished manners.

Mike Tracy won second with Hauser's

Hard Line. This pointer male duplicated The Secret's performance except a little rougher on the handle. He, too, had three finds, flawless in his manners.

Jeannette placed third with Steel Valley Raven. Raven ran a strong race as well, scoring three times, looking like a picture, and also pointed two dead birds.

Roger Dvorak joined Bart to judge the Open Derby. The setter, Stone Hill Mystical, won the stake with four finds, not completely finished but well along to go with a spirited race. The pointer, Ladywood's None Other, was second with a fast race and one good find. Jeanette handled both. Mike won third with Hollander's Drinkaby, which had two nice finds and a good forward race.

A cancellation had Greg Strausbaugh judging the amateur stakes with Bart. Roger Boser won the stake with his Irish setter Gratitude. The dog hunted every step, scoring 10 times in the last brace with a single unproductive. Bella Bulli and Bull Finch, pointer females run by this reporter, won second and third. Both had six finds and swinging races, Finch with a single unproductive. All three winners' birdwork was high, tight, and mannerly. Bob Verderosa's pointer Miller's Ginger Snapp won the Amateur Derby with a strong forward race and four finds, steady and

stylish on her game. Second went to Roger Boser's red setter Shotput, which had a fine race and a single find. Larry King's young pointer male, Umpteen Tries, was placed on his classy carriage and strong race.

**Rossville, Pa., October 14 – One Course  
Judges: Bart K. Hastings and Ernie Saniga  
MERV EISENHART MEMORIAL  
OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 12 Pointers**

1st-THE SECRET, 1686192, male, by Waybetter Rocky-Ladywood's Keepsake. Lisa Pollock & Great River Kennels, owners; Jeanette Tracy, handler.  
2d-HAUSER'S HARD LINE, 1702195, male, by Miller's Dialing In-Nemaha Snow Rebel. Sean & Debra Hauser, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.  
3d-STEEL VALLEY RAVEN, 1696173, female, by Waybetter Rocky-Steel City Karen. Lisa Pollock, Brian Sanchez, Ted Foust, owners; Jeanette Tracy, handler.

**Judges: Roger Dvorak and Bart Hastings  
OPEN DERBY – 7 Pointers and 2 Setters**  
1st-STONE HILL MYSTICAL, 1705110, setter female, by Erin's Big Casino-Teen Spirit. Paul Berdiner, owner; Jeanette Tracy, handler.  
2d-LADYWOOD'S NONE OTHER, 1705033, pointer female, by Waybetter Jay-Clarendon's Black Eyed Sue. Jeanette Tracy, owner and handler.  
3d-HOLLANDER'S DRINKABY, 1705283, pointer female, by Miller's High Heat Index-Osceola's Seminole Wind. Allen Linder, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

**Judges: Bart Hastings and Greg Strausbaugh  
GERALD TRACY MEMORIAL AMATEUR  
SHOOTING DOG – 10 Pointers and 2 Irish Setters**  
1st-GRATITUDE, 1676458, Irish setter male, by Come Back Cutter-Come Back Doodle. Roger Boser, owner and handler.  
2d-BELLA BULLI, 1674898, pointer female, by Bully Bragg-Bullerina. Ernie & Karen Saniga, owners.  
3d-BULL FINCH, 1686091, pointer female, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Bullerina. Ernie & Karen Saniga, owners.

**AMATEUR DERBY – 5 Pointers and 1 Irish Setter**  
1st-MILLER'S GINGER SNAPP, 1700354, pointer female, by Miller's Speed Dial-Rocky Hollow Ginger Snap. Robert Verderosa, owner and handler.  
2d-SHOTPUT, 1704405, Irish setter female, by Gratitude-Slingshot. Roger Boser, owner and handler.  
3d-UMPTREEN TRIES, 1702133, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Knight Hawk-Full Effect. L. J. & Casey King, owners.

## NORTHERN MICHIGAN COVER DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

*Dun Rovens Soozee Captures Title; Shady Hills Whiskey Bonfire Snatches Runner-up Honors*

By Tom Fruchey | Meredith, Michigan | October 17, 2023

The Beaverton Grouse Dog Club conducted the 14th running of the prestigious Northern Michigan Cover Dog Championship on the premier field trial grounds in Meredith, Michigan.

The trial started on Tuesday, October 17, and concluded on Sunday, October 22. Six-year-old Dun Rovens Soozee, owned by Chris Jaeger and handled by local pro Richard Hollister, captured the championship title. Close on the heels of the champion was 9-year-old setter male, Shady Hills Whiskey Bonfire, owned by Shady Hills Kennel and handled by New York pro Scott Forman who took home the runner-up laurels.

The Beaverton Club is comprised and organized of many longtime field trailers who put in tireless efforts all week to conduct a premium, well-run event. President Shane Haskins is capably assisted by directors Ken Moss, Bryan Wood, Harold Holmes, Tammy Chaffee, Jeff Sweet, Dennis Keysor, Tom and Wayne Fruchey with marshaling, seeing that cars are moved, and directing people to where they need to be. The Club took on the challenge of running an extra 30-minute Open Shooting Dog stake making it a little tougher to get all the dogs run by Sunday evening, but they accomplished it without a hitch.

Horses for the judges were provided by Rich and Jenny Hollister, and we were able to count on them to have the mounts ready to go on time and in the right place, which also helped in getting such a large trial



Northern Michigan Cover Dog Championship Winners (l-r): Rich Hollister with Dun Rovens Soozee, Chris Jaeger, and Dave Heavlin. (judge). (Center): Marlene and Wayne Fruchey (club founders), Bryan Wood, Scott Forman with Shady Hills Whiskey Bonfire, Bert Benschhof (judge), and Christy Forman.

completed. Dennis Keysor took over the new role as our coffee and donut provider and he did a fantastic job of making sure we were all filled with sweets and beverages during the early morning breaks. Our long-standing field trial chairman, Bryan Wood, made sure the dogs were to the line and ready to go when the judges called for them—another function that, if not done correctly, would leave us short on time come Sunday.

We were more than blessed to have two very fine gentlemen to judge the 64 entries of the Northern Michigan Cover Dog Championship. Bert Benschhof of Roseville, Minnesota, made the 12-hour

drive to Michigan to perform the task. Bert has judged many prestigious cover dog events, and his experience in the field qualifies him as one of the top officials of the game. He prefers to walk instead of riding a horse, which he did, logging 32 hours on the ground. The other half of the panel was David Heavlin of Grayling. He, too, has judged many grouse trial events and was so very attentive to all the entrants from the time they were loosed till they were put onto the lead. Many thanks go out to these two gentlemen for their selfless use of time to watch over a very large field of contenders and come to a very well-received decision.



Wolverine Derby Classic Winners (l-r): Bryan Wood, Bruce Minard, J. P. Jones with Hifives Rolling Stone, Jeff Sweet (judge), Rich Hollister with Grouse Feather Tilly, Chris Wasserman (judge), Marc Forman with Shady Hills Lefty, and Deb Nihart.

### The Winners

Dun Rovens Soozee broke away on course 1, the third brace, Thursday morning. She wasted no time getting to work, and at 10, handler Hollister heard her stop off to the left side of the course. Handler and judge found her standing after a short flushing effort. The handler called the flight of a grouse, and the judge concurred, shot was fired, all in order. Once released, you could tell Soozee was on a mission to find birds. She hunted hard and fast with each stride she took, and at 15, she made a deep cast to our right. Hollister could not hear her bell anymore, so handler and judge went out to look for her. As they were looking, the two got a little separated, and the handler finally spied Soozee standing; however, when he called point to the judge, the bird lifted and was not seen by the judge. Hollister shot for the dog's sake, collared her, and then moved on. Soozee sped away, and again at 30, her bell stopped off to our right. She was found in short order, and the handler put a beautiful woodcock to flight. The shot was made with perfect manners displayed by the dog.

Released once again at 34, she stopped to the left of the course but did not look too sure. Hollister made a short flushing attempt to no avail. Once back on course, she made a huge deep cast off to our left, well out of bell range. After a short while, the girl not returning, Hollister made the tough decision to go look for her, as by her absence, she must be standing somewhere. As luck would have it, her bracemate had went deep in the same direction, so both handlers went out in search of them. After a lengthy search, both dogs were found standing at about the 45-minute mark. A woodcock was flushed in front of both dogs, and the judges recorded it as a divided find. Both dogs were brought back to the course and released. At 53, Soozee's

bell stopped again to our left. Hollister went in to check and found her standing high and tight. A short flushing effort put a huge thunderbird into the air, shot was fired—all again with perfect manners. She was brought back to the course, released, and finished the hour still hunting, moving fast and furious to the front. This was truly a spectacular performance and well deserving of the championship title!

Shady Hills Whiskey Bonfire, handled by Scott Forman, broke away on Wednesday afternoon on courses 7 and 8. Whiskey is a very hard-driving setter and no stranger to the winners' circle. For a 9-year-old, he has not lost a step, runs hard and to the front, but shows where and when he is supposed to. Shortly after the breakaway at the 10-minute mark, he slammed into a beautiful point. Handler wasted no time in putting a pair of grouse to flight over this stand, with the veteran staying high and tight throughout the flush and shot! He continued driving hard and fast, and at 40, he was found standing again high and tall on a timberdoodle. The shot was fired at the flush, all in order. He finished the hour without further bird contacts but filled up his course with a hard-driving, far-reaching performance.

Meredith, Mich., October 17

Judges: Bert Benschhoff and Dave Heavlin  
NORTHERN MICHIGAN COVER DOG

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 22 Pointers,  
41 Setters and 1 Irish Setter

Winner-DUN ROVENS SOOZEE, 1682090, setter female, by Clary's Tekoa Sky Hawk-Dun Rovens Boofay. Chris Jaeger, owner; Richard Hollister, handler.

Runner-Up-SHADY HILLS WHISKEY BONFIRE, 1662697, setter male, by Shady Hills Billie Too-Shady Hills Beanie. Shady Hills Kennel, owner; Scott Forman, handler.

### Wolverine Derby Classic

Twenty-seven dogs competed over one and a half days of running. The weather was good, and the birds were plentiful. Eight dogs had clean bird work, making the final decision very difficult for our two judges, Jeff Sweet of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, and Chris Wasserman of Farwell.

First place was awarded to Hifives Rolling Stone, handled by professional Bruce Minard and owned by J. P. Jones. Stone is a classy pointer male who stayed to the front and hunted all the likely cover. The dog and handler were well in tune, with minimal handling needed to negotiate the course. Stone had a stylish broke woodcock find at the halfway point where he stood with a high head and poker-straight tail.



Open Shooting Dog Winners (l-r): Shane Haskin (judge), Rich Hollister with Back Creek Lucy, Brent Peters (judge), Tammy Chaffee with Meredith Grade Corky, Scott Chaffee, and Dr. Harold Holmes with Travel Alert.

Second place went to Grouse Feather Tilly, handled by Rich Hollister and owned by Curtis Coleman. Tilly is a hard-charging setter female who constantly sought out likely cover. She had two wild bird finds during her 30-minute brace.

Third place went to Shady Hills Lefty, handled by Marc Forman and owned by Deb Nihart. Lefty is a very nice pointer female who handled very well and stayed to the front on a very challenging course. Her determination was rewarded with a woodcock find at the 25-minute mark.

The Beaverton Grouse Dog Club would like to send out a special thank you to Purina for their continued support of the Michigan Grouse dog trials. Also, special thanks to all the owners, handlers, and spectators who came and enjoyed a very fine week of bird-dogging. The birds were plentiful, and the weather was wonderful for both man and beast. We hope to see you all next year.

Judges: Jeff Sweet and Chris Wasserman  
WOLVERINE DERBY CLASSIC  
– 5 Pointers and 23 Setters

1st-HIFIVES ROLLING STONE, 1701648, pointer male, by Titanium's Hammer-Hifive's Allisin. J. P. Jones, owner; Bruce Minard, handler.

2d-GROUSE FEATHER TILLY, 1703250, setter female, by Grouse Feather Hawk-GF Southern Belle. Custis Coleman Jr., owner; Richard Hollister, handler.

3d-SHADY HILLS LEFTY, 1703772, pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Shady Hills Zeena. Debra Nihart, owner; Marc Forman, handler.

Judges: Shane Haskin and Brent Peters  
OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 6 Pointers, 25 Setters,  
and 1 Irish Setter

1st-BACK CREEK LUCY, 1683067, setter female, by Peyton's Legacy Kip-Girl's Little Dixie. Steve Graham, owner; Richard Hollister, handler.

2d-MERIDITH GRADE CORKY, 1681353, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Call Me Maggie. Dennis Keysor, owner; Tammy Chaffee, handler.

3d-TRAVEL ALERT, 1665621, setter male, by Moss Meadow Traveler-Wild Katrun. Dr. Harold Holmes, owner and handler.

Need a copy of a previous field trial ad to updated?

Visit the calendar at [www.americanfield.com](http://www.americanfield.com) or email: [gsmith@ukcdogs.com](mailto:gsmith@ukcdogs.com)



## TAR HEEL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

*Steve Croy's Pointer, Haney's All In, Wins Crown*

By Dwight Smith | Hoffman, North Carolina | October 18, 2023

**H**aney's All In, a 3½-year-old white and orange pointer male owned by Steve Croy, was named the 2023 Tar Heel Open Champion by judges Whitley Stephenson and William Smith. He was handled by Mark McLean and scouted by Jerry Raynor. Steve Croy was on hand to see All In's performance. Steve Croy was accompanied by his twin brother Stacy.

Shadow's Lord Magic was named runner-up champion. He is owned by Carl Bowman and handled by Luke Eisenhart, scouted by Judd Carlton. Magic won the 2021 Tar Heel. The Bowman pointer is always a threat on the Hoffman grounds.

It is important to note that the Tar Heel Open Championship is the first leg of the Carolina All-Age and Derby Jamboree, which includes four national qualifying trials and two Open All-Age Derby stakes. So that gives Mark McLean a leg up on winning the \$5,000 extra prize money that goes to the handler that accumulates the most points based on the Purina Point system during the Jamboree's four all-age stakes and two derbies.

The Carolina All-Age and Derby Jamboree is the idea of Carl Owens. He has worked tirelessly on the project, has it well organized, and stirred up a lot of interest – a man of ideas, he is. He is a businessman from the Charleston, South Carolina area. He enjoys his two setters and loves spending time with his daughter.

The Tar Heel drew an entry of 43 pointers and setters, up from last year's entry by a few. There was one scratch.

Weather throughout the four days of running was typical of the Sandhills weather for mid-October. Rain came at the end of the third day, and most seasoned field trialers agree weather plays an important part in the hunt for quail and other game birds.

Speaking of quail brings up the question of the availability of quail for entries to find. Again, the quail release team, led by Hall of Famer John Ivester, did their job very well. More than enough game was found and pointed for a good field trial.

The Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds were in great condition for the first trial of the 2023-2024 season. The six-course venue is owned and maintained by the North Carolina Wildlife Commission, chaired by Monte Crump of nearby



The champion and runner-up with well-wishers (front, l-r): Haney's All In with Jerry Raynor, Hailey Moreland, Shadow's Lord Magic with Judd Carlton, and Luke Eisenhart. (Second row): Stephen Croy, Mark McLean, Stacey Croy, Whitley Stephenson (judge), John Atkinson, and Claudia McNamee. (Third row): William Smith (judge), Carl Owens, Tommy Brigham, and Gregg Robinson. (Top row): Alex Rickert, Gary Futch, and John Ivester.

Rockingham. There are plenty of stables and corrals for horses, kennels for dogs, and campsites for owners and handlers. A nice clubhouse is available along with other facilities needed by those staying on the grounds. Lee Crisco is the man on site who works for the Commission, and he is a perfect fit for the position he holds.

The Tar Heel Open Championship held a chicken bog on the third night of the trial, and Carl Owens hosted a Pee Dee-style barbecue on Saturday evening. Both dinners were excellent and well attended. John Atkinson's crew from nearby Florence, South Carolina, prepared the food. Monte Crump, as already stated, chairs the Wildlife Commission, and Steve Morris came to represent the Richmond County Tourism Board. The Tourism Board is one of the main supporters of the North Carolina Field Trial Association. The other supporter is Purina. Purina is a longtime supporter of the Tar Heel trials. What would we do without Purina's support?

John Ivester was the trial chairman. He had lots of help, including John Atkinson, President of the North Carolina Field Trial Association, Sammy and Nida Giddens, Bob Youngs, Robert Henry, and Ruthann Epp. The group has worked together for several years, and no stone for a better trial is left unturned. At least up to this point, everyone has shown the kind of sportsmanship one would like to encounter in field trials, and a large part of that credit belongs to those putting on the

championship.

It was a well-organized field trial. Greg Robinson drove the dog truck. He provided morning snacks, always on time for the beginning and ending of each brace. Barbara Youngs helped with the dog truck duties and keeping this reporter up to date.

Judges were William Smith and Whitley Stephenson. It is hard to imagine where two better-qualified judges could be found. Both are knowledgeable, alert, calm, good horsemen, and likable. William Smith was accompanied by his wife, Tommi. She was a great addition to the trial.

Domenick Muoio was in attendance to represent the UKC/American Field. He is a likable young man that fits right in with the field trialers. Muoio lives only a few miles from the Hoffman grounds.

The Tar Heel was a great trial and a good lead-off trial for the Carolina All-Age and Derby Jamboree experience.

### ***The Winners and Others***

Reporting any trial is a difficult job and a big responsibility. It is especially difficult when the reporter rides in a truck. In this reporter's opinion, all reporters should ride horseback, but that is hard on an 86-year-old's body, so this report was done from a truck. Hopefully, it is well received because I did the best I could.

Haney's All In drew the fifth brace on the first day of the championship. Clear skies and temperatures in the high 60s with

dry conditions on the ground prevailed.

All In's brace mate was K H Game Train, owned and handled by Scott Griffin. Both pointers soon adapted to the course, and about nine minutes later, Game Train was found pointing with All In backing. Griffin and McLean gathered everything up after the flush and sent the two pointers toward the open country along Derby Road and the bowling alley area.

At the 30-minute mark, McLean and Griffin pointed out the fast-moving pointers far ahead. All In reaching to the extreme limits of the course, but always to the front, it seemed. Probably the best way to describe All In's groundwork was that he never left the front, was nearly extreme in range, and, importantly, never came from behind during the hour. Game Train also applied himself well, to the front and at good range.

McLean rode to the top of a knoll and pointed out All In as the course entered the bowling alley country along Derby Road. Then, a few minutes later, at 46, Mark McLean rode to find the Steve Croy pointer on point. He had game, well located, directly in front. All in order at flush.

McLean and scout Jerry Raynor gathered everything up again and sent All In toward the bear trap country. His finish was strong, at extended range.

According to some sources, Haney's All In's performance had set the standard for the trial. He had an outstanding ground effect, and one find with game well located and the proper all-age manners.

Runner-up champion Shadow's Lord Magic ran in the 20th brace on the last day of the trial. Rain on the previous night had left the ground damp and temperatures cooler.

The 20th brace was probably the most



John Atkinson, Domenick Muoio, and John Ivester.

exciting brace of the championship, with both Shadow's Lord Magic and his brace mate, Southern Nation, rendering outstanding performances.

The brace began in the hill country before the bottoms below the clubhouse and ended past McGree's Castle. Shadow started with a find at the 10-minute mark, then an unproductive at 19. He followed up with a find at about the 46-minute mark. In the opinion of some, Magic's second find might have been the best find and bird work of the stake.

The Carl Bowman pointer's third find came just before the end of the hour, maybe at 58.

Magic had a strong race; he, too, was always to the far front, reaching through the heavy cover for more country. He impressed by always hunting.

Shadow's Lord Magic had three pieces of bird work, one unproductive and a good ground effort; maybe his ground effort wasn't to the extreme of that of Haney's All In.

#### **Several other entries impressed**

Southern Nation was braced with Shadow's Lord Magic. He had three finds and a good, strong race. Coming from behind one time might have cost him.

No Strings Attached had multiple finds plus an unproductive and impressed with his style and intensity plus a good, honest ground effort.

Knight Moon, handled by Luke Eisenhart, put everything together until the end of his hour. Moon scored two finds, a big race, but was out of pocket at the end of his hour. Then, found after time on point.

Game Train, braced with Haney's All In, impressed with a strong race and one piece of birdwork.

Touch's Gallatin Fire rendered a strong forward race without a lot of scouting. His bird work included two covey finds and an unproductive.

Erin's High Note's race included some good moves and was upfront. He, too, had little scouting and did most of it on his own.

Nighthawk's Rebel was the first entry drawn, and he kind of set the tempo of the championship. He had three finds on the first course and a barren stand. Eisenhart seemed to encourage him to reach more in the mile-long field, but he laid down something the other entries had to top.

Miller's Heat Advisory had an outstanding ground race but went birdless.

Overall, there were a lot of good performances, and most included exciting birdwork and groundwork.

Hoffman, N. C., October 18

Judges: William Smith and Whitley Stephenson  
TAR HEEL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 40 Pointers and 3 Setters

Winner-HANEY'S ALL IN, 1698756, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Steve Croy, owner; Mark McLean, handler.

Runner-Up-SHADOW'S LORD MAGIC, 1668301, pointer male, by In The Shadow-Hello Kitty. Carl Bowman, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

## — REGISTER PUREBRED DOGS —

Every breeder of purebred dogs should make sure that all litters are enrolled in the *FIELD DOG STUD BOOK* and should urge purchasers of puppies to register them at once.

FDSB litter enrollment assures authenticity of breeding; it sets up a permanent and always accessible record, and insures against any future accidents to the pedigree papers. Litter enrollment fee is only \$25.00 plus \$2.00 per puppy.

Registration of individual dogs assures that the dog's win and production records will be completely preserved. Fee for registration of an individual dog is just \$25.00. All that is required is an application form accompanied by a breeding certificate that has been filled in and signed by the owner of the dam.

The necessary forms are available upon request and may also be accessed at [www.americanfield.com](http://www.americanfield.com).

## NATIONAL RED SETTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

### *Gratitude Sweeps Open and Amateur Titles*

By Bonnie Hidalgo | Grovespring, Missouri | October 19, 2023

Gratitude put on amazing displays to capture both the Open and Amateur National Red Setter Championship titles! In the Open, he scored four perfect finds in a strong, forward race. As if that wasn't enough, Gratitude came back in the Amateur Championship with another great race and six flawless finds. Dr. Roger Boser of Seven Valleys, Pennsylvania, owns, trains, and handles this impressive multiple champion.

Firefly's Power Play was named runner-up in the Open Championship with a beautiful covey find and a powerful, forward race. He is owned by Bonnie and Dennis Hidalgo of Brighton, Colorado, and their grandson, Robbie Nesson of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. Dennis Hidalgo handled him.

Quantonas Reciprocal was runner-up in the Amateur Championship for her owner and handler, Kelli Aitken, and her husband, Clayton Thompson, of Box Elder, South Dakota. Reason ran an attractive, front-edge running race with one find, a stop to flush on a covey, and an unproductive.

The inaugural running of the Red Setter Walking Shooting Dog Classic, a one-hour stake, was handily won by Foxy Lady Sadie, owned and handled by Mike Fox of Patriot, Indiana. She ran a near-perfect race and scored two excellent finds.

Shotput won the Open Derby. This female is owned and handled by Roger Boser. She notched a well-polished find in her predominantly forward race. Firefly's Speed of Life was second for Dennis and Bonnie Hidalgo with one find. Zip Your Lip, owned and handled by Mark Chestnut of Jenks, Oklahoma, was third on race.

Sam Nutting of Indianola, Iowa, handled the winning Open Walking Derby, Cedar Creek Promise, which is co-owned by Sam with Ed Liermann, Palmyra, Wisconsin. She ran a very promising race. In second was Firefly's Speed of Life, who ran a forward pattern for his handler, Dennis Hidalgo.

The 2023 renewal of the National Red Setter Field Trial Club's National All-Age Championship trial was held on the popular Field Trial Sportsmen's Club venue at Grovespring, Missouri, beginning on October 19. It was great to be back after a three-year absence. The grounds were in beautiful shape, with good



National Red Setter Open Championship Winners (front, l-r): Don Beauchamp with Gratitude and Bonnie Hidalgo with Firefly's Power Play. (Standing): Kelli Aitken, Lynn Oxendine (judge), Roger Boser, Bruce Ludwig, Dennis Hidalgo, Chase Verdoorn, and Jay Lewis (judge).

feed plots along the edges and excellent grooming of the fields to make the courses flow nicely. The pre-release of many quail coveys in late September was quite successful, and there were numerous finds on them. Additionally, quail were planted daily in strategic places along all of the three one-hour courses. Our hats are off to the people who manage and caretake for this wonderful venue. Thanks especially to Sharleen Daugherty and directors Andy Daugherty, Bob Burchett, and Tony King for all they do.

The drawing was conducted by Milt and Wendy Schafer at their home in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on Sunday evening, October 15. The National Championship drew 13 dogs, while the Amateur Championship drew 15. The inaugural one-hour Red Setter Open Walking Shooting Dog Classic attracted a field of nine entries. In the Open Derby, six dogs were entered, and the Open Walking Derby drew four entries.

We were fortunate to obtain two highly qualified gentlemen as our judges for the entire trial, Lynn Oxendine of Neosho, Missouri, and Jay Lewis of Ashland, Missouri. They are both attentive judges with great personalities, which made the trial even more enjoyable. They set a good pace and kept to it consistently.

Lynn has been active as an amateur owner and handler for many years. He has competed and won many prestigious stakes, mainly on the amateur all-age circuit. Lynn is a sought-after judge who

has judged everything from weekend events to national qualifying all-age stakes. We appreciate his time and attention paid to our dogs.

Jay Lewis is a second-generation field trialer, raised in the sport and hooked on it early by his dad, Rich Lewis. Jay gives to the sport in many ways, hosting trials, handling his own dogs, scouting for others, and judging countless trials. Jay has won many amateur championships and had dogs invited to the Amateur Invitational. In addition to all of that, he helped this club get its Missouri field trial permit so we could buy and release quail. We were honored to have him judge for our event. Thanks again to Lynn and Jay for your decisions and the effort taken to select them carefully!

Without Purina as a trial sponsor, this would be a lesser event. The National Red Setter Club greatly appreciates everything that Purina and Greg Blair do for us. They provided financial support towards our ad, a Purina banquet for all to enjoy, and our awards expense. Purina also provides a generous contribution of dog food for the winners, which is a highly coveted prize. For our judges, Purina provided logo shirts, insulated beverage bottles, and hats. The majority of dogs entered in this trial are fueled by Purina Pro Plan Sport 30/20 dog food, which gives them a winning edge. Thank you, Purina and Greg Blair!

Garmin once again provided us with some of their finest collars with which

to award to our championship winners. The National Red Setter Field Trial Club greatly appreciates your continued support of our events. The collars were happily received by the winning handlers.

SportDOG and Jim Morehouse are great sponsors, always coming through with great collars for us to use as fundraisers. This year, SportDOG also contributed one of its training collars to the winning handler of our inaugural one-hour Walking Shooting Dog Classic. The National Red Setter Field Trial Club is grateful for SportDOG's support and for all the advice on product use that Jim Morehouse freely dispenses.

Milt Schafer and Dennis Hidalgo were the trials' co-chairmen; they organized a great event. Milt ordered birds, took the entries, conducted the drawing, and printed out running orders with the aid of his wife, Wendy. At the trial, both Milt and Dennis did the early morning plant from Milt's UTV. Milt then followed behind the gallery to replace birds that were pointed and flushed so that the afternoon dogs would have the same opportunities to find game. Dennis was field marshal when needed, helping the few people who were not familiar with the courses. It also helped to have judges who knew the courses. Don Beauchamp drove the dog wagon for the first three days and was a huge help. Your scribe filled out judges' books and kept the dog wagon stocked with cookies, coffee, water, Gatorade, and soda. The cold drinks went fast on the hot afternoons. Lunches were served daily in the clubhouse for a nominal fee.

During the Walking Classic, Dennis drove the dog wagon while Kelli Aitken Thompson drove the UTV, doing triple duty as bird planter, handler, Uber, and photographer. Clayton Thompson of Redbeard Outdoors YouTube fame recorded video on his Go-Pro during the entire trial at the request of Club President Dennis Hidalgo. Videos and photos taken by Clayton and Kelli will be edited into one video by Clayton and will be made available on his YouTube channel. The link will be shared on Facebook when the editing is complete, or people can search Redbeard Outdoors on YouTube. Please help Clayton out by becoming a subscriber to Redbeard Outdoors!

There were handlers and club members who hailed from Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Kansas, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Colorado. It was great to see everyone having a good time together. Handlers scouted for each other or shared their scouts. During the running of the braces, handlers could be heard pointing out each other's dogs. The

camaraderie and sportsmanship witnessed at this trial were refreshing.

Social activities every evening included dinner in the clubhouse after evening chores. On the eve of the trial, Dennis and Bonnie Hidalgo hosted the evening meal in honor of four-time champion Firefly's Power Play's win of the 2022 National Red Setter Championship. Everyone was invited. Dennis cooked a pesto pasta with a choice of Italian sausage or chicken. Kelli Aitken Thompson prepared her out-of-this-world triple berry cobbler and served it with ice cream for dessert. Linda Beauchamp, Bonnie, and Kelli worked on kitchen clean-up, which was followed by the Club's semi-annual board meeting.

On Thursday evening, the Red Setter Club served dinner for a nominal fee to a large and hungry crowd. Dennis made tacos with the choice of fried tortillas, softshell tortillas, or hard taco shells. There was a choice of beef or chicken, plus all the add-ons to make them great. Linda's peach cobbler and ice cream were a popular dessert. Linda, Bonnie, and Kelli batted clean-up.

The Purina Dinner was served on Friday night, as advertised. Prior to the dinner, Roger Boser hosted a social hour in honor of Gratitude's winning of the open championship earlier in the day. Dennis grilled pork chops to perfection and also baked chicken to give people a choice. Salad, baked potatoes, dinner rolls, and dessert rounded out the meal. Wendy Schafer and Linda Beauchamp made the salad and served as sous chefs for Dennis. We were all grateful to Purina for providing the fare.

Wendy Schafer served a Thanksgiving-style turkey dinner with all the trimmings on Saturday evening on behalf of the Club for a very reasonable fee. Linda Beauchamp assisted her. Dessert was one of Linda's specialties, a chocolate pudding, whipped cream, and graham cracker crust layered concoction. The meal was scrumptious, and dessert was a hit. The silent auction was in progress all evening and closed at 8:30 with scurrying bidders trying to outdo one another. It was a congenial affair.

### **National Red Setter Open Championship**

Judges Lynn Oxendine and Jay Lewis did not have any difficulty in choosing the winner of this stake; Gratitude made it obvious. The 2023 National Red Setter Champion, Gratitude, has been owned and expertly handled by Roger Boser for his entire career. He was bred by Joe Edwards and whelped on January 4, 2017, in a litter that was sired by Come Back Cutter. His dam was Come Back Doodle.

Gratitude first won this stake in the fall of 2021. Winning the 2023 stake made him a three-time champion.

Gratitude appeared in the fifth brace of the National Championship. He was released at the base of Apple Tree Hill, heading into Little Vine. Gratitude was fast and forward through the loop. At 17, point was called for him at the ditch; properly located birds were put up quickly for the stylish dog. Grady continued forward through Sycamore and pointed in the left corner of the cross row at 28. Birds were flushed readily for the mannerly red setter. Gratitude scored a beautiful find on Daugherty's ridge at 39; again, his birds were perfectly located, and his style and manners were superb. Boser was asked to show range and finish. Gratitude obliged, although he had one more find. His scout called point for him at 54, on the right edge, well beyond the barns. This was a covey of perhaps 30 birds; Grady was picturesque, and his demeanor perfect. Gratitude went on to show a strong forward finish. It was a thrilling hour to watch!

Firefly's Power Play was named runner-up in this stake. He was bred by Dennis and Bonnie Hidalgo and is owned by them and their grandson, Robbie Nesson. Power Play was whelped on September 18, 2015, in a litter that was sired by runner-up champion Flintstone; his dam was the 2011 Futurity winner, Firefly's Hot Tip. He was named Power Play, with the call name "Puck," because Robbie played youth hockey and now plays high school hockey as a senior. In his first summer, Puck spent time in Canada with Sean Kelly, who helped the young red setter become a wild bird dog. Since then, he has been trained exclusively by Dennis. Puck is currently a four-time champion with two runners-up to his credit.

Firefly's Power Play drew the seventh brace as a bye, the only one in the stake to run on Friday morning. He was forward down the right edge from the breakaway, showing a few times on the way to the rocky creek crossing. Power Play remained forward to the road crossing and into Davis bottom, where he pointed briefly at 26 but corrected on. Puck took the right edge of Davis all the way to the dry pond, where he crossed to the left edge and pointed with intensity at 33. A huge covey was flushed from the feed strip while he remained high and tight. Taken on, he went down the first cut, showing again in the Island Field. Firefly's Power Play gained momentum as the hour progressed and made short work of Horse Killer Hill. He was absent for a time but showed forward near the deer stand on Apple Tree hill. He finished to the front with fuel to burn.

## The Running

Cedar Creek MacArthur Ruby (Liermann) was braced with Come Back Delta Dawn (Aitken). Ruby was confused with having an unfamiliar handler, and it severely affected her performance. She had a natural tendency to go to the front, but her bewilderment kept her from staying there. Delta ran a good forward pattern, using the lines and the wind correctly. She went the hour without bird contact.

Wayward (Boser) with Just Raisin Cain (Chestnut) broke away at the top of Don Fox Hill. Wayward ran with a lot of snap and was predominantly forward. Wayward pointed at 42 on the Daugherty ridge; he was relocated and dropped out of sight. As we went past where he was last seen, a couple of birds flushed. Judge Oxendine looked down and spied him on point. Just then, a huge covey lifted in front of Wayward, with all in order. He pointed again at time, on a line west of the twin barns. The flush was unsuccessful, and time was called. Cain ran his lines nicely and was forward in pattern. He scored a nice find at 24, just out of Little Vine; his manners were good. Cain pointed at the cross row in Sycamore at 36, looking convincing, but no birds were found. His handler opted to pick up at 46.

Snowy River's Honest Abe (C. Verdoorn) and Firefly's Beeline (Hidalgo) were released into the Bull Pasture. Abe showed well on the ground, with intelligent moves. He pointed stylishly at 22, but it was barren. A second unproductive at 50 ended his bid. Bee ran a pretty race with a pleasant response to her handler. She was forward at good range and speed for the hour. She made a great move out of Climer's pasture, running far down Horse Corral bottom and then swinging up the hill to show in front. She pointed in the alley to Sycamore at 54, showing perfect manners on a single. Firefly's Beeline finished going away beyond the double gates.

Red Bird's The Fifth Element (Aitken) and Cedar Creek Sixgun (Liermann). The former made some good moves but broke them off prematurely. He was up at 34 when heat became a factor. Sixgun was fast and mostly forward. Neither dog pointed game this hour.

Gratitude (Boser) and Cedar Creek Anthem (Liermann) began at the base of Apple Tree Hill, heading to Little Vine. Gratitude's winning performance is given above. Anthem was forward and attractive in her ground application. She pointed at 18, along the left edge beyond Little Vine loop; it was not productive. Anthem scored a beautiful find on a large covey at 24, this just into Sycamore. She was forward through the long bottom. At 32,



Red Setter Open Derby Winners (front, l-r): Roger Boser with Shotput, Dennis Hidalgo with Firefly's Speed of Life, and Mark Chestnut with Zip Your Lip. (Standing): Kelli Aitken, Lynn Oxendine (judge), Don Beauchamp, Bruce Ludwig, Chase Verdoorn, Bonnie Hidalgo, Jay Lewis (judge), and Ed Liermann.

on Daugherty's ridge, point was called by Anthem's scout. A long relocation ensued but was unsuccessful. She got out of pocket and was absent for the remainder of the hour.

Firefly's Lucky Penny (Hidalgo) and Quantonas Reciprocal (Aitken) broke away into the Bull pasture, and Reason was found pointing in the first draw at 3. Her style and manners were beyond reproach. Lucky took the bottom side of the pasture, showing forward near the road. She was forward into Climer's and seen on the left just into the second field, but she vanished, and the tracker was pulled. Reason ran a forward race for the hour. At 53, the flight of birds was called, and Reason was standing mannerly in the cover, although the birds were not officially seen. She went up the left hillside of the alley and returned from it as the hour expired.

Firefly's Power Play (Hidalgo) ran as a bye in the seventh brace. His runner-up winning performance was described above.

Grovespring, Mo., October 19

Judges: Jay Lewis and Lynn Oxendine

**NATIONAL RED SETTER OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP**

[One-Hour Heats] – 13 Irish Setters

Winner-GRATITUDE, 1676458, male, by Come Back Cutter-Come Back Doodle. Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-FIREFLY'S POWER PLAY, 1664073, male, by Flintstone-Firefly's Hot Tip. Dennis & Bonnie Hidalgo, owners; Dennis Hidalgo, handler.

### Red Setter Open Derby

The Derby drew six entries and ran on the heels of the Open Championship, running in its entirety on Friday morning, October 20. It followed the normal horseback courses which were used in the championships. Judges Lynn Oxendine and Jay Lewis presided.

Shotput, a female owned and handled by Roger Boser, won the stake. She appeared in the first brace; Dolly showed extreme ground speed and was predominantly forward. She scored a polished find, showing high style and perfect manners. Shotput was sired by Ch. Gratitude and out of Slingshot; she was whelped on April 22, 2022. Roger Boser is her breeder.

Firefly's Speed of Life placed second for owners and breeders Dennis and Bonnie Hidalgo. The young male was handled by Dennis. He started well, showing good speed and gait. Speedy pointed birds on the south end of Sycamore but didn't wait for the judges before taking them out. He was forward up the Daugherty ridge and pointed quail just before the barns. Speedy pointed longer this time, demonstrating good style but no manners. His race slowed and shortened in the latter part of his brace. Speedy was sired by Ch. Firefly's Power Play and his dam is Firefly's Calamus. He was born on July 6, 2022.

Zip Your Lip, a male that is owned and handled by Mark Chestnut, placed third in this stake. Zip ran a nice forward race, checking likely places but finding no game. He slowed and shortened a bit with the heat of the late morning. Zip was bred by Mark Chestnut. Sired by Just Raisin Cain, he is out of Quantonas Red Dirt Road. He was whelped on March 14, 2022.

#### **RED SETTER OPEN DERBY – 6 Irish Setters**

1st-SHOTPUT, 1704405, female, by Gratitude-Slingshot. Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.

2d-FIREFLY'S SPEED OF LIFE, 1705494, male, by Firefly's Power Play-Firefly's Calamus. Dennis & Bonnie Hidalgo, owners; Dennis Hidalgo, handler.

3d-ZIP YOUR LIP, unreg., male, by Just Raising Cain-Quantonas Red Dirt Road. Mark Chestnut, owner and handler.

### **National Red Setter**

#### **Amateur Championship**

Lynn Oxendine and Jay Lewis were in the judicial saddles for this championship. They had an entry of 15, which was reduced to 14 by a scratched dog. This stake commenced on Friday afternoon, following lunch, the derby, and the final hour of the open championship. This left enough time for three braces of the National Amateur Championship, with the remaining five hours to run on Saturday.

This championship was inaugurated in the spring of 2013. It was moved to the fall trial in 2018, which meant it ran both spring and fall that calendar year. Roger Boser has won this National Amateur All-Age Championship 9 out of the 12 times it has been conducted. He has done so with five different champions, which include Breakstone (twice), Rendition (three), Waycross (once), Windfall (once), and now Gratitude (twice). Gratitude won this stake previously in the fall of 2020, his second season in adult stakes. He took runner-up in this championship in the fall of 2021. This 2023 amateur title made Gratitude a four-time champion; he also holds claim to three runner-up titles.

Gratitude appeared in the first brace on Saturday and the fourth of the Amateur



National Red Setter Amateur Championship Winners (front, l-r): Bonnie Hidalgo with Gratitude and Clayton Thompson with Quantonas Reciprocal. (Standing): Dennis Hidalgo, Mark Chestnut, Roger Boser, Don Beauchamp, Lynn Oxendine (judge), Kelli Aitken, Chase Verdoorn, Jay Lewis (judge), Mark Verdoorn, and Ed Liermann.

Championship. He scored his first find at 9, all in order. At 16, he was found standing on the north edge of Double Gates field. His birds were well located, and he was high and tight throughout. Just into Davis bottom, Grady pointed at 24, on the right side of the first cross strip. His birds were put up while he stood stylishly. Gratitude's fourth find came at 32, on the second cross strip of Davis. Again, he showed high style and decorum for flush and shot. In the Island field at 51, Gratitude's scout called point on the right edge, just beyond the dog wagon crossing. He stood patiently while awaiting the arrival of handler and judge. His birds were in deep cover but were produced for the high-tailed, mannerly dog. He flew on through the remainder of the field and up the cut toward Don Fox Hill. He was seen on the right edge of Horse Killer's bottom but disappeared. He was next seen at the base of Horse Killer Hill, moving left to right. He was out of sight as we rode the length of the field but was discovered on point just a couple yards from where he'd last been seen. This sixth find, which came at 59, at the end of a big forward move, was the crowning glory of his hour. Gratitude was predominantly forward for the hour. He ran with speed and strength at excellent range. Once again, his performance left no doubt that it was a winning one.

The runner-up, Quantonas Reciprocal, (aka "Reason"), is owned, bred, trained, and handled by Kelli Aitken of Box Elder, South Dakota, and Manhattan, Kansas. Reason was sired by Heiligsepp's Blick out of Russell's New Day. She was whelped on November 17, 2014. She has competed and won in many *FDSB* and *AKC* trials and is an *AKC* champion. In the spring of 2023, Quantonas Reciprocal placed second on race in the National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog Championship when it was reverted to a classic. This National Amateur runner-up title is her first *UKC*/*American Field* Championship placement, although she has knocked on the door a few times in the past. Kelli and her husband, Clayton Thompson, work as a team with the dogs and have been quite

successful.

Quantonas Reciprocal ran in the brace immediately following Gratitude; she was released at the gate on Apple Tree Hill. She broke nicely forward and remained that way through Little Vine loop. Reason was absent before the last cross row of Sycamore. Her scout rode up birds in the left corner and simultaneously spotted her in deep cover, on point. Clayton called point and flight of birds, which were then seen by the judges. Reason was standing mannerly and with fine style as her handler and the judges arrived. On the bottom of the hillside at 49, she went through the gap and stopped quickly to the flush of a large covey, all in order. She continued her forward pattern across Daugherty's ridge, where she pointed on the left. No birds were produced, and an unproductive was carded as the hour expired.

### **The Running**

Cedar Creek Sixgun (Liermann) and Quantonas Red Dirt Road (Chestnut) were first out after lunch on Friday, appearing on course 1. Sixgun ran a good forward race, making some nice moves, but he went without game contact. Grit was forward and handled well. She scored a nice find in Davis bottom at 23. Though the heat took its toll on her performance, she kept up the effort.

Firefly's Lucky Penny (Hidalgo) was drawn to run with Come Back Magic (Baker). Magic was scratched. Lucky went into the woods at 5 and could be heard chasing deer. Her handler elected to pick up.

Cedar Creek Shindig (Liermann) and Come Back Delta Dawn (Aitken) released heading up the hill in Little Vine loop. Shindig missed the turn to go up the hill; Delta was forward. Shindig showed forward at the back corner of the loop. Delta was steadily forward on the left. Shindig took the right edge, where she had a stop to flush, although birds were not officially seen. Delta came upon the situation and honored it politely. This duo was strong forward into Sycamore, where Delta pointed on the right. A lengthy flush failed to produce her quarry. At that point, these two were separated, and Delta never caught the front. Delta had a stop to flush in the cross row of Sycamore and another on Daugherty's ridge. In the field west of the barns, she scored a beautiful find at time. Shindig made game at the end of Sycamore but was unable to pin it. On Daugherty's ridge, Shindig was guided into some likely cover, but her handler rode up birds, giving Shindig a stop to flush at 35. She pointed on the left, below the twin barns at 43, but no birds could be found in the heavy underbrush, and she carded an

unproductive. Shindig was forward to the big pond and on to the Bull pasture. She showed good gait and ground speed for the hour but scored no finds.

Gratitude (Boser) was paired with Just Raisin Cain (Chestnut) in the first brace on Saturday and the fourth of the Amateur Championship. Cain notched a mannerly back at 9 before the rocky creek crossing. He ran a good forward race but suffered unproductives at 19 and 53 to end his effort.

Quantonas Reciprocal (Aitken) and Cedar Creek MacArthur Ruby (Liermann) were released on Apple Tree Hill. Quantonas Reciprocal won the runner-up honors with her performance, which has been described above. Ruby was tentative and picked up early.

Firefly's Beeline (Hidalgo) with Red Bird's The Fifth Element (Aitken) turned loose just before the twin barns. Beeline pointed on the west side of the barns at 5. She moved at the flush and was up. Griffin was forward to the bull pasture and through the Climer fields. He slowed due to the warmth of the morning, and his handler opted to pick up at 30.

Wayward (Boser) and Snowy River's Honest Abe (Mark Verdoorn) were released at 1:30 p.m. on a hot and sunny afternoon. Wayward was acting birdy just before the rocky creek crossing but was taken on. Abe pointed in the gap before the pond at 19. There was a lengthy flush, but Mark produced a big covey for him. Abe was mannerly. Wayward honored reluctantly. On they went across the road into Davis, both taking the left side. Wayward pointed before taking out birds at 30. Abe stopped to the flight of the birds with great manners. Wayward was picked up. Abe was nicely forward through the Island field. He pointed before Horse Killer Hill at 54, but it was a barren stand. Snowy River's Honest Abe finished forward at the top of the hill.

Firefly's Power Play (Hidalgo) ran as a bye and was released at the top of Don Fox Hill, the second brace on a hot Saturday afternoon. He was forward across Apple Tree Hill and through the Little Vine loop. Below the end of the loop, he pointed at 23, but the flush attempt was not productive. He was forward through the small field and into Sycamore bottom but was lost from view on the right. Power Play was discovered on the right side of Sycamore, on point at 32. The bird flushed from the grass in front of him, and he raised his head to watch it go. Going up the hill, he took the east side of the tree line, where he pointed along a feed strip at 39. He was high and tight for the flush of a large covey that just kept getting up. After a





Red Setter Open Walking Derby Winners (front, l-r): Sam Nutting with Cedar Creek Promise and Dennis Hidalgo with Firefly's Speed of Life. (Standing): Clayton Thompson, Mike Fox, Bonnie Hidalgo, Jay Lewis (judge), Lynn Oxendine (judge), Milt Schafer, and Ed Liermann.

dunk in the pond, he continued on, forward along the edges across Daugherty's ridge. Firefly's Power Play remained to the front to finish the hour strong, near the Bull pasture.

**NATIONAL RED SETTER AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 15 Irish Setters**  
*Winner-GRATITUDE, 1676458, male, by Come Back Cutter-Come Back Doodle. Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.*  
*Runner-Up-QUANTONAS RECIPROCAL, 1686166, female, by Heiligsepp's Blick-Russell's New Day. Kelli Aitken, owner and handler.*

**Red Setter Open Walking Derby**

There were only four entries in this stake, which limited the placements to two. The stake was run late Saturday afternoon following the announcement of the Amateur Championship winners. The stake was run as half-hour out-and-back courses. Neither of the winners encountered game, but they were looking for it. Jay Lewis and Lynn Oxendine were officiating. Milt Schafer planted the courses.

Cedar Creek Promise, a female handled by Sam Nutting, won first place with a pretty ground application. She used the edges nicely and was forward at good range, moving with class and speed. She was bred by Ed Liermann, who co-owns her with Sam Nutting. Cedar Creek Promise is out of Cedar Creek Roxie and was sired by Cedar Creek Gambler. She was whelped on July 16, 2022.

Firefly's Speed of Life was second for handler Dennis Hidalgo. Speedy was steadily forward in pattern and hunted hard. He is owned and bred by Dennis and Bonnie Hidalgo.

**RED SETTER OPEN DERBY – 4 Irish Setters**  
*1st-CEDAR CREEK PROMISE, unreg., female, by Cedar Creek Gambler-Cedar Creek Roxie. Ed Liermann, owner; Sam Nutting, handler.*  
*2d-FIREFLY'S SPEED OF LIFE, 1705494, male, by Firefly's Power Play-Firefly's Calamus. Dennis & Bonnie Hidalgo, owners; Dennis Hidalgo, handler.*

**Open Walking Shooting Dog Classic**

This stake ran on out-and-back courses on Sunday morning. It began across the road from the Clubhouse, keeping to the low ground. It crossed the road at Double Gates and flowed through Sycamore and beyond to Little Vine Road. The return braces followed a similar route back to headquarters. There were nine entries in this one-hour classic, but one was scratched due to a lame handler. This allowed the stake to be run in four hours. Bird work was abundant, with planted quail and/or pre-released coveys being pointed on every brace. The advertised judges, Jay Lewis and Lynn Oxendine, were attentive.

The winner emerged from the final brace. Foxy Lady Sadie, owned, bred, and handled by Mike Fox, demonstrated why she has been in the winners' circle so much in her young life. As a derby, Sadie was the winner of two all-breed Futurities. Recently, she has been placing regularly in adult stakes. Sadie, who turned three last April, was sired by the late U. S. Complete Champion and Runner-up Red Setter Amateur Shooting Dog, 2023 Hall of Fame inductee Zansett Simply Red. Sadie is out of the winning walking shooting dog Foxy's Lil Red Missy. Sadie did her ancestors proud with her performance in this classic.

Foxy Lady Sadie was moved up from a bye draw in the fifth when a dog in the fourth brace was withdrawn. Sadie carded a perfect find at 11. She scored a second find at 29, in Sycamore bottom; her style and her manners were first class. Sadie turned in a forward, edge-running performance, hunting smartly at good range and handling kindly. She moved with an attractive gait and high tail, covering the course effortlessly for the hour.

**The Running**

Cedar Creek MacArthur Ruby (Schafer) and Foxy Abralena (Fox) kicked off the stake. Abralena pointed at 7; Ruby failed to back and was picked up. It was



Red Setter Open Walking Shooting Dog Classic Winners (front): Mike Fox with Foxy Lady Sadie. (Standing): Sam Nutting, Lynn Oxendine (judge), Jay Lewis (judge), Bonnie Hidalgo, Dennis Hidalgo, Milt Schafer, Ed Liermann, and Clayton Thomson.

unproductive for Lena. Into Sycamore bottom, Lena scored a beautiful find at 36. Down the right line at 40, she pointed again. Lena showed high style and good manners for the flush and shot. At the far end of Sycamore at 44, she pointed again but went with the large covey to end what had been a promising performance.

Cedar Creek Titan (Nutting) and Snowy River's Honest Abe (Chase Verdoorn). Titan was absent for a short time but returned forward at 24. Abe had been seen nicely forward. At 25, Titan put up a covey and gave them a ride. Abe, who had apparently been pointing that covey, joined the fray, and the brace was over.

Full Red Afterburn (Fox) and Cedar Creek Gambler (Schafer) broke from the Clubhouse end. Red definitely had his afterburners on and was absent for a while when he took the right edge from the cemetery all the way past the Daugherty house. He returned just in time to have a negative encounter with quail, and he was up. Gambler ran a nice forward pattern, hunting the edges. In Sycamore bottom, he pointed quail with a 12 o'clock tail but went with the flush.

Foxy Lady Sadie (Fox) and Cedar Creek Duke (Nutting) were the final brace. Sadie had been drawn as a bye in the fifth brace but was moved up when Firefly's Sunsetter was scratched from the fourth. Her winning hour is described above. Duke was found pointing stylishly beside a feed strip at 8; unfortunately, he went with the shot.

**RED SETTER OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats] – 9 Irish Setters**  
*1st-FOXY LADY SADIE, 1691626, female, by Zansett Simply Red-Foxy's Lil Red Missy. Mike Fox, owner and handler.*

**GET THE WORD OUT!**  
 Put your advertising dollars in the right place by delivering your message through the UKC® Field.  
 Place your ad today by emailing: [gsmith@ukcdogs.com](mailto:gsmith@ukcdogs.com)

# SPENCER FARMS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

## *Eighth Annual Trial*

By Robert Thomas | Milton, Florida | October 21, 2023



Open Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Face To Face with Jeff Gilbertson, Hillhavyn's Major Tom with Michael Martino, and Cole Fusion with Katie Lyons. (Standing): Scott Phipps, Junior Sims, Mary Ann Womack, and Tom Hennes.

The Spencer Farms Field Trial Club held its eighth annual field trial on October 21-22 in Milton, Florida.

Over the past 12 years, Jim Spencer has spent countless hours grooming these grounds for the purpose of providing a venue to host field trials. He has opened these grounds to both American Field and AKC field trial venues, and the field trial community is grateful for Jim Spencer's continued generosity.

The field trial attracted 12 participants who brought 47 entries that were provided for two full days. We are thankful for the following participants who were in attendance and continue to support this trial: Junior Sims, Robert Thomas, Jim and Mary Ann Womack, Katie Lyons, Tom Hennes, Jesse Brown, Michael Martino, and Bobby Dubose. Also, we were glad to have the following field trial veterans on their first visit to our field trial: Joe and



Amateur All-Age Winners (front, l-r): Spencer's Rambling Justice with Robert Thomas, Sims Game Changer with Junior Sims, and Pineywoods Showstopper with Joe Rentz. (Standing): Jim Womack, Mary Ann Womack, Winnie Kean Martino, and Darron Hendley.

Tricia Rentz, Darron Hendley, and Jeff Gilbertson.

The grounds were well groomed, and water tubs were placed strategically on the course, and the dogs took advantage of them under these warm and dry conditions. Ron Taylor was on hand with the assistance of Cleve Rhodes to release birds after each brace.

Hall of Famer Fred Rayl and his bride Inday, along with daughter Winnie Jean Martino and grandson Hardy, were on hand to staff the dog wagon and get dogs to the line.

The judges for the trial were Tom Hennes, Katie Lyons, Michael Martino, Scott Phipps, and Junior Sims. Their decisions were well received.

Cleve and Nancy Rhodes were on hand, keeping the cooler full of cold refreshments and providing the meals. Pastries and grilled sausages were provided



Amateur Derby Winners (front, l-r): Rentz's Catch A Buzz with Joe Rentz and Shoulder's Lone Wanderer with Jesse Brown. (Standing): Tricia Rentz, Katie Lyons, and Tom Hennes.

each morning. Lunches were a selection of ham, roast beef, and turkey sandwiches with all the trimmings. Saturday evening, all enjoyed a fish-fried dinner. Thanks to Cleve and Nancy Rhodes for the great meals.

The Spencer Farms field trial of 2023 was a successful trial, and we look forward to next year's trial in 2024.

On a somber note, Jim Spencer became seriously ill the day before the trial and had to be admitted to the hospital. Jim is slowly on the mend. All of us in attendance have Jim and family in our thoughts and prayers.

### Milton, Fla., October 21 – One Course Judges: Michael Martino and Scott Phipps SBHA AMATEUR ALL-AGE

#### – 8 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-SPENCER'S RAMBLING JUSTICE, 1684191, pointer male, by Spencer's Rambling Lawman-Caladen's River Hawk. James W. Spencer, owner; Junior Sims, handler.

2d-SIMS GAME CHANGER, 1692936, pointer male, by Sims Ramblin Rex-Caladen's River Hawk. Junior Sims, owner and handler.

3d-PINEYWOODS SHOWSTOPPER, 1689961, pointer female, by Panther Creek Merlin-Pineywood's Belle Aire. Darron C. Hendley, owner and handler.

### Judges: Tom Hennes and Katie Lyons SBHA AMATEUR DERBY – 5 Pointers

1st-RENTZ'S CATCH A BUZZ, 1704837, male, by Oahe Buck-Hill's Georgia Brown. Joe & Tricia Rentz, owners; Joe Rentz, handler.

2d-SHOULDER'S LONE WANDERER, 1702386, male, by Jesse's Cold Shoulder-Pinehill Lucky Lady. Jesse Brown, owner and handler.

### SBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 9 Pointers

1st-PINEYWOOD'S LEGACY, 1689944, male, by Panther Creek Merlin-Pineywood's Belle Aire. Darron C. Hendley, owner and handler.

2d-SIMS GAME CHANGER, 1692936, male, by Sims Ramblin Rex-Caladen's River Hawk. Junior Sims, owner and handler.

3d-JESSE'S COLD SHOULDER, 1656431, male, by Exit Lane-Weber's Little Snowball. Jesse Brown, owner and handler.



Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Pineywood's Legacy with Winnie Jean Martino, Sims Game Changer with Junior Sims, and Jesse's Cold Should with Jesse Brown. (Standing): Darron Hendley, Katie Lyons, and Tom Hennes.

### SBHA OPEN DERBY – 9 Pointers

1st-RENTZ'S CATCH A BUZZ, 1704837, male, by Oahe Buck-Hill's Georgia Brown. Joe & Tricia Rentz, owners; Joe Rentz, handler.

2d-SHOULDER'S THE BURDEN, 1702387, male, by Jesse's Cold Shoulder-Pinehill Lucky Lady. Bobby Dubose, owner and handler.

3d-SHOULDER'S LONE WANDERER, 1702386, male, by Jesse's Cold Shoulder-Pinehill Lucky Lady. Jesse Brown, owner and handler.

### Judges: Scott Phipps and Junior Sims

#### SBHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG

##### – 12 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-FACE TO FACE, 1691100, setter male, by Highground Tonka-Lying Eyes. Jeff Gilbertson, owner; Michael Martino, handler.

2d-HILLHAVYN'S MAJOR TOM, 1673148, pointer male, by Elhew G Force-Myakka Hey Jude. Brad Brown, owner; Michael Martino, handler.

3d-COLE FUSION, 1683517, setter male, by Awsum In Motion-Fast and Loud. Mary A. Womack, owner; Tom Hennes, handler.

## PENNSYLVANIA GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

### *Dun Rovens Midnite Ike Named Champion; Grouse Hill Rambo, Runner-up*

By Mike Husenits | Marienville, Pennsylvania | October 23, 2023

This year, 2023, marked the 77th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Grouse Championship, one of the oldest grouse dog championships in the nation. Prior to the initial running of the Pennsylvania in 1947, this same organization held the National Grouse Championship, which started in 1913 and eventually evolved into the Grand National Grouse Championship as we know it today. Thus, the Pennsylvania Club actually started grouse trials in 1913 at Indian Creek, Pennsylvania, remarkably amassing over 100 years of historic grouse dog competition. Through the years, the running at Marienville has seen many ups and downs relating to wild grouse populations and their availability on the courses. As grouse trialers and hunters know, grouse populations are historically cyclic, usually up and down about every 10 years. However, in recent years, the cycle in Pennsylvania and other parts of the northeast has been trending downward. Wildlife experts claim this downward spiral can be traced to lack of proper habitat (old-growth forest) and the presence of West Nile Virus disease due to warming trends and disease-carrying mosquitoes. No matter the cause, it is a problem currently apparent at Marienville.

We moved five grouse and three woodcock over two days. Two of the grouse flushed wild with no involvement by the dogs. These facts are hard facts to deal with by many but are not so bad when one reviews decades of grouse trials. History reveals there were many Pennsylvania Grouse championships held during the 1940s, '50s, '60s, and early '70s when second and even third-series callbacks were held to try and determine a winner. At least 13 times, no champion was named due to either a lack of birds or failure to handle them. The picture brightened sharply in the late '70s when grouse numbers exploded



Championship Winners (front, l-r): Dun Rovens Midnite Ike with Robert Ecker and Grouse Hill Rambo with Rich Warters. (Standing): Dick Brenneman (stake manager), Norm Meeder, Joe Cammisa, Jeremy Estep (judge), and Andy Bogar (judge).

and held steady through the '80s, '90s, and into the new century, then we saw a sharp decline over the past 10 years. This reporter recalls judging in 2011 with Russ Richardson when we counted over 100 grouse moved with a near-record entry of 85 starters, which incidentally produced 19 clean dogs. Hopefully, the cycle will start to trend upward soon! Interestingly, and by comparison, I recall judging this championship in 1986 with an entry of 40 dogs; we had only five with bird work. Wild bird trials are and have always been either feast or famine!

We are hard-pressed to envision grouse trials ever ending at Marienville. Memories are etched in many participants' minds, and to abandon this venue would surely cause the founders to turn over twice in their graves. Men like Sam Light, Bob Wehle, Rich and Larry Tuttle, Bob Habgood, Art Haight, The Willis brothers, Tom Flanagan, and canines prefixed with Sam L's, Elhew, Orchard Valley, Pleasant Valley, Grouse Ridge, plus numerous others. Early

legendary reporters were Marc J. Deberti, Bill McCarty, Walter S. King, Bill Allen, Al Pilon, Ben Jones, and others, all of whom made Marienville famous.

The current Pennsylvania Grouse Club organization is comprised of a small group of men dedicated to the job at hand. Accolades are extended to those who contributed this year and in recent years. Joe Cammisa organized the pre-trial arrangements along with club secretary Dave Duell. They handled the advertising, secured judges, made motel and restaurant reservations, and handled the drawing. Dave Duell could not attend due to a family illness. Dick Brenneman managed the stake and made sure the schedule was maintained. Brian Ralph, George Tinkerhoff, Norm Meeder, Rich Warters, and your reporter handled the movement of vehicles from course to course. Joe Cammisa kept the party well-fed with various cookies, brownies, snacks, drinks, and delicious lunch sandwiches from Bettina's Italian Restaurant in Marienville,

where the club sponsored a Tuesday evening banquet enjoyed by all.

R. B. Powell of Nittany Valley Trail Rides provided sure-footed horses for the judges and anyone who desired to ride.

The Club was fortunate to obtain the services of well-qualified and attentive judges. Andy Bogar of Berwick, Pennsylvania, and Jeremy Estep of Troy, Pennsylvania, oversaw the championship. Both are younger men who bird hunt and have experienced success with their own dogs in field trials. A pair of seasoned veterans, Gerry Mercatoris of Brookville, Pennsylvania, and Dr. Tim Perschke of Marienville, Pennsylvania, scrutinized the Blakley Derby Classic.

Sincere appreciation is extended to our sponsors. Purina provided product for the winners and donated for the Tuesday dinner. Thank you, Greg Blair. Lion Country Supply for donating gift certificates for the judges and reporter, thanks to Eric Munden.

#### **Championship Winners and Contenders**

Dun Rovens Midnite Ike, a 5-year-old setter male owned by Dr. Peter Millett of Edwards, Colorado, and handled by professional trainer Robert Ecker, was crowned champion. Ike is no stranger to the grounds at Marienville, having been in the winners' circle at the Venango All-Age Classic on two occasions. Additionally, Ike has accumulated several placements in other wild and liberated bird trials. Ike rendered his winning performance on the first day on Lamonaville course 5, an all-wooded hour course that lays fairly flat and progresses from start to finish in a circular pattern parallel to Lamonaville Road. Ike covered his ground with a forward pattern and an eye-catching way of going, the whole time maintaining a nice rapport with handler. Just when it appeared this would be another brace sans bird contact, Ike slammed into intense point just off the trail with less than a minute to go. Ike maintained more than adequate style as handler went in front and flushed a grouse that must have run off as the bird took wing some 40 yards away, as these wild grouse are prone to do. Ike held steadfast for the shot, and the brace was over.

Grouse Hill Rambo, a liver-marked 2-year-old pointer male owned by John Capocci of Richfield, Connecticut, also handled by Robert Ecker, was a solid runner-up to the champion. This was young Rambo's first win in titular competition, having previously amassed several wins in both open and amateur competition. Rambo ran on the first day over Loleta course 2 in the seventh brace. This course has held grouse fairly consistently over



The First Brace: Judges Andy Bogar and Jeremy Estep ready to release a pair of champions, Mark Hughes (left) with A Distant Spec and Robert Ecker with Bo of Piney Woods.

the years, having several areas with wild blueberry thickets, second growth, and piney woods. The course does have at least three areas with 180-degree turns that require precise handling response by the dogs. Rambo's ground effort was mostly forward with plenty of class, going through the woods in speedy fashion, overall, a medium-range hard-hunting effort. At the 5-minute mark, Rambo slammed into solid point and looked positive, but nothing raised or relocated. Sent ahead, Rambo locked up solidly and stylishly again at 15 as the party neared the Laurel Run sharp left turn. As handler approached, a grouse took wing a short distance ahead, with a second grouse blowing out from directly in front of Rambo, who demonstrated polished manners for his young age. Rambo finished the hour hunting hard to the front—a well-deserved effort.

Beyond the winners, others of note and honorable mentions included Sterlingworth Jack, a male English setter handled by Robert Ecker in the last brace of the stake. Jack scored a mannerly find on a woodcock at 5 and was looking good until the last 15 minutes when the heat took its toll.

Had any of the following three had positive bird work, the outcome of this trial could have been very different, according to the judges. From the very first brace that featured a pair of champions in Bo of Piney Woods handled by Robert Ecker and A Distant Spec handled by Mark Hughes, the ground race and application bar was set high by both right off the bat. Unfortunately, a grouse was moved near the 45-minute mark, but neither dog had an opportunity. The other impressive performance on the ground was Full Breeze, a setter female handled by Hall of Famer Dave Hughes. Had her unproductive stand at time held a bird, results might have changed.

#### **The Running**

The first brace broke away at 7:59 on course 1 along Lamonaville Road with Bo of Piney Woods (Robert Ecker) and A Distant Spec (Mark Hughes). As noted, both earned honorable mentions for their

efforts, but neither had bird work.

The second brace featured Wayward Flyin Tomato (Dave Hughes) with Ralphy's Hillbilly (Brian Ralph). Tomato flitted through the woods with style and speed at moderate range, occasionally looping back. Hillbilly ran big but got out of pocket a few times, returning to finish ahead.

The third brace had Redrum Rosie (Dave Hughes) with Ellie Mae (Mark Hughes). Rosie hunted the front at moderate range. Ellie was very classy on the ground but had a problem staying forward. She had an incident at 20 when a broken stick got lodged in her mouth, but she carried on boldly after removal, then pointed stylishly near time in heavy cover but moved on before handler got there; a woodcock flushed wild in the area.

The fourth brace had Warrior Zeke (Mark Hughes) with Ramapo Mountain Doc (Ecker). Both dogs hunted hard at moderate range but birdless.

The fifth brace featured Double Deuce Zeke (Mark Hughes) and Dun Rovens Midnite Ike (Robert Ecker). Zeke ran a solid, deep-reaching ground effort, but no birds. Ike's winning performance was previously noted.

The sixth brace started at 3:28 on course 1 along Loleta Road with Kissamee Grousewoods Tea (Ecker) and Miller's Hopped Up Version (Mark Hughes). This course is a known woodcock hangout area. Tea pointed at 4 with nothing raised, then did a disappearing act; the tracker called for at 25. Version broke away strong, and her bell fell silent at 5 along the right side hedgerow, but handler and judge could not locate her, walking up a woodcock while searching but no dog. Handler went forward and then called for the tracker at 25; the dog found standing a woodcock near where her bell fell silent.

The seventh had Miller's Special Upgrade (Mark Hughes) and Grouse Hill Rambo (Ecker). Upgrade turned in a well-directed wide-forward race but couldn't come up with birds. Rambo's runner-up performance, previously described, brought an end to the first day's running.

The eighth brace started at 7:55 on Lamonaville course 1 with Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella (Ecker) and Braggabull (Mark Hughes). Both turned in classy forward ground efforts, neither contacting birds.

The ninth brace had Deciding Point (Dave Hughes) and Mojo's Remington Steal (Mark Hughes). Both showed plenty of classy moves and were consistent in

application, but no birds were contacted.

The tenth brace had Suemac's Sashay (Mark Hughes) with Full Breeze (Dave Hughes). Sass ran a medium-range classy ground race, pointed solidly at 50 with nothing produced. Full Breeze, mentioned above, was a contender.

Game Winner (Mark Hughes) and Bubba (Nick Mellon) comprised the eleventh brace. Both hunted forwardly with plenty of style, but with the dry and warming conditions, no birds were moved.

The twelfth brace featured Ralph's Chasehill Rip (Brian Ralph) with Mulberry Fields Molly (Mark Hughes) away on Lamonaville course 5 at 1:21 under bright sunny skies and warm temperatures. Both hunted hard but failed to range out under the existing bluebird conditions.

The thirteenth and final brace had Backwoods Wild Fire Blaze (Mark Hughes) with Sterlingworth Jack (Ecker). Blaze turned in a strong effort with the warm conditions but was without bird contact. Jack had the woodcock early, as noted above, but the heat took its toll.

Marienville, Pa., October 23

Judges: Andy Bogar and Jeremy Estep

PENNSYLVANIA GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 16 Pointers and 10 Setters

Winner-DUN ROVENS MIDNITE IKE, 1685001, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Moonshine Cherry. Dr. Pete Millett, owner; R. J. Ecker, handler.

Runner-Up-GROUSE HILL RAMBO, 1696375, pointer male, by Bo of Piney Woods-Grouse Hill Prima. John Capocci, owner; R. J. Ecker, handler.



Derby Winners (front, l-r): Rockland Ridge Rocky with Robert Ecker, Ironstone's Shenanigans with John McKellop, and Grey Eagle Molly with Bill Drawl. (Standing): Dr. Tim Perschke (judge), Norm Meeder, and Joe Cammisa.

### Blakley Derby Classic

David E. Blakley was a stalwart, loyal grouse trial participant for many years and held several important positions throughout his long tenure. This stake is dedicated to honor his many contributions. Both judges were men of integrity and "old school" knowledge, namely Gerry Mercatoris and Dr. Tim Perschke, both from Pennsylvania. The stake was run on a separate course with half-hour heats. Though short on number of entries, quality ground races were evident, with the judges deciding to determine the winners based on this most important quality in a derby versus bringing a few back-to-point box-released quail.

The judges determined the best overall performer was Rockland Ridge Rocky, an English setter male owned by Gary Chlapaty of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania,

and handled by Robert Ecker to a well-patterned forward ground race with plenty of classy moves from start to finish.

Second was awarded to Ironstone's Shenanigans, an orange-marked English setter male owned by Eli Richardson of Boston, Massachusetts, and also handled by Robert Ecker. Iron's effort was every bit as classy as the winner, just a bit shorter in overall range.

Third went to Grey Eagle Molly, a fleet-footed female English setter owned and handled by Bill Drawl. She hunted hard and handled with a forward effort but a bit shorter than the higher-placed winners.

Judges: Gerry Mercatoris and Dr. Tim Perschke

DAVID E. BLAKLEY DERBY CLASSIC

– 2 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-ROCKLAND RIDGE ROCKY, 1700815, setter male, by Grouse Hill Bullet Proof-Spata Setters Sally. Gary Chlapaty, owner; R. J. Ecker, handler.

2d-IRONSTONE'S SHENANIGANS, 1702783, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Moonshine Sage. Eli Richardson, owner; R. J. Ecker, handler.

3d-GREY EAGLE MOLLY, 1700978, setter male, by End Game-Riverside's Honey Howard. William R. Drawl, owner and handler.

## COALFIELD BIRD DOG CLUB

### First Ohio Valley Circuit Trial of The Season

By Mary Sue Schalk | Kevil, Kentucky | October 27, 2023

The Coalfield Bird Dog Club hosted the first Ohio Valley Field Trial Circuit event of the 2023-24 season the weekend of October 28. The trial ran in favorable conditions, a cool, overcast day, and the rain stayed away until the last hour of competition. Filling the judges' saddles were Travis Patterson of Sparta, Illinois, Ben Weddington of Brentwood, Tennessee, and Alan Benson of Cutler, Illinois. All three men brought experience, enthusiasm, and attentiveness to the task at hand. We appreciate their time in the saddle.

The Amateur All-Age stake drew six entries, all pointers. Travis Patterson and Ben Weddington served as the judges for the first event of the day. Besting the field was Crouse's Quiet Man. The black and white pointer male held the audience captive with his snappy tail and strong



Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Ben Weddington with Cloverdale's TN Winston, Mike Crouse with Cloverdale's American Louis, and Mary Sue Schalk with Crouse's Ka Boom. (Standing): Travis Patterson (judge).

forward race. He is owned and handled by Mike Crouse. Running the third hour, Crouse's Woodrow F Call, a first-year pointer male, took second place for owner/handler Mary Sue Schalk. Call worked honestly for his handler to earn his spot

on the winners' podium. To round out the field, Crouse's Tennessee Game Kate, also owned and handled by Mike Crouse, took third. Drawing the first hour, Kate set a standard for dogs to follow, handling her hour with style and grace. A small field but mighty, the Amateur All-Age stake set the tone for an enjoyable day.

Alan Benson took his turn in the judge's saddle for the Amateur Shooting Dog stake with Travis Patterson. Also drawing six dogs, two setters and four pointers made the field. Cloverdale's TN Winston earned the first-place spot in the last brace of the day. He handled his course well, hunting earnestly forward. Winston is owned by Ben and Emily Weddington and was handled by Ben to the blue. Cloverdale's American Louis, father of TN Winston, earned the second-place spot. The English

setter male has a powerful stride and was easy on the eyes as he made forward casts during his hour. He is also owned and handled by Team Weddington. The third-place spot was earned by Crouse's Ka Boom, a snappy liver-headed pointer male owned and handled by Mary Sue Schalk. Braced with American Louis, Ka Boom was biddable and hunted well throughout the hour—another nice stake of dogs to enjoy on a cool fall Saturday.

We certainly could not have these events without the support of our volunteers and sponsors. Big shout out to Greg Blair and Purina. Each club in the Ohio Valley Field Trial Circuit receives Purina dog food for prizes. Also, this year, we have received support from SportDOG, as they are providing some collars for prizes and collars for the top dogs on the circuit at the end of the season. Many thanks to our judges and our dog wagon driver, James Kleve. A big thank you to the West



Amateur All-Age Winners (front, l-r): Mike Crouse with Crouse's Quiet Man, Mary Sue Schalk with Crouse's Woodrow F Call, and Alan Benson with Crouse's Tennessee Game Kate. (Standing): Ben Weddington (judge).

Kentucky Wildlife Management Area team. We are very fortunate in Western Kentucky to be able to utilize public grounds for horseback field trials, and we appreciate the work that the WMA employees do to keep the grounds ready. To all those out there 'bird doggin', keep at it, and best of luck this season!

Kevil, Ky., October 27

**Judges: Travis Patterson and Ben Weddington**  
**AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats] – 6 Pointers**  
*1st-CROUSE'S QUIET MAN, 1685396, pointer male, by Crouse's Ebony Masterpiece-Crouse's Gerri Wind. M. D. Crouse, owner and handler.*  
*2d-CROUSE'S WOODROW F CALL, 1700673, pointer male, by Haynes Justified Warrior-Hero's Country Doll. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Mary S. Schalk, handler.*  
*3d-CROUSE'S TENNESSEE GAME KATE, 1685162, pointer female, by Game Warden-Tennessee Coldwater Pearl. M. D. Crouse, owner and handler.*

**Judges: Alan Benson and Travis Patterson**  
**AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]**  
**– 4 Pointers and 2 Setters**

*1st-CLOVERDALE'S TN WINSTON, 1702953, setter male, by Cloverdale's American Louis-Smoky Mountain Kate. Ben & Emily Weddington, owners; Ben Weddington, handler.*  
*2d-CLOVERDALE'S AMERICAN LOUIS, 1679461, setter male, by Skydancer Dancing Spur-Skydancer Celtic Fitz. Ben Weddington, owner and handler.*  
*3d-CROUSE'S KA BOOM, 1697434, pointer male, by Crouse's White Dragon-Crouse's Gretzky Gal. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Mary S. Schalk, handler.*

**EDDIE EARL RAYL**  
*February 10, 1948-September 11, 2023*

**E**ddie Earl Rayl, 75, of Fitzgerald, Georgia, passed away Monday, September 11, 2023, at his residence.

Mr. Rayl was born February 10, 1948, in Athens, Tennessee, to the late William Fred and Alma Jean White Rayl. He attended Brewton-Parker College and served his country honorably in the United States Marine Corps.

Mr. Rayl had a notable career training bird dogs. He has two dogs in the Hall of Fame and won over 30 championships. He enjoyed playing golf and being outdoors and was an avid poker player.






Eddie Rayl and Family

Mr. Rayl was a devoted family man who loved his grandchildren.

He is survived by his three daughters: Leah Rayl of Dunedin, Florida, Jodie Rayl Snow and Matt of Tifton, and Kathryn Rayl Petrie and Curt of Fitzgerald; grandchildren: Eleanor "Elle" Petrie, Emme Petrie, Ripp Petrie, Matthew Snow, and Raylie Grace Snow; a brother, William Fred Rayl and Benita of Sylvester; a niece, Winnie Jean Martino and a great-nephew, Hardy Rayl Martino. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 35 years, Eleanor Moran Rayl.

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

 @ukchuntingops  @ukcoonhounds  @youtube.com/ukcdogs





## REMEMBERING EDDIE RAYL AND THE RAYL FAMILY

By David A. Fletcher

When I learned of the death of my longtime friend Eddie Rayl on September 11 of this year, my thoughts and memory reached back to the Canadian prairies and the Rayl family and my years on the Canadian prairies reporting field trials for the American Field. In the 1960s the Canadian Prairie Chicken Championship was the highlight of the field trial year, as they no doubt had been for over a half-century. The wide-going all-age dogs of North America came to the Saskatchewan and Manitoba prairie to show their wares on the plentiful Sharptailed grouse and Hungarian partridge that inhabited that beautiful wide open territory. At that time, there were three Prairie Championships being held: the All-America near Broomhill/Melita, Manitoba; the Border International, near Frobisher, Saskatchewan; and the Dominion near Gainsborough, Saskatchewan. The Rayl training grounds were at Langruth, Manitoba, not far north of Melita, Broomhill, and Gainsborough. In attendance were father Bill, brother Fred, and mom Alma Jean. The family men were all dog trainers; Bill on the all-age circuit for many years, and his dogs won consistently. Freddie followed, and his win record is also very remarkable in all age circles.

Eddie's demise brought into focus my time on the Canadian prairies reporting field trials of huge caliber. To me, these were some of the most historic field trials ever staged. First, the events were on the limitless prairie, wide open spaces where you could see a white dog as a tiny speck reaching for an objective a mile away. Moving about a mile away, you could see the dog stopped, but you could not distinguish. The objectives were wonderful: in early fall, wheat stubble fields, with foot-tall stubble, interspersed or edged with popple bluffs, small or large clumps, and wolf willow strips also hosted birds. Birds were plentiful, Sharptailed grouse and Hungarian partridge. Lots of birds and lots of open country to find and point them in was a great combination. A breeze, carrying bird scent, was in place almost every day on the prairie. Many American trainers came across the border to work the Canadian prairie. Forty-six trainers competed in the Canadian Chicken Championships in the mid-60s. West Coast trainers such as Ed Harrison, Doc Craig, Rod Cowan, Ray Lawrence, and Stan Aeck were there. From a host of other places, mainly the hot and humid



Eddie, William, and Freddie at the Purina Awards.

heavily cropped south came the likes of Fred Arant, the Gates family (John S., John Rex, and Robin), the Rayls (Bill, Fred, and Eddie) and Smith families, (Herman, Collier, and Rod) as well as Hoyle Eaton, Billy Morton, Freddie Epp, Marshall Loftin, Leon Covington, Red Weddle, Tommie Davis, George Moreland, Jimmy Norris, Gene Lunsford, Fred Bevan Sr. and Jr., Bob Lamb, Howard and Sonny Kirk, John and Ted Gardner, Colvin and Mazie Davis, Billy Martin, Bill Conlin, Roy Jines, Bud Epperson, Don and Terrell Dixon, Paul Green, Bill Conlin, Bill and Linda Hunt, and Russell Fair. The Border International Chicken Championship of 1964 had 110 all-age entries, the championship had 91, and the Open Derby had 60. That's 261 entries—a remarkable total. There was also an unofficial and unrecorded Jr. All-Age with, as I remember, 27 entries (first-year all-age dogs with no senior stake win record). This era may have been the all-time peak of prairie trialing in North America.

Eddie Rayl was an excellent trainer, entered his string in the heaviest competition, and won consistently. Eddie's two best dogs of the era, and I do not wish to slight any of his other dogs or owners, were Arrival and Little Diamond, as I remember them. Little Diamond won 10 championships and Arrival 9. Little Diamond won the Indiana Championship and the National Prairie Open Shooting Dog Championship twice each, in addition to seven runners-up, and an overall total of 67 field trial placements. Arrival won the All-America Open Shooting Dog Championship three times, the National Open Shooting Dog Championship, the Illinois, Egyptian, National Prairie Chicken, and Arkansas Open Shooting Dog Championships, and was runner-up in the Illinois and Masters. Arrival had 37 field trial placements overall. Was there a pair of shooting dog winners

anywhere surpassing what Eddie Rayl had in his string, training, conditioning, and competing during the competitive years of those two great dogs?

Both sons grew up working with their dad in Georgia and Manitoba. Freddie and his father, Bill, teamed up together on the all-age circuit until Bill died in 1983 at the age of 57. Bill was elected to the Field Trial Hall of Fame in 1984. In 1980, Freddie let his father run his Builder's Addition in the National Championship, and he scouted. Addition won that National Championship. Two years later, Freddie won the National Championship with Heritage's Premonition with dad as his scout. Bill won most of the major circuit premium trials, the Continental, the Invitational, the International Pheasant, the Border International, Dominion and All-America Chicken Championships in Canada, the Georgia Quail and Derby Championships, the All-America and Derby Championships, and the Florida and North Carolina Quail Championships. Bill Rayl left an impressive legacy in the champions he trained, handled, and won with, and his giving personality bettered the field trial sport and many trialers he helped along that path.

Freddie also had a remarkable field trial career. He developed 28 dogs that won 49 championships, 70-plus runners-up, and countless placements. Notable were the Florida Open All-Age Championship (5x), the Masters Quail Championship (4x), the Continental Derby Championship (4x), the Georgia Derby Championship (5x), the Quail Championship Invitational (4x), and the U. S. Open Chicken Championship (8x). Three of his 28 champions have been elected to the Field Trial Hall of Fame: Ch. Builder's Addition, Ch. Fiddler, and Ch. Fiddler's Pride. Freddie also won the 1982 Purina Dog of the Year with Heritage's Premonition and won the American Field Quail Futurity three times.

High on Freddie's list of important things he cherished that happened during his lifetime, during my recent phone conversations with him, were the memorable 12 years he teamed up with his father competing on the major all-age circuit and, above all, were his recollections of how wonderful and dedicated his parents were in raising their two boys, and showing them the ways of life, well taught to both Eddie and Freddie.

## NATIONAL OPEN PHEASANT CHAMPIONSHIP

*Game Surge Wins 2023 Running; Erin's Perfect Storm, Runner-Up*

By William Smith | Hoffman, North Carolina | October 30, 2023



National Open Pheasant Championship Winners (front, l-r): Calvin Curnutte with Game Surge, Judd Carlton, and Luke Eisenhart with Erin's Perfect Storm. (Second row): Fred Corder, William Smith (judge), and Tommi Smith. (Third row): Earl Drew, Claudia McNamee, and Michael Shears (judge). (Back row): Fred Potts, Barbara Youngs, Bob Youngs, Mrs. Paul Gadd, Paul Gadd, and Greg Robinson.

The first recorded field trial took place in May 1866 at Cannock Chase near Stafford, England. This was not the first field trial ever held; it was the first recorded trial. In the previous year, it is believed that the very first field trial had taken place, but no reliable account was ever published to verify the event. From these modest beginnings, field trials began to grow in popularity and, eight years later, would cross the Atlantic Ocean to America. The first recognized field trial in America was held in 1874, just east of Memphis, Tennessee, along with the renewals in 1875 and 1876.

“Those early competitions in England stimulated much interest and spurred determination in the desire to improve the bird dog breeds. From the very start, field trials fired the imagination and took a firm hold on the fancy of sportsmen, though the growth and expansion of the sport were slow during the early years. However, the love of this new form of bird dog competition was deep-rooted in the hearts of devotees of sports afield and the spirit of the thing crept into their very souls. With such followers, charmed by the colorful, fascinating sport, and the generous encouragement and cooperation of the sporting press, field trials were sure to survive, and as the train of years sped swiftly by, more and more sportsmen became inoculated with the ‘field trial bug.’

“The decade following World War I may well be characterized as a most flourishing era of bird dog trials, for the widespread

of its influence, the growth of clubs, and the increased number of events staged proved phenomenal. The rapid strides the sport has made to more general popularity are owing to a recognition of its intrinsic merits. Even during the critical years of World War II, field trials carried on, but it has been in the decades since that the pastime has reached new heights. Sports afield with bird dogs are no longer confined to certain sections of the country. In every part of our fair, favored land, major bird dog trials now hold forth, and a new trend toward stakes for shooting dogs has gained great numerical strength for the sport.” (Field Trials, W.F. Brown, pgs. 18-19)

You could say that what Mr. Brown described could be called the golden age of field trials. Sadly, today, the brilliance has faded. Field trial grounds have vanished. Subdivisions, gas stations, schools, and stores now adorn the venues where some of the greatest field trials were conducted. Crab Orchard, Kildeer Plains, Como field trial grounds, Canton, Mississippi, and Baldwinsville, New York, are only five of many that no longer exist for field trials. The historic Canadian prairie trials once contested at Broomhill, Gainsborough, Stoughton, Mortlach, etc., are now only memories. For the most part, wild bird hunting is only available on shooting preserves and is not financially available to the majority of the youth in America. The younger generations have not grown up hunting and are not interested in field trials. With more youth trials being held today, they could possibly enhance the probability

of longevity for field trials.

What is the purpose of field trials? W. F. Brown identified field trials as “The object of field trials is the promotion and development of the high-class bird dog. It is a means of enjoying the great out-of-door sport of bird hunting in the most aesthetic fashion. It aims to provide competition of the highest kind among bird dogs, to stimulate enthusiasm among owners, and to act as a practical guide for breeders by setting a high standard of performance.”

Whatever sport one is involved in, the goal is to be the best, to be a champion. Whether it is in amateur or professional sports, the goal is the same. It is no different when dogs are in competition, whether in the show ring or afield. Seven words were the catalyst for the formation of field trials—My dog is better than your dog. Field trials became a sure way to judge the merits of one dog versus another. Initially, all field trials were local competitions between resident dogs. The question was then asked if these local trials were offering the best of the breed to contend. In 1895, Mr. W. W. Titus authored an article published in the American Field magazine in which he proposed what would become the Field Trial Champion Association. Pointing dog trials were being contested at the time, but a championship trial had yet to be established, and therefore, the best of the best could not be settled. The Championship Association was formed, and the first meeting took place in Newton, North Carolina, in November 1895. A plan was quickly adopted to form a championship trial that would be known as the National Championship. The following year, 1896, on February 10, the first National was run at West Point, Mississippi. Other championships would follow, and 30 years later, the National Open Pheasant Championship's inaugural running was held on October 17, 1926, in Boise, Idaho. This year marks the 66th running of this time-honored event.

The following appeared in the American Field Magazine on November 21, 1925: “Much has been published of late in the columns of the American Field, coming from various sections of the United States, advocating a National Pheasant Championship Stake and Idaho, which abounds with these birds, took the reins in hand and came to the front, being the first to go on record to make such a stake

a reality.”

The National Pheasant Championship Club of Boise, Idaho, did run the stake on October 26, 1925, at Boise. The club named a champion, but the trial was not recognized by the American Field until the 1926 running, and it was not without some criticism, as noted in the report.

“While on the subject of owners and handlers, it is opportune to refer to a matter that was much in evidence during these trials, and we hope by calling attention to it that the practice may be modified in the future. There were countless instances of too much handling displayed by the handlers in the All-Age and Championship stakes. It does not seem, and we feel that the majority felt likewise, that an All-Age dog should need the prompting that was so freely extended in many cases. A far better impression would have been made by these dogs had they been allowed to rely more upon their own resources and ability rather than on that of their handlers— independence, not dependence, is what appeals to a judge. He does not become greatly impressed over what a handler is able to do for the dog but is particularly interested in what the dog is really capable of doing himself without being urged. Exceptions, of course, may be registered in cases where wide-going dogs get out of control or where a dog becomes unruly, but when a dog is working the course, incessant whistling and yelling is absurd and uncalled for.” (American Field, Nov. 25, 1925, pg.651)

The Boise club continued to recognize their champion, and the ad for the 1927 trial referred to the trial as the 3rd running of the championship. Whereas the American Field recognized it as the 2nd renewal. From 1926, the trial continued for 48 consecutive years through the 1974 running. The 1974 event was held in Bernville, Pennsylvania, and the club was making elaborate plans to host the 50th anniversary running in 1975, but the trial was canceled, and it would be 32 years before the trial would be resurrected.

The trial moved from the west to the east during its years of operation. The trial was held in Boise 1926-1929. In 1930, it was held in Dansville, New York. The trial found a new home in Buffalo, New York, from 1931 through 1950. For the next 21 years, from 1951 through 1971, Baldwinsville, New York, became the headquarters for the trial, and these 21 years would be the longest the trial would remain in one place. In 1972, 1973, and 1974, Bernville, Pennsylvania hosted the trial. The trial was dormant after the 1974 running for over three decades.

William H. Foster extolled the grounds

at Buffalo when he said, “Long before ever going to Buffalo, I had heard of the remarkable if not unique grounds of the Buffalo Trap and Field Club. But one can only appreciate the extraordinary value of these grounds after judging them. There, in the suburbs of a big city, are courses big enough to accommodate dogs fresh from the prairies, uniform enough to offer equitable competition, and with an abundance of game everywhere. I doubt if they could be duplicated anywhere else in the country.” The legendary reporter, A. F. Hochwalt, reported the Pheasant Championship for the first time in 1932 when it was contested on the Buffalo grounds.

For many years, the International Pheasant Championship and the National Open Pheasant Championship were contested at Baldwinsville, New York, and advertised as twin championships. They were run back-to-back and sponsored by the two clubs, the International Club and the National Club. At some point, there became differences of opinion between the two clubs. The dispute could not be resolved, and the International Club withdrew from the Baldwinsville grounds. The officers of the International Club believed to be Tate Kline, James Soda, and Curtis Miles, relocated the International Pheasant Championship to Kildeer Plains near Harpster, Ohio, in the mid-1960s. The International remained at Kildeer Plains through the 2009 running. As already stated, the National Open Pheasant was dormant after the 1974 running at Bernville, Pennsylvania.

In 2005, two men had a wish to restore the National Open Pheasant Championship. Tom Honecker of Harpster, Ohio, and Dr. Fred Corder of Corinth, Mississippi, were instrumental in the resurrection of the trial in 2006, where it was held at Kildeer Plains, Ohio. The International and the National were reunited in 2006 when they were once again run on the same venue as championship stakes. The trials ran there through the 2009 running. After the 2009 running, the Ohio Wildlife Department ruled that horseback field trials were “detrimental to the grounds,” and all horseback trials were prohibited from using the grounds. The clubhouse, barns, and corrals were bulldozed down before the ink dried on the termination paper, ensuring that field trials would never be allowed there again.

Mr. Honecker’s untimely death vacated a leadership role in the clubs, and Dr. Fred Corder assumed the presidency of the National and International clubs and relocated both trials to Dresden, Ohio, where they operated from 2010 through

2019. The trial was held on reclaimed strip-mined grounds. Dresden was a challenging venue with little mowing done to the courses and high, dense vegetation. The steep hills were a test of stamina for dog, horse, and man. With little amenities from the Ohio Wildlife Department, entries declined to the point that it was not feasible to continue in Dresden. The National Open was not conducted in 2020 but was resurrected in 2021 in Berea, Kentucky, at the Central Kentucky W.M.A. near Berea, where it was also contested in 2022.

There have been 54 different dogs to win the title of National Open Pheasant Champion. Only two have been setters— Rumson Farm Loch, ESM, in 1941 and Handicap Mike, ESM, in 1970. Seven pointer females have won the title, and 37 pointer males have been named champion. The title was withheld eight times, all being pointer males. Three of the winners also won the National Championship. Shore’s Brownie Doone won the Pheasant title in 1948 and the National in 1953. He was handled by George Evans. Home Again Mike, handled by Fred Arant, was the Pheasant Champion in 1956 and the National Champion in 1960. The last to accomplish the feat was Lester’s Shockwave, who captured both titles in 2022. Gary Lester handled.

There have been six dogs to be named Pheasant Open Champion in successive years. Village Boy, PM, handled by Glenn Davis, was the first in 1931 and 1932. Little Frenchman, PM, handled by P. A. Brousseau, accomplished the deed in 1961 and 1962. Tom Honecker piloted his pointer female, Cedaroak Bee Sting, to the titles in 2007 and 2008, the only female to be named in successive years. Handler Ray Warren joined the club when he guided Quester, PM, to the titles in 2011 and 2012. The only time that back-to-back double winners occurred was in 2013 and 2014 when White’s Solid Reward, PM, handled by Lefty Henry, earned the titles. Sean Derrig made his mark with Erin’s Redrum, PM, in 2018 and 2019 to become the last to date to be crowned in consecutive years. Two-time winner Tarheelia’s Lucky Strike, PM, handled by Earl Crangle, won the gold in 1940 and 1943. Killislyth Rusty Doone, PM, was named first in 1951 when the title was withheld and came back in 1952 to claim the crown. He was handled by George Evans. The only three-time winner of this event is Rumson Farm Hayride, PM, handled by Earl Crangle in 1953, 1957, and 1958. The only other female to win on two occasions is the pointer Sugarshack, handled by Bob Lamb in 1966 and 1968. The last of the two-time winners to date is True Confidence, PM, handled by Luke Eisenhart in 2015 and 2017.

When the National Open Pheasant was run at Berea, Kentucky, the entries were low, barely qualifying as a Purina Points trial. Dr. Corder began to look for a different venue. He had visited Hoffman the year before, and he was impressed with the grounds and the facilities. One problem would be releasing pheasants in a location where pheasants were not native. Dr. Corder approached a local sportsman and a member of the clubs sponsoring trials at Hoffman, John Ivester, with the proposition of running the National there. John contacted the North Carolina Fish and Game authorities, and with his assistance, an agreement was reached to allow pheasants to be released for the trial. With that understanding in hand, the move to Hoffman was activated.

The National Open Pheasant Championship's new home is in the 60,000-acre Sandhills Wildlife Management Area near Hoffman, North Carolina. The trial grounds are identified as the Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds. The venue is simply known as Hoffman to the field trial community. It is the club's 9th location. Not only were these grounds a new venue, but pheasants were also released for the first time on these grounds. The Hoffman venue is surely one of the finest facilities for field trials nationwide. The amenities include a clubhouse that can easily accommodate 60 people with a full kitchen, a 54-stall barn, and an ample supply of outdoor horse pens. There are water hydrants located in strategic places where hoses do not have to be coupled together in order to reach every pen. There are even hydrants along the hallways in the barn! The dog pens are made in a circular pattern where a person can stand in one place and service the nine pens of each kennel. The six one-hour courses are equal in the places where a dog must handle and places the handler can show his dog on some of the long fields adjacent to and between the towering pine groves. Field trials and field trialers are welcomed at Hoffman. John Ivester hosted the third annual owners, handlers, and scouts' dinner at Beefeaters restaurant in Aberdeen. It was not only a delicious meal, but it was also a statement that Hoffman encourages people to enjoy Hoffman. Hopefully, the championship will remain here for many years.

The trial is a Purina Points trial for handler and top dog of the year and a National Championship qualifying stake. Purina stepped up again and sponsored the ad for the trial, and they also furnished Pro Plan for the winner and runner-up. Purina is an irreplaceable asset for field trials all across America. The trial is part of the All-Age and Derby Jamboree and was run

on pre-released quail and pheasants. The Jamboree had an extra purse where the top points handler received a \$5,000 bonus, and the top points dog's handler received the top dog trophy.

The drawing was held on October 20 at 6 p.m. at the Hoffman clubhouse on the grounds. The trial is sponsored by the National Open Pheasant Championship Club. The directors of the club are Dr. Fred Corder, Andy Cline, Mike Jackson, and William Smith. Thirty-six were drawn to compete—32 pointers and four setters. The competition started on Monday, October 30, and concluded on Wednesday, November 1.

The National Open Championship Clubs wishes to express our sincere thanks to the Richmond County Tourism Development Authority, North Carolina Game and Fish Authority, John Ivester, Carl Owens, Lee Crisco, manager of the field trial grounds, and all those who worked to make this venture a success. This scribe would also like to thank Bob Youngs for his help in replacing a bent axle on my trailer.

Michael Shears from Franklin, Tennessee, accepted the invitation to officiate. Michael and his Boxwood dogs have trialed extensively in the south and southeast. He has retired from his profession as a building contractor and now has more time to devote to field trials. He has judged many of the major trials in the U. S. and Canada. His decisions are always readily accepted. The next time you see Michael, ask him about the flagpole. It was my pleasure to fill the second judicial saddle to work with Michael.

Local resident Greg Robinson drove the dog wagon and supplied the treats between the braces. He also offered coffee, water, or carbonated drinks for the choosing. Greg knows all the shortcuts and byways to navigate the grounds, and he was always punctual. Marshaling duties were performed by Gary Miller, Lefty Henry, Bob Youngs, and Carl Owens. Carl was drafted early in the stake to marshal, and he "took right to it." All the marshals were very much appreciated for their service. Because Carl was drafted, he received an authentic marshal's badge, and he wore it with a smile. Rita Corder was the roustabout for the trial. She rode colts in the mornings and afternoons and prepared hot lunches at night to be served the next day. Everyone looked forward to the lunch hour. Tommi Smith helped organize lunch, warm the pre-prepared fare, and clean-up afterward.

Historically, the Canadian Prairie trials signaled the opening of the field trial season. Tragically, the Canadian trials have ceased to exist. Their history will be

lost in only a very few years. Many field trialers today never had the opportunity to experience the prairies. What once was such a huge part of field trials is now only memories. In October, four qualifying trials were held back-to-back at Hoffman—the Tar Heel Championship, the Central Carolina Championship, the International Pheasant Championship, and the National Open Championship. With the demise of the Canadian trials, these four championships have been designated to herald the start of the field trial season. Four trials in succession would mean that the handlers would have to stay for an extended period of time. With this in mind, the idea of a Jamboree came into being. There were points awarded to the winning handlers and dogs. The handler with the most points, Luke Eisenhart, was awarded the \$5,000 purse, and Haney's All In received the top dog trophy.

To finance the Jamboree, Carl Owens took the bull by the horns and solicited sponsors. Eighteen promoters answered the call: Mule City Delivers, Four M of Doerun, Georgia, Chad Adams & Son Stables, Daniels Kennels, Trachaven Kennels, Ike and Marty Todd, Claudia McNamee in memory of Bill McNamee, The Company White Dogs, Purina, Carl Owens Contracting, Red Hill Kennel, Crosscountry Kennels, High Tailin' It Setters, Robyn Branch Design, Quail Woods Farm, Camp Hatteras, Hog Slat, and Long Leaf Dry-Mix products. Thanks to these donors and Carl's efforts, the Jamboree was well-financed and successful.

## **The Running**

### ***Brace No. 1***

Game Heir, handled by his owner, Dr. Fred Corder, was scouted by Calvin Curnutte. Bonner's Bulletproof, handled by Randy Anderson and scouted by Bridget Ledington, began the action at 8:03 a.m. The temperature stood at 61 degrees when the call to "let 'em go" was heard. Both dogs started at a fast pace, going away through the pines. Both handlers rode at a canter to get to their dog before the sand road crossing. Corder's cap was in the air at 14, with Heir standing in the sage grass at the edge of the pines. Corder put a large quail covey to flight with Heir's manners unquestioned. Proof was far to the front when Heir caught up. Both handlers pointed out their dogs as they roamed through the hills. Curnutte found Heir standing at 46, looking into a dense thicket. Corder could not put anything in the air after a searching relocation failed, and Heir was credited with an unproductive stand. Anderson called point for Proof at the 59-minute mark. Heir was backing. Proof's

stand was barren, and the brace ended.

#### **Brace No. 2**

Luke Eisenhart piloted Rentz's Hijacked, and Judd Carlton assisted. The bottom dog was Painted Owyhee Toad, handled by his owner, Bridget Ledington, with help from Randy Anderson. Hijacked's race was short, and he was harnessed at 24. Toad had a nice find at 21 and stood mannerly when the covey exploded out of the thicket. He began to quarter after his find, and he was picked up at 34.

#### **Brace No. 3**

Lefty Henry handled Southern Nation for owner John Ivester, who was riding in the dog wagon to watch the action. Nation was scouted by Jerry Raynor. Erin's Perfect Storm was scouted by Judd Carlton, with Luke Eisenhart handling. Nation started strong and had Henry riding high in the saddle to keep him in sight. Henry called point at 13, but Nation indicated he was not sure he had them located, and Henry whistled him up. Nation made a short cast in the area and then went on ahead. He was absent for some time, and Henry took the tracker at 50. Storm was standing at the 5-minute mark, and Eisenhart put the first pheasant of the day into the air. Storm was running hard as he was pointed out, going over the next hills and through the lowland, always to the front. He was styled up again at 23. Henry saw Storm standing in a feed patch and alerted Eisenhart. Storm had hit the scent hard as he evidently passed it. His head was turned around as far as he could, with his body solid. Eisenhart finally put a running pheasant to flight. After that find, he seemed to quicken his pace, and when he was seen, he was always at a far distance to the front. He made a huge swing at about the 50-minute mark, and the scout was sent into the thick pines where Storm was last seen. Eisenhart had confidence that Storm would make the turn, and he kept riding and calling. His faith was rewarded when Storm crossed ahead of Eisenhart, and time was called to end the brace. Storm was the first dog with two pheasant finds.

#### **Brace No. 4**

Judd and Luke traded positions, with Judd handling Miller's Heat Advisory and Luke scouting. Touch's Breakaway Fred was handled by Mark McLean with help from Jerry Raynor. It was hot—83 degrees—when the brace began. Advisory stayed to the front at a good range, with Judd riding to keep him in sight. He was standing at 43 in the path, looking ahead to the edge of a small thicket. The quail were running, and Judd put them to wing with Advisory staunch at wing and shot. He was standing again at 49, and Judd flushed a single quail. Advisory stood unmoving at

the shot. Judd continued to work hard to keep in touch with Advisory, but Advisory was out of pocket at pick up. His finish did not meet all-age standards. Fred was out of pocket from the breakaway; McLean took the tracker at 34 when Fred came in from the side and was extremely hot.

#### **Brace No. 5**

One of the Louisiana entries was Rester's Johnny Ringo, piloted by Luke Eisenhart and assisted by Judd Carlton. Ringo's bracemate was the setter Woodville's Yukon Cornelius, handled by Mark McLean with help from Jerry Raynor. Ringo suffered a breach of manners at 29, and he was picked up. Cornelius started strong, going away to the front. McLean continued to show Cornelius at true all-age distance. Raynor found Cornelius standing at the edge of a food patch at 19. McLean flew the large covey, and Cornelius remained staunch at wing and shot. McLean called point for Cornelius at 29 and called flight of the birds as the judiciary approached. The quail were seen officially. Cornelius continued to impress with his speed and distance until the brace ended, but he was not credited with any other bird work.

#### **Brace No. 6**

Rester's Cajun Spirit was the top dog, and he was handled by Judd Carlton and scouted by Luke Eisenhart. Randy Anderson scratched Valiant Sunrise because of a health concern. Spirit made a courageous effort, but the heat took a toll on him, and Judd humanely picked him up at 34.

#### **Brace No. 7**

Randy Anderson was back to handle Miller's Whiteout, and Bridget Ledington was back in action as the scout. Woodville's Saddle Tramp completed the brace, with Mark McLean handling with help from Jerry Raynor. Whiteout was on the board at 8 with a nice find. He kept Anderson and Ledington busy as he roamed over the vast course. He was standing at 40, and a rabbit was seen leaving the vicinity after Whiteout attempted a relocation. He didn't want to quit when time was called, and it took about 11 minutes before he was corralled. Tramp was quickly out of sight and was not spotted until the 24-minute mark. He was standing facing a large food patch. When McLean went in to flush, Tramp indicated he didn't have them located exactly. He was asked to relocate, and in his zeal, he got too close to a large quail covey.

#### **Brace No. 8**

Mark McLean handled Aucilla Jim and Jerry Raynor scouted. Game Surge,

handled by his owner, Dr. Fred Corder, completed the pairing with help from Calvin Curnutte when needed. Aucilla Jim didn't want to play today, and after an extended absence, McLean took the tracker at 6. Surge made his presence known early when he scored a pheasant find at 16 in a sage grass plot near a sand road. Surge continued to run to the front at the all-age range, and Corder let him go. He was seen where he needed to be when he needed to be seen. He was scouted very little, and he impressed with his speed and his range. He was standing again at 45, looking into a small thicket, and Corder put another pheasant to wing with no exception taken to Surge's manners. He finished his bid going away when time was called, and he was seen by both judges at that time. Corder went into the pines to retrieve Surge, and the call of point was heard. The judges sent word that Surge had been seen when time was called and to pick the dog up. He was the second dog with two pheasant finds.

#### **Brace No. 9**

The top dog, I'm Gallant, was directed by Randy Anderson with help from Bridget Ledington when needed. Lester's Storm Chaser was handled by Lefty Henry for owner John Ivester, who rode to support his entry. Judd Carlton scouted. Gallant scored a back at 14 and another at 38. Anderson decided he wasn't making any money and put Gallant in a harness at 40. Chaser was standing at 5, and after an extended relocation Henry decided to take a barren stand and go ahead. He scored a nice quail covey find at 14 in a feed patch with Gallant backing. He was credited with his second unproductive stand at 38 that ended his bid.

#### **Brace No. 10**

The setter male, Erin's Wild Atlantic Way, was handled by Luke Eisenhart, with Judd Carlton performing the scouting duties. Mark McLean handled Touch's Midnight Rider and was assisted by Jerry Raynor. Way got down to business quickly with a covey find at 3. Two minutes later, he scored a find on a single quail. After his second find, he disappeared, and Eisenhart took the tracker at 29. Rider backed Way at 3, and then he, too, decided to go his separate way. McLean took the tracker at 44.

#### **Brace No. 11**

Brace No. 11 kicked off with Touch's Fire Away, handled by Randy Anderson, braced with Supreme Confidence, handled by Luke Eisenhart. Bridget Ledington scouted Fire Away, and Judd Carlton scouted Confidence. Away scored a pheasant find at two minutes into the brace.

He was standing at 30, and when Anderson shot, Away broke, ending his chances. Confidence had a nice covey find at 30. He was running to the front, handling easily for Eisenhart. He was standing at 50, but the relocation failed to find any feathers, and he was taken up.

#### **Brace No. 12**

Sweet Grass Skipper, handled by Jerry Raynor with help from Mark McLean, and No Strings Attached, handled by Randy Anderson, were paired. Bridget Ledington scouted Attached. Skipper had a covey find at 7, but the temptation was too much when the covey left, and Skipper went with them. A brisk wind was blowing, and a light rain was falling, with temperatures also falling when Attached pointed at 22. The stand was barren, and Anderson decided to get Attached out of the weather.

#### **Brace No. 13**

Randy Anderson was back with Touch's Cocaine Blues, and Bridget Ledington again scouting. Rester's Cajun Justice was handled by Luke Eisenhart and scouted by Judd Carlton. The mercury stood at 41 degrees at kick-off time, and there were no short-sleeved shirts visible this morning. Blues hunted the likely places, but Lady Luck was not with him today. Anderson threw in the towel at 44. Justice was not in the mood to run today, and he was harnessed at 24.

#### **Brace No. 14**

Erin's High Note was directed by Judd Carlton, and Luke Eisenhart assisted. Haney's All In was handled by Mark McLean with help from Jerry Raynor. Carlton had his hands full with the wide-ranging Note. Note's race was powerful as he hunted over the chilly venue. He was standing at 45 in high sage grass. When Carlton flew the large covey, Note could not resist the temptation to go with them. All In covered a lot of territory in his quest to find the elusive game this morning. McLean rode the front, exhibiting the faith he had in All In. He gave it a valiant effort, but he was not successful in finding game. He finished the hour with no bird work, and McLean had to ride for him at pick up.

#### **Brace No. 15**

Nighthawk's Rebel, handled by Luke Eisenhart with assistance from Judd Carlton, and Touch's Gallatin Fire, handled by Mark McLean with help from Jerry Raynor, comprised the 15th brace. Rebel was quick off the mark as he ranged ahead out of sight over the next hill. He was seen at 30 as he entered the big loop on course 6. He was not seen again until 42, and Eisenhart decided to pick him up at that point. Fire started to the left tree line edge, and Eisenhart alerted McLean that Fire was standing in the wood's edge at 3. Fire was solid when the covey flew, and the shot was fired. Fire's range was markedly shorter than his normal race. McLean tried to get him to run but without success. Fire was collared at 14.

#### **Brace No. 16**

Eisenhart handled Erin's Code of Honor and was assisted again by Judd Carlton. Mark McLean handled Touch's Shadow Rider with assistance when needed by Jerry Raynor. Honor was picked up at 30 when his race began to shorten. Rider suffered a barren stand at 3 and was taken up.

#### **Brace No. 17**

Slick Water Frac was scouted by Bridget Ledington and handled by Randy Anderson. The second dog was Notorious Dominator's Heir, handled by Judd Carlton and scouted by Luke Eisenhart. Frac was harnessed at 19 when his race was not suiting. Heir had been absent for some time, and Carlton took the tracker at 47. When Carlton found Heir, he had been struck by a highway vehicle and was killed. It is always a tragic occurrence when something like this happens. Our condolences went out to Judd Carlton and Heir's owner, John Mathys, for this heartbreaking incident.

#### **Brace No. 18**

Brace No. 18 was the concluding brace of the trial. The veteran, Touch's Malcolm Story, was handled by Mark McLean with help from Jerry Raynor, and Knight Moon was handled by Luke Eisenhart and scouted by Fred Corder. Story was standing at 10. A relocation was called for, but Story

went on ahead and then was picked up. Moon was absent, and Eisenhart took the tracker at 30.

#### **The Winner**

When the dust had settled, 3-year-old Game Surge, handled by his owner, Dr. Fred Corder, was named the 2023 National Open Pheasant Champion. His race was powerful, and to the front for the entire 60 minutes, he was lightly scouted. His two pheasant finds were textbook and, without any exception, taken to his manners.

Luke Eisenhart handled the coming 4-year-old Erin's Perfect Storm for owner Brad Woodie of Waxhaw, North Carolina, to the runner-up champion spot. His race was also a front-running power display. He connected on two pheasants with style and manners impeccable.

The merits of each dog's performance were discussed at length by the judges. There was very little that separated these two, but a decision had to be made, and the nod went to Game Surge. There were three other dogs that deserve to be mentioned. Miller's Heat Advisory, handled by Judd Carlton, carded two finds and ran an all-age race. His finish did not meet the all-age standards. Mark McLean handled two setters belonging to Carl Owens. Woodville's Yukon Cornelius also carded two finds, and his performance would have placed him first in another trial on another day. Woodville's Saddle Tramp was not seen after the breakaway until the 24-minute mark. He was dead to the front, standing on the edge of a feed patch. His style was a picture book. When McLean was flushing, he asked Tramp to relocate. Tramp went a little too fast and got a little too close and put the birds to wing, ending the possibility of a promising performance.

**Hoffman, N. C., October 30**

**Judges: Michael Shears and William Smith**

**NATIONAL OPEN PHEASANT CHAMPIONSHIP**

**[One-Hour Heats] – 32 Pointers and 4 Setters**

*Winner-GAME SURGE, 1700091, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Maggie. Fred Corder, owner and handler.*

*Runner-Up-ERIN'S PERFECT STORM, 1692323, pointer male, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Erin's Bet On Me. Brad Woodie, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.*

### **Planning a Field Trial?**

Submit your Fixture information as soon as dates have been confirmed.

Please include: Name of club, start date, location of grounds (city and state), and contact name, phone number and email address.

For a copy of a previous ad, visit the calendar at [www.americanfield.com](http://www.americanfield.com) or email: [gsmith@ukcdogs.com](mailto:gsmith@ukcdogs.com)



## WEST KENTUCKY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

### *Inaugural NBHA Trial Held At Crouse Kennel In Memory of Jim Crouse*

By Joe Hopkins & Mary Sue Schalk | Dixon, Kentucky | November 3, 2023

There are many great families in sports: the Mannings in football, the Williams sisters in tennis, the Currys in basketball, and the list goes on and on.

In the world of field trials, the game is blessed with the Crouse Kennel team of Mike Crouse and Mary Sue Schalk of Crouse Kennels in Dixon, Kentucky.

With deep roots within the horseback sector of the game, their love, compassion, and support of field trials grow and live far beyond their personal roots and extend well into its people as well.

At any West Kentucky Field Trial event, it is common practice that winning connection photos are captured in front of the stone fireplace in the clubhouse at the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area field trial grounds just outside of Paducah, Kentucky. Unique to this setting, however, is a sacred backdrop consisting of some of the hallowed memories of the famed conquerors of the Quail Championship Invitational hanging on the walls. Legends such as Safari, Oklahoma Flush, Wrapup, Builder's Addition, Fiddler, Barshoe Buzzsaw, Miller's Silver Bullett, House's Rain Cloud, Miller's True Spirit, Hytest Sky Hawk, Dunn's Tried'n True, Valiant, just to name a few with the list going on and on.

But what you won't see on those walls are the hundreds of photos taken in the same exact location featuring the many faces of individuals being introduced to the game for the first time, watching, volunteering, judging, or maybe handling their first horseback trial or being given the opportunity to further discover a passion that may lie within these prospects. Opportunities to become a larger part of the field trial fabric are few and far between, especially for outsiders or those who aspire to join the community with no pre-existing connective tissue, so to speak.

The Crouse Kennel team, however, has an open-door policy for anyone who has a passion or flickering interest in field trials, and it's proven in the roster of people and events they've championed over the years.

Although these efforts may not find themselves in the history books, they undoubtedly deserve equal recognition and praise of the field trial community, and they will certainly live forever in the hearts of those individuals whom those opportunities help serve.



Open Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Stardust Outcast Coco with James C. Kleve (handler), Duke with Judd Woodward (owner/handler), and Foxy Abralena with Mike Fox. (Standing): Donna Boatright, Terry Boatright, Gary Vitali, Mike Crouse (judge), Vincent Major (judge), and John Clough.

This maiden voyage walking trial held at the personal grounds of the Crouse Kennel operation is proof of their dedication and belief in doing their part for the game and facilitating the unique fellowship a field trial offers and can create. Their engagement, passion, and hard work are pillars of the existence of their operation and the NBHAs alike, and we hope this event and partnership can continue in perpetuity.

Seasoned veterans, amateurs, professionals, new trialers, and spectators alike from numerous different states were all in attendance for the two days running in picturesque November weather. Matt Schalk never disappoints in treating attendees with his culinary talents along with the rest of the West Kentucky team, which includes Vincent Majors, Cora Clary, and Sarah Clary, providing all the necessary trial infrastructure scouting, marshaling, and numerous other administrative roles. All of their hard work is clearly evident, and their passion is a model for success.

A true measure of this trial's success was measured in the number of questions, all wondering when these great people would host another great field trial and, if so, everyone's readiness to commit to that future date.

To say that the National Bird Hunters Association is proud to align with the energies of the Crouse Kennel team would be an understatement, and the organization would further like to take the opportunity

on behalf of the participants of the trial, the NBHA, and the field trial community as whole, to thank the formidable father-daughter duo of Mike and Mary Sue for all that they do and what they stand for.

The flagship sponsors of the NBHA also share in these attributes, and it's proven in their unwavering year-on-year support of the National Bird Hunters Association, its administration, its clubs, and its participants. This esteemed roster of sponsors not only supports our events but believes in the vision to grow them well into the future and preserve the bird dog and upland heritage. Those great sponsors include Purina Pro Plan, Gun Dog Supply, Garmin, Mule Brand Clothing & Apparel, OnX Hunt, Gun Dog Central, and Park Cities Quail Coalition.

The inaugural Crouse Kennel event drew 48 entries for the six different stakes. The Open Puppy stake ran first on Friday, November 3. Boatright's Audubon Outcast bested the field of six. She is a flashy setter owned and handled by Terry Boatright. Rounding out the field were two black and white pointer females, Crouse's Irish Trooper and Crouse's Irish Rose. The littermates were both handled by 2½-year-old Anna Katherine Schalk. The youngster has an enthusiasm for her bird dogs and her whistle! The Open Puppy stake kicked off the weekend in a grand fashion.

Following the puppies, the big dogs took to the field. Six entries ran in the Open Shooting Dog stake. James C.



Open Puppy Winners (front, l-r): Boatright's Audubon Outcast with James Kleve (scout), Crouse's Irish Trooper with Mary Sue Schalk (scout) and Anna Katherine Schalk (handler), and Crouse's Irish Rose with Judd Woodward. (Standing): Terry Boatright, Mike Crouse (judge), and Vincent Major (judge).

Kleve handled Stardust Outcast Coco to the first-place spot. The orange and white setter female ran a strong, forward ground race and finished strong. Earning second was Duke, a black and white unregistered German shorthair. Duke was handled by his owner, Judd Woodward, who was competing in his first field trial event ever. Congrats to this first-timer! Rounding out the field was female Irish setter Foxy Abralena, owned and handled by Mike Fox.

The Open Derby stake also drew six and was won by a strapping liver and white pointer male. Crouse's Comeback Kid was handled by Mary Sue Schalk, who owns the dog with M. D. Crouse. Outcast Siren Song, a tri-color setter female, was handled by James C. Kleve of Outcast Kennels for owner John Clough, who was on site for the event. Kleve also handled Boatrights Morning Star, another tri-color setter female, to third place. Morning Star is owned by Terry Boatright.

The Amateur Derby stake kicked off the day on Saturday, November 4. Boatright's Audubon Outcast returned to the winners' spot for owner/handler Terry Boatright. Taking second was PB Copper Strike, a sharp orange and white pointer male, who is owned and handled by Brian Stockrahm. Crouse's Irish Trooper returned to the podium with a third-place tie, handled by Mary Sue Schalk.



Amateur Puppy Winners (front, l-r): Boatright's Audubon Outcast with Donna Boatright (scout), PB Copper Strike with Brian Stockrahm (owner/handler), and Crouse's Irish Trooper with Mary Sue Schalk (owner/handler). (Standing): Joe Hopkins, Mike Fox, Terry Boatright, Adam Thomas, Vincent Major (judge), Scott Smith, Cora Clary (judge), Mike Crouse, and John Clough.

Twelve dogs were drawn for both the Amateur Shooting Dog and Amateur Derby stakes. Mike Fox returned to the winners' circle, this time taking first with Foxy Lady Sadie. She was forward, classy, and solid on her birds during her brace. A nice win for this 3-year-old Irish setter female. Joe Hopkins and All Out were in the second-place spot, also with bird work and a forward, honest race. The 9-year-old setter male hunts game like a pup! Enjoyed seeing this dog's enthusiasm on the ground. Rounding out the field was Vitali Grouseringer Pappy, a 4-year-old setter male. Pappy is owned and handled by Gary Vitali. He ran strong, handled well, and was easy on the eyes. A job well done for all, earning a spot in the top three in a field of 12.

Wrapping up the weekend was the Open Derby stake. Besting the field was a tri-color setter male, Boatrights Iron Eagle. Owned and handled by Terry Boatright, Chappy applied himself energetically to the course and found birds during his 30 minutes. Crouse's Comeback Kid earned the second-place spot with another strong ground race for owner/handler Mary Sue Schalk. Also returning to the winners' circle for third place was Boatrights Morning Star, this time handled by owner Terry Boatright.

Congratulations to all winners, owners, handlers, and scouts! More importantly, thank you to those who made this event a possibility. Those filling the judicial saddles included Mike Crouse, Vincent Major, Cora Clary, Joe Hopkins, and James Kleve. Those handling dog wagon details were Donna Boatright, Marla Stockrahm, Judd Woodward, and Joe Hopkins. What a wonderful field trial event! Best of luck to all those competing throughout the season.

We dedicate our first field trial at Crouse Kennel to the memory of Jim Crouse, "Uncle Jim."



Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Foxy Lady Sadie with Mike Fox (owner/handler), All Out with Joe Hopkins (owner/handler), and Vitali Grouseringer Pappy with Gary Vitali (owner/handler). (Standing): Tom Meisel, Scott Smith, unidentified participant, John Clough, Terry Boatright, James Kleve (judge), Adam Thomas, Brian Stockrahm, Vincent Major, Mary Sue Schalk, and Mike Crouse (judge).



Open Derby Winners (front, l-r): Crouse's Comeback Kid with Mary Sue Schalk (owner/handler), Outcast Siren Song with John Clough (owner), and Boatright's Morning Star with Terry Boatright (owner). (Standing): Mike Crouse (judge), Vincent Major (judge), James Kleve, and Mike Fox.

Dixon, Ky., November 3

Judges: Mike Crouse and Vincent Major

**NBHA OPEN PUPPY – 4 Pointers and 2 Setters**

1st-BOATRRIGHT'S AUDUBON OUTCAST, 1705038, setter female, by Audubon Americus-Circle B Burning Stardust. Terry Boatright, owner and handler.

2d-CROUSE'S IRISH TROOPER, 1705640, pointer female, by Crouse's Quiet Man-Valley View Kentucky Shine. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Anna Katherine Schalk, handler.

3d-CROUSE'S IRISH ROSE, 1705639, pointer female, by Crouse's Quiet Man-Valley View Kentucky Shine. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Anna Katherine Schalk, handler.

**NBHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG**

– 4 Setters, 2 Irish Setters and 1 German Shorthair

1st-STARBUST OUTCAST COCO, 1695076, setter female, by Woodville's Yukon Cornelius-Outcast Stardust. Sean F. Williams, owner; James C. Kleve, handler.

2d-DUKE, unreg., German Shorthair male, breeding not given. Judd Woodward, owner and handler.

3d-FOXY ABRALENA, 1682017, Irish setter female, by Zansett Simply Red-Foxy's Lil Red Missy. Mila Fox, owner and handler.

**NBHA OPEN DERBY – 3 Pointers and 3 Setters**

1st-CROUSE'S COMEBACK KID, 1701214, pointer male, by Crouse's Heart of Dixon-Crouse's Skiptomylu. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Mary Sue Schalk, handler.

2d-OUTCAST SIREN SONG, 1703063, setter female, by Outcast Jericho Hilltopper-Outcast Clear Vision. John Clough, owner; James C. Kleve, handler.

3d-BOATRRIGHTS MORNING STAR, 1700324, setter female, by Woodville's Yukon Cornelius-Outcast Star Breeze. Terry Boatright, owner; James C. Kleve, handler.



Amateur Derby Winners (front, l-r): Boatrights Iron Eagle with Mary Sue Schalk (scout); Crouse's Comeback Kid with Vincent Major (scout); and Boatrights Morning Star with Terry Boatright (owner/handler). (Standing): Tom Meisel, Scott Smith, unidentified participant, John Clough, Adam Thomas, Donna Boatright, Mike Crouse (judge), Mike Fox, James Kleve, Brian Stockrahm, and Joe Hopkins (judge).

**Judges: Cora Clary and Vincent Major**  
**NBHA AMATEUR PUPPY – 3 Pointers, 2 Setters,**  
**and 1 German Shorthair**

1st-BOATRIGTH'S AUDUBON OUTCAST, 1705038, setter female, by Audubon Americus-Circle B Burning Stardust. Terry Boatright, owner and handler.  
 2d-PB COPPER STRIKE, 1705727, pointer male, by Erin's Southern Comfort-Three Stripe's Bullseye. Brian Stockrahm, owner and handler.  
 3d-CROUSE'S IRISH TROOPER, 1705640, pointer female, by Crouse's Quiet Man-Valley View Kentucky Shine. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Mary Sue Schalk, handler.

**Judges: Mike Crouse and James Kleve**  
**NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG**  
**– 1 Pointer, 9 Setters, and 2 Irish Setters**

1st-FOXY LADY SADIE, 1691626, Irish setter female, by Zansett Simply Red-Foxy's Lil Red Missy. Mike Fox, owner and handler.  
 2d-ALL OUT, 1658806, setter male, by All In-Walnut Hills Rocket Onpoint. Joseph & Brittany Hopkins, owners; Joe Hopkins, handler.  
 3d-VITALI GROUSERINGER PAPPY, 1683688, setter male, by Vitali's Grouseringer Stogey-Vitali Grouseringer Purdy. Gary J. Vitali, owner and handler.

**Judges: Mike Crouse and Joe Hopkins**  
**NBHA AMATEUR DERBY – 3 Pointers, 7 Setters,**  
**and 2 German Shorthairs**

1st-BOATRIGTHS IRON EAGLE, 1700325, setter female, by Woodville's Yukon Cornelius-Outcast Starbreeze. Terry Boatright, owner and handler.  
 2d-CROUSE'S COMEBACK KID, 1701214, pointer male, by Crouse's Heart of Dixon-Crouse's Skiptomyli. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Mary Sue Schalk, handler.  
 3d-BOATRIGTHS MORNING STAR, 1700324, setter female, by Woodville's Yukon Cornelius-Outcast Starbreeze. Terry Boatright, owner and handler.

**Boarding & Training**

**"CLASS WILD BIRD DOGS"**

**ROBERT ECKER**

**Midnight Kennel**

**P.O. Box 84, Wertman Rd.**

**Quakake, PA 18245-0084**

**(570) 778-3009**

**www.midnightkennel.com**

**Pointers**

*The Home of Ch. Blackhawk Jet*  
**has moved!**

Hard Rock Kennels has moved from Decatur, TX, to Walnut, MS, the heartland of field trials, 15 miles from Grand Junction, TN.

*Gone but never forgotten, Jet has proven his pedigree all over Texas and beyond.*

- Pups and young started dogs for sale
- Limited semen available



**Cock'N'Fire Maggie**  
 — Direct daughter of Jet —  
 2017 National OSD Champion

**Call/Text: GEORGE GAGE—(731) 609-3400**

**Field Trials**

**VOLUNTEER STATE FIELD TRIAL CLUB**

*Blank pistols and ammo only!*

**Starts Friday, December 1\* • Starts 8:00 a.m.**

*\*Or at the conclusion of the Kentucky Quail Classic*

**West Kentucky WMA, 1035 Ogden Landing Rd., Kevil, KY**



**A REGION 4, OHIO VALLEY CIRCUIT & U.S. AMATEUR DERBY INVITATIONAL, AMATEUR ALL-AGE AND SHOOTING DOG INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL**

**Drawing: Wednesday, November 29, 6:00 p.m., at the home of Chris Cagle, 2730 Woodlawn Park Rd., Woodlawn, TN.**

- AMATEUR ALL-AGE (1 Hour) ..... \$60.00
- AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.) ..... \$40.00
- AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour)—Time permitting ..... \$60.00

**Judges: Steve Towery, Murray, KY, and Brett Towery, Murray, KY**

*(In the event a judge is unable to serve, Dwight Grace, South Fulton, TN, has agreed to step in.)*

**Entries to: CHRIS CAGLE—(248) 670-2574**

**PETE GLASS—(270) 348-6733 • DWIGHT GRACE—(731) 697-6075**



**LICKING RIVER BIRD DOG CLUB**

*Member NBHA, AFTCA, KFTA & ABHA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!*

**December 2-3 • Berea, KY**

**Grounds: Miller Welch Central KY WMA, 638 Dreyfus Rd., Berea, KY.**

**Entries Close/Drawing: Tuesday, November 28, 7:00 p.m.**

**Drawing to follow at 8:00 p.m., at the home of the chairman.**

- OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.) ..... \$30.00
- OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.) ..... \$60.00
- OPEN DERBY (30 Min.) ..... \$45.00
- AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.) ..... \$50.00
- AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.) ..... \$40.00
- GUN DOG (30 Min.)—**Judgment ceases at flush; at club's discretion** ... \$40.00

— Ribbons or plaques to all placements —

**Judges: Brian French, Georgetown, KY; Bob Kester, Lexington, KY; and rotating panel.**



**Entries to: JONATHAN DUNN • (859) 404-7359**

*NBHA, Licking River BDC, AFTCA, or KFTA are not liable for accidents or injuries to persons and/or animals.*

**Visit [www.americanfield.com](http://www.americanfield.com) for more news!**



# NORTHERN NEW JERSEY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA & NBHA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 • ONE-DAY TRIAL • STARTS 8:00 A.M.**

**Grounds:** Indian Creek Shooting Preserve, 43 Lasinski Rd., Franklin, NJ 07416.  
**Directions:** Off of Rt. 94, turn onto Lasinski Rd. and go over the railroad tracks to the end. Trial to be run on quail, chukar and pheasant. **Drawing:** Tuesday, November 28, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Trial Chairman John Dobson, 227 Forge Rd., Eagleswood, NJ 08092.

- OPEN PUPPY (20 Min. or course) ..... \$40.00
- OPEN DERBY (30 Min. or course) ..... \$55.00
- OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min. or course) ..... \$55.00
- AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min. or course) ..... \$55.00
- AMATEUR GUN DOG (30 Min. or course)—Judgment ceases at flush... \$55.00



Judges: To be announced



Entries to: JILLIAN STUHR, Secretary

Call or Text: (570) 369-8624 • Email: jillian.stuhr@gmail.com

Entries are accepted with the understanding that the club, its officers, members and landowners are not responsible and cannot be held liable for any accidents involving anyone attending the trial, their horses, dogs or equipment.

# ASSOCIATED FIELD TRIAL CLUBS OF FLORIDA

Member AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**December 9-10 • Super Bowl Trial**

Babcock Webb Wildlife Management Area, Punta Gorda, FL



Continuous courses with native Bobwhite quail. Trial to be run in accordance with "Guidelines to Field Trial Procedure and Judicial Practice." Stables, kennels, kitchen and showers available. Negative Coggins required. Grounds will be open through January 2. **Drawing:** Friday, December 8, 8:00 p.m., in the clubhouse. Bring-your-own-meat cookout Saturday evening.

- OPEN ALL-AGE (1 Hour)—National Amateur Points..... \$75.00
- OPEN SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour)—National Amateur Points..... \$75.00
- OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—At club's discretion; Time permitting ..... \$40.00

— No cash purse, prizes only —

Judges: John Hicks and Hoss Earley

PAUL DANIEL, Chairman • Phone: (813) 477-4104

SCOTT & MATT FORD, Chairmen • Phone: (941) 650-1255

The Club, club members, and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission are not responsible for accidents or injuries to vehicles, animals or persons.



# PENINSULA BIRD HUNTERS CLUB

Member AFTCA, USCSA & VAUSCSA  
Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 STARTS 7:30 A.M.**

**Grounds:** Dr. Morgan's Cutawhiskie Farm, Ahoskie, NC. Lunch on grounds. Horseback scouting and tracking collars will be permitted. **Drawing:** Thursday, December 14, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Lee Flanders. The Ollie Routten and Sonny Mason Memorial Trophies will be awarded.

- AMATEUR PUPPY ..... \$35.00
- OPEN DERBY ..... \$45.00
- AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG ..... \$50.00

Judges: Peter Del Collo and John Outlaw

Reporter: Dennis Kivikko



Entries to: ASHBY MORGAN—Cell: (804) 384-7185

-or- LEE FLANDERS—Cell: (757) 871-4551

By entering or attending this trial, you relieve the landowner, his employees and the members and officers of the Peninsula Bird Hunters Club from any liability for any damage or injury to any equipment, animals or persons including loss of life resulting from any accident.

# PANTHER CREEK FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**Starts December 7, 2023 (depending on entries) • Fitzpatrick, AL**

— AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL —

**Grounds:** Panther Creek Field Trial Grounds, 16537 Hwy. 110, Fitzpatrick, AL 36029 (Mile Marker 15 on US Hwy. 110 in Fitzpatrick, AL). **Drawing:** Monday, December 4, 6:00 p.m., at the home of Frank Rutland.

- AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour)—Three continuous courses ..... \$150.00
- (\*Sun., Dec. 10) MIKE REYNOLDS MEMORIAL YOUTH STAKE (20 Min.)..\$ 25.00
- \*Start time depending on entries

- (Mon., Dec. 11) OPEN DERBY (30 Min.) ..... \$125.00
- Purse: 60% of entry fees divided 50-30-20

Judges: ASD—Jamie Daniels, Dawson, GA, and Squire Lee, Mathews, AL;  
OD—Bill Mason, Greensboro, AL, and Jim Hughes, Bessemer, AL.



Entries to: BRENT COX, Secretary

7715 County Road 37, Mathews, AL 36052

Phone: (334) 657-4231 • Email: Brentwc1970@gmail.com

# RIVER VALLEY SPORTSMAN ASSOCIATION

Member AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**December 15-17, 2023**

**Camp Robinson Field Trial Grounds, Conway, AR**

A Region 6 & National Amateur Invitational

Shooting Dog Points Trial

**Drawing:** Wednesday, December 13, 8:00 p.m.,  
at the Robby Robinson home.

- AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG ..... \$80.00
- OPEN DERBY ..... \$75.00

— Ribbons awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place —

Judges: To be announced

Entries to: ROBBY ROBINSON, President • (479) 970-0434

P.O. Box 29, 16630 W. State Hwy. 155, Dardanelle, AR 72834

The club and its members are not responsible for accidents or injury.



# LANCASTER COUNTY FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Member AFTCA, USCSA & VAUSCSA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!  
Please note: Live ammunition prohibited!

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 • STARTS 7:30 A.M.**

— U.S. COMPLETE POINTS TRIAL —

**Grounds:** Beane Farm, Regina, VA. From Lively, approx. 3 miles, take left off Rt. 3 past Lancaster High School and follow signs. From Kilmarnock, go 2 1/2 miles past double lane highway, take right on 604 and follow signs 1 1/2 miles to grounds. Lunch provided. **Entries Close/Drawing:** Thursday, January 11, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Jimmy Crandall, 383 Waverly Ave., Kilmarnock, VA 22482.

- AMATEUR PUPPY—(Run at club's discretion) ..... \$30.00
- AMATEUR DERBY ..... \$45.00
- AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG ..... \$50.00

Judges: To be announced

Entries to: JIMMY CRANDALL—(804) 761-1517



— Thanks to our sponsor, Purina —

Club, officers and landowners are not responsible for accidents, injury or loss incurred to any person, horse, dogs or equipment.

Dedicated to

- *Breeding*
- *Developing*
- *Campaigning*

Quality Field Trial Dogs



Drowning Creeks Smokin Matt  
*(Todd Williams, Owner)*

**Calvin Curnutte | Cell: (910) 995-7902**  
**Facebook: DC Bird Dogs**



A PROUD SUPPORTER OF:







# NBHA KENTUCKY STATE CLASSIC

Hosted by Bluegrass Walking Shooting Dog Club

Member NBHA, AFTCA, KFTA & ABHA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!



December 7-10

**Miller Welch Central Kentucky WMA**  
638 Dreyfus Rd., Berea, KY

Drawing: Friday, December 1, 6:00 p.m., at the home of the chairman.

(\*Dec. 7, 9 a.m.) OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.)—Rosettes to Winners.....\$45.00  
\*Or after the completion of the ABHA Classic Trial

(Dec. 8) OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC (1 Hour) ..... \$83.00 + \$12.00 Dog Tax  
Purse: 30% of entry fees divided 50-30-20

OPEN DERBY CLASSIC (45 Min.)—To follow OSD; Rosettes to Winners..\$60.00

Judges: *OSD & OD Classics*—Dr. Kris Hammons and William Branham;  
*OP*—To be announced.

Entries to: **TERRY BOATRIGHT, Trial Chairman**  
248 Meadowbrook Rd., Richmond, KY 40475

Call or Text: (859) 582-8566



Neither Bluegrass Walking Shooting Dog Club, nor landowners, are responsible for any accident or mishap to spectators, handlers, dogs, etc.

# HOFFMAN AMATEUR FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA & NCFTA • Blank ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns only!

DECEMBER 8-10, 2023

ROBERT GORDON AREA, HOFFMAN, NC



**AMATEUR ALL-AGE INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL**  
**PURINA POINTS TRIAL**

Drawing: Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.,  
at the home of Derek Bonner.

AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.)..... \$ 50.00  
*Points Stake for U.S. Amateur Derby Invitational Classic*

AMATEUR ALL-AGE (1 Hour) ..... \$100.00

Judges: Chad Adams, Goldsboro, NC,  
and Tony Bingham, Shelby, NC

Entries to: **DEREK BONNER, Chairman**  
1065 Ferry Rd., Mooresboro, NC 28114  
Phone: (828) 289-2300

The NC Wildlife Department, Hoffman Amateur Field Trial Club, and club members are not responsible for accidents, or injuries to persons, animals, or equipment.



# NORTH CAROLINA POINTING DOG ASSOCIATION

Member AFTCA & USCSDA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

JANUARY 19-21\*, 2024 • STARTS 8:00 A.M.

\*Start date and time dependent on entries. Grounds: Bowden Tract of NC Gamelands, Marston Rd., Hoffman, NC. Directions: From Hoffman BP Station, south on Rt. 1 to Marston Rd. on the left (first left after post office). Follow signs to trial. Lunch each day. Dinner Saturday night at Joyal's House (Tilley St. in Hoffman). Motel: Best Western, Southern Pines, NC—(910) 704-0010. Drawing: Wednesday, January 17, 6:00 p.m., at Joyal's Garage.

OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.)—50%, 50-30-20 ..... \$30.00  
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—50%, 50-30-20 ..... \$55.00  
OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—50%, 50-30-20 ..... \$45.00  
AMATEUR PUPPY (20 Min.)—Ribbons & Purina Coupons ..... \$30.00  
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Ribbons & Purina Coupons..... \$50.00  
AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.)—Ribbons & Purina Coupons ..... \$40.00



Judges: To be announced



Entries to: LYNNE LEITCH

Phone/Text: (802) 373-1747 [Texts preferred] • Email: lynne.leitch@gmail.com

For information: MAGGIE MAIER • Phone: (910) 638-7411

An entry is accepted as a waiver of any claim for injury, loss, or damage from the sponsoring clubs and officers.



# ROLLING FORK BIRD DOG CLUB

Member ABHA, AFTCA & KFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

January 26-28 • Starts 8:00 a.m.

Central Kentucky WMA, Berea, KY

Entries Close: Tuesday, January 23, 8:00 p.m., at Czeszka Kennel, Lebanon Junction, KY.

(Fri.) \*OPEN ALL-AGE (30 Min.)—Horseback; 40%, 50-30-20 .....\$55.00  
\*OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Horseback; 40%, 50-30-20 .....\$55.00  
\*OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—Horseback; 40%, 50-30-20 .....\$50.00

\*Horseback Stakes may run on Sunday, following the Walking Stakes.

(Sat.-Sun.) AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min. or Course)—Walking; Ribbons ..\$50.00  
AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min. or Course)—Walking; Ribbons .....\$40.00  
AMATEUR PUPPY (15 Min.)—Walking; Ribbons; At club's discretion .....\$25.00  
OPEN DERBY (30 Min. or Course)—Walking; 40%, 50-30-20 .....\$40.00  
OPEN PUPPY (15 Min.)—Walking; Ribbons; At club's discretion.....\$25.00  
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min. or Course)—Walking; 40%, 50-30-20 .....\$50.00

Judges: To be announced

Entries to: MAGDA LEAR, 1218 Barret Ave., Louisville, KY 40204

Phone: (502) 830-2865 • Email: magilear@yahoo.com

2024 OSD

Handler  
Invitational

Presented by  
PURINA



Battle of the  
HANDLERS

Hoffman Field Trial Grounds, Hoffman NC

February 26-29, 2024

◀Prize money ▶Gifts

▶Awards for the owner and handler  
of the three (3) Top Dogs

Entry Requirement:

- Must be a recognized professional handler on the Purina Professional Handler list for the 2023-24 season
- Requests for up to six (6) slots in the trial per handler by February 1, 2024

For more information, contact:

Calvin Curnutte • (910) 995-7902

Email: osdhandlerinvitational@gmail.com

OSD Handler Invitational

If interested in supporting, donations, or ad space in the trial booklet, please contact Calvin.



# TENNESSEE VALLEY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA & KFTA, Southern Circuit & Region 6 • Blank ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns only!

DECEMBER 8-12



— AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL —  
A PURINA TOP SHOOTING DOG, TOP AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG  
& HANDLER OF THE YEAR AWARD POINTS TRIAL  
AN AFTCA TOP AMATEUR HANDLER OF THE YEAR POINTS TRIAL

Grounds: Percy Priest Wildlife Management Area, Pooles Knob Recreation Area, LaVergne, TN. Lunch will be served on grounds. Drawing: Monday, December 4, 8:00 p.m. (EST), at the home of Ronnie Rogers. You must be an individual member of AFTCA to enter your dog. Motel: Econo Lodge (on I-24), LaVergne, TN. Phone: (615) 793-3600.

### STAKES AND ORDER OF RUNNING:

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour).....	\$ 80.00
*AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.) .....	\$ 50.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....	\$ 50.00
*OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—50%, 50-30-20; Time permitting.....	\$ 80.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour)—50%, 50-30-20 .....	\$150.00

*\*Run at club's discretion*

Judges: *Amateur Stakes*—Calvin Curnutte, Jackson Springs, NC, and Todd Williams, Jackson Springs, NC; *Open Stakes*—Ross Leonard, Chatsworth, GA, and Caroline Leonard, Chatsworth, GA.

### Phone entries to:

RONNIE ROGERS—(865) 712-9229 or (865) 475-3459  
-or- ARNOLD HALL—(423) 748-1825

Entries accepted with the understanding that the club and members are not responsible for accidents or loss to persons, animals or equipment.

# COLUMBIA COUNTY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

— Chester Stokes, President —

Starts December 19, 2023, 8:00 a.m. • Lake City, FL



A PURINA TOP SHOOTING DOG AWARD  
& HANDLER OF THE YEAR AWARD POINTS TRIAL

Grounds: The Farm, 1674 SW Farm Court, Lake City, FL 32024. Take Hwy. 247 South out of Lake City for 8 miles. The Farm will be on the left. Signs will be posted. To be run on continuous courses with wild and pre-released birds. Drawing: Sunday, December 17, 6:00 p.m. (ET), at The Farm.

OPEN SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour)—80%, 50-30-20 .....	\$200.00
OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—80%, 50-30-20 .....	\$100.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....	\$ 50.00
AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.).....	\$ 50.00
AMATEUR ALL-AGE (30 Min.) .....	\$ 50.00

Judges: John Hicks, Fernandina Beach, FL,  
and Paul Daniels, Punta Gorda, FL

Reporter: Maria Bassham, Quitman, GA

Directors: Joe Hicks and Leroy Griffis—(904) 591-9796

Entries to: JOE HICKS, 3311 248th Pl., O'Brien, FL 32071  
Phone: (386) 249-1210 • Email: joehicks068@gmail.com

Entries accepted with the understanding that the officers, landowners, and club members are not in any way responsible and cannot be held liable for any accidents involving anyone attending the trial, their horses, dogs or equipment.

## MID-SOUTH AMATEUR FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

— Sponsored by Sportsman's Pride —  
presents the

# MID-SOUTH ASSOCIATION FIELD TRIAL

Member AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!



December  
14-17, 2023

Hell Creek WMA,  
Blue Mountain, MS

POINTS TRIAL FOR NATIONAL AMATEUR INVITATIONALS,  
REGION 6 (AFTCA), MID-SOUTH ASSOCIATION,  
PURINA AMATEUR ALL-AGE AWARD  
& U.S. AMATEUR DERBY INVITATIONAL



Drawing: Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 p.m.

AFTCA membership number must accompany entry.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour).....	\$70.00
AMATEUR DERBY (30 Minutes) .....	\$35.00
AMATEUR ALL-AGE (1 Hour) .....	\$70.00

Judges: ASD—Chris Weatherly, Grand Junction, TN, and Mike Small, Evansville, IN; AD—Chris Weatherly, Grand Junction, TN, and one to be announced; AA-A—Jeremy Taylor, Rienzi, MS, and Chris Weatherly, Grand Junction, TN.

Reporter: Kent Walker, Collierville, TN

Entries to: KENT WALKER, President • (901) 277-1527

# SHADOW OAK FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA, Dixie Trace FTA & Alabama FTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

Begins December 27\*, 2023 • Starts 8:00 a.m.

(\*Or later depending on entries)

Round Pond Plantation, Leesburg, GA



A PURINA AMATEUR TOP SHOOTING DOG AWARD  
& AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL

Directions: From Leesburg, GA, approximately 10 miles north on Hwy. 195 and East onto Batts Rd. Follow field trial signs. From Leslie, GA, approximately 7 miles south on Hwy. 195 and East onto Batts Rd. Follow field trial signs.

OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—50%, 50-30-20 .....	\$ 75.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour).....	\$150.00

Judges: Brian Spiers, Lowndesboro, AL,  
and George Kimbrell, Fort Mill, South Carolina

Drawing: Thursday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.,  
at the home of John Neely.

Food available for lunch.

Call or text entries to:

MARTHA NEELY • (229) 894-7766

Please have your AFTCA Member Number available when entering dogs.

The club officers, landowners, and trial officials are not responsible and cannot be held liable for any accidents involving anyone attending the trial or their horses, dogs, or equipment.

# SWAMP FOX OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

— Presented by Cock-N-Fire Field Trial Club —

Starts December 27\*, 8:00 a.m.  
Hoffman, NC Field Trial Grounds

\*Start date depends on number of entries



A PURINA TOP SHOOTING DOG AWARD  
& PURINA HANDLER AWARD POINTS TRIAL

NATIONAL SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER

OPEN SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour)—50%, 50-30-20.. Entry Fee \$250.00  
OPEN DERBY—Time Permitting; 50%, 50-30-20 ... Entry Fee \$125.00

Judges: William Smith, TN, and Whitley Stephenson, NC

A BBQ Supper will be held Wednesday, December 28, at the clubhouse.

Drawing: Thursday, December 21, 5:00 p.m.

Entries to: ALLEN JOHNSON—(803) 464-5525  
-or- JERRY RAYNOR—(910) 237-0619

Participants and spectators attend at their own risk.

# WOODLAWN FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA, Region 6 & Mid-South AFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

DECEMBER 28-31\*  
HENDRIX FARM, HOLLY SPRINGS, MS

\*Depending on entries

PURINA TOP AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG AWARD,  
PURINA AMATEUR ALL-AGE AWARD,  
& NATIONAL AMATEUR INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL

REGION 6 & MID-SOUTH AFTA DOG OF THE YEAR POINTS



Drawing: Saturday, December 23, 7:00 p.m.,  
at the home of the secretary, Lisa Little.

AMATEUR ALL-AGE (1 Hour) ..... \$75.00

\*AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour) ..... \$75.00

\*Immediately following the Como Field Trial Club's Amateur Derby stake

Judges: AA-A—Joe Hughes, Moulton, AL, and Scott Little,  
Woodlawn, TN; ASD—Jonathan Burch, Holly Springs, MS,  
and Joey McAlexander, Holly Springs, MS

Entries to: LISA LITTLE, Secretary • (931) 980-0452  
1301 Ross Dr., Woodlawn, TN 37191  
Email: doubletroublestables@yahoo.com  
SCOTT LITTLE, President • Phone: (931) 624-5705

# COMO FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA, Region 6 & Mid-South AFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

DECEMBER 28-31\*  
HENDRIX FARM, HOLLY SPRINGS, MS

\*Depending on entries



AFTCA TOP AMATEUR HANDLER AWARD  
& U.S. AMATEUR ALL-AGE DERBY INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL

Drawing: Saturday, December 23, 7:00 p.m.,  
at the home of the secretary, Lisa Little.

\*AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.) ..... \$40.00

\*Immediately following the Woodlawn Field Trial Club's Amateur All-Age stake

Judges: Lowry Strickland, Holly Springs, MS,  
and Hunter Clark, Ethel, MS

Entries to: LISA LITTLE, Secretary • (931) 980-0452  
1301 Ross Dr., Woodlawn, TN 37191  
Email: doubletroublestables@yahoo.com

# MID-SOUTH AMATEUR FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION AMES AMATEUR JOE G. WALKER MEMORIAL FIELD TRIAL



Running will commence Monday, January 1, 2024  
at Ames Plantation, Grand Junction, TN  
POINTS TRIAL FOR THE NATIONAL AMATEUR INVITATIONAL,  
PURINA AMATEUR ALL-AGE AWARD, REGION 6  
MID-SOUTH ASSOCIATION DOG OF THE YEAR AWARDS  
AND U.S. AMATEUR DERBY INVITATIONAL



\*\*NOTE\*\* Drawing: Will be held Wednesday evening, December 20,  
7:00 p.m. AFTCA membership number must accompany all entries! Motel  
Reservations: Hampton Inn, Collierville, TN. Phone: (901) 854-9400.

AMATEUR ALL-AGE (One Hour) ..... Entry Fee: \$70.00

AMATEUR DERBY (30 Minutes) ..... Entry Fee: \$35.00

Judges: Joe Rentz, Brooks, GA, and Ross Leonard, Chatsworth, GA  
Reporter: Kent Walker

Blank ammunition and manufactured barrel guns only. Lunches served. Horses must have negative Coggins.

Help us make this the best Ames Amateur yet. Come and compare  
your dog's bird finding ability with the National Champion!

Entries to: KENT WALKER, President • (901) 277-1527

# CAHABA BEND FIELD TRIAL

Member AFTCA & Alabama FTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**January 4-7 • Starts 8:00 A.M. (CT) each morning**

*\*Starting January 4 or 5 depending on number of entries*

**M. Barnett Lawley Forever Wild Field Trial Area,  
Greensboro, AL**



**A SHOOTING DOG AND ALL-AGE INVITATIONAL  
& PURINA AMATEUR ALL-AGE & SHOOTING DOG AWARD POINTS TRIAL**

Grounds: 1132 County Rd. 73, Greensboro, AL 36744. Headquarters is straight up hill once through the gate (white house and white barns). Horse stalls are available. Lunches available on the grounds each day. Motels in Demopolis, AL, and restaurants in Demopolis and Greensboro, AL. \$1 per entry goes to Twentieth Century Fund. \$10 grounds fee included in entry.

CHARLES FARQUHAR MEMORIAL AMATEUR ALL-AGE (1 Hour)..... \$85.00

\*OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—All-Age Standards ..... \$60.00

*\*Purse: 50% of entries divided 50-30-20 or Prizes*

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour)..... \$85.00

Judges: A-A & OD—Jim Hughes, McCalla, AL, and Frank Rutland, Cecil, AL;  
ASD—Bill Mason, Greensboro, AL, and Jennifer McKemie, Greensboro, AL.

Drawing: Tuesday, January 2, 7:30 p.m. (CST).

Entries to: **WAYNE POPE** • Call or Text: (334) 216-2126  
(Check for acknowledgment that entry is received)

*Club, club officials and/or landowners are not responsible for accidents, injury or loss incurred to any person, horse, dog, or equipment.*

## ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA FIELD TRIAL CLUBS

Mac Stidham, President • Paul Kelly, 1st Vice-President • Jadie Rayfield, 2nd Vice-President  
*presents the*

# SOUTH CAROLINA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

**January 5-7 • Starts 8:00 A.M.**

*AFTCA Approved Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!*

**A PURINA TOP AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG AWARD POINTS TRIAL**



*— Proudly sponsored by Purina —*

Grounds: H. Cooper Black Memorial Field Trial Grounds and Recreation Area, 279 Sporting Dog Trail, Cheraw, SC 29520. Lunches available. Hotel: Quality Inn, 885 Chesterfield Hwy., Cheraw, SC 29520—(843) 537-5625; Springhill Suites, 201 Front St., Cheraw, SC 29520—(843) 253-5234. Ask for field trial rates. For campsite and horse corral reservations, contact: H. Cooper Black—(843) 378-1555. Entries to: Mac Stidham—Phone: (803) 479-5606; Email: mstidham49@yahoo.com. Drawing: Tuesday, January 2, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Mac Stidham. Handlers are required to be an AFTCA member.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour).....Entry Fee: \$100.00

*— National Invitational Qualifier —*

AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.)—Time permitting .....Entry Fee: \$ 50.00

Judges: Mark Hughes, Grampian, PA, and Scott Miller, Beaufort, SC

Reporter: Jadie Rayfield, Mount Pleasant, SC

Stake Manager: Paul Kelly, Bluffton, SC

Direct inquiries to:

ROGER McPHERSON, Secretary/Treasurer, 197 Lucious Davis Rd., Chesterfield, SC 29709

Phone: (843) 623-2186 • Cell: (814) 657-0712 • Email: rjmcpherson46@gmail.com

-or- MAC STIDHAM, President • Phone: (803) 479-5606 • Email: mstidham49@yahoo.com

*Entries accepted with the understanding that the officers, landowners and club members are not in any way responsible and cannot be held liable for any accidents involving anyone attending the trial, their horses, dogs or equipment. Negative Coggins required.*

# PINEHURST FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA & NCFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**January 5-7, 2024 • Hoffman, NC**

*108th Annual Trial*

**— North Carolina's Oldest Amateur Club —**



**Early Drawing: Tuesday, January 2, 2:00 P.M.**

**AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.)..... Entry Fee: \$ 60.00**

*Leg on the Pinehurst Derby Trophy  
U.S. Amateur Derby Invitational Points Trial*

**AMATEUR ALL-AGE (1 Hour) .....Entry Fee: \$110.00**

*Leg on the James W. Tufts Trophy  
National Amateur Invitational Points  
& Purina Amateur All-Age Award Points Trial*

Judges: Randy Bradshaw, Claremont, NC,  
and Larry Cox, Randleman, NC

**PAUL GADD**

**Office: (828) 322-9223 • Cell: (828) 310-6688**

# SANDLAPPER FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA & SCFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**JANUARY 11-14 (Depending on entries)  
SPRING TRIAL**

**A PURINA TOP AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG AWARD  
& AMATEUR INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL**



*Sponsored by Purina*

Grounds: John & Sue Ivester's Sawtooth Plantation, McBee, SC. From McBee, SC, go north on U.S. 1 3.5 miles to Wildlife Dr. (Carolina Sandhills Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Headquarters), turn left, go 1.4 miles and turn right on Wire Rd., go 1.7 miles to stone gate on right. **Pre-Drawing:** Monday, January 8, 6:00 p.m., at the home of Dr. Billy McCathern.

\*OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—50%, 50-30-20.....Entry Fee \$ 55.00

\*AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.) .....Entry Fee \$ 45.00

**H. COOPER BLACK MEMORIAL**

**AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour)....Entry Fee \$100.00**

*Prizes to winners • \*Time permitting*

Judges: Sammy Giddens, Faison, NC,  
and George Kimbrell, Fort Mill, SC

**Entries to: TIM RUFF, Secretary • Cell: (803) 479-0880**

*— Please text entries if possible —*

*Any entry is accepted as a waiver of any claim for loss, or damage of any kind against the clubs, landowners, and sponsors. Current twelve-month Coggins required on all horses.*

Tony King  
President

Ric Peterson  
1st Vice-President

Larron Copeland  
2nd Vice-President

Jim Pendergest  
3rd Vice-President

# ANNOUNCING THE FORTY-THIRD RUNNING OF THE NATIONAL AMATEUR ALL-AGE INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Sponsored by Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America • Manufactured solid barrel guns with blank ammo to be used.

Starts December 4, 2023

Ames Plantation  
Grand Junction, TN



Entry Fee: \$300.00  
(One-Hour Heats)

Purina Amateur All-Age  
Award Points

Invitations have been extended to the following:

Misty Morn Masked Man (Joey McAlexander)  
Dialed In (Jim Pendergest)  
Pendy's Good Grace (Matt Pendergest)  
Storm's End (Matt Pendergest)

Rebel Dreams (David Williams)  
Erin's Code of Honor (Allen Linder)  
Touch's Blue Knight (Woody Watson)  
Phillips Linebacker (Nathan Phillips)

Coldwater Paradise (Gary McKibben)  
Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior (Gary Winall)  
Rebel Survivor (David Williams)  
Backcountry Bruiser (Chris Catanzarite)

*Dogs will be drawn unless notified otherwise. It is the owner's responsibility to confirm entry.*

**Grounds:** No alcoholic beverages allowed on the courses. No stallions will be allowed on Plantation property. All horses must have a current negative Coggins Test (less than 12 months). All individuals stabling horses on Plantation property must provide Ames Plantation, for permanent possession, a photocopy of their current negative Coggins Test upon arrival. Those in attendance are special guests of the Ames Plantation and will be asked to comply cooperatively with staff concerning traditional running rules on the Ames Plantation. All entries must have AFTCA ID number. It is the owner's responsibility to confirm entry. **Drawing:** Sunday, December 3, 6:00 p.m. (CST), at the Rhea building. **Motel:** Travelers Inn, Bolivar, TN—(731) 658-7888. Field Trialers welcome. Ask for field trial rate. **Social:** Purina will host a dinner Monday night, December 4, at the Bird Dog Museum; Callbacks Tuesday evening, December 5, at the Manor House, with appetizers.

**Judges:** Derek Bonner, Mooresboro, NC, and Scott Griffin, Charlotte, NC • **Reporter:** Maria Bassham, Quitman, GA

**GARMIN** collars to the Winner and Runner-Up.

According to The AMERICAN FIELD, no dog or handler suspended by The AMERICAN FIELD or FDSB will be declared a winner.

For information, contact: PIPER HUFFMAN • Cell: (662) 471-1700



## REGION 6 (AFTCA) AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted by Buck Tuck Field Trial Club

Member AFTCA, Region 6 & Mid-South AFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

December 7\*-10, 2023 • Hendrix Farm, Holly Springs, MS

(\*Depending on number of entries)



A NATIONAL AMATEUR ALL-AGE INVITATIONAL, REGION 6 DOG OF THE YEAR  
& PURINA AMATEUR ALL-AGE POINTS TRIAL

Entry Fee: \$125.00 + \$25.00 Bird Fee • One-Hour Heats

**Judges:** Jonathan Burch, Holly Springs, MS, and Elton Bray, Holly Springs, MS

**Drawing:** Monday, December 4, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Region 6 Secretary Lisa Little. An AFTCA Win Certificate number, AFTCA Member number and FDSB registered name and number must accompany each entry.

**Entries to:** LISA LITTLE, Region 6 Secretary, 1301 Ross Dr., Woodlawn, TN 37191

**Phone:** (931) 980-0452 • **Email:** doubletroublestables@yahoo.com

*Region 6 and its members are not responsible for accidents. Participation in the trial as either a spectator, handler, owner, scout, or in any other capacity constitutes a waiver and release of Region 6 officers, members and landowners from any and all liabilities for accidents or other losses.*

# REGION 3 (AFTCA) AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

*Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only! • .32 Caliber or Larger*

— Sponsored by Purina —



**Starts Thursday, December 14 (depending on entries)**

**To be run at Sandhills Wildlife Area, Hoffman, NC**

**Entry Fee: \$130.00 • Trophy to winner and runner-up**

— **A NATIONAL AMATEUR INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER** —

**Judges:** Jerry Raynor, Dunn, NC, and Matt Basilone, Pittsgrove, NJ

**Pre-Drawing:** Tuesday, December 12, 2:00 p.m. Must be an AFTCA member. **Qualification:** Dogs must have an AFTCA Win Certificate in an Amateur All-Age or Amateur Derby stake. **Accommodations:** Best Western, Southern Pines, NC—(910) 693-2280. Ask for field trial rate.

**Entries to: PAUL GADD • Cell: (828) 310-6688 • Office: (828) 322-9223**



**Backcountry Bruiser**  
Chris Catanzarite, Owner/Handler



**Ms. Lady W**  
Earl Drew, Owner/Handler



**Ramapo Mountain Doc**  
Robert Shaban, Owner  
Robert Ecker, Handler



**Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella**  
Marty Festa, Owner  
Robert Ecker, Handler



**Warrior's Mean Louie**  
Dennis Kivikko, Owner/Handler



**Mohawk Mill War Hawk**  
J.D. Waters, Owner  
Tony Bingham, Handler

## U.S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG ASSOCIATION

# OPEN INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

**December 14-16 • Starts 8:00 A.M. each day**

**Poston Farm, Pamplico, SC**

**Drawing:** Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 p.m., at the home of the secretary.

**Judges:** Rodney Poston, Pamplico, SC, and Joe Cammisa, Butler, PA

**Stake Manager:** Tony Bingham, Shelby, NC • **Reporter:** Margaret Drew, Hoffman, NC



**Inquiries to: JAMESON CRANDALL, Secretary • Phone: (804) 577-3788 • Email: jameson.crandall@gmail.com**



**Smoke Rise Jake**  
P.F. Rose, Owner  
Tony Bingham, Handler



**Hirollins Gone And Doneit**  
Warren Parrott, Owner  
Tony Bingham, Handler



**Moonlite's Crown Jewel**  
Frank Joyal, Owner  
John Adsit, Handler



**Double Deuce Sage**  
Doug McMillen, Owner  
Mark Hughes, Handler



**Double Deuce Zeke**  
Doug McMillen, Owner  
Mark Hughes, Handler



**Glassilaun War Paint**  
Jamie Nee, Owner  
Robert Ecker, Handler

Tony King  
President

Ric Peterson  
1st Vice-President

Larron Copeland  
2nd Vice-President

Jim Pendergest  
3rd Vice-President

# ANNOUNCING THE THIRTY-THIRD RUNNING OF THE NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Sponsored by Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America • Manufactured solid barrel guns with blank ammo to be used.

Starts December 15  
Round Pond Plantation  
Leslie, GA



Entry Fee: \$300.00 (One-Hour Heats)  
Purina Top Amateur Shooting Dog  
Award Points

Invitations have been extended to the following:

Miller's Upgraded Version (Fran Miller)  
Miller's Heat Wave (Fran Miller)  
One Day Queen Bee (Lane Hodges)  
Electronic Warfare (William Goodwin)  
Calico's Guns N Roses (Alex Smith)  
Lawless Georgie Girl (Jim Lawless)



Osceola's Rebel Chief (Ted Roach)  
Nickajack Pathfinder (Ross Leonard)  
Cocklebur Breaking Bad (Bubba Spencer)  
Bromance (Jon Humphrey)  
Southern Shadows T Rex (Lance Servais)  
Navajo Cody (Sal Morelli)

Accepted dogs will be drawn unless notified otherwise.

**Directions to Grounds:** From Leslie, GA, approx. 7 miles south on State Hwy. 195 and east on Batts Rd. (dirt). From Leesburg, GA, approx. 10 miles north on Hwy. 195 and east on Batts Rd. Follow signs. **Pre-Drawing:** Wednesday, December 13, 6:00 p.m., at the office of the secretary. All entries must have AFTCA ID number. It is the owner's responsibility to confirm entry. **Lodging:** Hampton Inn—(229) 924-3890 -or- Jameson Inn—(229) 924-2726. Both are in Americus, GA. Motels also in Albany, GA (20 Miles). **Social:** Purina will host a dinner Friday evening, December 15, on the grounds; Callbacks after Saturday's running, December 16, on the grounds, with appetizers.

**Judges:** Jamie Daniels, Bronwood, GA, and Reid Hankley, Tallahassee, FL • **Reporter:** Cayla Key, Leslie, GA

**GARMIN** collars to the Winner and Runner-Up.

According to The AMERICAN FIELD, no dog or handler suspended by The AMERICAN FIELD or FDSB will be declared a winner.

For information, contact: PIPER HUFFMAN • Cell: (662) 471-1700

# NORTH CAROLINA OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP & COMPANION OPEN DERBY

Hosted by North Carolina Field Trial Association

Member AFTCA & NCFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

December 18 to Conclusion • Starts 8:00 A.M.  
Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, Hoffman, NC



NORTH CAROLINA OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP (1 Hour)..... \$260.00

— A PURINA TOP SHOOTING DOG AWARD & PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR AWARD POINTS TRIAL —

**Purse:** 50% of entry fees split 50% to champion, 30% to runner-up, and two dogs named by the judges will receive 10% each.

**Judges:** Chad Wheeler, Riner, VA, and Chris Catanzarite, Scenery Hill, PA

NORTH CAROLINA OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—Time Permitting; **Purse: 50% divided 50-30-20** ..... \$ 75.00

— A PURINA TOP DERBY AWARD POINTS TRIAL —

**Judges:** Dennis Snyder, Thomasville, NC, and Ed Jesson, Monroe, NC

**Chairman:** Johnny Atkinson • **Reporter:** Margaret Drew, Hoffman, NC

**Entries Close:** Thursday, December 14, 12:00 noon. **Drawing:** Thursday, December 14, 8:00 p.m., at the Hoffman FTG clubhouse. Registered names only. **Qualification:** Placement in an American Field recognized Open Shooting Dog or Open Derby stake.

**Lunches:** Will be served. All State of North Carolina COVID-19 protocols in place will be adhered to. Electrical hook-ups available on a first come, first served basis for \$10 per night.

— Supported by Richmond County Tourism Development Authorities —

**Entries to:** CALVIN CURNUTTE • Cell: (910) 995-7902 • Email: [drowningcreekgundogs@yahoo.com](mailto:drowningcreekgundogs@yahoo.com)

Email will be confirmed and must be received before 10:00 P.M., Wednesday, December 13.

Please do not request favors in draw. No entries via phone message.

Horses must have a Coggins test. Tracking collars allowed. Entries accepted with the understanding that the NCFTA, its members and directors are not responsible and cannot be held liable for any accidents or injury to any person, animal or property.



# UNITED STATES QUAIL SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY

— 60th Running —

Monday, January 1, 2024 (start time dependent on entries)  
at H. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area, Hoffman, NC



- **Futurity Entries & Nominations Close:** December 18, 2023
- **Entry Fee:** \$150.00 (Due before the drawing on December 26, 2023)
- **Purse:** 50% of entry fees divided among owners & breeders (\$3000 max); Leah Brigham painting to the 2024 winner.
- **Pre-Drawing:** To be held Tuesday, December 26, 2023, at noon.

— A PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR POINTS TRIAL & DERBY AWARD BONUS POINTS TRIAL —

**Judges:** Rob McGuire, Chesapeake, VA, and Steve Browder, Pinewood, SC

This Futurity is the premier shooting dog derby field trial, featuring half-hour first series heats; second series (one-hour callbacks) to follow. All entries must be from duly nominated litters whelped in 2022. Late nominations are accepted until December 18, 2023, with late penalty to apply. Winners to be DNA tested at owner's expense unless previously certified. Failure to comply or pass DNA results in forfeiture of placement and monies. **Board of Directors' Meeting:** Monday, January 1, following the day's running. **Social Event:** Lunch served daily. Tuesday, January 2, 6 p.m., Purina Social with presentation of the 2022 painting. Handlers' Dinner to follow as hosted by Allen Linder and Madison McDonald in honor of last year's winner, Miller's Little Duce Coupe, handled by George Tracy. Stalls, kennels, and corals available. Electrical hook-ups available for \$10.00 daily.

NOTE: Dogs must be shot over with approved guns using non-projectile blank ammunition.

— Supported by Purina & Richmond County Tourism Development Authorities —

For further information and to enter, contact:

MARGARET C. DREW, Secretary, P.O. Box 252, Hoffman, NC 28347

Home: (910) 281-5259 • Cell: (910) 206-0079 • Email: bmdrew@windstream.net

Club officials not responsible and cannot be held liable for loss, accident or injury to persons, animals or equipment. Attend at your own risk  
Current Coggins required on all horses. Area COVID-19 guidelines to be followed

---

## REGION 16 (AFTCA) AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

*Member AFTCA & Dixie Trace FTA • Dogs must be shot over with shotgun. No pistols. Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!*

**Begins Thursday, January 11, 2024, 8:00 a.m.**  
**Conecuh Station Field Trial Grounds, Union Springs, AL**



**A NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG INVITATIONAL  
& PURINA TOP AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG AWARD POINTS TRIAL**



**Entry Fee: \$150.00**

**Judges:** Mike Moses, Lake City, Florida and Gary McKibben, Hernando, Mississippi

**Directions to Grounds:** Take Highway 29 South from Union Springs, AL. Travel approximately 8 miles. Turn right on South Gate Rd. just past Mile Marker 136. Continuous courses with wild and liberated quail. **Drawing:** Monday, January 8, 6:00 p.m., at 1081 Merrywood Drive, Pike Road, Alabama. **Accommodations:** Master Rack Lodge is located 3 miles from grounds on Highway 29 South in Blues Stand Community; call Steve Maxwell at (334) 474-3600 for room reservations. Greenway Sportsman Club is approximately 8 miles from grounds near Union Springs; call Justin Green at (334) 473-9322. Limited camper hook-ups are available on trial grounds. Lunches available daily on grounds.

**Sponsored by Purina and Craig Phillips (Phillips Feed, Seed & Fertilizer), Union Springs, Alabama.**

**Entries to: BRIAN PETERSON—(334) 399-2144 or DARRON HENDLEY—(334) 300-5836**  
— AFTCA HANDLER/MEMBER NUMBER TO BE SUBMITTED WITH ENTRY —

**Special thanks to Tony and Becky Gibson for offering their beautiful grounds!**

*Region 16, its officers and the landowners are not responsible and cannot be held liable for any accidents involving anyone attending the trial, their horses, dogs or equipment. Current Coggins test required. Disrespect to judges or officials in any form will not be tolerated.*

The West Tennessee Field Trial Club presents the  
Member AFTCA & Region 6 • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

# TENNESSEE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Starts Thursday, January 11, 2024\*, at Currie Farm, Dancyville, TN

\*Or 24 hours following the conclusion of the Mississippi Open Shooting Dog Championship at Hendrix Farm, south of Holly Springs, MS.

Special thanks to the Currie Family, Ed McClanahan, Alex Rickert, Dr. Gene Spiotta,  
Skip Taylor, Ike Todd and Larry Umber for the use of their property.



— This Championship is graciously sponsored by PURINA —

**Grounds:** At Dancyville, TN Hwy. 76. East on Fayette Corners Rd., approx. 2.3 mi. to right on Miller Rd.(south) to Field Trial Headquarters at Blalock Rd. Parking available. Overnight accommodations available for self-contained units. Lunches served daily on grounds. **Entries Close/Drawing:** Tuesday, January 9, 8:00 p.m. (CST), at the home of the field trial secretary. All dogs must be entered using the *FSDDB* Registration Name and number. **Accommodations (at I-40 and TN 76 (Exit 56):** Comfort Inn—(731) 772-4082 or Days Inn—(731) 772-3297; Super 8, Whiteville, TN—(888) 826-1381; Deerfield Inn, Somerville, TN—(901) 465-4444.

**TENNESSEE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP (1 Hour)—TSDA Points Trial.....Entry Fee: \$200.00\***

\*Plus \$15 Grounds Fee • **Payout:** 50% of entry fees divided 70-30, if Runner-Up named • Purina Pro Plan to winner(s)

**Judges:** William Smith, Moscow, TN, and Greg Tapp, Somerville, TN

**Championship Committee:** Dr. Marion Brown, Dancyville, TN, and Dr. Gene Spiotta, Memphis, TN, Co-Chairs;  
Bill Currie, Brownsville, TN; JP Hathcock, Brownsville, TN; Allen Currie, Brownsville, TN;  
Crutcher Stoots, Brownsville, TN; and Dale Pool, Somerville, TN.

**Entries to: KEN BLACKMAN, Field Trial Secretary**

**1905 Burnett Rd., Williston, TN 38076 • Text or Call: (901) 606-9553**

Club officials, members, landowners and entrants are not responsible for accidents, injuries to persons or animals, or loss of any kind. All persons are guests of the landowners and are reminded to be respectful of judges, club officials and all participants. Any violations of the rules of The AMERICAN FIELD and AFTCA will be dealt with in accordance with published rules and regulations.

**Toshiji Yoshioka**  
President

**Hiroji Nagashima**  
1st Vice-President

**Satoshi Kobayashi**  
2nd Vice-President

**Yoshihara Akisada**  
3rd Vice-President

## REGION 15 (AFTCA) AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

**January 21, 2024 • Kanna River Field, Gunma-ken**

**Entry Fee: 15,000 Yen • One Hour • One Course**

**Drawing:** Saturday, January 20, 5:00 p.m.,

at Hotel Route-Inn Fujioka, Gunma-ken. Phone: 0274-42-1001.

**Judges:** Nobumasa Takeishi and Norio Yamazaki

**Reporter:** Norio Yamazaki • **Stake Manager:** Toshiji Yoshioka

**Grounds Committee:** Kanto Pointing Dog Club Members

**Entries to: TATSUO ISHINO, Secretary • Phone: 053-925-3029**



# REGION 6 (AFTCA) AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted by Clarksville Bird Dog Club

Member AFTCA, Region 6 & Mid-South AFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**Starts Thursday, January 25, 2024\***  
**1431 Smyrna Rd., Huntingdon, TN 38344**

(\*Depending on number of entries)

**A NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG INVITATIONAL, REGION 6 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG OF THE YEAR  
& PURINA TOP AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG AWARD POINTS TRIAL**



**Entry Fee: \$125.00 + \$25 bird fee • One-Hour Heats**  
**AFTCA Win Certificate number required**



**Judges:** Shane Duckworth, Fredricktown, MO, and Brandon Trowbridge, Morganfield, KY  
**Stake Managers:** Scott Little and David Williams

**Drawing:** Monday, January 22, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Region 6 Secretary Lisa Little.  
An AFTCA Membership number and FDSB registered name and number must accompany each entry.

**Entries to: LISA LITTLE, Region 6 Secretary, 1301 Ross Dr., Woodlawn, TN 37191**  
**Phone: (931) 980-0452 • Email: doubletroublestables@yahoo.com**

*Region 6 and its members are not responsible for accidents. Participation in the trial as either a spectator, handler, owner, scout, or in any other capacity constitutes a waiver and release of Region 6 officers, members and landowners from any and all liabilities for accidents or other losses.*

## U.S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY, LES HOBBS PUPPY CLASSIC & ROBERT E. LEE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC



**January 29-February 4, 2024 • Mid-Carolina Grounds, Camden, SC**  
**Hosted by Broad River Field Trial Club**

*Start date and time dependent on entries • Supported by Purina & Garmin*

**ROBERT E. LEE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC (1 Hour)—Purse: 40% split 50-30-20 minus \$10/dog bird fee.....Entry Fee: \$125.00**

**Judges:** Gary Miller, Jackson Springs, NC, and Ronnie Rogers, Newport, TN

**28th U.S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY—To follow Robert E. Lee Classic.....Entry Fee: \$ 85.00**

**Judges:** Mike McKinney, York, SC, and Harry Cook, Florence, SC

**Purse:** \$1,500 to be divided between breeders and owners (4 placements) • Winner also receives a Garmin collar and Purina dog food.

Proof of DNA required at owner's expense. Eligible derby dogs and litter information available from:

*Verlene Stephenson, Futurity Secretary—Home: (252) 589-1521 or Email: verlene\_stephenson@ncsu.edu*

**LES HOBBS OPEN PUPPY CLASSIC (30 Min.)—Open to all puppies; To follow Futurity.....Entry Fee: \$ 50.00**

**Judges:** Cliff Monroe, Mooresboro, NC, and Tony Bingham, Shelby, NC

**Directions to Grounds:** Located seven miles east of Camden, SC, off US Hwy. 1, on Kershaw County Park Land at intersection of Field Trial Road and Greenfield Road. Lunch available on grounds. A handler meal sponsored by Warren Parrott, owner of 2023 Bob Lee Classic winner, Hirollins Gone and Doneit, will be provided. Lunch on Futurity day sponsored by Krysta and Eric Munden, owners of 2023 Futurity winner, Wildland Wild Man. **Entries Close:** Thursday, January 25, 6:00 p.m. Drawing to follow. **Lodging:** Comfort Inn & Suites, Camden, SC—(803) 425-1010.

**CLIFF MONROE, Field Trial Chairman • Phone: (704) 692-3580**

**All entries to: VERLENE STEPHENSON, Futurity Secretary**

**Home: (252) 589-1521 • Email: verlene\_stephenson@ncsu.edu • [No voicemail or text entries. Emails will be confirmed.]**

*Manufactured closed barrels only. Retrieval collars permitted but not provided. USCSA Futurity, its officers, directors and sponsors are not in any way responsible for accidents or injury to person, animal or property. U.S. Complete handicap rule applies.*

Toshiji Yoshioka  
President

Hiroji Nagashima  
1st Vice-President

Satoshi Kobayashi  
2nd Vice-President

Yoshihara Akisada  
3rd Vice-President

# REGION 15 (AFTCA) AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

February 18, 2024 • Tone River Field, Ibaraki-ken.  
Entry Fee: 15,000 Yen • One Hour • One Course



— A PURINA TOP AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG AWARD POINTS TRIAL —

**Drawing:** Saturday, February 17, 5:00 p.m.,  
at Hotel Green Core Bando. Phone: 0297-36-4400.

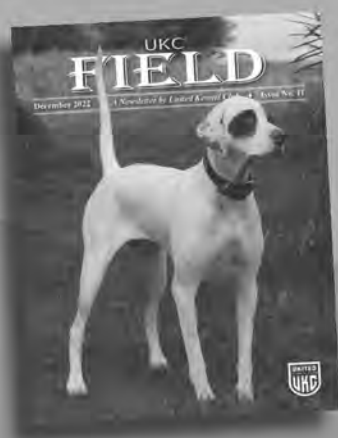
**Judges:** Nobumasa Takeishi and Norio Yamazaki

**Reporter:** Norio Yamazaki • **Stake Manager:** Toshiji Yoshioka

**Grounds Committee:** Chestnut Field Trial Club Members

**Entries to:** TATSUO ISHINO, Secretary • **Phone:** 053-925-3029

Submit a photo to be considered for the cover of UKC® Field online at:  
[ukcdogs.com/cover-dog](http://ukcdogs.com/cover-dog)



All cover photo submissions must include FDSB number, name,  
and a brief description of the dog(s) pictured.

For questions, email [gsmith@ukcdogs.com](mailto:gsmith@ukcdogs.com).

*\*High-Resolution Color Images Preferred.*

# TWO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING FIELD TRIALS

Camp Robinson Wildlife Management Area  
Mayflower, AR



## PRAIRIE OPEN ALL-AGE QUALIFYING TRIAL

*Presented by Prairie Amateur Field Trial Club*

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING STAKE • PURINA TOP FIELD TRIAL BIRD DOG POINTS  
PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR POINTS • DERBY INVITATIONAL POINTS

**Starting January 1, due to Youth Deer Hunt scheduled on grounds**

**OPEN ALL-AGE (1 Hour)—60%, 50-30-20**

**Entry Fee: \$250.00 + \$30.00 Grounds Fee = \$280.00**

**OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—60%, 50-30-20**

**Entry Fee: \$150.00 + \$30.00 Grounds Fee = \$180.00**

**Judges:** Jonathan Burch, Holly Springs, MS, and Chris Sellers, Selmer, TN

**Field Trial Chairman/President:** Dr. Fred Corder • **Secretary/Treasurer:** Rhonda Lee

\$20/dog National Championship fee not included in the \$280.00 entry fee

---

## PELICAN OPEN ALL-AGE QUALIFYING TRIAL

*Presented by Pelican Amateur Field Trial Club*

Member AFTCA & Mid-South AFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING STAKE • PURINA TOP FIELD TRIAL BIRD DOG POINTS  
PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR POINTS • DERBY INVITATIONAL POINTS

**— Starting at the conclusion of the Prairie Derby —**

**OPEN ALL-AGE (1 Hour)—60%, 50-30-20**

**Entry Fee: \$250.00 + \$30.00 Grounds Fee = \$280.00**

**OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—60%, 50-30-20**

**Entry Fee: \$150.00 + \$30.00 Grounds Fee = \$180.00**

**Judges:** Keith St. John, South Fulton, KY, and Jon Lam, Makanda, IL

**Field Trial Chairman/President:** Dr. Fred Corder • **Secretary/Treasurer:** Rhonda Lee

\$20/dog National Championship fee not included in the \$280.00 entry fee

**Drawing (for both trials):** Wednesday, December 27, 5:00 p.m. (CST), at Magnolia Enterprises.

**Entry Deadline (for both trials):** Wednesday, December 27, 12:00 noon (CST).

**Accommodations:** Days Inn, Conway, AR—(501) 450-7575

**Entries to: DR. FRED CORDER—(662) 415-5244**

Gary Futch  
President  
Statesboro, GA  
(912) 536-0129

Art Lively  
Vice-President  
Waynesboro, GA  
(706) 360-2235

Craig Elliott  
Secretary  
Waynesboro, GA  
(706) 833-3574

Nell Mobley  
Secretary Emeritus  
Waynesboro, GA  
(706) 466-2991

John Ray Kimbrell  
Stake Manager  
(803) 322-3073

## GEORGIA FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

*Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!*

Welcomes owners, handlers and guests to the 2024 running of the GFTA!  
Starts Tuesday, January 2, 2024 • Waynesboro, Georgia

— *Bird Dog Capital of the World* —

### GEORGIA DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP

— One of the three Derby Championships to qualify for the National Championship —

Winner of the Derby Championship will automatically qualify to run in the 2024 National Championship

**Entry Fee:** \$250.00\*\* • **Purse:** 55% divided 60-40 (Runner-Up will be named)

*Beautiful sterling silver "Berol's Greenwood Pep" Challenge Trophy to winner, donated by*

*Mr. and Mrs. Henry Berol (to be kept in club's possession). Keepsake trophy to winner donated by GFTA.*

**Judges:** Mike Jackson, Battle Ground, IN, and Gary Futch, Statesboro, GA

### followed by GEORGIA QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP

QUALIFYING TRIAL FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP • A PURINA AWARD POINTS STAKE

**Entry Fee:** \$300.00\*\* • **Purse:** 55% divided 60-40 (Runner-Up will be named)

*The "Addison Simpson Memorial Challenge Trophy" to the winner, donated by*

*Mr. and Mrs. Henry Berol (to be kept in club's possession). Keepsake trophy to winner donated by GFTA.*

A dog must be qualified by having placed in a recognized Open All-Age or Open Derby stake to participate.

**Judges:** Grayson Francis, Brookneal, VA, and Johnny Atkinson, Marion, SC • **Reporter:** To be announced

**\*\*Includes \$10 bird fee and \$20 National Championship qualifying fee**

**Pre-Drawing:** Saturday, December 30, 2023, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Nell Mobley.

Entries to Nell Mobley—(706) 554-2991, (706) 466-2991 or Gary Futch—(912) 536-0129.

## Following the Quail Championship, but not before Tuesday, January 9

Plenty of birds, including released daily. Courses have been opened up with viewing to please any handler!

### GEORGIA SHOOTING DOG DERBY CLASSIC

**Entry Fee \$175.00 + \$10 bird fee • One-Hour Heats • Purse:** 55% of entry fees to be divided 50-30-20.

**Judges:** Derek Bonner, Mooresboro, NC, and Scott Griffin, Charlotte, NC

### followed by GEORGIA OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

**Entry Fee \$250.00 + \$10 bird fee • One-Hour Heats • Purse:** 55% of entry fees divided 70-30 (Runner-Up will be named).

*Berol Challenge Trophy to Champion (stays in club's possession). Keepsake trophy to winners.*

*Lamar Mobley Open Shooting Dog Championship Memorial Trophy will be given to the Champion (stays in club's possession). Keepsake trophy to winners.*

A dog must be qualified by having placed in a recognized Open Shooting Dog or Open Derby stake to participate.

— **POINTS STAKE FOR PURINA TOP SHOOTING DOG & PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR AWARDS** —

**Judges:** Joe Rentz, Brooks, GA, and Tricia Rentz, Brooks, GA

**Pre-Drawing:** Sunday, January 7, 7:00 p.m., at home of Nell Mobley. Phone: (706) 554-2991 or (706) 466-2991.

**Phoned entries accepted until 7:00 p.m.**

All one-hour heats qualify for all Amateur and Open Shooting Dog Championships, except the National.

Trials will be run on Di-Lane Plantation, 4854 Herndon Road, Waynesboro, Georgia (property purchased by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, leased to the State of Georgia as Public Wildlife Management land). Birds will be released daily. Retrieval collars may be used. Six braces each day. **NO LIVE AMMUNITION!** No dogs will be posted. No vehicles allowed on courses. **Headquarters & Accommodations:** Quality Inn, 1436 N. Liberty St., Waynesboro, GA. Call for reservations: (706) 437-0500. Ask for field trial rates. Stalls and hay available. Lunch to be served. Owners' and Handlers' Banquet to be announced.

— **Sponsored by Purina, Quality Inn and Burke County Chamber of Commerce** —

*The club, club members and Georgia Department of Natural Resources are not responsible for accidents or injuries to animals or persons.*







# 2023 NGSPA 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Open All-Age Invitational Championship

**Open All-Age Invitational**  
*The Standard Will Be Set!*

**January 4-6, 2024 • Hell Creek WMA\*, Blue Mountain, MS**

*\*Do not use GPS directions; Proper directions mailed to entrants or call Keith.*

**Entry Fee:** \$450.00 (Due the night of drawing)

**Drawing:** January 3, at the Hell Creek Clubhouse during dinner.

**Judges:** Joey McAlexander, Holly Springs, MS, and Virgil Moore, Canyon, TX  
**NGSPA DOG OF THE YEAR AND PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR POINTS TRIAL**

## Confirmed Participants:

- **CH Chicoree's Riden High Trixie**  
Rondal J. Alexander, Owner • Dan DiMambro, Handler
- **NC, R-U NC, R-U NAC, CH B M B's Free Ride**  
Brandon & Jennifer Blum, Owners • Brandon Blum, Handler
- **NC, CH Hi N's Allison Miranda**  
Kirk Loftin, Owner & Handler
- **CH Chicoree's Glitter and Gold**  
Dr. Fred Ryan, Owner • Dan DiMambro, Handler
- **CH Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee**  
Kirk Loftin, Owner & Handler
- **R-U NAC, CH B M B's Freeloader**  
Brandon & Jennifer Blum, Owners • Brandon Blum, Handler
- **CH P W Bert's Joke On Us**  
Keith & Bobbi Richardson, Owners • Rich Robertson Jr., Handler
- **NAC CH High Standing Cuttin Edge**  
Anthony & Dayna Rusciano Owner • Dan DiMambro, Handler
- **CH B D K's Twelfth Man**  
David O'Brien, Owner & Handler
- **CH A O Tripps To Win**  
Alan O. Davison, Owner • Josh Nieman, Handler
- **CH Tulli's Faraway Giddyup**  
Joe Amatulli, Owner & Handler
- **NSDC-R-U CH Uodibar's Robbi Jo**  
Sherri Tangsrud, Owner • Kirk Loftin, Handler



## PRIZE PACKAGES

### Winning Handler:

- \$5,000 Guaranteed Purse
- Purina ProPlan: 12 large bags

### Winning Dog's Owner(s):

- Purina Gift: Original Ross Young Oil Painting of Winner
- Garmin or SportDOG Collar

Twelve dogs will compete. Their selection is based upon NGSPA Open All-Age award points earned from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023. The prior year's winner will receive an automatic invitation. All braces will be one-hour heats on two consecutive days. Third day is a call-back with 90-minute heats. Judges will determine number of dogs called back.

## General Information

Closest major airport is Memphis, TN. Grounds are about a 90-minute drive. Quail are released. Calcutta night of drawing. All meals catered at a cost of \$45 per person per day. Limited electrical hook-ups available. Horse pens and hay available. There will be a charge for hay. Jacket and tie appreciated. Unique Guidelines apply to this event; Available at [www.ngspa.org](http://www.ngspa.org).

*For questions, contact:*

**Keith Richardson**

**Cell: (307) 630-9907**

**Email: [gspkeith@gmail.com](mailto:gspkeith@gmail.com)**



*Ross B. Young*

# CALIFORNIA BIRD DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted by Antelope Valley Bird Dog Club

Member AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

— SHOOTING DOG STANDARDS —

**Monday, January 8, 2024**

**Camp H Field Trial Grounds, California City, CA**

**A PURINA TOP SHOOTING DOG AWARD & PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR AWARD POINTS TRIAL**



**Entry Fee: \$170.00**

**Judges:** Gregg Knight, Rancho Cucamonga, CA, and Jeff Rhine, Encinitas, CA

**Purse:** 30% of entry fess divided 70-30 • **Prizes:** SportDOG collars and plaques to winners

**WALLY WALLACE OPEN DERBY—Follows California Bird Dog Championship.....\$ 50.00**

**Judges:** To be announced

**Prizes:** Plaques or rosettes

**Directions to Grounds:** From Kramer Junction (CA 58/395), head north on Hwy. 395 for 15 miles to 20 Mule Team Road and turn left. Head west on 20 Mule Team Road for approximately 5 miles. Follow state park signs to “Camp H.”

**Drawing:** Sunday, January 7, 4:00 p.m., on the grounds. Full entry information and payment must be provided at drawing.

**Meals:** Lunch will be served daily. **Accommodations:** Best Western Inn & Suites—(760) 373-1369.

**Entries to: TERRY ERICKSON—Phone: (562) 208-2334 -or- BRUCE HALE—Cell: (951) 712-4517**

*AVBDC, Region 11, its officers and membership, assume no responsibility for participants or spectators in the event of injury or damage to persons or property.*

**To follow the Wally Wallace Derby, but not before Wednesday, January 10**

# ARIZONA OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted by Arizona Bird Dog Club

Member AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**A NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER,  
PURINA TOP SHOOTING DOG AWARD, PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR AWARD,  
& AMATEUR INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL**



**Entry Fee: \$170.00**

**Judges:** Gregg Knight, Rancho Cucamonga, CA, and Brian Smith, Queen Creek, AZ

**Purse:** 30% of entry fess divided 70-30 • **Prizes:** SportDOG collars and plaques to winners

**Directions to Grounds:** From Kramer Junction (CA 58/395), head north on Hwy. 395 for 15 miles to 20 Mule Team Road and turn left. Head west on 20 Mule Team Road for approximately 5 miles. Follow state park signs to “Camp H.”

**Drawing:** Tuesday, January 9, 4:00 p.m., on the grounds. Full entry information and payment must be provided at drawing.

**Meals:** Lunch will be served daily. **Accommodations:** Best Western Inn & Suites—(760) 373-1369.

**Entries to: JOHN BEAUCHAMP • Cell: (562) 208-2334 • Email: johnbeauch@gmail.com**

**-or- BRUCE HALE • Cell: (951) 712-4517**

*Arizona BDC, Region 11, its officers and membership, assume no responsibility for participants or spectators in the event of injury or damage to persons or property.*

# 2024 NGSPA QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP

Tuesday, January 9-22, 2024

Lake Murray Field Trial Grounds, Ardmore, OK



— Official Sponsor of the NGSPA Quail Championship —

A PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR POINTS TRIAL

**Course:** Three 1-hour continuous courses on wild and liberated quail.

**Drawing:** Each night before the stake is to run on the grounds. All dogs drawn must pay prior to running.

• **OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP (1 Hour).....\$210.00 Entry Fee**

**Judges:** Jerry Langford, Pilot Point, TX, and Mick Cheshire, Highland Ridge, CO

**Purse:** 15% of entry fees, paid 70/30 to Winner & Runner-up and Trophies.

• **AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP (1 Hour) .....\$210.00 Entry Fee**

**Judges:** Jerry Langford, Pilot Point, TX, and Mick Cheshire, Highland Ridge, CO

**Awards:** Winner and Runner-up receive a custom Montana Silversmith buckle;  
Trophies to Winner & Runner-Up.

• **AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP (1 Hour).....\$210.00 Entry Fee**

**Judges:** Bob Thompson, Strafford, MO, and Tom Wynn, Bartlesville, OK

**Awards:** Winner and Runner-Up receive a custom Montana Silversmith buckle;  
Trophies to Winner & Runner-Up.

• **OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP (1 Hour) .....\$210.00 Entry Fee**

**Judges:** Chad Inderman, Lubbock, TX, and Tom Wynn, Bartlesville, OK

**Purse:** 15% of entry fees, paid 70/30 to Winner & Runner-up and Trophies.

• **OPEN DERBY (30 Minutes).....\$125.00 Entry Fee**

**Judges:** Chad Inderman, Lubbock, TX, and Mike Patrick, Berthoud, CO

NGSPA approved retrieval collars allowed. Manufactured Barrel Guns Only! No smart watches allowed on courses!

If a placement is not awarded, purses and prizes remain in club.

Entry form including DNA number and FDSB number required before drawing for all broke dog stakes.

**Advance entries to: KEVIN TEMPLE, 430 Savannah Hill Ln., Rockwall, TX 75032**

**Phone: (214) 695-3257 • Email: gsp4me@att.net**

**Advanced entries in writing must be received by January 6, 2024!**

*The NGSPA Quail Association, officers and/or landowners are not responsible for any loss, damage or injury to any participant, animal or equipment.*



# THE CONTINENTAL FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA, FFTA & Dixie Trace FTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**Continental Field Trial Club Board of Directors:** Randy Floyd, President • Larron Copeland, Vice-President  
Dr. Kent Cantrell • Dr. Ron Deal • Dr. Robert McDavid • Joe Rentz • Julie Ripley • Clay Sisson  
Dr. Terry Terlep • John Thompson • Bob Walthall • Jason Williams

*Extends Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*  
and proudly announces

## THE 129<sup>TH</sup> CONTINENTAL TRIALS



Official Dog Food Sponsor

**Beginning Monday, January 15, 2024**

**Held at Livingston Place (Dixie Plantation), Greenville, FL**

### CONTINENTAL OPEN DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP CONTINENTAL OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

OPEN DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP PURSE—\$4,000

If Runner-up named, \$3,000 to Winner and \$1,000 to Runner-up  
(Payout will not exceed these amounts. If we receive insufficient entries, the payout will be 50% split 70-30)

OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP PURSE—\$10,000

If Runner-up is named, \$7,500 to Winner and \$2,500 to Runner-up  
(Payout will not exceed these amounts. If we receive insufficient entries, the payout will be 50% split 70-30)

TOP QUALIFYING DOG—\$1,000

(Payout will not exceed this amount)

— Silver Bowls will be awarded to the owners of the winner and runner-up in both championships —

**OPEN DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP (One-Hour Heats)..... Entry Fee \$500.00 + \$20.00 Dog Tax**  
**OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP..... Entry Fee \$750.00 + \$20.00 Dog Tax**

— PURINA AWARD POINTS TRIALS & NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS —

*\*Grounds and Participation Fees included in Entry Fee.*

(One-Hour Qualifying Heats; One-Hour & Fifty-Minute Finals | Number of Dogs Qualifying for Finals at the Discretion of the Judges)

**Entries may be made by mail: 1583 Livingston Rd., Greenville, FL 32331**

**Email: livingstonplace@talltimbers.org • Phone: (850) 997-1957**

**Deadline for Entries is on or before 12:00 Noon (EST), Friday, January 12, 2024.**

**Drawing held at Livingston Place office at 6:00 p.m. (EST), Friday, January 12, 2024 (open to all participants).**

— ENTRY FEES DUE AT TIME OF DRAWING —

**Derby Championship Judges:** Larron Copeland and Jeff Gibbons • **Derby Reporter:** Steve Standley  
**All-Age Championship Judges:** Lamar Childers and Mike Jackson • **All-Age Reporter:** Maria Bassham

*Purina will sponsor a fish fry during the field trial.*

This trial will not tolerate disrespect of our judges, reporters, or officials in any form from anyone in attendance. Anyone failing in this regard shall be asked to leave and remove all dogs they may have in competition and forfeit all entry fees and winnings.

**Note: Open or solid barrel guns are permitted with the proper blank ammunition. The Continental Field Trial Club, its Officers, Board of Directors, and Livingston Place are not in any way responsible and cannot be held liable for any accidents involving anyone attending the trial, their horses, dogs or equipment.**

Horses and dogs to be quartered on Livingston Place. Negative Coggins for all horses required.



**Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America**

[www.aftca.org](http://www.aftca.org)  
 Piper Huffman, Secretary  
 Phone: (662) 223-0126  
 Email: [piper.huffman@aim.com](mailto:piper.huffman@aim.com)

**American Bird Hunters Association**

[www.facebook.com/trialabha/](http://www.facebook.com/trialabha/)  
 Ronnie Rogers, President  
 Phone: (865) 712-9229  
 Email: [esetter34@yahoo.com](mailto:esetter34@yahoo.com)

**National Bird Hunters Association**

[www.nbhadow.org](http://www.nbhadow.org)  
 Ken Sauer, President  
 Phone: (281) 960-2508  
 Email: [kfsauer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kfsauer@sbcglobal.net)  
 Tim Penn, Secretary  
 Phone: (660) 341-1165  
 Email: [tpennhwy6@gmail.com](mailto:tpennhwy6@gmail.com)

**National German Shorthaired Pointer Association**

[www.ngspa.org](http://www.ngspa.org)  
 Natalie Inderman, Secretary  
 Phone: (806) 777-2769  
 Email: [Nataliealicia@ymail.com](mailto:Nataliealicia@ymail.com)

**National Red Setter Field Trial Club**

[www.nrsftc.com](http://www.nrsftc.com)  
 Ed Liermann  
 Phone: (414) 625-0715  
 Email: [eal1886@aol.com](mailto:eal1886@aol.com)

**National Vizsla Association**

[www.thenva.org](http://www.thenva.org)  
 Robert Tomczak  
 Phone: (715) 829-8104  
 Email: [shilohlk@aol.com](mailto:shilohlk@aol.com)

**Southern Bird Hunters Association**

[www.southernbirdhunters.org](http://www.southernbirdhunters.org)  
 Marty Robinson, President  
 Phone: (770) 862-6568  
 Bruce Mercer, Secretary  
 Phone: (470) 345-6369  
 Email: [mercercbruce@hotmail.com](mailto:mercercbruce@hotmail.com)  
 Georgia Casey, Treasurer  
 Phone: (618) 638-2952

**U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Association**

[www.uscomplete.org](http://www.uscomplete.org)  
 Chris Catanzarite, President  
 Phone: (724) 884-7244  
 Email: [Catanzarite@fairpoint.net](mailto:Catanzarite@fairpoint.net)  
 Bill Bonnetti, Vice-President  
 Phone: (508) 648-0598  
 Email: [bonnetti-william@comcast.net](mailto:bonnetti-william@comcast.net)  
 Jameson Crandall, Secretary/Treasurer  
 Phone: (804) 577-3788  
 Email: [jameson.crandall@gmail.com](mailto:jameson.crandall@gmail.com)

**Futurities**

**Grand National Grouse Futurity**

Thor Kain  
 Phone: (570) 702-6670  
 Email: [TKain63@gmail.com](mailto:TKain63@gmail.com)

**Midwest Vizsla Futurity**

Rodney Albin  
 Phone: (636) 366-9746  
 Email: [rodneyalbin@centurytel.net](mailto:rodneyalbin@centurytel.net)

**National Bird Hunters Assn. Futurity**

Jim Ogle  
 Phone: (417) 388-0734  
 Email: [jojosenglishsetters@gmail.com](mailto:jojosenglishsetters@gmail.com)

**National German Shorthaired Pointer Assn.**

Jeff Wallace, Futurity Manager  
 Phone: (641) 891-9513  
 Email: [jeffwallace@iowatelecom.net](mailto:jeffwallace@iowatelecom.net)

**National Red Setter Futurity**

James Inbody  
 Phone: (330) 306-8065  
 Email: [BonasaHunter72@aol.com](mailto:BonasaHunter72@aol.com)

**National Shooting Dog Futurity**

Mark Hughes  
 Phone: (814) 591-3540  
 Email: [mdh275@gmail.com](mailto:mdh275@gmail.com)

**National Walking Shooting Dog Futurity**

Krysta Munden  
 Phone: (724) 840-8400  
 Email: [krystamunden@gmail.com](mailto:krystamunden@gmail.com)

**New England Shooting Dog Futurity**

Margaret Drew  
 Phone: (910) 206-0079  
 Email: [margaretdrew39@gmail.com](mailto:margaretdrew39@gmail.com)

**North American Woodcock Futurity**

Joe Dahl  
 Phone: (207) 478-3063  
 Email: [JosephDahl@aol.com](mailto:JosephDahl@aol.com)

**Southern Bird Hunters Assn. Futurity**

Bruce Mercer  
 Phone: (470) 345-6369  
 Email: [mercercbruce@hotmail.com](mailto:mercercbruce@hotmail.com)

**U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Assn. Futurity**

Verlene Stephenson  
 Phone: (252) 589-1521  
 Email: [verlene\\_stephenson@ncsu.edu](mailto:verlene_stephenson@ncsu.edu)

**United States Quail Shooting Dog Futurity**

Margaret Drew  
 Phone: (910) 206-0079  
 Email: [bmdrew@windstream.net](mailto:bmdrew@windstream.net)

**Recognized Field Trials**

**NGSPA Amateur Shooting Dog Invitational Championship**

December 1 / Gentry, MO  
 Contact: Keith Richardson  
 Phone: (307) 630-9907  
 Email: [gspkeith@gmail.com](mailto:gspkeith@gmail.com)

**United States Open Championship**

December 1 / Greensboro, AL  
 Contact: Schley Rutherford  
 Phone: (251) 753-1629

**Volunteer State Field Trial Club**

December 1 / Kevil, KY  
 Contact: Chris Cagle Jr.  
 Phone: (248) 670-2574

**National Amateur All-Age Invitational Championship**

December 4 / Grand Junction, TN  
 Contact: Piper Huffman  
 Phone: (662) 471-1700

**Region 6 (AFTCA) Amateur All-Age Championship**

December 7 / Holly Springs, MS  
 Contact: Lisa Little  
 Phone: (931) 980-0452  
 Email: [doubletroublestables@yahoo.com](mailto:doubletroublestables@yahoo.com)

**South Carolina Open Shooting Dog Championship**

December 4 / Patrick, SC  
 Contact: Dr. Roger McPherson  
 Phone: (843) 623-2186 or (814) 657-0712  
 Email: [rjmcperson46@gmail.com](mailto:rjmcperson46@gmail.com)

**Panther Creek Field Trial Club**

December 7 / Fitzpatrick, AL  
 Contact: Brent Cox  
 Phone: (334) 657-4231  
 Email: [Brentwc1970@gmail.com](mailto:Brentwc1970@gmail.com)

**Hoffman Amateur Field Trial Club**

December 8 / Hoffman, NC  
 Contact: Derek Bonner  
 Phone: (828) 289-2300

**Tennessee Valley Field Trial Club**

December 8 / LaVergne, TN  
 Contact: Ronnie Rogers  
 Phone: (865) 712-9229 or (865) 475-3459

**Associated Field Trial Clubs of Florida**

December 9 / Punta Gorda, FL  
 Contact: Paul Daniel  
 Phone: (813) 477-4104

**Lee County Field Trial Club**

December 9 / Bronwood, GA  
 Contact: Larron Copeland  
 Phone: (229) 317-1812

**Tsukuba Field Trial Club**

December 10 / Sakaecho Field  
 Contact: Susumu Yagami

**Mid-South Amateur Field Trial Association**

December 14 / Blue Mountain, MS  
 Contact: Kent Walker  
 Phone: (901) 277-1527

**Region 3 (AFTCA) Amateur All-Age Championship**

December 14 / Hoffman, NC  
 Contact: Paul Gadd  
 Phone: (828) 310-6688 or (828) 322-9223

**National Amateur Shooting Dog Invitational Championship**

December 15 / Leslie, GA  
 Contact: Piper Huffman  
 Phone: (662) 471-1700

**Reelfoot Field Trial Club**

December 15 / Kevil, KY  
 Contact: Mary Sue Schalk  
 Phone: (270) 625-0196

**Region 16 (AFTCA) Amateur All-Age Championship**

December 15 / Sasser, GA  
 Contact: Joe Rentz  
 Phone: (770) 841-5948  
 Email: [joerentz@yahoo.com](mailto:joerentz@yahoo.com)

**River Valley Sportsman Association**

December 15 / Conway, AR  
 Contact: Robby Robinson  
 Phone: (479) 970-0434

**North Carolina**

**Open Shooting Dog Championship**

December 18 / Hoffman, NC  
 Contact: Calvin Curnutte  
 Phone: (910) 995-7902  
 Email: [drowningcreekgundogs@yahoo.com](mailto:drowningcreekgundogs@yahoo.com)

**Recognized Field Trials**

**Columbia County Field Trial Club**

December 19 / Lake City, FL  
 Contact: Joe Hicks  
 Phone: (386) 249-1210  
 Email: joehicks068@gmail.com

**Eastern Kanto Field Trial Club**

December 24 / Chiba-Ken, Japan  
 Contact: Toshiji Yoshioka

**Shadow Oak Field Trial Club**

December 27 / Leesburg, GA  
 Contact: Martha Neely  
 Phone: (229) 894-7766

**Swamp Fox Open Shooting Dog Classic**

December 27 / Hoffman, NC  
 Contact: Allen Johnson  
 Phone: (803) 464-5525

**Como Field Trial Club**

December 28 / Holly Springs, MS  
 Contact: Lisa Little  
 Phone: (931) 980-0452  
 Email: doubletroublestables@yahoo.com

**Woodlawn Field Trial Club**

December 28 / Holly Springs, MS  
 Contact: Lisa Little  
 Phone: (931) 980-0452  
 Email: doubletroublestables@yahoo.com

2024

**Ames Amateur Joe G. Walker Memorial Field Trial**

January 1 / Grand Junction, TN  
 Contact: Kent Walker  
 Phone: (901) 277-1527

**Prairie Open All-Age**

January 1 / Mayflower, AR  
 Contact: Dr. Fred Corder  
 Phone: (662) 415-5244

**United States Quail Shooting Dog Futurity**

January 1 / Hoffman, NC  
 Contact: Margaret C. Drew  
 Phone: (910) 281-5259 or (910) 206-0079  
 Email: bmdrew@windstream.net

**Georgia Derby & Quail Championships**

January 2 / Waynesboro, GA  
 Contact: Nell Mobley  
 Phone: (706) 554-2991 or (706) 466-2991

**Pelican Open All-Age**

January 2 / Mayflower, AR  
 Contact: Dr. Fred Corder  
 Phone: (662) 415-5244

**Cahaba Bend Field Trial Club**

January 4 / Greensboro, AL  
 Contact: Wayne Pope  
 Phone: (334) 216-2126

**NGSPA Open All-Age Invitational Championship**

January 4 / Blue Mountain, MS  
 Contact: Keith Richardson  
 Phone: (307) 630-9907  
 Email: gspkeith@gmail.com

**Pinehurst Field Trial Club**

January 5 / Hoffman, NC  
 Contact: Paul Gadd  
 Phone: (828) 322-9223 or (828) 310-6688

**South Carolina**

**Amateur Shooting Dog Classic**

January 5 / Cheraw, SC  
 Contact: Roger McPherson  
 Phone: (843) 623-2186 or (814) 657-0712  
 Email: rjmcpherson46@gmail.com

**California Bird Dog Championship & Wally Wallace Derby**

January 8 / California City, CA  
 Contact: Terry Erickson  
 Phone: (562) 208-2334

**Georgia Shooting Dog Derby Classic & Open Shooting Dog Championship**

January 9 / Waynesboro, GA  
 Contact: Nell Mobley  
 Phone: (706) 554-2991 or (706) 466-2991

**NGSPA Quail Championships**

January 9 / Ardmore, OK  
 Contact: Kevin Temple  
 Phone: (214) 695-3257  
 Email: gsp4me@att.net

**Arizona Open Shooting Dog Championship**

January 10 / California City, CA  
 Contact: John Beauchamp  
 Phone: (480) 235-1570  
 Email: johnbeauchamp@gmail.com

**Region 16 (AFTCA) Amateur Shooting Dog Championship**

January 11 / Union Springs, AL  
 Contact: Darron Hendley  
 Phone: (334) 300-5836

**Tennessee Open Shooting Dog Championship**

January 11 / Dancyville, TN  
 Contact: Ken Blackman  
 Phone: (901) 606-9553

**Sandlapper Field Trial Club**

January 11 / McBee, SC  
 Contact: Tim Ruff  
 Phone: (803) 479-0880

**Chestnut Bird Dog Club**

January 14 / Bando Tone Field  
 Contact: Kouzou Sakanashi

**Continental Open Championships**

January 15 / Greenville, FL  
 Contact: Randy Floyd  
 Phone: (850) 997-1957  
 Email: livingstonplace@talltimbers.org

**Region 15 (AFTCA) Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship**

January 21 / Kanna River Field  
 Contact: Tatsuo Ishino  
 Phone: (053) 925-3029

**Atlantic Coast Open Shooting Dog Championship**

January 24 / Hoffman, NC  
 Contact: David Huffine  
 Phone: (910) 620-2970  
 Email: dhuffine1951@gmail.com

**Region 6 (AFTCA) Amateur Shooting Dog Championship**

January 25 / Huntingdon, TN  
 Contact: Lisa Little  
 Phone: (931) 980-0452  
 Email: doubletroublestables@yahoo.com

**National Derby Championship**

January 26 / Greensboro, AL  
 Contact: Ruthann Epp  
 Phone: (334) 412-7426

**National Free-For-All Championship**

January 28 / Greensboro, AL  
 Contact: Ruthann Epp  
 Phone: (334) 412-7426

**National Open Shooting Dog Championship**

February 5 / Union Springs, AL  
 Contact: Heather Klinck  
 Phone: (334) 207-9422  
 Email: hsklinck@gmail.com

**Georgia Amateur Celebration**

February 10 / Waynesboro, GA  
 Contact: Nell Mobley  
 Phone: (706) 554-2991 or (706) 466-2991

**Fuji Field Trial Club**

February 12 / Bando Tone River Field  
 Contact: Satoshi Kobayashi

**Gulf Coast Open Shooting Dog Championship**

February 15 / Union Springs, AL  
 Contact: Robert Moorer  
 Phone: (334) 558-7080  
 Email: Robertm7080@gmail.com

**Region 15 (AFTCA) Amateur Shooting Dog Championship**

February 18 / Tone River Field  
 Contact: Tatsuo Ishino  
 Phone: (053) 925-3029

**Carolina Amateur Field Trial Club**

February 22 / Hoffman, NC  
 Contact: Calvin Curnutte  
 Phone: (910) 995-7902  
 Email: drowningcreekgundogs@yahoo.com

**Eastern Kanto Field Trial Club**

February 25 / Chiba-Ken, Japan  
 Contact: Toshiji Yoshioka

**Derby Field Trial Club**

February 26 / Hoffman, NC  
 Contact: Calvin Curnutte  
 Phone: (910) 995-7902  
 Email: drowningcreekgundogs@yahoo.com

**Delaware Valley Bird Dog Club**

March 2 / Berville, PA  
 Contact: James Humes Jr.  
 Phone: (484) 550-2957  
 Email: jphjr1215@gmail.com

**Willie "Byrd" Owens Derby Classic**

March 7 / Union Springs, AL  
 Contact: Robert Moorer  
 Phone: (334) 558-7080  
 Email: Robertm7080@gmail.com

**Concuh Station Amateur Shooting Dog Classic**

March 9 / Union Springs, AL  
 Contact: Robert Moorer  
 Phone: (334) 558-7080  
 Email: Robertm7080@gmail.com

**Chickahominy Field Trial Association**

March 24 / Jarrett, VA  
 Contact: Mert Jones  
 Phone: (804) 512-7567  
 Email: fewpointers@gmail.com

**Kanto Pointing Dog Club**

March 24 / Kanna River, Japan  
 Contact: Nobumasa Takeishi

**The Virginia Classics**

April 4 / Scottsville, VA  
 Contact: Tommy Stargell  
 Phone: (434) 960-2651

**CanAm Open Shooting Dog Classic**

April 12 / Payette, ID  
 Contact: Bill Owen  
 Phone: (805) 886-7339

**ABHA TRIALS**

**ABHA National Horseback Classic**

December 4 / Berea, KY  
 Contact: Justin Crook  
 Phone: (417) 592-3576

2024

**Rolling Fork Bird Dog Club**

January 26 / Berea, KY  
 Contact: Magda Lear  
 Phone: (502) 830-2865  
 Email: magilear@yahoo.com



**Recognized Field Trials**

**NBHA TRIALS**

**NBHA National Amateur Invitational Championship**  
 December 1 / Grovespring, MO  
 Contact: Tim Penn  
 Phone: (660) 341-1165

**Licking River Bird Dog Club**  
 December 2 / Berea, KY  
 Contact: Jonathan Dunn  
 Phone: (859) 404-4359

**Northern New Jersey Field Trial Club**  
 December 2 / Franklin, NJ  
 Contact: Jillian Stuhr  
 Phone: (570) 369-8624  
 Email: jillian.stuhr@gmail.com

**NBHA Kentucky State Classic**  
 December 7 / Berea, KY  
 Contact: Terry Boatright  
 Phone: (859) 582-8566

**American Red Setter Bird Dog Club**  
 December 15 / Rose Hill, NC  
 Contact: Deborah Fazenbaker  
 Phone: (440) 969-0567  
 Email: walkingredsetters@gmail.com

**SBHA TRIALS**

2024

**Cedar Valley Classic**  
 March 25 / Hoffman, NC  
 Contact: Calvin Curnutte  
 Phone: (910) 995-7902  
 Email: drowningcreekgundogs@yahoo.com

**USCSDA TRIALS**

**USCSDA Open Invitational Championship**  
 December 14 / Pamplico, SC  
 Contact: Jameson Crandall  
 Phone: (804) 577-3788  
 Email: jameson.crandall@gmail.com

**Peninsula Bird Hunters Club**  
 December 17 / Ahoskie, NC  
 Contact: Ashby Morgan  
 Phone: (804) 384-7185

2024

**Lancaster County Field Trial Association**  
 January 13 / Regina, VA  
 Contact: Jimmy Crandall  
 Phone: (804) 761-1517

**Derby Field Trial Club**  
 January 16 / Jackson Springs, NC  
 Contact: Calvin Curnutte  
 Phone: (910) 995-7902  
 Email: drowningcreekgundogs@yahoo.com

**North Carolina Pointing Dog Association**  
 January 19 / Marston, NC  
 Contact: Lynne Leitch  
 Phone: (802) 373-1747  
 Email: lynne.leitch@gmail.com

**USCSDA Futurity & Classics**  
 January 29 / Camden, SC  
 Contact: Verlene Stephenson  
 Phone: (252) 589-1521  
 Email: verlene\_stephenson@ncsu.edu

**USCSDA National Open Championship**  
 February 8 / Hoffman, NC  
 Contact: Jameson Crandall  
 Phone: (804) 577-3788

**North Carolina Pointing Dog Association**  
 February 16 / Marston, NC  
 Contact: Lynne Leith  
 Phone: (802) 373-1747  
 Email: lynne.leith@gmail.com

**USCSDA Southeast Regional Championship**  
 March 1 / Hoffman, NC  
 Contact: David Huffine  
 Phone: (910) 620-2970

**Chickahominy Field Trial Association**  
 March 23 / Jarrett, VA  
 Contact: Mert Jones  
 Phone: (804) 512-7567  
 Email: fewpointers@gmail.com

**FIELD TRIAL REMINDER / ATTENTION: CLUB OFFICIALS**

Trial dates that have been scheduled and confirmed for the season may be submitted for inclusion in the Kennel Fixtures column to provide an early notice of the club's trial before the formal announcement appears. To comply with the minimum requirements, ads must appear on the website calendar at least two weeks prior to the start of the event. To be included in a print edition, please see deadlines below:

**JANUARY 2024**

\*Deadline December 5

**FEBRUARY 2024**

\*Deadline January 5

**MARCH 2024**

\*Deadline February 5

**APRIL 2024**

\*Deadline March 5

*\*Please submit ads prior to the deadline date to allow time for revisions and approvals.*

Material must be received and approved by 4:30 p.m. on the deadline date.

Deadlines that fall on weekends or holidays move to the next business day.

For a copy of a previous ad, please email: [gsmith@ukcdogs.com](mailto:gsmith@ukcdogs.com)

or visit the calendar at [www.americanfield.com](http://www.americanfield.com)



# Collar Clinic

We are proud to support the UKC/Field News!

## Your E-collar Specialists since 1988

- Best Selection
- Great Customer Service
- Trade-in and Repair Options



231-947-2010

[www.collarclinic.com](http://www.collarclinic.com)



# DON'T WAIT ON HOLD, TRY THE ONLINE CHAT!



*Type here to  
start the chat!*

**Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM**

Initiate a chat and be speaking with a real UKC team member  
who is trained and ready to help within minutes!

To reach us by phone, please call (312) 663-9797

**VISIT: [AMERICANFIELD.COM](http://AMERICANFIELD.COM)**

**UNITED**  
KENNEL CLUB



United Kennel Club  
100 E. Kilgore Rd.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49002

# CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE STORE

AND GET EXCLUSIVE AMERICAN FIELD™ MERCHANDISE  
[SHOP.UKCDOGS.COM/AMERICAN-FIELD](http://SHOP.UKCDOGS.COM/AMERICAN-FIELD)



**AMERICAN FIELD**  
BY  
**UNITED**  
KENNEL CLUB