

UKC®

FIELD

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A Newsletter by United Kennel Club

Issue No. 27





UKC TEAM IN THE FIELD

— *An update from Todd Kellam*

Although I readily admit to having limited time in a Tucker saddle on a Tennessee Walker, I must be a good judge of horse flesh. I was remembering a ride on the afternoon course during the 2022 National Championship. I was mounted on a sorrel gelding named Jim and remembered it being one of the most enjoyable experiences in my limited horseback gallery outings. Knowing full well that beggars can't be choosers, I did inquire as to the possibility of having Jim babysit me in the final brace of the 2024 Nationals. To my good fortune, Jim was available for me to ride. As Chris Weatherly was pulling the final slack out of the girth strap right before the breakaway, he said something to the effect of Jim being the best horse on the Ames Plantation. With that, I rest my case that surely I am a good judge of horse flesh!

Having experienced the front end of the National Championship in 2022, I very much wanted to experience the conclusion of the National Championship this year. I envisioned that it would be an honor to be there on the steps of the Ames Plantation manor house for the crowning of a new National Champion. I



National Champion Touch's Gallatin Fire enjoying the sunshine and a well-deserved hug from McLean Summerlin.
(Photo credit: Tessa Hughes)

was not wrong, as it was indeed a moving experience. As a lifelong bird hunter myself, I feel very fortunate to be able to include my attendance at the start and finish of the National Championship to my resumé. To anyone out there who admires the pointing breeds and the sport of field trialing in the same way, you owe it to yourself to experience this in your lifetime.

The National Championship does have a different feel in my experience than other field trials.

One of my theories is the fact that the three-hour brace format is part of the reason for this. It has a very calm and scheduled, unhurried if you will, feel to it. It certainly has a traditional feel to it, which is both proud and formal in every respect. But the underlying tone is friendly, warm, and welcoming. I wish to publicly thank everyone who had even a small part in the administration of this prestigious event for the work that you all do.

That final brace was a beautiful morning to ride across a historic landscape. The two pointers worked tirelessly, and it is unfortunate, and no fault of their own, that the birds were not active. True to form, Jim was a perfect gentleman with a smooth gate and a collected canter when asked. I figured it was foolish to ask, but I had to wonder how much it would cost for me to put Jim on a trailer and bring him back to Michigan. They would not price him. It turns out the Governor likes to ride Jim also.

Congratulations to all the connections of Ch. Touch's Gallatin Fire, a most deserving World Champion. For the full story, see the coverage of reporter Tessa Hughes on pages 6-15.

National Champion



TOUCH'S GALLATIN FIRE

Alex Rickert, Owner | Mark McLean, Handler | Keith A. Wright, Breeder
[Photo by Chris Mathan]

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Ch. Touch's Gallatin Fire

#F1675102 • Sire: House's Ring of Fire • Dam: Touch's Sandy
Alex Rickert, Owner • Photo by Chris Mathan

ON THE COVER

FIELD TRIAL HALL OF FAME

Ceremonies for Newly Elected Hall of Fame Inductees Held

By David A. Fletcher | Grand Junction, Tennessee | February 10, 2024

Hard rain fell at the Bird Dog Museum in Grand Junction, Tennessee, on Saturday, February 10, but it failed to dampen attendance numbers or enthusiasm for the 31st renewal of the Hall of Fame induction ceremonies for eight breed groups of bird dogs to be honored and inducted. The event was well attended, a great day for bird dog folks. Among those in attendance were many elected Hall of Fame personalities, sponsors, and other notables from the field trial world.

Events began at 9 a.m. with Hall of Fame Executive Director Tonya Brotherton taking the mike, welcoming the over 200 seated, naming and thanking her staff for their help in putting this event on, outlining the day's activities and displays and auctions. Next was a welcome from one of the event's sponsors, Purina's Karl Gunzer, and an introduction of Purina reps with him, Blair, West, and Reinke; BDF President Rick Smith was next with a hearty welcome to everyone and many other thoughts and comments about the weekend events.

Springer Spaniels were first on the agenda, with Mike Nolan as MC. Braw Bairn of Suthron Glen, Sunrise Seneca Scout, Mike Wallace, and Clifton Hankins were inducted.

Bethann Wiley was next as MC for the Cocker Spaniel group, and Corazon Beau was inducted.

Retrievers followed, with BDF CFO Mark Medford presiding. Billy Sargenti,

Richard Dallesasse, and canines Windy City's Mighty Mouse and Texas Troubadour were inducted.

After the Purina-sponsored luncheon and introductory speeches by BDF officials and Purina, the Weimaraner inductions took place. Inducted was Qizef's Grau Geist Marlene, with Mary Brown speaking. Also inducted were Tom Hanson and Dick Wilber and canine Outdoor's Tony Lama.

BDF Director Keith Richardson came to the mike next to introduce the German Shorthair inductees, Hi N's Hurricane Express and Jim Yates. Friends and family members spoke and voiced many attributes related to the inductees.

Next on the agenda, Dave Fletcher, Hall of Fame director, introduced the Pointer and Setter group. He provided information on the two UKC Hall of Fame officials. Dominic Muoio and Todd Kellam were unable to attend, so he pinch-hit for them. Four inductee groups then took their turn at the podium.

Inducted were True Confidence, with owner Frank LaNasa speaking; House's Rain Cloud, with handler Joe Don House and co-owner David Nutt speaking; and breeder Buddy Smith, who was also in the audience. Richard Robertson Jr. followed, with family members and Alex Haley speaking. David Williams was the final Pointer and Setter inductee, and Jamie Daniels spoke of his trial history and contributions to the sport.

BDF Secretary Mary Crawford came to the podium next to introduce the Brittany inductees, Steve Ralph, along with wife Lori and daughter Alisa and other family members, Brett Lindback speaking. Spanish Corral's Sundance Kid was also inducted. Tom White spoke with owner Tom Gower and his wife Cathy at the podium.

Life Patron plaques were read to the audience to close the day's program. Plaque recipients from the Brittany group were Peter Thuman, Jim Crawford, Jim House, Paul and Peggy Doiron, Henry Wiersbicki, and the Harms family. Life patron plaques went to Larry McConnell and Gene Casale in the Pointer and Setter group.

During the luncheon break and after the afternoon inductions, caterer Michel Kelly served some great, delicious food, buffet style. There were many sponsors for these meals and other sponsorship items, and the list included United Kennel Club for the reception, along with Purina, Ainley Kennels, Avery Sporting Dog, Gun Dog Central, Center Distributing with sudsy refreshments tended by barkeepers Frank Bell and Jonathon Harris. Volunteers were present, including Barbara Sweeney, Christy Harris, Brandon and Kate Hall, Jann Ward, and Andrea Watkins. Bird Dog Foundation's Executive Director Tonya Brotherton was everywhere, masterminding it all with son Clay and husband Rex, a great family effort.

CORRECTION

The results of the Reelfoot trials were published in the February issue on pages 43-44. The Open Shooting Dog stake listed the incorrect second-place winner, and the third-place winner was inadvertently omitted. Our apologies to the owners and handlers for the error.

Here are the correct results:

Judges: Alan Benson and James Kleve OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats] – 5 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-CROUSE'S TOTAL ECLIPSE, 1673980, pointer female, by Crouse's Ebony Masterpiece-Crouse's Gerri Wind. M. D. Crouse, owner and handler.
2d-NO LEAF CLOVER, 1682457, setter male, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-Diamond's Blue Girl. Joseph & Brittany Hopkins, owners; Joseph Hopkins, handler.
3d-CROUSE'S POND RIVER GUS, 1680453, pointer male, by Lester's Sunny Hill Jo-Crouse's Pine Lady. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; M. D. Crouse, handler.

Please submit write-ups
and Essential Data Forms to:

Dinora Wellmann
dwellmann@ukcdogs.com

Blank Essential Data Forms may be found at
www.americanfield.com under the
"Results" tab.

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Hank and Dina Lewis display portrait of Hi N's Hurricane Express.



Kathleen Yates (with portrait), joined by April and Dan DiMambro, Marc McKinley, and Tom Davis.



Frank and Jean La Nasa with portrait of True Confidence.



David Nutt and co-owner Dr. Larry Mitchell's daughter, Reed, speak about House's Rain Cloud.



Inductee Richard Robertson, wife Penny, and family members.



Inductee David Williams and family.



Inductee Steve Ralph, wife Lori, and friends.



Joe Gower and family with portrait of Spanish Corral's Sundance Kid.

THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Touch's Gallatin Fire Wins 125th Running

By Tessa Hughes | Grand Junction, Tennessee | February 12, 2024



National Champion Touch's Gallatin Fire is posed by scout Mark Haynes, joined by owner Alex Rickert (behind), handler Mark McLean (right), the judges, NFTCA officials, and well-wishers.

[Note: All National Championship photos by Jamie Evans]

Our 2024 National Champion, Touch's Gallatin Fire, set Ames Plantation afire with his bid for the championship this year and soared above his competitors to seize the trophy with five beautiful finds in his three-hour race. The white, orange, and ticked 8-year-old pointer, owned by Alex Rickert of Bozeman, Montana, was handled by Mark McLean of Doerun, Georgia, and scouted by Mark Haynes of Brownsville, Tennessee, for his win.

Gallatin Fire ("Bob") was whelped in January 2016; his sire is House's Ring of Fire, a grandson of HOF CH Erin's Bad River. His dam is Touch's Sandy, a daughter of National Champion Touch's White Out. Gallatin Fire's pedigree is star-studded in that our champion is one of 16 dogs qualifying for this year's National Championship, which traces their lineage back to a National Champion that has become a bright spot in any dog's pedigree, Whippoorwill Wild Agin.

In addition, Ring of Fire's dam was a dog named Grace's Snow, and she is a granddaughter of another well-known National qualifier, Sir Lancelot. Our breeder of this year's National Champion is Keith Wright, a new addition to the National Field Trial Champion Association Board of Directors and a man who has done much to improve the English pointer field trial breed with his "Touch" line of dogs.

(Note: There were three qualified descendants of Whippoorwill Wild Agin who did not compete this year; Rampage

and Erin's Happy Hour deferred.)

The Championship Brace

In the Championship brace, Gallatin Fire was braced with last year's National Champion, Miller's Blindsider, a pointer male handled by Jamie Daniels (Judd Carlton, scout). As we broke away, our new champion was moving quickly on the right side of the Out Front Field, exhibiting that smooth, flowing gait for which the "Touch"-bred dogs have become famous, with his head held and tail high and his tail snapping in a happy way. In approximately two short minutes, both dogs were through the Out Front Field. At 11, we crossed over Buford Ellington into Morgan Field, with Gallatin Fire making a strong cast on the right. Blindsider quickly joined him at 13 in Morgan Field. Daniels called point for Blindsider at 17 on the right-hand side of Morgan Basin. Blindsider stood with head and tail high, looking elegant, as Daniels went in to flush a large covey for his dog, with Blindsider also holding well for the shot. At 20, both dogs were again to the front before we reached L. B. Avent House Place. As the handlers crested the hill, Daniels pointed out to McLean that Gallatin Fire was pointed in cover off to the right. McLean then called point for his dog at 24 at L. B. Avent Cornfield. Gallatin Fire looked beautiful on point, standing in cornstalks with his head held high, and McLean flushed a large covey for him. He held perfectly for wing and shot.

Continuing on, Gallatin Fire soon caught up with Blindsider, and both dogs were seen

casting in the lower part of Turner field on the right at 26. Gallatin Fire then swept up the left-hand side of Turner, whereupon his scout, Haynes, called point for him at 30, with Fire standing in the farm road and Blindsider backing in the cornstalks behind him. Both dogs looked outstanding, and Gallatin Fire again held perfectly for the flushing of the quail and the report of the gun. Upon release, both dogs were next seen to the front around Turner Basin by 38.

When we reached Mary Scott at 56, both dogs were temporarily out of pocket, and both handlers were absent to the right, searching for their dogs. Daniels and Blindsider returned first across Mary Scott by 59. At 1:05, Blindsider was again sighted at the far-left side of No Man's Land. At 1:11, when we crossed Mary Scott the second time, Miller's Blindsider was making a strong cast on the left-hand side. McLean then called point at 1:13 in Turner Pines for Gallatin Fire. This was an outstanding find, with Gallatin Fire standing magnificently in heavy cover for his handler, not moving a muscle while birds boiled out. Fire and the judges accompanying him then held up temporarily to wait on Blindsider to make the approximate two-minute loop around Locust Lane and rejoin them. Blindsider rejoined them at 1:21, crossing over Turner Road, and both dogs were into the Tennessee Field by then.

Gallatin Fire and Blindsider made strong casts into the second part of the Tennessee Field at 1:25 on the far right-hand side. Both dogs continued into the next field at 1:27, casting into the far side.

At 1:29, Gallatin Fire had returned to McLean, but Blindsider had not returned to Daniels. At 1:31, Gallatin Fire was in Morgan Field, hunting hard to the front on the left, and by 1:34, he had moved into the gap of the next field.

At 1:37, as we were crossing the road into Kyle's Barn Field, Gallatin Fire was still moving on to the front with Blindsider returning to the front at 1:38 to join him. At 1:49, McLean called point for Gallatin Fire again, this time just before No Man's Land. Again, Gallatin Fire looked beautiful on point, head and tail high. Again, he handled his birdwork to perfection. At this time, Daniels decided to pick up Blindsider, requesting his tracker.

By 1:55, Gallatin Fire was making a strong cast on the right at Edward Clark South before we made it to the ditch

crossing. At 2:04, the new champion was still to the front as we made it into Jim Braddock Field. At 2:13, he made a good cast on the right at Tobe Polk, and he was again spotted at 2:18 to the front in the Long Mudhole Field. At 2:24, he showed nicely at Edward Clark South of Pines. At Clemmie Clark, he was again spotted to the front at 2:36.

Gallatin Fire crossed National Championship Drive at 2:39. At 2:46, he was in Morgan Swamp, still moving on to the front. In the field beyond Morgan Swamp, at 2:49, we again spotted him, and as we crossed over Ellington and made our way forward at 2:54, Gallatin Fire was still moving strongly to the front. He swept back into the Out Front Field at approximately 2:57, casting from left to right. His scout stayed in the soybean edge cover behind him and discovered him on point at 2:59. Again, he looked as fresh on point as he had with his first find, head, and tail still high and very intense. McLean flushed and shot for his beautiful dog, which Gallatin Fire again handled to perfection, and that concluded his brace. Interestingly, we could call this find a “lucky covey” since both this year and last year’s National Champion scored a find on a covey at this location, with Blindsider striking birds here at the beginning of his brace last year and Gallatin Fire hitting birds here at the conclusion of his brace.

Our Judges

We were pleased our judges remained consistent this year as from the previous year. First, we had Jadie Rayfield of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, also serving as a director and Vice President of the NFTCA, coming to us to judge for the eighth time. Jadie has been involved in all phases of field trials for 50 years. Jadie and his father began training bird dogs together when Jadie was a young boy, and they campaigned numerous dogs together. Jadie generously acts as a judge for other open and amateur stakes and has also served in leadership positions with other field trial organizations. He relies on his wealth of knowledge and experience and gives all contenders a careful and courteous eye. He is unfailingly cheerful and energetic in the saddle, and he does not miss anything going on about him in the field.

We were also delighted to have Dr. Stan Wint of Gardner, Kansas, also an NFTCA Director, join us for the sixth time. He has more than 30 years of significant experience in the world of field trialing. The “Superman” began his career in walking dog stakes with dogs such as Hall of Famer Honky Tonk Attitude and won his first championship in 1992. Dr. Wint has adjudicated in AKC trials as well as horseback shooting dog and Amateur and Open All-Age American Field events. Dr.



The 2024 National Championship Judges

Wint continues to breed and raise his own field trial dogs. He has a great sense of humor and an unending well of patience for competitors, dogs, handlers, gallery members, and all aspects of field trialing. He genuinely loves the sport and showed each contender his undivided attention.

Tom Shenker returned to us again from Hurtsboro, Alabama, for the fifth time to round out our panel of judges. Tom’s father was a professional trainer, and so Tom brings a lifetime of experience to us with that background, given Tom’s exposure to bird dogs, horses, and field trials at an early age. Tom manages the Easter Plantation in Hurtsboro. Tom competes in Open All-Age and Derby stakes, and his dogs are well-known and respected contenders. Tom always shows leadership and magnanimity in the saddle, showing courtesy and patience to all contenders, never riding off and leaving a dog or handler behind. We were fortunate to have Melody, Tom’s lovely wife, and Garrett, the Shenkers’ son, join us for a day. Melody brightened everyone’s mood, and together, she, Jadie, and Dr. Wint kept us laughing.

Coordination of the National Championship – Behind the Scenes

A great deal of complexity and effort goes into putting on a trial of this magnitude. It is a complicated endeavor to ensure that the judges and the reporter have horses saddled, fed, and trailered from place to place. In addition, all of these people need to be fed, have a place to stay, and know where they are supposed to be each hour of the day. On top of that, all the handlers, scouts, and owners need to know where they are putting their horses and dogs, when they are breaking away, if there will be a delay, etc.

People who have never served in an official capacity for this trial may wonder why the Ames group goes to all the effort of saddling, washing, and trailering club officials’ horses. The answer lies in part in the length of the trial and the braces, plus the extra time those in any official capacity spend meeting with the public.

Almost every afternoon and evening of the trial, club members, the judges, and even this reporter wanted to have the opportunity to meet with those who participated in

that day’s running as handlers, breeders, scouts, or owners. It is significant to have managed to bring a dog to the National Championship, and you ought to have an opportunity to have a drink at the end of the day with the club officials and enjoy the experience. Those of us serving in any official capacity can’t be there at the end of the day if we are feeding and washing our horses, moving our trailer, and scrounging for our dinner.

Thus, Ames envisions all this work and ensures it is done for the club officials, which is a remarkable act of grace. There is a great deal of tireless work the Ames team does behind the scenes, rising early at 3:30 a.m. and staying late in the evenings, taking care of stock and grounds. There is even an on-site veterinarian, Dr. Amy Weatherly, who checks on the health of all the horses and administers medications. The Ames crew works like a well-oiled machine – if you notice, each morning, at the far-left end of the red barns, the Ames’s horse trailers roll in, and the barn crew starts unloading horses well before the morning breakaway and neatly tying them to the trailers. What you may not see is that if the dogs pick up early, those trailers magically show up at road crossings and pick us up, which saves us valuable time and saves our horses, which are going every day, all braces, in all conditions. It also allows this reporter to handwrite (in a truck on the way back to the Manor House) those brace synopses you see on the Ames Plantation website and hand them over to Jamie and Dee Evans of Ames Plantation Cultural Resources for posting.

In addition, Ryan Braddock, Chris Weatherly, Matt Backus, and Rick Carlisle are also in the field with us, ensuring we are safe and staying on course, ensuring the gallery is not straggling or running over the judges or the dogs, and also quietly helping me identify the many fields, house places, and crossing points on the courses. We also have security staff on horseback herding gallery members and ensuring the road crossings are safe for dogs, horses, and humans. We also have paramedics who ride, and they are very much needed, as we did, unfortunately, have someone injured during a fall from a horse this year.

When I stand on the aforementioned road at the conclusion of a brace, I am thankful to see our faithful NFTCA President Charlie Frank Bryan pull up in his truck to drive me back to the house to get cleaned up. He is consistent in showing unfailing good humor and leadership in his long-standing role. And last but not least, for me personally, I am grateful, and I think we all enjoyed having Joe, my husband, join us to ride, help me get tacked up, too, and also celebrate his birthday with us again this year.

Opening Reception & Drawing

At 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, we gathered at the Ames Manor House for a reception to honor the 2023 National Field Trial Champion, Miller's Blindsider, an English pointer male handled by Jamie Daniels. Many guests attended to celebrate our champion, as we traditionally gather before the drawing.

We then convened immediately thereafter at Bryan Hall to conduct our drawing for the running of the Championship. First, the NFTCA Secretary Rick Carlisle, who chaired the meeting, recognized others attending the drawing, including his wife, Kay, his son, Ben and his family, and his youngest son, Jordan. He also noted that NFTCA President Bryan and his wife, Pat, were present and that Bryan would be assisting with the drawing. Carlisle went on to indicate that he, Carlisle, would be serving as the backup judge and would be riding each brace in that capacity. He also indicated he would be videotaping the dogs' finds.

Carlisle also noted that several directors were either here or would be with us later, including Dr. Fred Corder, his wife Rita, and Bryan and his wife, Pat. He also indicated that Dr. Terry Terlep and his wife, Marilyn, were on their way to join us later, as were Matt Rhea and his wife, Kristen. Other directors unable to attend included John Ivester, Dale Bush, the Vice President and his wife Cathy, and Bobby McAlexander.

Acknowledgment of Ames Staff, Volunteers, Directors, and Attendees

Carlisle also recognized Jamie Evans with Ames Plantation as the Official Photographer (Jamie, along with his wife, Dee, work in Cultural Resources and also work with this reporter to ensure this reporter's morning and afternoon brace synopses are posted on the Ames Plantation website and Facebook page).

Carlisle also noted that Ryan Braddock of Ames Plantation would serve as Front Marshal, and Chris Weatherly, also of Ames Plantation, would serve as Back Marshal.

Carlisle also thanked Jane Rhea and Libby McKnight, who would be on hand at Ames Manor House to assist each night as we hosted the hospitality event for owners and handlers in the afternoon their dogs ran.

Carlisle also recognized various other members of the Ames Plantation staff, including the Assistant Center Director, Matt Backus. Matt will take over for Carlisle as the new Executive Director upon Carlisle's retirement after 43 years, effective April 1, 2024. Matt was elected as the new Secretary/Treasurer of the NFTCA, as Carlisle resigned from this position effective

February 18, 2024.

Also joining us was Dr. Allan Houston, a cultural biologist with Ames, who provided detailed and helpful announcements at each breakaway. James Morrow drove the truck with the medical equipment and dog boxes.

Carlisle also recognized the man hard-working members of Ames Plantation, including Ames Security: Aubrey Green, head of security, and we also recognized he plans to retire after this year, so we gave him a round of applause for his many years of service. Green organizes Joe Thompson, Chris Kelley, Jacob Jenkins, Kerry Kimery, and Mike Kee on horseback and Ken Crawford and Marilyn Woody on the roads. In addition, Carlisle recognized the Fayette County Sheriff's Department for allowing two deputies from the Sheriff's Department, Deputy Moses Allen and Deputy Ricky Wilson, to assist us at times with road traffic.

Steeple Bell is also commended for his invaluable assistance in providing detailed notes regarding each nominated contender's registration, coloring, DOB, owners, handler, breeder, win record and detailed pedigree. Bell also provides a wonderful write-up for amesplantation.org on each dog's history and pedigree. The pedigree and win information I supply regarding each competitor is based almost entirely on the wealth of information Bell generously provides. Ken Blackman was also recognized for his assistance in counting gallery members each day.

Memorabilia, Awards, Prizes, Gifts, and Hospitality For Championship

Carlisle paused to recognize those who had donated memorabilia, awards, prizes, gifts, and hospitality for the Championship.

Carlisle announced the winner of the Joe H. Hurdle Top Dog Award, a memorial award to honor Mr. Hurdle and given to the dog that acquires the most points each year to qualify for the National. The dog's owner receives a pin handcrafted by David Kelley of Kelley Jewelers, Somerville, Tennessee. The 2024 winner was Haney's All In, owned by Steve Croy and handled by Mark McLean. All In accrued 2,492 points in the season to secure this prestigious award.

Carlisle also recognized the ladies at the Rhea Clubhouse from Hickory Valley, Grand Junction, Saulsbury, LaGrange, Bolivar, Middleton, and Somerville, TN, who assisted with refreshments each day, including snacks, hot chocolate, drinks, water, and coffee. In addition, First Baptist Church, Grand Junction, TN, continued its tradition of providing sausage and biscuits every morning while they last.

Carlisle also noted that Todd Kellam of UKC would join our event and ride

at least some of our braces. Todd stayed with us at the Manor House and rode in the gallery while paying lively attention to all proceedings. We enjoyed having the opportunity to get to know him better and discuss all things canine with him.

Carlisle also generously expressed thanks to our numerous sponsors.

Rick Carlisle's Retirement & Recognition of His Service

Backus recognized Dr. Carlisle, retiring Executive Director of Ames Plantation and outgoing Secretary/Treasurer, for his 40+ capable and generous years of service to the sport and the Center. The audience gave Carlisle a rousing round of applause in recognition of his contributions to our sport. We will cover Carlisle's significant contributions to horseback field trialing in terms of Ames Plantation leadership, as well as his field trial judicial service elsewhere, his long career with Ames, and his service with the NFTCA in a separate issue of the Newsletter coming this spring/summer.

Dogs were then drawn by Backus and announced, and Bryan recorded the running order. Carlisle also read the rules of conduct for the running of the Championship, and he also indicated that running would begin Monday at 8 a.m. for the morning braces and at 1:15 for the afternoon braces at the appropriate breakaway sites unless otherwise provided by the judges and officials. After we concluded our drawing, we closed the evening meeting.

At the Kick-Off Party Sunday evening, a silent auction was well-attended by guests, with proceeds going to fund the important work of the Bird Dog Museum. Several items were available for bidding, including jewelry, tracking and training collars, handmade baskets and pottery, glassware, and many other noteworthy and valuable items. Last year's National Champion, Miller's Blindsider, was recognized, and handler Jamie Daniels then stepped up to the podium to make a few remarks about his dog and his talented performance.

Commentary on Field Trial Bird Dogs

It bears mentioning that there are standards for choosing a National Champion in our sport. The National Championship is open to any dog that has qualified appropriately according to the standards set out by the NFTCA, Inc. as published in the UKC® Field. The trial is judged by three highly competent judges with many years of experience in the sport. They do not, let me repeat, they do not judge the dogs merely on the bird contact they have during the three-hour heat. As my father, a lifelong dog man, said many years ago, "If it were that easy to judge, they'd just hand anybody



Touch's Gallatin Fire (foreground) and Miller's Blindsider await the release.



Mark McLean (handler) and Alex Rickert (owner of Touch's Gallatin Fire).



Touch's Gallatin Fire looks quite proud of himself after a solid performance.

off the street a stopwatch and a little clicker and let them have at it." On the contrary, much more goes into the consideration of what makes a great champion bird dog. The judges consider the gait of the dog, whether he has style and grace, whether he carries his head and tail high, and how happily he is snapping his tail as he goes along his way. They consider how he hunts the country and whether he is still hunting and moving with speed and stamina when he finishes his brace. They consider how he looks on his game: Is he standing with his head and tail high, intense on point? There are so many other things a pointing dog does that weigh for or against him in the three hours. Is he staying to the front or coming from behind? Is he crouching down at the find or after the shot? Is he running away in his brace or running with wild abandon and yet some studied grace, i.e., "almost out of control"?

The sport doesn't require these high-caliber dogs to labor extensively by running in extremely challenging conditions and winning two significant championships to qualify to compete and then completely flip by whittling down the judging requirements for the highest award to a mere determination of which dog manages to find the most birds in a three-hour heat. To do that would be madness. It takes so much more than that to win the National Championship, and it is worth it to sit in the saddle, ride every brace, and watch the competition unfold. If you haven't experienced it, I urge you to make the trip and enjoy yourself; it is an experience not to be missed.

The Braces of the 125th National Championship

Brace 1 – Monday Morning. Our first brace brought us our first English setter competing in the Nationals. Highground Toby, a setter

male, was handled by Lori Steinsouer. Toby is sired by Highground Tonka and out of Lying Eyes, who can trace his lineage back to the Tekoa Mountain Patriot line of setters. Texas Wild Rex, a pointer male handled by Allen Vincent, was our other competitor in our first brace. Rex is another Wild Agin descendant through Wild Agin's son, Whippoorwill Forever Wild, another previous qualifier for the National.

The dogs started us off in the first breakaway from the barns at 8 a.m. Conditions were overcast, 48 degrees, and muddy, with standing water on the course in many places. After moving quickly through the first two fields, both dogs turned left and were missing for a few minutes after approximately 6. Vincent then ventured to the right as the course turned to the left at approximately 7, searching for Rex, and Judge Rayfield, carrying his tracker, accompanied him. Bubba Spencer, Vincent's scout, called point for Rex but waved it off. By the time we reached Buford Ellington, Vincent had Rex for the crossing at 12, but Steinsouer did not have Toby. She went down Buford Ellington to the right, looking for her dog. Rex is a snappy, high-headed running pointer, and he made a strong cast in Morgan Field on the right-hand side and was next sighted in Morgan Field Basin. Steinsouer returned to the front at 23 with Toby, a rangy, classy running setter who is happy going at his work, when we crossed Turner Road. At that point, Vincent no longer had Rex. When we went through Turner Field at 31, Vincent was still looking for Rex. Vincent requested his tracker at Turner Basin at 40. Toby returned at 46 shortly after we passed Turner Basin.

Toby was absent after we left Turner Basin at 46 and did not return to the front by the time we got to Govan Hill at 59. At 1:13, Toby was sighted at Mary Scott Basin,

making a strong cast. At 1:28, Toby showed to the front when we crossed National Championship Drive for the second time. At 1:40, we crossed over Turner Road into Tennessee Field, and Toby continued to the front. At 1:45, Steinsouer called point for Toby at the big oak at the corner of Tennessee Field. On relocation, however, no birds were flying, and Toby suffered an unproductive. At 1:57, Toby was picked up by Steinsouer in Morgan Field, thus concluding the brace.

Brace 2 – Tuesday Morning. Poor weather conditions delayed the starting of the second brace until the following morning. Lester's Storm Surge, a pointer male handled by Korry Rinehart (Nick Thompson, scout), and Nighthawk's Rebel, handled by Luke Eisenhart (Carlton, scout), comprised our brace. Surge is another of the 16 descendants of Whippoorwill Wild Agin, a son of Ransom (Wild Agin x Sparkles), and his dam is Beane's Line Dancer. He is also a brother to Lester's Shockwave, another of this year's competitors. Surge is a popular sire of other field trial dogs, with one of his sons, Game Surge, being on hand as another competitor this year. His brace mate, Rebel, is sired by Touch's Red Rider and is out of Tee's Funseekin Belle; he is also Wild Agin progeny through his granddam, Windbush Tiger Lilly (Whippoorwill Wild Agin x Beaucoup's Daisy).

Conditions were sunny and cold at 32 at the morning breakaway. Both dogs were away strong through the second field gap at 3. When we reached Buford Ellington Road at 10, neither handler nor dog were with us. Storm Surge, a beautiful dog running with his head and tail held high, returned to the front at 12 at Morgan Field. Rebel was not with us when we entered Morgan Field, and Judge Wint stayed back to wait on Rebel and Eisenhart. Storm Surge was to the front



Highground Toby



Texas Wild Rex



Lester's Storm Surge



Nighthawk's Rebel

going through the Chute out of Morgan Field at 15. Rebel and Eisenhart returned to us at 17, with Rebel looking class as he moved through the country.

When we crossed over Turner Road at 26, Tom pointed out Rebel in the far-left corner of Turner Field at 30. Surge circled the entire Turner Field at an extremely fast clip and came to his handler at 31. Surge continued hunting hard and to the front through Turner Basin at 40. Rebel was also sighted to the front. Judge Shenker pointed out both dogs in Tom Hurt Field at 49, standing stationary. We rode up a covey of at least five quail as we rode through Tom Hurt. We found Rebel pointing and Surge backing, both dogs looking beautiful. As Luke went in to flush, a bird got up behind the dogs, and Luke shot. Rebel held nicely for his find. All was in order, and both dogs continued. Surge was spotted at 54 at the Mary Scott crossing with his handler and continued. Eisenhart requested Rebel's tracker at 1:17 after we crossed over Mary Scott again, thus concluding his brace. Storm Surge was absent briefly while his handler searched for him. However, he was to the front again in Mary Scott Field at 1:29. Rinehart called point for his dog at 1:39 in Turner National South and flushed a large covey, with Surge standing perfectly for wing and shot. Surge then continued into the Tennessee Field and Morgan Field at 1:48, with Surge still to the front, making a brilliant cast to the right. He then crossed over National Championship Drive. Rinehart called point for Surge but then waved it off. He and Surge returned to Morgan Field at 1:56. At 2:00, Surge was to the front making a beautiful cast before Kyle's Barn. He then made a nice cast on the left-hand side at 2:08 in No Man's Land. At 2:19, Surge showed to the front just before Keagan's Crossing. At 2:26, Surge had another find near Ryan Braddock's house. A large covey was flushed for Surge, and again, he stood beautifully for wing and shot. After the flush, all action was paused briefly as a loose horse was secured on the course. At 2:32, we continued into Jim Braddock. At 2:36, Surge cast into the left past Jim Braddock. At 2:41, Surge was still running strong, casting on the right in the field before Tobe Holt. At 2:47, Storm Surge made a strong cast to the left at Edward Clark North. Korry rode up a covey of 8-9 birds in the same vicinity as his dog at 2:48. After the three-hour brace, Surge continued strongly to the front at Edward Clark south



Korry Rinehart on the course.

of the pines.

Brace 3 – Tuesday Afternoon. Our next brace was comprised of Lester's Shockwave, a pointer male handled by Korry Rinehart (Nick Thompson, scout), and Woodville's Yukon Cornelius, a setter male handled by Mark McLean (Ike Todd, scout). Shockwave won the 2022 National Championship. He is also a brother to Lester's Storm Surge. Yukon Cornelius, our second setter to compete, is the setter competing most closely related to English setter two-time National Champion Shadow Oak Bo (Bo is his grandsire through Cornelius's dam, A Tarheel Miss Bo; Yukon's sire is Caladen's Davinci).

Conditions were sunny and 62 at the afternoon breakaway. Both dogs showed to the front at 3 in the far side of the East Pasture. At 8, Shockwave was in the soybean field to the left, making a sweeping cast. Shockwave is a notable dog for the way he moves across the ground alone, with an easy sweeping gait, fast and class. At 13, Shockwave showed to the front as we were entering Buster Graves. Yukon had not been seen since shortly after we left East Pasture at 4. Rinehart had his dog at Ames Road at 20, but Yukon had not yet returned. At 22, after we crossed over Ames Road, Yukon returned to the front, and Shockwave was also the front as well. Yukon is an eye-catching setter, running with head and tail high, quite striking to see as he covers the country.

At 36, as we were entering the Chute, both handlers had their dogs to the front. After a brief absence at 45, Yukon showed to the front. At 53, Shockwave was sighted at the front before Sam's house. At 56, Shockwave showed to the front again at Sam's. At 1:00, point was called for Shockwave just past Sam's on the right in heavy briars. Shockwave looked beautiful on point, standing with head and tail high.

However, even after relocation, no birds were found. Both dogs were to the front at 1:13 at Lawrence Smith's going into Turkey Bottom. At 1:16, both dogs were to the front in the Alfalfa Bottom and made strong casts in the bottom at 1:18 from the left to the right.

Rinehart called point at 1:15 in the Turkey Bottom but waved it off. At 1:25, in the field after Pine Hill, Yukon was to the front. At 1:32, at Terry's Seven Acres, he was again to the front. Shockwave also showed to the front at 1:40, just past the Agronomy Unit. Yukon again was sighted in the same location at 1:41.

Thompson then called point for both dogs at 1:46 at Miller's Cove. Both handlers went into flush, and McLean pointed out a rabbit, which Judge Shenker acknowledged. Both handlers then collared their dogs and continued. At 1:57, both dogs showed in the bottom before we got to Caesar's Ditch. At 2:01, both dogs were found on point on Pine Hill; however, after an armadillo was seen in the vicinity, both handlers elected not to flush and took their dogs on. McLean called point for his dog at 2:08 at Cox's Ridge but waved it off and elected to put his dog in the harness at 2:11. Rinehart did the same, thus concluding the brace.

Brace 4 – Wednesday Morning. Touch's Shadow Rider, a pointer male handled by Mark McLean (Todd, scout), and Erin's Wild Atlantic Way, a setter male handled by Luke Eisenhart (Carlton, scout), made up our next brace, leaving the horse barns at the morning breakaway at 8 a.m., with conditions sunny and 33 degrees. Shadow Rider is sired by the great Touch's Smooth Rider, and Shadow Rider inherited his sire's smooth and flowing way of covering the country. On the bottom side, Shadow Rider is Whippoorwill-bred, with his dam, Touch's Gold Dance, a descendant of Whippoorwill War Dance. Wild Atlantic Way is a beautiful Erin-bred black and white setter, sired by Erin's Hidden Shamrock and out of T T's Southern Miss.

Both dogs showed strongly through the Out Front Field, with both dogs in the lane by 3 minutes. Before we reached Buford Ellington at 8, Atlantic Way was going up the hill with Eisenhart. At 10:30, he was sweeping into Morgan Field to make a beautiful cast on the right. His bracemate had not yet crossed over Ellington to join him. At 12, however, Shadow Rider was



Lester's Shockwave



Woodville's Yukon Cornelius



Touch's Shadow Rider



Erin's Wild Atlantic Way

quick to catch up into Morgan Field, with Atlantic Way moving into Morgan Basin.

At 19, the setter was to the front at 19 at L. B. Avent House Place. At 22, both handlers had their dogs to the front as we crossed over Turner Road. Eisenhart pointed out Atlantic Way going up the left-hand side of Turner Field at 25. At Turner Ditch crossing, Atlantic Way was again sighted at 39 to the front, and McLean was searching for Shadow Rider. At 41, Shadow Rider returned to the front, as we were at the Turner Ditch Crossing. Eisenhart pointed out Atlantic Way in the Tom Hurt Field at 45, making a strong cast on the left-hand side. McLean was riding up the right-hand side with Shadow Rider making an impressive cast on Spencer Govan Hill.

Atlantic Way was next sighted at the front at 58 at the Mary Scott Road crossing. Shadow Rider returned to the front after we next crossed Mary Scott. At 1:21, we were summoned to a find by Shadow Rider at Turner National Pines. We found him in cover, standing with head and tail high. When McLean went into flush, birds flew, and Shadow Rider stood firm for wing and shot. We then returned to the front across the Tennessee Field, and both dogs were sighted in the next field at 1:29. As we crossed into Morgan Field for the second time, both dogs were casting well in the field. Then, McLean called point for his dog in the far-left corner or “neck” of the field at 1:32. Again, Shadow Rider stood well for the find, looking classy. Birds boiled out again. We continued, and at Kyle’s Barn at 1:33, both handlers had their dogs to the front. At 1:36, McLean called point again for Shadow Rider on the left at Kyle’s Barn Field, and the birds lifted before McLean could dismount. McLean dismounted and shot for his dog, who again looked beautiful on point. In Edward Clark South at 1:39, Atlantic Way was making a fine cast on the left. Eisenhart’s scout, Carlton, rode up a covey of birds as we rode through this field.

At 1:45, Shadow Rider was setting a fast pace through Edward Clark NW when Eisenhart decided to put Atlantic Way into the harness, thus concluding his brace. At 1:48, Shadow Rider was still firmly to the front. At 2:02, at Tobe Polk Field, Shadow Rider was still casting well to the front. At 2:09, Todd, Shadow Rider’s scout, called point at Edward Clark North. Shadow Rider stood beautifully, head and tail high in corn



The next generation of Huffman field trialers. Bo Huffman, son of Ty and Morgan Huffman.

stalks for the flush of one quail by McLean and for the shot. Then, as Todd rode to assist McLean, Todd rode up several quail in the covey further away from the dog.

At 2:11, Shadow Rider made a strong cast on the left alongside Rube Scott Road. At 2:20, he showed to the front again, making another good cast at Edward Clark South on the left-hand side. At 2:23, the dog was sighted at Edward Clark South of Pines. At 2:34, Todd called point for Shadow Rider again in the Supermarket Field, and again, Shadow Rider handled his find well, standing perfectly for wing and shot. At 2:37, he made a beautiful cast on the left in the field before Morgan, and then we returned for the last time across Morgan Field. Shadow Rider turned left toward Heartbreak Hill with Todd in pursuit and returned toward McLean. He finished the three hours well in the last pasture before the red barns, swinging a wide and fast arc around from left to right at a swift pace after time was called with McLean in pursuit at pickup, still running and hunting.

Brace 5 – Wednesday Afternoon. Touch’s Malcolm Story, a pointer male handled by Mark McLean (Haynes, scout), and Nosam’s Sweet Water, a pointer male handled by Larry Huffman (Thompson, scout), comprised Brace 5, leaving from the afternoon breakaway with sunny conditions at 62 degrees. This author had just reported Sweet Water winning the 2024 Alabama Open Championship, the second win needed to qualify him for the National. Sweet Water is sired by Whippoorwill Mayhem (Whippoorwill Wild Agin x Sparkles) and out of House’s House Fly, a daughter of the fine sire, House’s Line Up. Malcolm Story’s breeding particularly caught my attention because he is not only sired by Touch’s Knight Rider, another great Keith Wright-bred dog, but his dam is Blackhawk’s Sunflower (Rock

Acre Blackhawk x Southern Sunflower). This makes Sunflower a full sister to the famous Sparkles, dam of a great many champions. I have to say, for readers who may have never seen the champion sire of these sisters compete, you missed a show. Rock Acre Blackhawk was a beautiful black and white pointer, so fast, and you knew when he was turned loose, he was going to find a bird. He had that “sparkle” on point, that extra wow factor, and perhaps that’s why they named his daughter Sparkles. I don’t know, but all this blue blood may explain Malcolm Story’s long history of championship wins.

Back to our brace, both dogs were out of the East Pasture by 2, with Sweet Water returning to East Pasture at 4 to make a cast along the topside and then Malcolm Story returning. Both dogs then swept back out of the field and into the soybean field to the left. At 12, Sweet Water and Malcolm Story were on the left on the other side of the East Pasture. At 21, both dogs were crossing Ames Road.

Both dogs showed to the front at George Kemp East at 24. Sweet Water made a strong cast to the front at 33 on the south side of Cedar Hill and was moving at a fast clip across the levee at 34. At 41, we saw him making a strong cast in the Chute. At the Strawberry Patch, Sweet Water was moving on, but McLean had not seen Malcolm Story for some time.

In the field past the Strawberry Patch at 52, Sweet Water showed to the front again. Malcolm Story returned to the front again at 54 at Sam’s. Both dogs showed to the front at 57 again, moving quickly and hunting hard. At 1:01, Sweet Water was to the front at Lawrence’s house. At 1:04, Malcolm Story was seen casting well at Lawrence Smith’s House Place. Both dogs were casting well at 1:15 in the Alfalfa Bottom. The gallery held up momentarily at the ditch, given that Malcolm Story was absent and Sweet Water went through the ditch, causing Huffman to cross over and retrieve him. Huffman returned with Sweet Water at 1:19. At 1:25 at Marshall Jack Harris, Sweet Water was still running strong and to the front. At 1:29, McLean requested his tracker at Kerry’s Seven Acres. At 1:30, Huffman also made the decision to pick up.

Brace 6 – Thursday Morning. This championship brace has been covered.



Touch’s Malcolm Story



Nosam’s Sweet Water



Touch’s Gallatin Fire



Miller’s Blindsider

Brace 7 – Thursday Afternoon. Our next brace was comprised of Haney’s All In, a male pointer handled by Mark McLean (Ike Todd, scout), and Game Surge, a pointer male, handled by Fred Corder (Stegan Smith, scout). Haney’s All In is another son of Ransom and thus another of the 16 descendants of Wild Agin. All In’s dam is the extraordinary “Golden Goose,” Haney’s North Star, so named because she is the dam of another two qualifiers in this year’s Championship, Haney’s Storm Warning and Haney’s Hurricane Seeker, and the dam of other competitors winning on the circuit now. Game Surge is sired by Lester’s Storm Surge (thus a grandson of Whippoorwill Wild Agin through Ransom). Game Surge’s dam is Game Maggie, and her grandsire is Ransom.

Although a rookie to the Nationals, All In has been a sensation this year and last year, having won, among other accolades, the 2023 Tarheel Open Championship, the 2023 U. S. Open Championship, the 2024 Continental Championship, the 2024 National Free-For-All, and runner-up in the Georgia Quail Championship. Game Surge, also a rookie, has been sweeping the country, securing runner-up in the 2024 Continental Championship and winning the 2023 All-America Derby Championship and the 2023 National Pheasant Championship, among other placements.

Conditions were 67 degrees and sunny for the afternoon breakaway. Both dogs showed us why they were champions by streaking away with beautiful gaits, running with heads and tails high. At 3, Dr. Corder called point for Game Surge in the middle of the East Pasture in the pines. Surge stood beautifully intense, with his head high, nose almost vertical, and tail poker straight. Corder went in to flush, indicating birds were running on the ground. Surge stood perfectly for wing and shot.

At 8, Haney’s All In was seen to the front in the soybean field on the left, and Surge was in the green field on the right. All In again showed to the front at 14 at Buster Graves. We then spotted Surge at 15 to the front after we crossed over Buster Graves Drive. At 18, both dogs were to the front crossing over Ames Road.

At the Horseshoe Field, Surge made a beautiful cast on the right at 29 with All In moving forward. At that point, the young



Brad Woodie, owner of Erin’s Perfect Storm, with wife Christine.

horse Smith (Surge’s scout) was riding objected strongly to crossing the cornfield toward Surge, and the gallery gasped in alarm. However, Smith showed us how well he could ride by simply slipping from the saddle to the ground with ease when the horse reared, catching his colt’s bridle, and then easily remounting to pursue Surge.

At 31, Game Surge returned to the front just past the Horseshoe Fields. Surge again showed to the front at the Chute at 38. All In was next spotted on the left, just past the Chute at 41, making a beautiful cast.

Surge was seen to the front at 45 and headed into the Strawberry Patch. He was into Sam’s at 50. At 55, All In showed to the front right before we reached the church. Surge again showed to the front at 1:07 at Lawrence Smith’s Cabin, making a cast to the left.

At 1:11, both dogs were to the front and all the way to the end, making beautiful casts in Turkey Bottom. As we moved up the hill out of the Alfalfa Bottom, we found Surge on point at 1:17. However, even after relocation, no birds were moved.

At 1:24, McLean made the decision to pick up All In at Marshall Jack Harris. At 1:28, Game Surge was moving to the front, coming up on Tyler’s Test. At 1:37, he was still to the front at Wolf’s Crossing. At 1:52, he was to the front, crossing over Caesar’s Ditch, whereupon Dr. Corder chose to put him in the harness, thus concluding the brace.

Brace 8 – Friday Morning. Erin’s Perfect Storm, a pointer male handled by Eisenhart (Carlton, scout), and Westfall’s True Grit, a pointer male handled by Andy Daugherty (Vincent, scout), comprised our next morning brace with conditions quite chilly at 49 degrees and overcast. Perfect Storm is another Wild Agin grandson through his sire,

Chelsea’s Thunder Bolt. His dam is Erin’s Bet On Me, a daughter of Erin’s Whiskey River and a sister of Erin’s Redrum. True Grit is a grandson of Erin’s Bad River, descended through his son, Erin’s Brave Heart. True Grit’s dam is Westfall’s Irish Bell, a Wiggins-bred female, and, on the bottom side, she also goes back to Caladen’s Rail Hawk.

Both dogs were in the field after the Out Front Field at 2, and then both were out of the gap and on to the front by 3. At 5, they were in the lane going past Heartbreak Hill. Storm showed to the front again at 8. When we crossed Buford Ellington at 11, both dogs were ahead of us moving into Morgan Field.

Storm is a classy going dog, and he moves with great speed. He took the right side of Morgan Field, making a beautiful cast, and True Grit took the left but swept across to the right at the end. He, too, is a warrior dog who always hunts to the front with a high head and tail. Storm had a brief absence but had returned to the front at the end of Morgan Field by 14. As we crossed into Turner Field, only Storm was ahead of us at 25. He made a beautiful cast on the right at 26. He swept all the way around the lower part of the field, and Eisenhart called point for him at 27 on the left-hand side beyond the farm road in heavy cover. He stood with head and tail high, looking breathtaking, for wing and shot. He was next found on point in Turner Pines at 39, again looking magnificent on point. Again, all was in order for the find. At that point, Daugherty made the decision to request the tracker for True Grit, thus concluding his brace.

At 51, Storm was again sighted to the front at the end of Tom Hurt. We next caught sight of him at the end of 54 at the end of Dunn’s Dam, going around the bend to the left. As we headed up toward Mary Scott at 58, Storm was in the pocket with Luke. At 1:01, he made a beautiful cast all the way around the far-left side of Mary Scott Basin, moving at a fast clip to the front. At 1:07, he was seen to the left in No Man’s Land. At 1:09, Storm scored another find at the end of No Man’s Land, looking perfect once again on his game and handling both wing and shot in a mannerly fashion. At 1:22, as the gallery left Locust Lane, Storm was making a strong cast on the left of Turner Pines. Eisenhart called point his dog again at 1:25 at the end of Turner National on the right. One lone bird flew out from under his dog’s



Haney’s All In



Game Surge



Erin’s Perfect Storm



Westfall’s True Grit

nose, yet Storm never moved a muscle. It was a lovely thing to watch. Continuing on, Storm picked up speed as we crossed Turner, and he moved quickly into the Tennessee Field at 1:22. At 1:30, he was at the far end of the Tennessee Field and moving through the gap.

At 1:35, Storm was sighted crossing from left to right in Morgan Field to the front. Luke called point for him at 1:40 by Kyle's Barn. As the judges rode up, Eisenhart asked if they saw the birds fly and if they saw the rabbit running. Judge Shenker confirmed he saw the rabbit running, so Eisenhart chose to take Storm on without flushing. At 1:49, Storm was to the front at No Man's Land. At 1:56, we were in Edward Clark South with Storm still to the front. At 2:05, Storm was still moving forward at a fast clip as we passed Ryan Braddock's house. At the second Keagan's ditch crossing, he was still to the front at 2:15, and he was still hustling. The gallery was sitting up watching this dog moving quickly through the country, wondering if he could finish as strong as he started. He made a good cast to the front from the right to the left at 2:16 in Tobe Polk. From that point forward, he was heartbreakingly not seen again. At 2:43, Eisenhart requested his tracker, thus concluding his brace.

Brace 9 – Friday Afternoon. Ascension, a pointer male handled by Rinehart (Thompson, scout), and Westfall's River Ice, a pointer male handled by Daugherty (Vincent, scout), comprised our afternoon brace on February 16. It was 66 degrees and overcast for the 1:15 breakaway. Ascension is a grandson of House's Line Up via his sire, Reloaded, and his dam is the great amateur champion, Dialed In, a daughter of National Champion Miller's Dialing In. Dialed In's dam was Rester's Zumba Girl, whose sire was National Champion, In the Shadow. River Ice is a grandson of Rock Acre Blackhawk via his sire, Westfall's Black Ice. His dam is Westfall's Quick Gold.

Both dogs moved away at a strong clip in the East Pasture, and Ascension chose the middle path through the field and did not reappear. At 2, we saw River Ice sweep around, tuck in toward the middle, and appear to point. As we picked up speed toward him, we soon discovered that River Ice was not pointed but was instead backing Ascension in the pines in the middle of the field. Rinehart flushed and shot for his dog,



That moment before release, Stegan Smith (scout) with Game Heir.

who looked beautiful, and all was in order. Continuing on, we had just exited the East Pasture when Daugherty called point for River Ice at 8 on the right in the hedgerow. He looked classy pointed, as well, and Daugherty flushed a large covey for his dog, who stood wing and shot.

Ascension was to the front at 19 after we crossed over Buster Graves. Both dogs were at Ames Road at 21 and to the front at Cedar Hill at 24. Ascension was next spied moving through the Horseshoe Fields at 31 and swept into the Apple Tree Field at 33 to make a nice cast. Ascension is an easy-moving dog, covering quite a bit of country as he goes. River Ice is also a veteran of this sport, and it is easy to see why he wins, as he always runs with his head and tail held high.

At the beginning of the Chute, River Ice showed to the front at 35. Ascension, at 42, was on the left-west side of the Agronomy Shed, and River Ice was far to the front on the right side of the Shed. Ascension was next seen to the front at 49 as we were leaving the Agronomy Unit. Daugherty requested River Ice's tracker at 53, and Rinehart requested Ascension's at 55.

Brace 10 – Saturday Morning. Our next brace was our coldest brace of the trial. It started with a harsh wind blowing at 28 degrees and overcast as Game Heir, a pointer male, Corder handling (Smith, scout), and Miller's Heat Advisory, a pointer male, Carlton handling (Eisenhart, scout). Heir is a son of multi-champion Dominator's Rebel Heir, and his dam, Game Snow, is a daughter of National Champion Lester's Snowwatch. Heir is a beautiful dog with a lovely way of going and looks striking on point. Heat Advisory's pedigree is covered under Miller's Blindsider because he is a full, albeit younger, brother to him, and he

shows many of the same characteristics as Blindsider, being a beautiful and strong dog that can take both harsh weather conditions and tough terrain.

Both dogs left at a very fast clip from the Out Front Field and were on through those first two fields quickly, in the lane at 5 to the front, headed toward Heartbreak Hill. At 9, Carlton called point for Heat Advisory to the left at the Elm Tree. Heat Advisory looked staunch on point, head and tail high, and stood firm for wing and shot. All being in order, both dogs were quickly casting to the front at 13 in Morgan Field after Heat Advisory rejoined his brace. At 20, Heat Advisory showed to the front at L. B. Avent House Place and was then on across Turner Road and into Turner Field. At 22, Dr. Corder was moving around the other side of Turner Road to rejoin the gallery with Game Heir at 22 in Turner Field. At 27, point was called for Heir in Turner Field, and Heat Advisory backed. Heir looked beautiful on point, but even after relocation, no birds were produced. We continued, and after both dogs were back on course, at approximately 30, Judge Wint rode up a large covey of birds nearby in the field. At 32, Heat Advisory was to the front again as he approached Turner Basin. At 35, Heat Advisory again struck birds around the right side of Turner Basin, again looking magnificent on point and standing perfectly solid for wing and shot. Heir and Heat Advisory were flying into Turner Basin at 38, and at 48, they were moving at a fast clip, leaving Tom Hurt. At Mary Scott, the gallery held up as both handlers searched for their dogs. At 1:00, Heat Advisory returned to the front, swept into Mary Scott, and moved quickly around Mary Scott Basin. At 1:13, Game Heir was also spotted to the front again as we crossed the road at Turner National. At that point, Carlton was out searching for Heat Advisory. At Tennessee Field, at 1:29, Game Heir was spotted going through the gap. At 1:32, at Morgan Field, Carlton, not being able to locate Heat Advisory, requested his tracker and Dr. Corder chose to conclude Game Heir's brace at that time.

Brace 11 – Saturday Afternoon. Conditions remained cold for the afternoon brace, with the thermometer remaining at around 36 degrees, but at least with the sun peeping out for us. Whippoorwill Vette, a pointer male, Huffman handling (Thompson, scout),



Ascension



Westfall's River Ice



Game Heir



Miller's Heat Advisory

and Bonner's Bulletproof, a pointer male, Anderson handling (Haynes, scout), started us off from the afternoon breakaway at 1:15. Vette is another descendant of the Whippoorwill Wild Agin x Sparkles cross, this time as the son of National Champion Whippoorwill Justified. His dam is S J Kentucky Sue, a daughter of Miller's Dialing In. Bulletproof is a son of National Champion Miller's Speed Dial, and his dam is Miller's Martha White, sired by multi-champion and Hall of Fame inductee Miller's Happy Jack.

Both dogs set a rapid pace from the breakaway and were out of the East Pasture by 7. Vette showed to the front in the soybean field at 12. Bulletproof was spotted at 14 to the front in the cornfield beyond. At 16, Bulletproof was at Buster Graves, and Vette was there by 20. We next saw Vette at Cedar Hill at 23. At 29, both dogs were in the Horseshoe Fields making nice casts, with Anderson having to turn Bulletproof off his line. At 38, both dogs were in the Chute to the front. At 42, both dogs were past the Agronomy Unit. At 46, they were making exciting casts in the green field on the left-hand side as we moved toward the Unit. At 48, Bulletproof was past the Strawberry Patch. Vette returned to the front at 51, just past Sam's. Huffman called point for his dog at 54 at Sam's with Bulletproof backing. Vette looked beautiful on point, and when Huffman flushed, several birds boiled out in all directions, but Vette stood firm for wing and shot. At 1:03, as we were leaving the Church, both dogs were to the front. At 1:14, Bulletproof cast on the left in Turkey Bottom with Vette, then making a strong cast all the way around. At 1:18, Vette kept on with his aggressive casts, bringing it all the way around Alfalfa Bottom, with Bulletproof bringing up the other side. At 1:20, Anderson called point for Bulletproof at Pine Hill, and Bulletproof stood well for the flush and the shot. At 1:24, both dogs were to the front in the far distance at Marshall Jack Harris, moving from left to right. At 1:30, both dogs were in the far distance at Kerry's Seven Acres, moving quickly and making a strong cast. Bulletproof scored another find at 1:34 at the Agronomy Unit with Vette backing. Bulletproof again looked classy and was mannerly for his second find as well. Many birds were flushed again at this find. Both dogs were on the other side of the Chute at 1:39 on opposite sides. At 1:42, both dogs were at Wolf Crossing. Vette was next seen at Jack Harris House Place at 1:45, and



Touch's Fire Away with Mark Haynes (scout), Bridget Ledington, Randy Anderson (handler), and Dustin Kee.

Bulletproof joined him shortly thereafter. Both dogs crossed Caesar's Ditch at 1:52, and their handlers made the decision to pick them up at 1:56.

Brace 12 – Monday Afternoon. Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Jack, a setter male handled by Alex Mauck (Thompson, scout), and Como Thunder, a pointer male, originally comprised our next brace. However, Thunder's handler, David Russell, decided to scratch Thunder due to an injury. This caused Haney's Hurricane Seeker, the bye-dog, to move up to this brace. Hurricane Seeker, a pointer male, is also handled by Russell (Joey McAlexander, scout).

Conditions were 32 degrees and sunny at the morning breakaway at 8 a.m. for our start. Jack is a dog to watch, given he is a direct descendant of the great Tekoa Mountain Patriot via frozen semen. His dam is San Jac's Gypsy, a granddaughter of Hytest Sky Hawk. Hurricane Seeker is another Wild Agin grandson via Ransom and another son of the "Golden Goose," Haney's North Star. He is a full brother to another competitor, Haney's All In, and a half-brother to yet another, Haney's Storm Warning.

Both dogs were away to the left at a rapid pace in the Out Front Field, exiting the first two fields by 3. At 10, McAlexander, Hurricane's scout, called point for him at A. T.'s House Place. When we arrived, Hurricane stood firm, looking very intense on his game, and when Russell flushed for his dog, quail flew in all directions. Hurricane held for wing and shot. At 12, Owyhee Jack was to the front and in Morgan Field. Jack is a big-running setter, carrying his head and tail well, and is very classy-going. Hurricane is also an aggressive hunting dog, exciting to watch, as well, running hard and hunting well.

After his find, Hurricane hustled to return to the course but first angled to the far-right side of Morgan Field with his scout in pursuit. By 17, Hurricane was again on course and to the front. Both dogs crossed Turner Field at 23. We next saw Jack at 32 at the end of Turner. He was again sighted in Turner Pines at 38 and was next seen at the far end of Tom Hurt at 49. At 56, Thompson, his scout, called point for him at Will Dunn's Dam but waved it off, and then point was called again. At the flush, Jack marked flight of birds, and Mauck shot, but Mauck indicated he was going to pick him up at the road crossing at 57. At 1:17, Russell, having never again seen Hurricane since Turner Field, requested his tracker, thus concluding the morning brace.

Brace 13 – Monday Afternoon. Touch's Fire Away, a pointer male handled by Randy Anderson (Haynes, scout), and Haney's Storm Warning, a pointer male handled by Chris Cagle Sr. (Cagle Jr., scout), were our afternoon brace. Conditions were 58 degrees and sunny for the breakaway at 1:15 p.m. Fire Away is a son of House's Ring of Fire, and his dam is Touch's Maswood Anne. Haney's Storm Warning's sire is Valiant, so he is a grandson of HOF Miller's Happy Jack, and his dam is the aforementioned Haney's North Star.

Both dogs left at a rapid pace on the right-hand side of the East Pasture, made casts all the way around the field, and were out the far side by 3. At 7, we saw Storm Warning again on the left before we reached the gap to leave the soybean field. At 8, both dogs were in the soybean field. We next saw Fire Away at 15 beyond Buster Graves's Drive, and he was not spotted again until we saw him making a beautiful cast in the Horseshoe Field at 29. At 34, a gallery member informed that point was being called for Storm Warning on Cedar Hill. We reached the dog on the edge of Cedar Hill, where he stood looking magnificent, head and tail completely vertical. However, even after relocation, no birds were flying, and Cagle took his dog on. At 47, Fire Away showed to the front by the Agronomy Unit. At 49, Storm Warning was to the front at the Demonstration Field, and Fire Away was to the front at the end of the Strawberry Patch. At 57, Storm Warning was just past Sam's Water Truck. At 1:02, just past the church, Fire Away was on the right, coming up the hill.



Whippoorwill Vette



Bonner's Bulletproof



Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Jack



Touch's Fire Away

At 1:05, both dogs were spotted at Lawrence Smith. At Lawrence's Barn, we saw Fire Away again running hard to the front. At 1:12, both dogs had reached Turkey Bottom and were cast into the Alfalfa Bottom by 1:14. Fire Away had moved on up to Pine Hill by 1:18. At 1:23, Storm Warning was to the front as we left Pine Hill.

At 1:28, at Kerry Kimery's Seven Acres, Fire Away was to the front. At 1:32, Haynes, scouting for Fireaway, called point for him near the Ag. Unit. However, no birds were flying for Fire Away, and Anderson chose to pick him up. At 1:37, Chris Cagle Jr., scouting for his dad and the dog he co-owns, called point for Storm Warning at the north end of the Chute. Arriving, we saw Storm Warning again looking outstanding on point, and he handled the flush and shot with impeccable manners, remaining motionless even when Cagle went back to his horse to get water for him. At 1:50, Storm Warning was to the front at Jack Harris House Place. At 1:53, at Caesar's Ditch Crossing, Cagle Sr. put Storm Warning in the harness, thus concluding his brace.

Brace 14 – Tuesday Morning. Conditions were 39 degrees and sunny for the morning breakaway from the red barns. Rester's Cajun Spirit, a pointer male, Carlton (Jamie Daniels, scout), and Erin's Code of Honor, a pointer male, Eisenhart (Rinehart, scout), moved at a fast clip, leaving the Out Front Field by 3. Cajun Spirit is a son of Miller's Blindsider. On the dam side, he is out of Rester's Amazing Grace and is our 15th Wild Agin descendant, with Touch's Whippoorwill Road being his great granddam (Whippoorwill Wild Agin x Whippoorwill G M B). Code of Honor is sired by Erin's Redrum, and his dam is Erin's Miss Maggie, a granddaughter of Elhew Sinbad and also a granddaughter of Wild Agin on her dam side via Erin's Miss Faye (Whippoorwill Wild Agin x Butler's Jill).

Code of Honor was past Heartbreak Hill by 9; at 10, he was already moving into Morgan Field on the right, making a nice cast. At 10, Carlton went right down Ellington Drive to search for his dog. At 11, Code of Honor was to the front in Morgan Basin, and Carlton returned with Cajun Spirit quickly sprinting to the front in Morgan Field at 13, as well.

At 25, point was called for both dogs, and they shared an excellent divided find at the

west end of Morgan Basin. All was in order for the firing of the guns and for the flush.

At 29, both dogs were to the front again at Turner Road. At 30, Cajun Spirit was moving up the left-hand side of Turner Field at a rapid pace. Both dogs were at Turner Pines at 40. At 43, both dogs were at the far end of Turner Pines. At Wilson Dunn, Code of Honor was to the front again at 54. At 56, at Dunn's, both dogs were spotted to the front. At 1:01, Code of Honor made a beautiful cast around the far side of Mary Scott Basin and was not seen again until we crossed over Mary Scott at 1:11. At 1:15, he showed when we crossed over Mary Scott again as we headed into Locust Lane. At Turner National, at 1:23, both dogs were to the front.

As we turned into Morgan Field, Carlton picked up Cajun Spirit at 1:34. Code of Honor continued, casting in the Tennessee Field, heading across the road toward Kyle's Barn. At 1:41, Eisenhart called point for him again, and when we arrived, Code of Honor was standing up handsomely on his birds. He handled his find impeccably. At 1:46, he was again casting well to the front. At 1:57, he was at Edward Clark NW of Pines. At 2:05, however, Eisenhart chose to pick up Code of Honor, as well, thus concluding the Championship.

Grand Junction, Tenn., February 12

Judges: Jadie Rayfield, Tom Shenker, and Dr. Stan Wint
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
- 27 Pointers and 4 Setters

HIGHGROUND TOBY, setter male, by Highground Tonka-Lying Eyes. Lori Steinshouer, owner and handler. With

TEXAS WILD REX, pointer male, by Whippoorwill Forever Wild-Washita River Wild. Aaron Bolli, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.

LESTER'S STORM SURGE, pointer male, by Ransom-Beane's Line Dancer. Tommy & Bonnie Hamilton, owners; Korry Rinehart, handler. With

NIGHTHAWK'S REBEL, pointer male, by Touch's Red Rider-Tee's Funseekin Belle. Rick Leverich & Sheree Lucero, owners; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

LESTER'S SHOCKWAVE, pointer male, by Ransom-Beane's Line Dancer. Tommy & Bonnie Hamilton, owners; Korry Rinehart, handler. With

WOODVILLE'S YUKON CORNELIUS, setter male, by Caladen's Davinci-A Tarheel Miss Bo. Carl Owens, owner; Mark McLean, handler.

TOUCH'S SHADOW RIDER, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Touch's Gold Dance. Bruce & Karen Norton & Dr. Reuben Richardson, owners; Mark McLean, handler. With ERIN'S WILD ATLANTIC WAY, setter male, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-T T's Southern Miss. Sean Derrig, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

TOUCH'S MALCOLM STORY, pointer male, by Touch's Knight Rider-Blackhawk's Sunflower. Alex Rickert, owner; Mark McLean, handler. With

NOSAM'S SWEET WATER, pointer male, by Whippoorwill Mayhem-House's House Fly. Jeff Busby, owner; Larry Huffman, handler.

TOUCH'S GALLATIN FIRE. With

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

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

GAME SURGE, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Maggie. Dr. Fred Corder, owner and handler.

ERIN'S PERFECT STORM, pointer male, Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Erin's Bet On Me. Bradley E. Woodie, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler. With

WESTFALL'S TRUE GRIT, pointer male, by Erin's Brave Heart-Westfall's Irish Bell. Ryan Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

ASCENSION, pointer male, by Reloaded-Dialed In. Ted Roach, owner; Korry Rinehart, handler. With

WESTFALL'S RIVER ICE, pointer male, by Westfall's Black Ice-Westfall's Quick Gold. Bradley H. Calkins, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

GAME HEIR, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Game Snow. Dr. Fred Corder, owner and handler. With

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

WHIPPOORWILL VETTE, pointer male, by Whippoorwill Justified-S J Kentucky Sue. Dale Bush, owner; Larry Huffman, handler. With

BONNER'S BULLETPROOF, pointer male, by Miller's Speed Dial-Miller's Martha White. Chris Corman, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.

MAUCK'S WYEAST OWYHEE JACK, setter male, by Tekoa Mountain Patriot-San Jac's Gypsy. Steve Croy, owner; Alex Mauck, handler. With

COMO THUNDER, pointer male, by Skyfall-Catch Me Dot. B. K. & Rachel Blackwell, Doug Arthur & David Russell, owners; David Russell, handler. [Scratched].

TOUCH'S FIRE AWAY, pointer male, by House's Ring of Fire-Touch's Maswood Anne. Greg & Carmen Adams, owners; Randy Anderson, handler. With

HANEY'S STORM WARNING, pointer male, by Valiant-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle, owner; Chris Cagle Sr., handler.

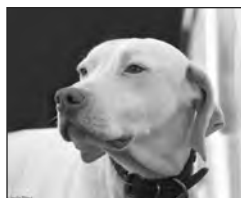
RESTER'S CAJUN SPIRIT, pointer male, by Miller's Blindsider-Rester's Amazing Grace. Allen R. Linder, owner; Judd Carlton, handler. With

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

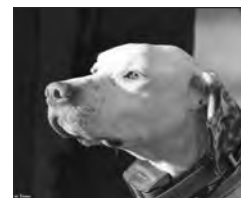
Winner-TOUCH'S GALLATIN FIRE, 1675102, pointer male, by House's Ring of Fire-Touch's Sandy. Alex Rickert, owner; Mark McLean, handler.



Haney's Storm Warning



Rester's Cajun Spirit



Erin's Code of Honor

HOFFMAN AMATEUR FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Amateur Trial Held At Famed North Carolina Grounds

By Derek Bonner | Hoffman, North Carolina | December 8, 2023

The 2023 running of the Hoffman Amateur took place on December 8-10, 2023, at the Hoffman field trial grounds. This year's renewal was judged by Tony Bingham of Fallston, North Carolina, and Cliff Monroe of Boiling Springs, North Carolina. Both men have known great success in the field trial world, Tony as a pro and Cliff as an amateur. Tony and Cliff rode hard and were attentive to every entry in the Derby and Amateur All-Age.

The Derby winners were Chimney Creek Bud (PM), handled by Will Herring; taking second was Mac's Slim Jim (PM), handled by Tim McClurg; and finishing third was Miss Lucille (PF), handled by Gary Miller.

The Amateur All-Age winners were Woodville's Saddle Tramp (ESM), handled

by Carl Owens; second place went to K H Game Train (PM), handled by Scott Griffin; and rounding out the placements in third was Southpoint's Speedy G (PM) handled by Whitley Stephenson.

The Hoffman Amateur Field Trial Club wishes to thank each entry for their continued support of this trial year after year. Special thanks go to our judges, Tony Bingham and Cliff Monroe, and Randy and Marcia Bradshaw, for all they do to make this trial happen. We couldn't have done it without them! Also, thank you to Chad Adams for his help and contribution. As always, thank you to Debbie Bonner for her delicious cakes. And last but not least, thanks to Greg Blair and Purina for their continued support of this and many other field trials throughout our sport.

Hoffman, N. C., December 8

Judges: Tony Bingham and Cliff Monroe

AMATEUR DERBY – 7 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-CHIMNEY CREEK BUD, 1704203, pointer male, by Hirollins Gone And Doneit-Santee River Iced Crush. Will Herring, owner and handler.

2d-MAC'S SLIM JIM, 1700897, pointer male, by Miller's Silver Chief-Mac's Silver Shadow. Tim McClurg, owner and handler.

3d-MISS LUCILLE, 1704780, pointer female, by Quickmarksman's Excalibur-Hirollins Fancy Lady. Gary Miller, owner and handler.

AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]

– 24 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-WOODVILLE'S SADDLE TRAMP, 1681364, setter male, by Caladen's Davinci-Shamrock Rising Star. Carl Owens, owner and handler.

2d-K H GAME TRAIN, 1681832, pointer male, by Cole Train-Tallgrass Bella. Scott Griffin, owner and handler.

3d-SOUTHPOINT'S SPEEDY G, 1692332, pointer male, by Miller's Speed Dial-Bonner's Ransom Dot. Whitley Stephenson, owner and handler.

GEORGIA DERBY & QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Erin's Happy Hour Wins Derby; Touch's Malcolm Story, All-Age Quail Champion

By Nell Mobley, Austin Sherman & Mike Jackson | Waynesboro, Georgia | January 2, 2024



Georgia Derby Championship Winners (l-r): Erin's Happy Hour with Luke Eisenhart and Game Star with Mark Haynes, joined by Mary Kimbrell, Johnny Atkinson, Sarah Schwarz, Sarah Bull, Judd Carlton (handler of champion), Jack Schwarz, Mike Sweet (owner of champion), John Ray Kimbrell, Nell Mobley, Jerry Raynor, Ike Todd (handler of runner-up), Gary Futch (judge), Mike Jackson (judge), and Austin Sherman.

It is tradition for the Georgia Derby Championship to begin on January 2, followed immediately by the Georgia Quail Championship. The drawing was held at the home of your writer on December 30. Joining Gary Futch at the table were Stake Manager John Ray Kimbrell, Becky Futch, and Chuck Miller. Chuck prepares the drawing sheets, and Mary Kimbrell takes care of getting the judges' books ready for the judges and other officials.

The entries for the stakes were down from previous years, but the spirits of the handlers and owners were very high; 17

were drawn for the Derby and 19 for the All-Age.

We were so glad that Gary Lester was able to come and run two of his derbies. We all know that Gary was very ill for most of 2023. He was looking well. His lovely wife, Joy, accompanied him. I believe it was her first year to come to Waynesboro, the "Bird Dog Capitol of the World."

The judicial saddles for the Derby Championship were filled with two experienced sportsmen: Mike Jackson of Battle Ground, Indiana, and Gary Futch

of Statesboro, Georgia. Mike has judged for over 45 years throughout the country, and Gary has judged some prestigious trials for over 10 years. Both gentlemen rode intently and named, in their opinion, the best two performers of the stake. A champion and runner-up were named, and I believe their decisions were well received. The winners ran as bracemates on course 3, brace 3.

When the winners were announced, Erin's Happy Hour, handled by Judd Carlton and owned by Mike Sweet, was named the 2024 Champion. With a close performance, Game Star was named runner-up. Ike Todd was the handler, and Dr. Corder is her owner.

Erin's Happy Hour was turned loose in the third hour of running. He took to the course running with good style, stopping at 12 with birds lifted, all in order. Judd Carlton carried him on with another excellent, stylish find at 30; birds were flushed with all in order, looking good on game. Happy Hour ran a strong, forward race, finishing the hour in front.

The championship win for Erin's Happy Hour automatically qualified him to run in the National Championship in February.

Ike Todd handled Game Star, a pointer female, to capture the runner-up title. She started strong. Point was called at 37, birds in flight, and all in order. Shortly afterwards, point was called at 41. Another stylish find at 45 was to Star's credit. She ran a nice forward race for the hour and was very stylish on birds.

The Others

Under cloudy skies, with winds blowing and very cold, the first two dogs of the stake were released.

Silver Wings (Eisenhart) was not pleasing the handler and was taken up at 52. Haney's Last Call (Todd) pointed feathers at 2, 8, and 15. Point was called at 21 with good style. Todd was not pleased with his performance at 47 and requested the tracker.

Lester's Front Porch (Lester) had a find at 12 with all in order. No birds were seen at 18. Continuing the course, he was credited with a nice find at 24. Even though he was not seen for 13 minutes, he returned to complete the hour. Bandit's Hill Avenger (Todd) had a great find at 22 with birds in flight. He continued with finds at 46 and 52. The hour was finished.

Game Star and Erin's Happy Hour were reported earlier as winners.

Rampage (Eisenhart) moved on birds at 12 and was harnessed by the handler. Lester's War Bird (Lester) needed birds for a good race and finished.

Woodville's Long Hard Ride (McLean) had an erratic race and had no birdwork. CKC Gun Runner (Carlton) needed birds for his nice race.

The last brace of day one was run with Erin's Bright Lights (Eisenhart) and Nonami's Smokin Joe (Cody McLean). Eisenhart chose to end the hour at 48 with Bright Lights, not pleasing the handler. Smokin Joe had two commendable finds at 39 and 44 with good style with both. He ran a medium race and was to the front when time was called.

The final two braces were held up on the final morning. It was 28 degrees with a heavy frost resembling light snow.

No birds were pointed for the hour for Sandy Hill Ike (Raynor), which had a nice race. Comanche (Eisenhart) was credited with a good, stylish find at 16. At 40, he came from behind. The hour was finished to the front.

Erin's Firehouse Waitress (Todd) and Haney's Southern Angel (Carlton) were taken up at 20 by their respective handlers.



Georgia Quail Championship Winners (l-r): Touch's Malcolm Story with Haily Moreland and Haney's All In with Jerry Raynor, joined by Mike Jackson (judge), Mary Kimbrell, Johnny Atkinson (judge), Woody Watson, John Ray Kimbrell, Nell Mobley, Mark McLean (handler), Steve Croy (owner of runner-up), Gary Futch, and Becky Futch.

Waynesboro, Ga., January 2

Judges: Gary Futch and Mike Jackson

GEORGIA DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 16 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner-ERIN'S HAPPY HOUR, 1703435, pointer male, by Erin's Southern Comfort-Erin's Country Nell. Mike Sweet, owner; Judd Carlton, handler.

Runner-Up-GAME STAR, 1704929, pointer female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Belle. Dr. Fred Corder, owner; Ike Todd, handler.

The All-Age Quail Championship

Johnny Atkinson from Marion, South Carolina, joined Mike Jackson to judge the All-Age Quail Championship. Johnny has been enjoying the field trial sport for many years. He has judged many championships along with weekend trials. He is very knowledgeable and respected and enjoys running his own dogs.

The Winners

Touch's Malcolm Story, handled by Mark McLean for owner Alex Rickert, was named champion of the stake. When Story was released, he took to course 2, running with hunting on his mind. Shortly after a breakaway, he stopped with a commendable find at 12, followed by birds lifted at 31. McLean continued on with a third find at 58. The hour was finished with an excellent long-range race.

Runner-up honors went to Haney's All In. This young pointer male was runner-up in the 2023 Georgia Derby Championship. All In is owned by Steve Croy. He ran in the first brace on Thursday morning on course 1. McLean handled with commendable finds at 18 and 56. When the hour ended, he was to the front. A strong race complemented the nice birdwork.

Two other dogs performed well, and the judges felt they were worthy of mention: Erin's High Note (Judd Carlton) and Touch's Blue Knight (Woody Watson).

The Others

The Quail All-Age stake began on Wednesday afternoon following the announcement of the Derby Championship winners and lunch.

Woodville's Saddle Tramp (McLean) had favorable finds at 17, 45, and 50. He finished the hour with a medium race. Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton) had finds witnessed at 3 and 15, all in order. He ran a medium race. He was gone too long with a request of the tracker early in the hour.

No birds lifted off course at 42 for Touch's Shadow Rider (McLean). The hour was finished with a medium race. Confident Nation was drawn for owner Scott Jordan to handle. Luke Eisenhart handled him in Scott's absence. He was credited with a medium race but was not pleasing the handler at 45 and asked for the tracker.

Touch's Gallatin Fire's (McLean) short-range race was not pleasing to the handler and harnessed at 42. Early in the hour, Erin's High Note's (Carlton) finds were to his credit at 9, 20, and 32. His race could have been stronger; however, he finished the hour.

Haney's Silver Dollar (Cagle) was turned loose in the first brace on Thursday morning. A commendable find was credited at 41. No birds were lifted at 58. The hour was finished with a medium race to his credit. Haney's All In was reported earlier in the report as runner-up.

Chief's Rising Star (Carlton) was in the fifth brace of the stake. Multiple finds were noted at 13, 22, 28, and 50. His race could have been stronger. Touch's Malcolm Story is reported earlier in the report as champion.

Touch's Midnight Rider (McLean) was not pleasing the handler and harnessed at 32. Touch's Blue Knight (Watson), with no birds seen at 14, went on for a good all in order find at 18. The hour was finished to the front.

Touch's Breakaway Fred (McLean) was gone from the handler too long, resulting in a request for the tracker at 36. Haney's Storm Warning (Cagle) was not doing the job he should have, so the retrieval device was requested at 42.

Woodville's Yukon Cornelius (McLean) finished the hour with no birds. James Pond Knightranger (Watson) had an all in order find at 47. The race could have been stronger, but the hour was finished.

Hunt's Fireball (McLean) ran as a bye and picked up at 22.

Country Own (McLean), a second bye for McLean, resulted in a request for the tracker at 25.

Hunt's Rollin' The Dice (McLean) ran as a bye. Had a find at 5. A breach of manners at 11 resulted in a pick-up.

Judges: Johnny Atkinson and Mike Jackson
GEORGIA QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 16 Pointers and 3 Setters

Winner-TOUCH'S MALCOLM STORY, 1675103, pointer male, by Touch's Knight Rider-Blackhawk's Sunflower. Alex Rickert, owner; Mark McLean, handler.
Runner-Up-HANEY'S ALL IN, 1698756, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Steve Croy, owner; Mark McLean, handler.

Some Sidelights

Purina Nestlé Pet Care continues to support our trials year after year. They sponsor two handlers' dinners, provide feed certificates to winners, and sample 2-pound bags to handlers along with gifts for the judges. Purina is fortunate to have

Greg Blair, field consultant, on their staff.

The Burke County Chamber of Commerce funds advertising in the UKC@Field. These monies are generated through hotel/motel tax revenue. Ashley Roberts is president of the Chamber. She makes certain gifts are given to the handlers and judges.

Wimberly House Ministries, KJ's IGA Supermarket, Craig Elliott, Gary and Becky Futch, and GFTA provided lunches.

The fish fry is always a big hit. Funding is provided by owners of the 2023 Derby Championship (Allen Linder) and the All-Age Championship (Scott Jordan). Members of the Waynesboro Exchange Club take care of the cooking.

All clubs need one like Chuck Miller. Chuck is employed by Green Ag, which is managed by the Vice President of GFTA, Art Lively. Art allows Chuck all the time he needs to take care of his daily duties. He picks up the birds daily at Pat Johnson's bird farm and releases them every morning at 6:30. Chuck also takes care of the stable and clubhouse clean-up.

The judges reported that many coveys of wild birds were seen. President Gary Futch rides every day to marshal. He brings his

"mule" to maneuver around the grounds.

John Ray Kimbrell is the stake manager and takes care of the dog wagon. His grandson, Austin Sherman, a junior in college, serves as a daily marshal and reporter.

Mickey Stewart, owner of Bird Dog Motors, provides a pickup for John Ray to pull the dog wagon.

Ryan Meckel, wildlife technician at Di-Lane, does a great job preparing the courses prior to the trials. Ryan is enthusiastic and wants to ensure that the GFTA's needs are met.

Di-Lane Plantation is owned by the U.S. Corps of Engineers and leased to the Georgia government for the use of the field trials. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources is responsible for management.

I have served as secretary of GFTA since 1981 and trial chairman since 1999. I am 88 years of age, and it is time for someone else to assume my duties. My grandson, Craig Elliott, has assumed this role. Of course, as long as my health allows, I will be around to help in any way I can. It has been a very rewarding experience for me.

OKLAHOMA OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Hale's High Flyer Named Champion; Touch's Steely Dan, Runner-Up

By Mike Griffin | Inola, Oklahoma | January 2, 2024

We started early and had good weather, highs in the 40s and lows in the 20s but sun and mild winds. Birds were good, as we had birdwork in all braces with a good number of quality dogs. The handlers did a good job and helped when they could. Our judges were experienced and looked at each dog.

Named champion was Hale's High Flyer (Taylor), who ran a very nice race, handling and responding well to Eddie. She was nice moving, pointing, and pleasant. She was rewarded with five nice finds and was well-mannered with a good finish.

Touch's Steely Dan (Moore) is a nice-looking pointer owned by John Van Horn Jr. of Arkansas. He also did a very good job running fast on the ground with style and grace. He handled very well, coupled with three nice finds, earning him runner-up.

First place in the Open Derby was Stylish Undeniable (Curtsinger), who put on a good show with a very nice race and handling. In second, Pretty In Pink



Oklahoma Open Shooting Dog Championship Winners (l-r): Tom Curtsinger, Bob Barker, Harold Gearheart with Hale's High Flyer, Eddie Taylor, Frank Schoenborn (judge), Greg Gibson (judge), Virgil Moore with Touch's Steely Dan, and Johnny Van Horn.

(Moore), a pointer female, did a nice job on the ground and had a good race. Third place was High Enchantress (Hadley), another pointer female, who also ran a good race, handling nice, fast, and pretty to boot.

I want to give a great big thank you to

John and Melissa Gaines for providing hot lunches and refreshments and just for coming to support us. I also want to thank all those who helped with the trial.

Inola, Okla., January 2

Judges: Greg Gibson and Frank Schoenborn
OKLAHOMA OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
– 29 Pointers and 3 Setters

Winner-HALE'S HIGH FLYER, 1676691, pointer female, by Hale's Kickstarter-Hale's Mae Do. Dr. Jeffrey Hale, owner; Eddie Taylor, handler.

Runner-Up-TOUCH'S STEELY DAN, 1694320, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Touch's White Assault. John Van Horn Jr., owner; Virgil Moore, handler.

OPEN DERBY – 8 Pointers

1st-STYLISH UNDENIABLE, 1701875, male, by Dominator's Ghost Rider-Quail Point Dee. Tom Curtsinger, owner and handler.

2d-PRETTY IN PINK, 1706296, female, by Arapahoe Player-Rockin H Rose. Bud & Patty Moore, owners; Bud Moore, handler.

3d-HIGH ENCHANTRESS, 1700180, female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Lester's Snow White. Matt Griffith, Ron Stearnsm & Newley Hutchison, owners; Scott Hadley, handler.

PRAIRIE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Prairie and Pelican Open All-Age Qualifiers

By Dr. Fred Corder | Mayflower, Arkansas | January 2, 2024

The calendar has turned into 2024, leading us into the new year and bringing the excitement of the upcoming trials and their potential for the following few months. This year brings a new beginning and change with the Hobart Ames being moved into January, coinciding with the annual running of the Prairie and Pelican Open All-Age Qualifiers at Camp Robinson.

The Prairie Open All-Age and derbies were held, while the Pelican had to be rescheduled for later in January due to a youth hunt held at Camp Robinson. This year brought a new level of excitement as the trial began with some positive changes at Camp Robinson Wildlife Management Area in Conway, Arkansas. The CRCA once manned the quail release and feeding program with locals such as Mike Lemons, Johnny Van Horn, and Harold Woodward. This year's judges for the All-Age were Ray Carter from Utah, who made the trip to run his dog in the derby stake, and Marty Moore from Missouri. Once again, Roger Martin managed the dog wagon to perfection, making everything run smoothly. It was refreshing to see some quail improvement at this venue compared to previous years.

The Winners

The winner of the Prairie Field Trial was Whippoorwill Vette, owned by Dale Bush and handled by Larry Huffman. Vette was released in the third brace of the first morning with Miller's Speed Dial handled by Randy Anderson. Whippoorwill Vette comes from a long line of Dr. Jack Huffman's breeding. Vette was initially owned by Earl Connolly and is now owned by Dale Bush. Both dogs were released headed toward Lake Conway. While being pointed out going down Seawright cut, a cut through to the afternoon course, Vette made the transition back to the morning course with ease. From the perspective of someone who has run on this course for more than 30 years, that is not an easy transition. This quality seems to be an inherited trait passed down in the breeding through the years, as I have witnessed many Whippoorwill dogs do in the past. Both dogs headed through Darnell crossing, with Vette being smooth and efficient while Speed Dial being the rougher of the duo. As we crossed over Rabbit Hill, Huffman called point for Vette as he was found standing on the hillside to the right. Judges and gallery arrived to witness Huffman put a large bevy to flight



Prairie Open Derby Winners (front, l-r): Stegan Smith with Game Star, Mike Lemons with Miss Arkansas, Bridget Ledington (Full Ride), and Randy Anderson. (Back, l-r): Ray Carter, Marty Moore (judge), Jim Martin (judge), and Dr. Fred Corder.

as a statuesque Vette was in order.

From there, Vette took the left edge to the Firehouse, being pointed out several times. During this time, Speed Dial was missing as we made the turn to head toward the Clubhouse. Huffman kept Vette under control as we traversed the area behind the Clubhouse and overlapping morning course. Point was called again to the right on Rock Hill. Huffman quickly put another large bevy to flight with all in order. From there, Vette went on to complete the morning course with a solid finish.

Como Rain, co-owned by David Russell and Billy Blackwell and handled by David Russell, secured a second-place finish. Como Rain is the pride and joy of Billy Blackwell, who bred and developed him. We are so fortunate to have Billy back in the sport while mentoring his son-in-law, David Russell, to carry on his legacy.

Como Rain was released with I'm Gallant (Anderson), south of the mountain. Como Rain was quick to get everyone's attention with a find at 4 minutes along the lake's edge. Both dogs were pointed out along the mountainside as we headed out of Horse Shoe turn. As we cross the mountain, the course takes a hard right towards Dead Horse curve, and Como Rain had to be ridden hard to be directed to the front. From there, he handled Dead Horse Curve with both dogs heading toward the Minnow Pond, Como Rain being the stronger of the two. Como Rain was ridden for at pickup headed towards the Minnow Pond with the second brace being completed and everyone knowing the initial morning of the field trial had begun with these attention-getting performances.

Third place was Game Heir, owned and handled by Dr. Fred Corder. Game Heir was turned loose with Lester's Stem Winder,

handled by Randy Anderson in the 13th brace of the trial. This brace was moved forward, the last brace of the afternoon, due to dogs being picked up. Both dogs headed to Darnell's Crossing with caution by handlers, with Game Heir making a nice swing along the lake's edge as we crossed the creek headed to the front. Both dogs were forward and attractive over the Rock Hill on Rabbit Pen Road. Game Heir again made a nice being and was pointed out by the Fire House on Rabbit Pen Road. As we crossed Rock Hill, Anderson called point deep on the right of Rock Hill. Manners were breached, and he was picked up.

Meanwhile, Game Heir was forward and was seen standing at the base of Rock Hill pointed. A large copy was put in the air with the orange male pointer standing statuesque for the flush and shot. Game Heir was held onto behind the barn and kennels by the handler, then released for a forward bug finish and ridden for at pickup.

Other dogs that had notable and forward races were Touch's Cocaine Blue (Anderson); Bonner's Bulletproof, with a nice find, came from behind at Dead Horse Curve, which may have distracted from his performance; and Texas Wild Rex (Vincent), released on the last brace of the trial with everyone thinking birds would be holding tight, but Rex produced a large covey in the loop before you cross the mountain in the morning with a possible two coveys lifting as handler shot. His finish was possibly distracting as he was found lateral on the lake's edge.

Mayflower, Ark., January 2

Judges: Ray Carter and Marty Moore

OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]

– 30 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-WHIPPOORWILL VETTE, 1682323, pointer male, by Whippoorwill Justified-S J Kentucky Sue. Dale Bush, owner; Larry Huffman, handler.

2d-COMO RAIN, 1687713, pointer male, by Skyfall-Catch Me Dot. B. K. & Rachel Blackwell, Doug Arthur & David Russell, owners; David Russell, handler.

3d-GAME HEIR, 1691409, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Game Snow. Dr. Fred Corder, owner and handler.

Judges: Jim P. Martin and Marty Moore

OPEN DERBY – 9 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-FULL RIDE, 1702143, pointer male, by Dixon's Rolling Stone-Dixon's Girl's Got Rhythm. Kevin Dixon, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.

2d-MISS ARKANSAS, 1705667, pointer female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Snow. Mike Lemons, owner and handler.

3d-GAME STAR, 1704929, pointer female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Belle. Dr. Fred Corder, owner and handler.



Pelican Open All-Age Winners (front, l-r): Sharleen Daugherty, Matt Cochran with Westfall's Power Trip), Jon Lam (judge), and Dr. Fred Corder with Game Surge. (Back, l-r): Dr. Jim Mills, Steve Lytle, Les Rowell, Andy Daugherty, and Daniel Bolton (judge).

Pelican Open Field Trial Association *By Rita Corder*

The Pelican Open All-Age was originally scheduled in conjunction with the Prairie Open All-Age but had to be rescheduled due to time constraints associated with the youth deer hunt at Camp Robinson. The Pelican was then postponed due to inclement weather and was finally able to start the last weekend in January. Jon Lam was maintained as the advertised judge; however, Daniel Bolden was able to step up to the request as Keith St. John canceled due to scheduling conflicts. Roger Martin once again ran the dog wagon to perfection, making this trial flow seamlessly and allowing for a timely completion as there were a large number of entries. This year, the Pelican was able to pick up Andy Daugherty as he made his way from his usual training grounds in Florida. It was a good event with all the handlers and participants who came to support this qualifying trial. It was also notable from this reporter how much less cover and habitat were available from the trial three weeks prior. Most likely due to the inclement weather of the week-long winter storm.

This year's winner, Como Thunder, owned by David and Rachel Russell, Billy Blackwell, and Doug Arthur and handled by David Russell, was braced with Wynona's Nickleback Sugar, handled by Allen Vincent. This brace was released on the first afternoon of the trial. Como Thunder quickly struck with a find at Rock Hill on the left side; as the judges arrived,

a large covey was put to flight over the dog's head—a nice piece of work to start the afternoon. From there, both dogs made mature forward swings to the mountain, and it was noted that Russell was becoming more familiar with the grounds. As we crossed over the mountain near the end of the hour, Thunder was on the base of the hill, making a nice forward move as pickup was called. He was rewarded for his efforts with the win qualifying him for the 125th running of the National Championship at Grand Junction, Tennessee.

Second-place honors were awarded to Westfall's Power Trip, owned by Bill and Ryan Westfall and handled by Andy Daugherty. He was released also in the first brace after lunch on the second day of the trial with Touch's Steely Dan, owned and handled by Johnny Van Horn. Both dogs were forward and attractive, with Westfall's Power Trip rewarded with a nice find as the morning and after courses split. Both dogs crossed the mountain and were pointed on the far left edge at pickup.

Third place was claimed by Game Surge, owned and handled by Dr. Fred Corder. Surge was braced with I'm Gallant, handled by Randy Anderson. Dogs were released in the 18th brace of the trial from the mountain headed toward Dead Horse Curve strong and to the front. Surge was noted far to the left, making his move toward the minnow pond going out of sight, and was found to the left by handler pointed as handler flushed a large covey while I'm Gallant backed with style. Both dogs went on to finish down the afternoon course backward.

The Derby

Winner of the derby competition, Game Star, owned and handled by Dr. Fred Corder, started on queue with a nice find and birds on her mind 4 minutes off the breakaway. Birds were flushed back in her face while stylish manners noted with her going on to finish having a forward, consistent race with her brace mate.

Second place was Wild Covey Sundial, handled by Andy Daugherty and owned by Brad Calkins. Sundial was released and made some showy swings towards



Pelican Open Derby Winners (front, l-r): Dr. Fred Corder with Game Star, Andy Daugherty with Wild Covey Sundial, and Matt Cochran with Wynona's Rebel. (Back, l-r): Dr. Jim Mills, Steve Lytle, Les Rowell, Sharleen Daugherty, Allen Vincent, Daniel Bolton (judge), and Jon Lam (judge).

the mountain. As we topped the mountain, Sundial made a nice cast to the right and was seen standing, and handler called flight of birds as we were riding to the dog; manners and style were in order at pickup.

Third place Wynona's Rebel, handled by Allen Vincent and owned by Bruce Sooter, who was braced with the winner of this derby stake, had a nice, consistent forward race only to come up birdless.

This derby race concluded another all-age program of competition at Camp Robinson. Hopefully, field trial improvements will continue to manifest on these grounds with the noted improvements from last year. Thanks for all the support from all involved.

Mayflower, Ark., January 26 Judges: Daniel Bolden and Jon Lam OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats] – 39 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-COMO THUNDER, 1687714, pointer male, by Skyfall-Catch Me Dot. B. K. & Rachel Blackwell, Doug Arthur & David Russell, owners; David Russell, handler.

2d-WESTFALL'S POWER TRIP, 1693198, pointer male, by Westfall's Black Ice-Westfall's Cutter. Ryan Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

3d-GAME SURGE, 1700091, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Maggie. Dr. Fred Corder, owner and handler.

OPEN DERBY – 11 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-GAME STAR, 1704929, pointer female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Belle. Dr. Fred Corder, owner and handler.

2d-WILD COVEY SUNDIAL, 1701529, pointer male, by Miller's Speed Dial-Wild Covey Jackie. Brad Calkins, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

3d-WYNONA'S REBEL, unreg., pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-White Smoke's Angel. Dennis Beauford & Bruce Sooter, owners; Allen Vincent, handler.

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WEST TENNESSEE FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Region 6 Amateur Field Trial

By Marty Todd | Dancyville, Tennessee | January 5, 2024

The West Tennessee Field Trial Association hosted a new year of competitions for all-age, shooting dog, and derby dogs. Seventeen handlers and 39 dogs entered the competitions, anticipating a win for their hard work and dedication to the sport. Judges, handlers, and gallery withstood cold and windy days but ended the great weekend with perfect riding weather to watch dogs hunt birds. Many pointers and setters beautifully ran the lines and found several coveys of birds throughout the day.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner were served to landowners, members, judges, dog owners/handlers, and local friends each day. Laughter filled the air, and stories about each day's hard work around WTFTA's traditional bonfire were told. Thank you to Hassell and Allison Smith for Saturday's delicious fish fry.

The Amateur Shooting Dog competition began the festivities on January 5, with a field of 12 entries. On January 6, the Amateur All-Age competition had 14 entries. On January 7, the Amateur Derby competition had 14 entries. Thank you to all the judges, Andrea Ward, Tom Waite, Ike Todd, and Isaiah Todd.

Thank you to the landowners who help these trials continue each year: the Currie Family, the Spiotta Family, the Humber Family, the Taylor Family, the Jones Family, the Rickert Family, the Todd Family, and the McClanahan Family. Thank you to John Butler for supplementing the West Tennessee Field Trial Club's pre-release coveys with more birds. Thank you to our field marshals, Allen Currie and Ike Todd. Thank you to all the owners and handlers who entered these competitions.

Dancyville, Tenn., January 5

Judges: Tom Waite and Andrea Ward

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]

- 9 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-LESTER'S TOP RECRUIT, 1681841, pointer male, by Lester's Sunny Hill Jo-Rivertons Funseeker Riley. Lance Servais, owner and handler.

2d-BRYANT'S GIVE IT A RIP, 1701553, setter female, by Erin's Wild Atlantic Way-Cline's Live Oak. Kenton Bryant, owner and handler.

3d-SOUTHERN SHADOWS T REX, 1682853, pointer male, by Skyfall-Miller's White Wall. Lance Servais, owner and handler.



Amateur All-Age Winners (front, l-r): David Russell with Como Thunder, Mike Small with Small's White Charger, and Mike Lemons with Haney's Hurricane Seeker. (Behind): Marty Todd, Ike Todd, Dr. Gene Spiotta, Gail Spiotta, Isaiah Todd, Andrea Ward, Tom Waite, Gary Brown, Allen Currie, Bentley Stoots, Tony King, Miles Hatcock, Crutcher Stoots, J. P. Hatcock, Julia Currie, and Bill Currie.

Judges: Ike Todd and Andrea Ward AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]

- 14 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-COMO THUNDER, 1687714, pointer male, by Skyfall-Catch Me Dot. B. K. & Rachel Blackwell, Doug Arthur & David Russell, owners; David Russell, handler.

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

3d-HANEY'S HURRICANE SEEKER, 1698759, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. David Russell, owner and handler.

AMATEUR DERBY - 14 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-NOSAM SILVER SPARK, 1708198, pointer male, by Small's White Charger-Nosam's Patchwork. T. Mason Ashburn, owner and handler.

2d-SOUTHERN SWEETS LANE, 1705876, pointer female, by Southern Shadows T Rex-Southern Ritz Lane. Lance Servais & Brian Peterson, owners; Brian Peterson, handler.

3d-GAME STAR, 1704929, pointer female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Belle. Dr. Fred Corder, owner and handler.



Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Lance Servais with Lester's Top Recruit, Kenton Bryant with Bryant's Give It A Rip, and Brian Peterson with Southern Shadows T Rex. (Behind): Emily and Charlotte Weddington, Jon Lam, Betty Shearouse, Andrea Ward, Cindy Currie, Gary Brown, Allen Currie, Chris Mullen, Tony King, and Bill Currie.



Amateur Derby Winners (front, l-r): Mike Lemons and Miles Hatcock with Nosam Silver Spark, Brian Peterson and Bentley Stoots with Southern Sweets Lane, and Rita Corder with Game Star. (Behind): Marty Todd, Gene Spiotta, Isaiah Todd, Tom Waite, Allen Currie, Andrea Ward, Lance Servais, Gary Brown, Chris Mullen, Julia Currie, Bill Currie, Dr. Fred Corder, Crutcher Stoots, Connie Fergie, and Sally Brown.

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ARIZONA OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Ramblin Rivers Natural Named Champion; C V Redheaded Flying Dutchman, Runner-Up

By John Beauchamp | California City, California | January 10, 2024



Arizona Open Shooting Dog Championship Winners (l-r): Ed Mayhew, Brian Smith (judge), Bill Stapleton with Ramblin Rivers Natural, Brian Gingrich with C V Redheaded Flying Dutchman, and Greg Knight (judge).

The Arizona Open Shooting Dog Championship was cast off on the morning of Thursday, January 11, following the conclusion of the Wally Wallace Derby Classic. By comparison, the earlier stakes had cold temps made even colder by high winds. The Arizona Open Shooting Dog Championship fared much better; the high winds lacked off early Thursday morning. We had clear skies, cool temps, and just enough breeze. Rain early in the week helped the scenting conditions. That, coupled with a really strong bunch of birds, made for multiple finds in every brace. I think the judges enjoyed this one; there were a number of solid performances they could have used. That is until the winners ran. Running the championship over two days, we balanced the braces between the two days, which worked well for man and beast.

Ramblin Rivers Natural (“Natural”) was up in the 8th brace, handled by owner Bill Stapleton, with Scorch handled by Patrick Clark. Both dogs started well coming out

of the canyon from the east and made the corner into the main drainage. Natural ran a strong shooting dog race, covering the objectives intelligently and staying forward with little scouting. The judges commented on the quality of Natural’s birdwork.

The runner-up champion, C V Redheaded Flying Dutchman (“Mick”), handled by Brian Gingrich, was up in the 4th brace with Almosta’s Wilma Flintstone, handled by John Beauchamp. Mick ran a solid forward brace, requiring minimal scouting, and carded two clean finds with all in order. It was getting warm by this brace, but Mick put down a very good performance for the full hour.

Thank You All

We had help from Mr. Warren Esserman and the California AKC clubs, which allowed us to share the expenses for the tent, water trailer, and porta potties. In times of ever-increasing costs, this kind of help allows us to keep going without digging into everyone’s pockets (too

deeply). Using Camp H as base camp meant a pretty long ride to cast-off. To compensate for the long ride, Mr. Ed Mayhew brought out a second trailer (meaning two trips to the grounds) so we could load all the morning dogs in the trailer, and he even pulled it around to cast-off. Then, Mr. Glenn Johnson handled dog truck duties from there, and it ran smoothly.

Our judges, Mr. Brian Smith and Mr. Greg Knight, were on time and attentive for every brace. Thank you so much, gentlemen!

And, of course, thank you to Purina! Greg Blair supported us again this year. Having worked with Greg for several years, he is always responsive, timely, and accurate. With all the challenges and changes one encounters in planning and executing these trials, Greg is the person you can count on; FedEx, not so much.

We were pleased to have the support of SportDOG, allowing us to have collars for both the champion and runner-up champion.

Terry Erickson stuck around and helped plant birds in the dark each day. Let me tell you, 23 and 25 mph on an ATV is COLD. Thank you, Terry. I can’t sign off without thanking my wife, Patti, for pulling the hot lunches together.

Hope to see you all down the road. Safe travels.

California City, Cal., January 10
Judges: Gregg Knight and Brian Smith
ARIZONA OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
– 5 Pointers, 1 Setter, 4 German Shorthairs,
and 6 Vizslas

Winner-RAMBLIN RIVERS NATURAL, 1688693, pointer male, by Chelsea’s Thunder Bolt-Upfront’s Southern Star. William Stapleton, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-C V REDHEADED FLYING DUTCHMAN, 1680729, Vizsla male, by C K Touchdown Guy-Twenty Gauge Over N Under. Matthew Roesner, owner; Brian Gingrich, handler.

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GEORGIA DERBY CLASSIC & OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Mo's Curtain Call Wins Classic; Silver W Jill Z Named Open Shooting Dog Champion

By Nell Mobley & Mike Jackson | Waynesboro, Georgia | January 10, 2024

Di-Lane Plantation, Herndon Road, Waynesboro, Georgia, the "Bird Dog Capital of the World," is the Georgia Derby Classic and Georgia Open Shooting Dog Championship venue. The U.S. Corps of Engineers acquired the property through mitigation in 1991. In turn, it was leased to the Georgia State government. The Department of Natural Resources manages it for the use of the field trials. We are fortunate to have grounds available annually for the sport.

Ryan Meckel is the Wildlife Technician who tends to the management. He and his staff do a great job with the burning as well as preparing the courses for the trials. We feel very fortunate to have one with Ryan's expertise.

The drawings were held on January 7 at the home of Nell Mobley. The entries were all in, so pairing the dogs followed. The task was handled by John Ray Kimbrell, Mike Jackson, Craig Elliott, and Chuck Miller. Chuck prepared the drawing sheets, and Mary Kimbrell prepared the judges' books.

Fourteen entries were drawn for the Derby Classic and 53 for the Open Shooting Dog Championship.

Judges for the Derby Classic were Derek Bonner, Mooresboro, North Carolina, and Scott Griffin, Charlotte, North Carolina. These two sportsmen are very knowledgeable. They run their own dogs in competition when time allows.

Riding in the saddles to name a champion and runner-up in the Open Shooting Dog stakes were Joe and Tricia Rentz of Brooks, Georgia. They have captured many placements in amateur events.

The Winners

Due to very hard rain with multiple thunderstorms, the Classic was postponed until Wednesday, January 10.

Mo's Curtain Call was named first place. Mike Tracy handled her for owners Jim and Theresa Morrell and Tim Moore. Call had multiple finds at 8, 14, 18, 43, and 57. She backed her bracemate at 8 and looked good on her birdwork with a strong forward race for a young derby.

Placing second was Miller's Upgraded Patent, handled by Doug Ray for Dr. Canada and Harold Ray. Patent ran the second hour of the stake on course 2. Shortly after the breakaway, she pointed at 8 with birds in flight. Three other nice finds were noted at



Georgia Open Shooting Dog Championship Winners (l-r): Silver W Jill Z with Jeff Crouch and Triple Nickel Carbon Copy with Mike Tracy (handler) joined by Don Marsh, Shawn Kinkelaar (champion handler), Jessica Rutland, John Ray Kimbrell, Mary Kimbrell, Nell Mobley, Joe Rentz (judge), Tricia Rentz (judge), Gary Futch, Wyatt Puckett, Asher Marsh, and Adam Marsh.

14, 24, and 55. She honored her bracemate at 43. Patent looked good on birdwork and ran a good race.

Silver Wings, handled by Tracy Swearingen, was the third-place winner. He ran a strong forward race with birds lifted at 33 and 43. A stop at 4 was fruitless.

The Others

The first brace of the stake, Backcountry Snake Eyes (Catanzarite) and High Drive Drinkaby (Tracy) were turned loose. After an altercation, both were picked up at 14.

Miller's Upgraded Patent (Ray) and Mo's Curtain Call (Tracy) ran as bracemates. Their performance is reported earlier.

Lightning (Martino) was picked up following a no-show of birds. Hatteras Storm Watch (Ray) took to the course and started hunting. At 18, no birds were located. He continued on with a nice find at 37, followed by a sudden stop to flush at 45.

Getaway Driver (Martino) moved on birds at 32 and taken up. Backcountry Champagnesupernova (Catanzarite) was not pleasing the handler and requested a retrieval device at 23.

Miller's Enhanced Upgrade (Ray) and Reason To Believe (Martino) were turned loose in brace 5. Upgrade had nice finds at 12 and 30. She was taken on by the handler but harnessed at 42. Believer's hour was short, with a request of the tracker at 21.

Hatteras High Tide (Ray) and Pal's Prestigious Pete (Tracy) were in the next

brace. Tide was picked up at 9 and Pete at 13.

Silver Wings (Swearingen), with a stop at 4, was fruitless. He covered the course well, looking good. His first find was at 33, with another good find at 43. Throughout the hour, he had a strong forward race. Shortly in the brace, point was called for Hausers Unhinged (Tracy), but no game was produced. Running with style, he had a nice find at 17. Tracy requested the tracker at 19.

Waynesboro, Ga., January 10

Judges: Derrek Bonner and Scott Griffin

GEORGIA DERBY CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats]

- 12 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-MO'S CURTAIN CALL, 1705285, pointer female, by Miller's High Heat Index-Osceola's Seminole Wind. Jim & Theresa Morrell & Tim Moore, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.
2d-MILLER'S UPGRADED PATENT, 1704924, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Dr. Bob Canada & Harold Ray, owners; Doug Ray, handler.

3d-SILVER WINGS, 1705325, pointer male, by Touch's Red Rider-Southpoint's Dixie Chick. S. Tucker Johnson, owner; Tracy Swearingen, handler.

Georgia Open Shooting Dog Championship

Following the announcement of the winners of the Derby Classic, the Shooting Dog got underway with two braces before lunchtime.

Silver W Jill Z, handled by Shawn Kinkelaar, was named champion for owner Debbie Ozner. Jill was turned loose on course 2 and took to hunting on her mind, covering the course and hunting in the right places. Her first find was carded at 12 with

birds lifted. Kinkelaar carried her on for a second find at 18. Running well, good clean finds were witnessed at 24 and 32. This was an exciting hour with a strong forward race.

Close behind Jill, Triple Nickel Carbon Copy was named runner-up. Mike Tracy handled the young pointer male for Robert and Linda Bergen. His finds at 5, 13, and 46 were nice, with Copy looking very stylish. At one time, he was a little behind at 38 but quickly was back to the front. When time was called, he could be seen to the front.

The Others

Hillhavyn's Major Tom (Martino) and Erin's Three Leaf Shamrock (Swearingen) were the first to begin the Shooting Dog Championship on course 2. Multiple finds at 4, 22, 36, and 58 were recorded for Tom. He looked good on his ground race with a forward finish. Shamrock honored his bracemate at 4. Birds were lifted with finds at 27 and 44. He could be seen to the front when time was called.

Nice finds were credited to Hillhavyn's Wild Child (J. Tracy) at 6 and 18. No birds were lifted at a point at 23. A move on birds at 58 resulted in pickup. Martino picked up Towel Creek Jill early in the hour.

The tracker was requested for Erin's Big Casino (Tracy) at 19. Tug O'War (Kinkelaar) had a nice find at 15, with Kinkelaar harnessing at 40.

Miller's Record Heat (M. Tracy) had a find at 12. She was not pleasing the handler with a pickup following. Swearingen elected to pick up Great River Yellowstone at 42 following a find at 10.

The Secret (J. Tracy) recorded a find at 4 but was not pleasing to the handler with a request of the tracker at 43. Trumped (M. Tracy) was picked up following a second no-show of game at 25.

Backcountry Buddy (Martino) had a find to his credit at 3. He was not performing well enough to suit the handler with a request of the tracker at 42. Hauser's Rollin Thunder (M. Tracy) ran a nice forward race with commendable finds at 24, 45, and 59.

Face To Face (Martino) was turned loose on course 2 with time; shortly in the hour point was called for race at 7 with Erin's Primetime backing. At 15, Face honored Time, but no birds were seen. Martino chose to end the hour for Face at 35. Nice finds with birds in flight were credited to Time at 25 and 59. A nice forward race ended the hour.

Check It Out (Martino) and Bull Biscuit (M. Tracy). Both dogs were not pleasing their handlers and were picked up at 14.

Hill's Haven Repeat (Martino) heeded his training with backs of bracemate at 13



Georgia Derby Classic Winners (l-r): Mo's Curtain Call with Mike Martino, Miller's Upgraded Patent with Kaley Lee, and Silver Wings with Jo Rentz joined by Mary Kimbrell, John Ray Kimbrell, Nell Mobley, Mike Tracy (handler), Bill Primm, Doug Ray (handler), Mike Jackson, Gary Futch, and Tracy Swearingen (handler).

and 38. A nice find with birds lifted at 46. Continuing on with a good race, the hour finished to the front. Triple Nickel Carbon Copy (M. Tracy) was reported earlier as runner-up.

Faithful (M. Tracy) ran in the eighth brace on course 2. She had hunting on her mind with multiple finds at 9, 24, 37, and 59. Birds were lifted with every stop. No game was seen with a stop at 46, and with a strong forward race, the hour ended. Upfront's Southern Star (Kinkelaar) found birds in flight at 14 and 46 with an unproductive at 32. At times, her style could have been better. Feathers were pointed at 48.

The first 30 minutes of R Q's Saddle's (J. Tracy) race were short. However, the pace picked up with commendable finds at 32 and 45. Saddle went on to have a good finish. Miller's Special Cinderella (M. Tracy) was harnessed at 15.

Miller's High Heat Index (M. Tracy) and Thunder Bolt's Storm (Kinkelaar) were picked up early.

Talokas New Business (Loper) moved on birds at 14. Miller's Lock And Loaded (M. Tracy) had a nice find at 11, marked flight at 14, and was harnessed at 26.

Miller's Southern Gossip (M. Tracy) stopped at 29 with birds lifted, continuing on, looking good running. A second find was noted at 44. He backed his bracemate at 37. He went birdless at 50. The groundwork was forward and strong. Chelsea's Mae West (Kinkelaar) had good finds when birds were lifted at 4, 26, and 37. Heeding her training, she honored Gossip at 29 and 44. She went birdless at 50 with a request of the tracker at 50.

Steel Valley Raven (J. Tracy) had no show of birds at 4 and 20. Miller's Little Duce Coupe (M. Tracy) moved on birds at 14 and picked up.

Jolene Jolene (M. Tracy) was not running to suit Tracy, requesting a retrievable device at 16. Silver W Jill Z's (Kinkelaar) performance was reported earlier as

champion.

Pine Straw Sweet Tea (J. Tracy) had a find at 10, and Miller's Strolling For Gold (M. Tracy) at 18. Both were picked up at 34.

Southpoint's Hog Wild (M. Tracy) was picked up at 18. Lester's Another Shockwave (Kinkelaar) stopped at 16, handled re-located with birds in flight. A retrieval device was requested at 41.

Pine Straw Hot Chocolate (J. Tracy) was not pleasing the handler and was taken up at 50. Miller's Automatic Upgrade (M. Tracy) was credited with finds at 18 and 24. The tracker was requested at 40.

Bittersweet War Cry (M. Tracy) moved on relocation and was picked up at 10. Upfront's McQuade (Kinkelaar) was picked up at 20.

Miller's Blazing Hot Chick (M. Tracy) went birdless at 24 with a nice find at 45. The hour was finished with a nice forward race. Hale's Smooth Touch (Kinkelaar) backed bracemate at 24. Her time ended at 31.

Miller's Heat Seeker (M. Tracy) was running well with finds at 26 and 27. He backed his bracemate at 13. Not pleasing Tracy, the tracker was requested at 48. Panther Creek Rose (Rice) had a nice, stylish find, all in order at 11. Bad luck followed with two UPs at 13 and 24.

Calico's Sky's The Limit (M. Tracy) and Erin's Thunder Backus (Kinkelaar) were released on course 3 in brace 21. Both dogs started in good fashion. With Backus stopping at 17, Limit heeded his training with a back. No birds were seen at 20, 28, and 29 for Backus, ending in pickup at 30 for both dogs.

Early in the hour, Waybetter Rebel (M. Tracy) stopped with birds raised and another find at 17 with Cheap Thrill (Rice) honoring. A nice find was noted for Thrill at 41. Shortly after, he was lost.

Ramey's Elhew Independence (M. Tracy) and Oahe Peck (Rice) were harnessed early in the hour.

Raag's Rich And Rare (M. Tracy) ran as a bye in the last brace of the stake and was picked up early in the hour.

Judges: Joe Rentz and Tricia Rentz GEORGIA OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

- 50 Pointers and 3 Setters

Winner-SILVER W JILL Z, 1682062, pointer female, by Ransom-Double Wild. Debbie Ozner, owner; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.

Runner-Up-TRIPLE NICKEL CARBON COPY, 1692617, pointer male, by Miller's Hennessey-Jamback's Amazing Grace. Robert & Linda Bergen, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

ASSOCIATED FIELD TRIAL CLUBS OF FLORIDA

Piney Woods Trial

By Petie Brown | Punta Gorda, Florida | January 13, 2024

The weather was a factor at the Piney Woods trial, but it didn't seem to hinder the dogs or birds. Saturday morning had an hour rain delay as a front, which started the night before, moved through. With overcast skies, the temperature was pleasant, and birds were plentiful. There was still plenty of water on the ground after the 4 inches that fell Christmas day.

We were very grateful to the Muzynskis for showing up to carry dogs for the field trialers after leaving their own dogs and horses at home. Paul Daniel was once again kind enough to bring horses for the judges. Jim Michaletz judged for us in December and found the area so accommodating that he and his wife, Sherry, decided to stay longer, and Jim was amenable to judging for us again. Rounding out the judicial saddle was Scott Ford, whose expertise was much appreciated, as were the judges' decisions. While on the gratitude list, Purina deserves a big thank you for donating Pro Plan to the winners.

We have two rotating trophies that are awarded to the winners of the All-Age and Shooting Dog stakes. The Lester White Memorial Trophy went into circulation in 1954 for the Piney Woods Field Trial Club and became the Lester Alford Memorial Trophy in 1984. This writer remembers Lester Alford and his wonderful barbecue sauce by the same name that later became "Pat's" Barbecue sauce; good luck finding that today. The Shooting Dog trophy has just been put into circulation in honor of Don and Sharon Wood and Frank and Mercy Fonseca and their wonderful Funseeker line; many of the Funseeker prodigy are still running today.

New to the grounds joining us for the Saturday night festivities and Sunday's competition were Gene Brown and Jeff Arnold from Tallahassee, Florida. We were very pleased they made the trek south, but as Mr. Brown exclaimed Sunday morning, "I've never been to such a wet trial!" We all tried to put it in the El Niño light because normally it isn't this wet in January. Sunday morning started on time with cloudy skies and a misty rain blowing in late morning that didn't seem to bother the birds, though it made packing up a damp experience. Thankfully, we have someone who will muck stalls for us at a nominal fee, making clean-up less of a chore, so we can focus on saying goodbye to new and old friends.

The Winners

The one-hour All-Age ended up with two placements. Second place went to Paul Daniel's Silverline Destroyer Gold, owned by the late Jim Goza, with a stop to flush. First place went to Myakka Lucy Diamond, owned and handled by Petie Brown, with a divided find followed by a stop to flush shortly thereafter.

It was decided at the Friday night drawing to skip a Puppy stake and place the puppies in the Derby for the sake of time and convenience, but as it turned out, the puppies won the stake, and the Derby placement was disqualified due to age. McEwen's Southern Pride ("Miller") won the Derby stake on his first foray out after suffering a broken toe early in the season. His first steps after breakaway were tentative, like a baby learning to walk, then running in water, which he adjusted to quickly. Miller stretched out and kept on stretching, needing a scout at times, with his handler, Katie McEwen, riding him



Open All-Age Winners (l-r): Myakka Lucy Diamond with Petie Brown and Paul Daniel with Silverline Destroyer Gold. (Back row): Scott Ford (judge), Debbie McEwen, Dan Murphy, Jim Michaletz (judge), and Sherry Michaletz.



Open Derby Winners (l-r): McEwen's Southern Pride with Katie McEwen, Greg Poole with Sterlingworth Sport (disqualified), and Myakka Debutante with Petie Brown. (Back row): Scott Ford (judge), Debbie McEwen, Justin Muzynski, Jim Michaletz (judge), Sherry Michaletz, and Dan Murphy.



Open Shooting Dog Winners (l-r): Arnold's Notorious Ranger with Jeff Arnold, Nacho's Texas Rebel with Katie McEwen, and Myakka Maxed Out with Petie Brown. (Back row): Gene Brown, Scott Ford (judge), Justin Muzynski, Carl Womack, Debbie McEwen, and John Castelli.

back in her arms after pick-up.

The judges had plenty to discuss on the Shooting Dog stake, but all in all, it was a fun morning of birdwork. Unfortunately, Jeff Arnold's Knot in the first brace was in more of an all-age mood. Myakka Freddie Freeloader was lost on point at pick-up in the second brace, as was Preacher in the fifth. Myakka Rebel mannerly backed Arnold's True Confidence, just as predicted, and then found her own covey a few minutes later but took a step and pivot with her front feet to mark in the fourth brace. Myakka Maxed Out, handled by Petie Brown, came in third in the sixth brace with a nice covey, braced with Arnold's Lulu, who came into her own birds and showed a lot of style. Second place was awarded to McEwen's Nacho's Texas Rebel, who was braced with his littermate Freddie; more than one person commented that we could not tell them apart, including their handlers! First place was awarded to Arnold's Notorious Ranger, who displayed beautiful style on his birds and a classy shooting dog run.

Punta Gorda, Fla., January 13

Judges: Jim Michaletz and Scott Ford

OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats] - 6 Pointers

1st—MYAKKA LUCY DIAMOND, 1665013, female, Elhew G-Force-Myakka Hey Jude. Petie Brown, owner and handler.

2d—SILVERLINE DESTROYER GOLD, 1690963, pointer female, Holopaw's Axel-Hot-Digity Dot. The late Jim Goza, owner; Paul Daniel, handler.

OPEN DERBY

— 6 Pointers, 1 Setter, and 1 German Shorthair

1st—McEWEN'S SOUTHERN PRIDE, unreg., pointer male, Myakka Time Shifter-Nacho's Drama Ma Ma. Debbie & Katie McEwen owners; Katie McEwen handler.

2d—STERLINGWORTH SPORT. [Placement Voided].

3d—MYAKKA DEBUTANTE, 1706240, pointer female, Myakka Time Shifter-Nacho's Drama Ma Ma. Petie Brown, owner and handler.

OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]

— 11 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—ARNOLD'S NOTORIOUS RANGER, 1696986, pointer male, Erin's Country Rebel-Notorious Lola. Jeff Arnold, owner and handler.

2d—NACHO'S TEXAS REBEL, 1661657, pointer male, Funseeker's Rebel Tex-Nacho Myakka Miley. Debbie & Katie McEwen, owners; Katie McEwen, handler.

3d—MYAKKA MAXED OUT, 1670323, pointer male, Elhew G Force-Myakka Hey Jude. Beth Brown, owner; Petie Brown, handler.

CONTINENTAL OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Haney's All In Named Champion; Game Surge, Runner-Up

By William S. Smith | Greenville, Florida | January 17, 2024



Continental Open All-Age Championship Winners (front row): Jerry Raynor with Haney's All In, Mark McLean, Woody Watson with Game Surge, Rita Corder, Julie Ripley, and Jacob McCormick. (Second row): Maria Bassham, Tommi Smith, Steve Croy, Stacy Croy, Haley Moreland, Dr. Fred Corder, Mike Jackson (judge), Gail Childers, Lamar Childers (judge), and Randy Floyd. (Behind): Well-wishers and participants.

Good dogs, good horses, good people, and a great place, Dixie Plantation. What better combination could anyone ask for to witness the running of the Continental Championship? Dixie is now known as Livingston Place, but to field trialers, it will always be known simply as Dixie. Dixie is not unusual as to the Live Oaks, the multitude of pine trees, or the rolling terrain, but Dixie is set apart because of its history. Field trials have been contested on Dixie since 1937. Legendary dogs and renowned handlers have competed for the coveted title of Continental Champion. A few of these dogs and handlers are now enshrined in the Field Trial Hall of Fame. To win this Championship, it takes a dog of grit, stamina, endurance, and courage to take to the rough country and forsake the easygoing. It takes a handler who, above all, has trust in the dog to obey his commands and to stay obedient to his training. The Continental is on the list of every owner and handler as one of the best to win.

The call "there they go" when used in conjunction with field trials was probably called out for the first time in a field trial in America when the first field trial was held in 1874, just east of Memphis, Tennessee. After that, the call spread from coast to coast, from border to border, and into Canada. The first recorded field trial was held in England in 1866. When the sport made its way to America, it was readily accepted. It was a sport that the

well-to-do and the less fortunate could participate in. The sport did not explode on the scene and expand rapidly. The first few years, the growth was slow.

The decade following World War I probably was the time when field trials achieved the most growth, according to W. F. Brown's report in his book "Field Trials." The sport continued to develop even during the World War II years. When field trials were first introduced to America, they were confined to local areas. When the competition increased to the point that a more challenging contest was desired, the sport converted to a traveling entity. As trials sprang up across the country, dogs were transported to those locations where owners sought to compete against the best of that region. Field trials flourished in great numbers after World War II. The popularity continued through the turn of the century. However, regrettably, the zeal for the sport does not exist today as it did in previous decades. To be quite frank, the sport is on a rapid decline. Many of the historical venues are not available today. The so-important prairie trials of Canada have disappeared from the field trial agenda. Only one prairie trial has been held on the Dakotas plains in the past several years, and that trial was not held in 2023 because of the loss of grounds. The Southwestern did run in South Dakota in 2023 but had not run in the previous four years. Prairie trials that once were so important for conditioning and evaluating are on the brink of oblivion. Field trial

grounds are at a premium. Those clubs that are still functioning are working diligently to preserve the sport. They are dedicated to the task. One such club is the Continental Field Trial Club. As they see the decline in the sport, their efforts to continue the Continental All-Age Championship do not flag.

The Continental Club is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, field trial clubs in operation today. The organization was founded in 1895. Randy Floyd is the president of the Continental Club; Larron Copeland is the vice president. The Directors are Dr. Terry Terlep, Joe Rentz, Bob Walthall, Jason Williams, Clay Sessions, Dr. Ron Deal, Dr Kent Cantrell, Julie Ripley Livingston, Dr. Robert McDavid, and John Thompson. Their efforts are to be commended. Their endeavors should be mimicked for the betterment of field trials.

Randy Floyd manages the grounds of Livingston Place with the help of John McCormick, Ben Melvin, and Vince Little. A strong windstorm last September toppled a great number of trees on the plantation and caused a lot of work to clear the affected areas on the field trial courses. Another strong windstorm only a week before the trial began caused more limbs and branches to be broken off and fall on the courses. The crew did a commendable job of removing most of the debris from the courses.

Randy has devoted 32 years to Livingston Place and has decided to retire in April. In the time he has been there, he has amassed a wealth of knowledge concerning all aspects of plantation management. His efforts to maintain and improve the property have had great results. The plantation is a showplace with the Live Oak trees, the piney woods, and the agricultural fields, a testimony of Randy's labors throughout his years to make this plantation special. He will be missed, but he will still be available for consultation concerning the day-to-day function of the plantation and the operation of the field trials conducted there. Long-time assistant to Randy, John McCormick, will move into this management position. Our best wishes go to both men.

Livingston Place is located in Greenville, Florida, but it has not always been totally in Florida and known as Livingston

Place. When the plantation came into being, it was christened Dixie and once encompassed some 18,000 acres: 9,000 acres in Georgia and 9,000 acres in Florida. Gerald Livingston purchased a property known as the Cedars Plantation in 1926 and changed the name to Dixie. Gerald continued to purchase adjoining parcels of land when they became available and eventually put the 18,000-acre plantation together. Dixie became one of the premiere quail hunting plantations in the United States. Gerald's penchant for quail hunting led him to the field trial arena, where he was successful as a competitor and breeder. Gerald's champion, Lucky Strike, was featured on the cover of Life Magazine in 1946. Gerald preceded his wife, Eleanor, in death, and Eleanor was bequeathed the property. Gerald and Eleanor had two daughters, Mary and Geraldine. When Eleanor passed, the two daughters inherited the plantation. Mary took the Georgia parcel and soon sold the property. Geraldine's part was the land in Florida, which she kept until her death. The land then went into a trust. Years later, the trust was dissolved for financial reasons, and the property was gifted to Tall Timbers.

The National Championship ran for the first time in 1896 in West Point, Mississippi, and was accepted as the elite trial in that day, but there began to be talk of a more rigorous event to test the stamina and overall qualities of a bird dog. An event was organized with one-hour qualifying braces and a mandatory second series that would run for three hours. This affair was called the Free-For-All Championship, and the inaugural was held in 1916. Today, the callback is only 90 minutes. Another endurance trial came on the scene in 1935. It was the Continental Championship. The qualifying series was one hour, and the second series was one hour and 50 minutes. Those times have not changed. They have remained the same since 1935. In the prior generation, handlers such as Colvin Davis, Hoyle Eaton, Freddy Epp, John S. Gates, John Rex Gates, Billy Morton, Bud Daugherty, etc., wanted to win the National, but all agreed that the Continental was a greater test of stamina and conditioning. The Continental is a trial that is not to be missed, and to win showcases a handler and his dog. The luster of the trial has not faded in its 129 years of competition.

The Continental's rich history is unsurpassed in the field arena. The inaugural running took place in Morris, Manitoba. The trial operated in Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Georgia before Gerald Livingston brought the trial to Dixie Plantation in 1937, where it has remained. The American Field recognized

the Continental as a championship event in 1939 when Lester's Enjoy's Wahoo was crowned the winner. John S. Gates was the winning handler. This year marks the 86th running on Dixie Plantation, counting the two years before it was recognized as a championship and discounting 1978, when it was not held because of a death in the family.

Seventy-six have won the coveted Continental crown. Only one dog has won the event three times—The Texas Ranger and he did it convincingly (1942, 1943, 1944). Ranger, as exceptional as he was, did not win the National. Six have won the title twice: Shore's Brownie Doone (1949-1951); Stanton's Victory (1955-1956); Red Water Rex (1965-1966); Flatwood Hank (1985-1986); Silverwood (1996-1998); and Showtime Sam Houston (2019-2021).

Twelve dogs have won the Continental and the National Championship. Lester's Enjoy's Wahoo won both crowns in the same year, 1939. Sierra Joan won the Continental in 1948 and the National in 1949. Shore's Brownie Doone won the Continental in 1949 and 1951 and the National in 1950 and 1953. Home Again Mike won the Continental in 1957 and the National in 1960. War Storm won the Continental in 1961 and the National in 1964. Red Water Rex won the Continental in 1965 and 1966 and the National in 1969. Safari reversed the trend by winning the National first in 1966 and the Continental in 1967. Crossmatch won both titles in the same year, 1974. Flatwood Hank won both titles in 1985 and came back to win the Continental again in 1986. Cypress Gunpowder took the Continental title in 2004 and followed it up by taking the National Crown in 2005. Miller's On Line won the National first in 2004 and the Continental in 2008. Shadow Oak Bo won the Continental in 2011 and then went on to win the National in 2013 and 2014.

In addition to winning the Continental, seven of the champions have also garnered runner-up placements: Cross Smoke (1956 & 1957), Blackbelt (1980), Flatwood Hank (1987), Miller's Southern Pride (2002), Miller's On Line (2003), Silverwood (1997 & 2000), and Shadow Oak Bo (2012). Sixty-eight different dogs have gained the runner-up spot in the Continental. The runner-up spot has been withheld 13 times, the last time being in 1995.

Handlers with two wins each are Paul Walker, Fred Arant, Bud Daugherty, Hoyle Eaton, Freddie Epp, Garland Priddy, Luke Eisenhart, and Laron Copeland. Jack Harper won three consecutive years with The Texas Ranger. Mark McLean's win this year puts him in the three-win category. Howard Kirk, George Evans,

and Andy Daugherty all accumulated four wins. Father and son John S. and John Rex Gates each took home the marbles five times. Robin Gates, the winningest handler of all time, won the coveted title 11 times. Robin and Jack Harper are the only handlers to win in three consecutive years.

The drawing for the 129th running took place on Friday, January 12, at 6 p.m. at the Plantation Office. Thirty-eight were drawn to compete: 33 Pointers and five Setters. The all-age competition began Wednesday morning, January 17, at the conclusion of the Derby stake. The trial is sponsored by the Continental Field Trial Club and Purina. The trial is a Purina Points and a National Championship qualifying trial. Purina sponsored a fish fry on Wednesday during the noon meal, and as usual for Purina, the fare was delicious and much appreciated by all who attended.

Mike Jackson of Battle Ground, Indiana, and Lamar Childers of Cleveland, Georgia, filled the judicial saddles. They judged the Continental Derby last year and were requested to return this year to determine the winners of the Championship. Both men are seasoned arbiters; they have seen it all during their long experiences in field trialing. Their decisions are respected, and their department was always above board as they looked for the best performances. Their constant attention to the handlers and their dogs was noticed and appreciated.

We would be negligent if we did not acknowledge the sponsors of this event. Their support is critical to the continuation of the Derby and All-Age Championships. The heartfelt thanks by the Continental Championship Club are extended to each sponsor.

In the Derby Championship, lunch on Monday was sponsored by John Kohler and Associates. Tuesday's lunch was sponsored by Dr. Dale Hodges.

The sponsors for the All-Age Championship lunches are as follows: Wednesday, Purina sponsored a fish fry; Thursday, Aggro Company Store in Thomasville, Georgia (Eric Smith, manager); Friday, The Wright Company (Hunter Drew); Friday night Prime Rib Dinner (Julie Ripley Livingston); and Saturday, John Mathys.

The Aggro Company Store continued their support with a monetary contribution, and they furnished two John Deere Gators for use during the trial.

In addition to the Purina-sponsored fish fry, Purina donated certificates for Pro Plan to the winners, and they supplied their logo caps and the championship logo caps.

This year's water tank sponsors are

Larron and Laura Copeland, Jim Hamilton, Hancock & Sons Construction, John Mathys, Bruce and Karen Norton, Dixie Trace Field Trial Association, Alex Rickert, Ron Deal, Dr. Kent Cantrell, and Mike and Laura Shea.

We also thank Tall Timbers for allowing the trial to operate there.

The Qualifying Series

Brace 1: Boumeester's Duramax (Mathys; Scout Carlton) and Game Heir (Corder; Scout Watson). A rare hard-freeze warning was issued for most of northern Florida for the night of the 16th. The cold temperatures prevailed throughout the night, and it was 26 degrees at 8 o'clock when the first brace kicked off. A small herd of deer in the breakaway field was a temptation for both dogs, but their training prevented a chase. Duramax was handled by his owner, John Mathys, and Heir was handled by his owner, Dr. Fred Corder. Both dogs were seen by Preacher's Pond and headed into the pines. Heir was seen on the south side of the wheat field on a long cast, hugging the edge. Duramax was on the north side. Duramax was on the board when he had a nice covey find at 22 just past the morning road crossing. At 24, both dogs were standing facing each other across a weedy patch south of the Big Garnett field. Mathys elected to take a back, and Corder flushed but could not put anything to wing, and Heir was credited with a barren stand. They went by Cadillac Pond, up No. 4 field, and on to Pikes Peak. Mathys's cap was in the air again at 49 and on Pike's Peak, and Duramax scored his second find on another nice covey. Corder took the retrieval device at 50. The brace ended in the pines west of the Manor House.

Brace 2: Dixie Heir (Phillips; Scout Mills), and Touch's Lone Dominator (Cantrell; Scout Judd). Kent Cantrell is the owner of Touch's Lone Dominator. They broke away on Acorn Hill and were hard to see through the Chimney field. They were quickly by the Wye and on through the wheat field. Both dogs were spotted before heading into the Gene field. Phillips requested the retrieval device at 23. Scout Carlton found Dominator standing in a feed patch close to the state line at 29. Cantrell flushed a big covey with no exception taken to Dominator's manners. Dominator crossed the road at the Boy Scout Cabin and went up the hill. Carlton located Dominator standing again at 47 north of the Boy Scout Dove field and notched his second find with everything in order. Four minutes later, at 51, he was pointing again north of the Long Pond before crossing the road. He had the birds located perfectly, and his third find was in the books. His bid

ended east of the Long Pond before going into the Brown Jug field.

Brace 3: Country On (McLean; Scout Jerry Raynor) and Dominator's Wild Bill (Daniels; Scout Carlton). They started in the Brown Jug field and were quickly out of sight in the pines. Scout Raynor called point for On, deep in the pines. When McLean arrived, he put the birds in the air and shot. On remained motionless. It was a good job by Raynor and On. Jack and Sarah Schwartz were mounted to support their dog, Wild Bill. As they ranged through the woods, both dogs were seen sparingly. They were both by Boyd's corner and seen heading into the Brown fields. They both showed on casts around the cultivated field before turning north. Daniels went to look for Bill and found him standing at 28 in the Brown field south of the Hagan House. Daniels flushed a single quail, and Bill watched it fly away. The rest of the hour, both dogs ranged far and wide. At time, Bill was seen making a nice cast in the Hunter field. Time was called soon afterward. Both handlers took their retrieval devices.

Brace 4: Haney's Silver Dollar (Cagle; Scout Mathys) and Erin's Code of Honor (Eisenhart; Scout Carlton). It had warmed up to 47 degrees when the afternoon competition began at 1:45. Chris Cagle, the owner of Silver Dollar, had a bunch of bad luck when Dollar was lost off the breakaway. The gallery called point for Honor at :04. When Eisenhart arrived, he was told that the birds had gone. When the judges informed him that the birds were not seen officially, he took the dog ahead. Honor ran to the front, sometimes lateral, but always returned to the front. He was standing at 29 when Eisenhart spied him. When the birds took to wing, they were just under his nose and to his side. Honor remained solid in all the commotion and at the shot. He was by Cyprus Pond, the Long Pond, and the Boy Scout Dove field at a quick pace. Scout Carlton found Honor standing on Hickory Hill at 45. Eisenhart put Honor's second covey to wing with Honor motionless as the shot reverberated through the pines. Honor worked on through the Esquire Pines and then through the short woods to the road crossing. He was out of sight when Eisenhart went north toward Windham Lake, where he found Honor standing at 60. Honor's third covey was put to wing, and the brace ended on a high note.

Brace 5: Erin's High Note (Carlton; Scout Eisenhart) and Game Surge (Corder; Scout Watson). Owner Mike Sweet was riding to watch his entry, Erin's High Note. Dr. Fred Corder is the owner of Game Surge. The brace started at the water tank

west of the Manor House. They traveled by the Hay Field and made the turn at the end of the field. They were together when they went by the Cadillac Field. They made the turn toward the Plantation Office, and Scout Watson called point for Surge at 17. He was standing in a mowed strip at the south end of the Cadillac Field on the north side. Corder flushed the covey, and Surge watched them fly away. They went into the Oil Drum field together. Note broke off and started backward around the Flat Pond. About halfway around, he slammed into a point. When the judge and scout were almost to Note, he corrected, turned around, and went back the way he had come. It was a long ride to regain the gallery. Surge was standing southeast of the Oil Drum field. Corder could not produce feathers, and a barren stand was credited here. We went by Moccasin Crossing and into the field behind the Plantation Office. Both dogs went over the levee at Rodgers Pond. Note was standing at the base of Kudzu Hill. When the judge arrived, Carlton informed him that the birds had flown. Both dogs went over the hill, and Carlton saw Note standing again at :58. He was on the north side of Kudzu Hill and had a covey located perfectly. The brace ended in the long field north of Kudzu Hill.

Brace 6: Erin's Rambling Fever (Eisenhart; Scout Carlton) and Hunt's Rollin' The Dice (McLean; Scout Raynor). The brace started at the water tank below the Quail Lodge. They went through the Horse Shoe Branch, with both scouts riding very wide. Dice was ahead in Cocklebur Bottom and notched his first find at 05. Eisenhart discovered Fever standing at 10 under a majestic Live Oak. Eisenhart could not flush anything and asked Fever to relocate. The relocation proved to be fruitless, and Fever was credited with a barren stand. Dice was stacked up again at 15 east of Windham Lake, with Fever backing a good distance between the dogs. This was a barren stand for Dice. Dice was standing again at 24. The birds were not officially seen, and McLean fired over the standing dog. They ranged ahead, each hunting the likely places. Eisenhart called point for Fever at 36, but when he got closer to Fever, he summoned McLean because Fever was backing Dice. Fever was given a back here. When McLean could not fly anything on the initial flushing attempt, he asked Dice to relocate. The relocation resulted in Dice's second barren stand, ending his bid. Eisenhart decided to save Fever for another day.

Brace 7: Pine Straw Half N Half (Phillips; Scout Mills) and Erin's Atlantic Way (Eisenhart; Scout Carlton). It was 37 degrees when Pine Straw Half N Half and Erin's Atlantic Way were loosed. Lady

Luck turned her back on Way as he was lost on the breakaway. Half went into the pines past Preacher's Pond and then into the wheat field. He crossed the main road, and Phillips watered him there. Phillips sent him ahead, and he was pointing into thick grass and weeds at 19. After a lengthy relocation and no birds were produced, an unproductive was given here. Half was short afterward, and Phillips decided to pick up at 28 at Moccasin Creek.

Brace 8: Haney's All In (McLean; Scout Raynor) and Erin's Perfect Storm (Eisenhart; Scout Carlton). Eisenhart had not returned from looking for Atlantic Way, and after waiting for 20 minutes, the decision was made to have Carlton handle until Eisenhart returned. Daniels scouted for Carlton. The brace began just past Moccasin Creek. All In went into the Big Garret field and carried it to the far end. Storm took the weedy side and took it all the way to the end of the field. Neither dog was in sight through the Peanut field before reaching the No. 4 field. At the 0:12 mark, Eisenhart returned with Atlantic Way. Carlton took the dog to the dog wagon, and Eisenhart took over the handling duties. Both dogs went over Pike's Peak, with McLean pointing out All In. Storm was not seen. All In went along the edge of the Cadillac field, turned into the woods, and headed to Acorn Hill. Eisenhart requested the retrieval device at 24. All In crossed the front at the old Thomasville Road. The gallery spotted All In to the north of Acorn Hill, and when McLean went to investigate, All In made a big swing that brought him to the water tank on the hill. All In ranged ahead through the Chimney field, and McLean whistled him on. McLean pointed him out at the Wye, but he was not seen officially. McLean spotted him standing at 48 on the southeast edge of the field just south of the Wye. McLean put the covey to wing, and All In stood motionless. The brace ended northeast of the Gene field.

Brace 9: Haney's Storm Warning (Cagle; Scout Mathys) and Miller's Blindsider (Daniels; Scout Carlton). Blindsider's owner, Nick Berrong, was in the saddle to watch his entry. Warning was handled by his owner, Chris Cagle. They turned loose just out of the Gene field and headed toward the state line field. They went by the state line, with Blindsider making a big swing on the north line. Warning turned south past Turkey field. Cagle saw Warning standing at :09 east of the Turkey field standing in a field road looking into a grassy area. Cagle flew the birds with no exception taken to Warning's manners. At the Boy Scout Cabin, Warning was on course. Daniels was looking for his charge. Warning was in front past the Boy Scout

Dove field, and Blindsider came in on the right side. They were together north of the Long Pond as they headed for the road crossing. They crossed the road, Blindsider in the lead, and both pointed on the east side of the Long Pond and headed toward the Brown Jug field. They went into the Big Woods, and Warning went east and Blindsider continued south. Blindsider was seen at Boyd's Corner, and Warning came soon after, minus his handler. Larron Copeland took over the handling duties until Cagle returned. Neither dog was in sight through the Brown field, and they were still absent in the agricultural field on the south side of the row of pines dividing the field. Carlton got Blindsider back to the front in the field south of the Hagan House just before the brace ended. There was a lot of gallery talk regarding Blindsider's failure to locate game.

Brace 10: Luke's Gospel Truth (Mauck; Scout Raynor) and Nighthawk's Rebel (Swearingen; Scout Carlton). The brace kicked off at 1:30. Truth was standing at :03 just out of the breakaway field. Rebel was backing in a pretty pose. Mauck's efforts to flush were fruitless, and Truth was given an unproductive here. Rebel was on board with a pretty find just southwest of the Hagan House at :08. Both dogs made the turn toward the Big Woods at Boyd's Corner. Out of the Big Woods, Rebel was seen going away to the front. Truth was out of pocket. Both handlers and scouts were out at Cyprus Pond. Rebel was spotted in the woods to the north past Cyprus Pond. Truth had not returned, and Mauck took the retrieval device at 37. Rebel made the turn at Hickory Hill and headed toward Esquire Pines. Swearingen watered Rebel at the tank at the road crossing. Rebel was MIA southeast of the Gene field but was back at Ben's Hog Pond, and Swearingen whistled him on into the Long Field. The brace ended in the Long Field.

Brace 11: Touch's Dancing Nancies (Cantrell; Scout Carlton) and Mayhaw's Georgia Time (Mills; Scout Phillips). Nancies was handled by her owner, Dr. Kent Cantrell. They were loosed about mid-way of the Long Field. Time took the left side and toured through the high weeds. Nancies went into the open field and cut across to the north edge. They were together when they crossed the road at the water tank north of the Manor House. Nancies went north toward the Chimney field as Cantrell continued to call on her. Both dogs were out of pocket at the west end of the Hay field. There was no sign of either dog by the Cadillac field, but both dogs came to their respective handler at the east end of the field. They made the turn, and Cantrell's hat was in the air at 26. Nancies had a covey located and stood

solid at the shot. Time was seen on the road edge going away, and Nancies made a loop in the field and headed toward the Oil Drum field. Nancies was in the Oil Drum field, and Time joined her there. They were seen at the south end of the Oil Drum field as they entered the pines. Time went into the Big Garret field, and Nancies was missing. Both dogs were out of pocket at Moccasin Creek. Time connected with Mills in the field at the Plantation Office. Both dogs were picked up early at 57 at Rodgers Pond.

Brace 12: Touch's Malcolm Story (McLean; Scout Raynor) and Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton; Scout Eisenhart). John Mathys was riding for his entry, Miller's Heat Advisory. The brace began at the base of Kudzu Hill. The gallery spotted Story standing on the side of a hill at :08 northeast of Kudzu Hill. It was a pretty picture as we rode to Story, standing on the hillside. He wasn't lying; the covey was under his nose. McLean caught the front at the water tank crossing below the Quail Lodge. Both dogs crossed together, Advisory went north, and Story went through the Horseshoe Brach and crossed Cocklebur Bottom. Scout Eisenhart found Advisory standing at 17 just south of Windham Lake. Carlton flushed a large covey with everything in order. Advisory caught the front at Ben's Hog Pond and raced away toward Hickory Hill. Both dogs were absent at Hickory Hill. McLean took the retrieval device at 37. Advisory was back with Carlton as they went over Paul's Hill. Advisory crossed Cemetery Road south of Chinaberry Hill and went ahead at a good distance, running strong. The brace ended under the Power Line.

Brace 13: Showtime Game Changer (Copeland; Scout Daniels) and Notorious Immortal (Mathys; Scout Carlton). Larron and Laura Copeland own Showtime Game Changer. Immortal is owned by John Mathys. The two owners were handling their dogs. They paid no attention to the deer at Preacher's Pond and raced ahead into the pines. Immortal was standing east of Cindy's Oak at :10. The initial flushing attempt did not produce any birds, and the lengthy relocation was also barren. An unproductive here. Changer made a good showing in the wheat field, and the dogs crossed the road together. They passed Moccasin Creek into the Big Garret field, and Immortal showed on the north edge. Changer was out of pocket. Carlton found Immortal standing at 32 in sage grass. Birds could not be produced, and a second unproductive was charged to Immortal, ending his bid. Copeland hooked up with Changer at the south end of the Oil Drum Field, and they headed to Pikes Peak. Changer passed Cadillac Pond and

Cadillac Field, and Copeland pointed him out almost to the Hay field. He passed the old Thomasville Road and was seen near Acorn Hill when time was called.

Brace 14: Rester's Cajun Spirit (Carlton; Scout Daniels) and Rester's Johnny Ringo (Eisenhart; Scout McLean). They started on Acorn Hill and ranged ahead through the Chimney field. The handlers pointed them as they traveled by the Wye and into the peanut field east of the Wye. Both dogs showed in the field and were pointed out. In the second peanut field, Ringo went to the right up the hill into the pines. McLean called point at 14, but the birds lifted before they were seen officially. McLean sent Ringo forward to the front, but Ringo was pointing again at 19. When Eisenhart arrived, McLean advised that birds had flown a short distance away. Eisenhart elected to flush. While flushing, he saw the birds behind Ringo and put them into the air. Eisenhart said that was the first time he had seen wild birds on the ground in that situation. Ringo crossed the Gene field, and just north of the field, he scored his second find at 23. Both dogs were running hard at the state line when Spirit swapped ends at 26, and Ringo honored with a pretty back. Both dogs remained high and tight when the birds flew. Two minutes later, Ringo was standing again at 28. A nice covey erupted when Eisenhart walked in front of Ringo. Ringo was standing again in a mowed strip at 32. Eisenhart reported a deer had left in front of Ringo and he took the dog on. They made the turn at Turkey Field, passed the Boy Scout Cabin, and crossed the road. Both handlers waited at the road crossing until the judges caught up. A nice jester on their part. They were together by the west leg of the Long Pond, crossed the road again, and turned up the east side of Long Pond. The brace ended in the Big Woods with both dogs in the front.

Brace 15: Touch's Midnight Rider (McLean; Scout Raynor) and Shadow's Lord Magic (Eisenhart; Scout Carlton). Vivian and John Milton were mounted to watch their entry, Touch's Midnight Rider. They started in the Big Woods. Both dogs were hard to track as they roamed through the thick timber. Magic was with Eisenhart at Boyd's Corner when he was watered. Through the Brown field, Magic was in sight as he covered the ground at a fast clip. Rider was missing. Rider was back with McLean at the intersection of courses 3 and 4. We crossed east of the Hagan House with both dogs ahead. Both dogs crossed between the Double Ponds and turned into the woods. Eisenhart requested the retrieval device at 34. Rider is MIA by the Cyprus Field. Rider joined McLean at Paul's Hill and was running away to the front when the brace ended under the

power line behind the barns. No birdwork this hour.

Brace 16: Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Dallee Scout Copeland) and Supreme Confidence (Eisenhart; Scout Carlton). Alex Mauck owns and handles Dallee. Dallee scored a covey find at 14 west of Boyd's Corner with everything in order at the flight and shot. Confidence had been gone since the breakaway, and Eisenhart took the retrieval device at 25. Dallee was taken up at 27. Confidence's owner, Claudia McNamee, was riding to watch her entry.

Brace 17: T S Jet Airliner (Henley; Scout Phillips) and Touch's Shadow Rider (McLean; Scout Raynor). There once was a personal hygiene station at the location where brace 17 started. The plantation employees know the location as "where the Outhouse used to be." Kathy Vignos is the owner of Airliner. Co-owner Karen Norton was riding to watch Rider. They were together down the field road past the south end of the Long Pond. Henley went left at Cyprus, and McLean stayed to the front. Neither dog was in sight by the Boy Scout Dove Field. Airliner cut across a slew and was back with Henley at the entrance to Esquire Pines. McLean found Rider standing at the top of Esquire Hill. When the judge arrived, he asked if the birds had been seen. The answer was negative. When McLean shot, a sleeper flew out of the brush. A find was noted here. Raynor had not returned, and Woody Watson went out to scout until Raynor returned. Watson found Rider pointing at 32 west of the Gene Field. It was a long ride to the dog, but it was a very good find by the dog and the scout. Back in the Long Field, Rider went into the pines on the left, and the scout was sent out. Airliner was absent for a time, and Henley took the retrieval device at 45. Rider crossed the road at the water tank at the Manor House, and he was watered there. From there, he was sighted at the west end of the Hay Field and was next seen at the Cadillac Field. The brace ended southwest of the Quail Lodge.

Brace 18: Touch's Blue Knight (Watson; Scout Corder) and Touch's Breakaway Fred (McLean; Scout Raynor). Co-owners Becky and Gary Futch and Mrs. Karen Norton were in the saddle to watch their entry, Breakaway Fred. Bruce Norton could not be here today. Knight was handled by his owner, Woody Watson. The brace started on the hill northeast of the Cadillac Pond. Neither dog was seen through the first planted field and were not seen at the turn toward the Oil Drum Field. We turned into the Oil Drum Field, and Watson pointed out Fred and summoned McLean. Knight was back with Watson

halfway through the field, and both dogs took the turn northwest of the Big Garret Field and went into the pines. Knight was standing in a mowed strip at 19, and Fred was backing. The stand proved to be barren, and when the dogs were turned loose, they raced ahead into the Big Garret Field. Fred went west in the Big Garret, and Knight went east. Fred crossed Moccasin Creek, but Knight was out of sight. Scout Corder called point for Fred at 29 east of Moccasin Creek. McLean flushed into the thick jumble and managed to flush a single bird. Fred was seen in the field behind the Plantation Office and went across the levee at Rodgers Pond. Fred made the turn at Kudzu Hill and went down the other side. He crossed the road at the water tank and was out of sight when the brace ended in the Horseshoe Branch.

Brace 19: Chief's Rising Sun (Carlton; Scout Eisenhart) and Touch's Gallatin Fire (McLean; Scout Raynor). Chief's Rising Sun's owner, John Mathys, was mounted to watch the action. They were fast through the breakaway field and by Preacher's Pond. McLean called point for Fire at :10 in the wheat field, standing near Cindy's Oak. McLean flew a nice covey, and Fire was on the board. Sun made a nice showing through the wheat field, and Carlton called point for Sun at 15 south of the morning road crossing. Fire was also standing about 25 yards south of Sun. Carlton advised the judges that the birds had flushed wild and took Sun on ahead. After a lengthy relocation, Fire was credited here with a barren stand. They crossed the road together, and Sun was next seen in the Big Garret Field. Fire was missing. Sun was standing on the west end of Big Garret at 31. The stand proved to be barren, and Carlton decided to save Sun for another day. Fire was not seen until he hooked up with McLean at the #4 field, and McLean elected to pick up there.

The callback dogs were Touch's Lone Dominator (Cantrell), Erin's Code of Honor (Eisenhart), Erin's High Note (Carlton), Game Surge (Corder), Rester's Cajun Spirit (Carlton), Rester's Johnny Ringo (Eisenhart), Touch's Shadow Rider (McLean), Haney's All In (McLean), Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton), and Haney's Storm Warning (Cagle).

The Winners

After a very competitive competition, Haney's All In was crowned the 2024 Continental Champion. His winning is admirable, judging by his performance and the fact that he is only 2 years and 10 months old. He handled the tough conditions of the courses like an old pro. He ran to the extreme but was always subservient to his handler. He did not have

a period when he was not running hard and going to the likely places to locate his quarry. He was out of sight at times, but McLean remained in front of the judges, confident that All In was where he was supposed to be. He was not disappointed because when All In was seen, he was always on course. His stand on his one find was pure class. He was found by his scout, and McLean had to ride to him. In the time it took for his handler to arrive, he may have blinked his eyes, but that was the only part of him that moved, including when the quail burst from the sage under his nose, and the shot reverberated through the pines. This win qualified Haney's All In to run in the National Championship.

Game Surge was named the runner-up champion. This was the year of the juveniles. Surge is only 2 years old. These young dogs have the potential to have great careers, provided their time is not cut short by illness or injury. Surge ran in the second callback brace and set the bar for winning. Surge's pace was one that allowed him to investigate a lot of country in a short time. He was not intimidated by the terrain or the rough going. He handled it like an older dog would have. He scored three finds and was rock solid on each one; he was picture-perfect. His performance might have placed him first in almost any other trial. His time will come.

The Championship Series

Brace 1: Touch's Lone Dominator (Cantrell; Scout Watson) and Erin's High Note (Carlton; Scout Eisenhart). Owner Kent Cantrell was handling Dominator, and owner Mike Sweet was riding for Note. The first brace of the callback began at the crest of Pikes Peak. They wasted no time getting into the pines and out of sight. Dominator came to Cantrell at Cadillac Pond, and Carlton was looking for Note. Note joined Dominator in the Cadillac Field, and both handlers pointed them out. They went by the west end of the hay field and turned into the woods. Scout Eisenhart found Note standing at 16 west of the hay field. Carlton reported wild pigs departing the area, and he took Note on. Cantrell went toward the hay field looking for Dominator, and Carlton stayed on course toward Acorn Hill. Note was standing at 22 south of Acorn Hill, and Cantrell was summoned because Dominator was backing. The long flushing attempt and extended relocation proved to be fruitless, and Note was awarded an unproductive, and Dominator was given a back. They both made the turn at Acorn Hill and took the north side of the Chimney field. The handlers quickened their pace to stay in touch with their charges. Note was with Carlton at the Wye, and Cantrell

was searching along with Scout Watson for Dominator. Note went through the two fields east of the Wye, and when Carlton pointed him out, Judge Jackson rode out to see Note. Dominator had not been seen since Acorn Hill until Scout Watson found him standing at 52 on the hill south of the Gene Field in a mowed strip. Cantrell flushed a nice covey with everything in order. Eight minutes later, Dominator scored his second and last find at 60 at the state line. Dominator showed on a good cast before turning at Turkey field. Both handlers raced ahead to the road crossing at the Boy Scout Cabin to gather their dogs. Cantrell called point for Note at 1:15, east of the Boy Scout Dove field. Note garnered his second unproductive when Carlton could not put anything in the air. Judge Childers told Carlton he could continue. They made the turn at the east side of the Long Pond, raced ahead to the Brown Jug field, and disappeared in the Big Woods. Both scouts were out in the Big Woods, and neither dog was in sight at Boyd's Corner. Time was called in the Brown Fields. Watson called point for Note at 1:58 near Boyd's Corner. Carlton was not present, and McLean collared Note. Dominator was back in time.

Brace 2: Erin's Code of Honor (Eisenhart; Scout Carlton) and Game Surge (Corder; Scout Watson). Game Surge was handled by his owner, Dr. Fred Corder. Honor was the Top Dog in the qualifying series. The brace started at the regular afternoon starting point. Both handlers raced ahead after breakaway to gather their dogs at Wiggins Creek. Surge crossed the front once, and that was the only sighting of either dog before reaching Boyd's Corner. Eisenhart called point for Honor at :18. Honor was in the Big Woods standing on the morning course. Just before Eisenhart arrived, Honor corrected and went ahead. We passed the huge Live Oak at the top of the hill, and Surge was seen ahead, headed toward Long Pond. Honor was absent. Scout Watson found Honor standing at 30, west of the Long Pond. Honor was standing on a ditch bank with his front end lower than the rear. Eisenhart put a nice covey up with no exception to Honor. Six minutes later, at 36, Surge penned a covey just off the horse path north of Cyprus Pond. Scout Carlton found Honor standing at 43 on Hickory Hill at the Esquire Pines. Surge was backing. Another nice covey lifted when Eisenhart stepped in front of Honor. They crossed the road together and worked through Esquire Pines. Out of the pines, Corder was in the woods to the north, and Eisenhart was ahead when we passed Ben's Hog Pond to the south. In the Long Field, Eisenhart pointed out Honor across the road in the adjacent field. Surge

was on the north edge of the Long field, crossed over to the south side, and went into the pines. Surge was strong through the pines and crossed the road at the water tank southeast of the Manor House at 1:10. Honor was still out of pocket. Scout Watson found Surge at 1:20 southwest of the hay field, and Corder put a nice covey up. Eisenhart requested the retrieval device at 1:22. Surge passed the Cadillac field and quickly made the turn southwest of the Quail Lodge. East of the Cadillac Pond, Scout Watson turned Surge off the main road and headed him back to the front. Surge showed well before making the turn toward the Oil Drum field. Surge was not in view in the Oil Drum field. Corder kept to the front, confident Surge would appear. Scout Watson found Surge standing on the east side of Pikes Peak at 1:48. It was a long ride for Corder to get to Surge. Watson knew there was no way in the time that was left to get Surge to the front without Surge coming in from behind. It was a gutsy decision to call point, but it was the right choice. Corder arrived and put the birds up as time expired.

Brace 3: Rester's Johnny Ringo (Eisenhart; Scout Carlton) and Touch's Shadow Rider (McLean; Scout Raynor). Dr. Ruben Richardson is a co-owner of both dogs in this brace. He is a co-owner of Ringo with Holly and Cecil Rester, and he is a co-owner with Bruce and Karen Norton with Shadow Rider. Dr. Richardson was in the road gallery. The Resters and Karen Norton were in the saddle to watch the action. They began east of the Oil Drum field on the hill. When loosed, they went through the pines and down the hill into the Big Garret field. The handlers passed Moccasin Creek, but both dogs were missing. Ringo was with Eisenhart when they made the turn to the Plantation Office field. Ringo made a swing through the field and then crossed the levee at Rodgers Pond. Rider had not returned. Eisenhart called point at 23 on Kudzu Hill. Ringo was in tall sage, and the birds were perfectly located. Ringo went off Kudzu Hill and showed to the front in the fields headed to the road crossing. Eisenhart watered Ringo at the water tank south of the Manor House. McLean asked for the retrieval device at 34. Ringo was on the north side of the Horseshoe Branch, and he scored another find at :41 north of Cocklebur Bottom. Ringo was missing in action, and we waited at Hickory Hill while Eisenhart and Carlton searched for Ringo. Eisenhart got Ringo at the Esquire Pines and brought him to the front. He went down the hill and turned and went up Paul's Hill. Eisenhart found him standing at 1:12, west of Hunter's field. The birds flushed wild, but they were officially seen.

We crossed Cemetery Road at 1:24 and turned hard left at the Power Line. From this point on, Ringo was not in sight. Eisenhart requested the retrieval device at 1:48.

Brace 4: Rester's Cajun Spirit (Carlton; Scout Eisenhart) and Haney's All In (McLean; Scout Raynor). Co-owners Steve and Stacy Croy were in the road gallery to cheer on their entry, Haney's All In. The brace started at the morning breakaway field. Carlton found Spirit standing in the pines south of the breakaway field at 11. Carlton informed Judge Childers that the birds had gone, and he took Spirit ahead. Both dogs used the wheat field to their advantage. Both handlers gathered their dogs at the morning road crossing and watered them. They left the road crossing, went past Moccasin Creek and All In showed in the Big Garret field. Spirit was missing. All In made a big swing through the Big Garret field west of the Oil Drum field. All In toured the Oil Drum field and then went into the #4 field. He was seen on the north edge of the field going west to east. Spirit had been gone since the road crossing, but he connected with Carlton on the south end of No. 4. Both dogs turned into Pikes Peak. They were not seen until All In came to McLean at Cadillac Pond. McLean saw All In standing at the southeast corner of the Cadillac field. All In was in high weeds, and when Judge Childers arrived, McLean informed him the birds had gone, and he elected not to flush. When released, All In went to the west edge of the hay field, and he was moving at a pace that covers a lot of country in a hurry. Spirit had not shown. All In went

deep into the woods northwest of Acorn Hill. Scout Raynor found him standing at 1:03 in a mowed strip. It was a long ride to get to him. Raynor had gone a "fur piece" to find him. The country was ideal for quail, but despite a long flushing attempt and an extended relocation the quail were not home today. It was another long, fast ride to get back to the front. All In regained the front at the Wye. Carlton requested the retrieval device at 1:10. All In made quick work of the two fields between the Wye and the Gene field. All In continued his ground-eating performance as he raced toward the state line. Scout Raynor found All In a second time on point. He was standing at the state line in a mowed strip at 1:33. He looked like a concrete dog when the birds boiled out of the sage. He made a nice cast down state line before making the turn at Turkey field. He was pointed out at an all-age distance before reaching the Boy Scout Cabin. The brace ended at the road crossing, and McLean rode for All In. It was a strong race and a very good finish. He looked strong enough to continue for another hour.

Brace 5: Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton; Scout Eisenhart) and Haney's Storm Warning (Cagle; Scout Mathys). The brace began at the Boy Scout Dove field. An unusual occurrence happened during this brace. John Mathys is the owner of Advisory, and he was mounted not to watch his dog but to scout his opponent. He was scouting Warning for his owner and handler, Chris Cagle. Carlton saw Advisory stand at 13 northwest of the Dove field. The stand proved to be barren. They went by the west leg of the Long Pond,

crossed the road, and turned up the east leg of Long Pond. At :20, Carlton spied Advisory standing east of the Long Pond in sparse cover. The initial flushing attempt was barren, and Advisory was asked to relocate. Advisory made several instances to stop and point and then move on. He finally had the running covey penned, and Carlton put them to wing. It was a very good piece of birdwork. Warning has not been seen since the road crossing. Advisory was quickly through the Big Woods, and Scout Eisenhart found Advisory standing at 32 east of the Double Pond. Carlton flushed the birds, and Advisory was staunch at wing and shot. Cagle asked for the retrieval device at 40. Advisory had another unproductive stand at 42 southwest of the Brown field. Advisory was ahead through the Brown field and went by the intersection of courses 4 and 6. At 55, Carlton was informed that he was not beating what the judges were carrying, and Advisory was picked up. This ended the 129th running of the Continental Championship.

Greenville, Fla., January 17

Judges: Lamar Childers and Mike Jackson

CONTINENTAL OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP


[One-Hour Qualifying Heats; One-Hour & Fifty


Minute Finals] – 33 Pointers and 5 Setters


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

Runner-Up-GAME SURGE, 1700091, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Maggie. Dr. Fred Corder, owner and handler.

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NORTH CAROLINA POINTING DOG ASSOCIATION

U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association Trial

By Margaret C. Drew | Hoffman, North Carolina | January 19, 2024

The southeast region of the U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association, once a very active weekend trial area, has seen a decline in these trials for the past few years. Most of these eight experienced clubs have been dormant in recent years. However, the area is still visited during the winter months by northern folks who train their bird dogs and miss the weekend trials. In an effort to bring back the trials, a group of folks signed up in March of 2023 to be part of a revival of the North Carolina Pointing Dog Association, whose inaugural trials were in January and February of 2007. The new committee was headed up by Frank Joyal from Vermont, with resident Maggie Maier as the scribe. The 2024 committee members were Tony and Marie Bly, Adam Dubriske, Ginny and Jim Emerson, Bill Fogg, Susan and Mike Fox, Mac and Nan Hillard, Frank and Crissi Joyal, Jamie and Lynne Leitch, Maggie Maier, Tim and Julia McClurg, Terry Sharpe, Bob and Barbara Youngs, Louise Wilcox, Peaches Joyal, and Pat Drennan. The original club founders were Gerald Movelle and John and Gretchen Adsit with Earl and Margaret Drew. These five remain on the committee. All of the above folks worked to make this revival a huge success. The group signed up for tasks they felt they could do to assist with planning and running the trial. Two trial dates, one in January and one in February, were identified, and state permission was obtained from the NC Wildlife to have these trials on the Bowden tract of NC Sandhills in Marston, North Carolina. After talking with Frank, Maggie met with the Drews in September, and the planning got off to a good start. For the January date, the club drew 80 entries for six classes to be held on the Bowden Tract of the Sandhills Wildlife lands off Laurel Hill Road in Marston, North Carolina.

The new committee all pitched in with significant efforts with taking entries, conducting the drawing, making judges' books, and collecting entry fees falling to Lynne Leitch. The southeast bird pen was located and repaired, with birds being picked up from local breeders by Mike Fox and Jim Emerson. Gerald Movelle provided an ATV and planted most of the birds, although Marie Bly and Maggie Maier filled in when necessary. The emergency ATV was mostly driven by Frank Joyal and Gretchen Adsit. John Adsit was the primary gallery wagon driver,



Open Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Robert Ecker with Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella, David Huffine with Sweet Grass Skeeter, and Cliff Monroe with Twiggly. (Back row): Dr. George Najor, Kerri Elfvin, Jenni Shepherd, Chip Shepherd, Gretchen Adsit, John Adsit, Frank Joyal, and Earl Drew.

although, at times, he was relieved by Frank Joyal. Course marking, preparing the wagon, gathering firewood, and a safe fire pit all fell to various committee members. Following the course flagging by committee members, Lee Crisco from NC Wildlife made sure the course was handicapped accessible. Judging went to Mac Hillard and Tim McClurg. Other judging was assigned to Jamie Leitch, Adam Dubriske, Tony Bly, and John Adsit. Meals at noon and a fabulous Saturday evening dinner were prepared by Crissi Joyal, her mom Pat, and Frank's sister Peaches. Other food prep was assisted by Susan Fox, Maggie Maier, Louise Wilcox, and Marie Bly. The club had an emergency ATV on hand to help locate and pick up dogs that ranged off course. The gallery wagon also had crates for dog transport. Chairman Frank Joyal and Maggie Maier deserve a BIG CONGRATULATIONS for directing the event.

U. S. Complete trials are always supported by Purina. The local feed store, Aberdeen Supply, provided additional feed donations for all amateur stakes. Trial success depends on organization by the committee, entries by the bird dog community, and obtaining experienced judges. It is too bad that we can't also get Mother Nature to buy into help with trial dates. On Friday, the weather could not have been more perfect. It was sunny and dry, with the temperature just right to greet and sustain the large crowd all day. However, on Saturday morning, it was a cool 27, still sunny; however, a brisk breeze came and went all day. The Sunday morning temperature was 14 early; however, it warmed a little with no wind, and the club's fire pit was frequented by all. It brings to mind that this group must be descendants of the Pony Express, as



Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): David Huffine with Sweet Grass Slim, Louise Wilcox with Sweet Grass Skeeter, and David Theroux with Henry's Susieq Dot. (Back row): Jamie Leitch (judge), Adam Dubriske (judge), Gretchen Adsit, Maggie Maier, Susan Fox, Mike Fox, and John Adsit.

no matter what the weather, they moved forward with great attitude and energy.

The Placements

The Open Puppy class drew nine entries for judges Adam Dubriske and Jamie Leitch. Adam is a professional dog trainer from Troy, New Hampshire, who trains in North Carolina during the winter months. Jamie is from Holland, Vermont. Jamie and his wife have winter property here in North Carolina. First place went to Still Meadows Little Sunray, a setter female owned by Brian and Kelly Hayes from Columbus, New Hampshire. She was handled by David Theroux from Manchester, New Hampshire. She also got credit for pointing a quail during her 20 minutes. Second went to Clarks Flash Gordon, a setter male owned by Philip Clark of Waterford, Connecticut, with Robert Ecker. Third was also handled by Robert Ecker, a setter male, Oh Boy, owned by Neal Jennings from Fredericksburg, Virginia. The judges reported that the three winners had strong forward races with advanced skills in where to hunt, with style and independence. The stake was a good stake, the other puppies being at various stages of development.

The Open Shooting Dog drew 30 entries from 11 handlers. The judging of this stake was expertly covered by area professional trainer Mac Hillard. Assisting Mac was Tim McClurg from Fowler, Ohio; he, too, has a winter residence here in North Carolina. Marty Festa's pointer female, Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella, once again gained a blue ribbon in this 30-dog entry. She is a favorite in Robert Ecker's string of competitors. She and her bracemate got separated, so many in the gallery missed her strong, always forward tour of the course and surrounding loblolly piney

woods with a wire grass carpet. She had four finds, all high and staunch. Although Marty lives in Sugarloaf, Pennsylvania, this has been Harper's winter home for several years. Second went to Sweet Grass Skeeter, a setter male owned and handled by Dave Huffine. He had five finds with a good, stylish race. Third went to Cliff Monroe with his pointer female, Twiggy. Twiggy hunted the full 30 minutes in a pleasurable forward race with two good covey finds and a single. She was also backed by her brace mate. Her third find was deep in the cover as we approached the parking area. Twiggy stood proud and sure for a lengthy flush with all in order. Huffine and Monroe are regular NC folks who support the U. S. Complete trials in this southeast area.

Continuing on with the open stakes, Mac Hillard and Tim McClurg remained mounted on their horses for the nine-dog Open Derby stake. With the thick wire grass and some oak, the best way to observe and judge was from a horse. Named first place was pointer male Can Am Cooper, owned and handled by Jamie Leitch. He had a good race as he maneuvered around the course with his brace mate (covered below as third-place winner). He had a stop to flush and a solid find with a good race. Second place went to the very white setter male, Ironstone Shannigan's, belonging to Eli Richardson from Uxbridge, Massachusetts, although handled by Robert Ecker. Shannigan had a stylish find during his appropriate race. Third went to Mia Star, a pointer female owned by George Najor and Steve McKalko. George was down from Southfield, Michigan, for this trial and the February trial. He was on the wagon to observe her brace as Robert Ecker guided her around the course. Mia had a find and a nonproductive with a favorable forward race.

To avoid bird contact, the Amateur Puppy was whistled away on a separate course on Saturday afternoon. The nine amateur puppy entries were from eight handlers. The two large puppy entries show a promising continuation for 2025 derby classes. First place went to Sweet Grass Slick, a setter male owned and handled by Dave Huffine. Second place was awarded

to Still Meadows Little Sunray, a setter female owned by Brian and Kelly Hayes. She was handled by David Theroux. Third place went to a new field trialer who entered Neale's Miss Jocassee, a setter female owned and handled by Ben Neale. The club welcomes this new couple from Clover, North Carolina. Judges stated that the entries were exciting to watch, with all showing developing range and a desire to explore the woods. We will be watching for their derby adventures in 2025.

The Amateur Shooting Dog drew a respectable 18 entries from nine handlers. Judging the stake were Adam Dubriske and Jamie Leitch, who, after handling dogs in preceding classes, muscled up and walked the nine braces. These two took the New England spirit that neither cold nor heat will stop the running of bird dogs to the top level. Morning temperatures were 14 degrees, although luckily, there was no precipitation and very little wind. Winners were David Huffine, with setter male Sweet Grass Slim, and Sweet Grass Skeeter, another setter male. Third went to Henry's Susieq Dot, a setter female owned and handled by David Theroux. These three completed their 30 minutes at good hunting range and showed good style and intelligence in handling birds.

The Amateur Derby only drew five entries for evaluation by Tony Bly, a New Hampshire professional dog trainer who also winters in the area. Tony was assisted by John Adsit from Vermont, who also has winter property in Hoffman, North Carolina. First place went to Sweet Grass Scout, a setter male owned and handled by Dave Huffine. Second place went to Can Am Cooper, a pointer male owned and handled by Jamie Leitch. The winners made the 30 minutes under consideration with appropriate bird contact.

Hoffman, N. C., January 19

Judges: Adan Dubriske and Jamie Leitch

OPEN PUPPY – 9 Entries

1st-STILL MEADOWS LITTLE SUNRAY, 1704573, setter female, by Long Gone Wallace-Chase's I'm Miss Smith. Brian & Kelly Hays, owners; David Theroux, handler.

2d-CLARKS FLASH GORDON, 1704537, setter male, by Sterlingworth Jack-Sarah Star. Philip Clark, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

3d-OH BOY, unreg., Llewellyn setter male, by Twin Thickets Nickelbuk Red-Twin Thickets Ramblin Roux. John Jennings, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

Judges: Mac Hillard and Tim McClurg

OPEN SHOOTING DOG

– 13 Pointers, 16 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter

1st-BLUE RIBBON'S HARPER BELLA, 1682768, pointer female, by Bud of Piney Woods-Blue Ribbon Bella. Martin Festa, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

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

3d-TWIGGY, 1690766, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Sinbad's Little Lady. Cliff Monroe, owner and handler.

OPEN DERBY – 3 Pointers and 6 Setters

1st-CAN AM COOPER, 1703026, pointer male, by Hirollins Gone And Doneit-Steel Valley Wardance. Jamie Leitch, owner and handler.

2d-FIRE MARSHALL BILL, 1702783, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Moonshine Sage. Eli Richardson, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

3d-MIA STAR, 1702751, setter female, by Windstar-Hometown Queen. George Najor, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

Judges: Adam Dubriske and Jamie Leitch

AMATEUR PUPPY – 9 Setters

1st-SWEET GRASS SLICK, 1706149, setter male, by Shagtime Max-Shagtime Zee. David Huffine, owner and handler.

2d-STILL MEADOW LITTLE SUNRAY, 1704573, setter female, by Long Gone Wallace-Chase's I'm Miss Smith. Brian & Kelly Hays, owner; David Theroux, handler.

3d-NEALE'S MISS JOCASSEE, 1704384, setter female, by Rock Haven Thorn-Rock Haven Miss M. Benjamine Neale, owner and handler.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 9 Pointers and 9 Setters

1st-SWEET GRASS SLIM, 1685332, setter male, by Sterlingworth Jack-Sandland Miracle Maggie. David Huffine, owner and handler.

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

3d-HENRY'S SUSIEQ DOT, 1680901, setter female, by Henry of Ferguson-Blossom's Pale Face Susieq. David Theroux, owner and handler.

Judges: John Adsit and Tony Bly

AMATEUR DERBY

– 1 Pointer, 3 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-SWEET GRASS SCOUT, 1700663, setter female, by Shag Time Bobo-Black Cloud's Angel. David Huffine, owner and handler.

2d-CAN AM COOPER, 1703026, pointer male, by Hirollins Gone And Doneit-Steel Valley Wardance. Jamie Leitch, owner and handler.

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SANDLAPPER FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Harbor City Express Wins H. Cooper Amateur Shooting Dog

By Sammy & Nida Giddens | McBee, South Carolina | January 25, 2024



Amateur Derby Winners (front, l-r): Andrea Cerofolini, Cecilia Lezzani with Jessie's Prime Candidate, Jessie Brown with Shoulder's Lone Wanderer, and Kyle Boone with Harbor City Moon, joined by Drew Bastian, Lefty Henry, George Kimbrell (judge), John Ivester, Stephanie Ivester, Bill Britt, Tim Ruff, Sammy Giddens (judge), and Tim Brigman.

"Through appreciation, it makes what is outstanding in others belong to us as well."

Amongst wonderful weather, we enjoyed coming together for the 6th annual Sandlapper Shooting Dog Trial, hosted by John Ivester, at Sawtooth Plantation in McBee, South Carolina.

Purina has been a long-time supporter of the Sandlapper Field Trial Club, and many thanks go out to Purina and Greg Blair for their contributions with the new sponsorship.

Great success belongs to club members Tim Ruff, Bill Britt, and Butch Lilly for putting in the work and showing their true dedication to field trialing. With the hospitality of John Ivester's superb Sawtooth Plantation grounds, the expertise skills of our very own Grill Master Harry Cook Jr., and not to forget the delicious warm soups and baked goods provided by Butch Lilly's wife, Gayle—all combined, was a gracious bonus for a successful trial.

It was also a memorable time to honor two of our late passing members, Dr. Billy McCathern and Tom Hall. Dr. McCathern, aka "Billy Mac," once served as South Carolina Shooting Dog President and was the oldest member of Sandlapper Field Trial Club since it began in the late '60s. He was a strong supporter and very instrumental in the club, for no one loved bird dogs more than he did. Tom Hall was a highly regarded member whose life was lost in an unfortunate accident just weeks before the trial. Tom's presence was sorely missed.

Amateur Shooting Dog

Harbor City Express ("Dan"), owned and handled by Tommy Brigman and

scouted by Kyle Boone, ran in the second brace. Dan has a great bird-finding ability, displaying an outstanding nose. Dan is an honest, front-running dog who excels for his handler. Dan kept enough contact with his handler while pounding a big shooting dog race with six finds—five were limb finds. While going down the end of a feed strip, finishing the hour with a strong forward race, Dan had his sixth find. When winners were announced, Dan's performance was described as "spectacular."

Miller's Last Call ("Bill"), owned by Scott Griffin and Derek Bonner, handled by Scott Griffin, and scouted by Tim Ruff, ran in the first brace. Scout Tim Ruff found him on this first point. Bill continued on to the next find. Bill displayed very stylish points with lots of eye appeal. He is a powerful, classy dog with a flowing, reaching gate. Bill finished out front with lots of stamina left.

B K Bonafide Stallion ("Cash"), owned and handled by Harry Cook and scouted by Tim Ruff, ran a smooth, forward race, making intelligent casts with very little scouting needed. Great rapport was evident between Cash and his handler/owner. Cash had two finds and showed great style and manners throughout the flush and shot. Cash finished the hour showing great animation while reaching far to the front.

McBee, S. C., January 25 – One Course
Judges: Sammy Giddens and George Kimbrell
H. COOPER AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
[One-Hour Heats]

– 33 Pointers, 2 Setters, and 2 Irish Setters
1st-HARBOR CITY EXPRESS, 1695399, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Mohawk Mill Zeva. Tom Brigman Jr., owner and handler.
2d-MILLER'S LAST CALL, 1702165, pointer male, by Miller's Speed Dial-Lester's Wildfair Lady. Scott Griffin, owner and handler.
3d-B K BONAFIDE STALLION, 1692825, pointer male, by Fastforward's B K Gunner-Wiggins Miss Stella. Harry Cook III, owner and handler.

Amateur Derby

Jesse's Prime Candidate ("Slick"), owned and handled by Jesse Brown and scouted by Chris Catanzarite, ran the second brace. Even with hot, humid conditions Slick ran a forward race carrying his head and tail high. Slick handled well for his handler and demonstrated strong shooting dog potential. Slick had three stylish finds.

Shoulder's Lone Wanderer ("Earl"), owned and handled by Jesse Brown and



Open Derby Winners (front, l-r): Chris Catanzarite with Backcountry Champagnesupernova, Drew Bastian with Backcountry Snake Eyes, and Cecilia Lezzani with Jesse's Prime Candidate. (Back, l-r): Lefty Henry, George Kimbrell (judge), John Ivester, Stephanie Ivester, Bill Britt, Tim Ruff (judge), Sammy Giddens, Kyle Boone, and Andrea Cerofolini.

scouted by Chris Catanzarite, ran in the first brace; He ran with a stylish animated forward displaying eye-catching appeal. Earl showed a special connection with his handler. He had two finds and finished with lots of class and high style.

Harbor City Moon ("Tucker"), owned and handled by Tommy Brigman and scouted by Kyle Boone, ran the best derby race, but unfortunately, no birds were moved. Tucker's ground efforts were animated and forever forward. This young dog shows excellent potential to be a top shooting dog in the future.

Judges: Sammy Giddens and George Kimbrell
AMATEUR DERBY

– 6 Pointers, 1 Setter, and 1 Irish Setter
1st-JESSE'S PRIME CANDIDATE, 1701162, pointer male, by Jesse's Cold Shoulder-Toccoa River Calamity Jane. Jesse Brown, owner and handler.
2d-SHOULDER'S LONE WANDERER, 1702386, pointer male, by Jesse's Cold Shoulder-Pinehill Lucky Lady. Jesse Brown, owner and handler.
3d-HARBOR CITY MOON, 1704585, pointer male, by Harbor City Crusher-Waybetter Bella. Tom Brigman Jr., owner and handler.

Judges: George Kimbrell and Tim Ruff
OPEN DERBY – 11 Pointers and 2 Setters
1st-BACKCOUNTRY CHAMPAGNESUPERNOVA, 1701699, pointer female, by Dragonfly-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.
2d-BACKCOUNTRY SNAKE EYES, 1701700, pointer female, by Dragonfly-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.
3d-JESSE'S PRIME CANDIDATE, 1701162, pointer male, by Jesse's Cold Shoulder-Toccoa River Calamity Jane. Jesse Brown, owner and handler.

COALFIELD BIRD DOG CLUB

Ohio Valley Field Trial Circuit Trial

By Mary Sue Schalk | Kevil, Kentucky | January 26, 2024



Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (l-r): Crouse's Ka Boom with Mary Sue Schalk (owner/handler), Crouse's Total Eclipse with Mike Crouse (owner/handler), and Woodsway Tara's Fury with Ben Weddington (handler).



Amateur All-Age Winners (l-r): Storm's End with Matt Pendergest (owner/handler), Imagine with Jim Pendergest (owner/handler), and Crouse's Woodrow F Call with Mary Sue Schalk (owner/handler).



Open Derby Winners (l-r): Kenton and Emerson Bryant, Flightline with Matt Pendergest (owner/handler), Armed with Jim Pendergest (owner/handler), and Crouse's Comeback Kid with Mary Sue Schalk (owner/handler).

After arctic conditions postponed the Region 4 Shooting Dog Championship the prior weekend, the Ohio Valley Field Trial Circuit was able to run their event in what seemed like spring-like conditions on January 26-27, 2024. The weekend trial drew eight Amateur All-Age entries, six Open Derby entries, and eight Amateur Shooting Dog entries. The Friday and Saturday of this event were a testament to the dedication and passion those have for the sport of horseback field trialing. There were several unpredicted events that occurred where all players stepped up to help ensure the success of this particular trial. We would especially like to show our gratitude to the following individuals: Alan Benson, Kevin Rogers, Ben Weddington, Jim Pendergest, and Matt Pendergest.

The weather for the Amateur All-Age stake was mild and overcast, perfect conditions for a day of hunting. Ben Weddington judged with Alan Benson, who stepped in to judge after Pete Glass suffered truck trouble en route. Note: Pete made it home safely before the day's end. We are certainly sorry for his frustration.

The winner of the stake came from the final brace in Storm's End, owned by Megan Henry and Matt Pendergest. Pendergest handled the much-decorated pointer female to a well-earned first place. Her brace mate, Keda Farm She's So Fine, a Brittany female owned and handled by Kevin Rogers, was picked up early as she was not pleasing her handler. Classy and strong, "Kate" ran forward and hit edges with purpose in finding game. She finished going away down the powerline, with the audience sitting forward in their saddles.

Second place was earned by Imagine, owned and handled by Jim Pendergest. Almost 4 years old, the almost spotless, white pointer male took a few minutes to

connect with his handler, but when the two connected, "Lee" showed the promise of an up-and-coming all-age performer. He and his brace mate, Crouse's Quiet Man, caused heart rates to increase in the first half hour. Unfortunately, Quiet Man disappeared on an edge at the halfway mark and was not to be seen for the remainder of the hour.

Crouse's Woodrow F Call, a black-nosed pointer male with some orange on his ears, earned third place in the Amateur All-Age stake. Call is owned by Mike Crouse and Mary Sue Schalk and is handled by the latter. Just a first-year all-age competitor, the young dog was biddable and forward. He worked to find the edges and pursued game with due diligence. Kevin Rogers handled CVK's Trumped Up, a Brittany male. Trumped Up hunted earnestly for his handler and finished his hour.

Rogers also handled Brittany male Rincon Valley Ted, in the first hour with Crouse's Tennessee Game Kate. Mike Crouse handled Kate, who made a tremendous cast to front off the breakaway and was seen next when the judges called time. Ted enjoyed his time on the ground, running forward for his handler throughout the hour.

The Open Derby stake started immediately following the Amateur All-Age stake. Ben Weddington also judged this stake with another substitute judge, Kevin Rogers. Vincent Major, slated judge, was in a fender bender en route and was unable to attend. Note: All were unharmed in the car accident, and for this we are thankful. Vincent will be back for our next event.

The winner of the stake again from the last brace of dogs. Flightline, son of Storm's End, winner of the Amateur All-Age stake, earned the blue in his 30

minutes on the ground. He is owned by Jim and Matt Pendergest, with Matt handling him to his placement. A strong pointer male, he is obviously going to be a force to be recognized as he continues to mature. He was forward and obliging his handler, an enjoyable dog to watch. His brace mate was no slouch in Crouse's Comeback Kid, who placed third in the stake. A strapping liver and white male, owned by Mike Crouse and Mary Sue Schalk, "Ted" covered plenty of ground, laterally, in his half-hour and also located a covey behind the manager's house. Much coveted birds in the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area were a sight for sore eyes! Schalk handled Ted for the father/daughter team.

Jim Pendergest was back in the winner's photo with Armed, who earned second place. Armed ran in the first brace with English setter male Woodsway's Stingin' Rain, owned by Eryn and Colleen Pearson and handled by Mary Sue Schalk. "Sting" punched his ticket in the horseback field trial, finishing his first half hour in front of horses. Pendergest's young dog was eager to be on the ground and hunted both sides of the course throughout. Biddable and forward helped "Sam" earn his spot on the table.

Notable in the Open Derby stake is that half of the entries are littermates: Crouse's Illinois Maverick, Crouse's Prairie Spirit, and Crouse's Comeback Kid. All three liver and white pointer males are strong dogs who are easy to spot on the ground. Crouse's Illinois Maverick, owned by Mike Crouse and Mary Sue Schalk and handled by Crouse, was paired with Crouse's Prairie Spirit, owned by Janice Benson and handled by Alan Benson. The brace of young dogs was another quality performance in the first 15

minutes. Benson asked for the tracker at the midpoint, and Crouse handled Illinois Maverick for 30 minutes. “Jack” ran strong and finished to the front for Crouse.

The Amateur Shooting Dog stake ran on Saturday, and everyone competed in the rain all day. Alan Benson and Kevin Rogers were dedicated judges during the entire stake. The winner emerged in the second brace in Crouse’s Ka Boom, a liver and white pointer male. “Boone” is owned by the father/daughter team of Crouse/Schalk and handled by Schalk. He hunted forward his entire hour, finished strong to the front, and was biddable under Schalk’s whistle—a pleasurable shooting dog performance for those braving the elements. Kenton Bryant was braced with Ka Boom and Schalk, running Bryant’s Give It A Rip, an English setter male. Rip and Bryant competed in the Region 6 Shooting Dog Championship the day prior, and we appreciate them coming to our event as well. Rip finished his hour but was certainly uncomfortable in the cold rain as time wound down.

The third brace produced the second and third-place dogs in Crouse’s Total Eclipse and Woodsway Tara’s Fury, respectively. Mike Crouse handled the black and white pointer female, Total Eclipse, with Ben Weddington handling the English setter female, Tara’s Fury. This hour produced the nastiest weather of the day, with heavy downpours and strong winds. True to the grit of most bird dogs, they both stayed strong and hunted while trying to avoid the biggest of puddles. All prevailed, and the

girls finished to the front, happy to get into the dog boxes.

To wrap up the day, Ben Weddington handled Cloverdale’s TN Winston with Mike Crouse and Crouse’s Pond River Gus. The weather was still challenging, but both dogs worked well for their handlers. Winston finished the hour in the driving rain, while Gus got disconnected, and the tracker was retrieved at the end of the hour.

This trial, in particular, was a testament to the kindness of both friends and strangers. With the hiccups we experienced, we are very grateful to Alan Benson and Kevin Rogers for stepping in at the last minute to judge, Jim and Matt Pendergest for helping us maneuver vehicles due to lack of a dog wagon driver, Ben Weddington for being eager to volunteer and participate, Kenton Bryant for coming to our event after participating in a Regional Championship, and to Mike Crouse for his continued help in keeping trials moving and marshaling all field trials at West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area. We certainly could not have these events without the support of our volunteers and sponsors. A 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. A big thank you to the West 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.

Kevil, Ky., January 26

**Judges: Alan Benson and Ben Weddington
AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]**

– 5 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-STORM’S END, 1687221, pointer female, by Dunn’s Tried’n True-K F Prairie Storm. Matt Pendergest & Megan Henry, owners; Matt Pendergest, handler.

2d-IMAGINE, 1693699, pointer male, by Touch’s Grey Street-Dialed In. Jim Pendergest, owner and handler.

3d-CROUSE’S WOODROW F CALL, 1700673, pointer male, by Haynes Justified Warrior-Hero’s Country Doll. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Mary Sue Schalk, handler.

**Judges: Kevin Rogers and Ben Weddington
OPEN DERBY – 5 Pointers and 1 Setter**

1st-FLIGHTLINE, 1703306, pointer male, by Lester’s Storm Surge-Storm’s End. Matt & Jim Pendergest, owners; Matt Pendergest, handler.

2d-ARMED, 1706136, pointer male, by Imagine-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Jim Pendergest, owner and handler.

3d-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.

**Judges: Alan Benson and Kevin Rogers
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]**

– 4 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-CROUSE’S KA BOOM, 1697434, pointer male, by Crouse’s White Shamrock-Crouse’s Gretzky Gal. Eryn & Colleen Pearson, owners; Ben Weddington, handler.

REGION 6 (AFTCA) AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Southern Ritz Lane Named Champion; Rebel Gold, Runner-Up

By Lisa C. Little | Huntingdon, Tennessee | January 26, 2024

The Region 6 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship began competition on Friday, January 26. The Championship was hosted on the prestigious grounds of the David Williams Family in Huntingdon, Tennessee. We are thankful to the Williams Family for the continued use of the grounds for hosting trials. The Amateur Championship was blessed to have long-standing members of the field trial community, Keith St. John of South Fulton, Tennessee, and Scott Little of Woodlawn, Tennessee, as judges. Both men brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to the judicial saddles. Several members of Region 6 were on hand to assist in the running of the trial, including David and Angie Williams, Michelle Clark, Phillip

Barnett, John Burrow, and Lebob Stanfill.

The trial drew a field of 35 canine competitors, with the most variety of breeds that we have seen in several years. In addition to pointers and setters, we had two Vizslas and two Irish setter competitors. Handlers came from all areas of the continental United States. Those traveling long distances included Sean Anderson from Texas, Adam DeLude from Wisconsin, and Dr. Pat McInteer from Nebraska. Several members from neighboring regions also attended: Region 4 members Tim and Kris Hammons, Region 5 members Jim and Kay Lawless, Brad and Sherry Hargis, and Region 16 members Jim Hughes, Bill Mason, Brian Peterson, and Lance Servais. Region

6 members vying for the title included Amber Ashburn, Kenton Bryant, Jimmy Gentry, James Heimdahl, Taylor Henley, Joe and Tessa Hughes, Hughes, Marty Moore, Buddy Morrison, Betty Shearouse, Amy and Bubba Spencer, and David Williams. It was a great time during the running and meals, getting to spend time with both new and familiar faces. We would like to thank each of these handlers for their entries.

The first day of competition was a truly beautiful weather day with cool temperatures and sunny skies. The day saw 12 competitors with 16 bird contacts. The weather changed overnight, with Saturday and Sunday being very wet and muddy. Despite the gloomy weather, birdwork continued with the two days having 16



Region 6 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front row): Tessa Hughes, Lance Servais with Southern Ritz Lane, and David Williams with Rebel Gold. (Back row): Adam DeLude, Brian Peterson, Scott Little (judge), Joe Hughes, Keith St. John (judge), Michelle Clark, and Sean Anderson.

more bird contacts. The early release bird program, along with the well-maintained grounds and feeding program that David Williams has developed, is able to maintain several coveys of quail throughout the field trial season.

We would like to congratulate the newly crowned Region 6 Champion, awarded to Southern Ritz Lane and her owners, Brian Peterson and Lance Servais. Brian handled, and Lance rode in the gallery ready to scout the 5-year-old white and

orange pointer female during the sixth brace Friday afternoon. Southern Ritz Lane impressed the judges with her birdwork and a big, forward race that did not require any during her brace. Both owners reside with their wives in Cecil, Alabama, part of Region 16, and are regular competitors in Region 6.

Entering the winners' circle as the runner-up was Rebel Gold for owner and handler David Williams. Michelle Clark, David's sister, scouted Rebel Gold. The

3-year-old white and orange pointer male ran in the third brace on Friday morning. "John" was recorded by the judges to have six bird finds during his time on the ground, which impressed the judges and earned him the placement. David and his wife Angie reside in Beech Bluff, Tennessee, and are active members of Region 6. David is currently serving as a Region 6 Trustee, and Angie is the past secretary.

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to our sponsor, Sportsman's Pride, for providing advertising in the UKC® Field and \$1,275 in gift cards for the winners. The gift cards were divided into \$750 for the champion and \$525 for the runner-up. In addition to the gift cards, Region 6 gave the winners merchandise from The Winners Circle, located in Shelbyville, Tennessee. The champion received a field trial bridle and rein set; the runner-up received a breast collar.

Huntingdon, Tenn., January 26

Judges: Scott Little and Keith St. John

REGION 6 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 35 Entries

Winner-SOUTHERN RITZ LANE, 1687633, pointer female, by Phillips Warning Line-K H Dialing Dots. Brian Peterson & Lance Servais, owners; Brian Peterson, handler.

Runner-Up-REBEL GOLD, 1701829, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Rebel Maiden. David Williams, owner and handler.

ROLLING FORK BIRD DOG CLUB

ABHA Trial Held At Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area

By Magda Lear & Kenny DeLong | Berea, Kentucky | January 26, 2024

The January Rolling Fork Bird Dog Club trial was run again on the grounds of the Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area in Berea, Kentucky. This year brought quite a large entry, mostly thanks to two professional handlers. Therefore, horseback stakes were run on Friday, walking stakes on Saturday, and finished on Sunday.

The weather forecast was changing day to day for 10 days prior to the trial, with rain being the major player—still nicer than the deep freeze plaguing Kentucky for a couple of weeks in mid-January. Horseback stakes ended up with the nicest weather: cloudy with some afternoon sun, temperature rising to mid-50s. Saturday got cooler, with upper 40s to low 50s in the afternoon with a kaleidoscope of clouds, light rain, and some afternoon breaking of clouds. Sunday was the hardest, especially on judges in a saddle: the temperature was in the upper 30s

and reached just a little above 40 in the early afternoon, the wind reaching 20 miles per hour, easing up a little as the day went on, cold light rain most the day.

The judges' panel had to be changed due to a bad fall of one of the judges prior to the trial. Therefore, the judges looking at the competitors were Daryl Thomas, who gave his time to the whole trial; Kenny DeLong, who judged horseback stakes; Justin Crook, overseeing amateur stakes; Adam Thomas, who contributed to picking Open Derby winners; and Magda Lear, Open Shooting Dog winners.

We began a crisp Friday morning with the Horseback Open All-Age stake. As is often the case first thing in the morning, birdwork was at a premium. This group of dogs lived up to the all-age standard, all running forward and large but either going birdless or being just a bit too full of oats on their finds.

Well-known pro Justin Crook handled his pointer male Two Seamer to an impressive forward race and a staunch, quality find at 12 to take the blue ribbon. Another pointer male on Justin Crook's string, Griff's Express, impressed the judges with a big forward race and was called back to show on birds, pointing stylishly and garnering second place. Ronnie Rogers' fine setter male, Shepherd's Choice, had a big race and bird contact on course, but judges elected to call the dog back, where he pointed nicely and watched the bird fly—good for third place.

Fourteen Longtails went to the line to compete in the Open Shooting Dog event. Judges observed several fine performances, but in the end, setter handler Joe Hopkins was the man of the afternoon. His male, No Leaf Clover, ran in the last brace and put down a strong forward race with crisp pieces of birdwork at 11 and 16, having started with a very impressive honor five minutes

in. Judges were in agreement, moving him to the top of the heap and awarding the blue ribbon. Joe book-ended his win, guiding his other setter male, Seven of Diamonds, to the yellow ribbon, with a very strong race and a divided find at 4. Seven was a handful and needed every bit of his five minutes after time was called back to be reeled in. Sandwiched between the two was Justin Crook's exciting pointer female, Fast Money. She was forward and slightly more moderate, with impressive finds at 7 and 25. She suffered a nonproductive at 12 and a difficult relocation at 19 that finally resulted in a pointed bird at 22—a well-deserved second place. The Open Shooting Dog Horseback stake was concluded late afternoon Friday.

The Amateur Walking Shooting Dog stake was first Saturday morning. The solid entry of 14 dogs of nine handlers brought a promise of an exciting day of competition. Certainly, most of the dogs showed their outstanding work; unfortunately, some mishaps kept a few out of the winning circle.

First place was awarded to seasoned Brittany male K Del's Eagle Magnum Hotshot ("Shooter") under the guidance of his owner, Kenny DeLong. Shooter ran strong and forward, hitting the lines on either side for his entire half hour. At 17, he was found standing at the top of the hill on the edge of the pines with what turned out to be a divided find and the bird walking out in front of him while he stood firm. Three minutes later, he swapped in on the edge of a food strip. And after a couple of relocations, Kenny was able to put a bird to wing with all in order. Turned loose, Shooter charged forward and was out of sight for three or four minutes when scout Boatright called point—the dog was found standing intensely at the edge of another food strip. The handler flushed, and the bird left, flying one foot over Shooter's head, who watched it fly across the field. At time, Shooter was far forward, going away in the field on the other side of the parking lot.

Second place was earned by pointer male Faith's Maximum Justice, another of Kenny DeLong's fine competitors. Justice was turned loose and charged forward and was found standing on the far-right tree line at the bottom of the hill in the first field. After a couple of relocations, the judge was able to spot the running bird, and the shot was fired. At 20, Justice was found standing where birds had been in earlier braces, and after several relocations, the handler reluctantly elected to take a non-productive. Turned loose, Justice charged forward and disappeared. Justice was not in sight when time was called. The handler walked forward, and the scout went to the right. After four minutes, point was called by the handler, and the judges rode up to see him

flush Bob in front of the staunch pointer.

The third-place setter, Czeszka Sharp Shark (Magda Lear), started his run, taking turns with his bracemate, setter Jim, going busy through tree lines. His bracemate had a breach of manners early on, and Shark had the grounds to himself. Shark had a nice find, standing with a high head and tail, in a food strip at 17. Due to a bird reluctant to fly, the handler moved the dog closer to pinpoint the bird, and then the bird was flushed with the dog showing good manners. Shark kept hunting well with no other bird contact and, compared to seasoned winners, had a closer range.

The Amateur Puppy, Amateur Derby, and Open Derby were run on Saturday afternoon. Since the scribes did not witness all the winners in these stakes, there is no description of the winners' work.

The Open Shooting Dog stake drew 17 competitors and ran on Sunday. Due to harsh weather, only 14 dogs started. The winning colors went to setter male Sycamore Creek Cody, who ran under Zach Erne's guidance. This beautifully looking setter had four well-spaced finds on which he showed really nice manners, and to add to that, he also hunted over the grounds with a big range but well under the handler's hand. Second place went to Zach Erne's Gordon setter male M V R Earl's Black Diamond ("Lucky"). This older setter, coming from AKC horseback circles, showed his big run with one stylish find on which he had to stand for a while for the judge to see the running bird. Third place was earned by Terry Boatright's setter female Boatright's Texas Tornado, handled by James Kleve. This busy girl had six finds, with nice style and great manners, but due to being busy with birds compared to the first two placements lacked in range.

In conclusion, we thank the judges again for their time and keen and just eyes, giving their attention to each competitor. Thanks to Justin Crook and Ronnie Rogers for bringing their horses to be used by the judges; Joe Hopkins, Terry Boatright, and Adam Thomas for most of the scouting; Brian Stockrahm for bringing his ATV to be used as a dog wagon; Tammi Savage, Samantha Holloway, and Dylan Lear for delivering the lunches, and of course thanks to all handlers for showing their furry contenders.

Berea, Ky., January 26 – One Course
Judges: Kenric J. DeLong and Daryl Thomas
ABHA OPEN ALL-AGE – 2 Pointers and 4 Setters
1st-TWO SEAMMER, 1688946, pointer male, by Rock Acre Shortstop-Frozen Desert Blizzard. Colby Tackett, owner; Justin Crook, handler.
2d-GRIFF'S EXPRESS, 1690730, pointer male, by L V's Western Express-L V's Silver Lining. Mike Griffin, owner; Justin Crook, handler.
3d-SHEPHERD'S CHOICE, 1681675, setter male, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-Katlyn's Jan. William Rogers, owner and handler.

Judges: Magda Lear and Daryl Thomas
ABHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG
– 8 Pointers, 8 Setters, and 1 Gordon Setter
1st-SYCAMORE CREEK CODY, 1691483, setter male, by Cactus Jet J R-Wynona's Cody Sue. Bob Kelly, owner; Zach Erne, handler.
2d-M V R EARL'S BLACK DIAMOND, 1662827, Gordon Setter male, by Milomix Earl-Clearcut Crack That Whip. Sandy Wollschlager, owner; Zach Erne, handler.
3d-BOATRIGHT'S TEXAS TORNADO, 1690003, setter female, by T's Nickleback-Wynona's Islander Marigold. Terry W. Boatright, owner; James C. Kleve, handler.

Judges: Adam Thomas and Daryl Thomas
ABHA OPEN DERBY – 3 Pointers and 4 Setters
1st-BOATRIGTHS IRON EAGLE, 1700325, setter male, by Woodville's Yukon Cornelius-Outcast Starbreeze. Terry W. Boatright, owner; James C. Kleve, handler.
2d-OUTCAST SIREN SONG, 1703063, setter female, by Outcast Jericho Hilltopper-Outcast Clear Vision. John Clough, owner; James C. Kleve, handler.

Judges: Justin Crook and Daryl Thomas
ABHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
– 4 Pointers, 9 Setters, and 1 Brittany
1st-K DEL'S EAGLE MAGNUM HOTSHOT, 1685770, Brittany male, by Magnum High Velocity-K Del's Eagle's Chance To Soar. Kenric J. DeLong, owner and handler.
2d-FAITH'S MAXIMUM JUSTICE, 1660276, pointer male, by Nelson's Van Max-Wild Apple Faith. Kenric J. DeLong, owner and handler.
3d-CZESHKA SHARP SHARK, 1694587, setter male, by Jaguar Za Czeszka-Skyview Jet Stream. Magda Lear, owner and handler.

ABHA AMATEUR DERBY – 6 Setters
1st-BOATRIGTHS IRON EAGLE, 1700325, male, by Woodville's Yukon Cornelius-Outcast Starbreeze. Terry W. Boatright, owner; James C. Kleve, handler.
2d-BOATRIGTH'S AUDUBON OUTCAST, 1705038, female, by Audubon Americus-Circle B Burning Stardust. Terry W. Boatright, owner and handler.
3d-BOATRIGTHS MORNING STAR, 1700324, female, by Woodville's Yukon Cornelius-Outcast Starbreeze. Terry W. Boatright, owner and handler.

ABHA AMATEUR PUPPY – 7 Entries
1st-BOATRIGTH'S AUDUBON OUTCAST, 1705038, setter female, by Audubon Americus-Circle B Burning Stardust. Terry W. Boatright, owner and handler.
2d-BOATRIGTH'S TOMAHAWK, 1706415, setter male, by Outcast Houston's Vision-Outcast Starburst. Terry W. Boatright, owner and handler.
3d-KATE'S ELHEW HALO, 1706678, pointer female, by Iowa Elhew Rusty-Miss Elhew Gypsy. James M. Edwards, Sr., owner and handler.

Judges: Kenric J. DeLong and Daryl Thomas
ABHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 14 Entries
1st-NO LEAF CLOVER, 1682457, setter male, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-Diamond's Blue Girl. Joseph & Brittany Hopkins, owners; Joseph Hopkins, handler.
2d-FAST MONEY, 1681232, pointer female, by Stash The Cash-Lester's Speed Queen. C. W. & Patty Moore, owners; Justin Crook, handler.
3d-SEVEN OF DIAMONDS, 1682461, setter male, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-Diamond's Blue Girl. Joseph & Brittany Hopkins, owners; Joseph Hopkins, handler.

NORTH MISSOURI FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

NBHA Trial Held At White Oak Ranch

By Kevin Western | Edina, Missouri | January 27, 2024

The North Missouri Field Trial Association hosted an NBHA trial at the White Oak Ranch, near Edina, Missouri, on the weekend of January 27. White Oak Ranch is a blend of cattle and row crops. This diversity of terrain and cover provides an excellent test to measure a dog's ability to hunt and find birds. A special thanks goes to Corey Huchteman, owner and operator, who allowed us the opportunity to host a trial prior to the February calving season. We did battle some mud and wintry conditions, but all those who participated brought their "A" game and didn't let Old Man Winter stop the party.

Co-chairs for this trial were Tim Penn and Kevin Western. Special thanks to Danny Martin for helping drive the dog wagon. The judicial team consisted of Jack Glover, Danny Draffen, and Tim Penn. A big thanks for their dedication and



Rob Warner's Hawk setter backing Glover's Pepper Shaker (Jack Glover, handler).

attention to the job at hand, even though they battled the elements for the entire day. Big thanks to our NBHA sponsors, Purina Pro Plan and Gun Dog Supply, for their support. Other NBHA sponsors who support the NBHA throughout the year are Garmin, Mule Brand Clothes, OnX Hunts, and Gun Dog Central.

Thanks to all who participated and made this a great event. The following are the winners.

Edina, Mo., January 27 – One Course

Judges: Danny Draffen and Jack Glover

NBHA OPEN PUPPY – 1 Pointer, 1 Setter,

1 Irish Setter, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-HACKBERRY'S BRIGHT ROSE, 1706529, pointer female, by Hackberry's Elhew Chief-Hackberry's Stormy Night. Robert Konz, owner; Brian Kennedy, handler.

2d-BEAUCOUP CREEK ABBY, 1704369, setter female, by Beaucoup Creek Buck-Glover's Pepper Shaker. Donald R. Heisner, owner and handler.

NBHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 6 Entries

1st-BEAUCOUP CREEK BUCK, 1666952, setter male, by Shadow Oak Bo-Beaucoup Creek Ellie. Donald R. Heisner, owner and handler.

2d-CHIEF DECEPTION, 1691830, pointer male, by Erin's Country Rebel-Erin's Miss Daisy. Tim Penn, owner and handler.

U. S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY & CLASSICS

Miller's Hopped Up Version Wins Shooting Dog Classic; Backcountry Snake Eyes Wins Futurity

By Verlene Stephenson | Camden, South Carolina | January 29, 2024



Robert E. Lee Shooting Dog Classic Winners (l-r): Greg Isenberg, Mark Hughes, Roger McPherson with Miller's Hopped Up Version, Ronnie Rogers (judge), Cliff Monroe with Twiggy, Chris Catanzarite (USCSDA president), J. D. Waters, Tony Bingham (handler of Emert's Sho Me Mo), Bobby Phillips, Gary Miller (judge), and David Huffine.

The annual U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association Robert E. Lee Shooting Dog Classic, Futurity, and the Les Hobbs Puppy Classic began on Monday, January 29, at 8 a.m. and lasted until Sunday, February 4.

This year's location was the well-known grounds of the Mid-Carolina Field Trial Club in Camden, South Carolina. Mid-Carolina grounds are in good shape this year due to the efforts of the members of the Mid-Carolina club. The grounds are

sandy walking paths, broomstraw patches, and field and woods edges, much like our NC sandhill areas. This past year, a fence was added to hinder dogs from running out on the road.

The Camden grounds have hosted field trials since November 5, 1959. In the 1980s, the SC House of Representatives passed a bill declaring the grounds as field trial grounds, with the Mid-Carolina club responsible for the upkeep. It is now part of the Kershaw County Parks but still hosts horseback and walking trials, with several clubs using the grounds annually.

During the week we experienced rain only on Wednesday. Conditions were good for a field trial, with temperatures just below freezing at night and warming to the 50s during the day. Several of the days, it was quite breezy.

The Robert E. Lee Shooting Dog Classic was first run in 2003. The stake honors Robert E. (Bob) Lee for being a founder of our organization. The USCSDA Futurity began in 1996. A 30-minute puppy classic has always accompanied the Futurity, but beginning in 2017, it was renamed the

Les Hobbs Puppy Classic. Les Hobbs was an avid supporter of the U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association, and a revolving trophy displaying his name goes home with the puppy classic winner each year.

We wish to thank our national sponsors, Purina and Garmin, for their continued support. Purina provided bags of dog food and hats for participants. Futurity winners received certificates for multiple bags of dog food. Garmin provided a collar for the Futurity winner and a bark collar for second place. Also, our local sponsor, Stinger Supply, provided leashes for the Futurity winners.

I have been the Futurity secretary since 2012. It takes a whole year of planning and recruiting nominations to ensure a successful Futurity and trial. In the spring of 2023, I received a call from Cliff Monroe. He volunteered to be trial chairman for the 2024 trial. He was assisted by Tony Bingham. Together, they arranged for the judges, the location of the trial, the birds, the meals for participants, and all the other details that go into planning a first-class trial. Thank you, gentlemen, for a job well done. Also, I need to recognize Lisa Monroe, who spent all week in the kitchen and made sure everyone was well-fed. In between meals, snacks, sodas, and coffee were always available. Thank you, Lisa!

Warren Parrott, owner of last year's Bob Lee Shooting Dog Classic winner, Hirollins Gone And Doneit, and wife, Renee, sponsored Wednesday night's handlers' spaghetti dinner in the clubhouse. Thanks, Warren!

Robert E. Lee Shooting Dog Classic

The Winners

Thank you to Gary Miller of Jackson Springs, North Carolina, and Ronnie Rogers of New Market, Tennessee, for judging this renewal of the Classic.

The 14th brace produced the winner, Miller's Hopped Up Version, a strong lemon and white female pointer owned by Carlos Escalante and handled by Mark Hughes. "Cricket" had four well-mannered finds, with a fancy forward race and a big finish.

The second-place dog was in the fourth brace. Twiggy is a 4-year-old female pointer owned and handled by Cliff Monroe. Twiggy is no stranger to the winners' circle. Twiggy had four well-mannered finds and a big finish, showing she still had a lot left in the tank when time was called.

The third-place dog was in the 22nd brace. Emert's Sho Me Mo is a setter male



U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Futurity Winners (l-r): Harry Cook (judge), Chris Catanzarite with Backcountry Snake Eyes, Robert Ecker with Stone Hill Mystical, Mike McKinney (judge), Mark Hughes with Millers Dusty Version, David Huffine, Bill Britt, Tony Bingham with Clayhill Pistol Pete, and Bobby Phillips.

owned by David Emert and handled by Tony Bingham. Mo had six stylish finds, a big forward race, and finished his hour with a back.

Camden, S. C., January 29 – One Course

Judges: Gary Miller and Ronnie Rogers

ROBERT E. LEE SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

[One-Hour Heats] – 39 Pointers and 17 Setters

1st-MILLER'S HOPPED UP VERSION, 1695106, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Carlos Escalante, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

2d-TWIGGY, 1690766, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Sinbad's Little Lady. Cliff Monroe, owner and handler.

3d-EMERT'S SHO ME MO, 1668349, setter male, by Brannigan's Last Straw-Hytest Horizon. David Emert, owner; Tony Bingham, handler.

Futurity

The 28th USCSDA Futurity was capably judged this year by Harry Cook III from Darlington, South Carolina, and Mike McKinney from Georgetown, South Carolina. This year, 18 litters were nominated. Two of the 18 were sired by Hirollins Gone And Doneit.

Other notable producers of this year's nominated litters are Double Deuce Zeke, Long Gone DeQuan, Mac's Silver Chief, and Miller's Upgraded Version. We are grateful to the breeders who nominated these litters and hope to receive even more great litter nominations next year.

Eric and Krysta Munden, owners of last year's winner Wildland Wild Man, provided a handlers' lunch on Futurity Day.

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

The Winners

The female pointer Backcountry Snake Eyes set the bar high in the third brace of the Futurity with a remarkable performance. At the end of the running, she was named the winner. Snake Eyes is an attractive white and black pointer owned



Les Hobbs Puppy Classic Winners (l-r): David Huffine with Sweet Grass Slick, Bryan Rathbone with Green Valleys Sunkist Sue, Trisa Rathbone, Margie Ridings with Royal Fascination, and Sam Ridings.

and handled by Chris Catanzarite from Scenery Hill, Pennsylvania. She was bred by Michael Martino from Union Springs, Alabama. Snake Eyes scored two finds and had an exciting forward race.

Stone Hill Mystical, a setter female owned and bred by Paul Berdiner and handled by Robert Ecker, took second place. Mystical had a good race with three finds.

Third place in the Futurity was Millers Dusty Version, a pointer female owned by Mike Husenits and handled by Mark Hughes from Grampian, Pennsylvania. Jack and Fran Miller were the breeders of this litter. Dusty had a good race with one find.

Fourth place went to Clayhill Pistol Pete. Pete is a male pointer owned by Bill Britt and handled by Tony Bingham. Pete had a good race with one find.

Judges: Harry Cook III and Mike McKinney

U. S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY

– 12 Pointers, 5 Setters and 1 Irish Setter

1st-BACKCOUNTRY SNAKE EYES, 1701700, pointer female, by Dragonfly-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.

2d-STONE HILL MYSTICAL, 1705110, setter female, by Erin's Big Casino-Teen Spirit. Paul Berdiner, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

3d-MILLERS DUSTY VERSION, 1706290, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Mike Husenits, owner and handler.

4th-CLAYHILL PISTOL PETE, 1701179, pointer male, by Lighting Rod-Sugar Maggie Dot. W. J. Britt Jr., owner; Tony Bingham, handler.

Les Hobbs Puppy Classic

The judges for the Puppy Classic were Cliff Monroe of Mooresboro, North Carolina, and Tony Bingham of Shelby, North Carolina. Cliff and Tony are both qualified, experienced field trialers.

Sweet Grass Slick, a setter male, bagged first place. Slick is owned and handled by David Huffine. Slick impressed the judges with a fancy hunting pattern and stylish way of moving. He handled obediently for his handler while seeking birdy objectives.

Second place went to Green Valleys

Sunkist Sue. Sue is owned and handled by Bryan Rathbone. Sue was always forward with nice moves.

Sam Ridings secured third place with his Royal Fascination, a pointer female. Royal caught the judges' attention with a classy, easy-gaited ground race.

The Les Hobbs Puppy Classic ran on Sunday morning, concluding a very

enjoyable trial. It was good to see old friends and welcome some new ones.

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

Judges: Tony Bingham and Cliff Monroe

LES HOBBS PUPPY CLASSIC

- 13 Pointers and 5 Setters

1st-SWEET GRASS SLICK, 1706149, setter male, by Shagtime Max-Shagtime Zee. David Huffine, owner and handler.

2d-GREEN VALLEYS SUNKIST SUE, 1708535, pointer female, by Hirollins Gone And Doneit-Santee River Iced Crush. Bryan Rathbone, owner and handler.

3d-ROYAL FASCINATION, 1705193, pointer female, by Hirollins Bad Boy-Hirollins Fantasy Girl. Sam Ridings, owner and handler.

ALABAMA OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP & OPEN DERBY

Nosam's Sweet Water Named Champion; Whippoorwill Vette, Runner-Up

By Tessa Hughes | Blue Mountain, Mississippi | February 3, 2024



Alabama Open All-Age Championship Winners (front, l-r): Mark Haynes (judge), Nick Thompson with Nosam's Sweet Water, Larry Huffman, Piper Huffman with Whippoorwill Vette, Jeremy Taylor (judge), and Joe Hughes. (Back, l-r): Korry Rinehart, Chris Cagle Jr., Ike Todd, Greg Bain, and Brad Kennedy.

The Alabama Amateur Field Trial Club ran its 2024 Alabama Open All-Age Championship Trial at Blue Mountain, Mississippi, as usual, on the beautiful Hell Creek Wildlife Management Area grounds on February 3-6. As always, we first want to thank Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks for the amazing effort they put into these immaculate grounds to make them so hospitable for our sport. We very much appreciate the time and effort the state of Mississippi puts into its natural resources so that its citizens can enjoy the outdoors at sporting events like field trials. The Club would also like to thank its sponsor, Nestlé Purina, for sponsoring our trial. Purina donated Purina Pro Plan dog food to each winner and provided \$600 in Purina goods to the Club at its Purina online store. The Club also thanks Sportsman's Pride Dog Food

for its continued support of our trial. The Club enjoyed delicious meals each day provided by Melissa Bain and Carolyn Page and appreciated all the help provided by various folks, including marshals Lowry Strickland, Brad Kennedy, Secretary Greg Bain, and our president, Joe Hughes. We are also thankful for club member Ronald Thrasher, who drove our dog wagon every day.

This year, we were also happy to welcome two excellent judges, Mark Haynes of Brownsville, Tennessee, and Jeremy Taylor of Rienzi, Mississippi. They kindly judged our Championship and our hour-long Open Derby stake for us. We cannot overstate how much the Club appreciates the time and careful attention each judge gave to the entries in front of them.

The Alabama Open All-Age Championship is a qualifier for the National Bird Dog Championship.

The Open All-Age Championship

The Winning Brace

This year's championship stake was won by Nosam's Sweet Water, a beautiful white and liver pointer male owned by Dale Bush of College Station, Texas, and run by Larry Huffman of Michigan City, Mississippi. Sweet Water was braced with Game Surge, a pointer male handled by Dr. Fred Corder, on the third hour of Saturday morning. Conditions were overcast and in the 60s at the breakaway. Game Surge and Sweet Water set a rapid pace away from the clubhouse to the right. Both dogs cast in the bear trap field to the left, and Sweet Water had the judges sitting up and paying attention as he brought the cast all the way around the big field. The dogs set a fast pace down through the pines and were on across Hell Creek by 30, with both casting well on the left-hand side of the big farm fields. Sweet Water again showed well, as did his bracemate. At 47, Huffman called point for his dog before the steel bridge on the right, and Sweet Water looked perfect on his birdwork, head and tail held high. He stood like a statue for wing and shot, as well. Moving on, he swept through the last fields before crossing the creek, and both dogs were back across Hell Creek and to the front again as we climbed up the other side of the creek bed. As we came back into the bear trap field from the other side, both dogs showed again, with Sweet Water moving strongly on the left-hand side and at an extremely fast pace. Game Surge went through the road gap of the bear trap field, and Sweet Water kept going, casting

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all the way around the big field and went through the far gap. As we moved through the same gap, we discovered both dogs on point on the other side of the hedge row in a divided find. Both dogs looked beautiful on their birdwork, and all was in order for the flush and shot. This concluded the winning brace.

The Runner-up Brace

Dale Bush and Larry Huffman had a great weekend at Hell Creek because they also secured the runner-up honors, with Whippoorwill Vette, a white and liver pointer male, also handled by Huffman and owned by Bush. He was in the fifth brace of the Championship, along with Touch's Cocaine Blues, a pointer male, handled by Randy Anderson. These dogs broke away at the rock road at the second hour on Saturday afternoon from the rock road with conditions still holding in the 60s. Vette scored a beautiful find at 9 on Rock Hill and looked magnificent when we reached him, standing beautifully for wing and shot. Both dogs were moving through the country at a fast pace thereafter, and we were back across the rock road and through the pines fairly quickly. As the dogs were moving through the lines of pines, Vette could be seen streaking on the right at an extremely fast pace. We then swept down across Hell Creek and up the other side. At this point, things got really wild, and here is where Vette secured his trophy as Vette turned and went down the long "airplane field" bottom and carried it all the way around. Scout Nick Thompson eventually went in pursuit, and Huffman rode down the chute and into the bear trap field, calling as he went. As the gallery reached the bear trap field, Anderson had Blues at some point. Then, amazingly, after a few minutes, Vette swept into the far opening of the field where we go out on the first hour, with Thompson eventually following in behind. Vette did not look like he had run approximately 2,200 yards or more in a few minutes; he did not even look winded; he looked as strong as he did when he started. He seemed to gain speed as he dipped around through the edge of the pines on the far-left side of the field. He never wavered from the front and finished strong in the field in front of the clubhouse at pickup. Cocaine Blues also finished in the same field but did not have bird contact in his hour.

The Running

We opened Saturday morning to partly sunny/partly overcast conditions in the 40s that quickly warmed into the low 60s. I'm Gallant, pointer male (Anderson), and Haney's Hurricane Seeker, pointer male (David Russell), were in the first brace leaving to the left of the clubhouse. Both

dogs started off at a fast clip, and Hurricane Seeker scored a beautiful find at 32 at the end of Hell Creek before the long bottom, looking beautiful on his birds. He held well for the wing and the shot. Anderson called point for his dog at 48 on Rock Hill, and after relocation, moved birds for Gallant. All was in perfect order for Gallant, who also looked very nice. At 51, Hurricane Seeker had another find before we reached the rock road. Again, his manners were impeccable. Both dogs finished the brace.

In the second brace leaving from the rock road were Miller's Wide Out, pointer male (Anderson), and Lester's Storm Chaser, pointer male (Lefty Henry). The Club was pleased to have John Ivester of North Carolina, Storm Chaser's owner, also join us in the gallery for the morning's braces. Both dogs started out strong from the breakaway and moved quickly past the old home site on the left. At 36, Wide Out scored a find in cover on the left at the plum tree thicket before we turned sharply to the left to head toward the rock road. He looked beautiful on his birds, and all was in order for the flush. Unfortunately, Wide Out could not be located at pickup, and although Storm Chaser finished well in the far field at pickup, he went birdless.

The third brace was the championship brace and has been covered.

The fourth brace was comprised of Haney's Last Call, a pointer male (Chris Cagle Sr.), and Painted Owyhee Toad, a pointer male (Bridget Ledington). We were again away strong on the left from the clubhouse on Saturday afternoon with conditions in the 60s. Cagle called point for his dog at 7 in the first field on the right. Last Call looked beautiful on his birds, and all was in order for both wing and shot. Continuing on, Last Call again struck birds before we reached the rock road with a find at 12 with Toad backing. Both dogs looked very nice and held well for their birdwork. Both dogs then showed well through the pines, and we moved on into the fields to the left side of Hell Creek. At 36, Chris Cagle Jr. called point for Last Call again on the left beside Hell Creek with Toad again backing, and all was in order. At 53, Chris Cagle Sr. requested his tracker. At 54, Toad suffered an unproductive, but he quickly moved down the same hedgerow and found birds. Unfortunately, he was in the harness thereafter.

The fifth brace was the runner-up brace and has been covered.

Game Heir, pointer male (Corder), and Ascension, pointer male (Korry Rinehart), finished the first day of running. Ascension had a find at 3 in the first field and then quickly rejoined his bracemate as they moved into the bear trap field. After we

crossed over Hell Creek, Game Heir crossed over into the right farm fields with Strickland, his scout, pursuing him. Ascension brought up the left farm fields. At the far end of the course, before we made the small crossing and started to turn back, Rinehart called point at 29 for his dog. However, Ascension went with the birds and was in the harness thereafter. Game Heir then scored a beautiful find at 47 before the steel bridge and held well for wing and shot. He continued on running hard and struck birds again at 53 before we made the creek crossing. Dr. Corder flushed birds for his dog, and Heir stood well, holding for the shot and the flight of the birds. Heir finished the hour in the bear trap field.

Sunday's running did not take place due to hard rain and thunderstorms in the area.

We resumed running on Monday with cooler and very muddy conditions. Touch's Fire Away, pointer male (Anderson), and Haney's Silver Dollar, pointer male (Cagle Sr.) started us off. At 36, point was called for Fire Away at the end of the island, and on relocation, birds were flying. Although Anderson called point for his dog again at 50 on Rock Hill, relocation did not produce birds. Fire Away finished the hour strong. Silver Dollar went birdless and was lost at pickup.

The second brace of the morning was comprised of Miller's King Poast, pointer male (Rinehart), and Como Rain, pointer male (Russell), leaving again from the rock road. Como Rain scored a find on Rock Hill at 15 with King Poast backing, and Como Rain looked very nice on his find. He then had another beautiful find at 33 before the lines of pines and again held well for wing and shot. Rinehart requested the tracker at 42. Como Rain scored another find at 46 before the road crossing, handling his birds quite well, and finished his hour.

The third brace on Monday was made up of Haney's Storm Warning, pointer male (Cagle Sr.), and Bonner's Bulletproof, pointer male (Anderson). These dogs moved at a rapid clip away from the clubhouse on the right and were in the bear trap field quickly. They made beautiful casts there and then were not seen for a short time. Both were to the front once we were across Hell Creek, with Bulletproof having a find at 23 with Storm Warning backing on the far side of the farm field at 23. Continuing on, the show was really on, as Storm Warning does something a few notable all-age dogs do: when he casts at top speed, he occasionally spins back to check what he scents. When you see it from a distance at places like Hell Creek, when he is running in wet fields, he throws up

“rooster tails” of water because he moves so fast. So, Storm Warning was sending up rooster tails of water as he skidded across the far side of the last field on the backside, hunting at top speed, and Bulletproof was no slouch either, as he is a fast dog and was moving at a rapid pace, as well. Both dogs swept on across the far end and were sighted several times in the next fields over, heading always to the front. As we were heading back, at 37, we found them before the small ditch crossing before the fields open back up, with Storm Warning pointing and Bulletproof backing from several yards. No birds were produced at first by Cagle Sr., as he was stomping in heavy briars and stating that the birds were moving away, and then Bulletproof moved on the back and was up. Although the judges then were able to and did move up to assist Cagle Sr. in trying to see birds, no birds were flushed for quite some time, and Storm Warning still stood motionless through all the pressure. However, when Cagle went back to secure his dog, a bird flushed in Storm Warning’s face, and Cagle thereafter picked him up.

For our last brace of the championship, we had Bonner’s Hot Rize, pointer male (Rinehart), and Miller’s Speed Dial, pointer male (Anderson). This pair of dogs left on the first breakaway strong and were



Open Derby Winners (front, l-r): Kevin Dixon with Full Ride and Bridget Ledington with Quail Woods Pine. (Back, l-r): Brad Kennedy, Greg Bain, Mark Haynes (judge), Randy Anderson, Jeremy Taylor (judge), Joe Hughes, and Ronald Thrasher.

running hard. They crossed the rock road and were through the pines quickly. They were found on point together at 32 in heavy cover before we moved into the Rock Hill field. However, on the flush, they suffered a breach of manners and were in the harness, thus concluding the championship.

Blue Mountain, Miss., February 3

Judges: Mark Haynes and Jeremy Taylor

ALABAMA OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 20 Pointers

Winner-NOSAM’S SWEET WATER, 1682042, male, by Whippoorwill Mayhem-House’s House Fly. Dale Bush, owner; Larry Huffman, handler.

Runner-Up-WHIPPOORWILL VETTE, 1682323, male, by Whippoorwill Justified-S J Kentucky Sue. Dale Bush, owner; Larry Huffman, handler.

The Derby

Out of a field of 10 talented derbies, Full Ride, a pointer male handled by Randy Anderson, secured the first-place trophy. We were pleased to have its owner, Kevin Dixon of Sulphur Springs, Texas, join us in the gallery and ride to watch his dog compete. Full Ride ran on the third hour course, made some exciting casts in those big fields, and scored a beautiful find at 40. He put down a strong forward race for his hour and showed great potential as an all-age dog. Quail Woods Pine, a pointer male also handled by Randy Anderson, ran a happy-going race for his first brace hour and scored an excellent find to seize his second-place honors. Lester’s Front Porch, a pointer male handled by Rinehart, ran in the second brace after lunch on Monday and also did a handsome job, scoring one find in his hour to secure his third-place honors.

OPEN DERBY [One-Hour Heats]

– 8 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-FULL RIDE, 1702143, pointer male, by Dixon’s Rolling Stone-Dixon’s Girl’s Got Rhythm. Kevin Dixon, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.

2d-QUAIL WOODS PINE, 1701043, pointer male, by Touch’s Fire Away-Wynona’s Valiant Rosietta. Gregory Adams, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.

3d-LESTER’S FRONT PORCH, 1705484, pointer male, by Lester’s Storm Surge-R W Susie Q. Gary Lester, owner; Korry Rinehart, handler.

NGSPA REGION 16 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Championship Series Held At Showtime Plantation

By Diane & Peter Coppens | Bronwood, Georgia | February 5, 2024

The 2024 Championship was held at “THE” Showtime Plantation in Bronwood, Georgia. These grounds are well-groomed for multiple courses run on wild birds. Showtime Plantation is owned and maintained by Larron and Laura Copeland. Our gallery marshals were Colt Copeland and Larron Copeland. The one and only Brady Copeland was the dog wagon driver. I would also like to thank Larron’s workers for all their help with dog food, firewood, pine starter, hay for horses, and clean-up. Thank you, Bobby, Melvin, Bo, Marco, and Sammy. There is a nice clubhouse where we serve lunches and suppers. Thanks, April DiMambro, for cleaning up after we left.

We want to thank Purina, Karl Gunzer, Greg Blair, and Terry Trzcinski for their support and SportDOG and Jim Moorehouse for the dog collars.

We want to thank Andy and Becky for a couple of lunches; Mom, Sue Coppens, for lunches; Diane for lunches, suppers,

and pictures (and all the other many things she does to make this championship run smoothly); Chris Young for burning all the breakfast ham (all joking aside, thanks to Chris and Jen Goodall’s breakfast sandwiches); Dan and April DiMambro for the spaghetti dinner; and Art Terstage, thank you being there wherever we needed you; it is much appreciated—big shout-out to all those who worked hard to make this championship run smoothly.

NGSPA Region 16

Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

The Shooting Dog started on Monday, February 5, due to a rainy day on Sunday. Mr. Justin “Medium Enos Burdette” Hess and Mr. Colt Copeland were our capable judges. Thank you to these two gentlemen and their time looking at dogs. We had 26 dogs entered with 24 coming to the line. The handlers came from across the county to attend this premier wild bird trial. Thank you to each and every amateur; we appreciate your support. In attendance

were Helmut Schoen, Jason Brooks, Art Terstage, Mike Kindler, Jack Marchese, Bob Salamone, Kirk Loftin, Sherri Tangsrud, Chris Young, Robert Renolds, Andy Dynkiewicz, Doug and Heather Miller, Hank and Dena Lewis, Peter and Diane Coppens.

The Region 16 Amateur Shooting Dog winner was Uodibar’s Robbi Jo, owned/scouted by Sherri Tangsrud and handled by Kirk Loftin. Robbi was in the first brace. She had finds at 12 and 19, a divided find at 38, and another at 50. Robbi ran a good all-around race. She was strong, to the front, and listened to her handler. This performance won Robbi the Amateur Championship title.

The runner-up was In Country’s Hurricane Jane. Dr. Robert Reynolds and Chris Young own her. Chris Young handled, and Art Terstage was the scout. Janey was the first brace after lunch on the first day. She had finds at 15 and 30. She carded an unproductive during the hour.



NGSPA Region 16 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front, l-r): Sherri Tangsrud with Uodibar's Robbi Jo and Art Terstages with In Country's Hurricane Jane. (Back row): Kirk Loftin, Justin Hess (judge), Dr. Robert Reynolds, Peter Coppens, Chris Young, and Colt Copland (judge).

Janey ran a powerful shooting dog race. She was forward and also had a limb find near the clubhouse. Janey's strong run was why she was named the Amateur Shooting Dog runner-up.

Bronwood, Ga., February 5

Judges: Colt Copeland and Justin Hess

NGSPA REGION 16 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

- 24 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-IN COUNTRY'S HURRICANE JANE, 1672744, female, by Hi N's Bodacious-Slaterock Mattie Clark. Robert Reynolds & Chris Young, owners; Chris Young, handler.

NGSPA Region 16

Open All-Age Championship

Thank you to our pros who supported this stake. Joe Orndorff, Dan and April DiMambro, and Jon and Jessica Hann. Also running in this stake were Doug and Heather Miller, Hank Dena Lewis, Kirk Loftin, and Sherri Tangsrud. We drew 14 dogs. Judges were Mr. Justin Hess from Exira, Iowa, and Mr. Colt Copeland of Bronwood, Georgia.

The 2024 champion was Chicoree's Riden High Trixie, handled by Dan DiMambro and scouted by Hank Lewis. Trixie was in brace 7. She broke away and was found forward and standing at 28, all manners in order. Trixie's owner, Jeff Alexander, was not in attendance to see this performance, but she finished forward and strong for Monkeyshine Kennels. This outstanding performance was rewarded with the All-Age Championship title.

The runner-up was awarded to Hi N's Dirty Secret (Badger). Badger is owned/handled by Hank Lewis, and Dena Lewis was the scout. Badger came from brace 6. She had an unproductive with Dena handling. Hank returned to find Badger standing on a nice covey to the front. She was strong, to the front, and handled well for the Lewis'. This performance garnered her the runner-up



NGSPA Region 16 Open All-Age Championship Winners (front, l-r): April DiMambro with Chicoree's Riden High Trixie and Dena Lewis with Hi N's Dirty Secret. (Back row): Dan DiMambro, Justin Hess (judge), Colt Copeland (judge), and Hank Lewis.

champion title.

NGSPA REGION 16 OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

- 14 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-HI N'S DIRTY SECRET, 1687997, female, by Hi N's Bodacious-Hi N's Hasty Matilda. Hank Lewis, owner and handler.

NGSPA Region 16

Open Shooting Dog Championship

By Chad Chadwell

The NGSPA Region 16 Open Championship started on Thursday, February 8, at approximately 9:15 a.m. and ended on Saturday, February 10. The weather was nearly ideal for running and watching dogs, with temperatures starting in the 40s and highs in the upper 50s. Friday and Saturday were considerably warmer, with highs in the 70+ degrees. Thirty-six dogs were brought to the line in this year's Open stake. Thank you to our pros who supported this stake. Joe Orndorff, Dan and April DiMambro, Jon and Jessica Hann, Jason King, and Dave Walker. Also running in this stake were Hank and Dena Lewis, Jesse Conroy, Kirk Loftin, and Sherri Tangsrud. We drew 37 dogs for this stake. Judges were Mr. Chad Chadwell from Springfield, Illinois, and



Chicoree's Four Leaf Clover, Runner-up in the NGSPA Region 16 Open Shooting Dog Championship.



NGSPA Region 16 Open Shooting Dog Championship Winner (front): Jessica Hann with Perfections Huckleberry. (Back row): Nancy Browne, Chad Chadwell (judge), Jon Hann, and Will Dunn (judge).

Mr. Will Dunn of Lebanon, Kentucky. We appreciate your expertise and time in the saddle.

The open champion for the 2024 NGSPA Region 16 Championship is Perfections Huckleberry ("Huck"). Huck was handled by Jon Hann, scouted by Jessica Hann, and is owned by Chase Benton. Huck ran in the 14th brace. He started at a good pace and maintained that pace throughout the hour. He ran deep ahead of his handler for the most part and consistently appeared to the front. Huck required little direction from Jon and hunted well on both sides of the course, which was pleasing to the judges. At 46, his scout called point well off the trail in a wooded valley. Jon and the judge had to ride a good distance to reach him. A nice covey of approximately a dozen birds was flushed with all in order. Huck finished the hour in strong fashion as he had started the brace and was rewarded with winning the championship.

This year's runner-up is Chicoree's Four Leaf Clover ("Chloe"), handled by Dan DiMambro, scouted by April DiMambro, and owned by Dr. Fred Ryan. Chloe ran in the third brace on course 1. Chloe started at a fast pace and ranged well ahead in the open fields. For the most part, she handled well for her handler. Chloe was found on point by Dan just past a grassy area at the edge of an open-cropped field at 17. Dan flushed a small covey of five birds with all in order. Chloe finished the hour with a good run and was rewarded with the Open Championship runner-up.

**Judges: Chad Chadwell and Will Dunn
NGSPA REGION 16 OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**

- 37 German Shorthairs

Winner-PERFECTIONS HUCKLEBERRY, 1672078, male, by Odyssey's Perfect Traveler-H's Double A Flagship. Chase Benton, owner; Jon Hann, handler.

Runner-Up-CHICOREE'S FOUR LEAF CLOVER, 1706674, female, by Twin Creeks Running Ruger-Hi N's Allison Miranda. Fred Ryan, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.

NGSPA Region 16 Derby

By Art Terstage

The Derby started right after the Open Shooting Dog Championship announcement and was judged by Colt Copeland and Art Terstage. Thank you both for stepping up and your time in the saddle. It was a beautiful, sunny afternoon in Georgia and a good day to run some young dogs. Six dogs were shown to the judges which were run on the first half of championship course 1.

Stoney Hill's Runnin DaRidge ("Ridge"), handled by Kirk Loftin and scouted by Sherri Tangsrud, was deservingly awarded first place. Ridge made powerful moves throughout the entire brace and handled while doing so. He also demonstrated his beautiful gate and class,



NGSPA Region 16 Derby Winners (front, l-r): Sherri Tangsrud with Stoney Hill's Runnin DaRidge, Kirk Loftin with Stoney Hill's Play It Again, and Jessica Hann with Travelin In Perfect Style. (Back row): Art Terstage (judge), Colt Copeland (judge), and Jon Hann.

Stoney Hill's Play It Again ("Buzz") was awarded second place. Buzz was handled by Krik Loftin and scouted by Sherri Tangsrud. Buzz showed a good race with some stellar, powerful moves and finished with a large swinging move at the finish.

Travelin In Perfect Style ("Lettie") took third, handled by John Hann and scouted by Jessica Hann. Lettie started out a bit slow and built throughout the brace, showing her snappy gate combined with some large moves.

Judges: Colt Copeland and Art Tangsrud

NGSPA REGION 16 DERBY – 6 German Shorthairs

1st-STONEY HILL'S RUNNIN DARIDGE, unreg., male, by Twin Creeks Running Ruger-Hi N's Allison Miranda. Kirk Loftin, owner and handler.

2d-STONEY HILL'S PLAY IT AGAIN, unreg., male, by Twin Creeks Running Ruger-Hi N's Allison Miranda. Kirk Loftin, owner and handler.

3d-TRAVELIN IN PERFECT STYLE, 1703754, female, by Odyssey's Perfect Traveler-Autry's Joker's Harley Quinn. Jon Hann, owner and handler.

*** **Announcement** ***

We would like to invite everyone to plan to attend this wild bird championship. We have confirmed that we will be running at Showtime Plantation in February 2025.

NGSPA REGION 11 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Lambourn's Surface Air Missile Wins Open All-Age; Quijano's W D Forty Rusty Wins Shooting Dog

By Larry Metter | Mesquite, Nevada | February 6, 2024

After taking several years off, the NGSPA Region 11 Championships were moved to the Mormon Mountains in Mesquite, Nevada. The grounds are spectacular. The courses are set in a valley by mountains, which allows the dogs to make nice forward moves up hillsides and still be in plain sight of the judges, handlers, and gallery. The weather was primarily overcast, with light to moderate rain at times. Although there are washes and ravines throughout the courses, there was never enough rain to get running or standing water. The temperatures were in the 40s to 50s and perfect for running dogs—heat was never an issue.

The trials had great participation, and we had handlers from Arizona, Nebraska, Washington, Utah, Idaho, California, Colorado, and Nevada. The professional trainers that participated were Josh Nieman and Patrick Clark. We'd like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors, Purina and Dogs Unlimited, for their contributions.

NGSPA Region 11 Open All-Age Championship

Champion

The winner was Lambourn's Surface Air Missile ("Sam") owned by Robin Lambourn and handled by Josh Nieman. Sam was always forward and made several very nice moves up the hillsides. He

had two finds, handled the flush and shot without any movement, and showed great manners. The judges said the first two dogs were very close in performance but felt that Sam had two big moves that were the difference-makers.

Runner-Up Champion

The runner-up champion was B M B's Free Ride ("Lewey"), owned by Brandon and Jennifer Blum and handled by Brandon. Lewey was mostly forward while making some very nice moves up the numerous hillsides. He had three nice finds that were evenly spaced, and he handled without any movement and showed great manners. Lewey finished strong to the front, completing an impressive all-age performance.

Mesquite, Nev., February 6 – One Course

Judges: Mark Calder and Jeff Rhine

NGSPA REGION 11 OPEN ALL-AGE

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

– 8 German Shorthairs

Winner-LAMBOURN'S SURFACE AIR MISSILE, 1684855, male, by Lambourn's Slick Shot-Cuttin Wild's Lil Angel.

Robin Lambourn, owner; Josh Nieman, 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 Region 11 Open Shooting Dog Championship

Champion

The winner was Quijano's W D Forty

Rusty, owned by Davis Quijano and handled by Josh Nieman. Rusty had a very nice run; he was always forward, had no flat spots, and spent a considerable amount of time hunting the hillsides. His birdwork was evenly spaced and was handled perfectly. The judges commented that there were 7 to 8 very nice runs, but Rusty's was the best.

Runner-Up Champion

The runner-up champion was Dunfur's Tuff Dixie ("Dixie") owned by Matt and Wyatt Solt and handled by Matt Solt. Dixie started off very strong to the front and was found standing early on a nice covey of quail, which she handled perfectly. She was again found standing at 10 with her bracemate backing—again, all the birdwork was flawless. Dixie continued to hunt the hillsides and had her final find at 35 with her bracemate honoring. She finished forward and was out in front at time.

Judges: Mark Calder and Mick Cheshire

NGSPA REGION 11 OPEN SHOOTING DOG

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

– 14 German Shorthairs

Winner-QUIJANO'S W D FORTY RUSTY, 1683347, male, by Llano's Game On Dude-Brays Henna. David Quijano, owner; Josh Nieman, handler.

Runner-Up-DUNFUR'S TUFF DIXIE, 1694044, female,

by Texas Tuff-Dunfur's Door Number Threeway. Matt &

Wyatt Solt, owners; Matt Solt, handler.

41ST U. S. COMPLETE NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Smoke Rise Jake Adds a Fourth Championship Title

By Margaret C. Drew | Hoffman, North Carolina | February 8, 2024

Once again, February brought the U. S. Complete National Open Shooting Dog Championship to the prestigious J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area in Hoffman, North Carolina. These 950 acres designated for field trials by the N C Wildlife Resources Commission began its development in 1949, with the first trial being held in 1954. Since then, additional courses were added to comprise the present six equal one-hour courses. A systematic plan is in place for mowing, clearing, and planting strips over the approximate 32 miles of course. The courses are now marked every mile for assistance should an emergency occur. Course 1 is orange, followed in numerical sequence with green, red, white, yellow, and blue. The newly updated map in the clubhouse allows folks to see the intricate six courses as they weave through the countryside. All of the main connecting dirt roads now have names and road signs. There are horse corrals, dog kennels, a horse barn with stalls, running water in several areas, electrical hook-ups, and a first-class clubhouse facility. The lands were originally acquired by a federal government grant for the preservation of wildlife and forestry, especially longleaf pine. Each course has some man-made water holes, and a few have brook crossings, with cleared strips 70 yards wide, which are bound by piney woods. These strips have planted crops to invite wildlife. Since 1981, the wildlife has worked with the North Carolina Field Trial Association to release quail in October. The association has purchased a tractor and feed hopper to feed the six courses weekly. The wildlife crew at the local wildlife maintenance depot is in charge of burning, clearing, planting, and mowing the courses. A big thank you does not cover the work done on these grounds by Lee Criscoe and the area NC wildlife crew.

The U. S. Complete Walking Shooting Dog Association was founded in 1981 by Robert Lee, Jack Myrick, and Gerald Shaw. Their combined talents made the organization a success. In 1983, the American Field awarded the group a championship. The runner-up in the inaugural championship was handled by W. Mills Hodge, who was in attendance at the Saturday, February 10, 2024, Purina Handlers' dinner at the Hoffman clubhouse. In the 1983 championship, Hodge's dog, "Star," had 10 well-handled shooting dog



U. S. Complete National Championship Winners (front row, l-r): Mark Hughes (scout) with Smoke Rise Jake, David Huffine with Sweet Grass Skipper, Fred Rose holding owner's tray, Lefty Henry (judge), Margaret Drew (reporter), Gary Miller (judge), Margie Ervin, Vicki Grantham, Cliff Monroe, Tony Bingham, Bob Young, Daryl Grantham, Earl Drew, Colin Ervin, Lynne Leitch, Gretchen Adsit, Greg Robinson, J. D. Waters, and John Adsit.

finds. (In the early days, a dog also had to retrieve.) Hodge told the gathering that his vest was full of quail that day. (The champion of the inaugural championship was a pointer male, "Jack," handled by Graham Parker.) In 1995, the requirement for a dog to remain steady to wing and shot, and retrieve was changed. Since 1995, dogs only have to be steady to wing and shot. Of course, then and now, a dog's pattern on the ground, their style running, and pointing are all part of what judges consider when naming a champion. The U. S. Complete is a family-orientated field trial association. As of 2023, the first scholarship was awarded to graduating students. For more information about the scholarship, visit the U. S. Complete website or contact an association officer.

This National Championship was brought to the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial grounds in Hoffman in 2018 by Ted Riley. Ted was the sitting president of this southeast region at the time and had many close relationships with the founding families. At the first Purina dinner at the Hoffman venue, scrapbooks were on display to show the history, and many family members were present, as founder Bob Lee had recently passed. The event has remained in this prestigious location as founded by the state of North Carolina. As you can see, the state of North Carolina wanted the "sandhills" to be preserved for generations to come, where people can enjoy the land.

Hoffman Field Trial Grounds in the Sandhills of North Carolina

In early 1968, the Wildlife Commission proposed a 10-year development plan for 950 acres obtained by the Federal Government for wildlife and forestry. About 87 acres of these blocks were within the proposed 31-mile planted strips. At the end of the initial proposed 10-year time frame, this 31-mile planted strip would contain 782 acres of sericea lespedeza and 84 acres of rye and millet for a total of 950 planted acres.

As indicated, the first trial was held in 1954, which precipitated the completion of plans for a barn and circular dog kennels in 1955.

By 1970, the NC Wildlife Commission expressed that the area had developed a favorable environment and wanted to attract more outsiders. They set out to promote the hosting of national and large regional events.

In 1971, additional dog kennels were built, as well as horse corrals and water made easily available. In 2022, with outside funding, the NC Wildlife staff erected red horse corrals where water is readily available. Additional electrical outlets were also installed.

In the '70s, wild quail had declined, and the field trial association petitioned the NC Wildlife Commission to allow the release of quail in the fall before the field trial season began. The trial schedule is decided

in July at the summer association meeting, with trials held from October through the end of March. As of July 2023, the number of days trials may be held each year is 19. With the cooperation of NC Wildlife's area staff, the grounds are kept mowed, roads are kept passable, and water holes are maintained. The NCFTA is responsible for purchasing and releasing of quail in September. The association purchased a tractor and added a new spreader in 2024 so that the birds can be fed and water provided. Since 1981, quail have been released and fed at the Hoffman Field Trial grounds.

The 1985 plan introduced improved seed crops by the state, with the NCFTA adjusting its feeding program to augment the planted crops. The clearing and maintaining of courses was continued, as were the five-year plans for burning. The Redheaded Woodpecker was also part of the 1985 plan for the preservation of trees where woodpeckers were making their homes. Visitors will see white-painted bans on trees; these are woodpecker protection trees.

In the early 2000s, an additional loop was added to the acres behind the clubhouse. Some folks called it the Dr. Bill Andrews Loop or Naked Creek Loop, course 6. Early trials were all walking, regardless of the dog's range. As time progressed, horseback was introduced. Today, the grounds attract walking, horseback shooting, and all-age events. Each group adapts to the grounds with slight "tweaking." The birds and the courses are good for all bird dogs.

Today, there are six fairly equal courses, all well marked where to begin or end. In 2021, the state put up road signs on main dirt roads to allow folks to get around better. Three courses begin in front of the clubhouse and finish three hours later behind the clubhouse. Three more courses begin behind the barn and traverse in a loop so as to cross near the clubhouse in about an hour and 45 minutes before setting out on the loop that will end an hour later once again behind the clubhouse. Each weekend, clubs alternate the morning and afternoon courses starting place.

No quail hunting has been allowed since the beginning of field trials on these NC State Wildlife grounds. However, this is a large area, and many hunters have not taken the time to read the wildlife handbook, so violations have occurred. The local game wardens cover a large area and have limited success finding those in violation. The NC Wildlife staff has stepped up to assist in solving this problem. Large orange signs with bold lettering are being posted, indicating NO HUNTING.

Additional signs concerning vehicle traffic are placed on key access roads. The clubhouse has a posted list of game warden and wildlife staff to assist trialers in reporting any violations they observe. It is recommended that photographing the license plate is very helpful.

The state maintains a dog/people wagon. This unit allows handlers and spectators not riding a horse to see much of the trial. The wagon even has cushions if you look in the storage departments. Beneath the people sitting, there are 10 wire dog kennels, so dogs are readily available when their brace is called to the line. Each club provided a driver for this wagon. The club is assessed \$185 daily for this service. Also included are beverages and snacks for the field trial participants and water for the dogs.

The quail covey count for these three-and-a-half events was as follows: Thursday (7) coveys, Friday (4), Saturday (7), and Sunday (only one). Remember, you must keep in mind if you are hunting in your favorite bird cover, you are not always successful. Weather, time of day, and other factors interfere with the amount of birds seen.

The prestigious location, with all amenities within 15 miles, makes these wildlife grounds a field trialer's dream. This nearly natural hunting environment is here whether you are a shooting dog on horseback, an all-age horseback, or a walking participant. Dogs have ample bird availability, so these well-trained bird dogs will adapt to the cover, therefore setting their range and speed to whatever they are placed in. The training they have received will rise to the top. The trainers come to championships, always bringing the great dogs together. For people, there are new friends to meet and old friends to greet.

Judging this 41st renewal were veteran area bird dog folks. Professional dog trainer Robert Lefty Henry is well known for his success with bird dogs, especially with his national champion Marques Gold Rush in 2000. Lefty is also involved with the bird program at Hoffman. Assisting Lefty was Gary Miller, well known for his bird dog involvement for several years. Gary is the 2023-24 feeder of the released quail. So, as you can see, both of these guys know dogs and understand the elusive quail at Hoffman. Their attention to all dogs and assistance to handlers was well received.

Friday evening, a dinner in honor of last year's winner, Glassilaun War Paint, was served by owner Jamie Nee from Massachusetts. Forty-one people crowded into the clubhouse for a festive evening. Jackets were presented for the 2023 Dog

of the Year to handler Tony Bingham, who also accepted Hirollins Gone and Doneit's jacket for owner Warren Parrott. Again, on Saturday evening, a group of 43 gathered for a Purina handlers' feast prepared by Todd Williams. Todd served smoked salmon and smoked chicken, along with three sides. Birthday cake and ice cream followed as we celebrated Julia McClurg and Earl Drew's birthdays. The McClurgs are from Ohio, although winter here in Hoffman. Earl relocated to Hoffman about 23 years ago. Daily lunches were prepared and served by Gretchen Adsit, assisted by Lynne Leitch, Ginny Emerson, and Susan Fox. These ladies are all New Englanders who winter in the Hoffman area to watch their bird dogs. John Adsit is the best clubhouse sweeper ever! Gretchen made a menu and gave chairman Tony Bingham a shopping list. Of course, with tremendous evening meals, a few leftovers were available for Saturday and Sunday.

At Hoffman, a gallery/dog wagon is essential to the trial. Greg Robinson hooks his "old blue" truck up to the state wagon every morning at 7:30. He then follows the drawing sheet and picks up the six morning dogs. A dog wagon driver is much more than you would expect. He makes sure the water tank is full, the dogs are picked up, the latches are locked, and a safety bolt is fastened. He purchases snacks and water for break time, even coffee for the morning. Ever aware of people's needs, he also has bananas, oranges, and mints on board. The state wagon has plastic-wrapped seat cushions under the seats beside the 10 dog crates. Needless to say, as Greg picks up dogs, so too are folks climbing aboard for the three-hour trip.

Drawing details for the National Open are handled by National Secretary Jameson Crandall, via text and e-mail. Copies are posted and sent to entrants, and Dave Huffine makes copies for handouts in the clubhouse. Judges' books were donated by Calvin Curnutte of Drowning Creek Bird Dogs.

Purina sent hats and feed for entrants and winners, along with hats. Garmin sent a no-bark collar and a Pro 500. Without the support of Purina, our organization would not be as successful. Purina delegate Kelsi Toth was in attendance on Friday and Saturday.

The winners received an engraved silver tray and a letter from Purina for feed to be delivered to their homes—12 bags for the winner and six for the runner-up. All entries received two-pound bags. The winner will receive an oil painting to be presented at the National Annual Meeting in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, this summer. Judging complications and 3 inches of

rain required the Derby to be canceled, so the judges were asked to name three dogs for Honorable Mention. These dogs were presented with 37.5-pound bags of Purina feed. Those dogs were Miller's Special Upgrade (PF), owned by Carlos Escalante with Mark Hughes; Tenacee Franklin (PM), owned and handled by Greg Isenberg; and Dun Rovens Midnite Ike (ESM), owned by Peter Millett and handled by Robert Ecker.

The Winners

Named champion was Smoke Rise Jake (PM), owned by Fred Rose and handled by Tony Bingham. It was great to have Fred present for the announcements. Runner-up went to Sweet Grass Skipper (ESM), owned and handled by David Huffine. Jake was scouted by Mark Hughes and Skipper by J. D. Waters. Smoke Rise Jake and Sweet Grass Skipper ran together in brace 9, so I will write the brace as it went. It was a very active and exciting brace.

Jake is a strong liver and white male pointer with a few body spots. He is powerful on the ground and keeps a forward-searching pattern for the full hour. He runs with style, with a pleasing appearance in action, which is even more intense when on point. The dog and handler are partners, and their teamwork is smooth. On the breakaway, Jake quickly went to the far right along the wooded edge, where he snapped into a staunch point. Handler approached, and a large covey lifted, which stretched Jake a little higher and further put his mind on hunting with handler. Both dogs were watered several times during their hour. Jake's race was head and shoulders above the rest.

Sweet Grass Skipper is a white and orange classy moving male setter who attacks the cover with intelligence and independence in his search to find quail. He kept busy attacking birdy spots and was rewarded at 9 with a large covey deep in the grass near "Jacob's corner" adjacent to Derby Road before heading right around the bear claw loop. His find was backed by Jake, requiring Skipper to wait even longer for flush as the second handler approached. It was unfortunate that Skipper had an unproductive at 22, although it was in a very birdy area with bird droppings spotted. Neither dog required much scouting and had plenty of energy to space as the hour ended.

The Running

Brace 1 was whistled away after announcements by Margaret Drew and a prayer by Greg Robinson. Mark Hughes was on the line with Double Deuce Zeke (PM), owned by Doug McMillen, as bracemate for Ralph's Chasehill Rip

(PM), owned and handled by Brian Ralph. These two liver and white male pointers were eagerly forward, with Rip having point called in two minutes on the far-left side of the breakaway beyond the corner behind the barn. Handler did not immediately put birds to flight, but birds did lift as he approached the dog as if to request a relocation. The judges thought Rip did not fully have the scent where he stood. After shot was taken, Rip marched proudly forward through the heavy broomstraw, stopping again by 3 minutes. However, no birds were flown, requiring an unproductive to be scored. His pointing style and steadiness were not his best this morning. Handler and dog were briskly to the front, leaving the six-vehicle gallery behind, as the two caught the front where a small horse-mounted gallery followed. At 19, Rip did locate and point a second smaller covey. He remained in good hunting mode for the hour; however, he was faulted for his hesitant or unsure poise while pointing today. Zeke marched forward through the light frosted grass and reached the sand path to continue on before turning into the cover for a consistent hunting hour. He maintained a good range and displayed a positive attitude.

Brace 2 called Warren Parrott to the line with Hirollins B K Bulletproof (PM) as bracemate for Sweet Grass Skeeter (ESM) with Dave Huffine. The breakaway on this course is hidden from the gallery wagon, so your reporter relied on the judges for comments to cover the first 15 minutes. Bulletproof said goodbye to Warren after five minutes; therefore, a location unit was taken at 25. Skeeter hunted pleasantly along the course with handler, and found no birds, even when he made a few deeper lateral casts before finishing his time on course.

Brace 3 was down by 10:40 with two black and white pointer females. Mojo's Remington Steal, whose owners Nick and Renee Moelders were present to watch, was handled by Mark Hughes. The owners had made the trip from Franklin, Massachusetts, to participate in the championship. Santee River Pawley Girl, owned by Mike McKinney, was with Tony Bingham. Remi had enough body ticks to keep our eyes on her, while Pawley Girl wore a blue collar. We did not see much of Pawley Girl, and a location device was required at 26. Remi moved in a spiral pattern, although at a close range, and was returned to the wagon at 37.

Brace 4 followed lunch, with breakaway below the clubhouse where course 1 heads toward course 2. J. D. Waters from Illinois was present to scout his dog, My Way Little Bud (PM), as Tony Bingham

handled. Mark Hughes was up again, this time with A Distant Spec (PF). Spec is owned by Mike Husenits, who had just been on the phone to check the trial's progress before the breakaway. The wagon was loaded for the afternoon tour, with an increased horse gallery as well. Little Bud had his running shoes laced tight, and his mind set on locating those big coveys he had heard were being found at Hoffman this season. When the location device was taken and turned on, his owner found Little Bud standing, although no longer under consideration. Spec had a hesitant start, although his race and range increased as he continued. He was seen to stop in deep grasses; however, moved on before handler could approach for flush. After crossing the sand road, he covered the two fields adjacent to the old chicken coop area, where he picked up some sand spurs. Handler removed them and sent him on; however, he was returned to the wagon before his hour was up.

Brace 5 called Tony Bingham to the line with Dave Emert's Emert's Sho Me Mo (ESM) as bracemate for Buck of Piney Woods (PM) with Robert Ecker. Buck's owner, Rich Warters, was present and high on the wagon to view the hour. Sho Me Mo's dark body is pleasant on the eyes as he stretched forward with several sideward casts. He maintained a good hunting range as he hunted all the appropriate areas. At 32, he stopped in a birdy area but decided nothing was home for handler to shoot, so he moved on. At 51, he stopped again, with bracemate joining for what looked like a back, although both dogs were whistled on. Buck is a strong young pointer who presented the judges with a strong race, showing much potential, scored an unproductive at 16, with no other bird work.

Brace 6 was on the ground by 3:48 with Mark Hughes in charge of Redrum Rosie (PF), owned by Robert Martson, as bracemate for Rebel's Southern Gentleman (PM), owned by Jeff Allen with Tony Bingham. Rosie was not interested in working with handler Mark, although he and his scout did keep her with them. She had some bird contact at 36; I am not sure what happened. She hunted on until 43, when she was leased. Southern Gentleman was seen swinging through the high grass and then bouncing in and out of the woods, taking him around the small oaks. At 16, a sizable covey lifted in two rounds, with Gentleman bouncing around with plugs in his ears. He was rounded up at the next corner and returned to the wagon.

Brace 7 opened the second day with Doodle Ridge Elroy (ESM), owned by Bruce Mueller, with Mark Hughes

as bracemate for Marty Fester's Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella (PF) with Robert Ecker. Both dogs were animated and forward, showing a good pattern as they hit possible bird locations. Doodle Ridge had guests present to watch. At 58, Elroy stopped with a nice poise; however, as handler was attempting to flush, he moved in to assist. This being a "no-no," he was leashed. Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella had everyone on the wagon or mounted watching her cover all the logical places birds should be waiting. She hunted extremely well with a thorough coverage of the ground. Had she pointed a covey, things may have been different.

Brace 8 had owners of both dogs on the wagon. The Granthams from Tennessee were here to watch Attakullakulla (ESM) with Tony Bingham as bracemate for Norm Meeder's Mulberry Fields Molly (ESF) with Mark Hughes. These two had the whole wagon standing and eagerly watching. Attakullakulla had a very snappy animated ground race with several wide-forward casts. He scored two unproductives, which led to an early pick-up. Molly runs with a bubbly bounce forward at an acceptable pace. At 57, she pointed, although did not remain staunch, but moved several times before she was picked up.

Brace 9 is covered with the winners: Smoke Rise Jake (PM) with Tony Bingham and Sweet Grass Skipper (ESM) with David Huffine.

Brace 10 found Robert Ecker with Dun Rovens Midnite Ike (ESM), owned by Peter Millett, as bracemate for T's American Outlaw (ESM), owned by Dennis Beauford, with Tony Bingham. Ike is a very white with some orange setter who covered the ground with speed, style, and at a consistent range. He made good casts and returned when and where he should. He had one find at 21, just beyond the sign, which indicates the beginning of heat 2. Your reporter heard the shot ring out; however, the judge reported that he had some tail failure with this find. Outlaw may need to be renamed, as from the breakaway, he was erratic and independent. He quickly took to the country with no concern of handler. At 21 handler took the relocation device.

Brace 11 was a match with Twiggy (PF), owned and handled by Cliff Monroe, and the Emert's Grouse Ringer T (ESM) with Tony Bingham. Dave and his wife often make the trip to trials, and Dave runs his own dogs; however, this week, Bingham was in charge. Twiggy bounced away with her usual speed and snappy gait. She was forward and out of sight, with handler just walking briskly on with confidence

that he'd soon see Twiggy. At 19, she was found tucked under a plum thicket where the cover opens up before a water hole. A lengthy 4-minute flushing attempt produced no quail, and Twiggy was released to hunt. Ringer T made several lengthy forward and wide casts; however, returning frequently. These two did not have bird work while under consideration.

Brace 12 called Tony Bingham to the line again. Mohawk Mill War Hawk's owner, J. D. Waters, was mounted to scout for his pointer male, as braced with Sweet Grass Slim (ESM), owned and handled by Dave Huffine. This last brace on day two was short. Sweet Grass Slim was in high gear and never looked back on a course he had once won on. Mohawk Mill War Hawk located and handled a covey in less than 2 minutes; however, he did not follow through with spirited and intelligent hunting for his hour.

Brace 13 was on the ground by 8:05 on Saturday morning, following a blessing for the day. Mark Hughes brought his Braggabull (PF) to the line as bracemate for Ash Creektug (ESM) with Robert Ecker. The opening casts went well; however, being directionally challenged, their hunting direction did not meet the judges' expectations.

Brace 14 called upon Greg Isenburg from Tennessee with Tenacee Rowdy (PM) to be on the line with Mark Hughes and Miller's Special Upgrade (PF), owned by Carlos Escalante. The pair laid out reaching races to begin their hour, purposefully hunting with rhythmic cadence at a good pace. At 35, Miller's Special Upgrade had a find, either shared or backed by Tenacee, who stood adjacent to Upgrade. The flushing attempt by both handlers put birds to flight; however, birds were well behind Tenacee. The dogs were taken across the sand road before being given the whistle command to return to hunting. Their hour failed to produce more bird contact, and their ground pattern lessened.

With shortened braces, the wagon driver returned to the clubhouse to pick up brace 16, as brace 15 was collared and unleashed. Gary Whitworth's Lincoln County Buddyboy (PM) was under the whistle of Tony Bingham, with Cliff Monroe handling Cottonwood Bucket List (PM). These two handlers are well versed in the sport of field trials and dog expectations; however, these two dogs did not hit the cover or exhibit positive ground applications today. At 5, Cottonwood Bucket List had an unproductive, nicely backed by Lincoln County Buddyboy. Cottonwood was picked up shortly after this while Buddy Boy continued forward. He made some good casts; however, returned frequently,

leading to an early pickup at 35.

Brace 16 had owners George Najor and Rich Warters on the top of the wagon to watch Bo of Piney Woods (PM) with Robert Ecker, who was braced with Rebel's Orange Crush (PF) under the guidance of Tony Bingham. The pair broke away spiritedly with barking before turning mostly forward. Bo was far to the front with proper drive; however, he failed to check in or make the correct turns, leading to the use of a location device by 35. Orange Crush, separated from bracemate, was not handling for Bingham but rather made a straight-away driving cast before being picked up.

Brace 17 found Greg Isenburg on the line again with Tenacee Franklin (PM) as bracemate for Mark Hughes with Carlos Escalante's pointer female, Miller's Hopped Up Version. This brace was busy with two dogs jumping purposefully forward, covering the edges of the woodline and crossing through big broomstraw patches, showing their intelligence of where game should be waiting. Franklin stood perfectly sure of himself at 19; however, handler was unable to produce birds. He did have a nice covey at 46. He hunted the course with in and out casts at short to medium range. Miller's Hopped Up Version navigated the course with good style and purpose at a medium range. At 50, he approached handler and stopped chewing at her foot. Hughes checked it out before whistling him on. Shortly thereafter, she was picked up for an apparent foot injury.

Brace 18 culminated Saturday's running with two favorites. Roger McPherson was mounted to see Suemac's Sashay (PF) with Mark Hughes. Pedja Kazic was down from New York to guide his English setter male, Island Fantasy. The wagon was fully packed with spectators with a 2:27 breakaway. Suemac's Sashay stretched toward birby objectives with efficient quickness of step. She stood tightly at 14; however, no birds were flown. Not beating the previous marks achieved by earlier dogs, she was leashed early. Island Fantasy was forward; perhaps way forward would be the correct term. We saw him sailing out of sight, again crossing the far knoll and then not seen again. The report was that the location device found him a little over 2 miles to the front.

Brace 19 called upon a favorite U. S. Complete competitor, Bobby Phillips, from Tennessee. He is also a Hall of Fame honoree. Today, he had Bob's Elhew Sage (PF) as bracemate for Erin's Battle Cry (PM) with Tony Bingham. Battle Cry is owned by the amateur team of Beauford, Timmerman, and Cook. These look-alike

liver and white pointers were able to be distinguished between Sage, who had an orange collar, and Battle Cry, who had a blue and an orange collar. Sage also has a slightly smaller frame. Both were immediately into hunting mode as they traveled independently through the high grasses and along the wooded edges. Sage swung happily side to side but did not reach the edge and march forward. Handler chose to pick her up early. Battle Cry did not handle well for Bingham, choosing an out-of-pocket race at a moderate range. He returned to the wagon early.

Brace 20 ran on the closing morning of this 41st running of the U. S. Complete National Open Championship. Cliff Monroe tapped Treasure Chest (PM) loose at 8:10 beside Smoke Rise Hanna (PF), owned by Fred Rose, under the whistle of Tony Bingham. Treasure Chest was fast and animated as we watched him to the front and crossed the distant hill. By the time we reached the corner, he was no longer in sight. At 40 minutes, Monroe called for the location device. Smoke Rise Hanna scampered to the left, where everyone thought there would be birds; however, we did not see her again until the scout located her via a location device at



Judges (l-r): Robert "Lefty" Henry and Gary Miller.

nearly 30 minutes.

Brace 21 was turned loose at 9 a.m. with Aaron McAfee's pointer male, Crow Creek Redbud, with Tony Bingham to be braced with Mark Hughes's sister Ann's Wayward Flyin Tomato (ESM). This was an active brace for 48 minutes despite the beginning of rain. Wayward Flyin Tomato was flying determinedly out front, swinging sideways and far to the front in a good stretching motion. Crow Creek Redbud covered the ground with a good attitude, hunting where he should at a good hunting range. Shortly after the breakaway, 12 deer were seen darting from the field in front of the dogs. No dogs were seen behind them. Redbud checked in frequently and became birdy in several spots. Tomato lessoned his casts when he found no birds and began hunting closer. By 48, both dogs were returned to

the wagon.

The final brace was a bye-dog, Lincoln County Jack (ESM), belonging to Daryl and Vicki Grantham from Tennessee. Despite the rain, the owners were on the top of the wagon to watch as Tony Bingham attempted to bring them a championship. The big, classy black and white setter traveled on air, showing good ground intelligence as he rolled forward, reaching side to side. He stood tall and proud at 20; however, no quail were flown. He continued with nice ground action as the hour progressed, having a few long absences. Once returned to the handler, he cast determinedly toward the clubhouse. A scout was sent to pick him up via a location device, although deer hampered his speedy return.

Hoffman, N. C., February 8

Judges: Lefty Henry and Gary Miller

U. S. COMPLETE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 28 Pointers and 15 Setters

Winner-SMOKE RISE JAKE, 1684876, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Smoke Rise Mariah. P. F. Rose, owner; Tony Bingham, handler.

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

GEORGIA AMATEUR CELEBRATION

One Day Lucky Strike Wins Shooting Dog

By Nell Mobley | Waynesboro, Georgia | February 9, 2024

The Georgia Amateur Celebration, sponsored by the Georgia Field Trial Association, is held in Waynesboro, Georgia. The "Bird Dog Capital of the World" concluded the season for 2023-2024 on the weekend of February 9. There are three stakes: shooting dog, all-age, and derby.

The trials are held at Di-Lane Plantation, owned by the Georgia Corps of Engineers, leased to the Georgia Engineers, and leased to the Georgia State Government for the purpose of hosting field trials.

Ryan Meckel is the on-site Wildlife Technician at Di-Lane. He and his staff do a great job preparing the grounds for running. The GA Department of Natural Resources announced that Ryan was the recipient of the Wildlife Technician Manager of the Year award. Ryan is 28 years old and in his fifth year at Di-Lane. He is married to the former Meredith Franks, and they have a 1-month-old son.

The drawing was conducted by Gary



Georgia Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (l-r): One Day Lucky Strike with Darcy Hodges, One Day Queen Bee with Lane Hodges, and Beckworth's Wildfire WF with Darrell Wells, joined by Chad Adams (judge), Sarah Schwarz, Steve Mills (judge), Nell Mobley, Gary Futch, Ron Lambert, Alan York, Brad Macke, and Randy Marsh.

Futch and Nell Mobley. There were 18 entries for the Shooting Dog, 10 for All-Age, and seven for the Derby.

The Shooting Dog

Chad Adams, of Goldsboro, North Carolina, and Steve Mills, of Mayodan, North Carolina, were in the saddle for the

Shooting Dog.

One Day Lucky Strike, owned and handled by Lane Hodges, was named in first place. He is a 5-year-old pointer male who covered the course with hunting on his mind and in the right places. Early in the hour, at 8 a.m., no birds were seen. Well-spaced finds were witnessed at 30,



Georgia Amateur All-Age Winners (l-r): Bud Adams with Jeff Crouch, Walnut Tree Blue with Steve Mills, and Rock And Rebel Reb with Bill Adams, joined by Chad Adams, Nell Mobley, Randy Marsh (judge), Gary Futch (judge), Alan York, and Jessica Rutland.



Georgia Amateur Derby Winners (l-r): Turkey Creek Speck with Jessica Rutland, Wells Blaze of Glory with Alan York, and Shadow Jet's Riley with Gary Futch, joined by Jeff Crouch, Danny Kent, Darrell Wells, Nell Mobley, Randy Marsh, Ron Lambert (judge), and Brad Macke (judge).

35, and 42. He looked good running with tail high and a strong race. It is interesting to mention that he won first place in this stake in 2022.

In 1983, Frank Berry and Bill Wolfe gave a Rotating Challenge Sterling Silver Trophy in memory of Clint Sullivan. Clint was known for his love of working and running derbies. He died the year before of cancer. If a dog wins three times, the trophy is retired to the owner/handler. Lucky Strike has won twice and is looking for a third in 2025.

Lane ran One Day Queen Bee in the fourth brace and earned second-place honors. At 24, she had no show of birds. Lane carried on and had a nice find at 48, with all in order. At pickup, she could be seen running a medium race.

Beckworth's Wildfire WF, with Alan York handling, was named to third place. This 3-year-old female had three commendable finds and one up with a medium race.

The Others

One Day La Bandita (Hodges) had a find at 16, followed by a breach of manners. Sky's The Limit (Bill Adams) was picked up early.

Casey's Creek Crystal (Tucker) was scratched. Montana Dream (Macke) had a nice find at 20, followed by a no-show at 31.

Beckworth's Wildfire WF (York) was reported earlier. J C L's Joleene (Bill Adams) decided to go with birds.

Hard luck for Lily Pad (Crouch). One Day Queen Bee (Hodges) was reported earlier.

Erin's Demolition Man (Kelly) had a find at 6 and ran a medium race. Newt Dancer (Macke) pointed at 20. All in order.

Wells Rebel Yell (Wells) had a divided find at 7 with bracemate Ty handled by Buford. Yell had a second all-in-order find at 39. Ty had a nice find at 19 and a shared find at 7 with Rebel Yell.

One Day Lucky Strike (Hodges) was reported earlier. Made for the Moment (Macke) had an all-in-order find at 24 with a medium race.

Doc (Buford) was scratched. JCL's Bodacious May (Futch) was not pleasing handler and harnessed at 30. Bad luck for Rudy (Rutland).

The All-Age

Judges for the All-Age were Gary Futch and Randy Marsh, both from Statesboro, Georgia.

First-place Bud Adams (Chad Adams) ran in brace 5, the last brace of the stake. At four years of age, he knew what the game was about. He had finds at 18 and 25 and a limb find at 35. He honored his bracemate at 11. He ran a nice forward race with lots of class; he could be seen out front at pickup.

Walnut Tree Blue (Mills) won second place with well-spaced finds at 6, 35, and 42. He looked good in his birdwork, ran a good race, and finished strong.

Third place was Rock And Rebel Reb (Bill Adams). Scout Jessica called point for Red at 7 with birds lifted—a commendable all-age race with a nice finish.

The Others

Walnut Tree Buddy (Mills) shared a find at 7 with his bracemate. He ran a medium race with a fair finish. Rockin Rebel Red was reported with the winners.

The handler requested the tracker at 55 for Wells Ray of Gold (Wells). Bad luck for Erin's Demolition Man (Kelly).

Newt Dancer (Macke) had no bird work. Walnut Tree Blue was reported earlier.

Miller's Last Call (Bonner) had a find at 7 with a no-show of game on one point. JCL's Val (Bill Adams) was picked up early in the hour.

Game Train (Griffin) had a nice find, all with a medium race. Bud Adams (Chad Adams) was reported in earlier.

The Derby

Judges for the Derby were Ron Lambert, Tiger, Georgia, and Brad Macke, Sandersville, Georgia.

First place Turkey Creek Speck (Crouch) ran a nice forward race with no birds seen and judged on ground race.

Second place Wells Blaze of Glory (Wells) ran a medium forward race.

Third place was Shadow Jet's Riley (Marsh). Birds were lifted on a find at 15. Riley was a nice running setter with a medium race.

Some nice derbies were seen in the other four in competition: Wells Fine N Fancy (Wells), Marsh's Rebel Charm (Marsh), Nell (Crouch), and Chub (Bill Adams).

Purina Pet Care provided feed vouchers to the winners.

The Burke County Chamber of Commerce paid for advertising in the UKC newsletter through hotel/motel tax revenue.

Marshals for the weekend were Gary Futch, Randy Marsh, and Jeff Crouch.

Alan York and Ron Lambert took care of picking up and releasing birds.

The Club provided lunch for the three days of running and dinner for everyone on Friday evening. Jessica Rutland, Jason Lake, Sarah Schwarz, and Nell Mobley served the meals.

Waynesboro, Ga., February 9

Judges: Chad Adams and Steve Mills

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]

- 17 Pointers and 1 Vizsla

1st-ONE DAY LUCKY STRIKE, 1684551, pointer male, by Heard Hill's Memory Lane-DuBose's Snow White. Lane Hodges, owner and handler.

2d-ONE DAY QUEEN BEE, 1684579, pointer female, by Heard Hill's Memory Lane-DuBose's Snow White. Lane Hodges, owner and handler.

3d-BECKWORTH'S WILDFIRE WF, 1699937, pointer female, by Touch's Mega Mike-Beckworth's Fired Up. Alan York, owner and handler.

Judges: Gary Futch and Randy Marsh

AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]

- 10 Pointers

1st-BUD ADAMS, 1702121, male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Muddy Belle Kate. Chad Adams, owner and handler.

2d-WALNUT TREE BLUE, 1680850, male, by Walnut Tree Fred-Dialing Kate. Steve Mills, owner and handler.

3d-ROCK AND REBEL REB, 1675373, male, by Alvin-Pamlico. Bill Adams, owner and handler.

Judges: Ron Lambert and Brad Macke

AMATEUR DERBY - 5 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-TURKEY CREEK SPECK, 1705239, pointer male, by Erin's Urban Myth-Pinehill Elthew Show Girl. R. D. Kent, owner; Jeff Crouch, handler.

2d-WELLS BLAZE OF GLORY, 1702593, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Wells Southern Charm. Darrell Wells, owner and handler.

3d-SHADOW JET'S RILEY, 1699636, setter female, by Shadow Jet-Snow Creek's Fair Lady. Randy Marsh, owner and handler.

REGION 4 (AFTCA) AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Seven of Diamonds Named Champion; Crouse's Heart of Dixon, Runner-Up

By Mary Sue Schalk | Kevil, Kentucky | February 10, 2024

The Region 4 AFTCA Amateur Shooting Dog Championship drew a fair field of 20 dogs after a postponement due to weather in January. Terry Boatright of Richmond, Kentucky, judged with Region 4 President Jim Pendergest of Lexington, Kentucky. Both are active field trialers and contributors to the sport. Boatright competes primarily in walking trials and owns several canine athletes who have earned Dog of the Year and championship titles. Pendergest, traveling all over the country with his strong all-age string, can boast similar accolades, including being the owner/handler of two-time Purina Amateur All-Age Dog of the Year, Pointer female, Dialed In. We appreciate them taking time over the weekend to critique and evaluate the field.

The Champion and Runner-up

The champion, Seven of Diamonds, and runner-up champion, Crouse's Heart of Dixon, ran the fourth and first hour, respectively. Both dogs carded two finds and strong forward ground races. Joe and Brittany Hopkins of London, Kentucky, own "Pete" and celebrated his first horseback championship with this win. Joe handled the almost white tri-color-headed English Setter male, and Mike Crouse scouted him. Crouse's Heart of Dixon, a strong black and white Pointer male, also celebrated his first championship title with the runner-up placement. "Hearty" is owned and handled by Mike Crouse of Dixon, Kentucky. He was scouted by Mary Sue Schalk and Joe Hopkins—a true sportsman and much-appreciated gentleman—when Schalk's horse went lame.

The Running

Hotrod Ricky Joe, an Irish Setter male, was paired with black and white Pointer male, Crouse's Heart of Dixon, in the first brace. Ricky Joe is owned and handled by Tim Hammons of Berea, Kentucky. The runner-up champion, owned and handled by Mike Crouse of Dixon, Kentucky, set the bar high for the field. The two started the hour with a divided find at 7 minutes along the big bottom's edge, with Crouse's scout, daughter Mary Sue Schalk, calling point. Both handlers shot and moved forward. Crouse's Heart of Dixon had his second find prior to the handicapped lake at 32 minutes. Hotrod Ricky Joe had his second find at 37 minutes. Both dogs continued strong on the ground. At 59,



Region 4 Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (L-R): Joe Hopkins (owner/handler), Seven of Diamonds with Mike Crouse (scout), Terry Boatright (judge), Jim Pendergest (judge), Crouse's Heart of Dixon with scout Mary Sue Schalk, and Alan Benson (dog wagon driver).

Crouse's Heart of Dixon stood, and Hotrod Ricky Joe failed to back. Crouse elected not to flush, and the hour concluded.

The second hour, Amy Spencer turned loose Pointer male, Cacklebur Breaking Bad, with Adam Delude and Pointer female, R R's Bluegrass Unbridled. Both dogs exhibited style and class on the ground; however, their bids ended early. R R's Bluegrass Unbridled failed to back at Breaking Bad's first find at 8 minutes and was up. Spencer was unable to flush any birds and chose to move on. Breaking Bad styled up again at 25 minutes; again, no birds were raised, and he was harnessed.

Spencer returned in the third brace with Cacklebur Ranger Danger, a Pointer male, this time paired with Joe Hopkins and English Setter male No Leaf Clover. Again, this hour proved to be short, as Ranger Danger was not suiting his handler and was up at 32. No Leaf Clover made some strong forward casts and was last seen to the front at 30 minutes. His handler called for the tracker at 47 minutes.

After a break for lunch, Hopkins was again at the helm with Seven of Diamonds, an English Setter male and littermate to No Leaf Clover. His bracemate was Pointer male High Drive Bandit, handled by Amber Ashburn. Seven of Diamonds found his wheels early and pushed to the front. Bandit was flashy and hunted close throughout the hour. High Drive Bandit struck first for a find at 20 minutes; although earnest flushing efforts were made, no birds were raised. He finished

his hour. Seven of Diamonds had a find at 23, then again at 49, both in order and with class. His solid pieces of birdwork and strong ground race put him on top of the field and earned him the title of champion at the end of the trial.

In the fifth hour, Bryant's Give It A Rip, a young English Setter male, was turned loose with Silver Creek Wild Again, an Irish Setter male. Owner/handler Kenton Bryant was the helm for Rip, with Tim Hammons running Wild Again. Both young males gave good effort, and Rip had a pair of turkey finds. No shots were fired, and both dogs finished their hour.

The final hour on Saturday, Pointer female Crouse's Total Eclipse and owner/handler Mike Crouse hit the field with Buddy Morrison and Pointer female Miller's Upgrading The Ante. Both athletes were short to start; however, Total Eclipse found her wheels later in the hour. She reached for the front at the hairpin turn at the 45-minute mark and was found pointed at the end of the hour. All in order for Crouse's Total Eclipse when Crouse flushed a known wild covey behind the manager's house. Upgrading The Ante hunted diligently and was biddable for her handler, and she finished her hour.

Sunday morning, Crouse returned to the handler's saddle with Pointer male, Crouse's Pond River Gus. Alliwood's Eleventh Hour, a flashy Pointer female, was his bracemate owned and handled by Adam DeLude. Gus was gone off the breakaway for Crouse. Eleventh Hour

finished her hour birdless.

In the eighth brace, DeLude ran littermate to Eleventh Hour, Alliwood's Never Say Never, another flashy Pointer female. Tim Hammons returned to run the veteran Little More Shine, a decorated Irish Setter female. Never Say Never had somewhat of an erratic race but connected with her handler later in the hour. She had a beautiful find at 35 and finished her hour to the front. Little More Shine was strong on the ground and seen little by the judicial team. She had a stop to flush at 40 minutes; however, was gone at pick up.

Dr. Marion Brown ran English Setter male Cochise B with Buddy Morrison and Pointer male Miller's Three Digit

Heat. Cochise B hunted diligently and was well connected with his handler but went birdless for the hour. Three Digit Heat was hot off the breakaway, and the tracker was called for at 15.

To conclude the Championship, Amber Ashburn handled Pointer female Miller's Flowers And Lace with Mike Crouse and Pointer female Crouse's Tennessee Game Kate. Ashburn is a rookie to the game and proved to be a strong contender, exhibiting a strong relationship with her dog. Flowers And Lace was biddable, and had a nice find at 54 before finishing her hour. Tennessee Game Kate ran a strong, forward ground race. She was a little too strong, and the tracker was called for at pickup.

Many thanks to Alan Benson, who drove the dog wagon, and Purina, especially Terry Trzcinski, who made the trip to our Championship with gifts for all. We appreciate Mike Crouse and Mary Sue Schalk for marshaling during the weekend. Again, thanks to all participants, and best of luck as the season continues!

Kevil, Ky., February 10
Judges: Terry Boatright and Jim Pendergest
REGION 4 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
- 13 Pointers, 4 Setters, and 3 Irish Setters
Winner-SEVEN OF DIAMONDS, 1682461, setter male, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-Diamond's Blue Girl. Joseph & Brittany Hopkins, owners; Joseph Hopkins, handler.
Runner-Up-CROUSE'S HEART OF DIXON, 1685395, pointer male, by Crouse's Kentucky Wind-Crouse's Dark Angel. M. D. Crouse, owner and handler.

WEST TENNESSEE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Open Trial Held At Currie Farm

By Jim Atchison | Dancyville, Tennessee | February 16, 2024



Open All-Age Winners (front, l to r): Kyle Graves with Miller's King Poast, Jerry Raynor with Touch's Breakaway Fred, and Ike Todd with Haney's Storm Warning. Others (l-r): Kim Todd, Elizabeth Leatherwood, Molly McCarley, Chris Mullin, Isaiah Todd, Marty Todd, Julia Currie, Allen Currie, Crutcher Stoots, Korry Rinehart, Tony King (judge), Hailey Moreland, Stacey Croy, Steve Croy, Alex Rickert, Gailen Cooper (judge), Mark McLean, Carl Owens, Bill Currie, J. P. Hathcock, Ann Forrester, and John Todd.

The first sight and sound this reporter heard when arriving at the West Tennessee clubhouse the day before the club's Open stakes were to begin was Bill Currie with a chainsaw cutting wood for the fire that burns continually during each field trial held there. The fire has frequently been referred to metaphorically as representing the energy, heat, light, hospitality, and enthusiasm that are projected by the members of that club. This 2024 gathering, somewhere near the 70th year of field trialing on the Currie Farm and adjoining grounds near Dancyville, Tennessee, was no exception.

Thirty-five all-age dogs and 17 derbies gathered for the four days of competition, held February 16-19, and were judged by AFTCA President Tony King and Purina Consultant Gailen Cooper. Tony King is from Audrain County, Missouri, and manages public water supply districts there. Gailen Cooper, who lives near

Hazelhurst, Mississippi, works for Purina, dealing specifically with the Hound and Police K-9 Divisions of the company.

Speaking of Purina, the Nestlé Purina Company again generously sponsored the field trial, as they have done for many years. The company's commitment to dietary research and the production of quality pet foods is respected and appreciated, and thanks for Purina's sponsorship was voiced by the club's leadership.

Copying the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child," one might paraphrase, "It takes a community of generous landowners to provide the wonderful three courses, each one hour or more in length, which are a part of the West Tennessee grounds." Those landowners include Bill and Allen Currie, who own the clubhouse and surrounding land, which has been in their family for five generations. Other owners

include Skip Taylor, Mrs. Jan McCloud, Ed and Alice McClanahan, Dr. and Mrs. Gene Spiotta, Gordie Jones, Larry and Janell Humber, Ike and Marty Todd, and Alex and Bryana Rickert. All were invited to a Saturday night barbecue, recognized, and thanked for their support of the sport.

Numerous officers and club members were constantly on hand, cooking, cleaning, hauling horses, manning the dog wagon, and doing the many other things that are part of each field trial. They included Bill Currie, Allen Currie, J. P. Hathcock, Chris Mullin, Ike Todd, Crutcher Stoots, Dale Pool, Gary Brown, and Curt Waddell.

The Winners

First place was won by Miller's King Poast, owned by Jannie Chapman of Memphis and handled by Korry Rinehart from Rienzi, Mississippi. The winner competed in the 13th brace, which was run the first hour on Sunday morning with the early temperature at 19 degrees. King Poast pointed first at 29 on the far back side of the Taylor/McCloud land and again at 42 back near Blalock Road. He looked great on his birds each time Rinehart flushed and shot, but his win was definitely earned by his awesome race. His determination and power were evident for the full hour and were much appreciated by the judges and the small number who watched him on that cold morning.

Now, more about Rinehart. He scouted for and worked with Gary Lester prior to Lester's experiencing serious health problems during the past year. He has

stepped up and is doing a great job with Gary Lester's dogs while Gary is still very much in the sport and continuing to improve with the good wishes and prayers of leagues of friends who miss him and wish him the best.

Touch's Breakaway Fred, owned by Bruce and Karen Norton and Gary and Becky Futch and handled by Mark McLean from Doerun, Georgia, won second place. Fred's placement was earned in the seventh brace with the morning temperature at 24, which marked the beginning of a cold day with a disagreeable north wind. He had one find, which came at 48, shortly before crossing Blalock Road near the end of the first hour course. He handled the flush and shot well, then proceeded to the north side of Blalock Road and had an unproductive stand at 56. Fred ran a strong and forward race, yet missed his opportunity to demonstrate a strong finish as time ran out during the unproductive at the end of the hour.

Haney's Storm Warning won third place under the whistle of his owner, Chris Cagle from Woodlawn, Tennessee. A nice, forward race with plenty of style and three finds earned the win for the 4-year-old Pointer. Those finds were at 16, 24, and 39 as he competed in the second brace of competition and navigated the tight turns, road crossings, and vastly different types of terrain that make up the second hour course.

Other Competitors

Miller's Blindsider, the 2023 National Champion, owned by Nick Berrong and handled by Jamie Daniels, was braced with Superstition's Jake, owned by Ric Peterson and handled by Brodie Byrd, who ran in the first brace of the contest. Blindsider was picked up shortly before the end of the hour, having found no birds. Superstition's Jake pointed the same covey twice, first at 17 and again at 46, with a large circular sweep around the Taylor/McCloud acreage between the two stands and far to the front of his handler on the second stop. He then finished the hour.

Cochise B, one of four English Setters in the competition and handled by his owner, Dr. Marion Brown, competed in the second brace, paired with the third-place winner. The setter had a find at 22, backed his bracemate at 39, and finished the full 60 minutes under judgment.

Coldwater War Cry, owned by Paul Melton and handled by Gary McKibben, and Dominator's Wild Bill, owned by Nick Berrong and Jack and Sarah Schwarz and handled by Jamie Daniels, were braced together in the third brace. War Cry had a find at 22, and Wild Bill backed. During



Open Derby Winners (front, l-r): Jerry Raynor with Haney's Easy Money and Kyle Graves with Lester's War Bird. (Behind, l-r): Matthew Forsythe, John Todd, Kim Todd, Ike Todd, Elizabeth Leatherwood, Molly McCarley, Chris Mullin, Allen Currie, Mark McLean, Julia Currie, Isaiah Todd, Stacey Croy, Hailey Moreland, Steve Croy, Tony King (judge), Korry Rinehart, Alex Rickert, Gailen Cooper (judge), Bill Currie, Carl Owens, Julia Currie, J. P. Hathcock, Crutcher Stoots, and Ann Forrester.

the following minutes, War Cry became lost, and McKibben asked for his tracker. At that time, Daniels elected to put Wild Bill in his harness, so the brace ended early.

Brace 4 brought Woodville's Saddle Tramp, owned and handled by Carl Owens, and Touch's Midnight Rider, owned by John Milton and handled by Mark McLean, to the 1 p.m. breakaway. McLean asked for his tracker at 31. Saddle Tramp had unproductives at 42 and 49 and was picked up.

Touch's Malcolm Story, owned by Alex Rickert and handled by Mark McLean, and Coldwater Odyssey, owned by Andrew and Debra Agnew and handled by Gary McKibben, were then released near the double bridges to compete in brace 5. But both dogs were picked up early, at about 25.

Brace 6 started on the Humber property with Miller's White Reign, owned by Ric Peterson and handled by Brodie Byrd, running alone. With threatening rain looming throughout the hour, White Rain produced the largest number of finds of any dog in the competition. He had five finds at 8, 19, 27, 37, and 58. While his race fell short of making the best impression, his performance really made the hour interesting, in that there was lots of racing from point to point and, also, that he proved there were lots of birds on the courses. Oh, and about the rain, it started in earnest within a few minutes after the hour ended.

The following day was raw, with a cold north wind and the temperature moving from a low of 24 to a high of 37. Texas Wild Rex, owned by Aaron Bolli and handled by Allen Vincent, went in the first brace, No. 7, with the second-place winner, Breakaway Fred. Rex had birds at 10 in the area of a cedar tree, approaching the well, but then got away afterward, and Vincent asked for his tracker at 25.

Brace 8 had Sandridge Big Iron, handled by Allen Vincent for Dr. James Mills

and Steve Lytle, paired with Lester's Shockwave, owned by Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton and handled by Korry Rinehart. Big Iron had a stop to flush at 7 that was backed by Shockwave. A short while later, Vincent picked up his dog. Shockwave continued to hunt until he had a find at 26. However, Rinehart lifted him from a low crouching position before flushing and afterward was given his tracker by a judge.

Andy Daugherty loosed Westfall's Power Trip, owned by Bill Westfall, and Mark McLean loosed Touch's Shadow Rider, owned by Dr. Reuben Richardson and Bruce and Karen Norton for brace 9. Andy elected to pick his dog up early, and Shadow Rider did not find any birds during the hour.

After lunch, in brace 10, Daugherty had Westfall's Pioneer Pete for Bill Westfall, and Rinehart had Lester's Storm Surge for Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton. Storm Surge found birds at 17, and Pete backed, but there was no other game contact.

In brace 11, Westfall's True Grit, owned by Ryan Westfall and handled by Andy Daugherty, was braced with Woodville's Yukon Cornelius, owned and handled by Carl Owens. True Grit had birds at 27 but was then picked up. Yukon Cornelius was lost in the first half hour, and Owens got his tracker.

Westfall's Wheels Up, owned by Bill Westfall and handled by Daugherty, hunted next, paired with Haney's All In, owned by Steve and Stacey Croy and handled by Mark McLean. Daugherty asked for his tracker at 21, while Haney's All In finished the hour but found no birds for McLean.

With the temperature at 19 and lots of frost, Westfall's River Ice, owned by Brad Calkins and handled by Andy Daugherty, was braced with the first-place winner. Andy picked his dog up at 9.

Allen Vincent had Wynona's Nickleback Sugar, owned by Brad Tolson and Bruce Sooter, in brace 14 paired with Haney's Silver Dollar, owned and handled by Chris Cagle. Silver Dollar had birds at 18, backed by Nickleback Sugar. Later in the hour, pointed, but following a long relocation effort, the stop proved unproductive. There was no other action during the remainder of the hour.

Valiant Heir, owned by Robby Robinson and handled by Vincent, went next braced with Westfall's Mandalay, owned by Dr. Jim Santarelli and handled by Daugherty. Mandalay pointed at 3, but Daugherty was not able to flush any birds. Then Mandalay pointed again at 13 with Valiant Heir backing. Both dogs handled both the flush of a single and the shot well. No other birds were moved, and Vincent asked for

his tracker before the end of the hour.

Mayfield Storm Charger and Dream Chaser were paired in brace 18. Vincent had Storm Charger, owned by Jake Davis and Scott Mason, while Daugherty had Dream Chaser, owned by Brad Calkins. Dream Chaser found birds at 7, but then both handlers elected to pick up their dogs at 18.

Dunn's True Reign, owned by Norris Sims and handled by Allen Vincent, and Nosam's Sweet Water, owned by Jeff Busby and handled by Larry Huffman, were the last pair to compete in the all-age competition. The action started when the dogs had a divided find at 23. Then True Reign pointed again, and birds were flushed with Sweet Water backing. True Reign had a final find at the extreme south end of Ike and Marty Todd's property. Huffman put Sweet Water in his harness at 49, and True Reign found no more birds in the remaining minutes of the hour.

Dancyville, Tenn., February 16
Judges: Gailen Cooper and Tony King
OPEN ALL-AGE (One-Hour Heats)
– 31 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-MILLER'S KING POAST, 1702090, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-R W Susie Q. Jannie Chapman, owner; Korry Rinehart, handler.

2d-TOUCH'S BREAKAWAY FRED, 1680750, pointer male, by Touch's Mega Mike-Touch's American Baby. Bruce & Karen Norton, Gary & Becky Futch, owners; Mark McLean, handler.

3d-HANEY'S STORM WARNING, 1691416, pointer male, by Valiant-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle Sr., owner and handler.

Derby Winners

Haney's Easy Money, owned by Steve and Stacey Croy and handled by Mark McLean, won first place with his performance in the third brace. His first stand was at 16, which proved to be unproductive. He then produced birds at 26, east of the deer stand on Gordie Jones, and finished shortly thereafter. He ran aggressively and looked good throughout the half hour.

Lester's War Bird, owned by Gary Lester and handled by Korry Rinehart, won second with his 9th brace performance wherein he found one covey at 16 about 50 yards from a Johnnie house on the second hour course of Dr. Spiotta.

Wild Covey Sundial won third place. He was handled by Andy Daugherty for owner Brad Calkins. Sundial competed in the fifth brace and found one covey at 19 shortly before leaving Alex Rickert's property when crossing Fayette Corner Road northward back onto McClanahan.

OPEN DERBY – 13 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-HANEY'S EASY MONEY, 1702602, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Haney's North Star. Steve & Stacey Croy, owners; Mark McLean, handler.

2d-LESTER'S WAR BIRD, 1705485, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-R W Susie Q. Gary Lester, owner; Korry Rinehart, handler.

3d-WILD COVEY SUNDIAL, 1701529, pointer male, by Miller's Speed Dial-Wild Covey Jackie. Brad Calkins, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

NORTH CAROLINA POINTING DOG ASSOCIATION

Second U. S. Complete Trial of The Season

By Margaret Maier | Hoffman, North Carolina | February 17, 2024



Open Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Sweet Grass Skipper with David Huffine, Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella with Kristen Ferdinand, and Dun Rovens Midnite Ike with Jon Ferdinand. (Back row): Brian Ralph (judge) and Gary Miller (judge).



Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Henry's Susieq Dot with David Theroux, Island Blue Genes with Margaret Drew, and North Country's Soda Pop with Brian Ralph. (Back row): Dorinda Priebe, Adam Dubriske (judge), Maggie Maier, Earl Drew, Crissi Joyal, Gretchen Adsit, John Adsit, Frank Joyal, Lynne Leitch, David Priebe, and Jamie Leitch (judge).

The North Carolina Pointing Dog Association held its second trial of the season on February 17-18 in Hoffman, North Carolina. It was perfect dog weather with just below freezing to start and cloudy upper 40s during the day. A great lunch and end-of-the-day hot dogs and hamburgers were served on both days.

The two-day trial drew 73 entries. Everyone enjoyed the Drew's dog wagon/trailer pulled by the Joyal's tractor that followed the course so spectators could view the braces.

Hoffman, N. C., February 17 – One Course
Judges: Mike Rosano and David Theroux
OPEN PUPPY

– 2 Pointer, 5 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-SKYWALKER, unreg., German Shorthair female, by Goose Creeks Jesters Dead Trendry-Goose Creeks Cedar Plank Trendry. Maggie Maier, owner and handler.

2d-STILL MEADOWS LITTLE SUNRAY, 1704573, setter female, by Long Gone Wallace-Chase's I'm Miss Smith. Brian & Kelly Hayes, owners; Adam Dubriske, handler.

3d-OH BOY, unreg., Llewelin setter male, by Twin Thickets Nickelbuk Red-Twin Thickets Ramblin Roux. John Jennings, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

Judges: Jon Ferdinand and Bob Youngs
OPEN DERBY

– 8 Pointers, 7 Setters, and 2 Irish Setters

1st-SWEET GRASS SCOUT, 1700663, setter female, by Shag Time Bobo-Black Cloud's Angel. David Huffine, owner and handler.

2d-MIA STAR, 1702751, setter female, by Windstar-Hometown Queen. George Najor & Steve McKalko, owners; R. J. Ecker Jr., handler.

3d-CAN AM COOPER, 1703026, pointer male, by Hirollins Gone And Doneit-Steel Valley Wardance. Jamie Leitch, owner and handler.

Judges: Gary Miller and Brian Ralph
OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 16 Pointers and 12 Setters

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

2d-BLUE RIBBON'S HARPER BELLA, 1682768, pointer female, by Bud of Piney Woods-Blue Ribbon Bella. Martin Festa, owner; R. J. Ecker Jr., handler.

3d-DUN ROVENS MIDNITE IKE, 1685001, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Moonshine Cherry. Dr. Peter Millett, owner; R. J. Ecker Jr., handler.

Judges: Adam Dubriske and Jamie Leitch
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 10 Pointers and 10 Setters

1st-HENRY'S SUSIEQ DOT, 1680901, setter female, by Henry of Ferguson-Blossom's Pale Face Susieq. David Theroux, owner and handler.

2d-ISLAND BLUE GENES, 1681777, setter male, by Islander-Sandland Miracle Maggie. Margaret & Earl Drew Jr., owners; Earl Drew, handler.

3d-NORTH COUNTRY'S SODA POP, 1684744, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Hunter's Flight Risk. Nicholas Hamel, owner; Brian Ralph, handler.

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SEDGEFIELDS YOUTH FIELD TRIAL

Doc & Ella Grace Montgomery Win First Place

By Katie Belle Varner | Union Springs, Alabama | February 17, 2024

This year's annual Sedgefields Youth Field Trial ran on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at the Greenway Sportsman's Club in Union Springs, Alabama. The trial is run over two beautiful courses that meander smoothly over the gorgeous hunting preserve owned by the Mike Green family.

A special thanks goes to everyone who put time, energy, and money into making this youth trial possible. Bob Johnson with B&B Tack, Sylvester, Georgia, and Mr. Craig Phillips from Phillips Feed, Seed and Fertilizer of Union Springs donated the winners' prizes. Mark Lee, Larry Puckett, and Dawnie Shephard of Triple M Quail Farm donated plenty of quail. Ban Stewart expertly prepared a hot lunch that was served by Gaynelle Williams. Chris and Cindy Sellers generously paid the entry fees. Husband and wife team Lavon and Connie King traveled from Rockmart, Georgia, to handle the difficult task of judging this highly contested trial. This trial is a Handler of the Year points trial for



Sedgefields Youth Trial (front, l-r): Ella Grace Montgomery with Doc, Addison McDuffie with Dot, Reese Green with Rick, Hayes Green with Jack, and Shelby Street with Ted. (Back row): Todd Montgomery, Darron Hendley, Renee Hendley, Mindy McDuffie, Hunter McDuffie, Justin Green, Trey King, Connie King (judge), Lavon King (judge), and Bucky Street.

the Alabama Youth Field Trial Association, Dixie Trace Field Trial Association, and the Southern Bird Hunters Association.

The first brace broke away at 10 a.m. under cloudy skies and cold temperatures. A brisk, northerly wind set in for the day, but it did not deter the young handlers from putting down some impressive runs.

Every handler finished their dogs with bird contact. After the winners were called, the judges noted that it was a very hard trial to judge because each dog had such successful braces.

The Winners

First place was awarded to "Doc," handled by Ella Grace Montgomery. Doc, a heavily ticked black and white male pointer, laid down an impressive ground race highlighted by two clean covey finds and a back. All who witnessed Doc's performance knew he was the dog to beat. Second place was awarded to "Dot," handled by Addison McDuffie. Dot is an almost all-white female pointer. Dot also had multiple finds and a forward ground race. Third place was awarded to male pointer "Rick," handled by Reese Green. Rick handled nicely and had one solid find during his brace. The top dog in the junior division was "Jack," handled by Hayes Green. Jack stayed to the front and handled easily, ending his brace with two finds.

CARROLL COUNTY (TENN.) FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Lynn Taylor Memorial Open All-Age & Open Derby

By Jim Atchison | Huntingdon, Tennessee | February 23, 2024

The Carroll County Field Trial Club members gathered on Smyrna Road near Huntingdon, Tennessee, February 22-23 and hosted the annual renewal of their open stakes: the Lynn Taylor Memorial All-Age and the club's Derby stake. As always, the grounds owned by David Williams, some of his family, and a couple of adjoining property owners were in excellent condition. David Williams, Gary McKibben, Angie Williams, Michelle Clark, Lebob Stanfill, Vince Taylor, Phillip Barnett, Jamie Daniels, and Charlotte and Jim Atchison joined in the effort to do the things needed to make the two days of running go smoothly and to extend help and hospitality.

Bags of Purina dog food were stacked, and the Purina Pro Plan banner hung prominently on the west wall of the clubhouse, visibly demonstrating that Purina was again the trial's generous sponsor. Also, appreciation for the company's sponsorship was voiced by the club's leadership.



Lynn Taylor Memorial Open All-Age Winners (l-r): Korry Rinehart with Miller's King Poast, Mike Small (judge), Jamie Daniels and Rose Marie Daniels with Lester's Storm Surge, Mike Lemons (judge), and Thomas Daniels.

The weather was decent as judges Mike Small from Evansville, Indiana, and Mike Lemons judged the All-Age stake. Small also judged the derbies and was joined by

David Russell from Como, Mississippi, for that judicial responsibility. Their contribution to the trials was appreciated.

Superstition's Jake, owned by Ric

Peterson from Memphis and handled by Brodie Byrd, who lives on and works for Peterson at his Hickory Valley, Tennessee property, won the Open All-Age stake. Korry Rinehart handled both the second and third-place winners, with the second placement being awarded to Lester's King Poast, owned by Jannie Chapman from Memphis, and third place going to Lester's Storm Surge, owned by Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton, from Springfield, Illinois.

Korry Rinehart, an accomplished protégé of Gary Lester, also did well as he handled the first and third-place winners of the Derby stake. First place was awarded to Lester's Front Porch, and third went to Lester's War Bird, both owned by Gary Lester from Gracey, Kentucky. The second place Derby was Miss Arkansas, owned and handled by Mike Lemons from Conway, Arkansas.

Lynn Taylor Memorial Open All-Age

Superstition's Jake won first place with his performance in the third brace of the stake, with that course located entirely on David Williams' Vickers Farm. Jake handled well and was responsive to Brodie Byrd's direction as he ran a strong forward race and was on game four times during the hour. His first find was at 11 along the west side of the Quiet Place Loop, and that find was soon followed as he backed his bracemate during a second flush of birds. He found birds again at 36 near the end of the above-mentioned loop and then again in ancient bicolor shortly before making a 90-degree turn toward an abandoned farrowing house located on the course. His effort was impressive and appreciated by the judges and others who enjoyed his performance.

Second place was awarded to Miller's King Poast for his strong race on the second hour course, in the eighth brace, where he had birds once and backed an unproductive stand of his bracemate. After negotiating several turns, which are part of the course, he found birds at 10 on a terraced hill frequently hunted twice, with 15 to 20 lapses in between, and where birds are often found. He continued his powerful race through the remainder of the hour and backed his bracemate at 53.

Lester's Storm Surge ran an excellent race in the fourth brace and found birds once, with the find being at 22. This placement provides the opportunity to elaborate on the mark this 7-year-old Pointer is leaving on the sport of field trialing. He is one of the six dogs placed in these stakes, but in addition, he is the sire of four others. Those pups include Miller's King Poast in the All-Age stake and all

three dogs placed in the Derby stake, including littermates Lester's Front Porch and Lester's War Bird, plus Miss Arkansas. Five out of six is impressive!

Other All-Age Dogs

Lester's Shockwave, owned by Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton and handled by Korry Rinehart, was braced with Haney's Silver Dollar, owned and handled by Chris Cagle, in the first brace. The dogs were loosed at the appointed 8 a.m. starting time even though the two previous hours held practically zero visibility because of dense fog. Shockwave had birds at 27, 36, and 57 but also had two unproductives during the effort. Silver Dollar was finding no birds and was picked up early.

Next, Haney's Last Call, Chris Cagle, owner/handler, was braced with Lacy's Cool Hand Luke, owned and handled by Perry Lacy. Cool Hand Luke had an unproductive at 29 on the terraced area near Sickle Pod Hill, which Last Call backed. Then, Last Call had an unproductive 42 immediately after crossing Smyrna Road and was picked up following a lengthy relocation effort there. Luke then found birds, and the hour ended at the galvanized gates along Green-Allen Springs Road.

Rebel Gold, owned and handled by David Williams, was paired with the first-place winner in brace 3. He pointed, and Williams flushed birds at 14 and 27 and backed his bracemate at 50 before successfully finishing the hour.

After lunch, Williams had Rebel Survivor braced with the third-place winner. Rebel Survivor had birds once, at 43, in the first field west of the abandoned railroad line, which is hunted after circling the Miles Farm. He then finished the hour, using most of the course.

Larry Huffman had Nosam's Sweet Water, owned by Jeff Busby, while Jamie Daniels had Dominator's Wild Bill, owned by Nick Berrong and Jack and Sarah Schwarz, in the fifth brace. The dogs stood once at about the half-hour, sharing a divided find on the terraced field near Sickle Pod Hill. They then finished the hour but found no more birds.

Coldwater Paradise, owned and handled by Gary McKibben, and Rebel Dreams, owned and handled by David Williams, were the last to compete on the first afternoon. They found lots of birds during the hour as they hunted the third hour course. Rebel Dreams had the first find at 2 near the lake adjoining the breakaway field. They then stood together for a divided find at 9 and again at 22, where Coldwater Paradise had an unproductive, with Rebel Dreams backing. In between those two

stands, Rebel Dreams also had birds at 20. Their final stand came at 36 when they shared a divided find in large bicolor.

On the second morning, Miller's Blindsider, owned by Nick Berrong and handled by Jamie Daniels, was braced with Coldwater War Cry, owned by Paul Melton and handled by Gary McKibben, who was filling in for Weldon Bennett, who is recovering from a torn Achilles heel. Blindsider pointed, and Daniels flushed a covey along the east of the big corn field on the Miles Farm at 28. At that time, McKibben picked up War Cry at the nearby grain bins. Blindsider was then picked up shortly before the end of the hour, at 52.

Rebel Cause, owned and handled by David Williams, had one unproductive, at 53, during the eighth brace while paired with the second-place winner.

Como Rain, owned and handled by David Russell, and Ascension, handled by Korry Rinehart for owners Pat, Ted, and Julie Roach, were last to compete in the All-Age stake. Ascension had birds at 18, and Como Rain had an unproductive at 27 before both handlers picked up their dogs at 50 when returning to a location near the clubhouse.

Huntingdon, Tenn., February 23

Judges: Mike Lemons and Mike Small

LYNN TAYLOR MEMORIAL OPEN ALL-AGE

[One-Hour Heat] – 18 Pointers

1st-SUPERSTITION'S JAKE, 1687334, male, by Touch's Adams County-Superstition's Molly. Ric Peterson, owner; Brodie Byrd, handler.

2d-MILLER'S KING POAST, 1702090, male, by Lester's Storm Surge-R W Susie Q. Jannie Chapman, owner; Korry Rinehart, handler.

3d-LESTER'S STORM SURGE, 1681624, male, by Ransom-Beane's Line Dancer. Gary Lester, owner; Korry Rinehart, handler.

Derby Winners

Lester's Front Porch, owned by Gary Lester and handled by Korry Rinehart, won first place during the second 30-minute period of the Derby stake. He ran a nice forward race and had one find of a large covey, which was found near the abandoned railroad right of way while coursing toward the Sandy River Bottom on the first hour course. The winner handled the flush and shot well as the covey scattered from under a thicket of second-growth plum saplings.

Miss Arkansas won second for Mike Lemons in the third brace, and Lester's War Bird won third for Korry Rinehart in the first brace. Both dogs ran well during their respective efforts, but neither located birds for their handlers.

Judges: David Russell and Mike Small

OPEN DERBY – 4 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-LESTER'S FRONT PORCH, 1705484, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-R W Susie Q. Gary Lester, owner; Korry Rinehart, handler.

2d-MISS ARKANSAS, 1705667, pointer female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Show. Mike Lemons, owner and handler.

3d-LESTER'S WAR BIRD, 1705485, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-R W Susie Q. Gary Lester, owner; Korry Rinehart, handler.



Open Derby Winners (l-r): Korry Rinehart with Lester's Front Porch, Mike Small (judge), Rose Marie Daniels and Mike Lemons with Miss Arkansas, Jamie Daniels and Thomas Daniels with Lester's War Bird, and David Russell (judge).

Upcoming Print Deadlines

May Issue: April 5

June Issue: May 5

July Issue: June 5

August Issue: July 5

Please submit advertisements prior to the deadline dates to allow time for revisions.

Questions? Email: gsmith@ukcdogs.com

DIXIE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Haney's All In Wins Open All-Age

By Billy Wayne Morton | Leesburg, Georgia | February 24, 2024

This year's Dixie Open Classic was contested over the grounds of Round Pond Plantation. The Walker family graciously hosted this event, and as always, the property was in top-notch shape. The staff at Round Pond is second to none, led by Tracy Swearingen and his wife, Christy. Neil Walker was on hand daily to represent his family and make everyone feel welcome. The use of these grounds is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Alan York of Louisville, Georgia, and Squire Lee of Union Springs, Alabama, judged this year's All-Age competition. Both men agreed to fill in on short notice for the advertised judges due to unforeseen circumstances. We were very fortunate to find such willing and knowledgeable individuals at such a late date. They both rode hard and gave their complete attention to rendering a decision. From the field of 30 dogs, several worthwhile performances were rendered for the judges to choose from.

First place honors went to Haney's All In and handler Mark McLean, on the strength of a wide and forward-ranging all-age race. Coupled with three well-located finds, there was no doubt of the quality of this performance and that the bar had been set. All In is owned by Steve Croy of Richmond Hill, Georgia. This dog has enjoyed a remarkable season and promises to be a contender for years to come. Second place was awarded to Southern Thunder and owner Chris Campbell of Shreveport, Louisiana. Tom

Shenker handled him. Southern Thunder had a strong race paired with two quality finds. Third went Erin's High Note. Owner Mike Sweet of Sebring, Florida, was in attendance to watch Judd Carlton handle his Pointer to this placement. High Note earned his placement on the strength of three clean finds and a superb ground race. These placements were well received.

Next was the Dixie Open Derby. Stepping in to judge were Gary Futch of Statesboro, Georgia, and Dan DiMambro of Big Rapids, Michigan. Once again, we were fortunate to find two attentive and knowledgeable judges to preside over the running of this field of derby contenders.

It was a short field of only 12 derbies this year, but the quality was second to none. This year's entry included two recently crowned derby champions and no less than six of the top 15 point-earning derbies in the country. Earning the top spot, again for owner Steve Croy and handler Mark McLean, was Haney's Easy Money. Easy Money had a far-reaching forward race and one find at pickup. Second place went to Erin's Happy Hour, owned by Mike Sweet and handled by Judd Carlton. Happy Hour had an unproductive early but overcame the early setback on the strength of his ground race coupled with a stylish find at pickup time. Third went to Woodville's Long Hard Ride. This stylish young Setter male had two flawless finds and a forward ground race, showing his willingness to work for handler Mark McLean. He shows great potential to be a strong contender

going forward for owner Carl Owens.

The Dixie Field Trial Club greatly appreciates everyone who supported the trial this year. We appreciate the time and attention given by our judges. Purina and Greg Blair supplied dog food to the winners. Purina also contributed plaques for the winning dogs. Their continued support is invaluable. A big thank you goes out to Tracy Swearingen, Christy Swearingen, Luke Eisenhart, Judd Carlton, Jason Scott, Debbie Hofer (one of the finest cooks around), Billy Wayne Morton, and the Walker family. Without the work of these people, this trial would not have been possible.

Leesburg, Ga., February 24

Judges: Squire Lee and Alan York

OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]

– 21 Pointers, 2 Setters, and 7 German Shorthairs

1st-HANEY'S ALL IN, 1698756, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Steve Croy, owner; Mark McLean, handler.

2d-SOUTHERN THUNDER, 1695471, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-Bryson's Dialing On Line. Chris Campbell, owner; Tom Shenker, handler.

3d-ERIN'S HIGH NOTE, 1696464, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Erin's Quickmarksman's Mae. Mike Sweet, owner; Judd Carlton, handler.

Judges: Dan DiMambro and Garry Futch

OPEN DERBY – 11 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-HANEY'S EASY MONEY, 1702602, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Haney's North Star. Steve Croy, owner; Mark McLean, handler.

2d-ERIN'S HAPPY HOUR, 1703435, pointer male, by Erin's Southern Comfort-Erin's Country Nell. Mike Sweet, owner; Judd Carlton, handler.

3d-WOODVILLE'S LONG HARD RIDE, 1705218, setter male, by Woodville's Saddle Tramp-Yukon Gold Rush. Carl Owens, owner; Mark McLean, handler.

Visit www.americanfield.com for more news!

DELAWARE VALLEY BIRD DOG CLUB

Mountain Top Ryn Wins Inaugural Open Shooting Dog

By James Humes Jr. | Bernville, Pennsylvania | March 2, 2024



Open Shooting Dog Winners (l-r): James Humes Jr., David Cascais, Jeffrey Keller with Mountain Top Ryn, George Hetrik, Vanessa Vanderberg with Bell Stop Boomer, Gregory Fried with G J F Jax, Will Neff, and James Humes Sr. [Photo by Nicholas Humes]

temps from 40-50 degrees. Throughout the day, eight woodcock were moved on four braces. All dogs and handlers competed in their braces until the judges' call of stoppage due to time.

We would like to thank all those who came and participated in this trial and assisted with the foundation of the trial, course development, traveling from course to course, and participating. Things kept running very smoothly, and we look forward to holding this trial again next year.

Bernville, Pa., March 2

Judges: James Humes Jr. and James Humes Sr.
OPEN SHOOTING DOG 4 Setters and 4 Pointers

1st-MOUNTAIN TOP RYN, 1690895, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac- Grouse River Woodcock Annie. Jeffrey Keller, owner and handler.

2nd-BELL STOP BOOMER, 1688925, by Double Deuce Zeke-Bucket List Bella. George Hetrik III, owner and handler.

3d-G J F JAX, 1693172, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Apalachee Elthew Kat. Gregory & Jacki Fried, owners; Gregory Fried, handler.

On Saturday, March 2, 2024, the Delaware Valley Bird Dog Club held its first trial. This trial was run on

several locations through State Game Lands 280. Handlers and dogs persisted through a consistent rain, slight wind, and

HARRY R. BLAINE 1931-2024

It is with a heavy heart that I write of the passing of my husband, Harry Blaine. He was a frequent field trialer in the 1970s through the 2000s but hadn't been active for a while due to declining health. I continued to follow the sport closely. I can attest that he constantly thought of his once and future dogs and recounted his field trial exploits every day.

Harry was born in 1931 in Newcastle, Pennsylvania, and grew up in Youngstown, Ohio, where he raised Cocker Spaniels as a youngster. His dad was a laborer and involved in the labor movement. Harry attended The Ohio State University, where he intended to become a veterinarian. He interrupted college to enlist in the Army, serving in Korea as a 2nd Lieutenant and operating an 8-inch howitzer in an artillery unit. When he returned to OSU, he got sidetracked by the law and ended up with a J.D. from Yale University Law School. He never practiced law, however, but returned to his beloved OSU and became a professor in the business school. As



those who knew him can vouch, he may not have been a lawyer, but it was difficult to win an argument with him. Harry wrote Ohio's first Occupational Safety and Health regulations, which, of course, the state did not implement, and he also wrote many research grants.

It was on one of those research projects that I met Harry—yes, a workplace romance. He was a Hemingway-esque figure in his safari shirts and many pocketed vests. He would leave town on Fridays for weekend field trials and disappear for days at a time for championships. He regaled us with

tales of his field trial adventures. Early on, Harry owned two winning dogs, Counterstrike and Countercharge, with trainer Gene Uhlman. Later, he had dogs with trainer George Tracy, most notably Foxfire's Rhea in the 1980s. Recently, he co-owned dogs with Karen Conroy in Georgia, who ran them in local trials. In the 2010s, he also owned field-bred Cocker Spaniels, including Field Champion Columbias Macey (Master Hunting Advanced), with Ohio trainer Jim Karlovec.

Harry always said field trials were a prime example of a functioning anarchy—people getting things done even though nobody was in charge. That was the way he liked it. The outdoor life, hunting, and dogs were Harry's great passions—he also was a terrible flirt, but I won't get into that. I think of him now, the sun behind him, scouting on horseback through those Elysian Fields, following some great, lightly marked dog. Style and a good race: that's what Harry loved.

—By Reba Leiding

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Calvin Curnutte | Cell: (910) 995-7902
Facebook: DC Bird Dogs



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Wanted

What is the funniest, strangest, dumbest, smartest, most unusual or heartbreaking thing(s) you have witnessed in field trials or working with pointing dogs?

Former field trialer, struggling screenwriter, setter lover/breeder working on a field trial screenplay would love to hear from you!

Please call, text, or email:
JOHN McGRATH • (860) 638-7989
jcarrollmcgrath@gmail.com

I can't pay you, but if this project sees the light of day, you will be thanked in the credits. God bless you for any help you can lend! Sincere thanks!

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

NORTH MISSOURI FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.



APRIL 6-7, 2024 • MARTINSTOWN, MO

Grounds: Kevin & Heather Western Farm, Martinstown, MO. From Unionville, go east on Hwy. 136, approximately 10 miles to Hwy. 149. Go south on Hwy. 149 for approximately 4 miles. Entrance will be on east side of highway. From Lancaster, go south on Hwy. 63 for approximately 2 miles and turn west on Hwy. 136. Go approximately 14 miles on Hwy. 136 until you reach 149 South. Go approximately 4 miles on 149 South and the entrance is on the east side of the highway. **Drawing:** Tuesday, April 2, 7:30 p.m., at home of Kevin Western. Phone: (660) 341-3522. **Lodging:** Alamo Inn (Unionville, MO)—(660) 947-2608; Square View Inn (Unionville, MO)—(660) 947-2301; and Hampton Inn (Kirksville, MO)—855-605-0317.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....	\$50.00
AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.).....	\$50.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)	\$50.00
OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)	\$50.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....	\$50.00

Judges: Jack Glover, Tim Penn, Kevin Western, Garry Malzone, and Jillian Malzone



Entries to: KEVIN WESTERN—(660) 341-3522
-or- TIM PENN—(660) 341-1165 [Edina, MO]

Entries will be accepted with the understanding that the North Missouri Field Trial Association, Inc., its members, and landowners are not liable or responsible for personal loss or injury to persons, animals, or equipment.

LOOKING FOR A TRIAL AD?

Take a look at the calendar at www.americanfield.com for the most up-to-date trial dates and details.

See print deadlines on page ????.

Questions? Email: gsmith@ukcdogs.com

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to breed the best of the *Future.*

ASSOCIATED FIELD TRIAL CLUBS OF CONNECTICUT

Member AFTCA & ANEFTC • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

April 19-21, 2024 • East Windsor, CT

Grounds: Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial Area, East Windsor, CT.
Drawing: Tuesday, April 16, 8:00 p.m., at the home of the chairman.

OPEN PUPPY—50%, 50-30-20.....	\$25.00
OPEN DERBY—50%, 50-30-20.....	\$50.00
OPEN RESTRICTED SHOOTING DOG—50%, 50-30-20.....	\$50.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG—50%, 50-30-20.....	\$60.00
AMATEUR DERBY—Ribbons & Certificates.....	\$45.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG—Ribbons & Certificates.....	\$45.00

Judges: Kevin Joyce, Jeff Phelps, Gene Casale, Dave O'Brien, Pete Murphy, Kevin Stuart, and John Olsson.

For entries and information, contact:

JIM THOMAS, Chairman

532 Gravesville Rd., Barneveld, NY 13304

Phone: (315) 794-2189 • Email: jw532@aol.com

Associated Field Trial Clubs of Connecticut, its officers, and members are not responsible for loss, injury, or theft.



SHARPTAIL FIELD TRIAL CLUB

April 19-21, 2024 • Starts 8:00 a.m.

Grounds: Table Rock Ranch, 56 S. Barber Rd., Barber, MT. Multiple continuous courses with sharptail grouse, Hungarian partridge and pheasant.
Drawing: Tuesday, April 16, 6:00 p.m. at 774 Melville Rd., Melville, MT.

OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....	\$45.00
OPEN DERBY (30 Min.).....	\$45.00
RESTRICTED OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....	\$45.00
RESTRICTED OPEN DERBY (30 Min.).....	\$45.00
OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.)—Time permitting.....	\$35.00
AMATEUR GUN DOG (30 Min.)—Time permitting.....	\$45.00

All stakes are walking stakes and will run under the rules of the U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Association.

Judges: OSD & OD—John Todd and Alex Rickert;
Remaining stakes to be determined.



Entries to: DAVID HUFFINE • Cell: (910) 620-2970 • Texts preferred

By entering or attending this trial, all participants relieve the landowner, its employees and the members and officers of the Big Sky Field Trial Club from any liability for any damage or injury to any equipment, animals or persons including loss of life resulting from any accident.

LAKE STATES FIELD TRIAL CLUB

— On behalf of the Association of Michigan Field Trial Clubs, Inc. —

Member AFTCA & AMFTC • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!
American Field requirements regarding electronic devices will be enforced!

April 23-25 • 2024 Spring Trial • Starts 7:00 a.m.

Gladwin Field Trial Area, Meredith, MI

PURINA POINTS TRIAL • INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL



Entries Close: 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 19, with Drawing at 8:00 p.m., at the home of Sec.-Treas. Denise Peters, 7888 Greenwood Rd., Gladwin, MI. All are welcome.

JOHN HADAWAY COVER DOG CLASSIC [OSD] (30 Min.)—Multiple Courses.....\$50.00*

INAUGURAL RUNNING OF THE

BRYAN WOOD OPEN PUPPY CLASSIC (25 Min.)—Single Course.....\$40.00*
Puppy will run Wednesday morning (time TBD at drawing).

DELL TODD OPEN DERBY CLASSIC (30 Min.)—Multiple Courses.....\$50.00*

OSD will start Tuesday; Derby will start Wednesday at the conclusion of OSD (all determined by entries)

*Purse: All stakes—40% (less \$3/dog) divided 50-30-20.

Rotating Trophies and Ribbons will also be awarded.

Judges: OSD—Will Langley and Dave Heavlin; OD—Chris Wasserman and Joe Wohlfert;
OP—Bob Leet and Bruce Minard.

Direct entries to: DENISE PETERS, 7888 Greenwood Rd., Gladwin, MI 48624

Phone: (269) 209-1255 • Email: dpeters1255@yahoo.com

Entrants and spectators participate at their own risk. LSFTC and/or its officers are not responsible for injury or accidents.

MOOSE RIVER GROUSE CLASSIC

Member AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

APRIL 19-21, 2024 • MOOSE JUNCTION, WI



These premier grounds are on Douglas County Forest lands, in the heart of Northern Wisconsin's top grouse and woodcock cover. We will meet at the corner of WI State Hwy. 35 and Douglas County Road M (Moose Junction) each morning at 7:30 a.m.; breakaway at 8:00 a.m. sharp. Lunches will be available each day near the grounds. Entries Close: Tuesday, April 16, 1:00 p.m. Drawing: Tuesday, April 16, 8:00 p.m., by Hunt Secretary and certified Wednesday, April 17, 9:00 a.m. by Club President Bill Frahm. Area Motels: Swanson's—(715) 378-2215 or St. Croix Inn—(715) 378-4444.

OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC (1 Hour)—40%, 60-40; Ribbon to 3rd.....\$75.00

OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—40%, 50-30-20.....\$50.00

OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—No payout; Time permitting.....\$50.00

— All stakes will be run on multiple courses —

Judges: Classic—Jerry Kolter, Sandstone, MN, and Joe Landowski, Howard Lake, MN;

OD—Colin Peterson, Colfax, WI, and Bill Frahm, Minong, WI;

OSD—Greg Johnson, Superior, WI, and Tim Kaufman, Poplar, WI.

Email entries to: HELENA LARKIN • Email: AKCdiv@huntsecretary.com

Phone: (936) 852-2080 • All entries must be confirmed before they become official

Entrants participate at their own risk; The landowners, MRGDC, or its officers are not responsible for injury or accidents.



SOUTHERN WISCONSIN FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member NBHA • Closed barrel guns only!

April 20-21, 2024 • New Glarus, WI

Grounds: Oasis Game Farm, N9074 County Hwy. J., New Glarus, WI 53574. **Drawing:** Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 p.m., at the residence of the chairman. **Accommodations:** Swiss-Aire Motel, 1200 State Road 69, New Glarus, WI 53574; Phone: (608) 527-2138.

*OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....\$55.00

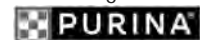
*OPEN DERBY (30 Min.).....\$55.00

*Purse (must have 10 dogs)

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Trophy.....\$50.00

AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.)—Trophy.....\$50.00

Judges: Tom Derrig and John O'Haire



Entries to: MIKE ROPER, 5412 County Rd. A, Brooklyn, WI 53521

Phone: (608) 235-3346 • Email: Miker@wisconsin-built.com

Club not responsible for loss or damages.

NATIONAL BRITTANY OPEN GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP ASSOCIATION

— On behalf of the Association of Michigan Field Trial Clubs —

APRIL 27*-28, 2024 • SPRING ALL-BREED TRIAL

*May start Friday, if entries warrant.

— A Purina Points Trial —

Grounds: Gladwin Field Trial Area, Meredith, MI. Lunches available. \$5.00 of each entry to AMFTC and fence fund. **Entries Close & Drawing:** Tuesday, April 23, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Kenny DeLong. **Lodging:** Northwoods Motel, 5800 N. M-30, Gladwin, MI 48624; (989) 426-4021. Restricted Breed Open Shooting Dog open to all FDSB pointing breeds except English Pointers and Setters; all other stakes open to all pointing breeds.

(Sat., 7:30 A.M.) OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Multiple courses.....\$60.00

(Sat., 8:30 A.M.) OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.)—Single course.....\$50.00

*JACK PLYLER MEMORIAL OPEN DERBY CLASSIC (30 Min.)—Multiple courses...\$55.00

*To follow Open Shooting Dog, but no later than Sunday A.M.

RESTRICTED BREED OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Multiple courses.....\$55.00

Start time to be announced.

OSD, OP & OD: Cash Purse 40%, 50-30-20 after fees, and Rosettes • ROSD: Rosettes

Judges: OSD—Eric Naus and Frank Illijanic; OP—Rich Hollister and Ron Badley;

OD—Rob Ellis and Jeff Keller; ROSD—Bruce Minard and Neil Minard.



Entries to: KENNY DeLONG, 1450 Shady Ln., Greenville, MI 48838

Phone: (616) 894-7447 • Email: birddawgger@hotmail.com

SHARPTAIL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**Starts April 4, 2024 • One-Hour Heats
Joe King & Sons Ranch, Winnett, MT**



**A PURINA TOP SHOOTING DOG AWARD
& HANDLER OF THE YEAR AWARD POINTS TRIAL**

Entry Fee: \$125.00

Judges: Sean Melvin, Garland, NC,
and Ed Mayhew, Winchester, CA

OPEN ALL-AGE DERBY (30 Min.) \$50.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG DERBY (30 Min.) \$50.00

Entries Close: Monday, April 1, 6:00 p.m. (MST).

Drawing: Monday, April 1, 7:00 p.m. (MST),
at the McClintock residence.

TAYLOR TODD, Field Trial Chairman—(406) 438-6445

**Only email entries will be accepted:
taylorjtodd@gmail.com**



ARCADIA FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA, USCSA & ANEFTC • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

MAY 4-5, 2024 • WALKING TRIAL • STARTS 7:00 A.M.

Grounds: Arcadia Management Area, Exeter, RI. Directions: Driving north or south on I-95, to exit 13A, to Rt. 102 South, to Rt. 3 South, to Rt. 165 West, to right on Frosty Hollow Rd. Drawing: **TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 7:00 p.m.**, at the home of the chairperson. One course on liberated quail. Food and refreshments will be available. Scouting from horseback is permitted. Club reserves the right to run stakes on alternate course if necessary. Note: Handicapped handling will be allowed in any Amateur stake per USCSA guidelines. A current State Handicapped Certificate/Placard must be provided prior to brace.

STAKES AND ORDER OF RUNNING:

(Sat.) OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.)—40% divided 50-30-20 & Rosettes \$40.00
OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—40% divided 50-30-20 & Rosettes \$50.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—40% divided 50-30-20 & Rosettes \$50.00
(Sun.) AMATEUR PUPPY (20 Min.)—Rosettes \$30.00
AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.)—Rosettes \$45.00
AMATEUR GUN DOG (30 Min.)—Rosettes \$45.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Rosettes \$45.00

Judges: To be announced



Jamie Nee, Janice Gregory, Lanny Dellinger, and Rich Rogers, Co-Chairpersons

Entries to: RICHARD GIULIANO

148 Gibson Hill Rd., Greene, RI 02827 • (401) 225-5281 (Texts preferred)

The Club, solely at its discretion, reserves the right to exclude any individual from participation in this and/or subsequent events for actions and/or conduct deemed prejudicial to the sport of field trialing.

UKC® HUNTING OPS PODCAST

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:



MICHIGAN AMATEUR FIELD TRIAL CLUB

— On behalf of the Association of Michigan Field Trial Clubs —

Member AFTCA & AMFTC • Blank Ammo & Solid Barrel Guns Only!

APRIL 5-7, 2024 • GLADWIN FIELD TRIAL AREA, MEREDITH, MI

Entries Close: Monday, April 1, 9:00 p.m. (EDT).

Drawing: Tuesday, April 2, 7:00 p.m. (EDT), at the home of the president.

Lunches available on the grounds each day.



**16th ANNUAL JUDD KINNE MEMORIAL
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC (30 Min.)**

Starts Friday, April 5*, 7:30 a.m. • Entry Fee: \$55.00

*May start Saturday, April 6, if entries warrant

Judges: To be announced

Multiple Courses • To the winner, a Molly's custom belt buckle, rotating trophy, and rosettes.

CHESTER HALLEY MEMORIAL AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.)

Sunday start time to be announced prior to drawing • Entry Fee: \$55.00

Judges: To be announced

Multiple Courses • Rosettes to placements

To the winner, rotating trophy and Molly's custom belt buckle (a gift from Michael Halley).

CHUCK PAGANO MEMORIAL AMATEUR PUPPY CLASSIC (25 Min.)

Saturday; start time to be announced prior to drawing • Entry Fee: \$40.00

Judges: To be announced

Single Course • Custom Classic head wear provided by Dun Roven Kennels to all placements.

To the winner, rotating trophy, Molly's custom belt buckle, and rosettes.

MICHIGAN HUNTING DOG (30 Min.) — Judgment ceases at flush

Sunday, 7:30 a.m. • Entry Fee: \$45.00

Judges: Marc Dozeman and Rob Ellis

Entries limited to time available • Continuous Course

Rosettes and leather holsters to all placements.

NOTE: Hunting Dog is a non-sanctioned stake open to dogs with no prior field trial shooting dog placements. Beepers are allowed in Hunting Dog. AFTCA membership is NOT required for the Hunting Dog stake. For all AFTCA sanctioned events you must be an individual AFTCA member to enter your dog. Use of retrieval collars are allowed in all stakes under strict compliance of AFTCA guidelines.

Entries to: BOB WHEELLOCK, President

Phone: (231) 970-1571 • Email: bobwheelock@comcast.net

Richard Hollister, Vice-President/Stakes Manager • Eric Naus, Vice-President

Ann Naus, Secretary/Treasurer • Directors: Rob Ellis, Carson Foster, and Ron Badley



NBHA ILLINOIS STATE CLASSIC

Hosted by Southern Illinois Field Trial Club

Member NBHA & AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

April 13-14, 2024 • Starts 7:00 a.m.

Pyramid State Park (Captain Unit), Cutler, IL



OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC (1 Hour) \$70.00

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—JC@F \$55.00

OPEN DERBY (30 Min.) \$50.00

AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.) \$50.00

OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.) \$40.00

Judges: Jim Lawless, Sparta, IL; Mike Brown, Highland, IL;
and Eryn Pearson, Princeville, IL.

Grounds: Located on the first road approximately 1/4 mile west of Denmark Church (at Purina sign), 2262 Pyatt Cutler Rd., Cutler, IL.

Drawing: Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Travis Patterson, Sparta, IL.

Entries to: TRAVIS PATTERSON • Phone: (618) 719-5532

Email: aarontpattersonjr@gmail.com

An entry is accepted as a waiver of any claim or demand for any loss or damage incurred from the sponsoring club, NBHA, AFTCA, Inc., their employees, agents, and office.

BEAVERTON GROUSE DOG CLUB

— On behalf of the Association of Michigan Field Trial Clubs —
Member AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

Inaugural Running of the WAYNE FRUCHEY OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC — \$1,000 Guaranteed Purse —

April 19-21, 2024 • Gladwin Field Trial Area, Meredith, MI

Drawing: Monday, April 15, 8:00 p.m., at the home of secretary Tom Fruchey.

*WAYNE FRUCHEY OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC (30 Min.)... Entry Fee: \$60.00
\$1,000 Guaranteed Purse divided 50-30-20 • A Purina Points Stake
Multiple Courses • Starts Friday; time to be announced
Judges: Ron Levitan and Brandon Short

*18th EATON SPRING DERBY CLASSIC (30 Min.)..... Entry Fee: \$55.00
In Honor of Club Founders Andy & Betty Eaton of Beaverton
Multiple Courses • Start time to be announced
Judges: Bob Wheelock and Jeff Sweet

Cash Purse: 40% of entry fees divided 50-30-20 • A Purina Points Stake

*43rd MICHIGAN GROUSE DOG PUPPY CLASSIC (25 Min.)..... Entry Fee: \$45.00
In Memory of Judd Kone

One Course • Starts Sunday morning, 8:00 a.m.

Judges: Ken Moss and Mike Singleton

Cash Purse: 40% of entry fees divided 50-30-20

*Rotating Trophy to Winner • Rosettes to 3 places

Reporter: Tammy Chaffee

\$3.00 of all entry fees for Grounds Fund and AMFTC

The use of retrieval collars will be allowed under the rules set forth by UKC/The American Field.

Evening activities after running: Saturday—Steak BBQ.

Entries to: TOM FRUCHEY, Secretary

952 Van Dyke Rd., Beaverton, MI 48612

Phone: (989) 435-3793 • Text: (989) 324-8451

Email: tomnkelinc@yahoo.com



GRAND NATIONAL GROUSE FUTURITY

presents the

75TH PUPPY CLASSIC

April 19, 2024*

Gladwin Field Trial Grounds, Gladwin, MI

*Starts at the conclusion of the Grand National Grouse Invitational



Purse: \$750; \$500 to owners, \$250 to breeders.

Open to puppies from nominated matings with forfeits paid for the 80th Grouse Futurity.

Entry Fee: \$75.00

Judges: Mike Flewelling, Holden, ME,
and Denise Peters, Gladwin, MI

Stake Manager: Bryan Wood • Reporter: Denise Peters

Drawing: Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. (EDT),
at the home of the secretary.

Lunch on course provided by Purina.

Entries to: THOR KAIN, Secy.

348 Upper Powderly St., Carbondale, PA 18407

Phone: (570) 702-6670 • Email: TKain63@gmail.com

Grand National Grouse Futurity is not responsible for dogs entered and run. No live ammunition allowed.

Inukshuk PROFESSIONAL DOG FOOD

UPLAND ALMARAC

WILD BIRD FIELD TRIAL
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC STAKE ONLY
APRIL 20TH & 21ST, 2024, 8AM START TIME
BRAEVAL Bird Dog Club - Hosts: New Britain Field Trial Club;
Member AFTCA, ANEFTC, Blank ammo/solid barrels

45 min braces; multiple courses
on managed Grouse & Woodcock habitat
6 Braces Daily (limited to 24 entered dogs)
Entry fee \$70: Entries gift bag: \$100+ in merchandise
\$5000+ in Sponsor donations, awards & giveaways
Everyone Wins!!

Entries Close & Draw: Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 p.m.,
at the home of Gregor McCluskey.

Awards/drawings: BRAEVAL Rotating Trophy; \$2500+ in prizes;
Judges: To be announced • Reporter: To be announced

Grounds & Directions: On the Wing Grouse Camp, 775 Bigelow Rd. Ellenburg, NY.
Entries to: Gregor McCluskey, Harwinton, CT 06791
(860) 539-9696 • gregor@braeval.net (Texts preferred)

BERTUCCI ULTIMATE FIELD WATCH™
CHARTER ARMS
WARNER SPORTING
MÜLLER ON THE WING
MPE
The Pepi Family

The club reserves the right to change prizes/awards amounts and date and/or time depending on amount of entries received and weather (snow, ice)

NORTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE BIRD DOG CLUB

Member AFTCA, ANEFTC & USCSDA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

APRIL 27-28, 2024 • 35th Renewal • STARTS 7:00 A.M. (EST)

Grounds: Phillips Brook Recreation Area. Take Paris Rd., off Rt. 110 in Stark, NH, 4 miles north to headquarters. Use of retrieval collars provided by handler permitted. Entries Close/Drawing: Thursday, April 25, 6:00 p.m. (EST), at home of Stake Manager Tony Bly, Milan, NH—(603) 723-5613.

(Sat., 7:00 a.m.) *OPEN PUPPY \$30.00

Judges: Tony Bly, Milan, NH, and Ray Gorman, Colebrook, NH

*WHITE MOUNTAIN OPEN DERBY CLASSIC (30 Min.) \$50.00

Judges: Lloyd & Tammy Murray, Stark, NH

*GRANITE STATE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC (30 Min.) \$50.00

Judges: Steve Sumple, Newtown, CT, and Paige Davis, Ashland, NH

OPEN SHOOTING DOG QUALIFIER (30 Min.) \$40.00

Judges: Deb Kennedy, Hanover, NH, and Kellie Short, Buxton, ME

*30% (less grounds fees) divided 50-30-20

(Sun., 7:00 a.m.) NEW HAMPSHIRE AMATEUR PUPPY CLASSIC..... \$30.00

Judges: Thom Richardson, Whitefield, NH, and Bob Arkley, Derby, VT

GEORGE JOHNSON AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.) \$40.00

Judges: Jay Christian, Harwinton, CT, and Ray Gorman, Colebrook, NH

PHILLIPS BROOK AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC (30 Min.).. \$40.00

Judges: Steve Sumple, Newtown, CT, and Adam Dubriske, Troy, NH

OPEN DERBY QUALIFIER (30 Min.) \$40.00

Judges: Deb Sloan, North Monmouth, ME, and Marie Bly, Milan, NH

AMATEUR GUN DOG—Judgment ceases at flush; First time trialers, free \$40.00

Judges: Kelly Hays, Columbia, NH, and Doug Dix, Essex, VT



Entries to: LLOYD MURRAY JR., Chairman, 26 Madore Rd., Stark, NH 03582

Phone: (603) 723-4020 • Email: lloydbmurrayjr@gmail.com

Email entries must be confirmed and include phone number

The Northern New Hampshire Bird Dog Club, its officers, directors, membership and landowners assume no responsibility for participants, animals or spectators in the event of injury or damage to person or property. The Club reserves the right to substitute judges.



ABHA MIDWEST OPEN WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted by Boiling Springs Field Trial Club



VALU[△]PAK
PERFORMANCE DOG FOOD



Starts April 1, 2024 • Camden, SC

Entry Fee: \$165.00 • Purse: 40% (less \$15/dog) divided 60-40

Judges: Derek Bonner and Scott Griffin

Grounds: Club grounds, Camden, SC, located off of Field Trial Road and Greenfield Drive. Negative Coggins papers in hand for all horses. **Drawing:** Monday, March 25, 9:00 p.m., at the home of Cliff Monroe.

Entries to: CLIFF MONROE • Phone: (704) 692-3580

Chris Catanzarite, President

Greg Strausbaugh, Vice-President

Tiffany Smith, Secretary/Treasurer

REGION 2 (AFTCA) AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted by Region 2 in association with
the English Setter Club of America



Backcountry Bruiser
2023 Champion

Held in the Memory and Honor of Dr. A. Hunter Wilcox

April 5-7, 2024* • Greenwood Forest WMA, Lacey Twsp., NJ

**Start date and time depending on number of entries*

**A QUALIFYING POINTS TRIAL FOR THE NATIONAL AMATEUR ALL-AGE INVITATIONAL
AND PURINA TOP AMATEUR ALL-AGE AWARD**

Entry Fee: \$125.00 • One-Hour Heats

Judges: Bart Hastings and Mike Hester

Entries Close: Monday, April 1, 6:00 p.m. **Drawing:** Tuesday, April 2, 6:00 p.m. **Eligibility:** Dogs and handler must have an AFT-CA win in an Amateur All-Age or Amateur Derby stake. Handlers must have a current AFTCA membership number.

— A. Hunter Wilcox Memorial Trophy —

To be dedicated in his memory and contribution to the sport and his efforts to the betterment of field trials within Region 2. Winners will have their placements affixed to the trophy along with plaques to the winners. Dog food provided by Purina to winners.



Joe Cincotta, Co-Chairman



Entries to: CHRIS CATANZARITE, Chairman

Phone: (724) 884-7244 • Please make all checks payable to Region 2

By accepting an entry, the English Setter Club of America, its officers, directors or members are in no way responsible for any accidents or liability that may occur.

Broomhill Open All-Age Classic

— A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING STAKE & AMATEUR INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL —

Generously sponsored by NutriSource Pet Foods and SportDOG



To follow the Sharptail Open Shooting Dog Classic Derby stakes, but not before April 8, 2024, at Joe King & Sons Ranch, Winnett, MT

Hosted by Big Sky Field Trial Club

Directors: Colvin Davis, Glenn Conover, Alex Rickert, Ben DeJonge, Brad McCardle, and Austin Turley

Entry Fee: \$200.00 plus \$20.00 to NFTCA • **Purse:** 50% of entry fees divided 50-30-20
NutriSource pet food and SportDOG collars to all winners • Painting of the first-place dog by Michelle Turley

Judges: Tim Fullerton, Rigby, ID, and Alex Rickert, Bozeman, MT

Entries Close: Monday, April 1, 7:00 p.m.

Drawing: Monday, April 1, 8:00 p.m., at the home of the trial chairman.

Entries, by text message only, to: AUSTIN TURLEY, Field Trial Chairman • Phone: (406) 860-7161

REGION 14 (AFTCA) AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!



Hosted by the Big Sky Field Trial Club

**Starts at the conclusion of the Broomhill Open All-Age
but not before April 8, 2024**

Joe King & Sons Ranch, Winnett, MT

A PURINA AMATEUR ALL-AGE AWARD & AMATEUR INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL

One-Hour • Entry Fee: \$150.00

Judges: Taylor Todd, Helena, MT, and Ed Mayhew, Winchester, CA

Directions to Grounds: Take Hwy. 244 south of Winnett, MT, 9 miles. Turn west (right) onto Yellow Water Rd. (coming from Roundup, north on Hwy. 87 approx. 18 miles, turn east onto Hwy. 244, go 17 miles and turn west (left) onto Yellow Water Rd.). Campsite is approx. 3 miles. A multi-course horseback trial on Sharptail Grouse, Hungarian Partridge, and pheasant. No training or smoking on grounds. No food or horse feed provided. Come self-contained. **Entries Close/Drawing:** Monday, April 1, 7:00 p.m. (MDT); Drawing at 8:00 p.m. (MDT), at the De Jonge residence in Manhattan, MT. **Eligibility:** Dogs must have a placement/win certificate in AFTCA Derby or All-Age stake. You must be an individual member of AFTCA to enter your dog. All dogs must be entered with registered name and handler number. **Award:** Permanent award gifted to winner and runner-up (name plaque on Region 14 permanent trophy). **Accommodations:** Northern Motel, Winnett, MT—(406) 429-7781.

Entries to: BEN DE JONGE • (406) 580-7568

UNITED STATES AMATEUR ALL-AGE DERBY INVITATIONAL



April 5-7, 2024 • Entry Fee: \$250.00 + \$25 Grounds Fee • Dancyville, TN
Hosted by United States Amateur Derby Invitational Club & West Tennessee Field Trial Club

Breakfast and lunch daily. **Drawing:** Thursday, April 4, 7:00 P.M., at the West Tennessee clubhouse. NO FEMALES IN SEASON WILL BE DRAWN. **Running:** There will be 45-minute qualifying heats on days 1 and 2. On day 3 there will be a 45-minute callback heat (number of callback dogs is at judges' discretion). **Social Events:** *Friday evening*—Dinner & Social Hour (COVID-19 precautions in place); *Saturday evening*—Purina Dinner & Awards Banquet (callbacks will be announced). Cocktails nightly. **Prizes & Awards:** Winner will receive a trophy saddle by Haggis Saddles, 8 bags of Purina dog food, a Garmin TT25 collar, a painting by artist Leah Brigham, and a custom roading harness by Kevin White; Runner-up will receive a trophy saddle by Haggis Saddles, 4 bags of Purina dog food, a painting by Mike Kearney of Trophy Bone Artistry, and a custom roading harness by Kevin White. The Gary Phillips Memorial Breeders' Award will be presented to the breeder of the winning dog. Jackets and caps plus swag bag items to all participants. Winning scout receives Briar chaps by Patty's Custom Chaps. Engraved Henry rifles to Regional High Point Dog. Jim Crouse Memorial Award (Silver Plate) to the National High Point Dog. Each participant will receive one bag of Purina dog food. Drawing \$500 Visa gift card to eligible competitors!

Judges: Mark McLean, Doerun, GA, and Cody McLean, Moultrie, GA • **Reporter:** Jim Atchison, Caruthersville, MO
Chairpersons: Quintin Wiseman, Tasha Wiseman, Todd Babbel, Rich Heaton, Whitley Stephenson and Jay Lewis

QUINTIN WISEMAN, Trial Chairman • Phone: (678) 464-1998

Thanks to our sponsors and all who help make this trial possible:



Rule One Investing • Patty's Custom Chaps (pattyscustomleather.com) • Trophy Bone Artistry Artist Leah Brigham
Scott Griffin • Nathan Phillips • Alex & Bryana Rickert • Chris Cagle & Chris Cagle Jr. • Brian & Brooke Sanchez • Kevin White

REGION 1 (AFTCA) AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted by: Arcadia Field Trial Club

Member AFTCA, USCSDA & ANEFTC • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

Starts April 13, 2024 to Conclusion • Starts 8:00 a.m.

Entry Fee: \$125.00 • One-Hour Heats



• **Grounds & Directions:** Arcadia Management Area, Exeter, RI. Driving north or south on I-95, to exit 13A, to Rt. 102 South, to Rt. 3 South, to Rt. 165 West, to right on Frosty Hollow Rd.

• **Drawing:** Wednesday, April 10, 8:00 p.m., at the home of the chairperson.

• **Course:** Single course with liberated quail. Use of retrieval collars permitted. Horseback scouting allowed.

• **Qualification:** AFTCA Win Certificate in a derby or shooting dog stake. Handler must be a member of AFTCA.

• **Awards:** Bruce Fox Plaques and Ribbons to Winner and Runner-Up.

• **Judges:** Amilcar Pereira, Waterbury, CT, and John Olfson, West Hartford, CT

• **Reporter:** Janice Gregory, Chepachet, RI

• **Co-Chairpersons:** Jamie Nee, Janice Gregory and Lanny Dellinger

• **Accommodations:** Best Western, West Greenwich, RI—(401) 397-5494 or Super 8, West Greenwich, RI—(401) 397-3381.

• **Date & Time:** the club reserves the right to change the starting date and/or time depending on amount of entries received.

Entries to: RICHARD GIULIANO, Trial Chairman
148 Gibson Hill Rd., Greene, RI 02827 • (401) 225-5281 (Texts preferred)

Neither the landowners, their families, and/or Club officers or its members assume any legal responsibility for injuries of persons and/or property. Each participant and/or visitor assumes the risk of any injury to their person and/or property while attending this trial.

REGION 19 (AFTCA) AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted by Minnesota Grouse Dog Association

Member AFTCA & MFFTC • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

April 12-14, 2024 • Starts 8:00 a.m. sharp!



Grounds: Rum River State Forest, 11 miles west of Mora, MN. Contact trial chairman for map pin or directions. Handlers walk in all stakes. Multiple course on wild birds! **Entries Close:** Tuesday, April 9, 11:59 p.m. **Drawing:** Wednesday, April 10, 8:30 a.m. by HuntSecretary and certified by Chris Bye, 243 Plainview Dr., River Falls, WI.

AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG (One Hour)—Rosettes to placements \$125.00
OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—Purse: 50% divided 50-30-20 & Rosettes to placements \$ 60.00
OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.)—Time permitting; Rosettes to placements \$ 30.00

Judges: Championship—Frank LaNasa and Paul Bukovich;
OD—Tim Kauffman and Chris Bye; *OP*—Ryan Bjerke and one to be announced.

Trial Chairman: Ryan Hough—(612) 720-5392

— All MGDA trials run to AFTCA Guidelines —

Enter at: www.huntsecretary.com

Email entries to: HELENA LARKIN • Email: AKCdiv@huntsecretary.com • Phone: (936) 852-2080

— 33RD ANNUAL —

GROUSE & WOODCOCK INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Presented by The Grand National Grouse Championship, Inc. / Hosted by the Beaverton Grouse Dog Club

April 17-19, 2024* • The Gladwin Field Trial Grounds, Gladwin, MI

Judges: Bob Wheelock, Thompsonville, MI, and Ben McKean, Minnetrista, MN
Reporter: Denise Peters, Gladwin, MI • **Stake Manager:** Bryan Wood, Pinckney, MI

*Running: Held Wednesday and Thursday with callbacks on Friday.

Drawing: Tuesday, April 16, 6:00 p.m., at Alibi Hall.



Chasehill Poison Ivy
Harley McClung, Owner
John Stolgitis, Handler



B K Rolling Dice
William Siemer, Owner
Bruce Minard, Handler



Ralph's Chasehill Rip
Brian Ralph, Owner & Handler



Dun Ravens Soozee
Chris Jaeger, Owner
Rich Hollister, Handler



Over The Hill Merry
Rod Lein, Owner/Handler



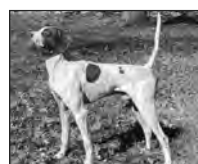
Cairds Cracklin Rosie
Bob Little, Owner/Handler



Bundy's Buckeye Molly
Chris Sellers, Owner
Zach Erbe, Handler



Shady Hills Whiskey Bonfire
Scott Forman, Owner/Handler



Boomer of Blackwater
Cole Cullins, Owner
Mike Flewelling & John Stolgitis, Handlers



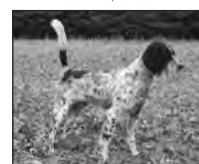
Grouse Ridge Mags
Bill Ballin, Owner
Scott Forman, Handlers



Sunhaze Vera Masardis
Mike Flewelling, Owner
Mike Flewelling & John Stolgitis, Handlers



Meridith Grade Corky
Dennis Keysor, Owner
Tammy Chaffee, Handler



Moss Meadow Seeker
Ken Moss, Owner/Handler



Blue Ribbon Bella
Marty Festa, Owner
Robert Ecker, Handler

Inquiries to: JOE CAMMISA, Secretary • Phone: (724) 859-3908 • Email: castjb@aol.com

REGION 13 (AFTCA) AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted by Farmer Sportsmen's Field Trial Club

— On behalf of the Association of Michigan Field Trial Clubs, Inc. —

Members AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!



April 13-14, 2024

Ionia Field Trial Grounds, 3156 Harwood Dr., Ionia, MI 48846

Entry Fee: \$130.00 [U.S. Funds] • One-Hour Heats

— A PURINA TOP AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG AWARD POINTS AND INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL —

To be run on a continuous course with native birds and liberated quail.

Judges: Phil Daniels, North Branch, MI, and Charlie Fenech, Memphis, MI

OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—Time permitting.....\$45.00

Prizes: Champion and Runner-Up will receive a gift. Purina dog food compliments of our sponsor, Purina and Greg Blair.

Note—Entries Close: Wednesday, April 10, 7:00 p.m. (EST), at the home of the secretary, Bill Branham, 6232 Colf Rd., Carleton, MI 48117; Phone: (313) 820-2745. Eligibility: Dogs must have an AFTCA win in an Amateur Shooting Dog or Amateur Derby stake. Handlers must have an AFTCA individual membership number. Accommodations: Mid-Way Motel, 7076 S. State Rd., Ionia, MI 48846—(616) 527-6570; Amerihost Inn, 423 Brown Blvd., Ionia, MI 48846—(616) 527-2200; Super 8, 7245 S. State Rd., Ionia, MI 48846—(616) 527-2828. RV hookups available with electric \$20/day; without electric \$15/day. Stall and parking lot clean-up of dogs and horses is the responsibility of owners/handlers.

Entries to: BILL BRANHAM • Call or Text: (313) 820-2745 • Email: huroncreek1@gmail.com

Jim Cipponeri
President & Stake Manager

Dennis DeLuca, Ron Williams, Richard Lipski
Directors

Joe Guzman
Secretary/Treasurer

MICHIGAN OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP CLUB

— On behalf of the Association of Michigan Field Trial Clubs, Inc. —

Starts Monday, April 15, 2024, or following the conclusion of the Region 13 (AFTCA) Amateur Shooting Dog Championship, 8:00 a.m., at Ionia Recreational Area, Course One, Ionia, MI

A PURINA TOP DERBY AWARD, TOP SHOOTING DOG AWARD & HANDLER OF THE YEAR AWARD POINTS TRIAL
MICHIGAN DOG OF THE YEAR POINTS TRIAL



MICHIGAN OPEN DERBY CLASSIC (45 Min.)

Entry Fee: \$100.00* • Purse: 50% of entries (less fees) divided 60-40

— Starting at the conclusion of the Derby Classic —

MICHIGAN OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP (One-Hour)

Two Courses • Entry Fee: \$150.00* • Purse: 50% of entries (less fees) divided 60-40

*Includes \$15.00 for grounds and association fees

Judges: Marc Johnson, Winnebago, IL, and Bill Branham, Carleton, MI

Entries Close: Friday, April 12, 6:00 p.m. (EST). Drawing: Friday, April 12, 7:00 p.m., at the home of the secretary/treasurer, Millersburg, MI. Camping with electric is available on the grounds for \$20/night.

Our sincerest thanks to the AFTCA, Purina, and Greg Blair for their continued support!

Call or send entries to:

JIM CIPPONERI • Home: (248) 437-5927 • Cell: (248) 789-0758 • Email: litigationspecialist@comcast.net
-or- JOE GUZMAN • Cell: (248) 884-5634 • Email: jgpointer@gmail.com

MOSDC, Inc. assumes no responsibility for participants or spectators in the event of injury or damage to persons or property.

U. S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG ASSOCIATION



U.S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG ASSOCIATION MID-ATLANTIC OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP



Hosted by Greensburg Pointer & Setter Club

**Starts Monday, April 22, 2024, 7:30 a.m. to Conclusion
Oak Ridge Bird Dog Club, Harrisville, PA**

Drawing: Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 p.m., at the home of the chairman.

CHAMPIONSHIP—Purse: 50% divided 60-40..... Entry Fee: \$150.00
— Purse less grounds and association fees —

Judges: Roger Dvorak, Elkton, MD, and Chris Rider, Smithfield, PA

Reporter: Mike Husenits, West Lebanon, PA

Entries to: CHRIS CATANZARITE • (724) 884-7244

U. S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG ASSOCIATION



U.S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG ASSOCIATION

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted by: Grand Valley Bird Dog Club

— On behalf of the Association of Michigan Field Trial Clubs —



April 27-29, 2024, 8:00 a.m. • Highland Field Trial Area (Silo Course), Highland, MI

Entry Fee: \$125.00 • One-Hour Braces • Purse: 50%, 65-35

— USCSDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS TRIAL —

Qualification: Open Shooting Dog or Open Derby placement which is recognized by The American Field.

OPEN DERBY—Time permitting Entry Fee: \$50.00

AMATEUR HORSEBACK SHOOTING DOG—Time permitting..... Entry Fee: \$50.00

No live ammunition or open barreled guns. Liberated quail and native grouse and woodcock.

Judges: Paul Renius, Metamora, MI, and Will Langley, Harrison, MI • **Reporter:** David Fletcher, Morrice, MI

Entries Close: Tuesday, April 23, 7:00 p.m. **Drawing:** Wednesday, April 24, 9:00 a.m., at the home of Connie and Jim Cipponeri. Grounds and associated fees of \$20.00 per dog are deducted from purse. Rosettes provided by Fletcher Printing.

Marshals: Jim Cipponeri, Tom Vanecek, Ron Sposita • **Co-Chairpersons:** Mark Beniak and Jim Cipponeri

Trial Committee: Bryan Wood, Bill Darr, Bill Branham, Paul Tutro, Mark Beniak, Jonathan Husinka

Any concerns relating to accommodations or directions, please contact Jim Cipponeri—Email: litigationspecialist@comcast.net

Entries to: CONNIE or JIM CIPPONERI, Chairman • (248) 437-5927 • (248) 789-0758 (cell)

Club, Officers, Members and State DNR are not responsible for accidents, injury or loss of any kind. Club and participants do not have exclusive use of the area. Any conflicts should be reported to the field trial committee.

REGION 2 (NGSPA) CHAMPIONSHIPS

April 15-19, 2024

**Mingo Sportsman's Club,
Bloomingdale, OH**

— Open to German Shorthaired Pointers Only —



Generously sponsored by Purina and Dogs Unlimited

Drawing: To be held on the grounds, the night prior to running.
Retrieval collars will be permitted.

— A PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR POINTS TRIAL —

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Entry Fee: \$200.00 • One-Hour

Prizes: Dogs Unlimited gift cards to champion (\$200) and runner-up (\$100)

Judges: Marc McKinley, Conklin, MI, and Bill Haynes, Jackson, OH

OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Entry Fee: \$215.00 • One-Hour

Purse (12-dog minimum): \$500 to champion; \$250 to runner-up

Judges: Marc McKinley, Conklin, MI, and Bill Haynes, Jackson, OH

OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Entry Fee: \$215.00 • One-Hour

Purse (24-dog minimum): \$500 to champion; \$250 to runner-up

Judges: Jack Alexander, Brookfield, OH, and Mark Auman, Houtzdale, PA

OPEN DERBY (Time permitting)

Entry Fee: \$110.00 • 30 Minutes

Judges: Jack Alexander, Brookfield, OH, and Mark Auman, Houtzdale, PA

**Entries to: JENNIFER GOODALL, Field Trial Secretary
4595 Poe Rd., Medina, OH 44256**

Phone: (330) 607-1064 • Email: gooje@aol.com

NGSPA OF OHIO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sponsored by the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Ohio
April 22-26, 2024 • Tri-Valley Wildlife Area • Dresden, OH



— A PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR POINTS TRIAL —

Entries close: *For mail/email entries*—Thursday, April 18; *In person/by phone*—6:30 p.m. the night before each stake begins. **Drawings:** 7:00 p.m., at the field trial grounds the night before each stake. Entry fees must be paid before dogs enter the starting line of each stake.

DNA must be on file with UKC/American Field.

OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP (1 Hour) • Entry Fee: \$200.00

Purse (20-dog minimum): \$500 to Champion and \$250 to Runner-up

Judges: Mary Sue Schalk, Princeton, KY, and Sarah Clary, Slaughters, KY

Stake Manager: Robert Reynolds

OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP (1 Hour) • Entry Fee: \$200.00

Purse (16-dog minimum): \$500 to Champion and \$250 to Runner-up

Judges: Mary Sue Schalk, Princeton, KY, and Sarah Clary, Slaughters, KY

Stake Manager: Chris Young

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP (1 Hour) • Entry Fee: \$175.00

Prizes: SportDOG Collar to Champion; Gift Card to Runner-up.

Judges: Mark Calder, Venango, PA, and one to be announced

Stake Manager: Chris Goegan

OPEN DERBY CLASSIC (30 Min.)—Time Permitting • Entry Fee: \$100.00

Judges: Mark Calder, Venango, PA, and one to be announced

Stake Manager: Jennifer Goodall

Robert Reynolds, Field Trial Chairman

Mail completed entry forms with FDSB & DNA numbers to:

JENNIFER GOODALL, Field Trial Secretary

4595 Poe Rd., Medina, OH 44256

Phone: (330) 607-1064 • Email: gooje@aol.com

The NGSPA of Ohio, its officers, and German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Ohio are not responsible for any loss, damage or injury to any participants, animal or equipment.

The NGSPA Hawkeye Shooting Dog Association presents the

NGSPA HAWKEYE SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sponsored by the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Central Iowa

Member of Nebraska FTA



April 27, 2024 to Conclusion
Branched Oaks Field Trial Grounds, Raymond, NE

— A PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR POINTS TRIAL —
Open to German Shorthaired Pointers Only!

Entries Close: OSD & ASD—Monday, April 22, 6:00 P.M.

Drawing: OSD & ASD—As soon as possible after closing.

Entries must be filled out and paid before dogs are drawn. No phone entries.

NGSPA HAWKEYE AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP (1 Hour) \$185.00

Judges: Ed Liermann and Matt Harris

Prizes: Plaques will be awarded.

NGSPA HAWKEYE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP (1 Hour)..... \$185.00

Judges: Ed Liermann and Vagas Mathiesen

Prizes: Plaques will be awarded.

Purse (OSD): \$50.00 of the entry fees will be paid back with 60% going to the winner and 40% to the runner-up. If there are no placements, there will be no payback.

For information, contact:

Jeff Wallace—jeffwallace@iowatelecom.net

-or- Bruce Bryant—brucegbryant@gmail.com

Send entries to:

JEFF WALLACE, 1564 McKimber Dr., Knoxville, IA 50138

Phone: (641) 891-9513

Make checks out to: Hawkeye Shooting Dog Championship

The GSPC of Central Iowa, members, officers, and NGSPA will not be responsible for any loss, accident, injury or damage of any kind.

Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America

www.aftca.org

Piper Huffman, Secretary
Phone: (662) 223-0126
Email: piper.huffman@aim.com

American Bird Hunters Association

www.facebook.com/trialabha/

Ronnie Rogers, President
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National Bird Hunters Association

www.nbhadowg.org

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National Red Setter Field Trial Club

www.nrsftc.com

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National Vizsla Association

www.thenva.org

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www.southernbirdhunters.org

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U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Association

www.uscomplete.org

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Margaret C. Drew
Phone: (910) 206-0079
Email: bmdrew@windstream.net

Recognized Field Trials

Egyptian Open Shooting Dog Championship

April 1 / Cutler, IL
Contact: Jim Lawless
Phone: (618) 317-7811

Ontario Grouse Championship

April 1 / Philipsburg, PA
Contact: Joe Cammisa
Phone: (724) 859-3908

Cascade Field Trial Club

April 2 / Payette, ID
Contact: Alex Mauck
Phone: (503) 320-2847
Email: alex.mauck@gmail.com

Ontario Grouse Championship

April 2 / Philipsburg, PA
Contact: Joe Cammisa
Phone: (724) 859-3908

Cascade Open All-Age Championship

April 3 / Payette, ID
Contact: Alex Mauck
Phone: (503) 320-2847
Email: alex.mauck@gmail.com

CAN/AM Open Shooting Dog Classic

April 4 / Payette, ID
Contact: Alex Mauck
Phone: (503) 320-2847
Email: alex.mauck@gmail.com

Chippewa Valley Grouse Dog Association

April 4 / Augusta, WI
Contact: Roger King
Phone: (715) 581-9638
Email: Ribriverking@gmail.com

Sharptail Open Shooting Dog Classic

April 4 / Winnett, MT
Contact: Taylor Todd
Phone: (406) 438-6445

The Virginia Classics

April 4 / Scottsville, VA
Contact: Tommy Stargell
Phone: (434) 960-2651

Michigan Amateur Field Trial Club

April 5 / Meredith, MI
Contact: Bob Wheelock
Phone: (231) 970-1571
Email: bobwheelock@comcast.net

Oil Capital Field Trial Association

April 5 / Inola, OK
Contact: Barry Moore
Phone: (918) 850-8585

Region 2 (AFTCA) Amateur All-Age Championship

April 5 / Lacey Township, NJ
Contact: Chris Catanzarite
Phone: (724) 884-7244

Region 8 (AFTCA) Amateur All-Age Championship

April 5 / Inola, OK
Contact: Mike Griffin
Phone: (918) 797-5807

United States Amateur All-Age Derby Invitational

April 5 / Dancyville, TN
Contact: Quintin Wiseman
Phone: (678) 464-1998

Indiana Open Shooting Dog Championship

April 6 / Pinckneyville, IL
Contact: John Hott
Phone: (217) 304-2412

Region 10 (AFTCA) Amateur All-Age Championship

April 6 / Payette, ID
Contact: Alex Mauck
Phone: (503) 320-2847
Email: alex.mauck@gmail.com

Vancouver Island Pointing Dog Club

April 6 / Parksville, BC
Contact: Kelsey Leah
Phone: (250) 713-2203
Email: eventsecretary.vipdc@gmail.com

Broomhill Open All-Age Classic

April 8 / Winnett, MT
Contact: Austin Turley
Phone: (406) 860-7161

Indiantown Gap Keystone Open Shooting Dog & Keystone Yankee Open Derby Classics

April 8 / Petersburg, PA
Contact: Greg Strausbaugh
Phone: (570) 510-2692

Region 14 (AFTCA) Amateur All-Age Championship

April 8 / Winnett, MT
Contact: Ben De Jonge
Phone: (406) 580-7568

Recognized Field Trials

Northeast Kansas Field Trial Club

April 11 / Onaga, KS
 Contact: Eddie Berendzen
 Phone: (573) 268-6921

Pennsylvania Grouse Trial Club

April 12 / Marienville, PA
 Contact: Dave Duell
 Phone: (814) 706-1297

Region 2 (AFTCA) Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

April 12 / Petersburg, PA
 Contact: Greg Strausbaugh
 Phone: (570) 510-2692

Region 19 (AFTCA) Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship

April 12 / Mora, MN
 Contact: Helena Larkin
 Phone: (936) 852-2080
 Email: AKCdiv@huntsecretary.com

Ruffed Grouse Field Trial Club

April 12 / Meredith, MI
 Contact: Craig Merlington
 Phone: (616) 862-2296
 Email: northkentwell@gmail.com

Region 1 (AFTCA) Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship

April 13 / Exeter, RI
 Contact: Richard Giuliano
 Phone: (401) 225-5281

Region 13 (AFTCA) Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

April 13 / Ionia, MI
 Contact: Bill Branham
 Phone: (313) 820-2745
 Email: huroncreek1@gmail.com

National Red Setter Field Trial Club

April 14 / Pinckneyville, IL
 Contact: Ed Liermann
 Phone: (414) 625-0715
 Email: redsetterentries@gmail.com

Keystone Open Shooting Dog Championship

April 15 / Petersburg, PA
 Contact: Greg Strausbaugh
 Phone: (570) 510-2692

Michigan Open Shooting Dog Championship & Derby Classic

April 15 / Ionia, MI
 Contact: Joe Guzman
 Phone: (248) 884-5634
 Email: jgpointer@gmail.com

Region 2 (NGSPA) Championships

April 15 / Bloomingdale, OH
 Contact: Jennifer Goodall
 Phone: (330) 607-1064
 Email: gooje@aol.com

Grouse & Woodcock Invitational Championship

April 17 / Gladwin, MI
 Contact: Joe Cammisa
 Phone: (724) 859-3908

Associated Field Trial Clubs of Connecticut

April 19 / East Windsor, CT
 Contact: Jim Thomas
 Phone: (315) 794-2189
 Email: jwt532@aol.com

Beaverton Grouse Dog Club

April 19 / Meredith, MI
 Contact: Tom Fruchey
 Phone: (989) 435-3793
 Email: tomnkelinc@yahoo.com

Grand National Grouse Futurity Puppy Classic

April 19 / Gladwin, MI
 Contact: Thor Kain
 Phone: (570) 702-6670
 Email: TKain63@gmail.com

Indiantown Gap Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

April 19 / Petersburg, PA
 Contact: Greg Strausbaugh
 Phone: (570) 510-2692

Moose River Grouse Dog Club

April 19 / Moose Junction, WI
 Contact: Helena Larkin
 Phone: (936) 852-2080
 Email: AKCdiv@huntsecretary.com

Braeval Cover Dog Classic

April 20 / Ellenburg, NY
 Contact: Gregor McCluskey
 Phone: (860) 539-9696
 Email: gregor@braeval.net

British Columbia All Breed Pointer Club

April 20 / Princeton, BC
 Contact: Kelsey Leah
 Phone: (250) 713-2203
 Email: bcallbreedpointerclub@gmail.com

International Amateur Woodcock Championship

April 22 / Moose Junction, WI
 Contact: Piper Huffman
 Phone: (662) 471-1700

New England Open Championship

April 22 / East Windsor, CT
 Contact: Bill Bonnetti
 Phone: (508) 648-0598

NGSPA of Ohio Championships

April 22 / Dresden, OH
 Contact: Jennifer Goodall
 Phone: (330) 607-1064
 Email: gooje@aol.com

Lake States Field Trial Club

April 23 / Meredith, MI
 Contact: Denise Peters
 Phone: (269) 209-1255
 Email: dpeters1255@yahoo.com

Moose River Gun Dog Club

April 25 / Moose Junction, WI
 Contact: Sigmund Degitz
 Phone: (715) 919-6334
 Email: degitz@verizon.net

National Brittany Open Grouse Championship Association

April 26 / Meredith, MI
 Contact: Kenny DeLong
 Phone: (616) 894-7447

New England Shooting Dog Futurity

April 26 / East Windsor, CT
 Contact: Margaret Drew
 Phone: (910) 206-0079
 Email: bmdrew@windstream.net

Mortlach Field Trial Club

April 27 / Mortlach, SK
 Contact: Brenda Ochosky
 Phone: (306) 229-6581

NGSPA Hawkeye Shooting Dog Championships

April 27 / Raymond, NE
 Contact: Jeff Wallace
 Phone: (641) 891-9513
 Email: jeffwallace@iowatelecom.net

Region 1 (AFTCA)

Amateur All-Age Championship

April 27 / East Windsor, CT
 Contact: Tim Cavanaugh
 Phone: (860) 575-5881

Maritime Bird Dog Club

May 18 / Cross Creek, NB
 Contact: Donald Henderson
 Phone: (506) 476-7751
 Email: donrobhen@live.com

ABHA TRIALS

ABHA Midwest Open Shooting Dog Championship

April 1 / Camden, SC
 Contact: Cliff Monroe
 Phone: (704) 692-3580

ABHA National Free-For-All Championship

April 3 / Camden, SC
 Contact: Cliff Monroe
 Phone: (704) 692-3580

NBHA TRIALS

North Missouri Field Trial Association, Inc.

April 6 / Martinstown, MO
 Contact: Kevin Western
 Phone: (660) 341-3522

NBHA Illinois State Classic

April 13 / Cutler, IL
 Contact: Travis Patterson
 Phone: (618) 719-5532
 Email: aarontpattersonjr@gmail.com

Southern Wisconsin Field Trial Club

April 20 / New Glarus, WI
 Contact: Mike Roper
 Phone: (608) 235-3346
 Email: Miker@wisconsin-built.com

Indian Territory Bird Hunters Club

April 12 / Lenepah, OK
 Contact: Tom Woods
 Phone: (918) 785-4593

Twelve O'Clock Field Trial Club

April 27 / Burlington, WI
 Contact: Tom Waite
 Phone: (262) 514-4747

SBHA TRIALS

(No trials scheduled)

USCSDA TRIALS

Setter Club of New England

April 6 / Falmouth, MA
 Contact: Nick Hamel
 Phone: (603) 723-6228
 Email: berlinsabres6@gmail.com

USCSDA North Regional Championship

April 11 / Exeter, RI
 Contact: Bill Bonnetti
 Phone: (508) 648-0598

Sharptail Field Trial Club

April 19 / Barber, MT
 Contact: David Huffine
 Phone: (910) 620-2970

Cove Creek Field Trial Club

April 20 / Bedford, PA
 Contact: Bruce Mueller
 Phone: (814) 310-1677

USCSDA Mid-Atlantic

Open Shooting Dog Championship

April 22 / Harrisville, PA
 Contact: Chris Catanzarite
 Phone: (724) 884-7244

Northern New Hampshire Bird Dog Club

April 27 / Stark, NH
 Contact: Lloyd Murray Jr.
 Phone: (603) 723-4020
 Email: murraylt@together.net

USCSDA Great Lakes Regional Championship

April 27 / Highland, MI
 Contact: Jim Cipponeri
 Phone: (248) 789-0758

Arcadia Field Trial Club

May 4 / Exeter, RI
 Contact: Richard Giuliano
 Phone: (401) 225-5281

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