

UKC[®]
FIELD

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A Newsletter by United Kennel Club





UKC TEAM IN THE FIELD

— *An update from Domenick Muoio*

It is no secret that within American Field and the *Field Dog Stud Book* there is a rich history. With a sport that has stood the test of time, there are countless stories of amazing dog work and the victories dogs have had on the ground, from the small wins of an amazing find in terrible conditions to the run-away wins of notable dogs, past and present.

The United Kennel Club deeply values the history of this sport and are working to maintain that as well as continue to grow the sport so it can be enjoyed by countless future generations. One big part of maintaining history is sharing stories from the sport. The value of the history is obvious by the fact that the value of the result reports that are submitted. Not only do the reports discuss the placements, but they tell the story of the event.

In the past, most stories of the sport and dog work have been shared next to a trailer at an event or shared on a phone call between friends while driving countless hours to train or compete. We are excited to use a new platform to share stories and discuss aspects of the sport as well.

The United Kennel Club is currently working on establishing a podcast along with a YouTube factor to connect with you all in the sport. Those platforms would be used to share the rich history of the sport, recant amazing dog work, and discuss any other aspects of sport growth. Official details of the podcast will be released soon so keep an eye out for them, but this serves as a teaser for something new to come. This podcast will also showcase some of the other UKC Hunting Ops sports from the coonhounds and beagles to the retrievers and shed dogs.

In attending American Field events, one interesting detail I have found is that many of the men and women who participate in the sport once participated in Coonhound Night Hunts as well. So, for those of you who fall in that group, you may get some enjoyment of hearing the stories of that sport and learning about how it has evolved since you last participated.

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On the Cover: Chelsea's Thunder Bolt
Dr. Tom Jackson and George Hickox, Owners
Shawn Kinkelaar, Handler | Photo by: Nancy Whitehead

MASTERS OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Miller Unfinished Business Wins 2022 Championship

By Steve Standley | Albany, Georgia | March 1, 2022



(From left, kneeling): Shon Powell with Nonami's Johnny Come Lately and Clay Ferguson with Miller Unfinished Business. (Front row): Aaron Fulmer, Bill Primm, and Tim Moore. (Back): Terry James Chastain, Robbie McCue, Ronnie Beane, Polly Moore, Mike Tracy, Casey Hollander, Muriel Primm, Ray Pearce, Joel Norman, Jason Williams (judge), Delenise Sneed, Dennis Sneed (judge), and Steve Wiley.

The Masters Open Shooting Dog Championship began on its time-honored date of March 1st. Spring in South Georgia is a special time. The plantation country below Albany, Ga., has been the home of this Southern field trial club event since its inception.

Wildfair Plantation hosted the morning braces and an enormous thank you goes out to Wildfair owner Joe Davenport. Wildfair manager and Southern Field Trial Club officer Kevin Beane expertly marshaled the group through these beautiful grounds. Assisting Kevin was former manager Ronnie Beane and associate Robbie McCue.

The afternoons were spent on Nonami Plantation thanks to the kindness of Ted Turner and his staff. Nonami manager and Southern Field Trial Club member Ray Pearce marshaled us through these stunning acres. Nonami associates Dustin Kirby and Larry Hudson assisted our group in the field.

These places along with nearby Pineland Plantation, Blue Springs Plantation, and Nilo Plantations have hosted these Southern Field Trial Club Championships, shooting dog and all-age, in the past. To say these places are special is like saying the Mona Lisa is a fairly good painting. Their magnitude, and very being, virtually defy description. The owners and managers of these properties know what they are doing. They have a plan, developed from years of experience, scientific study, and the great offerings of Mother Nature. Their success is available to be witnessed during this grand Championship.

Appreciation is extended to the Kendrick brothers for the use of the Potter Center facilities, including the horse barn and camper hook-ups. Scott is their face on the property, and he is welcoming and extremely helpful.

The judges for this Championship were Dennis Sneed of Ewing, Ill., and Jason Williams of Blakley, Ga. Both men have vast experience with all the important aspects of this sport. They were totally focused to the task at hand and were kind and fair in all regards and their efforts are appreciated by all concerned.

Dennis began field trials in 1970 and he has been club member, officer, chairman, President, and served in many capacities in groups such as the Rend Lake Sportsman Club and their Egyptian Championship. He

has judged from Alberta, Canada, south and is widely respected. He was a dear friend of well-known professional Faye Throneberry. Dennis' wife, Delenise, came to the Championship and was excellent company. Among other accomplishments she has been the Illinois state sporting clay champion; She actively shoots and is extremely competitive at a high level of the shotgun sport.

Jason Williams is well-known to all in the southeast bird dog world and beyond into South Dakota, Montana, and beyond. He has won this Championship in the past as well as many others. Mentored as a young man by Freddie Epp, he has countless experiences in the field trial world and the quail hunting world. He is an excellent horse trainer and takes a string of young stock to South Dakota each year along with a string of dogs.

Southern Field Trial Club members Tim Moore, Steve Willey, Shon Powell, and Bill Griffin were present throughout the trial and are invaluable to its success.

Purina and its representative Greg Blair are appreciated for their support. Purina feed and products fuel the health and bodies of our beloved canines. The true testing grounds are here in the field and it is here that Purina is shown to be a success.

Flint Ag and Turf provide a John Deere tractor to pull the dog wagon in the field. They also offer other financial support. The Southern Field Trial Club provided a wonderful fish fry for all.

The Winners

The Champion appeared on the first day of the stake right after lunch. It was 46 degrees, sunny, and dry as Miller Unfinished Business (Joel Norman) applied himself to the first afternoon course on Nonami Plantation. Unfinished Business, or "Dan", was paired with Miller's Extreme Heat (Mike Tracy). Heat suffered an early unproductive at 5. There is often a breakaway covey in this area, but they are hard to point cleanly due to the recent hunting pressure.

We were ahead with Dan as he had a good find to the fore at 14. Heat had produced his own bevy after his barren stand on the way to the front. The action continued as point was called for Dan as he stood

in a pine line some 250 yards distant in the direction of Blue Springs Rd. Joel hurried to him, flushed, and shot with all good at 22. Meanwhile, at a more moderate range, Tracy flushed for his composed pointer, but a relocation followed and Tracy withdrew his entry.

At the half Dan produced game near the new structures on Blue Springs. This was also an independent find at a respectful range at about 10 o'clock to the course. Dan is a powerful dog. He has birds on his mind as he performs in this quail paradise. He again stood high and tight at 41 as Joel put his next bevy to wing.

Some 10 minutes later in view of Sam's church, Joel motioned to send his scout out to the right to look for Dan. Right then the pointer was spied frozen and statuesque ahead at 12 o'clock. There must have been a crippled bird as pointed out by the scout as Joel flushed. The judges saw what they needed to see and called for the shot, and all was good. Joel had to reload his gun for his 7th find at 59. Dan once again affirmed his championship characteristics on these glorious grounds in spite of the warm and dry conditions.

Dan is a three-time Champion and two-time Runner-Up Champion of the Masters Open Shooting Dog Championship. There are no other dogs that can make that claim. To look further one would have to recognize that he also won the National Open Shooting Dog Championship and produced a son that did the same. Also worthy of mention, he has been Champion and Runner-Up Champion of the Florida All-Age Championship. Undeniable accomplishments.

The Runner-Up Champion, Nonami's Johnny Come Lately, performed in the last afternoon brace on the second day under the whistle of Ray Pearce. Johnny Come Lately, or "John", is a coming 4-year-old. His race in his derby year did not hold field trial hopes so Ray decided to hunt him for a year, and he matured into the powerful class dog that he is today.

It was 4:15, about 80 degrees and dry, as John and Miller's War Bonnet (Tracy) left the north end of the property on their quest through the vast bird-laden acres of Nonami. As Ray later said, there are a lot of "landmines" through this course, referring to the many opportunities for a mishap on game.

John is out of Ransom and a G Force female; he is high tailed and animated. He showed us that he would swing with Ray while offering big, far-ranging casts. He was powerful and eye-catching.

We crossed a field at 20 into an area of sedge and well-spaced pines which were broken up by bright green ring arounds. The orange pointer was ahead on his own when he was spied pointed in this area. As we approached, a nearby tractor caused the birds to flush as Ray went toward his dog. All was handled perfectly for a good connection.

Mike Tracy withdrew his entry in this period.

At 25 scout Dustin Kirby called point for John ahead and to the right and it couldn't have been a more scenic stand. We had to ride over there to be able to see it. He was down a chopper path leading to an oak that was about ¾ dead and leaning, its sweeping branches arcing to the ground. John was there, pointed in the shade, with the sun just lighting him up a bit. It looked like it should be painted and those of us on the scene could see the beauty of it. The dog was absolutely composed as we rode to him. Ray dismounted and flushed his birds to shoot for his dog at 25.

We went back to the course and hunted parallel to the old double pivot field on our right. Ray rode at a flat walk and let John ply his trade through the half. We topped a forward hill and Ray called out point ahead. His dog was 150 yards ahead in a mowed swath posed in perfect form. Ray dismounted, walked in and a 25-bird covey took flight as the report of Ray's gun sounded to complete the action. Dustin commented that they called this area "the breeding ground" for obvious reasons.

At 37 the course bends to the right and when John was not in sight Ray rode forward to look. Judge Sneed said that the dog pointed ahead,

straight on out in an area of young hardwood scrabble. The dog moved on his own and Ray did not say a word and allowed John to work it out. He pinned the birds in a forward grid and all was in order at 39.

We continued as the course bent parallel to Hardup Road off to our right. Ray rode calmly in the closing moments and the judges called time as John was out of sight. The call of point came from the edge of the woods toward the road. Ray went to him and handled this last find just like the preceding ones, in great style.

The Running

It was 41 degrees and sunny to begin the 2022 Masters Open Shooting Dog Championship. On March 1, Wildfair Plantation opened their gates to allow this glorious event. Wildfair manager Kevin Beane rode the front to marshal us through the country. The first brace dogs were Upfront's Southern Star (Shawn Kinkelaar) and Osceola's Seminole Wind (Mike Tracy). Owner Lance Schulz, from Bismarck, N.D., was in the saddle to see Southern Star point at 6 with high style. Star was asked to relocate but came up empty.

Seminole Wind was not on the program on this day and Tracy requested his retrieval device at 18.

There was a good bit of moisture on the ground and we all were hopeful for a birdy morning. At 20 Shawn turned toward the duck pond to see if he could gather his dog. Things did not work out and Kinkelaar pulled the plug at 30.

The second brace began at 8:30 and included Miller's Stray Bullet (Norman) and Miller's Unbridled Forever (Tracy). Unbridled had a quick find at 1 minute and as we approached the scene a covey lifted, Mike dismounted and walked in front of his dog and flushed the pointed covey. Unbridled's co-owner Jim Morrell was in the saddle to observe.

We headed west parallel to the Colquitt Ford Road and Joel Norman had a good find on the right at 6. While regaining the front Stray Bullet located his next covey at 9. We saw a number of random coveys fly as we rode through Wildfair.

At 24 Norman called point in the distant front, but as we cantered in that direction Joel waved it off. Stray Bullet had an excellent forward find at the half. Stray Bullet had even a stronger find far to the front left. This was near Highway 91. This reporter rode up about 6 coveys on the way to this distant stand. It was excellent and we headed to the right to pass near Gator Pond. A long canter ensued to regain the front.

Once there the judges called time and quickly thereafter Tracy called point to the near front. He shot for his dog.

The third brace was Miller's Lock and Loaded (Tracy) and Oak Ridge Thor (Kinkelaar.) Loaded had a good find at 5 on the road edge and Mike put an exceptionally large bevy to wing and shot his gun. We passed the old pigeon house at about 7 to see Kinkelaar riding the front singing to Thor.

We next passed the Long Pond on our right as we headed eastward in an area of young longleaf pines. Thor stood motionless in a mowed swath, facing our approach as we rode to him. Shawn performed the formalities to complete this attractive scene.

By 26 we passed the Wolf Pond as both handlers maintain contact with their charges as the pair hunted ahead. Things fell apart for Loaded as Tracy asked for his tracker when we were just in sight of the new grain bin. It was hot here at about 45 and Locked and Loaded was out of pocket when Tracy called it. Enthusiastic owners Bill and Muriel Primm were in their saddles to see their dog.

Karen Saniga was riding the dog wagon to support her friends as we began the ride in.

The fourth brace contained the championship performance as described earlier.

It was 3 o'clock on Nonami Plantation as Ray Pearce guided us through, associate Dustin Kirby assisted. Silver W Jill Z (Kinkelaar) had

owner Debbie Ozner in the field as Jill was paired with Miller's High Heat Index (Tracy.) It was indeed a high heat index at this time, but we had seen birds in vast number all day.

Shawn called point early and the dog moved on voluntarily. Then at 14 Kinkelaar called point near a large oak. Shawn could not flush anything, and we had ridden up about 3 coveys on our approach to the dog. These birds were behind the dog and not within her sight as the oak blocked her view. Jill was relocated down course, but no valid work could be produced.

As we approached Scott's old house at 18, Tracy rode back toward us with his tracker in his hand.

We approached the north end of the Nonami course and Kinkelaar rode comfortably with his dog to the fore. The wheels ran off the cart at 27 as Jill had a second barren stand.

Shawn later said that he broke his own cardinal rule that he teaches in his clinics. "Never work your dog on liberated birds before entering a wild bird stake."

It was 3:50 as we released Bully Rock (Tracy) with owners Ernie and Karen Saniga mounted to watch. Joining Bully was Tug of War (Kinkelaar) in the sixth brace. At 12 Tug pointed near the golf course and Shawn walked into flush about 30 or more birds. By 16 Bully Rock located his covey just above the golf course. As Tracy rode toward him two separate unrelated coveys lifted but Rock stood well as his birds flushed and Mike dismounted and shot.

Just before the half Rock pinned another bevy after several relocations near the main entrance road. When we regained the front Kinkelaar had Tug of War on the rope. Rock stepped back up at 34 with a well-handled covey in a little hardwood sapling triangle, still within sight of the horse barn.

Rock is a big-framed liver dog that performed well for his owners and their friends in the field as he traveled in a high tailed form. At 45 Mike was on the ground trying to raise game and after a few minutes, and a conversation with judge Williams, Tracy took him on. At 50 Tracy did have a find with Rock after several relocations. He went on to finish hour without further contact.

It was a clear and sunny 39-degree morning on Wildfair as we released Miller's Record Heat (Tracy) and Thunder Bolt's Storm (Kinkelaar) in the ninth brace. At 3 minutes we saw the breakaway covey fly as Record Heat got into them to end his adventure afield. It was not a good start to the day as Storm was out by 12 with his own infraction.

The eighth brace began with Chelsea's Mae West (Kinkelaar) and Bittersweet War Cry (Tracy.) At 6 Kinkelaar had a good find as the birds were well-located in the damp sedge. We continued to head south on Wildfair and Mae West once again stood for a strong covey.

Just before the half we turned right to hunt westward on Wildfair. Kinkelaar had lost his connection with Mae West and he requested his retrieval device.

War Cry went on a most attractive effort straight ahead through the golden sunlit sedge and sparsely spaced pines. He had his first covey at 30 with all good. At 46, as we continued westward, the black pointer moved with a high-class tail and an animated form to connect once again at 46 straight to the fore. This drive was marred, only slightly, at 55 with an empty stand in a birdy looking spot.

War Cry went on for his final find as he remained motionless at flight and gun to conclude his hour.

It was sunny with a blue sky at 9:30 as Snapback (Greg Shepherd) and Reedy Creek Dial Tone (Tracy.) Dial Tone owner Joe McHugh was in the saddle. Early on Snapback was pointed out several times as he hunted ahead and garnered our attention.

Reedy Creek Dial Tone styled up at 11 amid a gridded wiregrass setting in the shade of a small oak. As Mr. McHugh watched the pointer remained composed as Tracy put his birds to wing and fired.

Immediately after, and some 150 yards distant, Dial Tone pinned his own bevy, and all was good.

As this writer went ahead with the Tracy entry, Snapback was visible over some 70 yards to the left driving to the fore. Shepherd was in a smooth lope as he accompanied his stylish pointer on her push up the rise and to the front. Everything about this scene was attractive. Snap pointed near Wolf Pond at 17 but no birds could be raised. Shepherd's entry continued to hunt ahead with style but a second unproductive near the Duck Pond Road at 33 ended her day.

Dial hunted ahead and past the power line, but the dry conditions were not conducive to our purpose.

It was 2 o'clock as we released Zumbro Stinky Pete (Rice) and Miller's Blazing Hot Chick (Tracy) onto Nonami. Chick had a quick find at 6 under a small pine with all in order. The Primms—Muriel and Bill—were in the field for their entry but it was not to be. Tracy picked up Chick at 25 in the high and dry heat. Rice soon followed with Pete.

The Primms had another shot with their Miller's Braveheart (Tracy) as he was paired with Nella Belgian Brew (Rice.) Rice had a good limb find on the right near the Blue Springs line at 5. As we turned to head back to the course two other unrelated coveys took wing independently just to add to the beauty of the surroundings.

Brew suffered a barren around the old church at 23. The moving gallery during the dog's relocation contributed to the contender's confusion and Tommy took the dog on. Next, Casey Hollander called point on the right across Blue Springs Road at a distance. This proved empty and Mike brought his dog on for a successful connection at 37.

Past Scott's house, Rice rode comfortably as Brew hunted across a distant green strip in attractive form; Tracy had Braveheart at the same time covering the country. We moved onto the north end of the courses and scout called point with judge Williams acknowledging birds. Tracy went to his dog and shot at 52.

Point was called soon thereafter for Braveheart and Tracy had a discussion with the judge. He already had one unproductive, but he was out on the line and did have a covey fly between where Mike was flushing a tractor driving around. It was all good at 55.

Brew scoured the woods in good form, but the brace ended without further action.

The twelfth brace contained the Runner-Up Champion.

Thursday morning began on Wildfair with Melrose Rebel Heart (Terry James Chastain) and Cheyenne Jack (Tracy.) Owners Bill and Muriel Primm were in their saddles and their Cheyenne Jack was quick to establish point at 3 on the first fallow edge on the right. The birds were there, and they often leave early. Jack was good for the work. Rebel Heart pinned his first covey at 5 on the right front. A note from this writer, it was good to have a Chastain in the trial. Terry James' father, Terry, defined this trial for me in my early years here.

We all stayed busy as Jack had an unproductive at 6 after a relocation. Back to the front Rebel Heart had his next bevy out front at 11 during this crisp, cool morning. When we regained the front at 14 Tracy had a find with Jack as Rebel Heart came into honor. Right after that, Chastain had his hat in the air, and all the reasons that you come to this trial flood you. Birds were flown, the dog stood high, the gun was fired. It was the Masters on Wildfair! On his way to regain the front this stylish liver pointer offered his next covey at 21.

During all the above Jack had his own independent find at 19 with all good. After the half we entered a fallow field that runs east to west for approximately 1,000 yards. The Primms' Cheyenne Jack took it to the end in high form. Their close friend Ernie Saniga was mounted to enjoy the action.

About six or so grids past the field point was called ahead and to the left. Chastain rode over accompanied by judge Williams as someone nearby called flight of birds. Once there, Terry James consulted with

Jason and fired his gun at 41. We continued westward in the gridded sedge to the left of the long field and Rebel Heart stood again at 44. As handler approached birds got up behind the dog, Terry James continued to walk and another bevy flew from the side of his dog. Once in front of his pointer, yet again, more birds lifted from in front of the dog. Judge Sneed asked Terry James which covey he wanted to claim. Terry James' response was the covey in front of his motionless dog. The hour ended right after this attention getting show.

Next up at 9:20 was Charitable Deed (Rice) and Miller's Heat Seeker (Tracy); the latter owned by the Primms. We could hear the trucks ahead on Highway 91 to our west. We continued about ¾ of a mile toward the highway before we turned right toward Gator Pond.

By 22 we had ridden past Deed, call name "Rachel", and Tommy eased back to flush the birds for his staunch pointer. We continued north with the pond on our left. By 51, near the Long Pond, Rachel had another group pointed. At the conclusion of this Tommy had a discussion with judge Williams and decided to harness his entry. Heat Seeker was out by this time.

Rice's next entry was Frank Rutland's Panther Creek Rosie as she was paired with Waybetter Rocky (Tracy.) By 7 we approached the south end of Wolf Pond with the pair to the front. Rosie climbed the forward hill attractively and continued northward as Rice held his horse in a smooth flat walk.

Scout Jack Kimbrell had his work cut out for him in trying to help keep an eye on Rocky's effort. Scout Terry James Chastain called point at 21 for Rosie. She stood amongst a small group of oaks and the find was good.

By 37 Rocky was out of contention and Rice put his dog on the rope.

The sixteenth brace began on Nonami with Oahe Buck (Rice) and Tallokas Sun Dial (Jason Loper.) These two handlers are close friends and often work dogs together. This was not meant to be their morning. Rice had an empty stand at 6 in the warm, dry conditions.

Loper had the right kind find at 14, out front, dog standing in the shade, where a large covey was flown to excellent manners. We continued north on Nonami, and Sun Dial stood ahead near the Blue Springs grain bins. Something didn't please Jason and he harnessed his dog.

Owner Mac Stidham was in the saddle for his Oahe Buck as the classy pointer hunted the property as he should. He continued his application until Rice pulled the plug at 43.

Mac Stidham had one more bullet as his Grand Prairie Thrill (Rice) was loosed with Iron Bully. Owners Ernie and Karen Saniga were



Judges (from left): Jason Williams and Dennis Sneed.

present for the brace as Bully had a find at 1 minute with all in order. His day ended early as he was not pleasing his handler.

Thrill made some good moves on past the church and connected with a covey at 21 with all in order. Thrill pinned her next bevy at 25, right off the golf course, in an area of low briars. By 32 we turned away from the golf course and Thrill dug in and went from view. Tommy went to look for her and found Thrill pointed. Rice had to work a bit to put the covey to wing but did so at 33. It was an encouraging effort, but the brace ended without further action to end the Championship.

We all rode in for the announcement.

Albany, Ga., March 1

Judges: Dennis Sneed and Jason Williams
MASTERS OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
 [One-Hour Heats] – 34 Pointers

Winner—MILLER UNFINISHED BUSINESS, 1661405, male, by Just Irresistible Miller's Bring The Heat. Benjy Griffith, owners; Joel Norman, handler.

Runner-Up—NONAMI'S JOHNNY COME LATELY, 1694190, male, by Ransom Pinewood's Jenny Bell. R. E. Turner, owner; Ray Pearce, handler.

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MIDWEST OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Upfront's Southern Star Named Champion

By David Taylor | Elk City, Kansas | March 8, 2022



Championship Winners (from left): Shawn Kinkelaar, Randy Wilson, Chris Rider (judge), Upfront's Southern Star with Virgil Moore, Tug O'War with Harold Gearhart, William Smith (judge), and Tomie Smith.

The 35th running of the Midwest Open shooting Dog Championship and accompanying derby stake began March 8. Twelve juveniles were drawn for the derby stake and 44 shooting dogs were drawn for the Championship.

Judges for both stakes were William Smith from Moscow, Tenn., and Chris Rider from Smithfield, Pa. Both men are well-known and highly respected in championship circles. Both gentlemen have judged most of the major championships throughout the United States and Canada. William was accompanied by his charming wife Tomie.

Midwest Open Shooting Dog Championship

After the last brace was completed the judges named Upfront's Southern Star, a repeat champion of this stake, as the 2022 winner. Tug O'War was named Runner-Up. Star is owned by Lance Schultz of Bismarck, N.D. Tug is owned by Bjorn Peterson of Delano, Minn. Both dogs were handled by Shawn Kinkelaar and scouted by Virgil Moore. Both dogs ran on the second course that breaks away from the cattle pens at the base of the plateau. After a steep climb to the summit, it extends across a wide expanse with a variety of objectives for dogs to reach to. The descent follows a steep rocky path down to a creek crossing with a steep hill to the right. This side hill is often home to a wild covey. After crossing the creek two flat pastures extend to the second hour pick up site.

Star was released near the cattle pens. She went under a fence to reach an edge that would carry her to the top of the plateau. When she went under the fence, she sustained a cut to her chest that would later require stitches. Kinkelaar checked the injury and sent her on. The injury did not impact her effort. She reached to the top of the hill and was out of sight. When she was next seen she had a covey pointed with impressive style and displayed perfect manners as Kinkelaar put the birds in the air. Star reached across the plateau and down to the creek crossing. Kinkelaar sent across the flat pastures, and she finished demonstrating her strength, stamina, and desire. Tug O'War ran a similar type of race. He reached up the hill and across the first half of the plateau covering lots of ground and showing a strong ground effort. His bracemate was running well for handler Gearhart and owner Luke Topp. Both dogs stood along a wooded draw 50 yards apart.



Open Derby (from left): Shawn Kinkelaar, Randy Wilson, William Smith (judge), Erin's Thunder Backus with Harold Gearhart, Garvin Collins, Miller's Kickstarter Rose with Eddie Taylor, and Big Man On Campus with Laura Miller.

Both handlers flushed birds in front of mannerly dogs and fired. Tug continued to deliver a forward race but stood a time and Kinkelaar was unable to produce birds.

There were fourteen dogs with mannerly bird work, some with multiple finds, and several dogs with strong ground efforts that could have mounted challenges to the placed dogs with some adjustment in their performances.

The Running

In brace one Touch's Shameless (Chuck Stretz) had mannerly finds at 5, 24, and 38. He backed his bracemate at 56. Ninnescah Ranger (Harold Gearhart) pointed at 39 but no birds were produced. At 58 Ranger suffered a breach of manners.

In the second brace Lester's Another Shockwave, a new member of Kinkelaar's string, was taken up early. Doc's Second Wind ran an attractive froward race with finds at 5, 47, and 53. Wind was handled by Eddy Taylor.

Sun's Out Gun's Out, handled by Eddy Taylor, had three finds and one stand where no birds were produced. Sun's race was stronger the second thirty minutes. Upfront's McQuade had an error on game and was taken up.

In brace 4 Purse Gossip, the 2021 champion, ran a strong race but was lost at 42. Scott Hadley's Rim High Elhew ran a forward race handled game mannerly on two occasions.

Tug O'War ran in the fifth brace and was reported as Runner-Up. Topp's First J R was running a strong front-end race and stood mannerly for Gearhart to flush birds at 21. Junior was mounting a challenge for the championship but got behind a fence and Gearhart took his tracker just before Junior showed.

In brace 6 Oak Ridge Thor's performance was not challenging, dogs already run and Kinkelaar took him up. Paul Ott's Flint Ridge Ranger didn't contact game and Gearhart took him up late in the hour.

In the next brace Too Hard to Suit pointed at 47 and Taylor produced birds and Suit was mannerly. Bud Moore's Shadow Mountain Gus was taken up after two stands where no birds were produced.

Brace 8 paired Silver W Jill Z and Topp's Hackberry Ice Chip. Jill was running a big race but was lost. Chip had a good race with one mannerly find.

In brace 9 Chelsea's Mae West had a mannerly find but on her second stand at time Kinkelaar couldn't produce birds. Eddy Taylor's Mississippi Magdalene did not point game.

Hale's High Flyer ran a strong forward race with a mannerly find at 10. In the last ten minutes Flyer stood, and Taylor could not produce birds and her race shortened. Four Rose pointed a wild covey at 13 with good manners but the wind was impacting her race and Gearhart took her to the dog wagon at 22.

In brace 11 Hale's Smooth Touch was not pleasing Kinkelaar and was taken up. Flint Hill's Rebel Riley and Gearhart had communication issues and he did not complete the hour.

High Wall running in brace 12 had an error on game at 15. Purpleline Casper, a former Midwest champion, suffered a medical issue at 18 and was taken up.

In the next brace Baumeester's Bar None had a find with everything in order just before the 45-minute gate. Stretz chose to take him up short of the hour. Game Sport had not contacted game and Gearhart picked up at 55.

Upfront's Southern Star was reported as Champion. Ninescaw Cooper was picked up at 9. Hale's Kickstarter, a former Midwest champion, and Thunder's Wild Again, were taken up short of the hour.

In brace 16 Honky Tonk Song ran a forward race completing some good casts but did not contact game and Hadley picked up near the end of the hour. Taylor put White Anarchy in the harness midway in the hour when no birds had been pointed.

Windy Ridge Sugar and Thunder Bolt's Storm were taken up at the halfway point of the 17th brace when no birds had been pointed.

Kinkelaar and Gearhart were braced together in the 18th brace. Both Anchor Down Sunny Mike and Erin's Thunder Backus ran aggressive forward races. Neither dog had pointed birds and both handlers picked up late in the hour.

In the last brace of the Championship Back Lash Doc had an error on game and Moore picked up. Ain't Waitin On You had a mannerly find late in the hour for Gearhart.

Elk City, Kan., March 8

Judges: Chris Rider and W. J. Smith

MIDWEST OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 43 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner—UPFRONT'S SOUTHERN STAR, 1662579, pointer female, by Ransom-Double Wild. Lance Schultz, owner; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.

Runner-Up—TUG O'WAR, 1668963, pointer male, by Sugarknoll War Paint-Nemaha Amazin Sue. Bjorn Peterson & Adam Hart, owners; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.

Midwest Open Derby

Twelve juveniles were drawn for the Midwest Derby, eleven pointers and one setter. Erin's Thunder Backus, sired by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt and co-owned by Dr. Tom Jackson and Jerry Moissen, took the top spot in the stake. Backus was handled by Shawn Kinkelaar and scouted by Harold Gearhart. The attractive moving black and white male ran a tail cracking front end race and had a mannerly find early in the brace. Miller's Kickstarter Rose ran a beautiful front-end race for second place. Rose was handled by Eddy Taylor. Big Man On Campus, owned by Tom Darden and handled by Kinkelaar, ran a strong forward race for third place.

The venue for the trial was the Westfall Ranch near Elk City, Kan. The Championship committee appreciates Mr. Westfall for providing his ranch, ranch facilities, and equipment for the running of this event. Bill has been supportive of the championship from the beginning and has provided a home for the championship for over two decades.

Ranch manager Chuck Camfield has been associated with field trials for many years. He scouted for his father-in-law, Henry Taylor, who was a larger-than-life figure in the early days of the Midwest Association. Chuck always checks to see that everything is running smoothly and if anything is needed.

The Championship is indebted to Greg Blair and Purina for their continued support of the stake. The company provides product to be awarded to the winners and provides funds for advertising.

The traditional Championship dinner to honor the 2021 champion, Pure Gossip, was provided by owners Mr. and Mrs. Bob Reynolds and Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Stretz. Chuck has been Gossip's handler throughout her career. To date, Gossip has won two championships and five runners-up championships.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Reynolds have served this championship for over twenty years. Bob has announced that this was his final trial as chairman. He has been an outstanding leader and the association appreciates his service. Garvin Collins has attended each of the championships and has been Bob's right-hand man. Harold Gearhart says that he does the heavy lifting to make this trial a success and that is a true statement. Randy Wilson took over the meal preparation for the trial and did a fine job.

Bob has left the Championship in very capable hands with the naming of Garvin Collins as chairman for the 2023 running of the Midwest Open Championship.

OPEN DERBY – 11 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—ERIN'S THUNDER BACKUS, 1692320, pointer male, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Erin's Bet On Me. Dr. Tom Jackson & Jerry Moissen, owners; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.

2d—MILLER'S KICKSTARTER ROSE, 1690341, pointer female, by Hale's Kickstarter-Miller's Miss Kittie. Ronnie Miller, owner; Eddy Taylor, handler.

3d—BIG MAN ON CAMPUS, 1694291, pointer male, by Dragonfly-Cold Creek Ms. Kay. Todd Darden, owner; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.

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To comply with the minimum ad requirements*, copy should be submitted at least 30 days before the start of a trial.
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REGION 17 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Millstar's Saltire Named Champion

By David Taylor | Elk City, Kansas | March 13, 2022



(From left to right): Tara Hadley, Jeremy Gulick, Dr. Hale with Millstar's Saltire, Laura Miller, and Virgil Moore.

Trial chairman Luke Topp, with the support of the professional trainers that would be attending the Midwest and Jayhawk Shooting Dog Championships, scheduled the Region 17 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship between the two open stakes. This provided the opportunity for dogs to be run in three championships within a short period of time without extra travel. From the perspective of this writer, observing professionals and amateurs working together to promote the sport was a unique and positive occurrence. The professional trainers gave of their time to judge, marshal, and attend to gates during the amateur stake. Harold Gearhart, Jeremy Gulick, Shawn Kinkelaar, Virgil Moore, and Eddy Taylor are to be commended for giving of their time to promote an amateur event.

Virgil Moore from Texas and Jeremy Gulick from Southeast Kansas rode the judicial saddles. These professional trainers gave every entry their full attention. Judging this stake was difficult because of the lack of bird contact. Only four dogs out of 36 entries had acceptable bird work. There were some strong ground efforts rendered without bird work and many stands where no birds were produced. With bird work at such a premium only a champion was named.

Oengus, Vizsla male, ran in the 15th brace handled by his proud

owner Laura Miller. He was released on the second course and reached for the top of the hill. Miller called point at 12 for an intense Oengus and flushed his birds with everything in order. Released from this stand the attractive moving red dog ran a mostly forward race until pick up was ordered. Laura has been quite successful with her red dogs. Oengus's brother is the current Region 19 Amateur Shooting Dog Champion. Jay Lewis scouted the champion.

Bob Lais and Jim Lawless showed dogs on birds but no runner-up was named.

The Westfall Cattle Ranch provided three excellent one-hour courses for this trial. Mr. Westfall has allowed many championships to be contested at his Elk City, Kan., ranch. This championship with 36 entries and the 2002 championship with 72 entries have been two of the largest Region 17 Amateur Shooting Dog Championships held and both were run on these grounds. Area clubs greatly appreciate the use of the ranch and ranch facilities.

Ranch manager Chuck Campfield provides use of the ranch trailer to transport trial officials, handlers, and interested observers to and from the starting line. Chuck checks each day to be sure everything is going smoothly and is ready to help if anything is needed.

The trial committee is appreciative of Nutri-Source for its support for this stake as well as the local trials in the area.

Region officers worked together to host a successful event. Region vice-president Rodney Shoemaker and secretary Diane Shoemaker took the entries and conducted the drawing. Region 17 president and National trustee, Luke Topp, chaired the event. He organized a group of individuals that gave of their time to host this trial. Paul Ott furnished a side-by-side to be used as the dog wagon and to plant birds from. Although David Merritt was not able to attend due to a health issue, he obtained the trophies. David has been a mentor to chairman Topp for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Fry and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schoenborn prepared food for an outstanding banquet.

Elk City, Kan., March 13

Judges: Jeremy Gulick and Virgil Moore

REGION 17 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 36 Entries

Winner—MILLSTAR'S SALTIRE, 1671543, Vizsla male, by Lundy's Red Bull-C K Millstar's Wee Dram. Dr. Laura Miller, owner and handler.

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NATIONAL AMATEUR CHUKAR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Dunfur's Big Timber Wins 2022 Running

By Todd Schaaf | Maupin, Oregon | March 19, 2022



(Front row): Chase Cochran with Dunfur's Big Timber and Mel Lueck with Miss Liberty Too. (Second row): Shannon Schaaf, Greg Blair, Dan Hoke, Allison Miller, Jane McFarland, and Emely Desev. (Back row): Bridget Ledington, Cliff Mesnard, Chris Perkins, Josh Miller, Jim Ledington, and Mark McFarland.

On March 19th the Pacific Coast Field Trial Club hosted the National Amateur Chukar Shooting Dog Championship. It was held in Maupin, Ore., on the historical Imperial Stock Ranch. The Imperial Stock Ranch has been a family-owned and operated ranch for over 142 years, located on more than 52,000 acres of Oregon's beautiful high desert. This year the weather was great, nothing like the monsoon wind storms we endured last year, which made it much more enjoyable for our two great judges to watch 34 dogs.

Our distinguished judges are our own local Dan Hoke from Dunfur's Kennels and Greg Blair from Purina Dog Food. They both told me they had a great time watching 34 dogs and came up with a very deserving Champion and Runner-Up Champion.

Our Champion was the top dog out of the 7th Brace—Dunfur's Big Timber, GSP male handled by Anthony Bucknam and owned by Mark Lund and his father Lynn Lund. Timber, a young dog, had a great race. I personally have seen this dog and already has 4 or 5 great wins already this year. He will go on to do many more great things. Congratulations to the owners and handler. See Champions run in Brace 7 from the judges' perspective.

Our Runner-Up Champion is the top dog from the 5th Brace—Miss Liberty Too, GSP female owned and handled by Mark McFarland. Mark and Libby have been a great team for many years, and it was wonderful to see them put down a race that was deserving of a Championship placement. Libby has always been a very consistent competitor, sometimes we can't always say the same about Mark, but we can say he is always great to have around; Very proud of both. See Runner-Up Champion race in brace 5 from the judges' perspective.

The Running

Brace 1: Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Jack, setter male owned and

handled by Alex Mauck with Perkins Lakeside Wild Child, pointer female owned and handled Chris Perkins. Wild Child started with a couple of really nice casts up the side draw above the fence. She came back down the draw and under the fence in time to not back Owyhee Jack at 7. Mauck had a hard time flushing because the bird had left, and he had failed to notice. Judicial staff allowed him to fire and move on. Two minutes later Owyhee Jack was found standing. No bird could be found. Through Dave's Gate at 20, Jack opened up to the top of Natcher Butte. Coming back on his own. The nice work was negated by a breach of manners at 28.

Brace 2: Coulee Cruiser, setter male owned and handled by Anne Tyson, and Maybellene, setter female owned and handled by Tom Griffin. Breaking away from the road above Green Valley, Coulee had a find down under a tree above the water trough. The bird was making a game of running around the tree and it was winning. Handler fired on the judge's advice. Maybellene and Coulee were gathered up and taken up the hill. In this brace there were lots of miscommunications; You could say that everyone was involved—the dogs, the scouts, the marshal, and handlers. The wind was involved which made hearing and understanding difficult. Handlers elected to water their dogs and regain some sense of control. Now as the course goes through the Mad Hatter Gate, the course drifts to the right, but the land says go straight. Straight is where the dogs both went. Now point being called, only the scout knew which dog was pointing so his handler came running, not my dog. Tyson arrived before the other dog got there in time to back. Tyson then flushed a nice pair of huns. Both dogs hunted up the draw to the Original Gate.

Brace 3: Perkins Elhew River Rail, pointer female owned and handled by Chris Perkins and I H Pearl's Blindsider, pointer female owned and handled by Jared Tappero. This was a downhill breakaway to Dave's Gate. River Rail working the upper ridge nicely. The wind picked up and

she shortened as she hunted into it. Blindsider got up high enough to get trapped behind a fence, which took a few minutes to sort out. River Rail had a not-so-pretty back at 15 to a very stylish Blindsider. Unfortunately, Blindsider moved up on the flighty pair of birds and handler reached for his roading harness. Judge advised Perkins that he was in a deep hole with the judges, but he might get out with good work. At 30 River Rail was picked up.

Brace 4: League of Her Own, pointer female owned and handled by Amanda Schaaf, paired with Vezeto's Alpine Redemption, Vizsla male owned and handled by Daniel Brooks. Alpine had a sporty find at 8 minutes above the windmill. League was fast and forward as we moved up the draw above Dave's Gate. League was found at 22 in a big batch of sage below the Rock Cliff. Alpine was in the area and came in presumably to back. Both dogs standing, Alpine was in his handler's hands when the judges got there. He may have grabbed Alpine a little soon because it appeared to the judges that maybe League was hidden behind a big piece of sage brush. Live and learn. League now making some good and smart moves up the side of Nachter Butte. At 35 she found herself in trouble for moving after a bird, ending her bid.

Brace 5: Featuring a very local Miss Liberty Too, our Runner-Up Champion owned and handled by Mark McFarland, and Tian Butterbean, pointer male owned and handled by Cliff Mesnard. Butterbean was fast and away up the next ridge in no time at all; The gallery having fun pointing him out. The wind was not our friend. Miss Liberty took the bottom of the draw towards Bakeoven to the end, her scout called point and we descended the grade to find her standing a pair of Huns. In the wind and under my breath, I said, "Nice find." Alex Mauck said, "Yes it was." Miss Liberty catching the front above the Cabin Pond, which is immediately where our group lost her. As we bumbled around, an interested gallery member somehow saw her under a big juniper. The single chukar was flushed and a heavy breathing McFarland took her to the pond for water. Butterbean was on an excellent adventure of his own but often far up on a ridge looking back to gauge the next cast. Not enough can be said about what happened next. Both the Winner and Runner-Up made this move, and it solidified their placements. Miss Liberty had a choice—run straight down the draw or take a side trip up the ridge and meet us 11 minutes later at the end of it. That is where birds live and that is where bird dogs should go. Back in Green Valley, both dogs took water at the truck. Just before Madhatter, Butterbean was still with us but listening a bit better. Miss Liberty was right and didn't come forward. The scout found her pointing. McFarland on a pretty good Ranch horse making the ride in style. A shot as the hun flew to safety at the 44-minute mark was memorable. Butterbean was birdless. At 55, Miss Liberty had a chukar and a good finish.

Brace 6: Far West Builder's Ace, pointer male owned and handled by Mike Wilken, and Love Train, pointer female owned and handled by Tom Griffin. Love Train and Builder's Ace were big off the line. Builder's Ace made some bold moves that eventually got him, well, gone. Tracker was called for at 25. Love Train brought up at 15. Above the Cabin Pond, Love Train pointed a chukar up where you should be thanking the bird planter at 35. She continued to make big moves until she was finally counted out.

Brace 7: Dunfur's Big Timber, our Champion GSP male handled by Anthony Bucknam and owned by Mark and Lynn Lund, braced with Perkins Trace of Snow, pointer female owned and handled by Chris Perkins. We broke from camp. It was an early morning after a late night. The dogs went forward without much urging. The handlers seemed calm, probably not. Just as Bucknam was starting to handle, Big Timber was standing at 8 over by the windmill. The bird work was flawless. Turning up hill towards the Original Gate the pair made some nice moves, both left and right. Trace of Snow hitting up in the rocks. Big Timber just as impressive. Up past the barbed wire crossing, Big Timber on point again. A single chukar produced and again excellent bird work. Across the face of Nachter Butte, both dogs used the wind to their productive advantage. Probably the only flaw in Big Timber's race was the nonproductive at the 27-minute mark. Two things happened

at 33; Trace of Snow had a non-productive and Big Timber had a find. At 36, Trace of Snow had a dandy find on a pair of huns. Big Timber was making some really nice moves across a hillside and at 45 had another really good find. At 50, Trace of Snow was pointing again, and Big Timber made an incredible back. The pair of huns flew down the draw. Trace of Snow made a nice finish. Big Timber made the same incredible cast across the top of the ridge that the Runner-Up made the day before. Fun brace, lots to talk about.

Brace 8: Saddled Whitehorse, GSP female owned and handled by Matt Solt, and Aunt Troji's Dirty Nike, GSP female owned and handled by Larry Metter. Breakaway from the spring in Green Valley. Both down the valley with rocks above. Whitehorse chooses the rocks. The pace is quick. If you were handling, you would ride too. Coming up the hill and hoping that the pair would be forward the handlers were sitting tall in the saddle looking for 'em. Nike was in front. Whitehorse was not in sight. Nike hunting diligently. The wind was strong. Whitehorse not found in judgement. In fact, she was found 7 hours later. Above Dave's Gate, Nike was found standing, pretty. Continuing up the draw, her range and pattern were the same as before. Nike finished with a nice find at 55 minutes.

Brace 9: Dunfur's Tuff Dixie, GSP female owned and handled by Matt Solt, was scratched as Matt Solt was looking for Whitehorse from the previous brace. Skydancer Gold Rush, setter male owned and handled by Tom Griffiin. Breaking away above the Cabin Pond, Gold Rush made some big casts. Upon completing those casts, he would come in for a bit. Then off he would go again. At 26 Gold Rush had what started as a nonproductive that he turned into a find on huns. At 33 near the windmill Gold Rush had a find on a single chukar. For the next couple of minutes, it took the scout and the handler some time to get him to the front. When they did get him forward, he went and at 51 he was on point at Dave's Gate. Sent up hill to finish his time, he did go way up the hill and was found on point at time. The find never produced a bird.

Brace 10: Double M's Deliverance, pointer male owned and handled by Cliff Mesnard, and Snakebite N V, pointer female owned and handled by Mel Lueck. This pair had running on their minds. Both making those casts that the gallery would get involved in. Across Nachter Butte the pair had some extended absences; this of course distracted from their efforts. Lots of country to look at but not a dog that we could see. Handlers asked for their respective tracking units.

Brace 11: Liberty's Lady Rising Sun, GSP female owned and handled by Make McFarland, and Skydancer's Deal Maker, setter male owned and handled by Tom Griffin. Breaking away from the windmill, Lady Rising Sun lifted a chukar and chased it. Her dismayed handler was, well, dismayed. This near the 7-minute mark. Deal Maker gave it his best for the next 12 minutes. His handler felt that he was not applying himself well enough to continue and wished to get his next charge out of the dog truck.

Brace 12: Touch's Reign of Fire, pointer female owned and handled by Tom Griffin, and Painted Owyhee Breeze, pointer female owned and handled by Bridget Ledington. Reign of Fire was going hard off the line. A big breakaway and a bold move across the ridge were her next and last move seen under judgment. Tracker in use at 30. Breeze made some nice moves that made sense to the country. Following up those moves with a great move across Nachter Butte. A really good find at 40. Fatigue bringing her closer to the gallery. Another find at 57 was nice but diminishing range distracted.

Brace 13: Troji's Blazing Saddle, GSP female owned and handled by Larry Metter, and Touch's California Dream, pointer male owned and handled by Tom Griffin. After a brief wait for lost handler, we broke away from the original gate. Metter handling his young Shorthair. Blazing Saddle had a really nice find at 28. Coming out of the Cabin Pond, she made some really nice moves above the valley, much like the winners. Above the rocks, east of Green Valley, she had a find up in the rocks at 35 minutes. California Dream was attractive from the start. The Limb find at 15 coupled with a find at 23 above the Cabin Pond, got

the judges' attention. Blazing Saddle had some things working for her. As time went on her youth started to show. California Dream lost touch after the Cabin Pond. He was last seen on a far ridge. Tracker was handed to his handler.

Brace 14: Up N'Adams Gaining Elevation, GSP male owned and handled by Josh Miller, paired with Tekoa Mountain Six Gun, setter male owned and handled by Chase Cochran. The Gallery suffering from chionophobia on this brace. Six Gun and Elevation making some early moves that the judges were looking at. Six Gun with a find below the windmill at 6. We had ridden past him, and the sharp eyes of judge Blair saw him in the brush. Four minutes down range, Six Gun was standing again along the fence. All in order. At 16, Elevation was found standing above the first gate. The bird was a runner, but the handler eventually got it to lift. Now at 25 and 26 this pair were standing different birds on different hills near Dave's Gate. The dogs stood well for the flush and shot. Crossing Nachter Butte, the pair hunted the whole face of the Butte at different ranges. Elevation with a find at 36 and Six Gun with a dead bird find at the same time. Six Gun needing scouting near the top of Lolly Pop Tree hill. The snow now coming down hard. Six Gun got out-of-pocket, as they say. Elevation mostly forward but slowing as cover was disappearing. Tracker delivered to Cochran by judge.

Brace 15: M H Rockford Peach, pointer female owned and handled by Matt Huston, and Elhew Sea Me Charm'em, pointer male owned and handled by Mel Lueck. Breaking away down Bull Hook Bottom, Peach was forward down the draw. Charm'em forward as well. As the gallery came around the spring bottom, Charm'em was forward, and Peach was not in sight. A sharp eye from the judges panel saw a dog way up on a far ridge standing. A five-minute ride confirmed that Peach was indeed pointing. As the handler arrived Peach decided to move up and push the bird. Charm'em hunted the front with some predictability. Hunting the top of the ridge going down into Madhatter, a hun was knocked by the gallery. The bird figured, "I'll fly down over that dog's head and see what trouble I can make." Charm'em looked at the hun and honestly tried to stop to flush but then got over his duty and chased the wild bird.

Brace 16: Painted Owyhee Toad, pointer male owned and handled by Bridget Ledington, and Gotta Nother Project, pointer male owned and handled by Todd Schaaf. Above the Windmill, Project had a breach of

manners at 4. Roading harness and a rope for Project. Toad had what the judges considered the best first 20 minutes of the stake. Toad had finds at 20, 25. All good quality finds. He made a great move across Nachter Butte, the Toad dropped down below the road down into the flat above the Original Gate to stick a chukar. All good work. The bird under the juniper tree would not fly and blank was offered instead. At the 40-minute mark, Toad had an indiscretion that both the handler and the judges were sicken by.

Brace 17: Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Jack, setter male owned and handled by Alex Mauck, and Indian Head Whiski, pointer male owned and handled by Jerad Tappero. Both attractive to watch but had problems at the 10-minute mark of this brace and ended up on the end of a rope.

There is 'the old saying it takes a village to'. In the case of putting on a field trial there has never been a truer statement. Lucky for me I have a great village. Without the help of Dan Hoke, Chase Cochran, Mel Lueck, Barry Lueck, Emily Deasy, Josh and Alison Miller, Anthon Backnam, my very patient wife Amanda Schaaf, and I can't forget Kate and Jason for the use of their side-by-side, none of this could be possible. Nor without great landowners like Blane Carver and his opening up his ranch to us. We are lucky to have companies like Purina. I cannot say how much we appreciate everything Purina does for the field trial community. The last group I would like to thank is everyone who came and participated in the Championship. See you all next year.

Maupin, Oreg., March 19

Judges: Greg Blair and Dan Hoke

NATIONAL AMATEUR CHUKAR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 7 German Shorthairs, 18 Pointers,
8 Setters and 1 Vizsla

Winner—DUNFUR'S BIG TIMBER, 1689498, German Shorthair male, by Dress Blue Dunfur's Tule Moon. Mark & Lynn Lund, owners; Anthony Bucknam, handler.

Runner-Up—MISS LIBERTY TOO, 1668269, German Shorthair female, by Diamond Duke-Heidi Ho XXXIII. Mark McFarland, owner and handler.

ENGLISH SETTER CLUB OF AMERICA

Garden State Shooting Dog Classics

By Lloyd Miller | Lacey Township, New Jersey | March 21, 2022

The English Setter Club of America Garden State Shooting Dog Classic program started Monday, March 21 and concluded Sunday, March 27. The weather was great except for some misty rain intermittent on a couple days.

The club would like to thank Purina again this year for their continuous support of this event as well as supplying dog food to the winners. It was most appreciated. Next, I would like to thank Joseph Cincotta, our trial Chairman, and John Frank, the trial secretary, who did most of the work in putting this event together. Others who did a lot of the work were Matt and Norman Basilone with the bird planting, and Bob Brooks who did the dog truck all week. A trial is not a success without these very vital tasks. We would also thank Louise Wilcox who supplied lunch for everyone on Saturday and Chris Catanzarite who provide a great catered Italian Dinner for all on Saturday evening. Chris was winner of the Region 2 Amateur All-Age last year and due to cold weather last Saturday, it was decided to have it during the Amateur Shooting Classic. It was a good decision, and everyone had a great time.

Our judges this year were John Frank of Medford, N.J., and Dan Jolly of nearby Chatsworth, N.J., in the Garden State Open Shooting Dog

Classic. Dan Jolly also judged the Open Derby with Bo Mamounis of Newfield, N.J. In the Amateur Shooting Dog Classic, we had Jeffrey Drogin of New York, N.Y., with Joseph Buchanan of Brick, N.J. In the final stake, the Amateur Derby, our judges were Marcus Ramseur of Newfield, N.J., and Matt Basilone of Pittsgrove, N.J. We thank them all for their time in the saddle and attentiveness throughout. Their decisions were well received.

This year we utilized an alternate counterclockwise course for the hour stake taking in the extreme northern limits of the grounds and then switching to the inner north and south loops before starting over on a continuous course layout. It provided a nice flow for dogs and handlers and plenty of bird work for all since there were a lot of quail left over from the Region 2 Amateur All-Age which concluded Sunday.

The Garden State Open Shooting Classic had a good entry of 16 top shooting dogs. Emerging the winner was Ravenwood Throwing Smoke, white and black pointer male, owned by Joseph Cincotta of Stockton, N.J. Smoke ran in the second brace Tuesday morning (8th brace overall) and scored on four perfectly mannered and stylish quail finds. His race was always forward with good range to best the field this



Garden State Open Shooting Dog Classic (front row): Matt Basilone with Ravenwood Throwing Smoke, Marcus Ramseur with Limbsmoke Skeet Rock, and Brian Sanchez with Miller's Unbridled Forever. (Back row): Joseph Cincotta, John Frank (judge) and Dan Jolly, Jr. (judge).

day. Taking the second spot was Limbsmoke Skeet Rock, eight-year-old setter male, owned by Lloyd B. Miller of Bensalem, Pa. Rock ran in the 9th brace and also did a great job. He had six real good stands with one unproductive. He ran a large searching race and finished with big move going out the shoot field as time was called. Both the first and second place dogs were ably handled by Matt Basilone of Pittsgrove, N.J. Third place went to Miller's Unbridled Forever, eight-year-old pointer male, owned by Great River Kennels and Neil Walker, and handled by Brian Sanchez of Central Islip, N.Y. Unbridled ran in the first brace Monday morning and had six really nice and stylish quail finds coupled with a wide searching race. A really good performance which held up until being edged out by the dogs above who ran Sunday morning. Others that had some nice efforts were the following: in the first brace, Deerfield Game, pointer female, running with Unbridled, had five quail finds and one UP with a good race. B K Iron Clad in the fifth brace had four good stands and bracemate Hyhope Chipper scored with two finds, two backs and one UP. Ravenwood Charley, setter female, running in the first brace Tuesday, had two nice finds and two backs of bracemate and one UP. Finally, Limbsmoke Star Girl, pointer female, had a nice effort on the ground and dug up three stylish stands with a sole unproductive. Others were getting it done but had either miscues on birds or were lost. It was a competitive stake with many strong performances.

The Garden State Open Derby ran Friday morning. Taking the first-place spot was Panther Creek Hank, white and lemon pointer male owned by Frank Rutland of Fitzpatrick, Ala., and capably handled by Brian Sanchez. Hank had one really standout quail find and a big forward classy race. Second went to Iron Will's True Grit, a young white and liver pointer male owned by Robert Rooks of Hammonton, N.J. Grit also had one good find and a strong searching race. Third went to Deerfield Known Agenda, pointer male owned by Richard Gillis of Minnesota and Karen Lordi of Tabernacle, N.J. Agenda scored with three pieces of bird work with a good hunting race. Both the second and third place dogs were ably handled by Matt Basilone.

In the Amateur Shooting Dog Classic and taking the top spot with another excellent performance this week was Miller's Unbridled Forever handled by Brian Sanchez. Unbridled had seven standout finds with a really big forward searching race. A great job by handler and equally by the scout who found Unbridled pointing on two deep in dug up stands.

Second place went to Nottingham's Storm Warning, white and orange pointer male, owned and handled by Roger Dvorak of Elkton, Md. Warning really showed off his great nose scoring nine times with a great forward race. Third place was Backcountry Missy, white and orange pointer female, owned and handled by Chris Catanzarite of Scenery Hill, Pa. Missy ran in last brace Friday afternoon and scored four times, one being a turkey, with great style and class to get the final spot. It was a really great stake with a good field of 26 top shooting dogs where 14 of which completed the hour.

The final stake, the Amateur Derby, ran off Sunday afternoon. The winner was Limbsmoke's Rebel Hawk, white and orange pointer male. Danny, as he is called, showed off a great nose with three stylish finds and one UP. His race was on the shorter side, but he didn't want to pass up likely bird spots. His competition put on great ground efforts and but just could not find a bird this day. Two young dogs that have a great future. Look forward to seeing them again.

Lacey Twp, N. J., March 21 – One Course

Judges: John Frank and Dan Jolly, Jr.

GARDEN STATE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

[One-Hour Heats] – 17 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st—RAVENWOOD THROWING SMOKE, 1675094, pointer male, by Erin's Stone Cutter-Erin's Annie. Joseph Cincotta, owner; Matt Basilone, handler.

2d—LIMBSMOKE SKEET ROCK, 1663261, setter male, by Grouse Woods Skeeter-Fork River Rockaloo. Lloyd B. Miller, owner; Matt Basilone, handler.

3d—MILLER'S UNBRIDLED FOREVER, 1661404, pointer male, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring the Heat. Great River Kennels & Neil Walker, owners; Brian Sanchez, handler.

Judges: Dan Jolly and George Mamounis

OPEN DERBY – 6 Pointers

1st—PANTHER CREEK HANK, 1692705, male, by Panther Creek Merlin-Pineywood's Belle Aire. Frank Rutland, owner; Brian Sanchez, handler.

2d—IRON WILL'S TRUE GRIT, 1697739, male, by Hyhope Chipper-

Iron Will Suzie. Robert Brooks, owner; Matt Basilone, handler.

3d—DEERFIELD KNOWN AGENDA, 1697877, male, by Erin's Redrum-Deerfield Game. Richard Gillis & Karen Lordi, owners; Matt Basilone, handler.

Judges: Joseph Buchanan and Jeffrey Drogin
GARDEN STATE AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 28 Pointers

1st—MILLER'S UNBRIDLED FOREVER, 1661404, male, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring the Heat. Great River Kennel & Neil Walker, owners; Brian Sanchez, handler.

2d—NOTTINGHAM STORM WARNING, 1662154, male, by Game Strut-High Value Special. Roger Dvorak, owner and handler.

3d—BACKCOUNTRY MISSY, 1672663, pointer female, by Erin's War Creek-Backcountry Tornado. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.

Judges: Matt Basilone and Marcus Ramseur
AMATEUR DERBY – 2 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—LIMBSMOKE'S REBEL HAWK, 1694661, pointer male, by Miller Unfinished Business-Miller's Pretty Woman. Lloyd B. Miller, owner and handler.

PACIFIC COAST ALL-AGE & SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tian White Speck Wins All-Age; Post Route Scout Wins Shooting Dog

By Todd Schaaf | Maupin, Oregon | March 22, 2022



Pacific Coast All-Age Championship Winners (from left): John William, Angela Schillereff with Tian White Speck, Tim Schillereff, Mel Lueck with Snakebite N V, Josh and Allison Miller, Emely Deasy, Jim Ledington, Bridget Ledington, and Chris Perkins.

On March 22nd the Pacific Coast Field Trial Club hosted the Pacific Coast All-Age Championship in Maupin, Ore., on the historical Imperial Stock Ranch. The Imperial Stock Ranch has been a family-owned and operated ranch for over 142 years, located on more than 52,000 acres of Oregon's beautiful high desert. Our drawing was held on March 20th at the Riverside Bar and Grill. We drew 22 dogs and our judges, Chris Perkins and John Williams, were able to find a Champion and Runner-Up.

Named Champion (bottom dog, 9th brace) was Tian White Speck, owned by Angela Schillereff and handled by Tim Schillereff. Breakaway fast to the front, past first big antenna. Big move out to left and down draw. Next seen far to the front on the big hill. Over the top and spotted by scout in valley below. Point with good manners on 3, chukar at 35 minutes. Around to right over saddle and into the next valley. Another big cast up canyon on right and over the top. Back to the left and forward at time.

Named Runner-Up Champion (bottom dog, 1st brace) was Snakebite N V, pointer female owned by Mel Lueck and handled by Tim Schillereff. Strong cast to front, found standing at 5, all in order on flush. Continued down canyon to left, across bottom and up the far side of canyon. Huge forward move across entire side of canyon. Then moved on across to front to point at 40. Finished to the front.

The Running

Brace 1: Boock handled by Sheldon Twer. Two finds and a shorter race. Snakebite N V, pointer female owned by Mel Lueck and handled by Tim Schillereff (see Runner-Up).

Brace 2: Kelly's Rebel Louie, pointer male owned by Sean Kelly and handled by Jerry Walton. Had two good finds before 15 minutes but lost at 20. Highground Toby, setter male owned by Lori Steinshouer and Jeff Gilbert, handled by Lori Steinshouer. Forward cast. Picked up for failing to back at 15.



Pacific Coast Open Shooting Dog Winners (from left): Todd Schaaf, Brian Gingrich, Bridget Ledington with C K Route Scout, Jim Ledington, Dan Hoke, Chase Cochran with Dunfur's Dalai Bobba, Allison and Josh Miller, Emely Deasy, Ed Woodward, and Alex Mauck.

Brace 3: Highground Gidget, setter female owned by Lynn Stinson and handled by Lori Steinshouer, made a big move to left on breakaway. A back on ridge, climbing out of the bottom. Nonproductive at 50 followed by a point at 53. Finished the hour. Sleepless In Sacramento, pointer female owned by Jim Wolthuis and handled by Sheldon Twer, had a good solid run, but birdless.

Brace 4: Booneville Explorer, pointer male owned by Marc Cuneo and handled by Jerry W. Moose, made powerful all-age casts, with a very stylish find at 8. Lost to the rear and picked up. O T F's Good Time, GSP male owned by Mat Blockovich and handled by B. Gingrich. Nice forward run. Took a hop forward and picked-up on first bird contact at 15.

Brace 5: Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Jack, setter male owned and handled by Alex Mauck. Strong forward race, a bit hesitant through a herd of cows, then a find at 38. Forward again, ending on a point on a pair of huns in a juniper tree. Finished the hour. Tonelli's Ruby, GSP female owned by Tom Muller and handled by Tim S. Ruby started strong and forward with a nonproductive at bottom of canyon. Started to slow and was picked up at 30.

Brace 6: Painted Owyhee Breeze, pointer female handled by Bridget Ledington. Started at big antenna. Both dogs make powerful forward casts from breakaway. Breeze found on point on ridge ahead at 5 (Amy backed). Strong forward run with find at 30 around the top and finished with a big move to the front. Amy handled by J. Walton. Breakaway over top of butte and down to bottom. Back up ridge to back on brace mate and 5 minutes. Continued around side of ridge to a find at 10. Climbed out of bottom to another find on the right side of field at 40. Forward across the top then lost from view 10-15 minutes. Seen going forward far to front at time.

Brace 7: Kelly's I B Butler, pointer male owned and handled by Sean Kelly. Mauck Wyeast Owyhee Dallee, setter female owned and handled by Alex Mauck. Both dogs broke away fast to the front. Found standing on divided find at 7 cast off. Butler found standing at windmill at 9, Dallee backing. All in order. Both dogs moved fast to the front. Butler took the top of the left rock rim, then across to right hillside. Handler elected to pick up Dallee at 40, after seen under a bird minute. Butler continued around, has a nonproductive on ridge towards the end of course 1. Finished forward at the hour.

Brace 8: Painted Owyhee Toad, pointer male owned handled by Bridget Ledington. Toad started out working closer but increased range as he ran. Finds at 25, 32 and 34. Backed at 36. Tian Butterbean, pointer male owned by Cliff Mesnard and handled by Tim Schillereff. Bo also started working closer. Run built as he progressed. Nonproductive at 10, find at 36. Finished strong.

Brace 9: Twer's Heartbreak Ridge, pointer male owned and handled by Todd Schaaf. Broke away hard and fast. Unfortunately, he was seen under a bird. Handler picked up. Tian White Speck, owned by Angela Schillereff and handled by Tim Schillereff (see Championship run).

Brace 10: Smack's Red Rum, pointer handled by Sheldon Twer. Burr Oak's Born Again, Vizsla male owned by Jim Gingrich and handled by Brian Gingrich. Both dogs broke away with high ground speed and disappeared to the front. Brian called for the tracker at 20. Mike continued the course with some nice casts and finished with an extended cast along ridge on right to finish birdless at time.

Brace 11: C K Post Route Scout, Vizsla male owned by Jim Gingrich and handled by Brian Gingrich. Double M's Deliverance owned by Cliff Mesnard and handled by Tim Schillereff.

Course 2— Both dogs off and made turn to right. Joe making a big all age cast along draw to the left. Scout moved straight down course. Joe crossed to right and made a spectacular cast along the ridge across the valley on right. It was the move of the stake. Joe was lost to the front at 40 and tracker pulled. Scout continued forward, fast over top of big butte, down through the valley up into rimrock. Ending with a stylish point silhouetted against the sky at 40. Scout continued with a strong forward race with another find at 50.

Maupin, Ore., March 22

Judges: Christopher Perkins and John Williams
PACIFIC COAST OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
 2 German Shorthairs, 14 Pointers, 4 Setters and 2 Vizslas

Winner—TIAN WHITE SPECK, 1666744, pointer male, by Deception's Nite White-Idaho Lucky Sweep. Angela Shillereff, owner; Tim Shillereff, handler.

Runner-Up—SNAKEBITE N V, 1667512, pointer female, by Oregon's Wren-Heyutoo Pickles. Mel Lueck, owner; Tim Schillereff, handler.

Pacific Coast Shooting Dog Championship

The Pacific Coast Shooting Dog Championship was also drawn on March 20th at the Riverside Bar and Grill. We started on March 24th with 24 dogs drawn. Judges Ed Woodward and Todd Schaaf were excited to start the day with too really good dogs. The Top Dog was C K Route Scout, Vizsla male owned by Jim Gingrich and handled by Brian Gingrich, and Dunfur's Dalai Bobba, GSP male owned by Jim Tesarik and handled by Dan Hoke; and these dogs delivered. They both took off strong going where you wanted to see them. Scout was found on point at 5, followed by Buster at 10. Both were found at 25 on the ski line rock ridge on a divided find. Scout was found on point once again in the green Valley at 34. At 49, both were found on point on the back side of course 1 in the rocks with their second divided find and both finished strong, one on each side of the valley work cover. When the brace was done the judges knew it was a strong race, as brace after brace and dog after dog came up and each failed. Brace 1 kept getting stronger and stronger until all came and failed to top them. We named C K Route Scout, Vizsla male owned by Jim Gingrich and handled by Brian Gingrich, our Champion and Dunfur's Dalai Bobba, GSP male owned by Jim Tesarik and handled by Dan Hoke, our Runner-Up Champion.

When talking about the Championships one thing I feel is left out is the towns we come into and sometimes take over. The great town of Maupin, Ore., always goes out of their way to help support us. Everything from

the hotels, restaurants, bars, markets, and even the gas station. Maupin is a fishing and rafting town, and we are there on their off season. They not only support us but appreciate us. On my way out of town the owner of the gas station stopped me to tell me how much he enjoys having us in town. I would like to thank all my great help—Shannon Schaaf, Dan Hoke, Chase Cochran, Mel Lueck, Barry Lueck, Emily Deasy, Josh and Alison Miller, 'Anthon Backnam and my very patient wife Amanda Schaaf. None of this could be possible. Nor without great landowners like Blane Carver and his opening up his ranch to us. We are lucky to have companies like Purina and SportDOG. I cannot say how much we appreciate everything Purina does for the field trial community. The last group I would like to thank is everyone who came and participated in the Championship. See you all next year.

Judges: Todd Schaaf and Ed Woodward
PACIFIC COAST OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 11 German Shorthairs, 6 Pointers,
2 Setters and 7 Vizslas

Winner—POST ROUTE SCOUT, 1663076, pointer male, by Touchdown Guy-Vanguard's Make Her Mark. Jim Gingrich, owner; Brian Gingrich, handler.

Runner-Up—DUNFUR'S DALAI BOBBA, 1671156, German Shorthair male, by H K's Prime Cut-Dunfur's Tule Moon. James Tesarik, owner; Dan Hole, handler.

PONY EXPRESS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Beeler's Texas Jig Wins Heartland Open All-Age

By Steve Auxier | Gentry, Missouri | March 23, 2022



(From left, back row): Terry Doolittle, Tommy Smith, Bill Mason (judge), Lynn Oxendine (judge), Thomas Smith, Andy Daugherty, Linda Smith, and Steve Auxier.
(Front row): Scott Beeler with Beeler's Texas Jig, Ryan Westfall with Westfall's True Grit, and Gary Lester with Miller's Speed Dial.

The Pony Express Field Trial Club members consisting of Tommy Smith, Terry Doolittle, Larry and Linda Smith, and Steve Auxier, came together and hosted a successful event! This year's event was not only highlighted by amazing performances but also maintained the camaraderie that everyone looks forward to each spring. We would like

to thank in advance all the bird dog breeders, owners, handlers, and all of the sponsors for this National Qualifying event. Without their support this event would not be possible. Sponsors for this year's event include Purina Dog Food, The Saddle Guy, and Good Life Fitness.

The Heartland Open All-Age commenced on over the rolling north

Missouri countryside known as Smith Farms, west of Gentry, Mo. The field trial venue owned by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Smith has been laid out with four continuing one-hour courses to showcase all-age dogs.

For all spectators and owners present, a Polaris ATV was provided for those in attendance that did not want to ride a horse to view the field trial. The Pony Express Field Trial Club provided horse hay for the participants and all handlers.

Smith Farms has a pre-release quail program with habitat and food plots designed to provide sustained quail PLUS birds are released every day prior to the day's running where every entry could have ample opportunity to find game.

The judges for this year's Heartland Open All-Age were Mr. Bill Mason and Mr. Lynn Oxendine. The Pony Express Field Trial Club is truly honored to have these fine gentlemen in the judging seats. The judges had many great performances with multiple pieces of bird work and good races. The judges noted they enjoyed the field trial, grounds, nice dogs, hospitality from the Pony Express Field Trial Club and multiple bird contacts by all dogs.

Heartland Open All-Age

Topping the field of 24 strong contenders at this year's Heartland Open All-Age for the judges was pointer male Beeler's Texas Jig,

handled and owned by Mr. Scott Beeler of Lancaster, Mo. Texas Jig scored 6 finds and a strong forward race showing his endurance with a large finish off in the distance! Daugherty handled Westfall's True Grit to score second, recording 7 finds! He was noted having an effortless ground performance. True Grit is owned by Mr. Ryan Westfall of Liberty, Mo. Taking the top 3 was Miller's Speed Dial, handled by Mr. Gary Lester for owner Mick Marietta. Speed Dial scored multiple finds with a smooth and consistent forward race! All the dogs were noted having good performances over the rolling hills at Smith Farms!

Gentry, Mo., March 23

Judges: Bill Mason and Lynn Oxendine
HEARTLAND OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]
26 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—*BEELER'S TEXAS JIG, 1686196, pointer male, by Dunn's Tried'n True-Yales Sunny Hill Dot. Scott Beeler, owner and handler.*

2d—*WESTFALL'S TRUE GRIT, 1663635, pointer male, by Erin's Brave Heart-Westfall's Irish Bell. Ryan Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.*

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

PENNSYLVANIA BRITTANY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Piney Run Samantha Wins Amateur; Just Call Me Eli Named Open All-Age Champion

By Sherry Stewart and Dave Webb | Gentry, Missouri | March 25, 2022



Open Shooting Dog Championship (from left): Kyle Merrill with Just Call Me Eli and Ray Rush with Jagoub's Spell Caster.



(From left): Artist Ray Rush, Painting of "Captain", and Tom Tracy, Jr., handler of 2021 winner Captain.

The Pennsylvania Shooting Dog event was held as what became known as the Mingo Extravaganza. This was because the Pennsylvania event was to follow at the Mingo Club Grounds' three other pointing dog events—Region 4 Amateur All-Age (Brittanys only), Ohio Brittany Club events (including all pointing breeds except the Derby), and the revival of the Dixieland Gun Dog and Open All-Age (Brittanys only).

This coordinated effort by Tony Giovinale, Jack Alexander, and Dave Webb, was to replace the movement of the International Club to Iowa from the Mingo Club grounds. Special thanks to the pros for their support. Tom Tracy, Jr., Al and Cindy Crokek, Ben Lorensen, and Kyle Merrill attended with their entries undoubtedly making this event a success.

The Mingo Extravaganza started March 17 with Region 4, followed with the Ohio Brittany Club events over the weekend, and the two Dixieland events during the week of March 21st. The Pennsylvania Brittany Championship began March 25th. Weather conditions were extreme with rain showers, snow, sunshine, and temperatures ranging from below freezing to highs in the mid-60s.

Special thanks to all judges – Pennsylvania's Amateur and Open Gun Dog Classic events for Shooting Dogs – who ride and maintain their attention to the performance of all the dogs competing. The Amateur judges were Charles Brown and Rod Clagg, and for the Open stake, Bill Haynes and Joe Williams. Also, thanks to Tom Tracy for use of his truck as the Dog Wagon; Gene Stewart driving the Dog Wagon and planting quail for every brace; and Ray Rush and Geoff Webb for their assistance



Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (from left): Kyle Merrill, Ben Lorensen, Jack Alexander (handler) with Piney Run Samantha, Charles Brown (judge), Chris Rider, Rod Clagg (judge), Samantha James with Miss Behavin, Al Cropek, Dan Dodson (handler), and Cindy Cropek.

with many other duties. A continuous course, which was developed by Tom Tracy a couple of years ago, was used again this year. It shortened time between braces. This event would not have taken place without the help of these folks. A Derby event was not held this year due to lack of entries.

The Pennsylvania Brittany Championship Association (PABCA) and the American Brittany Club also wishes to recognize and thank Nestlé Purina for their continued support of this ABC Pennsylvania Brittany Classic/Championship, both with funding and dog food. We recognize their continued cooperation and sponsorship of this American Brittany Club event. While the monetary fund supports the clubs, quality of the dog food helps us keep our Brittans in competitive condition.

As previously indicated, on Friday, March 25th, the Amateur Grand Gun Dog Classic Shooting Dog event started at 11:00 a.m. (EDST). There were 14 Brittans entered, and all went to “the line” for the competition. Throughout the start on Friday, continuing through until completion Monday, March 28th, for both the Amateur and Open events, the weather was not cooperative with temperatures during the day in the 30s and 40s; with a rainy drizzle and snow. The judges did a great job evaluating the performance of the 14 Brittans in the Amateur and 26 Brittans for the Open.

Listed as follows are the results from both the Amateur and Open events indicating the winners and placements.

Grand Amateur Gun Dog Classic (Shooting Dog Championship)

This year was the first time an amateur event was held by the Pennsylvania Brittany Championship Association. Charles Brown from Dover, Ohio (thanks to Charley for agreeing to judge as a “last minute 24-hour replacement”), and Rod Clagg from Bellville, Ohio, were in the saddle to judge the entries. There were seven braces in which the amateur handlers, often owners, were able to compete. The amateurs were Brian Riggle, Ray Rush, Dan Dodson, Joe Williams, and Jack Alexander.

The winner of the Amateur Shooting Dog Championship came from brace No. 7—Piney Run Samantha (aka Sammi), handled by Jack Alexander. Sammi is an orange/white female, four years of age, owned

by Judith and Arthur Cohen.

Runner-Up came from the 5th brace—FC Miss Behavin (aka Ivy), handled by Dan Dodson, owned by Samantha James and Dan, who “hail” from Hollidaysburg, Pa. Ivy is a four-and-a-half-year-old orange/white female.

One could call it weather conditions, lack of bird work or lack of performance; the judges decided to not give the remaining two placements for the amateur event.

Bloomington, Pa., March 25

Judges: Charles Brown and Rodney Clagg

PENNSYLVANIA BRITTANY AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 14 Brittans

Winner—PINEY RUN SAMANTHA, 1692014, female, by I’m Your Man-Piney Run Sugar. Judith & Arthur Cohan, owners; Jack Alexander, handler.

Runner-Up—MISS BEHAVIN, unreg., female, by Spanish Corral’s Sonny Patch-Distiny Willbemyne. Samantha James & Dan Dodson, owners; Dan Dodson, handler.

Grand Open Gun Dog Classic (Shooting Dog Championship)

Judges in the saddle to evaluate thirteen braces—26 Brittans—were Joe Williams, who traveled from Lebanon, Mo., and Bill Haynes from Jackson, Ohio. Except for one Brittany handled by Brian Riggle, the remaining 25 Brittans were handled by pros Tom Tracy, Jr., Al and Cindy Cropek, Ben Lorensen, and Kyle Merrill. Undoubtedly, their participation in the Open Gun Dog Classic is what it made the event a success. Thanks to all!

First place winner, Just Call Me Eli (aka Eli), came from the fourth brace. Eli is a six-and-a-half-year-old liver and white male, who was handled by Kyle Merrill for owner Tom Ettinger. He made several great casts, and his bird work was of the style deserving of being the Open Shooting Dog Champion.

Runner-Up was Jagoub’s Spell Caster (aka Tabu), bottom dog in the

second brace. Tabu is an orange and white female, who turned seven years old in June. Tabu was handled by Tom Tracy, Jr., for owners Debbie and Tom Jagielski. Tabu's performance afield and pointing style was worthy of the second-place Runner-Up.

Sigbrit's Notatrace of Rust (aka Rusty), a five-and a-half-year-old white and orange male. He ran as the bottom dog in the third brace and was handled to a third place by Kyle Merrill for owner Bobbie Sigmund. Rusty pointed the quail with style and was worthy of the placement.

The judges selected T M R's Lucky Bets (aka Bets) a white and orange three-year-old male, who was handled to a fourth place by Tom Tracy, Jr., for his owner Tom Rawley. Bets was top-dog running in the first brace and his performance was of a quality for the judges to give him a placement in the Open Shooting Dog Championship.

Judges: Bill Haynes and Joe Williams
PENNSYLVANIA BRITTANY OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 26 Brittany's

Winner—*JUST CALL ME ELI*, 1676372, male, by *Just Call Me Roy-One Off Champagne Charlee*. Tom Ettinger, owner; Kyle Merrill, handler.

Runner-Up—*JAGOUB'S SPELL CASTER*, 1665522, female, by *Jagoub's Buzz'n Bayou-Super Natural*. Debbie & Tom Jagielski, owners; Tom Tracy, Jr., handler.

Just before placements were announced, a presentation was made to present to Tom Tracy Jr., a painting created by Ray Rush of last year's 2021 Pennsylvania Open Shooting Dog Championship winner J B's Full Speed Ahead (aka Captain); owner Jenny Pullman and the handler was Tom Tracy Jr. (Photo of this outstanding piece of artwork on previous page). Ray has also agreed to do the painting of this year's winner—Just Call Me Eli.

As a brief summary, even though the weather was often "miserable" with low temperature, snow, and rain, everyone expressed their opinion of having a great time and plan to be back next year in 2023. All those attending "pitched in" and helped in many different ways. It was a series of field trials for pointing dogs with a primary focus on Brittany's. It was all about the dogs, with people enjoying being with other people and having a great time. See everyone next year.

REGION 5 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Southern Shadows T Rex Named Champion

By Brad Hargis | Pinckneyville, Illinois | March 25, 2022

The Region 5 Shooting Dog Championship was held March 25th thru the 27th at the always improving Captain's Unit at Pyramid State Park just south of Pinckneyville, Ill. Judges Dereck Layne of Chapel Hill, Tenn., and Jeff Blackwell of Shelbyville, Tenn., had an entry of 34 dogs to choose from. The champion, Southern Shadows T Rex, handled by Brian Peterson, put down his championship performance in the last brace of the trial on a sunny Sunday afternoon. The Runner-Up Champion, Erin's Country Rebel, was handled by Sean Patrick Derrig. Sean Patrick takes some teasing about being on the B-team but put down an A-team performance on this weekend.

A trial this size as with any size trial takes good help and several people to pull it off. Breakaway for the first brace of the day may be at 8 a.m. but getting ready for the day starts at around 5 a.m. Jim Lawless was there in the dark each morning to help plant birds and then again on lunch break giving each dog in every brace a chance to find birds. Kay Morrison would then show up and start breakfast—biscuits and gravy, bacon, sausage, eggs, pancakes—followed up by lunch and dinner fixed by my wife, Sherry Hargis. If you went hungry here, you had no one to blame but yourself. Don Heisner, dog wagon driver supreme, was on hand to get the morning and afternoon braces on the dog wagon and to the starting line each day and took time to run two dogs. Doug and Judy Reisner and Dr. George and Ann Irkhe helped hauling dogs and watching the road crossings to help ensure the safety of the dogs. A big thank you goes out to this group for all their help in making this a successful trial, thank you!

Your 2022 Region 5 Shooting Dog Champion Southern Shadows T Rex, owned by Lance Servais, and handled by Brian Peterson, was turned loose on Sunday afternoon in the last brace of the trial. T Rex was always to the front and hitting all the edges. His first find came at the 12-minute mark where 3 quail were moved. At 21 he was credited with a divided find with his bracemate Stellar's Natural Disaster, young pointer female handled by Mike DuVall. Mike's dog would go on to have 2 more finds and finish the hour. Rex would have 3 more finds at 36, 40 and the 54-minute mark and would also have a back at the 56-minute mark. Rex covered the ground well with good speed and finished the hour. Runner-Up Champion Erin's Country Rebel ran in brace 8, the

third brace Saturday morning handled by Sean Patrick Derrig. Rebel put down a good steady race with a strong finish. He had finds at the 11, 33, and 38-minute marks. Country Rebel stood tight on his second find as his bracemate failed to back and ran past him. Both the Champion and Runner-Up put on a performance that caught the eye of the judges earning these dogs the titles.

The Running

Brace 1 saw Glenmere's Amae Zing (PF/Jeff Haggis) and Touch's Flo Rider (PF handled by Mike Jackson) broke loose at 9 a.m. on Friday morning to start the trial. Glenmere's Amae Zing had 2 finds and Flo Rider and 1 find and a back; both dogs were picked up at the 50-minute mark.

Brace 2—Dr. Allen Dunbar turned loose G F Texas Ranger (SM), and Frank Rutland released Panther Creek Merlin (PM). Merlin had a back and after an absence the tracker was requested. G F Texas Ranger had two finds for Dunbar and finished the hour.

Brace 3—Dr. Brown scratched Pioneer B (SM) which left John Van Horn and his Erin's Alibi (PM) to run as a bye-dog on course number 3. Erin's Alibi had two finds with nice style and finished the hour.

Brace 4—As during every lunch break at our trials the course was reseeded and readied for the afternoon running. Ten Oaks Annie (PF/Heise) was scratched due to unforeseen circumstances. Beaucoup Creek Buck (SM), owned and handled by Don Heisner, was turned loose on course number one and the afternoon running was off. Buck had finds at 5, 10, 36 and 47. Heisner's dog put down a nice forward smooth race and if he could have come up with a stronger finish might have changed the final decisions.

Brace 5—Braced together were Dr. Marion Brown and Dr. Allen Dunbar, both releasing setter males. Dr. Dunbar's Grouse Feather Witcher ran a big race but had no bird work. Dr. Brown's Wibaux Sun B had an unproductive at 5 and a find at 23.

Brace 6—Erin's Southern Comfort had one find early followed by an absence when Sean Patrick asked for the tracker at 20. Lawless



(From left): Judy Reisner, Dr. George Ihrke, Doug Reisner, Ann Ihrke, Mark Johnson, Brian Peterson (O/H Champion), Lance Servais with Champion Southern Shadow's T Rex, Mike Jackson, Brian Sheehan with Runner-Up Erin's Country Rebel, Brad Hargis, Sean Patrick Derrig (O/H Runner-Up), Dereck Layne (judge), and Jeff Blackwell (judge).

Valentine (PF) a nice-looking derby age white pointer, had one find at 20 and a UP at 40 before handler Jim Lawless decided to pick her up at 55.

Brace 7—In this brace was John Van Horn with Touch's Steely Dan (PM) and Sean Patrick Derrig with Erin's Grey Justice (PM). Justice finished the hour with one find. Touch's Steely Dan had three finds but went with the third bird and was picked up at 52.

Brace 8—This brace had your Runner-Up Champion Erin's Country Rebel braced with Adam Delude's Alliwood's Shady Shay (PF). Shay failed to back and was picked up. Erin's Country was covered above.

Brace 9—Luke Topp with Topp's First J R (PM) and Keith Lowry with Touch's Valiant Lady (PF) took off after lunch. Luke asked for the tracker at 47. Touch's Valiant Lady had a find at pick up time.

Brace 10—Jackson's Front Money (Mike Jackson), picked up early after one find and one back. Panther Creek Rosie, Frank Rutland's pointer female, had a big race and a find at 45, finished the hour.

Brace 11—Mark Johnson's pointer female, Erin's Tin Lizzie, had a breach of manners on her second find and Luke Topp's pointer female, Topp's Ice Chip, was gone after breakaway.

Brace 12—Sunday morning brought Beaucoup Creek Gus (SM/Don Heisner) and Burrow's Trip My Trigger (PM/Scott Little) to the line to start the last day of running. Little's pointer had a find at 45 and finished the hour. Mr. Heisner's setter, Gus, was left behind and later found on point.

Brace 13 paired Mike DuVall with his pointer female, Thumper's Anything But, with Lawless Speck (PM/Jim Lawless). DuVall's big running female had three finds, 2 backs and a nice front running race. Spec totaled five finds, taking on the edges and big open fields to the front. Speck's find at the 44-minute mark was deep in the woods, a very impressive dug up find. At pick up time Lawless' pointer had crossed the road and was still going strong, and Jim was not able to show him to the judges again. If Speck had shown at pick up time the judge's final conversation might have been different.

Brace 14—Scott Little's Warioto's Crazy Daisy (PF) finished the hour with finds at the 5 and 50-minute mark. Oak Grove Starlet (PF), owned and handled by Doug Riesner, was picked up shortly after breakaway.

Brace 15—Erin's Wild Rum (PM/Mark Johnson) and Lester's Top Recruit (PM/Lance Servais) broke away on a very sunny afternoon. Servais to early finds, one at the seven mark and one at 9 in. Lester's Top Recruit then covered the ground and had another find at 40 and finished the hour. Mr. Johnson's dog had a find at 35 and a back at 40 and was picked up shortly after.

Brace 16—Brian Sheehan's pointer male Erin's Rebel Attraction went with a bird early and was picked up. Jim Lawless' pointer female, Lawless Georgie Girl, was gone at breakaway and was up at the 10-minute mark.

Brace 17—Brace 17 featured Southern Shadow's T Rex, along with Stellar's Natural Disaster; their performance was covered earlier.

The Region 5 would like to thank all of the handlers, judges Dereck Layne and Jeff Blackwell, Purina for the dog food donation to the Winner and Runner-Up, and their continued support of field trials in general. A really big shoutout to everyone who helped put this trial on; without your help this trial would not have been able to go on. I look forward to meeting up with newly made friends at future field trials.

Pinckneyville, Ill., March 25

Judges: Jeff Blackwell and Dereck Layne

REGION 5 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 28 Pointers and 6 Setters

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

Runner-Up—ERIN'S COUNTRY REBEL, 1684352, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Erin's Miss Faye. Sean P. Derrig, owner and handler.

ONTARIO GROUSE DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Full Breeze Named Champion; A Distant Spec, Runner-Up

By David A. Fletcher | Marienville, Pennsylvania | March 29, 2022



Ontario Grouse Championship Winners (from left): Dave Hughes, Mark Hughes with Full Breeze, Jim Winnen (judge), Deb Nihart with A Distant Spec, Carlos Escalante (judge), and Joe Cammisa.

The Ontario Grouse Dog Championship in its 28th renewal, held forth over the Allegheny National Forest venue near Marienville, Pa. March 30-31. The Loleta and Lamonville courses were used to give opportunity to 30 entrants, the field consisting of 17 Pointers and 13 Setters.

Winner was Full Breeze, 6-year-old setter female owned by Dick Brenneman of Port Matilda, Pa., handled by Dave Hughes. Runner-Up was A Distant Spec, 6-year-old pointer female owned by Mike Husenits of West Lebanon, Pa., handled by Mark Hughes. For a complete report on their performances please go to the “Winners and Others” section of this report.

Weather brought us a surprise Wednesday, the first morning with sleet and ice over windshields nearing a quarter inch thick, but temperatures moderated after lunch and a late afternoon sun brought some warmth... into the fifties. Thursday was a touch warmer but still bitter to begin the day, but rain squalls, some quite heavy, were a deterring factor to the day’s session. The ice, snow, sleet and hard rain at intervals made the scene a tough environment for bird dogs to find, point and locate grouse and woodcock.

Judging the event were two seasoned dog men in the persons of Jim Winnen of Wattsburg, Pa., and Carlos Escalante of Pittsburgh, Pa. Jim Winnen trains dogs professionally, mainly Britts; with a few Shorthairs and Pointers in the mix. He is actively trialing at present, taking home some silverware with his string and has been doing this for many years. His uncle took him bird hunting over a pointing dog as a teenager, beginning the love of pointing dogs for him. Jim still bird hunts but loves the competition of field trials over all else. He has judged extensively—Championships, Classics and Futurities—and has a great reserve of experience in the judicial saddle. Jim also furnished a pair of good saddle horses for the judges.

Judging with Jim was Carlos Escalante. Carlos is a 20-year veteran of the Grouse Dog field trial game. In the beginning he was taken bird

hunting by friends and later went along to field trials in Pennsylvania, New York, and Michigan with them. Later Carlos sought out Dave Hughes to train some of his trial dogs. His dogs have won considerably, including Championships. His judging experience started with AKC and Amateur events and this is his first judicial assignment in a Championship. His pair of winning Derbies presently are leaving their mark. Miller’s Special Upgrade and Miller’s Hopped Up Version are in competition, the former winning two Futurities and Derby Classics.

The Ontario Grouse Championship was conceived by a trio of Grouse Dog enthusiasts in Ontario with a first meeting to discuss the possibility of holding a trial on Ruffed Grouse. Jack Clark, Dan Mansell, and Bill McLure met at the Conroy Hotel in Toronto in 1981. The initial trial came at the Copeland Forest near Barrie, Ontario that year. The Ontario Bird Dog Association had held trials since the 1930s on liberated Pheasants in the southern part of Ontario, but this was the first step at having Grouse events. In the early years the club roster consisted of Tim Tufts as secretary/treasurer, along with Mike and Donna Wilshire, Dave Kraisoski, Wayne Rogers, Nick Ellis, Henry Walsh, Wayne Adair, Dave Kerr, Joe and John Palladino, and Dave Fletcher, a Michigander who was raised in Ontario and active in the Ontario Bird Dog Association. In 1983 the Club was granted Classic status after running events for several years and scribe on behalf of the Club petitioned Bill Brown in his office on a Saturday at 222 West Adams to help achieve this goal. After three years of running Classics the Ontario Grouse Championship was born. Tim Tufts has been the cog in all this club’s endeavor, steering events for almost 40 years. The Copeland Forest grounds were eventually overhunted by public hunting and the supporting cast waned, so Tim went to his Pa. friends for a site to run this Championship. The current Directorate consists of Tim Tufts, Secretary/Treasurer, Dave Fletcher, President, and Directors Joe Cammisa and Dr. Tim Perschke. The Pa. trialers were overly helpful and the event has had a great home in Pa. for many years. Medical problems forced Tim to be absent from this year’s running. Joe Cammisa picked up the reins, and after a host



Bettina's great sandwiches at the tailgate for luncheons. (From left): John McKellop, Joe Cammissa, Jim Winnen (judge), Carlos Escalante (judge), and Mike Husenits.

of duties, has nursed this event through its 2022 renewal. This includes a change of grounds from the Black Ash site to Marienville, and he also provided facilities for judges and reporter at his Marienville cabin and presided over just about all the managerial functions related to this Championship.

Help on the roadsides and during the running came from stalwarts such as Dick Brenneman, Norm Meeder and Dave Duell. They helped move the cars up, brought lunches to the tailgate and looked after many chores. An evening club-sponsored meal at Bettina's in Marienville took place on Wednesday evening attended by the judges, Club officials, the Minards and the Hughes father and son duo.

The Winners And Others

Full Breeze, Championship winner, was drawn in the first brace, cold morning in the twenties, with a coating of ice on everything, slippery underfoot. Breeze paid little attention to conditions and went hunting with a passion. She hunted this icy hour full bore, to good cover and she never let down a step all the way. Breeze had a broke, well-mannered find on woodcock to set an early mark in the running. Her efforts held up all the way to the announcement of her Championship. Bred by Dick Brenneman and Bob Watts, she has competed only in Grouse trials. The Ontario is the first Championship for Breeze. She has also won Runner-Up in the 2021 Pennsylvania Championship and winner of the Pennsylvania All-Age this spring. If my stats are correct, she is the third generation of Ontario Grouse Championship winners beginning with grandsire Pennstar, sire Full Blast, and now Breeze.

A Distant Spec, runner-up, ran in heavy rain the second day and performed admirably despite the chill of an icy rain that became a downpour part of the hour. A good hunting effort despite conditions, a sure and steady find on grouse, and a back on woodcock, with perfect manners on display earned this placement for Spec. This was Spec's first Championship, having been named runner-up at the Pennsylvania Grouse Championship and the Rich Tuttle Grouse Dog Classic both in 2021. In addition she has a runner-up win at Pennsylvania Grouse Club All-Age and in Shooting Dog circles wins at Greensburg, Dubois and Beaver Valley as well as being named Association of Michigan Field Trial Clubs Shooting Dog of the Year in 2021.

Four dogs stood out in this Championship stake with sterling but birdless performances. The first two were bracedmates in the sixth brace—Hifive's Power Line, handled by Bruce Minard, and Double Deuce Sage, handled by Dave Hughes. In the eighth brace, Blast Off, handled by Scott Forman, and in the final brace Anna Lake Samantha, handled by Dave Hughes paired with Lightning Flash Billi, handled by Scott Forman had great hunting efforts but were also birdless.

The Running

The start came Wednesday morning sleeting slightly, a chilly wet

morning. Conditions improved later in the day, the rain ended, and temperatures rose to the fifties.

Full Breeze (Dave Hughes)—Leslie's Cisco Kid. (Scott Forman). They went away with some nice opening casts. At 15 a woodcock came up ahead on course, a moment or two before we espied Breeze standing, Kid backed, but nothing more could be flushed. Breeze pointed again on relocation and Kid moving and searching nearby may have stirred this bird to flight. Breeze was steady and sure. Another woodcock flew in front and Hughes fired over her. Kid was up. The hour was full of creditable hunting, Breeze finishing with determined hunting and ample energy, despite ice underfoot and sleet conditions.

Shady Hills Zeena (Marc Forman)—Suemac's Sashay (Mark Hughes). A great breakaway and early energy in hunting. We heard a grouse get up at 6 minutes, no dog in view. We rode to see Sashay pointing nicely, then another grouse got up, Sashay standing securely for both flushes. Both dogs hunted the hour with purpose and stamina, Zeena birdless.

B K Rolling Dice (Minard)—Grouse Trails Firestorm (McKellop). Stylish and hard driving, it was an eye treating start. In the early minutes both dogs hunted widely apart yet both swung to the course. Firestorm was a bit of an everywhere dog, but she hunted every stride. Dice had an unproductive in a grassy woods opening standing near a ditch, looking good, but nothing flushed. Both dogs finished in great form, still going hard.

Baker River's Mountain Man (Marc Forman)—I'll Be Back (Mark Hughes). Another stylish pair turned loose to hunt. Man hunted down a steep bank in the early going pointing along a small stream. Nothing was flushed and on relocation Man went ahead. Coming back up the slope to the horses, a grouse got up nearby. Perhaps a bit of bad luck for Man not to have this bird located and flushed to his point. I'll Be Back hunted the hour well, finished in good form but went birdless.

French's Grouseringer Woody (Marc Forman)—Warrior Zeke (Mark Hughes). Good breakaways, good forward hunting, and they were pleasing to the eye in their gait and carriage. Both finished well. A wild flushing woodcock was the only bird moved.

Hifive's Power Line (Minard)—Double Deuce Sage (Dave Hughes). Perhaps the two best hunting and handling dogs thus far in the stake. They were hard driving, came around very regularly and stayed in the front of course with a minimum of handling. Neither found a bird for the hour. Powerline logged an unproductive.

Hifive's Top Shelf (Minard)—Braggabull (Mark Hughes). The final brace of Wednesday brought us another pair of hard hunting dogs with great appeal. They hit the front of course aggressively, had some wide moments but handled extremely well. They were both as attractive in motion as bird dogs get. No bird moved this brace.

Thursday was another day of rain. There were some very hard rain squalls at times, most certainly severely impairing bird finding.

Double Deuce Zeke (Mark Hughes)—Blast Off (Marc Forman). Zeke started well, hunted hard but his hunting could have been a bit more forward. Blast Off ranged nicely, not hugely, but his efforts were impressive...good looking places where he hunted and showing his desire to hunt such good-looking cover. Birdless, a proper find would have taken this dog near the top level of this stake.

Stokley B Annie (Ralph)—Kendal Hills Dawson Creek (Mark Hughes). Annie was wide, very forward and finished the hour going well, but the hour was birdless. Dawson Creek hit the far places early and was lost to judgment.

Leslie's Jipster (Scott Forman)—A Distant Spec (Mark Hughes). A light rain fell as they went away. It became a downpour much of the hour. They hunted early along a ridge, coming to a long opening where both took the edge nicely. They were a wide, hard driving pair. Spec pointed at far end of opening along the timber edge and Jipster backed. A bird came up in the timber in front but the rain impaired both hearing and sight. It was regarded as a grouse. Both were steady, to the flush, and

both handlers fired although officials regarded it as Spec's bird. Fifteen minutes later, well in front of the horses, both were standing. Judges credited Jipster with the point. Spec with the back. Both were steady for the shot but no extremely lofty tails this time around. It was raining pretty hard. Both finished driving to the front.

Grouse Hill Smokey (Marc Forman)—Pistol Grip (Mark Hughes). If anything, the rain squall heightened as this brace went away. Judges called it the Noah's Arc brace. Both dogs handled the downpour well, hunting hard in good cover. and they poured it on near time when blue skies appeared. No birds moved this hour.

Grouse Trails Cracker Jack (McKellop)—Game Winner (Dave Hughes). Cracker Jack made some spectacular casts, went deeper at times, but his returns to sight, and rounding to course was not always as you expected it to be. Take nothing away from his desire to hunt and find birds. He worked hard at that task. Game Winner was more in sight, hitting the forward cover nicely and he finished the hour full of energy. Both dogs were birdless. A lone grouse wild flushed during the hour.

Wayward Flyin Tomato (Mark Hughes)—Shady Hills Whiskey Bonfire (Scott Forman). A move to the Loleta side of the courses was made for the brace. The course had some very open stretches where both dogs widened their casts in great form, yet still working birdy looking edges. They were both attractive in motion and finished the hour hitting the front. No birds moved this hour.

Wild Apple Siri (Minard)—Doodle Ridge Elroy (Mark Hughes). Siri was very fast afoot, kept to the front of course every minute and was eye pleasing as she went. Elroy hunted hard, was always searching where you would expect a bird to be, but his chosen places to hunt were to the side and not often well to the front. Neither dog found birds, nor were there any wild flushes during the hour.

Anna Lake Samantha (Dave Hughes)—Lightning Flash Billie Sue (Mark Forman). Another cold morning with snow and sleet coming down. We began the final brace on the Lamonville side at our regular time. This pair of dogs were among the best hunting efforts we saw during the stake. With birdwork both could likely be standing in the winners' circle, but no birds came. They were a great duo wrapping up this Championship.

Marienville, Pa., March 29

Judges: Jim Winnen and Carlos Escalante

ONTARIO GROUSE DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
17 Pointers and 13 Setters

Winner—FULL BREEZE, 1667989, setter female by Full Blast—Straight Forward. Richard Brenneman, owner; Dave Hughes, handler.

Runner-Up—A DISTANT SPEC, 1668665, pointer female by Erin's War Creek—Brave Heart Cassie. Mike Husenits, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

NORTHEAST KANSAS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Dr. Boucher Amateur Derby Classic

By Joe Worsham | Onaga, Kansas | April 1, 2022

The Northeast Kansas Field Trial Club held our spring field trial on April 1 and 2 at our home grounds near Onaga, Kan. The weather was very cooperative for this time of year, cool and a little windy.

The first of April is the traditional pasture burning time; Several landowners delayed their efforts in order for the field trial to run as normal. We had a number of landowners advise that they were seeing more native quail this year. Prairie chicken sightings were fewer than normal.

The Covid virus made for lots of changes, most notably was the absence of the Fairview Schoolhouse Association members. We had total access to the facility, but the cooks avoided the event. We all really missed the home cooking and especially the pies! We are blessed with a comfortable, renovated, and well maintained "One Room Schoolhouse" that serves the area well. Funds collected from the field trial meals as well as assorted gatherings throughout the year in addition to the semi-annual Biscuits and Gravy breakfasts, defray the ongoing costs of the schoolhouse. The walls are adorned with 4-H and field trial memorabilia of bygone days as well as retired "Kansas Field Trial Association Dog of The Year" retired plaques. Longtime stalwart Martha May had passed away earlier this spring and we really missed her smiling face and wonderful conversations.

The traditional Friday night Landowners' Banquet was held on Friday night, well attended by local ranchers and spouses. We served BBQ chicken and fish fillets; Great to see everyone again as we had not all been together for a couple of years due to the COVID virus.

Special thanks to our judges, all first-rate field trialers; Their opinions were well received. The Midwest Field Trial Association's Amateur All-Age Classic was cancelled due to lack of entries. The Dr. Boucher Amateur All-Age Derby Classic was presided over by Eddie Berendzen of Higbee, Mo., and Joe Worsham of Easton, Mo. Greg Sand joined Jim Corpening in watching the Northeast Kansas Amateur All-Age Classic. Jay Lewis and Jim Corpening judged the Shooting Dogs. All were very

attentive to their duties, and little escaped their view. We appreciate the fine job they did and appreciate their dedication to the sport.

Richard Lewis was on hand as the Chief Dog Wagonmaster, always in the right place and ever helpful to all of the details of managing a field trial. Richard is one of the "good ol' boys" who you can really count on. The club is really enjoying the use of the dog trailer on loan from the Whetstone Field Trial Club via Jay Lewis.

Special thanks go to Nutri-Source for the generous donation of dog feed for the winners of each stake. We appreciate Dave Merritt's assistance in organizing this effort.

The Dr. Boucher Amateur Derby Classic

A Midwest Field Trial Association sponsored event

The Classic was won by Jim Corpening's pointer male, Warjam's Big Mac Daddy, who continued his winning ways. Jam ran a nice wide race and finished the stake impressively to the far front. Second was Loomis Little Ann, pointer female owned and handled by Rick Loomis of Bolcow, Mo. Ann ran in the first brace and gave a good account of her abilities. The stake is a sponsored stake by the Midwest Field Trial Association in the memory of the affable Dr. Boucher, a longtime supporter of Midwest Field Trial Association events.

The Northeast Kansas Amateur All-Age Classic was won by Jay Lewis' pointer female Bocomo Cherry. Her time on the ground reflected a good prairie race which was well applied and pleasing. Second was secured by Nemaha Tap Water with a solid prairie race. Tap ran a nice handling prairie race and continued to show to the far front. Rodney Shoemaker's H P Shockwave showed well on these Kansas prairies. His was a well applied ground race. Birds were at a premium and hard to get pointed.

The Open Shooting Dog stake featured some good performances with solid races. Ten dogs toed the starting line for this stake. Jim



Open Shooting Dog (front row): Nathan Berendzen with Traveler's High Point, Dr. Pat McInteer with Nemaha Magic Marker, and Paul Ott with Nemaha Nell.
 (Back row): Jay Lewis, Richard Lewis, Greg Sand, Ellie Berendzen, Joe Worsham with Jase Lewis, Jim Corpening, Jim Otwell, Barry Ward, and Eddie Berendzen.

Corpening and Jay Lewis were in the judicial saddles for this stake. Greg Sand showed the smooth hunting efforts of English setter female Traveler's High Point. Her effort was very smooth and was punctuated with two really nice finds on liberated quail. Dr. Pat McInteer's Nemaha Magic Marker had a very good performance with a stylish find on quail. His was a very good, applied effort on the ground. Barry Ward handled his pointer female Nemaha Nell to a well-deserved third place based on her outstanding hunting effort.

The Northeast Kansas Club appreciates the entry from those attending and especially the judges who were very attentive in their official roles. Advertised judges were unable to fulfill their duties due to family activity conflict and truck breakdowns.

Onaga, Kan., April 1

Judges: Jim Corpening and Greg Sand
 AMATEUR ALL-AGE CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats]
 8 Pointers, 1 Setter and 1 Vizsla

1st—BOCOMO CHERRY, 1677071, pointer female, by Westfall's Black Cloud—Bocomo Hot Dotty. Jay Lewis, owner and handler.

2d—NEMAHA TAP WATER, 1696256, pointer male, by Coldwater Spectre—Coldwater June. Dr. Pat McInteer, owner and handler.

3d—H P SHOCKWAVE, 1692505, pointer male, by Wiggins Mister Ronnie—Wiggins Miss Swami. Rodney Shoemaker, owner and handler.

Judges: Eddie Berendzen and Joe Worsham

DR. BOUCHER AMATEUR DERBY CLASSIC

4 Pointers and 1 Vizsla

1st—WARJAM'S BIG MAC DADDY, 1692715, pointer male, by Boumeester's Duramax—Oday Nation. Jim Corpening, owner and handler.

2d—LOOMI'S LITTLE ANN, unreg., pointer female, by Touch's Grey Street—Coldwater Cowgirl. Rick Loomis, owner and handler.

Judges: Jim Corpening and Jay Lewis

OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]

5 Pointers, 4 Setters and 1 Vizsla

1st—TRAVELER'S HIGH POINT, 1658349, setter female, by Hytest Talquin—Traveler's Prairie Souix. Greg Sand, owner and handler.

2d—NEMAHA MAGIC MARKER, 1687208, pointer male, by Nemaha Night Hawk—C E K's Meaculpa. Dr. Pat McInteer, owner and handler.

3d—NEMAHA NELL, 1658918, pointer female, by Nemaha City Slicker—Nemaha Tinker Bell. Barry Ward, owner and handler.

— CORRECTION —

Page 18 of the May issue of UKC® Field carried the Region 8 Amateur All-Age Championship results where Game Rebel was inadvertently headlined as the winner.

Game Heir was named Champion of this year's running. Our apologies to owner and handler Dr. Fred Corder of Corinth, Miss.

Congratulations on your win!

SETTER CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND

Dun Ravens Midnite Ike Wins Phil Fogg Open Shooting Dog Classic

By James Hathaway | Falmouth, Massachusetts | April 2, 2022



Open Puppy: Richard Warters, Robert Ecker with Buck of Piney Woods, Kelly Hays (judge), Steve LeVesque with Witch City Sam, Jim Hathaway (judge), and Thom Richardson with Bog Brook Lucy.



Open Restricted Shooting Dog: Adam Dubriske (judge), Robert Ecker with Teen Spirit, Brian Dix with Lightning Flash Remington, James LeVesque (judge), and Robert Arkley with Lightning Flash Mick.

Typical Cape Cod spring weather, plenty of birds and good friends are a recipe for a successful field trial!

Temperatures in the high fifties and low sixties, bright sunny skies with a light breeze welcomed nearly 85 dogs to the renewal of the Setter Club of New England's spring field trial. The F.A. Crane Wildlife Management area has been the venue for the spring trial of the Setter Club for many years. The grounds have also hosted the Region 1 Walking Shooting Dog Championship and many other trials. The cover is just what you expect in southern New England, some large timber and lots of understory, great cover for bobwhite quail.

The Setter Club is the oldest field trial club in New England. Records indicate that the first trials in New England were held in 1891 near Assonet, Mass. The first record of a Grouse trial was in 1924 and was held in Rhode Island, and to my knowledge has run nearly every year since. Over the years the club had many different venues all over New England. With urban sprawl the club found it necessary to find new grounds as habitat shrank and populations rose. In 1994 the John Burnham Grouse Classic ran in the Kilkenny Wildlife Management area in northern New Hampshire. It is interesting that one of the judges for that event was Jamie Nee, who judged the Amateur Shooting Dog at this trial some 27 years later. Jamie has campaigned several dogs over the years, most notably his outstanding pointer male "Bat."

In 1995 the Setter Club was granted Championship status for the Burnham and was renamed, at the suggestion of the American Field, to "The New England Open Grouse Championship." Also, that year the club hosted a Derby Classic, run on wild birds on multiple courses and named for long time Setter Club member and club officer, Florence Harwarth. Both trials have run every year and the number of dogs that participate has stayed strong.

In 2001 the club ran the inaugural William Kearns/Frank Foss Open Puppy Classic named for two longtime standout club members and officials.

When I was called by this year's Trial Chairperson, Steve Levesque, and asked to report this year's renewal I said "yes" without hesitation. It is a great honor to have been involved with the Setter Club for over 35 years.

As mentioned above we had nearly 85 dogs drawn for this event. We were fortunate to have two professional handlers, Robert Ecker of

Pennsylvania, and Adam Dubriske of New Hampshire. Both men are a pleasure to have around, and both are always eager to pitch in when needed. Adam judged several stakes this year and was happy to do so; We greatly appreciate his efforts and his experience.

The Running

The Open Puppy had Buck of Piney Woods (PM) take the Blue Ribbon. He is owned by Rich Warters of Connecticut and handled by Robert Ecker of Pennsylvania. Second place was Witch City Sam (ESM), owned and handled by Steve Levesque of Salem, Mass. These two dogs set the standard for the Puppy Classic. Buck was very pleasant to watch, he ran a big, mature, forward race and could not be denied this day. Third place was an English setter female, Bog Brook Lucy, handled by your scribe. The judges for the Open Puppy were Kelly Hays of northern Vermont and James Hathaway of Falmouth, Mass.

Watching over the Open Shooting Dog Qualifier were Jimmy Levesque and Adam Dubriske. First place went to a setter female owned by Paul Berdiner and handled by Robert Ecker. King's Spirit had a good forward race at shooting dog range with multilabel finds. Second was another Setter male, Remy, owned and handled by Brian Dix of Vermont. Remy had a good race and stylish manners on his birds, not quite the race of King's. Third was English setter male, Nick, owned and handled by Bob Arkley of Jay Peak, Vt. Nick's race was not as strong and deep as the first and second place dogs; He is however a very classy going dog with a bright future.

The premiere Open stake was the Phil Fogg Shooting Dog Classic, judged by Bob Arkley of Jay Peak, Vt., and Doug Dix of Whittington, Vt. These men are no strangers to the field trial community in New England and their experience paid off for this stake. There were 20 dogs drawn and run. The temperatures had risen a little, not to an uncomfortable level but certainly warmer than earlier in the day. Conditions were quite dry, thankfully Jim Hathaway and chairperson Levesque put out water pools to help refresh the dogs.

The first-place dog was a setter male, Dun Ravens Midnight Ike, owned by Dr. Peter Millett and handled by Robert Ecker. With only two finds Ike did it on the ground, a big, strong, forward race, very deep in the cover and exceptionally classy and an absolute joy to watch. Second place went to another setter male, Ledge Hill Chippewa owned and handled by Jimmy Levesque of Salem, Mass. Drawn in the last



Phil Fogg Open Shooting Dog: Robert Ecker with Dun Rovens Midnite Ike, Robert Arkley (judge), James LeVesque with Ledge Hill Chippewa, Doug Dix (judge), and Jim Hathaway with Wizard's Cas Dubh.



Amateur Walking Shooting Dog: James LeVesque with Ledge Hill Mia, Tony Leone (judge), Kris Nordby with Scout, Tony Scichilone with Striking Elhew Wesley, and Jmy Losi (judge).

brace Chip made a strong bid for the blue ribbon but was just short of the high mark that Ike had set. Chip had two well-spaced finds and one back of his brace mate. The judges said that Chip was "outstanding" on his game. Third was another setter, Wizard's Cas Dubh owned and handled by James Hathaway of Falmouth Mass. Dubh had two finds and a stylish race, a very suitable shooting dog race but not equal to that of the first and second place dogs. The judges did state that Dubh's pointing style was breathtaking and were both sure he will be seen in the winners' circle again. Closest to the winner was a setter male, owned and handled by Kelly Hays of Vermont. I know personally that Kelly has put a ton of work into this dog and her honorable mention is well deserved. Frank had three nicely spaced finds, a strong race, however not at a shooting dog range.

Sunday morning, 7:00 a.m., saw the Amateur Puppy stake break away under the judgment of club member Brian Foley of Billerica, Mass., and Debbie Kennedy of Hanover, N.H. The first-place dog was a pointer owned and handled by Kris Norby. "Jack" had a very nice race, big and forward and was very kindly handling. Second was also a pointer, "Penny", handled by Tim Cavanaugh of Connecticut. Not quite as big running as Jack, but strong and forward and a real pleasure to watch. Third place was awarded to setter Bog Brook Lucy. Lucy handled the course with grace and was always forward and hunting the entire time.

The Amateur Derby had a small entry overseen by Tim Cavanaugh and Jimmy Levesque. The blue ribbon was awarded to Kris Norby's pointer male, Rusty and the red went to Bog Brook Lucy, setter male owned and handled by Thom Richardson. Honorable mention was awarded to R. Rogers by James Hathaway.

The Amateur Gun Dog always has a very strong entry, and this year was no exception. Seventeen dogs were drawn to run on a separate course. The judges were "Iron Man" Tony Leone and Jamie Losi. Tony is not only the club's Vice-President and judge of the Amateur Gun Dog, but he is also the bird planter extraordinaire. On Saturday he saw to it that there were two birds on EVERY brace of the Open Shooting Dog, not on a wheeler but walking. He was assisted in that endeavor by longtime club member B.J. First in the Gun Dog was Mia, setter female owned and handled by Jimmy Levesque, she had very good bird work and ran just the type of race you want for a "gun dog". Mia carded 3 finds and was very easy handling, forward and classy. The blue ribbon was given to Scout, a Brittany male owned and handled by Kris Norby. Scout had 4 finds evenly spaced in the half hour with a nice comfortable race. Third went to Wesley, pointer male. Wesley was handled by newcomer T. Scichilone who had 3 finds. Closest to the third-place dog was Baur, setter male owned and handled by Nick Hamel.

Our second largest entry came from the Frankie McLaughlin Amateur Shooting Dog Classic. With 18 entries, judges Jamie Nee and Adam

Dubriske had more than a handful of work ahead of themselves. Adam had already judged several stakes prior to this one and insisted he was up to the challenge. Jamie, like so many of the fine folks involved with the Setter Club, has been around for years, running dogs and judging when asked. He somehow managed to shed several pounds over the winter and looked to be in great shape.

First was awarded to Ledge Hill Chippewa, owned and handled by Jimmy Levesque. Chip had placed second in the Open Shooting Dog and came back for more in the Amateur. Chip, setter male, had four finds in the amateur with a great race, forward, fancy and at the right range for the entire half hour, finished strong. The judges said his demeanor on game was top shelf, second to none, a true pleasure to watch. The second-place dog was Finley, setter male, owned and handled by James Hathaway. Finley, like the winner, had four bird contacts and ran an enjoyable shooting dog race, not as strong as the winner but none the less a pleasure to see. Third place went to Tim Cavanaugh and his point female Katie. Katie had three finds and a strong forward race but not of the caliber of the winner. The judges commented that the three dogs placed were all very enjoyable to watch and made the job at hand a very rewarding experience.

There are many, many people who we need to acknowledge for their contribution to this great event. The club president, Mitch Nee, was on hand both days for his moral support as well as club treasurer Tom Jay who oversaw the financial aspect of the trial. Tom had to leave early Saturday, in his absence Brian Foley stepped in to keep things running smoothly. The trial chairman, Steve Levesque, and stakes manager Jim Hathaway spent many hours before and during the trial keeping things moving in the right direction. The club provided lunch for everyone on the grounds—mini subs, chips, cookies, and drinks. It was awesome to reconnect some old friends, namely Mike Levesque, Eddie Marquis and my bestes old friend Debbie Kennedy, however we did miss seeing her better half, Jim. All in all, it was a very enjoyable weekend, one I will remember for years to come.

Falmouth, Mass., April 2 – One Course
Judges: James Hathaway and Kelly Hays
OPEN PUPPY – 2 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st—BUCK OF PINEY WOODS, 1696648, pointer male, by Bo of Piney Woods—Grouse Hill Prima. Richard Warters, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

2d—WITCH CITY SAM, 1698308, setter male, by Long Gone Wallace—Shepherd's Clair. Steven Levesque, owner and handler.

3d—BOG BROOK LUCY, 1698912, setter female, by Long Gone Porky—Magic Mist Sydni. Thomas Richardson, owner and handler.

Judges: Adam Dubriske and James Levesque
OPEN RESTRICTED SHOOTING DOG – 1 Pointer and 7 Setters

1st—TEEN SPIRIT, 1685370, setter female, by Northwoods Nirvana–Phillips Morning Star. Paul Berdiner, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

2d—LIGHTNING FLASH REMINGTON, 1687367, setter male, by Denco's Crockett Again–Artic Tundra Bird Dog. Douglas Dix, owner and handler.

3d—LIGHTNING FLASH MICK, 1665156, setter male, by Grouse Ridge Force–Lightning Flash Micky. Styles Birdges, owner; Robert Arkley, handler.

Judges: Bob Arkley and Doug Dix
PHIL FOGG OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
6 Pointers and 14 Setters

1st—DUN ROVENS MIDNITE IKE, 1685001, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac–Moonshine Cherry. Dr. Peter Millett, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

2d—LEDGE HILL CHIPPEWA, 1675025, setter male, by Lightning Flash Abe–Grouse Ridge Lazer. James Levesque, owner and handler.

3d—WIZARD'S CAS DUBH, 1686867, setter male, by Islander–Richfield Oakley. James Hathaway, owner and handler.

Judges: Brian Foley and Deb Kennedy
AMATEUR PUPPY – 3 Pointers and 5 Setters

1st—JACK, unreg., pointer male, by Panola Bacon–Little Miss Bella. Kristopher Nordby, owner and handler.

2d—HOG HILL'S PRETTY PENNY, unreg., Pointer female, by Panola Bacon–Little Miss Bella. Timothy Cavanaugh, owner and handler.

3d—BOG BROOK LUCY, 1698912, setter female, by Long Gone Porky–Magic mist Sydni. Thomas Richardson, owner and handler.

Judges: Tim Cavanaugh and James Levesque
AMATEUR DERBY – 2 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st—LIL THUMPER, 1692335, pointer male, by Jerry On Fire–Gracie On Fire. Kristopher Nordby, owner and handler.

2d—BOG BROOK LUCY, 1698912, setter female, by Long Gone Porky–Magic Mist Sydni. Thomas Richardson, owner and handler.

Judges: Adam Dubriske and Jamie Nee
FRANKIE McLAUGHLIN AMATUER SHOOTING DOG
3 Pointers and 14 Setters

1st—LEDGE HILL CHIPPEWA, 1675025, setter male, by Lightning Flash Abe–Grouse Ridge Lazer. James Levesque, owner and handler.

2d—WIZARD'S CAS DUBH, 1686867, setter male, by Islander–Richfield Oakley. James Hathaway, owner and handler.

3d—HOG HILL KATIE, 1649339, pointer female, by South Bound Stretch–Indian Creek Sugar. Timothy Cavanaugh, owner and handler.

Judges: Tony Leone and Jamie Losi
NEW ENGLAND AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
4 Pointers, 11 Setters and 1 Brittany

1st—LEDGE HILL MIA, unreg., setter female, by Backwoods Remi–Flags Up Stella. James Levesque, owner and handler.

2d—SCOUT, unreg., Brittany male, breeding not given. Kristopher Nordby, owner and handler.

3d—STRIKING ELHEW WESLEY, 1665287, pointer male, by Striking Elhew Rex–Striking Elhew Zoey. Anthony Scichilone, owner and handler.



Amateur Puppy: Kris Nordby with Jack, Deb Kennedy (judge), Tim Cavanaugh with Hog Hill's Pretty Penny, Thom Richardson with Bog Brook Lucy, and Brian Foley (judge).



Amateur Derby: James LeVesque (judge), Lil Thumper with Kris Nordby, Thom Richardson with Bog Brook Lucy, Tim Cavanaugh (judge), and R. Rogers with Rusty.



Amateur Shooting Dog: James LeVesque with Ledge Hill Chippewa, Jim Hathaway with Wizard's Cas Dubh, Tim Cavanaugh with Hog Hill Katie, and Jamie Nee (judge).

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CHIPPEWA VALLEY GROUSE DOG ASSOCIATION

North Slopes Allie Wins Don Didcoct Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

By Roger King | Augusta, Wisconsin | April 8, 2022



Don Didcoct Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog Classic (front row): Roger King with Rib River Tough Enough Too, Lindsey Saetre with Northwoods Cedar, and Ed Graddy with North Slopes Allie. (Back row): Bert Benshoof (judge), Kyle Pederson, Joe Landowski, Chris Bye (judge), and Brent Sittlow holding trophy.

The 30th Annual Don Didcoct Memorial Trial is in the books. Being around field trials for a long time you soon learn nothing surprises you. This year going through six judges that agreed to judge the Didcoct and for good reason had to respectfully decline was a new one to me. Needless to say, there were many phone conversations, stressful moments, high hopes and even thoughts we may have to cancel the trial. After all avenues were explored at the eleventh-hour Bert Benshoof agreed to scratch his entry and judge the Didcoct with Chris Bye. Thank you, Bert!

The good news is that entries were at an all-time high—10 one-hour braces of Open Shooting Dog and 10 one-hour braces of Didcoct Classic. The really good news is that we had 26 derbies, which is by far the most in my memory. Of course, this is a great sign for the future and hopefully these young dogs will develop into all-age dogs and compete in upcoming events. In addition, with the Derby entries comes many new young faces; that is exciting to see and gives us all positive thoughts for our future at CVGDA.

We would like to thank Purina for their unending support. They are very instrumental in hosting a quality field trial. They monetarily support our ads in the field and provide us with an abundance of their fine products for the winners. All participants recognize and appreciate their support.

Every field trial has a myriad of helpers contributing to the success. The Didcoct is no different. Denny Baumann, Tim Callahan, Rod Lein, Larry Davidson, Mike Luebke, Roger King, Bert Benshoof, Randy Bruder, Brent Sittlow, Tom Goltz, and I'm sure others cut trails. Four excellent chefs provided the handlers' dinner Saturday evening—Dennis Baumann, Tom Goltz, Scott King and Kathy King. We are fortunate to have many dedicated members at CVGDA and count our blessings to be able to share this great event.

Eau Claire County manages several hundred thousand acres of mostly forested woodland. Their management philosophy includes providing multipurpose recreational opportunities with a long-term sustainable plan. The Chippewa Valley Grouse Dog Association has held grouse and woodcock trials at this same area since 1968. For some 50 years we have benefited from this great partnership with Eau Claire County. Josh Pederson, Parks and Forest Director – Eau Claire County, does an excellent job of managing this property for all those



Open Shooting Dog (front row): Jordan Pharris with Midnight Ghost Ryder, Ed Graddy with Northern Slopes Star, and Rod Lein with Over the Hill Merry. (Back row): Kyle Pederson, Joe Landowski, Keenan Foley, and Dave Moore.

looking to experience mother nature at her best. We will always be eternally grateful for the opportunity to spend time in this very special place.

The open shooting dog judges commented that this was a very high-quality stake with numerous birds in virtually all the braces. It took multiple find performances that any judge, in any cover dog championship would be satisfied with. First place went to Midnight Ghost Ryder (ESF) handled by Ed Graddy. She tallied a woodcock early in the hour and a very pretty grouse find near the end of the brace. She went on to punctuate the performance with an extremely smooth finish on the snow covered Gasline Course.

Third place went to Over the Hill Merry (PF) handled by Rod Lein. Merry had four evenly spaced finds (3 woodcock and 1 grouse) on the Horse Creek Course in an action-packed hour.

We were especially appreciative to our two judges, Brent Sittlow and Joe Landowski, a very complimentary blend of the old and the new. Brent is a highly sought-after judge in the Midwest and Joe has paid his dues spending huge amounts of time in the woods and will be adjudicating trials for many years. Thanks so much for a job well done!

The Didcoct

You always appreciate your judges as they have put in many hours on the ground to look at all the dogs. As was aforementioned, this was especially true for the Didcoct. Bert stepping up at the last possible moment was awesome. To get a judge of his caliber in this circumstance was outstanding. In addition, Chris Bye always gave full attention to the dogs on the ground, and we really appreciate his expertise. The decisions were well received.

First place went to North Slopes Allie with Ed Graddy. Ed and his dogs are no stranger to the winners' circle, as he also won the Didcoct last year. Allie ran on the "H" Course along the Eau Claire River in the seventh brace Saturday. She started off with a woodcock find at seven just past a small river switchback in a dogwood clump. She looked great! At 30 she had a nonproductive. At 36 she had an excellent find on a grouse that the judges suspected was on a drumming log earlier. Grouse are hard to get pinned down when they are drumming. The judges commented that both dog and handler exhibited a good amount of experience throughout the brace. Allie finished well to the front in an



Open Derby (front row): Ben Brettingen with Hackerry's Amos Moses, Kyle Pederson with I'm Easy Money, and Rod Lein with Morgan. (Back row): Greg Johnson (judge), Tim Callahan (judge), Keenan Foley, and Roger King.

open area of hundred-year-old white pine.

Second place went to a first timer, Lindsey Saetre and her dog Cedar. They also ran on the "H" Course which was a coincidence as all courses had numerous birds and almost all dogs had opportunities. At 8 Cedar established point and after an extended flushing attempt the handler flushed the bird 3 feet from Cedar in a dogwood clump. Cedar had a nonproductive at 18. At 37 she had a grouse find on a bird that exploded out of the cover. Near the end at 50 Cedar pointed a woodcock to wrap up an exceptional brace and win for Lindsey.

Third place was awarded to Rib River Tough Enough Too, run by Roger King on the gasoline course the last brace of the stake. Tuffy, one of the two Brittany's run, established point at 2 minutes along the Hamilton Falls Firelane. He pointed into a small puddle with the woodcock at the edge. As the handler approached, the woodcock flew only 10 feet (probably a tired migrating bird). In addition, a second bird walked off in front of the dog – very tempting! Tuffy had a nonproductive at 48 across the firelane and finished well to the front.

The Derby

As mentioned earlier it was a monumental derby stake. We were fortunate to have two seasoned judges. Tim Callahan, a CVGDA member, longtime supporter and often winner, judicated the young dogs. Greg Johnson is a recent successful participant from our neighboring Moose River Grouse Dog Club. Both judges were very attentive and gave each entry their absolute focus.

First place went to Morgan run by Rod Lein. Morgan ran in the last brace on Horse Creek Course. She immediately worked her way to the front and established her awareness on birds early with a mannerly stop to flush on a grouse. At 25 she had an attractive find on a woodcock. Judges noted Morgan ran very well and there was a great bond between her and Rod requiring very little direction from the handler. At 38 Morgan had an outstanding woodcock find requiring a relocation after extensive flushing – the judges called this a great piece of bird work.

Second place went to Kyle Peterson with Easy Money. They ran Saturday afternoon on Diablo Jake Course. The judges admired the large forward casts and classy stylish fluid run. They agreed this was the best ground application of the stake.

Third place was won by Hackberry's Amos Moses owned by Ben Brettingen. They teamed up on the "H" course first brace on Sunday. Moses had a statuesque find at 8 on the right side of the course in a dogwood thicket. The judges admired his wonderful style and his fluid momentum going through the woods. In addition, the judges admired Bill Frahm's female pointer Evey, and James Kleve's setter Ricky, as two dogs that were knocking at the door.

At the end of the weekend, everyone exhausted, but also refreshed, having been part of a busy but very successful weekend. It's always fun to be part of a trial where everyone has a smile on their face.

See you this fall!

Augusta, Wis., April 8

Judges: Joe Landowski and Brent Sittlow

OPEN SHOOTIN'G DOG [One-Hour Heats] – 2 Pointers, 16 Setters, 1 Brittany and 1 German Shorthair

1st—MIDNIGHT GHOST RYDER, 1661057, setter male, by Smoking Joe Hunter-Lehman's Rye Bread Isabela. Jordan Pharris, owner and handler.

2d—NORTHERN SLOPES STAR, 1666090, setter female, by Keystone's Red Recession-Abigale. James Graddy, owner and handler.

3d—OVER THE HILL MERRY, 1678045, pointer female, by Grouse Trails Cracker Jack-Diva Dot. Rod Lein, owner and handler.

Judges: Bert Benshoof and Chris Bye

DON DIDCOCT MEMORIAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats] – 1 Pointer, 17 Setters and 2 Britanys

1st—NORTH SLOPES ALLIE, 1683547, setter female, by A Keystone Kid-Signature Ridge Cody. James Graddy, owner and handler.

2d—NORTHWOODS CEDAR, 1691883, setter female, by Erin's Prometheus-Northwoods Carly Simon. Eric & Lindsey Saetre, owners.

3d—RIB RIVER TOUGH ENOUGH TOO, 1663404, Brittany male, by Mark of the Hawk-J D's Hawk's Falcon. Roger & Kathy King, owners; Roger King, handler.

Judges: Tim Callahan and Greg Johnson

OPEN DERBY – 14 Pointers, 10 Setters, 1 Brittany and 1 Irish Setter

1st—OVER THE HILL MORGAN, 1699010, pointer female, by J T H Scion-Over the Hill Patty. Rod Lein, owner and handler.

2d—I'M EASY MONEY, 1693862, setter male, by Jetwood-I'm Blue Who. Kyle Peterson, owner and handler.

3d—HACKBERRY'S AMOS MOSES, 1695788, pointer male, by Elhew Sinbad-Numark Surefire Peg. Ben Brettingen, owner and handler.

IN MEMORY OF NORMAN MELTON

8/16/39—5/18/22

It is with a heavy heart that I report the passing of Norm Melton on May 18, 2022, at his home. Norm and his wife, Gloria, field trialed with us for over 60 years and were icons of the sport. They campaigned many American Field and AKC champions—Pointers and Brittany's—and Norm judged numerous events on both the AKC and American Field circuits.

He and his wife were a great team—he handled the

dogs and she scouted. They set the bar for a team that not only worked well together, but were always there to lend a hand, share a joke, and to encourage other field trialers, new and old alike.

Norm will be sorely missed by everyone. Our hearts and prayers go out to his wife Gloria and their family.

— Ronnie Clark



REGION 4 AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Out of the Shadows Named Champion

By Richard Hollister | Meredith, Michigan | April 8, 2022



Region 4 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship Winners (standing): Judges Justin McGrail and Vance Butler, Ken Moss with Moss Meadow Seeker, and Bob Wheelock with Out of the Shadows.

The Region 4 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship, hosted by the Michigan Amateur Field Trial Club, returned to the Gladwin Field Trial area in Meredith, Mich., drawing 22 entries. Many thanks to the Region 4 Team—President Jim Pendergest, Vice-Presidents Jim Cipponeri and Tim Hammons, and Secretary/Treasurer Mary Sue Schalk—for awarding this Championship to the Gladwin community. A large thank you to Greg Blair and the Purina Company for their continued support of this pursuit we all love. Prior to this trial and the start of the spring events, the team of Brent and Denise Peters, Mike Singleton and Mike Brown, spent a very long day walking, clearing and marking the 16 courses that we currently use.

The trial started on time at 8 a.m., Friday the 8th of April, using every course at the historic Gladwin Grounds. Grouse and woodcock were abundant across the entire 5,000 acres, providing ample opportunities for all dogs. Judges recorded a total of 20 grouse and 31 woodcock. Weather was prime for scenting and running bird dogs, hovering in the mid-30s to low 40s.

Winners

Champion—Out of the Shadows (Maddie Mae), handled by Bob Wheelock and scouted by super scout Diane Wheelock, was named Champion. Maddie is no stranger to the winners' circle making this her second championship and third Runner-Up championship plus many other wins and awards. Maddie is a 9-year-old orange and white setter female bred and owned by Bob and Diane Wheelock by 2x Ch. Nobody's Shadow x Ramblin Ruby Lou. Maddie ran alone in the 6th brace, fast and flashy as normal. Maddie hit the likely spots wasting no time pointing a grouse at 3 minutes with flawless manners. Moving forward she had another flawless grouse at 13 minutes. The final 47 minutes Maddie reached deep into the Gladwin woods hunting all the likely cover finishing her brace running hard and forward.

Runner-Up—Moss Meadow Seeker, 4-year-old tricolor setter bred and owned by Ken and Mary Moss. Seeker is a son of Moss Meadow Rambler x Moss Meadow Maggie and is also no stranger to the winners' circle. Seeker was named Champion of the International Amateur

Woodcock Championship last year and has many other wins under his belt.

Seeker ran in the 7th brace. Seeker has a beautiful gate and cracks the tail with great enthusiasm. Seeker hit the cover and didn't waste time in useless cover, he showed a knack to find birds having a back on his brace mate early in his brace before the road crossing. Seeker scored a woodcock find after the road crossing as his brace mate came in and failed to back. Seeker continued forward and accumulated two more woodcock finds all with great style and manners.

Both winners have been fueled with Purina Pro Plan products their entire life.

The Running

Brace 1—Cal Peak Hundredth Meridian (PM-Sarah Gomes) and Eagle Magnum Hotshot (BM-Ken DeLong). Hotshot ran very hard and pointed a grouse. Peak got out of judgment.

Brace 2—Double Deuce Oscar (PM-Doug McMillen) and North Bay's Tennessee Rye (ESM-Brandon Short). Both dogs cover the ground but were unable to score on a bird.

Brace 3—Tupelo Honey (ESF-Bob Wheelock) and Bax Star's Doc Holiday (GSPM-Shane Baxter). Honey had a nice run going but was unable to handle a grouse properly. Doc had a stop to flush on a grouse.

Brace 4—Hifive's Golden Nugget (PF-Mike Lareau) and Dun Rovens Soozee (ESF-Paula Giulitto). Nugget had a woodcock at 35 and a pair of woodcock at 42 but failed to stay broke on the pair. Soozee had a woodcock find but also didn't stay broke on the flush.

Brace 5—Baxter's Pale Rider (ESM-Brent Peters) and Springpond Rockin Gibby (ESM-Lonnie Rademacher). Rider scored 3 woodcock finds and a stop to flush on a grouse. Gibby was found under a grouse in flight.

Brace 6—Out of the Shadows (Maddie described in the winners' section). Bracemate scratched due to injury.

Brace 7—Moss Meadow Seeker (ESM-Ken Moss) and Sutter's Backwoods Rumble (ESM-Paula Giulitto). Seeker described in winners' section. Rumble had an unproductive and then failed to back his bracemate.

Brace 8—Appalachian Elhew Tank (PM-Andrew Ruby) and Double Deuce Sage (PF-Doug McMillen). Both dogs were standing at the end on a divided find and went with the grouse

Brace 9—Grouse Ridge Larry (ESM-Paula Giulitto) and Vitale's Grouseringer Pappy (ESM-Gary Vitale). Both dogs ran well but were unable to produce a bird.

Brace 10—Double Deuce Zeke (PM-Doug McMillen) and Springpond C Note (ESM-Mike Brown). Both dogs ran well, neither scored a find.

Brace 11—Angel's Envy (ESF-Bob Wheelock) and Stokely B Annie (ESF-Brian Ralph). Ralph stood at 40; the handler could not fly a bird. At the same time Envy had a woodcock find. Both scored a woodcock at 50. Envy couldn't stand firm at time with 2 woodcock strutting in front of her.

Meredith, Mich., April 8

Judges: Vance Butler and Justin McGrail
REGION 4 AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 6 Pointers, 14 Setters,
1 Brittany and 1 German Shorthair



Chester Halley Memorial Amateur Derby Classic Winners (from left): Rob Ellis with Ralphy's Chasehill Molly, Mike Singleton, Meredith Grade Kati, and Brian Ralph with Ralphy's Chasehill Rip.



Chuck Pagano Memorial Amateur Puppy Classic Winners (standing): Brandon Short (judge). (From left): Mark Kryzaniwskyj with Henry Danger, Dun Roven's Bourbon Creek with Chris Jaejer (handler) and Mark Fernandez (owner), and Sweet's Noble Bill with Jeff Sweet (owner/handler).

Winner—*OUT OF THE SHADOWS*, 1650996, setter female, by Nobody's Shadow-Ramblin Ruby Lou. Bob & Diane Wheelock, owner; Bob Wheelock, handler.

Runner-Up—*MOSS MEADOW SEEKER*, 1676726, setter male, by Moss Meadow Rambler-Moss Meadow Maggie. Ken Moss, owner and handler.

MICHIGAN AMATEUR FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Judges: Ricky Hollister, Jr. and Lonnie Rademacher

CHESTER HALLEY MEMORIAL AMATEUR DERBY CLASSIC – 3 Pointers, 10 Setters and 1 Brittany

1st—*RALPHY'S CHASEHILL RIP*, 1697746, pointer male, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Brian Ralph, owner and handler.

2d—*MERIDITH GRADE KATI*, 1692672, setter female, by Jetwood-I'm Blue Who. Dennis Keysor, owner; Mike Singleton, handler.

3d—*RALPHY'S CHASEHILL MOLLY*, 1697757, pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Brian Ralph, owner and handler.

Judges: Mike Singleton and Brandon Short

CHUCK PAGANO MEMORIAL AMATEUR PUPPY CLASSIC – 2 Pointers, 10 Setters, 1 Brittany and 2 German Shorthairs

1st—*SWEET'S NOBLE BILL*, 1697049, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Moss Meadow Kate. Jeff Sweet, owner and handler.

2d—*DUN ROVEN'S BOURBON CREEK*, setter male, by Dun Roven's Zip-Aikens Bine Animosh. Chris Jarger, owner; Mark Fernandez, handler.

3d—*HENRY DANGER*, 1696907, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Eldridge's Beauty and Beast. Mark Kryzaniwskyj, owner and handler.

INDIANTOWN GAP TRIALS

Indiantown Gap Amateur Classic, Keystone Open Shooting Dog Championship & Keystone Open Classic

By Ernie Saniga | Petersburg, Pennsylvania | April 9, 2022

The Indiantown Gap Club held its spring trial April 9-14 at the club grounds near Petersburg, Pa. The club owns 217 acres and leases three farms adjoining the property for their trials. There are about 600 acres used for the trial in a continuous loop. The featured stakes were the Indiantown Gap Amateur Shooting Dog Classic, the Keystone Open Shooting Dog Championship, and the Keystone Yankee Open Derby Classic.

Greg Strausbaugh manages the trial as chairman and serves in many other roles as well. Ted Faust planted birds with Greg using Steve Boyer's 4x4 which he kindly lent the club as we look for a new one. Dr. Art Hower manages the grounds including mowing when necessary. Art was here throughout the running. Mary Tracy was the cook and kitchen manager. Dinners were donated by Ted Foust, Karen Saniga, R.B. and Brigit Powell, and Dave McKay, who brought a ham dinner in honor of his CH. North Country Girl, the defending Keystone Champion.

We were treated to music one night by R.B. Powell's band which consisted of R.B. on the banjo, Brigit on the guitar, and David Powell on the violin. They were terrific and received an ovation as they ended.

Open Stakes were judged by George Habecker and Kevin Joyce. The amateur classic was judged by R.B. Powell and Hall of Fame handler Dave Hughes. All but Kevin have judged numerous stakes here at the Gap. This is an experienced foursome, all successful competitors for

many years. We all thank them for their effort.

We delayed the start of the amateur classic until 9:30 on April 9 since it was raining heavily and very cold. Then it cleared for a few hours but then it would be sunny, rain for 15 minutes, be sunny again, hail for 15 minutes, snow a little and then clear up for a time. This was repeated throughout the trial. We call this "gap weather" since it is common here.

Bella Bulli, pointer female owned by this reporter and his wife Karen and handled by the former, won the Amateur Shooting Dog Classic. Dee, as she is called, had finds at 6, 9, 15, 24, 28, 35, 42 and 60. She never left the long lines, was not scouted, and finished strong. Tatum Boyer won her first hour placement with The Secret, pointer female owned by Brian Sanchez and Lisa Pollock, and campaigned in the open trials by Jeanette Tracy. Jack had a far out find at 8 but the birds lifted before the judges got there. Tatum, who is 17, took the dog on without flushing. She is a graduate of the Summerhill youth field trials and knows what to do. Of course, Gerald Tracy is her great grandfather, George Tracy is her grandma's brother, Merv Eisenhart is her grandfather and Luke Eisenhart is her uncle. They have won a few field trials themselves. Jack went on to a strong five-find performance himself after the early stand.

Third went to Chris Catanzarite's Backcountry Missy running in the last brace. The attractive female had four finds and a strong effort on



Keystone Open Shooting Dog Championship (first row): Erin's Big Casino with Sheila Cassidy and Tatum Boyer with R Q's Saddle. (Standing): Mike Tracy, Kevin Joyce, Ralph Gillota, Carley Gillota, Art Hower, Karen Saniga, George Habecker, Jeanette Tracy, George Tracy, Melina Packer, Ernie Saniga, Ted Foust, Laurie Strausbaugh, Joe Lordi, and Greg Strausbaugh.

the ground with the only blemish being a nonproductive. Honorable mention went to Joe Lordi and his Fluid Drive, which had 6 finds but an 8-minute absence. Backcountry Bruiser, for Chris Catanzarite, had a good effort on the ground as well with four finds

This running of the Keystone Open Shooting Dog Championship is actually the 2021 running which was canceled due to a number of factors including weather, always an issue in the Allegheny ridge country.

The 2021 Champion is Erin's Big Casino, setter male owned by Paul Berdiner and handled by Mike Tracy. It is his first title. Casino ran in the first brace on the second day in ideal conditions and the large setter took advantage, running like he had a map, swinging when necessary, and taking the lines to their limits. He was found backing at 6 with high style and then had the course to himself as the bracemate disappeared. Casino pointed high at 10, then again at 27 after the bridge which is abandoned by the state.

Then he had a great find along Shavers creek as he rimmed the hundred acre farm at 33. Tracy let him go on the long lines here and he was found near the farmers bone pile at 38 with birds in front. He scored again at the famers lane at 43 and again on the trust property at 53 at the place we call the gut and went on to a strong finish.

Like the Champion, the Runner-Up is a second-year dog. That was R Q's Saddle, owned by Ted Foust and Bill and Muriel Primm and handled by Jeanette Tracy. Saddle, a pointer male, had a very smooth race going from one objective to the next in logical order and never made a bad move. He pointed with high style at 30, 37, 40 and 42 and finished with the same jump he started with. It was a very strong effort

Closest to the winners was Joe Lordi and Ralph Gillotta's Bittersweet War Cry, pointer male handled by Mike Tracy, to an excellent race with four nicely handled finds. Joe and Ralph were here to watch him run.

Jeanette Tracy won first and third in the Indiantown Gap Yankee Derby Classic with Steel Valley Raven and respectively. Raven, a pointer female, had stylish finds at 6, 12 and 18 coupled with a fine edge hugging race. She is owned by Ted Foust, Lisa Pollock and Brian Sanchez. In the fall she won the National Shooting Dog Futurity. Third went to Brian Sanchez' Great River Bella which had 2 finds with a nonproductive to go with good race in this big country.



Indiantown Gap Amateur Shooting Dog Classic (first row): Ernie Saniga with Bella Bulli, Tatum Boyer with The Secret, and Chris Catanzarite with Backcountry Missy. (Second row): R.B. Powell, Zack, Joe Lordi, Laurie Strausbaugh, and Greg Strausbaugh. (Third row): Mark Janic, Bob Vederosa, Melina Packer, Jeanette Tracy, and Ted Foust. (Fourth row): George Habecker, George Tracy, Sheila Cassidy, and Dave Hughes.

Mike Tracy won second with Eli, a pointer male named Trumped. The pointer male scored two nice finds at 11 and 16 and a fine race.

Petersburg, Pa., April 9 – One Course
Judges: Dave Hughes and Rowland Powell
INDIANTOWN GAP AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 15 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—BELLA BULLI, 1674898, pointer female, by Bully Bragg-Bullerina. Ernie & Karen Saniga, owners; Ernie Saniga, handler.

2d—THE SECRET, 1686192, pointer male, by Waybetter Rocky-Lady Keepsake. Brian

3d—BACKCOUNTRY MISSY, 1672663, pointer female, by Erin's War Creek-Back Country Tornado. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.

Judges: George Habecker and Kevin Joyce
KEYSTONE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 38 Pointers and 4 Setters

Winner—ERIN'S BIG CASINO, 1682928, setter male, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-Three Stripe's Livewire. Paul Berdiner, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

Runner-Up—R Q'S SADDLE, 1680847, pointer male, by Waybetter Rocky-Ladywoods Keepsake. Ted Foust & Muriel Primm, owners; Jeanette Tracy, handler.

Judges: George Habecker and Kevin Joyce
KEYSTONE YANKEE OPEN DERBY CLASSIC – 12 Pointers

1st—STEEL VALLEY RAVEN, 1 696173, female, by Waybetter Rocky-Steel City Karen. Lisa Pollock, Brian Sanchez & Ted Faust, owners; Jeanette Tracy, handler.

2d—TRUMPED, 1690083, male, by Bevy's Cadillac-Mohawk Mill Image. Eli Richardson III, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

3d—GREAT RIVER BELLA, 1696071, female, by Miller's Unbridled Forever-Great River Grace. Great River Kennels, owner; Jeanette Tracy, handler.

REGION 1 AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Little Miss Bella Wins 2022 Running

By Richard Giuliano | Exeter, Rhode Island | April 9, 2022

Following a morning of “one bird too many” for most of the dogs, Little Miss Bella, a pointer female owned and handled by Tim Cavanaugh, was perfect on five out of six of her birds, earning her the blue rosette at the Region 1 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship. The event was held April 9, 2022, at Arcadia Management Area. Runner-up, with seven finds, was Super Storm Liz, a setter owned and handled by Thor Kain. Liz’s only detriment was a slightly shorter ground race than the first-place dog.

The Winners

The winner came from the sixth brace on a beautiful spring afternoon. It was champion versus champion as Little Miss Bella and Bo of Piney Woods (Kazic) went head-to-head. Bella had five well-spaced finds—the final find with birds walking all around her, and one unproductive. She was the only dog to finish the course, up to this point. Bo’s owner, Rich Warters, was riding in the gallery, watching his dog. Unfortunately, Bo got the hook early for chasing a bird.

The runner-up came from the seventh brace. Super Storm Liz was paired with Jim Hathaway’s Wizard’s Cas Dubh. Liz logged her first find 10 minutes in, standing beautifully staunch on a quail. Dubh didn’t fare so well. He didn’t back and was picked up. With Liz now left to her own devices, she rolled on to score six more finds, several coming within yards of each other, the birds being so plentiful.

Judges were Brian Sanchez and Dave O’Brien, both of whom gave each participant their undivided attention. Chairpersons for the event were Richard Giuliano, Lanny Dellinger, Jamie Nee and Janice Gregory, who kept the championship running smoothly.

The Running

Starting the championship off early on Saturday morning, Rock Solid Tucker (Dix) had the grounds to himself as bracemate, Sterlingworth Jack (Kazic) was a late scratch. Tucker had eight finds, four early on, four more later in the hour, marred by a lengthy gap in the middle.

In the second brace, Super Storm (Kain) and Grousehill Pepper (Cappocci) went head-to-head. It was a quick brace as both dogs came unglued early and chased a bird.

Brace 3—Island Fantasy (Kazic) and Long Gone Hatfield (Kennedy). Fantasy had one find early on but would eventually be picked up for a backing infraction. Hatfield gave a master class in what happens when there are just too many birds and too much scent on a course. The setter had five finds, some close up, some far away, some in the woods, some

on the edges. There were solid finds, and relocations. The setter rolling from one bird to another as he scoured the woods and crisscrossed the fields. Unfortunately, in his mission to find all the birds he could, he also logged three unproductives, and on the final one, handler elected to pick him up.

The fourth brace featured Little Miss Margaret (Cavanaugh) and Lightning Flash Remington (Dix). Margaret had two finds early on but didn’t back at 20 and was picked up by her handler. Remington went on to have a mixture of finds and unproductives. He ran a strong race, making intelligent casts, but when the third unproductive was recorded, handler elected to pick up.

Brace five saw Super Storm Cliff (Kain) and Memphis Belle (Bonnetti). Belle stopped directly off the breakaway, causing the handler to doubt her veracity. She was urged on, chased the bird, and was picked up. Cliff made some nice swings through the woods and down the edges, logging five finds. As with most of the other dogs, the excitement of finding so many quail eventually got to him and on his final find, at 50, he took the bird out.

Brace 6. Previously described.

Brace 7. Previously described.

In the eighth brace, No Limit (Kain) was braced with Buck (Olson). Buck was lost early. Limit had five finds and then an unproductive before the first half was up, at which time handler elected to pick up.

In the final brace of the day, Hog Hill Katie (Cavanaugh) and Daisy (LaBella) broke away at 4:45 p.m. A good, solid dog, Katie had some nice, dug up finds that had eluded many of the previous dogs. Daisy also produced some nice birdwork, but unfortunately was out of pocket for a considerable amount of time. Katie eventually found herself under a bird and was picked up. When Daisy finally showed up, it was deemed she had been absent for too long, and she, too, was leashed. The judges had their winners in Little Miss Bella and Super Storm Liz.

Exeter, R. I., April 9

Judges: Dave O’Brien and Brian Sanchez

REGION 1 AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 7 Pointers and 10 Setters

Winner—LITTLE MISS BELLA, 1664328, pointer female, by Chasehill Little Bud—Shaula. Tim Cavanaugh, owner and handler.

Runner-Up—SUPER STORM LIZ, 1685356, setter female, by Blast Zone—Bridgewater Mt. Pemi. Thor Kain, owner and handler.



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GRAND NATIONAL GROUSE & WOODCOCK INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

B K Rolling Dice Named Champion

By Joe Cammisa, GNG Invitational Secretary | Oxford, New York | April 13, 2022



Winners (from left, front row): Robert Little with Bear River Victory, Marc Forman with Shady Hills Zeena, Chad Wheeler with Fox Brook Poker Face, Jeff Forsberg with Snyder's Full Rage, Scott Chaffee and Ponderosa Mac, Steve Snyder and Snyder's Scout, Melodye Batey and Hifive's Power Line, Ben Batey and Hifive's Top Shelf, Bruce Minard with Champion B K Rolling Dice, and Eric Rizza with Wild Apple Siri. (Second row, from left): Mark Hughes and A Distant Spec, John Stolgitis and Chasehill Little Spec, Allen Riano and Runner-up Champion Chasehill Poison Ivy, Rod Lein and Over the Hill Patty, GNG Invitational Secretary Joe Cammisa, Russ Richardson (judge) and Scott Forman (judge).

The 31st Annual Grouse and Woodcock Invitational Championship was held April 13-15 at the famous Flanagan Farm, home to Grouse Ridge Kennels of Oxford, N.Y., hosted by the New York Grouse Trial Club and sponsored by Purina and Garmin. The grounds were purchased around 1950 by Dr. Thomas Flanagan after he started raising setters and opened the world-famous Grouse Ridge Kennels. Peter Flanagan, Dr. Tom's son, along with friends and family manage roughly 2,000 acres of classic New England grouse cover. This area used to be rich in grouse trials, and across a few streams and over a few hills the Prestigious Grand National Grouse Championship was run at Pharsalia WMA every third year until 1977. In 1973, the GNG Championship callback was run on the Flanagan farm after low bird numbers in Pharsalia.

This venue has been home to many field trials over the years and has welcomed the NY Grouse Championship for the past two. It is often said that this venue is one of the best to show a dog's abilities. Fields and old stone walls surround old farmland being reclaimed back to earth with vast hardwoods and young forests is prime habitat for grouse and woodcock. As the only grouse trial venue left in New York I would like to thank the Flanagan family for continuing to allow its use, and management for field trials. On Tuesday evening, April 12, the festivities began with a light dinner and snacks at the "White House." This remodeled house is a central hub of the field trial, that is a perfect gathering spot for all when field trials are in town. Joe Cammisa provided a light dinner along with baked goods from Suzie Cammisa. After social hour and dinner, Joe Cammisa executed the draw with the utmost diligence and attention to detail.

The judges for this year's event were Scott Forman of Prattsburg, N.Y., and Russ Richardson of Guys Mills, Pa. Both men are experienced in trials, and training of dogs and have a plethora of knowledge between the two on what to look for in the top contenders for the prestigious event.

The Invitees

The Invitational Championship is often referred to as the "best fourteen coverdogs in the country", but some of the invitees who were originally slated to compete unfortunately had to decline. The selection is based off a points system and if a dog declines, the next in line gets a shot at the title. The fourteen dogs who accepted and were drawn to compete were: Ponderosa Mac, owned by Steve Snyder and handled by Scott Chaffee; Hifive's Power Line, owned by Ben Batey and handled

by Bruce Minard; Snyder's Pioneer Scout, owned by Steve Snyder and handled by Scott Chaffee; Hifive's Top Shelf, owned by Ben Batey and handled by Bruce Minard; Shady Hills Zeena, owned by Deb Nihart and handled by Marc Forman; Wild Apple Siri, owned by Eric Rizza and handled by Bruce Minard; Fox Brook Poker Face, owned and handled by Chad Wheeler; Chasehill Poison Ivy, owned by Alan Riano and handled by John Stolgitis; Over the Hill Patty, owned and handled by Rod Lein; A Distant Spec, owned by Mike Husenits and handled by Mark Hughes; B K Rolling Dice, owned by Bill Siemer and handled by Bruce Minard; Bear River Victory, owned by Chris Clarke and handled by Bob Little; Snyder's Full Rage, owned by Steve Snyder and handled by Scott Chaffee; and Chasehill Little Speck, owned by Harley McClung and handled by John Stolgitis.

The Winners

The 2022 Grand National Grouse and Woodcock Invitational Champion named was B K Rolling Dice, owned by Bill Siemer and handled by Bruce Minard. Dice is a three-year-old black and white pointer female. Dice won the North Country Championship in Wisconsin. Dice's first day showed her stamina but also her ability to find and handle game. Her second day showed amazing ground speed in tough conditions. She never showed any let down for the whole hour and finished with a back. It was obvious the bar was set very high with those performances from the previous two days. The callback on day three showed just how strong this dog really is. She hunted the whole hour and finished with as much energy as when she broke away. This performance would be nearly impossible to beat. Runner-Up was awarded to Chasehill Poison Ivy, owned by Alan Riano, and handled by John Stolgitis. Ivy is a liver and white pointer and is still a derby-age female. Ivy was named Champion of the Northeast Open Grouse Championship as a fall derby and went on to win the Grouse Futurity. Ivy is stylish and determined on her game and her ground speed and size makes her very adaptable to any cover she encounters. Ivy was fast and forward on day one, with day two becoming her time to shine. Ivy had the course to herself early on the brace of day two, but she did not falter and had a consistent race along with a beautiful woodcock find with time running out. This for sure caught the judges' eye.

THE RUNNING

Day No. 1—The day began at 7:30 a.m. on the dot with Fox Brook Poker Face (Wheeler) and Shady Hills Zeena (M. Forman). Both dogs broke away and began to search the briar-filled woods with determination.

The dogs continued to make forward casts while transitioning to the hardwoods. Both dogs ranged well and handled nearing the first half of the course. At 25 Forman reported his bell had fallen silent just ahead in some cover off the trail. Poker Face had returned to check in and had stopped for a back while handlers were just heading into the cover. Forman flushed and nothing was put up. Wheeler elected to move his dog on while Forman sent Zeena on for a careful relocation. Shortly after, Zeena was standing staunch again and despite a valiant attempt nothing was put up and she was sent on. (It was reported that a grouse crossed the trail about 80 yards to the front of where Zeena was pointing). Both dogs finished the hour with no contact on game. Two grouse were moved on course one.

Braced on course 2 was Full Rage (Chaffee) and B K Rolling Dice (Minard). Dogs broke away across a field and after a short round up headed for the cover. At 6 with the handlers, judges, and gallery all bunched up on a narrow logging road, Dice stopped just to the front and a woodcock lifted for all to see. A shot was fired with all in order. And all continued. The dogs were covering some great cover on both sides of the course when Minard reported his bell silent again at 13. Chaffee reported his bell silent as well and elected to enter the cover. Both dogs were found standing and a grouse was put up with two shots fired, all in order with the judges recording a divided find. Both dogs continued and at 27 Minard's bell was silent. After a brief flushing attempt, a woodcock was put up with all in order. At 29 to the front Chaffee reported his bell silent and a woodcock was put up with proper manners as well. At around the 42-minute mark both dogs took different paths and handlers had to work to get them back on course, but they continued to the front searching for game and handling well. At 57 Minard reported his bell silent again and a woodcock was flushed with a shot fired and all in order. (Judge Forman reported a grouse in the area flushed wild and a woodcock was recorded for the find). Both dogs finished the hour.

Course 3 broke away with Snyder's Pioneer Scout (Chaffee) and Hifive's Power Line (Minard) on the search for game. Right off the bat at 5 Chaffee reported his bell silent and a woodcock was put up with all in order. Both dogs moved through the cover at warp speed and raced to the front. After dropping off the mountain into the old orchard at a steady pace and still 15 minutes to go, both dogs were sent out across open fields with old overgrown stone walls, only not something many non-New Yorkers are accustomed to. While crossing the first field a few tom turkeys announced their presence by gobbling to the sound of handlers and bells heading their way but quickly retreated before anything came that way. Both dogs dropped into an alder patch in a depression in the field and at 57 a woodcock was put up with Minard firing his gun with all in order. When Minard went to retrieve his dog due to the thickness he realized it was Scout. Both handlers laughed it off and continued. Both dogs finished the hour with 2 woodcock and a wild grouse flushed.

Course 4 was a new course and braced together was Hifive's Top Shelf (Minard) and A Distant Spec (Hughes). Both dogs were away and began to reach out for the first 20 minutes. Nearing the turn at 20, Minard reported his bell silent off the powerline trail. Top Shelf was found standing with Spec backing. Nothing was put up and both dogs continued. At 38 Spec's bell had stopped and a grouse was put to flight with a slight bit of temptation for Spec and she had moved with the bird. Both dogs continued their search for game and at 45 Top Shelf was found pointing again with Spec present with a back. Nothing was put up and both dogs finished the hour.

Over the Hill Patty (Lein) and Ponderosa Mac (Chaffee) broke away after lunch with both dogs searching every possible objective. Both dogs handled and ranged well when at 59 Chaffee reported Mac's bell silent. After a brief flushing attempt, a woodcock was put to flight with all in order. Both dogs finished the hour with one woodcock being moved.

Chasehill Little Speck (Stolgitis) and Bear River Victory (Little) were braced on course six. Both dogs had a consistent race throughout but at time nothing was pointed. A few birds were heard drumming throughout the hour by the gallery.

Last brace of the day was Chasehill Poison Ivy (Stolgitis) and Wild Apple Siri (Minard). Both dogs broke away and immediately headed into the cover. Both dogs were covering ground at a quick pace until the course dropped down into an old creek bottom orchard. Both dogs began to hunt carefully leaving no objective uncovered. At 43 both handlers reported their bells silent in an alder patch ahead. Both dogs were found standing and both handlers flushed but no game was put up. After the dogs were sent on, Minard reported his bell silent again at 48. After an extensive search nothing was put up and Siri was sent on. Both dogs finished the hour.

After a long and tough day everyone gathered at Fred's Inn for the Purina Dinner. It was a great evening for socializing, and great food was served. "Day Dog" was announced by Mr. Cammisa with B K Rolling Dice being named for her performance earlier in the day.

Day No. 2—Day number two started again at 7:30 a.m. on course one. Braced together was Hifive's Top Shelf (Minard) and Ponderosa Mac (Chaffee). Both dogs were away making big casts through the hardwoods when the course turned into some birdy cover, a grouse had flushed with both dogs being in the area. Both dogs stopped and a stop to flush was credited to both dogs. This bird has been in this area throughout day one with no dogs being able to point this old drummer. Both dogs continued and hunted the rest of the hour without any further contact with birds.

Braced on course two, yesterday's "Hot" course was Over the Hill Patty (Lein) and Chasehill Little Speck (Stolgitis). Both dogs broke away across the field and got right to work. Around the 15-minute mark Stolgitis reported his bell silent and after an extensive flushing attempt (not his) was put and he continued on. At 25 Patty's bell was silent and after a quick search a woodcock was put up with all in order. Both dogs continued strong throughout the duration of the course when time was called.

Braced on course three was Bear River Victory (Little) and Chasehill Poison Ivy (Stolgitis). Both dogs broke away strong and to the front. At 10 minutes, Little reported his bell silent and a grouse was put up with his dog moving on at the flush. A moment later up ahead was almost a repeat of the last encounter with a grouse, and Little decided to leash his dog. Ivy continued without a bracedmate and was always forward searching great looking objectives. At 45 Ivy dropped down into an old apple orchard when her bell fell silent. After an extensive flushing attempt Stolgitis sent Ivy on for a relocation when her bell fell silent a few seconds later. A woodcock was put up with all in order. Ivy finished the hour strong and forward, always in tune with her handler.

Wild Apple Siri (Minard) and Fox Brook Poker Face (Wheeler) broke away on course four with both dogs getting right to work. At the half both dogs were seen to the front searching away. Around 38 Minard elected to leash his dog after her race began to slow. Wheeler continued and at 40 he reported his bell silent. Poker Face was seen standing and a grouse was quickly put up with all in order. A short time later, her bell was silent again. After a search of the area no one was home, and she finished the hour.

After lunch, on course five, was Zeena (Forman) and Snyder's Full Rage (Chaffee). Both dogs were away with rain in the forecast. Both dogs were to the front when hunting when a grouse flushed right off course, but no dogs were in the area. At around the 35-minute mark it began to rain steadily with both dogs still searching ahead. At 49 Forman reported his bell silent and after a brief search of the area Zeena was located standing with a woodcock put up and all in order. Nearing the finish Rage was seen making a strong cast uphill and moving to the front. Her finish the day before was not as strong, but today she was showing her stamina. Both dogs finished the hour.

Course six broke away with B K Rolling Dice (Minard) and Snyder's Pioneer Scout (Chaffee) with a steady rain falling. Both dogs were making big casts with Dice climbing a giant hardwood hill and swinging to the front a short time later with ease. At the 35-minute mark both handlers reported not hearing their bells and elected to search off the

powerline. After an extensive search of the area Minard reported his dog backing in some very thick cover. Once Chaffee arrived nothing was put up and Minard moved on. Chaffee relocated his dog when Scout's bell fell silent again. A grouse was put up with all in order. At the 52-minute mark Chaffee had reached the front and Minard reported to Chaffee that Scout's bell was stopped off to the left of course. Chaffee and the judge went searching and a shot was heard near time with a grouse being reported with all in order. Both dogs finished the hour.

For course seven Minard had scratched Hifive's Power Line, so running on her own was A Distant Spec (Hughes). Spec broke away with the course to herself and immediately headed for cover. For the first half she was seen moving to the front consistently. After dropping down the powerline and into the old creek bed orchard she stopped at 38. After a lengthy flushing attempt, she was sent on for a relocation with her bell silent again. A search of the area found her next to a drumming log, but Mr. Drummer wasn't home. After nearing the hill after the creek crossing Hughes reported his bell silent again. Spec was found standing and a trio of woodcock put to flight with all in order. Spec finished the hour with plenty of gas in the tank.

After a long and wet day, we retired to the White House for dinner. A special thanks to John Stolgitis for preparing a shepherd's pie for dinner and another special thanks to Christy Helms for her hard work in preparing meals as well.

"Day Dog " was awarded to Chasehill Poison Ivy. After dinner Joe Cammisa announced the callback dogs for day three. Per the judges' request: Course one with B K Rolling Dice and Fox Brook Poker Face; Course two with Snyder's Full Rage and Chasehill Poison Ivy; and in reserve, Over the Hill Patty and A Distant Spec.

Day No. 3—Day three started on course one with B K Rolling Dice (Minard) and Fox Brook Poker Face (Wheeler). Both dogs were away at 7:30 with moving right into the cover. Both dogs were making big forward casts. As the course turned off the old, bulldozed road Dice made a big cast to the right and Minard worked to get her to the front. Up front Poker Face was still searching all the right places but began to slow up a bit. Dice had shown up to the front without her handler, but Minard was not far behind. After reaching the front Dice continued to make big powerful forward casts and as we reached the field, she took the far edge. Minard called and got her heading the right direction, and with pure beauty hunting the edge she showed her gas tank was still full. Time was called and both dogs finished the hour without birds.

After the finish we loaded horses and moved across the road. On the line was Chasehill Poison Ivy (Stolgitis) and Snyder's Full Rage (Chaffee). Both dogs broke away across the field and headed for cover. This course had been consistent for the past two days with birdwork and the gallery was plentiful on this brace. Both dogs moved forward for the first half checking all the birdy cover, but no one was home. At the powerline crossing Ivy continued forward with Rage casting to the left. Chaffee was reported not hearing his bell, so he went looking. Rage

was on course in cover just over the hill, so it was difficult to hear her, but all was in order. At the turn heading towards the lower powerline crossing both dogs were making big casts on the field edge checking the old overgrown stone walls. Both handlers finally got their dogs heading in the right direction. At the crossing both dogs were forward in an old hardwood cut and within a span of about 100 yards four grouse were moved with no dog present. Both dogs were still showing great drive and stamina at the 40-minute mark. After dropping into the creek bottom and back up the other side Rage was starting to slow but still forward and searching. At the top of the hill both dogs were seen heading into an old orchard. Both handlers reported their bells silent. Both handlers sent out a scout and moments later at the top of the hill just inside the woods point was called. Both handlers arrived to find Rage standing with Ivy backing. After a flushing attempt and nothing put up both handlers elected to move on. With about a minute left both dogs were sent away. Time was called with no birds pointed. After this brace the judges reported to Mr. Cammisa that they had made a decision and to gather everyone for the announcement at the White House. Joe Cammisa began by thanking everyone for attending this prestigious event. He thanked all the owners and handlers for their hard work.

A special thanks to Purina and Garmin for supporting these events.

Another thanks was given to Liam Ballin for his assistance throughout the trial. Joe then announced the moment everyone was waiting for. He first announced the 2022 GNG Invitational Runner-Up Champion, Chasehill Poison Ivy. Then the Champion, who we were all but sure of, was announced—2022 GNG Invitational Champion B K Rolling Dice. An honorable mention was also given to Snyder's Full Rage. Congratulations to all! It is no easy event to be invited to and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to report such a prestigious event.

"This has been one of the most seamless Invitational Championships. The Grand National Grouse and Woodcock would like to thank Pete and Katie Flanagan, The New York Grouse Club for hosting and to Bill Ballin, the Reporter. Pete and/or Bill marshaled each and every brace for the entire three days and they are sincerely appreciated. Additionally, we would like to thank Greg Blair and Purina for their life blood support of this game we all love."

Oxford, N. Y., April 13

Judges: Scott Forman and Russ Richardson

GRAND NATIONAL GROUSE AND WOODCOCK INVITATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats on Consecutive days;
One-Hour Finals] — 11 Pointers and 3 Setters

Winner—B K ROLLING DICE, 1685683, pointer female, by Railhew Explorer-Railhew Mrs. Magoo. William S. Siemer, owner; Bruce Minard, handler.

Runner-Up—CHASEHILL POISON IVY, 1694453, pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Alan Riano owner, John Stolgitis handler.

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NEBRASKA BRITTANY OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Sigbrits Not In Kansas Anymore Named Champion

By Wesley Felt | Raymond, Nebraska | April 18, 2022



(Left to right): Wesley Felt (reporter), Stan Truksa (marshal), Brooks Carmichael (judge), Sigbrits Not In Kansas Anymore with Richard Beaver, Scott Johnson, and Jeff Wallace (judge).

The 2022 running of the Nebraska Brittany Open All-Age Championship was held April 18-20, 2022, at the Branched Oak Field Trial Area near Raymond, Neb. The Nebraska Championship is hosted by the Nebraska Brittany Club and followed the regional club event held April 15-17.

There are some fine folks we need to mention for their contribution to the success of this Championship event. Claudia and Stan Truksa spend many hours planning this event for the Nebraska Brittany Club. Claudia is the event secretary along with dog wagon driver. Wesley and Mary Felt, and Tom Maneely, helped where needed. Tom planted birds every morning and helped with the dog wagon. Stan rode every brace as the Marshal and Wesley as the Reporter. We thank these dedicated folks for their hard work in order to maintain a premier field event in the Brittany world.

The sponsors for the Nebraska Brittany Open All-Age Championship are Nestlé Purina and Garmin. Nestlé Purina gives both money toward the running of this event and Pro Plan products for the winners. Purina is fed to several dogs running in this event as testimony to the quality of feed used in the Pro Plan dog products. Garmin was a sponsor this year for the Championship. Garmin provided to the winner an ALHA 10 and a TT 15X dog collar. We thank these sponsors and their continued support of this event among many other major field trial events.

The Branched Oak field trial grounds have a large lodge used to gather for socializing and meals. This year the meals were provided by Nebraska Brittany Club members. The Branched Oak trial grounds area provides ample space to show a true all-age bird dog. The grounds were in good shape and the birds were plentiful.

The judges for the thirty-sixth running of the Nebraska Brittany Open All-Age Championship were Brooks Carmichael from Nebraska and Jeff Wallace from Iowa. These two judges were up to the task of three days of riding to select the true all-age competitors for this Championship. The judges had several dogs to choose from with the all-age range and the handling necessary to be named as the Champion and Runner-Up Champion.

The weather this year was cold and windy for both Monday and Tuesday. The temperatures were in the thirties. On Wednesday it was

a better day temperature-wise, 50s, but with spitting rain all morning.

The girls came to play this year as three of the four placements were females. The Champion named for the 2022 Nebraska Brittany Open All-Age Championship was Sigbrit's Not In Kansas Anymore, owned by Nick Blasi from Kansas and handled by Scott Johnson of Kansas. Her sire is Sniksoh Spank's Hank and dam is M K's My Li Ammo. The Runner-Up Champion was Spanish Dancer owned and handled by Robbie Myers of Nebraska. Her sire is Spanish Corrals Sonny Patch and dam is Janees Dirty Dancer. Her performance was in the first brace and from the final placements was held until the very last brace. These girls were hard to beat.

The Running

Brace 1—Spanish Dancer (Myers) and T N T's Raisins A Leprecaun (Burchett). The first brace was away at 8:00 a.m. Spanish Dancer was away to the front and really forward. Point was called at 15 minutes at the chucker ditch. Flush and shot all mannerly and she was released and again to front and forward. She had four more finds at 18, 25, 32, and 56. She shortened some at the end. Her performance was enjoyed by the judges, and she was awarded Runner-Up Champion of the Nebraska Brittany Open All Age Championship. T N T's Raisins A Leprecaun was lost early.

Brace 2—El Grande (Myers) and Sniksoh Hank's Gypsy Cruise (Burchett). El Grande had two nice finds and finished the hour. Hank's Gypsy Cruise was hunting to the right places and at 29 minutes had a miscue with a bird and was sent to the dog wagon.

Brace 3—Countyline's Full Throttle (Truksa) and She's Outa Control (Johnson). Countyline's Full Throttle had bird contact at 13, but his manners were not good and went to the dog wagon. She's Outa Control began her bird count on the bushes where her bracedmate had problems. She had three more finds at 27, 41, and 50 and finished the hour going forward.

Brace 4—High Velocity Copper Magnum (Johnson) and Hoochie Coochie Man (Tillson). High Velocity Copper Magnum and Hoochie Coochie Man released together, but both chose different hunting routes. But both came together at 40 in the same bush, with the same bird and both could not maintain proper mannerism, and both were picked up and to the dog wagon together.

Brace 5—Urban American Legend (Chang) and Dogwood's Fireball Whiski (Burchett). Urban American Legend was picked up early. Dogwood's Fireball Whiski was lost midway through the hour.

Brace 6—R and H Dark Night (Burchett) and M K's My Lil Ammo (Johnson). R and H Dark Night was lost midway through the hour. M K's My Lil Ammo had her first point at 3 with great manners. She had four more finds at 12, 38, and 52. She was going away at the end of the hour.

Brace 7—W W'S Gin and Tonic (Wice) and Alder Grand Hopes Penny Ante (Burchett). W W's Gin and Tonic had his first find at 15 minutes. He had a second find at 30 with some movement at shot. The third bird at 38, he took many steps and was ordered up. Alder Grand Hopes Penny Ante had a mishap with a bird at 13.

Brace 8—Countyline's That Guy (Truksa) and Almaden's Under Lock and Key (Tillson). Countyline's That Guy showed more and more range until he was lost midway through the hour. Almaden's Under Lock and Key had his hunting shoes on today. He had five finds during the hour. The first was at 3 minutes then again at 14, 27, 34, and 50 and finished going away at the end of the hour.

Brace 9—T J's Black Diamond (Perry) and McChesneys All Down the Line (Johnson). T J's Black Diamond was up at 49 with bad manners on a bird. McChesneys All Down the Line was picked up early with lack of judgement on a bird.

Brace 10—T N T's Handsome Harry (Burchett) and Arrow's Tequila Rustler (Beaver). T N T's Handsome Harry was handsomely on the first bird at 11. His performance on the second bird was not very handsomely and went to the dog wagon. Arrow's Tequila Rustler was last year's champion and was going for back-to-back wins, but a breach of manners at 20 minutes ended his try.

Brace 11—Tequila Chica Bonita (Beaver) and Sniksoh Hank's Hatch (Burchett). Tequila Chica Bonita was up midway through the hour for lack of manners around the bird and was sent to the dog wagon. Sniksoh Hank's Hatch had one find, a nonproductive, and a stop to flush. He finished the hour shortened.

Brace 12—Godfather's F N Rockstar (Chang) and W W's Miss Wendy Peffercorn (Wice). Godfather's F N Rockstar had two finds, one at 10 and 35 minutes. His range was short to the end of the hour. W W's Miss Wendy Peffercorn had a bird early and failed to back his bracemate at thirty-five and was taken to the dog wagon.

Brace 13—A N J's Ohio Hellion (Burchett) and Magnum's High Velocity Top Gun (Anderson). A N J's Ohio Hellion was scratched. Magnum's High Velocity Top Gun had two birds and then at 48 had a mishap with a bird and was sent to the dog wagon.

Brace 14—J and M Rodeo Romeo (Tillson) and Bama Jama Willy's Sassie Sadie (Burchett). J and M Rodeo Romeo was scratched. Bama Jama Willy's Sassie Sadie was lost before the hour.

Brace 15—Sniksoh Diamond Jack (Johnson) and Osage Fork Slick (Burchett). Sniksoh Diamond Jack and Osage Fork Slick were picked up early with a bird contact.

Brace 16—Sigbrits Not In Kansas Anymore (Johnson) and Godfather's Red Feather Gunslinger (Chang). Godfather's Red Feather Gunslinger carried back a bird early in the brace. Judges always enjoy the last brace of the stake, but this last one was most enjoyable as Sigbrits Not In Kansas Anymore was awarded Champion for the 2022 Nebraska Brittany Open All-Age Championship. She had a big cast to begin the brace and did not let down through the 59 minutes of running. Yes, at the 59-minute, point was called for her. The location was in the bush line after the Gun dog dam. She seemed to be on point for an eternity as the handler was not locating the bird. The handler was thorough in his task as he put the bird up and fired to end the running of the event.

This concluded the running of the 2022 Nebraska Brittany Open All-Age Championship.

Raymond, Neb., April 18

Judges: Brooks Carmichael and Jeff Wallace

NEBRASKA BRITTANY OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 32 Entries

Winner—SIGBRITS NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE, 1683730, Brittany female, by Sniksoh Spank's Hank-M K's My Lil Ammo. Nick Blasi, owner; Scott Johnson, handler.

Runner-Up—SPANISH DANCER, 1687792, Brittany female, by Spanish Corral's Sonny Patch-Janee's Dirty Dancer. Robbie Myers, owner and handler.

MICHIGAN OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Reedy Creek Dial Tone Captures First Championship; Thunder Bolt's Storm Impresses As Runner-Up

By Al Mannes | Ionia, Michigan | April 18, 2022

Reedy Creek Dial Tone's patience and hard work was finally rewarded with a formidable final day flourish to win the 42nd running of the Michigan Open Shooting Dog Championship. A strong runner-up performance was turned in by Thunder Bolt's Storm, a first-year shooting dog out of the incomparable Chelsea's Thunder Bolt. The five-year old champion was masterfully handled by Mike Tracy of Glenville Pa., and owned by Joe McHugh of Boston, Ga. Runner-up Storm is owned by Dr. Tom Jackson of Columbus, Ind., who is also co-owner of Thunder Bolt. The maestro for the runner-up was Shawn Kinkelaar of Effingham, Ill.

"He's a five-year old out of all-age National Champion Miller's Dialing In", noted champion handler Tracy. "This is his first championship, but not for a lack of effort. He's come so close many times with runners-up. His owner Joe McHugh and I knew it was just a matter of time. Our patience was rewarded today".

Shawn Kinkelaar was pleased with his first-year shooting dog Storm, "She is a natural and has come on fast. Chris Peek has done a substantial amount of the training on her when I have been on the road. That young female has a bright future." Storm's owner Dr. Tom Jackson also scouted his charge, "She is out of my own breeding. I've got a female out of Sinbad at home and so I've had my hands on that dog since she was born."

What's noteworthy for me about the trial is that after just a two-year hiatus because of COVID, the kennels of these two top handlers have changed so significantly. Dogs I looked forward to seeing are no longer here. Shawn has retired Chelsea's Thunder Bolt and another top dog—True Choice who suffered heart failure at the age of seven. The Tracy

string also consisted of such notables as Backcountry Tornado, North Country Girl, and my all-time favorite name—Coosawhatchie Smooth Ride, but no more. It's a constant challenge to keep a stellar string, but these two manage that every year. It's like the old saying when discussing great football coaches, "They don't rebuild, they just reload." So, it is with Mike and Shawn.

The trial was run at the Ionia Recreational Area with the Derby on Monday, April 18th (the Championship started the next morning and ran through Thursday April 21st). The 2022 running was dedicated to our longtime patron and friend Oliver DeLuca who passed in 2019. I'll have more on the contributions of that great gentleman a little later.

The trial had an international judging flavor when Jeff Haggis came down from Glencoe, Ont., to ride with judge Tim McClurg from Fowler, Ohio. Getting competent judges is half the battle in having a trial respected by all involved; both these gentlemen possess the grit and gravitas to make the tough call with complete conviction. They were on top of every brace and choreographed their coverage to make sure each dog and handler had their full attention. Their decades of judging trials and championships served the handlers and owners at this venue quite well.

It was disappointing to see so few professional handlers at the trial. To be sure, the two that did make the long journey are at the top of almost any shooting dog manifest. Mike Tracy and Shawn Kinkelaar have nineteen Handler of the Year awards between them—that's Ruth and Gehrig by any measure. But where are the rest? They competed 32 dogs, but there should be a lot more. Dr. Allen Dunbar came over from Wisconsin with two beautiful, well-groomed hirsute setters, but he was



Michigan Open Shooting Dog Winners (front): Joe Guzman, Kelsey Hajek with Reedy Creek Dial Tone, Dr. Tom Jackson with Thunder Bolt's Storm, and Jim Cipponeri. (Back, left): Blake Rizzo, Paul Renius, Mike Tracy, Ron Williams, Brent Masengale, Tim McClurg (judge), Jeff Haggis (judge), Richard Lipski, Gerry Moisson, and Shawn Kinkelaar.

the only amateur. In reviewing other trials in the UKC® Field, I notice this is not uncommon, but it needs to be addressed. It could be just a cultural phenomenon. The modern American is choosing gadgets and games over field trials and fresh air. It's a cultural challenge endemic to almost all sports. The future of this sport could face parlous times if a new generation of handlers and owners cannot be found. Let's just hope there is a solution that we can all support.

The weather for the trial was quite predictable for April in mid-Michigan. The sun was never seen until Thursday afternoon. It was cold, windy and snowy, but the dogs didn't seem to mind, and the trial went off without a hitch despite a few delays.

The field trial grounds at the Ionia Recreation Area are maintained by the Michigan Field Trial Clubs. When the area is inundated, week in and week out by one storm after another, it becomes an almost Sisyphean task to keep the courses in working condition. Field trials here literally piggyback one another all season long. But somehow, they get it done. Vice-President Jim Cipponeri and Secretary/Treasurer Joe Guzman have their feet in the mud constantly reassessing and re-evaluating what needs to be done to make sure this stays a championship venue. Where the course starts and ends, twists and turns, rises and falls is always under their microscope. Again, this year they made it happen, albeit with a number of last minute changes and adjustments.

Also, again this year as in every year, there was a paucity of PM quail contacts. Dogs drawn for an afternoon brace struggled to locate birds, while morning draws would turn big point totals. In my opinion, it was a tribute to Reedy Creek Dial Tone, Mike Tracy, and the judges that, true to the spirit of the sport and the rules, the dog was judged for more than just points. His ground game took precedence.

It is little wonder that quail numbers are in a constant state of flux, despite the generous seeding of the fields. A parliament of predators can be seen perched in perfect view of every released bird, just waiting for all of us to move through. Perhaps an examination of a more efficacious way to distribute the birds will be undertaken by the committee before next year.

The quality of the flight birds was again excellent. That has always been a top priority going back to the days of the late leaders of this event—Oliver DeLuca, Jack Hires and Jim Logan. Again, Cipponeri and Guzman along with some others, do a thorough job of ensuring the

championship designation is maintained. Good flight birds is just one of a number of issues that have to be examined every year.

It's also essential to mention our great friends and supporters at Purina. No matter where I go, the Purina banner flies, and the brand is found in every trailer. Due to their due diligence in research and marketing, they've successfully woven themselves into the fabric of field trials and animal nutrition. That's quite a formidable achievement. The Purina dinner was held on Wednesday evening and prepared expertly by dog wagon wrangler Ron Williams and Tom Winters. It's always great to sit around and talk dogs while enjoying a fine meal.

The Winners

Reedy Creek Dial Tone (Handler—Mike Tracy • Scout—Kelsey Hajek)

The Champion was released as a bye dog on Thursday afternoon just as the sun came out, temperatures warming. The first dog up in the afternoon was impressive from first whistle. The five-year-old pointer released at the top of the hill on course one, shined in the afternoon sun for one solid hour.

Immediately, he laid out to the front and hung his lines and made big bold moves. His first being at the 12-minute mark when the handler turned an edge coming out of Hires field and saw Dial Tone dialed in – solid on point – muscle and sinew frozen in place. "He had good style and polish on his points", explained Judge McClurg, "but his most impressive quality was his range, style and ability to hang his lines perfectly, right to the shooting dog limits." After a textbook flush and fire in a mass of tangled plum thickets and hawthorn, Dial Tone rolled smartly out of Hires field, through the horse staging area to a long hedgerow running north. This is where he was found locked in again, as solid as a bank vault. "In all three of his finds we actually found him on point each time", noted Tracy, "and each time he handled the shot and flush perfectly". From this point the hedgerow continues north for a short time and then dog legs east for a few hundred yards and then back north again. This is where Dial Tone slams into his third and final find, coming in just the first 30-minutes. "He was flawless on his birds," Judge Haggis opined, "There was no mistake in this dog once he locked in on point". From here it was as if Dial Tone said, "OK, you've seen my points, now watch me cover this course". The dog on this day eats up real estate

faster than Patton's 3rd Army. After rolling to the top of Logan's Lookout he barreled down a gentle escarpment that features vertical hedgerows and a bending horse path that leads across the Boy Scout bridge and eventually to some open country. Dial Tone was up to the challenge, covering all of it in an afternoon atmosphere renowned for lack of game contact. "He rimmed every field and left no birdie section uncovered," concluded Tracy. It was obvious during the hour that this was a dog connected to his handler but hunted independently. "The dog was as strong at the finish as it was at breakaway", noted McClurg, "he covered it all and seemed mistake free - an impressive performance".

Thunder Bolt's Storm

(Handler—Shawn Kinkelaar • Scout/Owner—Dr. Tom Jackson)

The Runner-Up was released in the second brace at the back end of the course on Wednesday morning in 29-degree weather, and light northerly winds. The first-year shooting dog showed a lot of maturity with her range and her honest application to her edges – good training was in evidence. But this dog was also on a bird hunt; she came up big with seven finds and a back in her hour. She rolled with great style and energy across the show field to the rock pile and then through the apple orchard and then to the show bottom and up to the Christmas tree field and beyond. Her first three finds came in the first half hour; she had four more in the second and finished with plenty of gas in the tank. The young dog covered all objectives and found birds everywhere. What was also notable was the extreme distances at times she pointed the birds with stone cold certitude. The judges admitted there was just a gossamer thin difference between the runner-up and champion. "She did not have quite as mature of demeanor as the overall winner", Judge McClurg analyzed. Scout and owner Dr. Tom Jackson saw the difference as well. "Storm on some occasions wanted to mark flight on her birds, and I think that left the door open for judgment. "This dog has a big future", Judge Haggis explained, "It's not often you see such style, range and bird finding ability in a first year dog." Shawn Kinkelaar was gratified to see Storm do this well, but was most impressed when, "I had to relocate her twice, and it worked perfectly, that is not always the case with a young dog".

The judges gave honorable mention kudos to three other performers: Miller's Heat Seeker, Answered Prayers, and Miller's High Heat Index. All were handled by Mike Tracy.

The Running

The Championship started on a cold, windy and snow driven Tuesday morning. The freezing overnight temperatures put a thin rime across the mane of a number of the horses - riders were bundled and braced for a gelid gallop.

Tuesday, 8:15 a.m., 30 degrees, with 15/20 mph north wind, snow showers

Bully Rock (Tracy) and Silver W Jill Z (Kinkelaar) broke away at the top of the hill in course number one heading west. Both dogs were a beautiful sight crossing a snow driven landscape. Bully Rock won the Georgia Open Shooting Dog Championship last year and knows how to gobble up ground. That caused the big running pointer to be a little hard to handle at first but settled into a nice pattern as the hour went on. He was textbook on his points, registering four finds and executed the wing and shot perfectly on each. He also had an unproductive but finished strong. Silver W Jill Z won the Derby here two years ago and has been winning big ever since counting an impressive win in the Tennessee Open Shooting Dog Championship. She and her bracedmate executed a powerful opening burst with Jill Z recording one perfect find and then an uncharacteristic mistake at the 16-minute mark when she failed to back. Kinkelaar was disappointed, but simply lamented, "It was just not her day".

Faithful (Tracy) and Upfront's McQuade (Kinkelaar). These two young pointers are part of the rebuilding program I mentioned earlier for both handlers. Faithful is out of Waybetter Rocky and McQuade is a first-year dog out of Chelsea's Thunder Bolt. Both dogs bolted out of

the gate and immediately impressed with their running style across the show field. Faithful ended up recording four finds, an unproductive, but finished in a flurry. McQuade was doing well also with two finds and a stylish back and then went to terra incognita at the 45-minute mark and was picked up.

Grouse Feather Witcher (Dunbar) and Cheyenne Jack (Tracy). This was an unusual and disappointing encounter for both dogs and handlers. Witcher just came off a second place in the DeLuca Classic this past weekend and Cheyenne was our runner-up two years ago. Both were impressive competitors until they weren't. Coming out of Hires field both had a breach of manners on the same nervous flighty quail at exactly the same moment and were picked up.

Afternoon Tuesday

Chelsea's Mae West (Kinkelaar) and Miller's Heat Seeker. Mae West is the first champion out of Thunder Bolt having won the Mississippi Championship just two months ago. Heat Seeker, on the other hand, is a multiple champion. Both dogs ran in tandem down some long hedgerows with Mae West backing Heat Seeker on one find and showed her youth when she failed to back on a second and was picked up. Heat Seeker was on fire despite the cold. This dog covers ground better than Sherwin Williams covers the earth. He boiled down one hedgerow and up the other with head and tail high. He seemed to be campaigning for an all-age designation as he rimmed the Christmas tree field, the show field and beyond. He recorded a total of two finds and an unproductive. He finished the hour and was in the money with an honorable mention judgment.

Sargent of Arms (Kinkelaar) and Miller's Braveheart (Tracy). This was one of those, "I should have stayed in the kennel" moments for both dogs. Released at the dam Sargent of Arms actually showed well for 45 minutes even though he had no bird contact. It was at this point that Sargent went AWOL and had the handler and scout in fits searching and screaming. Eventually the Sargent was located and immediately demoted to private. Miller's Braveheart was an even greater conundrum. He went to terra incognita almost immediately. The handler called for the collar and was eventually located somewhere in the mid-west.

Waybetter Rocky (Tracy) and Tug of War (Kinkelaar). Rocky was runner-up here in 2018 and has been a big winner all his life. On this day he was picked up at the 52-minute mark after a breach of manners. Tug of War has had a great year with a win in the International Endurance Championship last November and started this brace off strong with an impressive dug up find coming out of Hires field. He later also suffered a breach of manners and was picked up.

Wednesday, 8:40 a.m., 29 degrees, wind west 5 mph. Less wind and no snow greeted this morning's ride.

G F Texas Ranger (Dunbar) and Answered Prayers (Tracy). Texas Ranger is a stylish setter out of Hytest Palladin. The breakaway went well at the top of the hill heading west and within moments Ranger had a solid point. As the handler rode up, the bird flushed wild, the dog moved, and his day was over. Answered Prayers is another one of those young studs in the Tracy string. He's had some runners-up and, on this morning, had an impressive hour as he rolled up the fence line heading toward Hires field.

The young dog held an impressive pattern throughout the hour and executed three finds— held solid for the flush and fire and finished in the money with an honorable mention.

Osceola's Seminole Wind (Tracy) and Thunder Bolt's Storm (Kinkelaar). Seminole Wind has been impressive this year with a win at the Northeastern Championship. On this morning she was put down in the second hour near the dam and was having a day to remember with 5 finds and a powerful performance. Always to the front and holding her edges and then a train wreck with ten minutes to go. "This was a heart breaker", mused handler Tracy. The dog seemed lost, the collar called for, and then found moments later on point and on the course. Thunder Bolt's Storm was covered earlier.



Open Derby Classic (from left): Shawn Kinkelaar, Dr. Allen Dunbar (judge), Blake Rizzo with J N Bolt Action, Ron Williams, Mike Tracy with Waybetter Rebel, Jeff Haggis (judge), Jim Cipponeri, Richard Lipski, and Joe Guzman.

Miller's War Bonnet (Tracy) and Big Man on Campus (Kinkelaar). War Bonnet has secured a number of classic wins including an impressive effort winning the Conecuh Station Classic in Union Springs last fall. The young pointer is still looking for her first championship. It was not to be on this day as she did have one find but was picked up after an unproductive at the 40-minute mark. Big Man on Campus did not fare much better. He nailed a bird along some plum thickets rimming the Christmas tree field, but then moved on the flush and was picked up.

Afternoon, Wednesday

Raag's Rich and Rare (Tracy) and Oak Ridge Thor (Kinkelaar). First brace of the afternoon found Raag's not holding his edges. He did nail three birds in the process and held well for the wing and shot. A little later the handler did not like his pattern and he was soon watching the trial from the dog wagon at the 31-minute mark. Oak Ridge Thor finished second in the Lone Star and Fleetwood Classic and is coming on strong. On this afternoon he made a youthful mistake when he failed to back and was picked up.

Thunderbolt's Wild Again (Kinkelaar) and Miller's Extreme Heat (Tracy). Everyone felt sorry for these two young ladies. Dropped in the afternoon they rolled over every hedgerow, treeline and show field they could find. Their handlers gave them plenty of space and time, but they could produce no birds. Being merciful handlers, the girls were relieved of duty with about 15 minutes left. An especially disappointing hour for Extreme Heat just coming off an impressive win at the Carolina Classic last month.

J N Bolt Action (Kinkelaar) and Miller's Record Heat (Tracy). Bolt Action just came off an impressive derby win here on Monday. He's out of Chelsea's Thunder Bolt but still has a lot to learn. He looked great on the breakaway and was soon found on point with his bracemate. A breach of manners on the flush had him back in the dog wagon at the 15-minute mark.

Record Heat is another one of those ubiquitous Jack and Fran Miller products in demand across the country. This little female was impressive in her pattern and gait. She ran a big race and had three solid finds and two unproductives and finished the hour. This was an excellent showing for an afternoon draw.

Thursday, 9:14 a.m., 49 degrees, light rain and wind from the east.

Preceding breakaway: a moment of silent prayer by the writer that somewhere, someday the sun would again somehow appear.

Erin's Big Casino (Tracy) and Hale's Smooth Touch (Kinkelaar). There was much anticipation to see Big Casino run. A Hidden Shamrock

product, this setter comes by its name naturally— about 60 pounds and long legs. Both dogs broke from the top of breakaway hill and showed strong heading west along the fence row. The big setter ran faster than you could say Tomoka. He had a great bounding, attractive gait and produced two finds and a perfect back within 20 minutes. But then, coming off an edge in Hires field, he ran over a bird. The handler knew he couldn't unring that bell; Big Casino went to his big kennel for the morning. Hale's Smooth Touch was equally impressive with a perfect back, but then came an unproductive followed by a breach of manners on a back which took her out of the running.

Erin's Thunder Backus (Kinkelaar) and Iron Bully (Tracy). Thunder Backus is an impressive young derby co-owned by Gerry Moisson and Dr. Tom Jackson. They were both in the saddle to watch their charge. A couple days earlier he won the DeLuca Classic which is also run here at Ionia. The dog broke strong at the huge show field on the back end of the course. He held his edges nicely, producing a back and then three finds as he moved across and up to the Christmas tree field. It was here that he had an excellent point, but when the recalcitrant quail couldn't be located, the handler went for a relocation. Backus bumped the bird and was picked up at the 40-minute mark. Iron Bully has had some eye-popping efforts this past season but no major wins. This was another example today as this dog went on a serious bird hunt. Starting at the show field this dog found quail wherever he journeyed. He had eight solid finds, looking calendar like on everyone. His range was a little short, so we got a good look at his effort. His Waterloo moment came in the Christmas tree field where on a relocation he swung swiftly to point, but not before the quail flush. His day was over.

Miller's High Heat Index (Tracy) [Bye Dog]. Heat Index was the first of four consecutive Tracy bye dogs. He has a number of championships on his résumé. To the eye he has everything you'd want in a one-hour shooting dog. He showed great intelligence from breakaway to finish, covering the country with a high-styling gait and a bright red-light reaction when suddenly slamming on point. He had two perfect finds and seemed to need very little handling. A real joy to watch and finished in the money with an honorable mention designation.

Afternoon, Thursday

Something quite strange happened at 1:30 p.m. this day. A bright ball appeared directly overhead. We were in stunned silence until suddenly someone exclaimed, "It's the sun!" A truly hard to believe moment; our spirits rose faster than the temperature. It was therapeutic! It was also the first sun of the tournament.

Reedy Creek Dial Tone (Tracy) [Bye Dog]. Dial Tone was inspired. Afternoon brace or not, he was basking in the sunlight and feeling his Purina. His championship effort was about to commence: the performance documented earlier.

Bittersweet War Cry (Tracy) [Bye Dog]. Released on the back end of the course with a sun dappled sky overhead everyone was feeling good. War Cry did show some flash with two classy finds, but his ground game was not pleasing the handler and he was picked up.

Miller's Lock and Loaded (Tracy) [Bye Dog]. This pointer had a powerful forward race with good range and had one find, but the handler picked him up after a 26-minute absence.

Ionia, Mich., April 18 – One Course
Judges: Jeff Haggis and Tim McClurg
MICHIGAN OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 29 Pointers and 3 Setters

Winner—REEDY CREEK DIAL TONE, 1673570, pointer male, by Miller's Dialing In-Diamond Sally. Joe McHugh, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

Runner-Up—THUNDER BOLT'S STORM, 1684304, pointer female, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt→ Lacey Underall. Thomas L. Jackson, owner; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.



Shawn and Dr. Tom Jackson holding up a cake in tribute to Chelsea's Thunder Bolt.

Michigan Derby Classic

The Derby got underway on Monday, but the first brace had to be delayed until the afternoon because of an anticipated overnight snowstorm that never developed.

Winner—J N Bolt Action (Handler—Shawn Kinkelaar)

Runner-Up—Waybetter Rebel (Handler—Mike Tracy)

The winner and runner-up were braced together, and both broke away with an elan and dash that belied their derby status. They rolled west along the fence line leading to Hires field. Both dogs managed a plethora of points but the ground game of J N Bolt Action was more judge pleasing. Bolt Action had four finds and handled all with error free efficiency. "Bolt Action showed well on the ground", observed Judge Haggis, "He ran a strong, forward race and ran the edges well and finished strong in the half-hour". Waybetter Rebel bettered Bolt's point numbers with 6 finds, all handled textbook style. "We were not so much counting points as we were looking at the whole picture", noted Judge Dunbar. "We felt Bolt's ground game was a little better".

The winning handler was not surprised by this son of Bolt moment, "I knew he could handle the bird work, but I was more pleased with his ground game and discipline," observed Kinkelaar. "This is his fourth win this year, so I think the future's bright".

Runner-up handler Mike Tracy was likewise sanguine about his pupil's prospects. "I was really impressed with the young derby. This placement gives that dog a great shot at Derby Dog of the Year honors".

There seems to be little debate that we'll be hearing a lot more from these precocious pointers in the near future. With Bolt being out of champion Chelsea's Thunder Bolt and Waybetter Rebel down from champion Waybetter Rocky; an outsider can only bear witness to the certitude of the old bird dog axiom—BLOOD RULES!

Judges: Dr. Allen Dunbar and Jeff Haggis
OPEN DERBY CLASSIC – 10 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner—J N BOLT ACTION, 1 697302, pointer male, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Double Wild. Joe Stokley, owner; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.

Runner-Up—WAYBETTER REBEL, 1689139, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Calico's Country Strong. Carl Bishop & Bill & Muriel Primm, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

Tradition has it that the Derby winning handler treats to pizza on derby night. That's usually Monday. We all had a great night at Olivera's. It was fun getting back together with folks I hadn't seen since the last trial two years ago. Thanks again Shawn!

Retirement Tears

It is highly unusual indeed when a retirement announcement brings tears. Tradition has it as a moment of unfettered felicity; a time to rejoice, a time to say, "I'm sure glad that's over." That sentiment would in no way, shape, or form, capture the empty feeling felt by both Shawn Kinkelaar and Dr. Tom Jackson back in February when, after Chelsea's Thunder Bolt won the U.S. Invitational Championship, they decided to hang up his competitive collar at the age of ten.

"We wanted him to go out on top, and there is no greater way to go out than to finish with another Invitational Championship," explained handler Kinkelaar. "He won it for the third time to tie Great River Ice. It's, in my opinion, the hardest shooting dog trial to win." And win is all Bolt's ever done: 23 championships and four Dog of the Year honors with three of those championships coming in succession right here at the Michigan venue in Ionia. I also found it close to impossible to believe when I looked it up that Bolt won every Michigan Championship on his birthday which is April 21st. How amazing is that?

"I knew almost from the beginning that I had something special," noted co-owner Dr. Tom Jackson. "But my partner and I, George Hickox, agreed with Shawn that it was the right time".

Kinkelaar readily admits the absence of Bolt in his truck creates a new calculus at every trial. It was always comforting to know The Dog was there if things got dicey. "When Bolt was in the truck everyone always knew the trial wasn't over until he had his say." To be sure, Shawn is not driving an empty truck. His outstanding young string is, in large measure, a Bolt-born product. Just this week a daughter of Bolt took Runner-Up here at the Michigan Championship. I guess you could say his string is still running on full.



Oliver DeLuca

Dr. Tom Jackson is also looking to the future, but as he admits, it's impossible not to look in the rear-view mirror. "When I look back on Bolt's career, what impressed me the most was his consistency and his unique ability to win in any venue. He won on the prairies in North Dakota, then won in the piney woods down south, then on to Conway, Arkansas, where he wins the Invitational and up to the mid-west and hedgerow country where he wins multiple times here in Michigan."

Bolt's success often puts Shawn in the crosshairs of a spirited debate. Which dog was his greatest? Shawn has already handled four into the Hall of Fame. That is a tall order by any standard. "I get asked almost every day who was the best. Quite honestly, he has to rank right up there with any of them. Numerically, with 23 championships, he would be hard to argue against".

I really enjoyed Dr. Jackson's long view when he observed, "I caught lightning in a bottle with Bolt. I was very lucky since he was my first dog. I have other good dogs with Shawn, and I am optimistic, but I also know I've already experienced life at the top." I couldn't agree more with the good doctor. A star that bright may never be seen again.

This brief notation would not be complete without thanking Dr. Tom and Shawn for a great evening dinner at Olivera's topped by some delicious Thunder Bolt cake. The entire Michigan Open Shooting Dog community appreciates your generosity.

Reporter's Notebook

I was extremely pleased to meet Todd Kellam, the Vice-President of the United Kennel Club, when he came up from his home office in nearby Kalamazoo to view the trial. Todd was accompanied by two good friends of mine—former managing editor of the American Field,

Bernie Matthys, and Hall of Fame reporter for The Field, Dave Fletcher. Bernie looks great. I told him that at the age of 84 it was time to sit back and enjoy the view. He countered that he's slowly learning how to retire, but it's not easy. Dave Fletcher at 88, on the other hand, will never retire from his febrile devotion to the field trial sport. He's in good health and still reporting trials; They are two amazing young men.

Todd, as you probably know, now has the keys to the American Field's future. Both Bernie and Dave wanted some time to get acquainted and share their priorities. One in particular, that Dave mentioned to me, was the continued stewardship of perhaps William F. Brown's greatest achievement—The Field Trial Hall of Fame he created in 1953 and 54. "He was very kind and receptive to what we had to say", observed Fletcher. "He wanted us to know his intention was to expand and improve the American Field brand wherever possible, and that would definitely include the Hall of Fame". Later I spoke with Todd about the new Field magazine which is now a monthly. I told him how thrilled we all are that a printed version is back. "Our number one challenge right now is making sure American Field followers realize the magazine is back. At all events we go to I distribute copies so folks can become familiar with it. Our intention is to make it larger. I want the American Field community to know they have a pointing dog man on their side and that's me". Todd is 59 years old and has had bird dogs most of his life. He presently has two English setters and hunts Michigan grouse religiously.

Two years have passed since my last report on this Michigan Championship. It's the only reason the life of this trial's greatest patron has not been noted. I am about to make that correction.

When Oliver DeLuca passed in the Fall of 2019 the Michigan field trial community knew what they lost. As poignantly reported in his obituary for the November 2nd, 2019 issue Dave Fletcher noted, "He stepped in and supported the Michigan Open Shooting Dog Championship, took the reins and took that club to new and higher places". Oliver not only loved bird dogs and field trials but had some great winners like Visa. That dog won a placement in the Open Derby at the International Pheasant Championship, handled by Randy Downs. In 1999 he won the Michigan Championship with The Prosecutor. But his greatest contribution to the sport came probably as a mover and shaker. The word was, "If you wanted a trial and wanted it run properly, call Oliver". He became President of the Michigan Championship in 1986 and still holds that position posthumously. Oliver was a generous benefactor as well, always working with his wife Almerinda to supply the greatest Italian dinners this side of Rome. If horses were needed, he was there, and how about if you need a tractor to pull the dog wagon, no problem—call Oliver. Believe me, this is only scratching the surface of what he's meant to this sport in this state. I have to think that with his departure and that of Jack Hires and Jim Logan the field trial community will be forever mourning that greatest generation.

Jim Cipponeri and Joe Guzman now stand on the prow of this Championship. In their positions as Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer there is no limit to what needs to be done to keep this ship afloat. For example: arranging the dates for the grounds, maintaining the grounds, contacting judges, ads in the American Field and then contacting volunteers, who are as essential as a saddle in this endeavor,



Joe Guzman and Jim Cipponeri with their horses.

is just the beginning. I think it's akin to trying to drink from a fire hose; something has to spill out somewhere, but they manage to keep it under control. As Jim and Joe would emphasize, they couldn't do it without lifesavers also known as "volunteers". Paul Renius comes to mind. He puts in a huge number of hours maintaining the grounds and not just for this trial. He can also be seen getting the horse areas clean before the new horse and dog trailers pull in for the next trial. This task can be daunting depending on the number of horses for any given event. Granted, it's not Hercules and the Augean Stables, but it is substantial with grazing areas, paddocks and barns that must be kept clean. Ron Williams is one of the many Cipponeri players who makes it a point to do a lot and do it well. He's most renowned as the dog wagon pilot who does his yearly Dale Earnhardt impression maneuvering the 30-foot canine carrier over ground sometimes barely passable by pack mule, and he does it safely. He's also very knowledgeable about field trials in general and this course in particular. Amazingly, he is also quite gifted at insulting total strangers, and even old friends like me, on just a moment's notice. Everyone enjoys Ron's banter and insight. We were all very lucky to have Ron with us. Last year he underwent triple-bypass surgery and is now doing extremely well. Good luck Ron! I also had the pleasure of riding all week with Brent Masengale from nearby Ionia. Brent's had field trial dogs for years and was, along with Ron, instrumental in keeping this scribe fully detailed on every dog.

This trial owes a lot of its success to the hard work of Richard Lipski. He's up well before dawn catching quail, riding the courses, ensuring they are well sprinkled with bobwhites. He repeats the long journey later in the morning for the afternoon braces.

After a two-year absence, I'd have to say the trial went exceedingly well. But make no mistake, there are daunting challenges ahead, some of which have been detailed here. Let us hope they can all be overcome so the joy of a championship trial here in Michigan survives.

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U.S. COMPLETE MID-ATLANTIC OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Bo of Piney Woods Named Champion; Glassilaun War Paint, Runner-Up

By Mike Husenits | Harrisville, Pennsylvania | April 25, 2022



(From left): Dave Park (judge), Bo of Piney Woods with Joe Cammisa, Chris Catanzarite (trial chairman), Brian Ralph (judge), and Glassilaun War Paint with Robert Ecker.

The 2022 renewal of the U. S. Complete Mid-Atlantic Open Walking Shooting Dog Championship was contested April 25-26 near Harrisville, Pa., at the Oak Ridge Pointing Dog Club. Hosting the event for the fifth time was the Greensburg Pointer and Setter Club. Twenty-four dogs were drawn and went to the line, all from the strings of four professional handlers and two amateur owner/handlers.

This event was held one day after the National Walking Shooting Dog Futurity program and was followed by the Mid-States Walking Championship, making for a full week of field trialing over the Oak Ridge grounds.

Purina generously sponsors this trial, plus hundreds of others. Area Manager Greg Blair provided support and a generous supply of dog food for the winners. Eric Munden of Lion Country Supply provided judges gifts.

A small, but quite capable, group of club members and volunteers were on hand and made sure that all important details were addressed and that everyone in attendance enjoyed the event. Chris Catanzarite, current U.S. Complete President, not only handled the pre-trial arrangements, drawing and marshaling duties but also managed to enter and run three of his own dogs. Joe Cammisa and Norm Meeder ran the bird-release operation and also provided the legwork to obtain lunches and the Monday evening baked stuffed chicken dinner. Dave Hughes contributed his UTV for use as the dog wagon and reporter's ride.

A pair of young Pennsylvania enthusiasts, namely Dave Park and Brian Ralph, dispatched judging duties. Both have campaigned their own dogs and have judged many times. They gave their undivided attention to every contestant.

Weather conditions were as varied as night and day. Monday the temperature rose to 84 degrees by mid-afternoon, and then a cold front came through Monday night and cooled temperatures into the fifties on Tuesday.

For those unfamiliar with the grounds, they consist of rolling reclaimed surface mine land with an abundance of autumn olive brush, locust groves and open land that has been planted with native grasses and feed strips, all nicely groomed and maintained by the Oak Ridge Club. Several long edges border hard wood forest that surrounds the properties perimeter. The club has constructed an observation deck high on one hill where interested observers can oversee about 60 percent of the course and exchange stories and opinions, not to mention the expert judging that occurs on that deck!

The Champion and Runner-Up

Bo of Piney Woods, liver marked male pointer owned by Richard Wartars of Barkhamsted, Conn., and handled by Robert Ecker, is the new Champion. Bo has been on stage in the winners' circle many times. He recently won the Southern Bird Hunters Invitational Classic and placed in the Rich Tuttle Grouse Dog Classic, plus several other significant wins. His four-generation pedigree is chuck full of famous champions, namely Chasehill Little Bud, Beaver Meadow Benjamin, Calico's Thrillogy, Elhew Fibber McGee, Elhew Snakefoot, Honky Tonk Attitude, Miller's On Line, plus several others. Bo delivered his winning performance in the first brace starting at 8:10 under clear skies and mild temperatures. Bo's bracemate was Warrior Zeke, handled by Mark Hughes, both started fast disappearing to the front over the distant hill. Zeke found standing stylishly at 6 in the cover to the left side, all in order, and then quickly recorded two additional mannerly finds at 11 and 14. Bo was far ahead to the right, found standing at 12 in the bottom, stylish and mannerly for the shot. He scored again at 17 in autumn olive brush, bracemate also standing nearby independently, both intense and mannerly. Zeke crossed the ditch line at the water tub and chalked up stylish find number five at 20 in a stand of locust. Meanwhile, Bo ranged well forward up the ditch line and turned left at the woods edge. Bo ducked into the woods and was found standing solidly at 23 with a perfectly located bird that appeared to be a woodcock. Sent ahead past the old oil well rig and up the hill along the wooded edge, Bo scored

nicely at 27 with Zeke coming in for a back, all in order for the flush and shot. At 36, near the hilltop water pond, Zeke scored a solid find with Bo backing, both mannerly. Released downhill at the 180-degree turn, a second divided find was recorded at 38 in a stand of locust trees. Bo then made a wide forward swing through the bottom open country and into distant wooded hillside and was found standing stylishly at 45 near the area where he previously pointed the woodcock, again intense and mannerly for the shot. Bo was sent along the top edge toward the observation deck and finished the hour going strong and well forward. Zeke added solid finds at 44 and 52 and finished well ahead hunting strong. The brace was indeed exciting to witness with Bo racking up 6 finds and a back, one a wild bird, and Zeke 9 finds plus a back.

Runner-Up Glassilaun War Paint, coming 6-year-old black marked pointer male owned by Jamie Nee of Plymouth, Mass., and handled by Robert Ecker, added to his already illustrious record which shows him as the 2021 Champion at the Great Lakes regional U.S. Complete trial plus four outstanding futurity wins and numerous others for a stellar record of over 30 wins. War Paint's pedigree shows his heritage stems from the cream of the crop in pointers, his sire Hall-of-Famer Sugarknoll War Paint, whose sire is multiple champion Sugarknoll Buckshot and a dam by Champion Elhew Fibber McGee. War Paint made his appearance in the eleventh brace with Kendal Hills Dawson Creek handled by Mark Hughes. They were released at 12:40 after lunch and both were soon over the distant hill, both found standing tall and tight at 7 along the right side, War Paint in the backing position, this recorded as an unproductive for Dawson. Two minutes later Dawson pointed a pile of feathers. Both made extended forward swings with Paint found pointing near wooded edge at 18, Dawson backing, both mannerly at flush. Paint added another stylish find at 22 in open area, and then backed Dawson at 24 with all in order. Paint made an impressive swing along the top woods edge and added a solid stylish find at 28 plus another coming off the hillside at 33, the bird spotted by the judge walking away and behind the dog, manners exemplary. Dawson got hung up on the turn and was brought forward by scout, then well ahead scoring mannerly finds at 42 and a final find at 59 in the bottom. War Paint disappeared far to the front after several impressive swings and was found by scout at 52 standing with uncharacteristic style, handler choosing to send him on sans relocation or flush attempt. Paint then pointed solidly with good style at 55, relaxing somewhat as handler flushed and shot then finished the hour going away.

The Rest of the Field

Only two of the remaining 20 contenders finished the hour for one reason or another. There were several that were definitely doing a good enough job to change the outcome and we will summarize each brace in order of appearance.

In the second brace, Wildland Warrior hunted hard and was gaining popularity with four great finds until erring on a tight sitting quail at 42. Bracemate Backcountry Girlfriend ran very wide after a solid find at 8, then suffered an unproductive at 30 and was up at 44 after an infraction.

The third brace had two hard charging pointer champions in Cal Peak Hundredth Meridian and A Distant Spec. Peak, callname Rye, held the front making wide sweeps and recording eight perfectly handled finds before coming unglued at 50 and picked up. Spec was up at 18 for erring on game after two earlier finds.

In brace four, Emert's Grouse Ringer T was up at 12 for erring on game. Island Fantasy hunted hard and notched a mannerly find at 24 in bottom, leashed at 41 after no further contacts.

Brace 5 saw Ramapo Mountain Doc sharing a find at 4, add an independent stand at 9 and was up at 20 after a back. I'll Be Back had a divided find at 4, adding solid finds at 7 and 20, a lone unproductive and picked up at 35 for an infraction.

The sixth brace started strong with Double Deuce Zeke recording 5 mannerly finds plus a back before erring on game at 36. Attitude's True Grit rang up 4 well-handled finds, a back and an unproductive but was also picked up at 36.

Dave's Sho Me Motu ran a medium range race in brace seven with 4 mannerly finds plus a back. Wayward Flyin Tomato ran a wide stylish well directed race with 6 good finds plus a back but unfortunately was up at 55 for erring on game.

First brace Tuesday, Suemac's Sashay ran a classy forward ground race in brace eight, notched 4 solid finds plus an unproductive but made a mistake at 40 and leashed. Sterlingworth Jack started strong with a find at 8, and then went very wide, tracker requested at 25.

Miss Penn Star hunted earnestly in brace nine racking up 6 finds, 3 backs and a dead bird find, finishing the hour well ahead. Backcountry Bruiser ran a powerful forward race and was a definite contender with 6 finds but his seventh find proved disastrous at 46.

In brace 10, Jar's Way Leroy notched a perfect find at 18 along ditch line but was up at 29 for an infraction. Dun Rovens Midnite Ike hunted with a fancy way of going but ran birdless and leashed early.

Brace eleven was described above.

In the twelfth and final brace, Backcountry Missy was up at 28 following a nice back at 20. Braggabull hunted forward with plenty of eye appeal and scored 6 stylish finds but was up at 45 after erring on number seven.

Harrisville, Pa., April 25 – One Course

Judges: Dave Park and Brian Ralph

U. S. COMPLETE MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 13 Pointers and 11 Setters

Winner—BO OF PINEY WOODS, 1661644, pointer male, by Bud of Piney Woods-Medlin's Dancin Abagail. Richard Warters, owner; R. J. Ecker, Jr., handler.

Runner-Up—GLASSILAUN WAR PAINT, 1667331, POINTER MALE, BY Sugarknoll War Paint-Neely's Hot Pepper. Jamie Nee, owner; R. J. Ecker, Jr., handler.

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AMERICAN BRITTANY CLUB CHUKAR CLASSIC

M V P Game On Wins 2022 Running

By Jim Hammett | Marsing, Idaho | April 26, 2022



(From left): Derrick Olsen (judge), Paul Doiron with M V P Game On, Joe Gower with H V K's Kid Chance, Art Cox (judge), and Jim and Pattie Hammett with High Lonesome Bowden Hills.

In the arid mountain West, if you find hills, canyons, rocks, sage, bunch grass, few people, and annual precipitation below about 15 inches, you'll probably find chukar. But if one were to pinpoint the center of the best chukar habitat in the United States, it would be close to Mile Post 9 along US-95 between Marsing, Ida., and Jordan Valley, Ore. This is, of course, the current home of the Chukar Classic. The out-and-back course contains an essential aspect of chukar habitat—that third dimension of verticality, and some big cliffs and rock outcrops thrown in to challenge dogs, handlers, horses, and judges.

The Idaho Brittany Club has been hosting the Classic in recent years, with Tom White and Dr. Margaret Horstmeyer as lead organizers of this special event. We are grateful for their willingness to continue to take it on. It also would be impossible to put on such a classy Classic without a group of committed Idaho Brittany Club members to run the dog and horse transport, salt and plant the course, and do all the things necessary to keep things running. The help of Steve Ball, Frank and Sandy Bright, Larry Sandusky, Casey and Lacie Precht, Sharon Millspaugh and Ron Dunnagan was invaluable.

This year's judges, Art Cox from Lehi, Utah, and Derrick Olsen from Harper, Ore., missed little, put in hard days negotiating rough terrain, gave scouts and handlers an appropriate amount of freedom to show their dogs, and remained positive, allowing dogs a chance for redemption after minor infractions.

Purina and Garmin both generously supported this championship with dog food and electronic gear. Their support is both valued and needed. Another valued partner is the U.S. Bureau of Land Management that manages our public land in much of the West and provides a special use permit to run on these trial grounds.

Spring of 2022 experienced one of the coldest and wettest Aprils on record in the Pacific Northwest. Those of us on the Northwest Brittany trial circuit kept waiting for a nice, warm day to run dogs, but I cannot recall experiencing one. But I will remember fogged glasses, numb

fingers, cold wet feet, and the simple comfort of heat after hours in the saddle.

The Running

Day 1—As luck would have it, a cold rain started at 6 a.m., and it was predicted to turn to showers later in the afternoon. The planned 9 a.m. start was delayed until 10 a.m., due to clouds and fog obscuring the upper reaches of the course.

Brace 1—With the rain falling and a cold wind blowing from the south, Brace 1 got underway at approximately 10:10 a.m. M V P Game On (Joe-Paul Doiron) was braced with High Lonesome Sage (Sage-Jim Hammett). Both dogs took off forward and disappeared over the first hill. When the handlers and judges topped the hill, initially there were no dogs visible. Eventually, one showed forward, out maybe 400 yards. But in the flat light and pelting rain and with both dogs of similar stature (brothers), it remained a mystery for quite a while as to which dog it was. It turned out to be Sage, and it was another five minutes before Joe joined him, coming from who knows where. Both dogs continued strong, impressive, forward, and uphill runs until about 53 when Joe finally found a wet chukar above black rock spring. Sage, however, had no such luck and finished well forward in the final bowl, but birdless. Both dogs, looking like drowned, shivering rats, welcomed a dry towel and a crate for the trip back to camp. Looking at both in a state of hypothermia, you must admire the Brittany drive and heart that was needed to put in that kind of performance in those conditions.

Brace 2—By now the rain was abating somewhat and heading back to camp meant the wind was more of a tailwind than a headwind. M T B Louree's V O Two Max (Max-Tom White) was braced with Spanish Corral's Big Iron (Colt-Joe Gower). After a fast and furious breakaway, at 9, both dogs were on point on separate birds—Max to the east beneath a large rock, Colt to the west about 400 yards at the head of the bowl. These two points both turned sour, with Max taking out the bird as Tom

approached, and Colt going down at the flush. Colt was left down; Max was picked up. Colt continued with a good forward run, having a brief encounter with a coyote at 50, but never redeemed himself with another find. He finished well forward at the top end of the all-age course.

Brace 3—With showers and wind continuing, High Lonesome Owyhee Storm (Storm-Jim Hammett) was braced with Blew Me Away (Bud-Paul Doiron). Storm evidently did not study the map supplied by his handler, and took off to the north, towards US-95, necessitating a fast gathering-up by his handler to get him back on course. Bud never got going and was picked up by Paul at about 15. Storm, meanwhile, after his gathering-up, headed for the south ridge, disappearing forward towards the top and exploring the upper reaches of the course well above the pointer trail. Finally, he remembered the map, and showed forward before the pond and fenced-in spring area. From there, he continued well forward and was spotted periodically on the side of the bowl. Unfortunately for Storm, he never found the bird planter's contour and finished across the road birdless, right before the judge and handler put to flight a lone sage grouse. (Oh, what could have been!)

Brace 4—With skies beginning to clear, the last brace of the day was H V K's Kid Chance (Chance-Joe Gower) and J T Copper Buckeroo (Buck-Jeff Minch). Both dogs had a big breakaway into the bowl. At about 12, Chance was on point on the sidehill. When the bird was flushed, it flew down and forward, and unfortunately right over Buck. The temptation was too much, and Buck pursued, thus ending his run before it really got going. Chance, meanwhile, continued forward with a very impressive forward run and two more finds at 18 and 23. On the flush at 23, Chance took a forward jump, but held. He finished well forward and uphill in the sage on the hillside above the all-age course.

Day 2—The second day began with better weather. The sky was partly cloudy, and a few snowflakes fell, but the vegetation was dry and the wind not as strong out of the south.

Brace 5—We broke away at 9 a.m., sharp. High Lonesome Bowden Hills (Bo) was the top dog, handled by Jim Hammett, and S R's Blew By Typhoon (Ty) was the bottom dog, handled by Paul Doiron. Both dogs broke strong to the front, with Bo and his handler taking an uphill line, Ty and Paul staying lower. At 12, Bo was standing above a rock outcrop. The bird proved to be a challenge to get in the air, but finally got airborne, taking a flightline a foot or so above Bo's head. Bo reacted

by ducking down in a not-so-pretty fashion. The judge, being kind and positive, told the handler to leave him down and see if he could redeem himself. Bo continued with three more finds at 20, 27, and 51—all of which he handled well, staying high and tight. Ty, meanwhile, had a nice forward run, typical of this great dog, and at 50 pointed in the rocks south of the fence above the black rock spring. This, however, turned out to be a nonproductive and Ty never connected again, unfortunately finishing birdless.

Brace 6—For this return-to-camp brace, Christie's Westwind Jazzman (Jazz-Steve

Ball) was braced with Dynamitemakeit (Dyna-Paul Doiron). Dyna had a nice uphill run with a find at 11 well up the hill, with all in order. Jazz took a big tour of the flat to the west for an extended period but got forward and uphill before the pond with the fenced spring. At 19, Dyna ran over a couple of energetic chukar or possibly Huns, which simultaneously flushed, causing Dyna to pursue, thus ending a nice run. Jazz, meanwhile, discovered that ground squirrels were beginning to awaken and spent some time and energy exploring their domiciles. At 34, Jazz pointing a deceased chukar, but at 38 found a live one at June's rock with all in order. At 48, Jazz had a find up the hill, but at flush, two birds got up and Jazz momentarily forgot his manners and took too many steps forward and was picked up.

Brace 7—Mr. Stanley (Doc-Dan Campbell) was braced with M T B Let's Have A Fee Esta (Esta-Tom White). This started as an exciting brace with some big forward casts by Doc and perhaps the biggest forward run of the Classic by Esta. However, both dogs ran into trouble mid-brace, with Doc breaking at flush on a gorgeous point at 20, and Esta seen in pursuit of a bird at 27.

Marsing, Ida., April 26

Judges: Art Cox and Derrick Olsen

AMERICAN BRITTANY CLUB CHUKAR CLASSIC

[One-Hour Heats] – 14 Brittans

Winner—M V P GAME ON, 1681710, male, by Spanish Corral's Sundance Kid-Blew By Yet. Karen Nelsen, owner; Paul Doiron, handler.

Runner-Up—H V K'S KID CHANCE, unreg., male, by Spanish Corral's Sundance Kid-Blew By Yet. Cary Jellison, owner; Joe Gower, handler.

86TH NEW ENGLAND SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY

Chasehill Poison Ivy Captures the Blue

By Margaret C. Drew | East Windsor, Connecticut | April 29, 2022

When the New England Shooting Dog Futurity was first proposed as a regional futurity in the 30s, the proposal was not well received, or as historian Truman Crowles stated, “the idea did not spread like wildfire.” Herbert G. Silver headed a group first proposing a regional futurity; however, although the need for more breeders was agreed upon, defining eligibility and other rules proved to be a challenge. It was necessary for the first year to side-step futurity rules, so that the first futurity was that of one in name only, with 17 entries running in April 1937. However, breeders and other dog people acknowledged that a regional futurity was necessary to promote bird dogs, so a regional set of guidelines were established, and 21 dogs were entered. These rules and whelping dates were adhered to until 1939 when a June whelping date helped to change the venue to run in October beginning in 1941. This whelping provision more aligned the New England Futurity to the National futurities. The futurity nominations and entries remained a regional entry base for several years, expanding in the late 70's. In the 80's a few litters were nominated from outside New England and entries increased as well. In the early 90's litters and entries declined once

again, luckily followed by a surge to 50 to 60 entries from 35 litters in the late 90's and early 2000's. Today, futurities across the country are not as well supported as one would expect. It is a breeder's show case, but often breeders are not nominating their litters. It seems to me that \$40.00 would be a fair investment to show off your breeding program. This 86th running of the New England Futurity had only 18 litters nominated, therefore the 27 entries was very good. The judges and several participants mentioned how high the quality of this year's entries were. There was not a one who didn't show style and appeal on point, there was a variety of range and of course only four could be placed. The judges named seven others who had been carried—B K Iron Clad, PM, with Brian Sanchez; Little Miss Margaret, PF, with John Stogitis; Erin's Thunder Backus, PM, with Sean Kinkelaar; I'm Spartacus, PM, with Doug Ray; Calico's Sky's the Limit, PF, with George Tracy; Calico's Over the Top, PF, with Alex Smith; and Waybetter Rebel, PM, George Tracy. This was the second year that the futurity has been run at the end of April. Check back soon to see when the 87th will run and get your litters nominated to avoid late penalties. Text or call Margaret Drew at



86th New England Open Shooting Dog Futurity (from left): Nadine Thomas, John Stolgitis, John Malone with Chasehill Poison Ivy, Kaylee Lee with Walden's Ridge Rain Storm, Annie and June McKay with Jolene Jolene, Grace and Matthew Sanchez with Steel Valley Raven, and Jeanette Tracy. (From left, second row): Kevin Joyce, Jim Thomas, Payton Gunby, Tom Tracy, Doug Ray, Arleen LeVasseur, Dave McKay, Brian Sanchez, and Brooke Sanchez.

910-206-0079 to complete that nomination.

The clubhouse now displays a wall of Life Patron plaques, taxidermy of upland game, various regional historic plaques, and engraved retired trophies. In an adjacent room is a large pictorial history showing the building of the present clubhouse. In a second framed plaque there are historic photos from early trials with identified patrons, dogs, and which trial is portrayed. This is a very nice historic piece. Many of the photos are complimentary of the historic keepings of late Truman Crowles. It was the first year that centurion Dick Bembenek was not present. Dick, you were missed.

The grounds at Flaherty were in excellent condition. The Flaherty committee has courses well marked with landmarks, have improved the courses with culverts and crushed fill making the course safe allowing handlers and spectators to concentrate on the dogs. The Flaherty Grounds committee has made major improvements to the area, and it is an excellent field trial area. As noted in the past, the area has ample parking, running water, bathroom facilities, a full kitchen, a pavilion, and a modern bird room.

Once again, a single course was used, breaking away down the slight hill on the northeast side of the grounds beyond the horse corrals. We then moved forward toward the center of the property where the first quail release area is on the left of the island trees. From there we follow the dirt road and hopefully watch the dogs hunt the woods beside the pond or take the far-right wooded edge line to the back island of trees. From there it is a straight shot thru the very wide meadow below Fox Hill, cross the main culvert before continuing up to the top of Tobacco Barn Hill and the apple tree area. Another bird spot is here, although often the birds flew across the freshly plowed field and hid in the wooded edge. The course is now at 15–20 minutes as we make our way down toward the new culvert which replaced the wet and muddy crossing, as the dogs usually transverse the right wooded edge, cross at the bottom and head for the semi wooded area below the housing development and below the clubhouse. There was a very large old hard wood tree down, where birds just loved to take cover, sometimes being found and other times leading to nonproductives. The 30 minutes finish with dogs hunting the meadow, or usually the edges of it, below the club house and reaching toward the opening first island tree area. If the brace is brisk, we travel under the powerlines into the area of Deerborn until

time is up. Often dogs cast toward the left and center, requiring scout assistance.

Birds for the futurity were planted faithfully by Dave O'Brien. When chairman Bill Bonnetti became ill, and he and his wife had to return home, Dave and John Olsson stepped up to assist co-chairman John Stolgitis in running the trial. Judges this year were Tom Tracy and Arleen LaVasseur, both from the New England region. Both have years of bird dog experience from training, handling, and breeding. They worked together well to reach the slate of winners. The 85th winner, Hard Truth, PM, handled by Doug Ray, was recognized by owner Bob Canada by funding dinner on Friday evening. John Stolgitis performed his magic chef skills once again with numerous appetizers followed by prime rib and all the fixings. As usual, job well done, John Stolgitis! When announcements were made each placement received a zip lock bag with checks, pins, and DNA papers.

Without the breeders nominating their litters, owners having their dogs prepared for the futurity, and handlers traveling to run in the futurity, there would be no futurities. This year the futurity was managed by Bill Bonnetti and John Stolgitis, with yours truly, Margaret Drew, taking over the litter recording and other necessary paperwork. Judges' books were provided by Drowning Creek Bird Dogs, Calvin Curmutte in N.C. A limited number of owners were present this year. Brian Sanchez and his family—Brooke, Grace and Matthew—were present to watch and run dogs. Also present was Dave McKay and his daughters, Annie and June, to run their derby Jolene Jolene, who also place third. Trainers participating were from from AL, GA, PA, RI and some amateurs from PA and VA. One handler even flying in to run his promising derby. The trial received generous donations from Purina in the way of ad coverage, hats, and product.

The Winners

Chasehill Poison Ivy, PF, bred by Erin Stolgitis' Chasehill Little Lizzy x Panola Bacon. Black and white Poison Ivy is owned by Alan Raiano who was present to watch her performance as handled by John Stolgitis. Ivy is no stranger to recognition, as she won the Grand National Grouse Futurity, as well as the New England Open Grouse Championship. I need to also point out that she was runner-up in the Grand National Grouse and Woodcock Invitational. She was one of the callback dogs in

the Quail Futurity in Hoffman, N.C., earlier this year. It appears that Ivy takes after her grandfather, Chasehill Little Bud, who captured wins in walking stakes where the hunting was thick, as well as horseback stakes where it was sometimes open and sometimes pretty challenging terrain. Ivy ran with much animation, stretched out often, although required very little scouting as she filled the judges' books with five perfectly located and solidly handled finds. No one was surprised when she was named the winner.

Second place went to Walden's Ridge Rain Storm, PF, owned and bred by David Steele with his Walden's Ridge Chatter Box x High Drive Rocky. His littermate placed in the Quail Futurity. Rain Storm is trained and handled by Doug Ray. Rain Storm ran a ranging forward race, required a little scouting, with his great nose helping by finding his four finds which kept him with handler.

Third went to PF, Jolene Jolene, a liver and white well-built female pointer bred by Dennis Hood in AL, out of a cross with Dominator's Heir Kate x Miller's Heat Seeker. All reports were positive concerning this dog run by amateur owner and handler Dave McKay. She covered the ground with style to spare in wide searching casts, being found pointing when we thought she was lost. She scored five well-handled finds. Dave's daughters Annie and June were present to proudly hold their dog for pictures.

Fourth went to Steel Valley Raven, PF, with Jeanette Tracy. One of Raven's new owner's, Brian Sanchez, was present to scout with his children, Grace and Matthew, holding the dog for pictures. Steel Valley Raven was bred by Jeanette Tracy at Ladywood Kennels out of Steel City Karen x Waybetter Rocky. Raven is the kind of dog you would like to take home. (Until the week before the futurity she had been owned by Harry Blaine. She is now owned by Brian Sanchez, Lisa Pollock, and Ted Faust). She is a good-sized orange and white female who ran with style to spare as she adapted to different areas of the course showing a desire to please handler. She scored 4 finds starting at 6 minutes, another in the woods by the pond, as well as by the culvert before finishing with a dug up find at the top of tobacco hill as time was elapsing.

The Running

The Futurity is a one-course trial with only minor course changes each year. This area allows dogs to stretch to sides, be rounded up by scout or have point called, all within the limits of the area. High Drive Icon, PM, owned by Allen Linder and granddaughter Madison, was brought to the line by Mike Tracy. Both owners were present to watch. Bracemate was B K Iron Clad, PM, owned and handled by Brian Sanchez. Icon laid out a snappy race with one nonproductive. Ironclad reached wide, required some scouting, had an 8- minute absence while still scoring 3 very stylish finds.

Brace 2 had George Tracy on the line with Miller's Automatic Upgrade, PM, another of the Linder family entries braced with Walden's Ridge Rain Storm, PF, with Doug Ray. This pair were excitedly away showing potential for a good half hour. Upgrade continued his 30 minutes at a medium range, although scoring 3 good finds. Many thought these two had set the bar high during this exciting race. (Rain Storm covered above with winners).

Brace 3 called up Eli Richardson's PM, Trumped, with Mike Tracy as bracemate for Chasehill Hidden Jewel, PF, with John Stolgitis. Eli rode to watch his derby who with bracemate had a good breakaway. Hidden Jewel did not have a chance to show her class after going with her first find, handler elected to reprimand and harness her. Trumped had a well located find at 10 which he handled with good manners; however, by 17 he ran thru a covey without hesitation despite handler close by.

Brace 4 had Jett Ferebee's PM, Jett's Rip Tide, with Doug Ray as bracemate for Steel Valley Raven, PF, with Jeanette Tracy. (Raven covered above with winners.) Bracemate Jett's Rip Tide ran with a powerful stride, although hunting independently today caused him to have his allotted time shortened.

Brace 5 found PF, Jolene Jolene with Dave McKay as bracemate for Miller's Special Cinderella, PF with Mike Tracy. Cinderella's slight framed very white body moved with snappy cadence, filling the judges' book with a find, a back and nonproductive. Jolene covered above with the winners.

Brace 6 called upon High Drive Joker, PM, with Mike Tracy, and Midge's Miracle, PF, with Doug Ray. The pair responded to handlers whistles with a jump off the line and reaching to the front with good speed. After an early find, Joker slowed his pace, digging in the hunt the back area of the course where he had two unproductives. Miracle applied herself to the course in a swinging march forward without any observed bird contact.

Brace 7 was another exciting brace to keep up with. PM, Waybetter Rebel with Mike Tracy and PF, Little Miss Margaret with John Stolgitis. Both of these dogs had littermates competing in other braces. This pair scored nine bird contacts, with no backs and one nonproductive. Rebel dug into every possible bird area, finding success four times with well indicated finds and good manners at flush. His range was mostly moderate. Margaret bounced through the fields, as well as covering the thicker brushy areas with determination and ample style and speed. She had five well-spaced finds, as well as a nonproductive. Both of these dogs receiving Honorable Mentions for their performance.

Brace 8 was another powerful brace to ride and watch. Erin's Thunder Backus, PM, with Sean Kinkelaar braced with PM, I'm Spartacus with Doug Ray. Kinkelaar had flown in to run Thunder Backus, borrowed a horse and made a good bid for a ribbon. Thunder Backus has a strong forward stride, covers the ground at a good distance from handler and stood two times for well indicated and mature handling of quail. Spartacus reached left and right in a forward march, showing in all the right places. He honored his bracemate's two finds, as well as scoring three tall finds of his own. He stood rock solid and eye appealing every time he stopped. Both of these two received an Honorable Mention as well.

Brace 9 called Mike Tracy to the line with High Drive Canon, PM belonging to Allen Linder who was mounted to watch along with his granddaughter. Bracemate this time was the winner, Chasehill Poison Ivy, PF with John Stolgitis. Ivy's owner Alan Raiano, from Newton, Conn., was present to watch her winning thirty minutes. (Ivy covered with the winners above). Canon burst forward with determination to get to the front; however, he did not complete his thirty minutes.

Brace 10 found Calico's Sky's the Limit, PF with George Tracy, as bracemate for Two Spot Tommy, PM with Doug Ray. Calico's Sky's the Limit received an Honorable Mention for her snappy ground coverage in a wide-reaching forward race. She had three finds and a nonproductive. Two Spot Tommy marched off the breakaway with cotton in his ears. When handler took the retrieval unit it was determined that Tommy had covered the property in record time and was in the Deer Born area well off course.

Brace 11 called Brian Sanchez to the line with, PM, Panther Creek Hank. He had been drawn to be the bracemate with Wiggins Pree Dawn Reward, PF, with Doug Ray; however, when Dawn was scratched the bye dog was moved to fill the slot. Another of Allen Linder's entries, PF, High Drive Gold Daisy answered the calling under Mike Tracy's whistle. Both of these dogs had been caged and awaiting all day for their turn, so perhaps were showing their anxiousness with rapid departures, an independence in handling, with first one and then the other being picked up early.

At the end of this first day, co-chairman Stolgitis served up a very enjoyable dinner in honor of last year's winner. The final two braces would be run on Saturday morning, placements announced, photos taken so that the Region 1 Amateur All-Age could begin with John Stolgitis and Doug Ray judging. Busy week for those two.

On Saturday morning, brace 12 had a lot of action with Miller's Flowers and Lace, PF, with George Tracy, and Alex Smith with PF,

Calico's Over the Top. The Linder group were saddled to watch Flowers and Lace, as was the family of Over the Top, as the dog was bred by Frank Henderson. Over the Top was handled by son-in-law Alex, along with Frank's daughter Tiffani Smith mounted to watch. Flowers and Lace had an acceptable race at a moderate range, stylish in movement with one find and one back in his thirty minutes. Over the Top had a reaching forward attack of the course showing her desire to hunt, although requiring a little scouting. She had three very nice finds. She was among the Honorable Mention dogs.

Brace 13 would be the final brace with Walden's Ridge Slap Shot, PM, with Doug Ray, bracedmate for Jeanette Tracy with, PF, Great River Bella. Brian Sanchez was present to assist Jeanette with scouting, while Kaylee Lee scouted for Doug. This last brace was filled with two good races, classy ground coverage and stylish bird work. Slap Shot had four finds—one at the island, second by the culvert crossing, another in the field at the top of tobacco barn hill with a final covey found by scout in the woods near the pond to the left of the course. Bella ran at a consistently moderate range while showing a good response with handler as she nicely handled three finds.

East Windsor, Conn., April 29 – One Course

Judges: Arleen LeVasseur and Tom Tracy

86 NEW ENGLAND SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY – 27 Pointers

1) HIGH DRIVE ICON, male, by Miller's Heat Seeker-High Drive Patches. Allen Linder, breeder and owner; Mike Tracy, handler. With B K IRONCLAD, male, by Fastforward's B K Gunner-Wiggins Miss Stella. Sergio Velez, breeder; Brian Sanchez, owner and handler.

2) MILLER'S AUTOMATIC UPGRADE, male, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Fran & Jack Miller, breeders; Allen Linder, owner; George Tracy, handler. With WALDEN'S RIDGE RAINSTORM.

3) TRUMPED, male, by Mohawk Mill Image-Bevy's Cadillac Jukebox. Eli Richardson, breeder and owner; Mike Tracy, handler. With CHASEHILL HIDDEN JEWEL, female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Lizzy. Erin Stolgitis, breeder; Taadaki Terada, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.

4) JETT'S RIP TIDE, male, by Zip Tye-Cedar Ridge Shopper. Katie Lyons, breeder; Jett Ferebee, owner; Doug Ray. With STEEL VALLEY RAVEN.

5) JOLENE JOLENE. With MILLER'S SPECIAL CINDERELLA, female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Fran & Jack Miller, breeder; Allen Linder & Muriel & Bill Primm, owners; George Tracy, handler.

6) HIGH DRIVE JOKER, male, by Miller's Heat Seeker-High Drive Patches. Allen Linder, breeder and owner; Mike Tracy, handler. With MIDGE'S MIRACLE, female, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Lam's Pride'N Joy. Kris Koutras, breeder, and owner; Doug Ray, handler.

7) WAYBETTER REBEL, male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Calico's

Country Strong. Frankie Henderson, breeder; Carl Bishop & Bill & Muriel Primm, owners; George Tracy, handler. With LITTLE MISS MARGARET, female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Lizzy. Erin Stolgitis, breeder; Tim Cavanaugh, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.

8) ERIN'S THUNDER BACKUS, male, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Erin's Bet on Me. Sean Derrig, breeder; Dr Tom Jackson & Jerry Moisson, owners; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler. With I'M SPARTACUS, male, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Jack & Fran Miller, breeders; Harold Ray & Jett Ferebee, owners; Doug Ray, handler.

9) HIGH DRIVE CANON, male, by Miller's Heat Seeker-High Drive Patches. Allen Linder, breeder and owner; Mike Tracy, handler. With CHASEHILL POISON IVY.

10) CALICO'S SKY'S THE LIMIT, female, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Calico's Country Strong. Frankie Henderson, breeder; Allen Linder, William & Muriel Primm, owners; George Tracy, handler. With TWO SPOT TOMMY, male, by Zip Tye-Cedar Ridge Shopper. Katie Lyons, breeder; Jett Ferebee, owner; Doug Ray, handler.

11) PANTHER CREEK HANK, male, by Panther Creek Merlin. Darron Hendley, breeder; Brian Sanchez, owner and handler. With WIGGINS PREE DAWN REWARD, female, by Wiggins Elhew C-Wiggins War Trace. C. D Wiggins, breeder; Katie Lyons, owner; Doug Ray, handler. Scratched.

HIGH DRIVE GOLD DAISY, female, by Miller's Heat Seeker-High Drive Patches. Allen Linder, breeder, and owner; George Tracy, handler.

12) MILLER'S FLOWERS AND LACE, female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Fran & Jack Miller, breeders; Allen Linder, owner; George Tracy, handler. With CALICO'S OVER THE TOP, male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Calico's Country Strong. Frankie Henderson, breeder; Calico Kennels, owners; Alex Smith, handler.

13) WALDEN'S RIDGE SLAP SHOT, female, by High Drive Rocky-Walden's Chatter Box. David Steele, breeder, and owner; Doug Ray, handler. With GREAT RIVER BELLA, female, by Miller's Unbridled Forever-Great River Grace. Brian Sanchez, breeder, owner, and handler.

1st—CHASEHILL POISON IVY, 1694453, pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Lizzy. R John Stolgitis, handler.

2d—WALDEN'S RIDGE RAIN STORM, 1692370, pointer female, by High Drive Rocky-Walden's Ridge Chatter Box. David Steele, owner; Doug Ray, handler.

3d—JOLENE JOLENE, 1692447, pointer female, by Miller's Heat Seeker-Dominator's Heir Kate. Dave Kay, owner and handler.

4th—STEEL VALLEY RAVEN, 1696173, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Steel City Karen. Lisa Pollock, Brian Sanchez, Ted Foust, owners; Jeanette Tracy, handler.

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NGSPA HAWKEYE OPEN & AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIPS

Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee Wins Open; Snowy River's Strut'n N Cutti Wins Amateur

By Jeff Wallace | Raymond, Nebraska | April 29, 2022



NGSPA Hawkeye Open Shooting Dog Championship (from left): Larry Loftin with Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee, Stan Truksa (judge), Kirk Loftin, Steve Auxier (judge), and Sherri Tangsrud with Hi N's Allison Miranda.

The 2022 NGSPA Hawkeye Amateur Shooting Dog Championship was run starting Friday, April 29, at the Branched Oak Field Trial Grounds near Raymond, Neb. Conditions were cool, in the low 40s-50s with light winds the first day. A severe spring thunderstorm overnight left us with some well needed moisture on the course, but also with 40 mph wind gusts making the second day of running quite a test for the competitors. Twenty dogs were drawn for this year's running. Slightly down in numbers, but excellent in quality. Judging this year's stake were Justin Hess of Exira, Iowa, and Brent Hoehns from Knoxville, Iowa; Both knowledgeable dog men and we appreciated their time in the saddle and close attention to the dogs. The old saying, "let the dogs run, and they'll sort themselves out" was definitely not the case in this year's renewal. The judges enjoyed several fine runs and were noted to be grumbling about how small the differences were between several competitors.

The Winners

This year's Champion was Snowy River's Strut'n N Cuttin (Spur), handled by Chase Verdoorn. Spur ran in the first brace of the event loosed with Covey Up's Rhett's Get Lucky (Rhett) handled by Ryan Griess. Both dogs were away quickly on a 40-degree overcast morning. Both dogs with separate finds at 9 on the buffet line. Rhett with well-located birds, perhaps a little loose at flush, Spur high and tight throughout. Loosed, Spur followed with two stylish finds at 15 and 21, one near the lone Cottonwood and another at the south end of mushroom draw, both perfectly handled. From there, Spur had a big move ahead with a find at 30 across the dry pond dam. He opened up across the main bottom and made a nice cast south on the first draw across the wooden bridge. He had an unproductive at 40, but scored another stylish, well-handled find at 52. Rhett had a second find at 50, all in order. Spur had a strong forward race, never came from behind, showing excellent style and impeccable manners on 5 well-spaced finds. A worthy championship performance.

Named Runner-Up was Twin Creeks Running Rocky (Rocky) handled by Kirk Loftin. Rocky was paired with Chase Verdoorn's Snowy River's Freak On A Leash (Korn) male. These dogs ran the second day with much windier, tougher conditions. Both dogs loosed on the back of the course and covering a lot of ground. A divided find produced a dead quail at 23 near the concrete crossing. Both dogs made big moves across main bottom, with Rocky found ahead at the buffet line standing at 34. Birds well located, manners excellent. Korn backing the find from long distance showing good style and manners. Both dogs hurried ahead and were found with a divided find at 43 on mushroom draw. Again, both dogs with good style and excellent manners. Both dogs making large moves back across the main bottom with strong finishes to the front across the wooden bridge. A nice race for both dogs in tough conditions, Rocky with a bit more aggressive race.

The Running

The Champion's brace was previously noted.

The second brace paired Holcomb's Ava (Ava), handled by John Holcomb, with The Kansas Wind (Mariah) guided by Ken Sanderson. Both dogs were loosed on the north side of the course with Mariah making a big move laterally and ultimately behind. She had a nice find requiring a tricky relocation at 12. She unfortunately got sideways, then behind again, with handler asking for the tracker at 28. Ava was forward throughout, but not as energetic as is typical for this shorthair and was picked up at 30 with no game contact.

The third brace included H's Am Cruiser (Cruiser) handled by Verdoorn, and Snowy River's Prairie Storm (Stormy) handled by Mike Zimelman. This pair was loosed past the rock crossing, with Cruiser pointed and Stormy backing at 7 on the north end of mushroom draw. Handler noted birds had flown on his arrival, but unfortunately not seen by judges. Further flushing attempt and relocation proved unsuccessful. Stormy had a find at 20 across the dry pond dam with Cruiser backing,



NGSPA Hawkeye Amateur Shooting Dog (from left): Mark Verdoorn, Chase Verdoorn with Snowy River's Strut'n N Cuttin, Dr. Brent Hoehns (judge), Kirk Loftin, Sherri Tangsrud with Twin Creeks Running Rocky, Justin Hess (judge), and Larry Loftin.

all in order. Cruiser had two more finds on the back course, one at 43 and a second at 50 both showing extreme style. Stormy with a nice back on the find at 43. A nice brace of shorthairs, perhaps a bit lateral race at times.

Our fourth brace was run on the second day of the trial. A severe thunderstorm had moved through the area and left us with 30-40 mph winds. Snowy River's White Out (Willy), handled by Chase Verdoorn, ran as a bye dog. He was loosed at the clubhouse, made a big move across the bottom, but unfortunately crossed the wooden bridge onto the back course. He was returned to the front by the 15-minute mark. He had finds at 30 and again at 40, he appeared a little cold, but all in order. This was followed by a nice find at 53 with a slight acceptable turn to mark birds. He finished nicely ahead.

The fifth brace included AO Keg Creeks Tripps To Win (Tripp), run by Alan Davison also as a bye dog. Tripp broke away running into the teeth of the wind, being loosed on the back course. He started with big moves and scored finds at 6 and again at 11, both on wet, poor flying birds. He handled both flushes with ease and looked nice on his birds. He crossed the cement bridge and came into the main bottom making a huge move up to the buffet line where he had a nice find at 22. His big race became a bit more erratic, and despite a fourth nice find at 36 was lost soon thereafter.

The sixth brace paired Rocky and Korn, and previously described.

Pinnacle Dee's Mighty Mouse (Dee), handled by Kirk Loftin and L S V's Hammer Down (Hammer) directed by Jim Jorgensen were loosed on the back of the course. Both dogs moving quickly, Hammer scoring first with find north of the buffet line at 12. Dee in the area, but no infraction seen by judges, she was taken on and had an unproductive on the buffet line at 15. Quickly ahead, both dogs found standing at 20 in mushroom draw, all in order. Coming across the dry pond dam, Dee scored at 33 standing nicely, Hammer with a nice back with mild movement at flush. Dee made an absolutely huge move into the southeast corner of the big bottom as we headed across the wooden bridge. Hammer had a final find at 57 but was picked up for a bird flushing during a relocation attempt in the strong winds. Dee finished strong ahead.

Our eighth brace paired P J Wildfire's Little Lexi (Lexi), handled by Kirk Loftin with Verdoorn's charge, Snowy River's Cuttin High Tide (Tide). Both dogs quickly across the main bottom with Lexi scoring

first at 11 on the buffet line. Tide answered with a stylish find at 16 on mushroom draw. Both dogs were well ahead with a nice divided find at 26 on the hill past the dry pond crossing. Both dogs covered the bottom well and once across the wooden bridge scored a divided find at 33 near the base of the first draw there. Lexi scored again at 42, followed by Tide at 50 on the back turnaround portion of the course. A lot of bird work and all of it exceptional clean for both dogs. Tide's race shortened a bit late and had a non-productive near time. Lexi still staying to the front with a final find at 58.

The ninth brace included Hi N's Allison Miranda (Allie), handled by Loftin and Snowy River's Bankin On Boz (Boz), handled by Verdoorn. Breaking away from the clubhouse, both dogs covered the bottom with a beautiful find at 6 by Allie and excellent back by Boz on the buffet line. Boz went wide near mushroom draw and had a true limb find pushing the edge of the course. This was followed by a second find at 20 on mushroom draw. Allie was a handful but sent to the front for a nice find with an extended relocation at 26. Boz came into the situation and backed. Ahead, Boz scored on a "crash bird" found in the middle of the field as he was running ahead and was handled nicely. Both dogs crossed the wooden bridge and shared a find at 35. Boz worked ahead for the rest of the brace, shortening slightly near pickup with a non-productive at 58. Allie ran a bit too big today with handler asking for the tracker late after an extended absence.

The final brace included Uodibar's Robbi Jo (Robbi), handled by Loftin and Cajun's Firecracker (Kadie), handled by Bruce Bryant. Both dogs were loosed at the clubhouse and made big moves to the buffet line. Kadie was found standing with Robbi backing, but no bird produced. Ahead to mushroom draw, Robbi had a nice find at 15, all in order. Both dogs moving nicely across the dry pond dam with a divided find at 25, nice work by both charges. Across the wooden bridge, both dogs were making big moves, but a bit erratic. Robbi with an extended absence and her handler asked for the tracker at 54. Kadie doing well, but not enough to move the winners, elected to pick up at 52.

A championship doesn't run itself, and we had good help putting this event on. We would like to thank Jeff Wallace and Bruce Bryant for chairing the trial. Both men did a lot of work setting up things, putting out water, getting birds, getting meals, and keeping things running smoothly. A big thank you to Darrin White, who helped plant birds during the trial. As always, we would like to thank our sponsors, including

Purina and their generous Pro Plan contribution for the winners. We would also like to thank Dogs Unlimited for help with judges' gifts.

Raymond, Neb., April 29 – One Course

Judges: Justin Hess and Brent Hoehns

NGSPA HAWKEYE AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 20 German Shorthairs

Winner—SNOWY RIVER'S STRUT'N N CUTTI, 1677989, male, by Snowy River's Full Strut-Cajun's Bad Habit. Chase Verdoorn & Mark Verdoorn, owners; Chase Verdoorn, handler.

Runner-Up—TWIN CREEKS RUNNING ROCKY, 1685652, male, by Twin Creeks Running Ruger-P J Wildfire's Little Lexi. Dr. Kirk A. & Larry Loftin, owners; Dr. Kirk A. Loftin, handler.

This year's NGSPA Hawkeye Championship was sponsored by the German Shorthaired Club of Central Iowa and held April 29th – May 3rd at the outstanding Branched Oaks Trial grounds in Raymond, Neb. The weather was more of a challenge for both handlers and dogs than prior trials. We were blessed with needed rain, but it made for numerous challenges to complete the trial.

NGSPA Open Shooting Dog Championship

We would like to thank our sponsors, Purina and Dogs Unlimited, for their continued support for our Championship, along with a special thanks to our dedicated judges—Dr. Brent Hoehns, Justin Hess, Steve Auxier and Stan Truska. The success of a trial is dependent on the volunteers! We would like to thank Bruce Bryant, Jeff Wallace, Darrin White, Keith Bryant and Mike Zimbelman for all the help! I would also like to give a special thanks to Dr. Hoehns who graciously volunteered to scribe our Amateur stake.

The Amateur Shooting Dog Championship drew 20 entries and was

judged by Justin Hess and Dr. Hoehns. This year's Championship was another extremely competitive stake with numerous high class impressive runs.

Snowy River's Strut'n N Cuttin ("Spur"), owned by Chase and Mark Verdoorn, handled by Chase, was named Champion. Twin Creeks Running Rocky ("Rocky"), owned by Kirk and Larry Loftin, handled by Kirk was named Runner-Up Champion.

The Open Championship cast off Sunday afternoon with 23 entries. The weather changed from warm and windy on Sunday afternoon to full rain downpour by noon Monday causing a weather delay until Tuesday morning. We finished the final 4 braces on Tuesday afternoon with no rain but a wet and muddy course.

Our judges commented on the total amount of impressive runs in the stake making their decision extremely difficult. Both our Champion and Runner-Up Champion ran extremely nice shooting dog races. Both dogs used the extreme limits of the course to complete multiple impressive finds.

Pinnacle Dee's Mighty Mouse ("Dee"), owned by Kirk Loftin and Dean Kephart was named Champion. Hi N's Allison Miranda ("Dee"), owned and handled by Kirk Loftin was named Runner-Up Champion

Judges: Steve Auxier and Stan Truska

NGSPA HAWKEYE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 23 German Shorthairs

Winner—STONEY HILL'S PINNACLE DEE, 1694168, female, by Simons Gunner-Shadowrocks Mighty Mouse. Dr. Kirk A. Loftin & Larry Loftin & Dean Kephart, owners; Dr. Kirk A. Loftin, handler.

Runner-Up—HI N'S ALLISON MIRANDA, 1676665, female, by Hi N's Feed Jake-Chicoree's Sparkle In Her Eye. Dr. Kirk A. Loftin, owner and handler.

AFTCA TOP HANDLER AWARD

Rodney Shoemaker Wins for the 2021-22 Season

By Piper Huffman | Michigan City, Mississippi

Proudly supported by



Handling his four derbies to seven different club derby events Rodney Shoemaker of Kearney, Kan., accumulated an impressive 355 total topping all amateur handlers during the just concluded amateur season. Rodney placed his H P Social Distancing three times, H P Dirty Dancing three times, H P Shockwave twice, and H P Shots Fired an impressive five times, for a total of thirteen placements in recognized amateur 30-minute stakes held by member clubs. The placements include 7 first places, 3 second places and 3 third places, all in derby competition. The competition was not decided until the final weeks as Shoemaker, Thor Kain and Warren Parrott were all within high point striking distance. Nearly 200 different handlers accumulated almost 10,000 competition points this season. Rodney has been invited as our guest to the 2022 Purina banquet to accept his award.

The top points earners from each region are recognized below. Each will receive a blue crystal award commemorating their impressive accomplishments in handling excellence.

It was rewarding to see member clubs hosting an increasing number of 30-minute Amateur All-Age, Shooting Dog and Derby stakes this season. These all-important stakes are the foundation and front door to pointing dog competition participation. The AFTCA certainly encourages

its membership to invite their local clubs to become members of the AFTCA and host these important stakes allowing their individual members to join the competition.

AFTCA Regional Top Handler Awards

Region	Handler	City, State	Points
1	Tim Cavanaugh	East Hampton, CT	97
2	Thor Kain	Carbondale, PA	315
3	Warren Parrott	Scranton, SC	304
4	Kenric DeLong	Greenville, MI	224
5	Jack Glover	Shelbyville, MO	178
6	Bubba Spencer	Bolivar, TN	104
7	Jason Super	Ft. Worth, TX	161
8	Bob Barker	Inola, OK	14
10	Sergio Velez	Chilliwack, BC	141
11	Gina Bosio	Modesto, CA	71
12	Richard Peterson	Memphis, TN	39
14	Louis Qualtiere	Saskatoon, SK	24
16	Patrick McPherson	Evergreen, AL	168
17	Rodney Shoemaker	Kearney, KS	355
19	Mike Duvall	Janesville, WI	118

2021-22 PURINA AWARDS SEASON

Congratulations to these deserving winners!



Luke Eisenhart



Shawn Kinkelaar

Handler of the Year—Luke Eisenhart

Handler of the Year honors were won by Luke Eisenhart with a total of 2,112 points, handling nine dogs to points-earning placements.

The dogs handled (all pointer males unless otherwise noted): Bonner's Excalibur, Confident Nation, Dunn's True Reign, Erin's Wild Atlantic Way (setter male), Erin's Perfect Storm, Knight Moon, Rentz's Hijacked, Shadow's Lord Magic, Touch's Red Rider.

Top Handler (Shooting Dog)—Shawn Kinkelaar

The 2022 Purina Top Handler is Shawn Kinkelaar. No stranger to the award, this is Shawn's seventh Purina Handler Award. Shawn's year lists 18 placements, with eight shooting dogs and one derby earning handler points. Five of these shooting dogs were in the top 10. Total of 2,562 points earned. Congratulations to Shawn and owners for another successful season.

- *Upfront's Southern Star*, owner Lance Schulz
- *True Choice*, owner Greg Fried
- *Silver W Jill Z*, owner Debbie Ozner
- *Chelsea's Thunder Bolt*, owners Dr. Tom Jackson and George Hickox
- *Chelsea's Mae West*, owners Ron Prewitt and Brad Sadler
- *Tug O'War*, owners Adam Hart and Bjorn Peterson
- *Oak Ridge Thor*, owner Ron Prewitt
- *Thunder Bolt's Storm*, owner Tom Jackson
- *Erin's Thunder Backus (derby)*, owners Tom Jackson and Jerry Moisson

Dog of the Year—Touch's Fire Away

Earning top honors in the Purina Dog of the Year competition was Touch's Fire Away, pointer male, owned by Greg and Carmen Adams of Norfolk, Va., and handled by Randy Anderson. Touch's Fire Away tallied 1,485 points to claim the season's award, with the following placements: Runner-Up in the Mid-America Open Championship, winner of the Quail Championship Invitational, Runner-Up in the Kentucky Quail Classic, winner of the Alabama Open Championship, winner of the Missouri Open All-Age championship, second in the Oklahoma Cecil Proctor Open All-Age, and winner of the Missouri Open Championship.

Top Shooting Dog—Wind Ridge Sugar Plum

Before honoring the 2022 winner, we must first acknowledge that this competition year saw the retirement of four-time Purina Top Shooting

Dog 23x Ch. Chelsea's Thunder Bolt, going out on top after a win at the National Invitational Shooting Dog Championship. After a short season, Bolt still ended up in seventh place for the year for owners Tom Jackson and George Hickox. A great way to end a historic career.

Purina Top Shooting Dog for 2022 is Wind Ridge Sugar Plum for owner Eugene Sprotta, handler Eddy Taylor. This 3-year-old pointer female is out of Westfall's Ice Breaker and Gin Creek Garnet. Sugar Plum had a challenging birth and special care starting out from Kathy and Eddy Taylor. Through that all, Sugar Plum has earned front-seat status in the truck. Sugar Plum looks out for Eddy and his truck. A special truck and trial dog.

Sugar Plum's season: Southwest Missouri OSD Championship (Runner-Up with 55 dogs entered); Ozark OSD Championship (Winner with 61 dogs entered); Tennessee OSD Championship (Runner-Up with 47 dogs entered); and Egyptian OSD Championship (Runner-Up with 66 dogs entered). Sugar Plum ended the season with 1,450 Purina points earned.

Sugar Plum got it done against major competition at entered trials. What an outstanding accomplishment for a first-year shooting dog! Congratulations to owner Eugene Sprotta, and handler Eddy Taylor, on Wind Ridge Sugar Plum's Purina Top Shooting Dog season.

Top Amateur Shooting Dog—Dragonfly



Dragonfly

Purina Top Amateur Shooting Dog for 2022 is Dragonfly, for owner handler Jim Hughes. This 6-year-old pointer male is out of The Crowd Pleaser and Miller's Calamity Jane Lady.

Dragonfly won the largest entered trial in 2022 season, the National Free-For-All, with 71 entered dogs plus bonus points. In addition, Dragonfly was: first at the Dixie Classics with 22 dogs entered, and Region 6 Runner-Up with 34 dogs. This made for a total of 1,300 Purina points earned in 2022.

Dragonfly's career is truly consistent and competitive. From a first-year shooting dog, Jim has always had this dog contending for this title. He has come close in the past few years—2021 Top Shooting Dog season (6th place); 2020 Top Shooting Dog season (2nd place); and 2019 Top Shooting Dog season (4th place). Congratulations to Jim Hughes and Dragonfly for another great season!



Mohawk Mill Gangster

Top Shooting Dog Derby—Waybetter Rebel

Purina Top Shooting Dog Derby for 2022 is Waybetter Rebel out of Dominator's Rebel Heir and Calico's Country Strong.

Rebel started the year being handled by Pat Casey for owner Carl Bishop. Pat handled Rebel to two wins—Swamp Fox Derby Classic with 20 dogs, and the big win at the U.S. Quail Futurity with 52 dogs plus bonus points.

Ownership changed hands, and Muriel and Bill Primm became new owners. Mike Tracy took over handler responsibilities and won first at the Indiana Derby with 19 dogs, and second at the Michigan Derby Classic with 11 dogs. Total for the year, Rebel collected 690 Purina points.

We look forward to watching Waybetter Rebel's future career as a shooting dog. Congratulations to Muriel and Bill Primm, Mike Tracy, Carl Bishop, and Pat Casey on Waybetter Rebel's great Purina Top Derby season.

Amateur All-Age—Mohawk Mill Gangster

For the Amateur All-Age, the winner is Mohawk Mill Gangster, pointer male owned by Gary Winall, with 904 points.

All-Age Open Derby—Haney's Storm Warning

Winner of the Open Derby was Haney's Storm Warning, pointer male owned by Chris Cagle, with 1,332 points.

FIELD TRIAL HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

Nominations for Candidates Readers Deem Deserving

(View more on our website at www.americanfield.com)

Fred Rayl



Fred Rayl with his grandson, Hardy Rayl Martino

Fred Rayl more than meets the qualifications for consideration for the Field Trial Hall of Fame. Fred was brought up in the bird dog world and it has been an integral part of his life. Having a father like Hall-of-Famer Bill Rayl guide you, made the transition into to the bird dog profession for Fred appear seamless.

Fred's career spanned over four decades competing across the country from Canada to Florida. He won the 1982 National Championship and the Purina Award with Heritage Premonition, making it the fourth time in field trial history that a father and son has won the National Championship.

Fred developed 28 dogs that won 49 championships beginning with his first championship in 1976

with Ch. Strongman and his 49th championship in 2006 with Ch. Pride's Alibi. Three of these champions are in the Hall of Fame—Ch. Builder's Addition, Ch. Fiddler, and Ch. Fiddler's Pride. With the support of the late Dan Bonaquidi, Fred was instrumental in developing the Fiddler line of dogs.

Over the years, Fred has offered his assistance to various clubs and served as judge at several championship stakes.

It is time the field trial community honor Fred Rayl for his lifelong dedication and contribution to the sport and support his nomination into

the Field Trial Hall of Fame, recognized alongside his father and HOF champions.

— *Robert Thomas*

We would like to nominate Fred Rayl for the Field Trial Hall of Fame. Others have told the story of his successes in the field at the most prestigious events on the All-Age circuit, but we can speak to his support as a mentor and human being who is giving back to the sport. We first met Fred when we were looking for a training spot in 2016 and Fred and Inda have been gracious hosts and mentors to us and other amateur trainers over the years. Fred invited us to train with him and has always been supportive and willing to provide his wisdom and knowledge in training competitive field trial bird dogs.

Fred is a first-class gentleman and sportsman and is dedicated to the sport of field trialing. We feel that Fred has and is contributing to the future of this sport, and should be inducted into the Bird Dog Hall of Fame.

— *Chad Chadwell and Nancy Browne*

With great pride I nominate Fred Rayl for Field Trial Hall of Fame. Fred has truly given his life to bird dogs and field trials. He meets and exceeds all the standards set for inclusion into this group.

As a trainer, Fred trained and handled 3 dogs currently in the Field Trial Hall of Fame—Fiddler, Fiddler's Pride and Builder's Addition. Fred won the National Championship twice, once with Builder's Addition and once with Heritage's Premonition. He trained and handled dogs to 49 championships and hundreds of other placements, during a career spanning over 50 years. He's competed and won at the highest level of our sport winning several major championships numerous times including the Continental, Continental Derby, Florida, Georgia, and Georgia Derby Championships.

Fred has also given back to our sport in many ways. He's judged at all levels, from major championships to weekend trials. He's been involved in the founding and management of several major trials and has helped many people become interested and involved in field trialing. Fred has truly been a great ambassador for the sport of field trialing!

Please join me in supporting Fred Rayl for the Field Trial Hall of Fame. His election is long overdue!

— John Lee

Gary Lester

I first met Gary Lester when he came South before the Continental Derby one year. A lot has happened since then, and with dogs that he and his crew have bred and developed.

Gary has won the National Championship six times with five different dogs. Additionally, he sold two other dogs that went on to win the National title—Shell Creek Coin (2006) and Touch's Whiteout (2011). The first dog that he handled to the National Championship, Lester's Snowwatch, was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2017.

Gary has an impressive win record. He has won Purina Dog of the Year twice and Amateur Dog of the Year once. Besides the National, he has won the Open Invitational twice, the National Free-for-All three times, and the Southern twice. He has also won three National Derby Championships, the Continental Derby Championship, plus multiple All-America Derby and Invitational Derby Championships.

Prior to concentrating on open stakes, Gary amassed an impressive amateur record, winning the National Amateur Quail Championship and National Amateur Invitational Championship plus multiple regional titles.

Gary and his associates have been instrumental in breeding and developing dogs, making a big impact on the sport.

As an amateur, Gary readily accepted judging assignments, including the Southeastern Quail Championship and the Masters Shooting Dog and All-Age Championships, among others.

Based on his multiple contributions to our sport, Gary Lester is more than qualified for election to the Hall of Fame. Your vote will be appreciated.

— Dr. Ron Deal

Clinton "Joe" Bush

Clinton "Joe" Bush is a mentor, a teacher, and someone who has taught children for years as a responsible community member. Joe is a friend to many of us, and he has earned his right to be part of the Hall of Fame. Many people grew up and learned valuable lessons because of Joe. He is an expert at training bird dogs, fishing, riding horses, and hunting. These skills are tremendously helpful to young people growing up in a small town.

Joe is a great dog trainer because of his dedication to the sport and the care and attention he pays to those whom he mentors. Anyone being trained by Joe knows about his kindness and how open he is to helping others.

The honor of being in the Hall of Fame is an accolade that would make anyone proud. Joe has consistently shown over his life a willingness to support others, a keen interest in the outdoors, and most of all, an upmost dedication to the sport. Many of the children Joe mentored grew into pillars of the community, becoming great success stories. Joe was a crucial part of my growth and pointed me in the right direction. He is a selfless and thoughtful leader and teacher who considers others well-being. Joe should be inducted into the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

— Dr. Artavious J. Smith

Miller's Happy Jack



Miller's Happy Jack with Stephen Bell

Nominating Miller's Happy Jack for the Hall of Fame should be an easy task, but since he last ran five years ago perhaps he is not easily remembered. The reach of his breeding successes is now measured in the accomplishments of his great-grand progeny. I hope that the details that follow will jog your memory.

Miller's Happy Jack won his first three championships as a derby in the spring of 2009. In the following eight field trial seasons, he would garner another four championships. He gained an additional nine runner-up titles. He would never go any year in his career without winning a championship or runner-up championship title. In total he had 40 placements.

Miller's Happy Jack qualified and ran at the National Championship as a derby and would re-qualify and run every year of his career. His nine runs there put him in a very select club of "most durable" competitors. He also ran three of those years with both his son and grandson. They were Miller's Dialing In and Dunn's Tried'N True, both winners of the National Championship, which should go far to suggest that his breeding career was stellar.

— Stephen H. "Steeple" Bell

Lundy's Red Bull

A dog elected to the Field Trial Hall of Fame should have a significant win record and an impressive production record. Lundy's Red Bull has accomplished both. Dual registered both in the American Field and with AKC, he had 45 placements. He accumulated 19 placements in AKC National Championship events. In all-breed American Field shooting dog stakes, he proved he was not only a great Vizsla, but a great bird dog. He won the AFTCA Region 19 Amateur Championship and became the first continental breed ever invited to the AFTCA National Amateur Shooting Dog Invitational.

As a prepotent sire, he was an AKC Versatility sire in 2019 and a 2020 & 2021 Top Producing Field Sire. His get have earned Championship and National Championship titles. They are very successful in all breed competitions placing in AFTCA shooting dog and all age points qualifiers for the National Amateur Quail and National Amateur Shooting Dog Invitationals. Bull was one of those unique dogs that checks all the boxes.

When casting your ballot for the Field Trial Hall of Fame, please consider this very worthy candidate, Lundy's Red Bull.

— Stan Wint

Just Irresistible

I would like to formally endorse Ch. Just Irresistible for Field Trial Hall of Fame. "Studs" contribution to bird dogs and field trials will be seen for many years to come. He did not live long enough to amass as many wins as a lot of the other dogs, but his production record speaks for itself. Not only was he a great sire, but his good traits also continue to be passed down through his progeny. Intelligence, athleticism, class, front running, bird sense, superb nose, personality, trainability, willingness, and ability to please are the traits I refer to.

I have trained and handled dogs for well over 40 years, and I can tell you that it is rare to find the whole package in a dog, much less see it passed on for generations. His offspring made my job easy and enjoyable. I ask you, before you cast your vote, to consider Ch. Just Irresistible's accomplishments and legacy he continues to build in the field trial arena.

— Joel Norman

Just Irresistible won early and won big, won decisively in the piney woods and on the prairie because he had ALL the characteristics

that define "Class". His first-generation progeny from 21 — not hundreds — of breedings have dominated the open shooting dog circuit as well as significantly the amateur shooting dog and amateur and open all-age circuits. An updated count of winners and wins to come. Field trial reports describe the consistency with which they win, find birds, exhibit stye pointing and in motion and always handle naturally to the front. They in turn, are passing Just Irresistible's great qualities on to the next generations of pointers.

Descending from the great Rebel line of pointers, grandson of HOF Funseeker's Rebel, Just Irresistible is himself a fountainhead. He has proven his worthiness through his own great wild bird championship wins over a sadly shortened career but more importantly for ALL the characteristics that define "Class" he has imprinted on countless first and second generation progeny winning in the most prestigious field trials around the country. It is a rare dog that has contributed so much in such a short time to the improvement of bird dogs and raising the level of field trial competition. Please join his many devotees in elevating this fine animal to his deserved place in the Field Trial Hall of Fame in 2022.

— Chris Mathan

FRED ♦ RAYL

for Field Trial Hall of Fame

28 Champions ♦ 49 All-Age Championships

- ♦Ch. Strongman
- ♦2x Ch. Builder's Addition (HOF)
- ♦4x Ch. Builder's Free Boy
- ♦2x Ch. Fiddler (HOF)
- ♦Ch. Van Mar Blackjack
- ♦2x Ch. Heritage's Premonition
- ♦Ch. Monogard
- ♦8x Ch. Fiddler's Pride (HOF)
- ♦Ch. Fiddler's Bo
- ♦Ch. Trivoli Terror
- ♦Ch. Redemption
- ♦Ch. Molesworth John
- ♦Ch. River City Fiddler
- ♦Ch. Lady Addition



Joe Bush with Fiddler, Fred Rayl with Builder's Free Boy,
Bill Rayl with Heritage's Premonition, and Jack Robinson with Evolution.

These 28 champions are representative of Fred Rayl's lifelong dedication to the sport of field trials and the development of outstanding bird dogs!

- ♦Ch. Yoshi Fiddler's Hope
- ♦3x Ch. Solid Brass
- ♦Ch. All Things Considered
- ♦Ch. Fiddler's Repeat
- ♦2x Ch. Spy Hill Bullett
- ♦2x Ch. Ballentine
- ♦2x Ch. Fiddler's Pride's Iris
- ♦3x Ch. Spy Hill Pride
- ♦Ch. Kilsyth Dan
- ♦2x Ch. Quick Cash
- ♦Ch. Goodbye Joe
- ♦Ch. Bal's Dancer
- ♦Ch. Pride's Bullett
- ♦Ch. Pride's Alibi



Nominating a dog or person for the Field Trial Hall of Fame?

Email your nominations to: Dinora Wellmann • dwellmann@ukcdogs.com

[Nominations will be updated weekly at www.americanfield.com]

“THE CONTRIBUTORS”—AN INTERVIEW

Bruce Mercer, Roger McPherson, and The Drews (Earl and Margaret)

By Calvin Curnutte, Jr.

This month I had the pleasure of interviewing four people that not only compete in field trials but contribute to them by judging or serving on a trial committee. There's a select few that can say they contribute as much as they take. Running a dog or multiple dogs in trials takes time and energy. Devoting some of that energy to the sport must be appreciated. Being part of a committee putting on a trial is a challenging task. Judging at a trial can be a thankless task.

Let me start with an introduction of these fine people. Bruce Mercer, currently the secretary of the Southern Bird Hunters Association, has a day job serving as a city civil engineer. He's long been a competitor and contributor to breeding English pointers through Premier Kennel. Besides putting on trials, Bruce keeps a few dogs to run as an amateur. In fact, my introduction to Bruce came as I was entering field trials. I bought a puppy to raise for a new owner and Bruce guaranteed that the puppy would make a horseback trial dog, or he'd give me another. That sums up his character right there.

Roger McPherson, currently serving on the South Carolina Field Trial Club and Mid-Carolina Club committees, is a retired college professor. Roger can be seen watching at many trials with dogs on the string of Summerhill Kennel with Dave and Mark Hughes. He also runs the dogs as an amateur in horseback trials. His judging experience has him pulling judging duties with a few trials each season as well.

I also interviewed field trial couple, the Drews. Both retired from careers in the Northeast. Earl and Margaret do more than their share of running dogs, judging, committees, reporting, and making meals. They started their stint in trials in the Northeast and after retiring, settled in Hoffman, N.C. Margaret's reports on trials are the standard, noting as many details as if you're watching the brace as you read. The Drews are always devoted to supporting as much as they can.

• *When and where did you get started in field trials? What was the first field trial you put on or helped put on?*

Bruce Mercer: Started in field trials in the early 90s, somewhere around 1993-94 at the Old Atlantic FTG in Jackson, Georgia, and the Cedar Valley FTG's in Cedartown, Georgia. He joined the Cedar Valley committee after a few years and helped put on trials in Cedartown.

Roger McPherson: Started his field trial career with Brittany Spaniels, now just called Brittanys. His first trial was the Derby Classic in New Hampshire on wild birds, and he won. A few years later he became the Director of the Pennsylvania (PA) Brittany Championship and helped with the PA Grouse/Woodcock Classic that later became a Championship.

The Drews: They started together in 1976 at the Maine Bird Dog Club running an English setter female named Missy. The first trial they helped to put on was a youth trial at the Brownfield FTG in Maine. Their boys were 8 and 10 at the time.

• *Where are your favorite grounds to run, judge, put on a trial, or observe?*

BM: The Pat O'Neill grounds in Hatchechubbee, Alabama, first came to mind. Next was Rodney Poston's Palmetto Quail Club in South Carolina. Bruce likes quality one-course trials and drops birds to ensure consistency with each brace. He likes Rodney's the most for putting on a trial and judging.

RM: For walking trials, Roger has two favorites—Marienville FTG, Pa., and Kill Kitty FTG in New Hampshire. For horseback trials, he loves the Hoffman FTG, Hoffman, N.C., for running, judging, or observing.

The Drews: Mr. Earl enjoyed his chance to compete on the Ames grounds the most with Glastonbury FTG being mentioned as well. They enjoyed putting trials on and judging at the Carrington FTG which

is located on the Sandhills Gamelands in North Carolina, the same gamelands the Hoffman grounds are on. (Carrington has not been used in a few years as the vegetation became a problem and the state has chosen to move trials to the Drop Zone on the gamelands.)

• *Which dog has been the most memorable for you to run in trials?*

BM: Without hesitation, Ch. Sand Mountain Icy, a pointer female out of Ch. Great River Ice and Xtremist. When she was on, unbeatable.

RM: Roger had three dogs that came to mind, all Brittanys from his trial beginnings—Suemac's Liberty Belle, Suemac's Carolina Belle, and Suemac's Sky King. All earned multiple Championships.

The Drews: Ch. Rail's Princess, winning their first Amateur Shooting Dog Championship. She also won the National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship.

• *Do you compete in walking or horseback trials, or both?*

BM: Both types of trials. Bruce started in horseback trials.

RM: Both types of trials, but mostly horseback trials the last few years.

The Drews: Both types of trials.

• *What do you consider the most difficult situation, or the most difficult situation you have encountered in field trials?*

BM: Bruce believes that one of the most difficult things to do is to catch the front in a walking trial. Having to work your find and knowing the dog is getting to the front after, without having the ability to gallop to the front.

RM: Roger thinks that dealing with bracemate interference and keeping your composure and cool. He had a situation in a trial running Suemac's Sky King. At the time both his scout and he in a difficult search for the dog, the judge wanting to see the dog and nowhere to be found. Then, the judge spotted the dog standing in some cover. Sky went on to win the Championship that day.

The Drews: Trusting that the dog is to the front. Staying calm and cool and knowing he'll show soon enough.

• *What is the most memorable trial that you've judged or put on?*

BM: Putting on last season's SBHA Futurity week, running 120 dogs through the different trials available that week.

RM: Roger was asked to judge the Grand National Grouse Championship and the National Pheasant Open Shooting Dog Championship. He considered judging the trials to be quite the honor. Both trials sitting in the seat with legends in the sport.

The Drews: Judging the Di-Lane Shooting Dog Derby Championship together. There was a very big draw and many of the professionals were there competing. A very challenging judging situation, with a large draw and many quality performances that week.

• *What is the most difficult situation you've been involved in as a judge or on a committee?*

BM: Dealing with a draw that wasn't conducted properly.

RM: Nothing really came to mind for Roger, but he stressed the importance of diplomacy throughout a trial with all involved.

The Drews: Judging two very large draw trials came to mind for Mr. Earl. Keeping track of the performances of 109 dogs in one and 90+ dogs in the other.

• *What has been the most memorable performance that you have judged?*

BM: Handler Stanley McCain, running Bell Star in the SBHA National Amateur Championship. She had 9 perfect finds and a consistent forward race.

RM: Roger judged Ch. Sugarknoll War Paint, a first-year Open

Shooting Dog, with George Tracy handling. George was sick and could hardly talk yet was able to handle the dog around the course and put him everywhere he needed to be for the win at the Keystone Championship.

The Dregs: The Region 1 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship with Ernie Saniga running Bulltown for the win.

• *What is the secret to putting on a successful field trial?*

BM: Keeping the trial lighthearted and having judges that can handle difficult situations, without making more drama or the participants angry.

RM: Roger has multiple items that need to be checked off—good grounds, good weather, keeping it fun and enjoyable, and putting out birds to find.

The Dregs: Margaret and Earl believe having enough birds out and

quality judges make the trial.

• *What to do you see as a way in the future to promote people into judging or committee involvement, so we don't lose more trials?*

BM: Clubs should increase the amount they are willing to pay judges and try doing judging seminars or putting a young inexperienced judge with a veteran.

RM: Developing better relationships with the younger handlers in the sport, taking the first step and asking for their help.

The Dregs: Being proactive with friends and people involved in trials. Make time to approach new people out at a trial and explain things to them, making them feel comfortable there.



CALVIN CURNUTTE
Cell: (910) 995-7902
Facebook: DC Bird Dogs

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Deadline: October 5

SEPTEMBER

Deadline: August 5

DECEMBER

Deadline: November 5

OCTOBER

Deadline: September 5

JANUARY

Deadline: December 5

Material must be received by 4:30 p.m. on the deadline date. Deadlines that fall on weekends or holidays move to the next business day.

Questions? Email gsmith@ukcdogs.com



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SBHA Open Horseback
Handler of the Year



"Jake"
SBHA Horseback
Open Derby of the Year
& Open Horseback Dog of the Year



"Shooter"
R-U, SBHA Horseback
Open Shooting Dog of the Year



"Star"
R-U, SBHA Horseback
Open Puppy of the Year



We would like to thank SBHA for their quality trials, support, and these awards.
Special thanks to Marty Robinson, Bruce Mercer, and the SBHA officers.



Solomon's Big Nose Kate
Daddy's Little Boy Butch
x Richfield Rose
[Photo by Chris Mathan]

Drowning Creek
Bird Dogs



Horseback Open Shooting Dogs



Merritt's Buck
Ch. Smoke Rise Buck
Ch. Merritt's Pearl
Ch. Merritt's Zackery



Cairds War Train
Ch. Sugarknoll War Paint
HOF Ch. Elhew Snakefoot
Ch. Elhew Fibber McGee

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Nate
Wishing Nate good luck with his new job. Thanks for the help!

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General Meeting: 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. (speaker to be announced)
Dog of the Year Banquet: Doors open at 5:00 p.m.; Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

• SUNDAY, JULY 10 •

Board Meeting: 8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.

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Please mark your calendars and make your plans to attend this special event.

Look forward to seeing you there!

— Brad Hargis, FTCL President



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GARY LESTER

for Field Trial Hall of Fame



Photo by Jamie Evans

There are always a select few dogs, handlers, owners, and breeders, that when we think of them, we immediately place those individuals in a category of “a league of their own”, based on their accomplishments in the sport of field trialing. This is certainly true of Gary Lester.

Gary Lester’s accomplishments as a handler need no introduction to the field trial community. Having won The National Championship six times in itself is qualification to be elected to the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

Besides his wins of The National, Gary’s other notable wins include, but are not limited to, winning the Open Invitational Championship twice, the Open Free-for-All Championship three times, the Southern Championship twice, the All-America Championship, and the All-America Derby Championship numerous times, the U.S. Open Championship twice, and the National Derby Championship three times.

Individual wins of Championships include the Continental Derby Championship, the Masters Championship, the Southeastern Championship, the Missouri Championship, and the International Pheasant Championship.

Gary Lester has also had two dogs win the Purina Dog of the Year Award. He also campaigned, and then sold two other dogs that went on to win The National Championship. Another notable accomplishment was having National Champion Lester’s Snowatch elected to the Hall of Fame.

As an amateur, before going pro, Gary won the National Amateur Derby Championship five times, the National Amateur Invitational Championship, the Amateur Quail Championship, the National Amateur Pheasant Championship, and several Regional Championships, along with winning the Purina Amateur Dog of the Year Award.

It’s interesting to note that as a breeder Gary bred most of the dogs that he has won with.

Gary Lester has given back to the sport in numerous ways. He has judged not only major Championships, but weekend trials also. Gary has quietly contributed financially as well, helping clubs better their facilities, and helping sponsor both open and amateur trials throughout the country.

Gary has been an encourager, teacher, and mentor to anyone willing to learn from him.

It is my pleasure to nominate Gary Lester for the Field Trial Hall of Fame and ask for your support of this most deserving individual.

— Derek Bonner

Kevin Alexander
Eric Barrett
Geoff Beane
Kevin Beane
Ronnie Beane
Jeff Blackwell
Debbie Bonner
Derek Bonner
Harold Boyette
Al Bryson
John Burrows
David Crouch
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Joe Don House

Gary Dowdy
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Diane Gates
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Melissa Green
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Dr. Tom Jackson
James Ladd

Dereck Layne
Tommy Loid
Delissa Mainord
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All of us, as friends and supporters, ask you to join us in voting

**GARY
LESTER**
**to the Field Trial
Hall of Fame!**

— Ad sponsored by friends of Gary Lester

FRED ♦ RAYL

for Field Trial Hall of Fame

— Winner of 49 All-Age Championships —

- ♦Saskatchewan Chicken Championship
1976
- ♦4x Quail Championship Invitational
1977, 1980 1984, 1985
- ♦4x Masters Quail Championship
1978, 1989, 1995, 1996
- ♦5x Florida All-Age Championship
1979, 1982, 1986, 1991, 2006
- ♦5x Georgia Derby Championship
1979, 1981, 1998, 1999, 2001
- ♦All-America Chicken Championship
1979
- ♦2x International Pheasant Championship
1979, 1987
- ♦3x All-America Quail Championship
1980, 1981, 1984
- ♦4x Continental Derby Championship
1981, 1988, 1996, 1997



Photo: 1982 National Championship. Heritage's Premonition is joined in the winners' circle by owners, handler and officials. Kneeling, from left: Jim and Judy Cohen, Freddie Rayl and W.F. (Bill) Rayl. Standing, are the judges. From left: James M. Bryan, J.D. Boss and Joe H. Hurdle.

- ♦Dominion Chicken Championship
1981
- ♦All-America Derby Championship
1982
- ♦National Championship
1982
- ♦2x Georgia All-Age Championship
1983, 1999
- ♦8x U.S. Chicken Championship
1983, 1984, 1985, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1997, 2002
- ♦2x Continental Open All-Age Championship
1989, 2000
- ♦2x Southeastern Quail Championship
1993, 1999
- ♦3x Kentucky All-Age Championship
1995, 2000, 2003

Trained and handled 28 different dogs to these championship titles, three of which were elected to the Field Trial Hall of Fame:
Ch. Builder's Addition ♦ Ch. Fiddler ♦ Ch. Fiddler's Pride

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**High-Resolution Color Images Preferred.*

— REGISTER PUREBRED DOGS —

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

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The necessary forms are available upon request and may also be downloaded at www.americanfield.com.



MILLER'S HAPPY JACK

FOR FIELD TRIAL HALL OF FAME

Nominating Miller's Happy Jack for the Hall of Fame should be an easy task, but since he last ran five years ago perhaps, he is not as easily remembered. And to compound that, he had a very long and storied career, his first derby placements were way back in 2008. And to further compound his story, the reach of his breeding successes is now measured in the accomplishments of his great-grand progeny. I hope that the details that follow will jog your memory of this outstanding champion.

Miller's Happy Jack was perhaps the most thoroughly blue-blooded white dog of recent memory. His sire, Lester's Bandit (by House's Line Up out of Will's Wendy), was injured young and didn't have much of a field trial career, but Lester's Bandit's littermates were notable champions House's River Fever, Mac's Memphis May, and Three Ten to Yuma. His dam, Bryson's Powder Twist, was by Miller's White Powder out of Wiggin's Twist N Shout.

Miller's Happy Jack won his first three championships as a derby in the spring of 2009—the National Amateur Derby Championship, the American Derby Invitational Championship, and the All-America Quail Championship. That win at the All-America was his second all-age win as a derby that season as he had won the Hobart Ames Memorial Amateur All-Age earlier that winter.

In the following eight field trial seasons he would garner another four championships—the National Amateur Quail Championship (spring 2010),

the Texas Open Championship (spring 2012), the Mid-America Open Prairie Championship (fall 2013), and the Dominion Open Chicken Championship (fall 2016). In the intermediate between these championships, he gained an additional nine runner-up titles. He would never go any year in his career without winning a championship or runner-up championship title. In total he had 40 placements.

Miller's Happy Jack qualified and ran at the National Championship as a derby and would re-qualify and run every year of his career. His nine runs there put him in a very select club of "most durable" competitors, as only four others had previously done so. He also ran three of those years with both his son and grandson, another rare occurrence that had happened only once before.

That son and grandson he competed against were Miller's Dialing In and Dunn's Tried'n True, both winners of the National Championship, which should go far to suggest that his breeding career was stellar, too, but don't forget to add in his other National Champion grandson, Miller's Speed Dial, when you consider his record of offspring. Still, you can also add Valiant, a Purina All-Age Award winner and Hall of Fame member, to his credit. In total he was the sire of 76 field trial winners, ten of those were champions.

I will be voting for Miller's Happy Jack for the Hall of Fame. I hope you will, too. — *Stephen H. "Steeple" Bell*

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RECOGNIZED FIELD TRIALS

Atlantic Sportsman's Club

August 20 / Caledonia, NS

Contact: Ian Corbett

Phone: (902) 354-0026

Email: ikcorbett@msn.com

ABHA TRIALS

(No upcoming trials)

NBHA TRIALS

(No upcoming trials)

SBHA TRIALS

(No upcoming trials)

USCSDA TRIALS

Big Sky Field Trial Club

September 23 / Barber, MT

Contact: David Huffine

Phone: (910) 620-2970

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