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FIELD

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A Newsletter by United Kennel Club

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UKC® Field
100 East Kilgore Rd.
Kalamazoo, MI 49002-5584
Phone: (269) 343-9020
Fax: (269) 343-7037

PUBLISHER
United Kennel Club

VICE PRESIDENT
Todd Kellam — tkellam@ukcdogs.com

UKC® HUNTING OPS DEPARTMENT
Director of Hunting Ops
Allen Gingerich — agingerich@ukcdogs.com
Field Trial & Hunt Test Program Manager
Domenick Muoio — dmuoio@ukcdogs.com
Licensed Event Coordinator
Dinora Wellmann — dwellmann@ukcdogs.com

PRODUCTION
Director of Media & Communications
Annie Hammond — ahammond@ukcdogs.com

Publishing Coordinator
Gina Smith — gsmith@ukcdogs.com
Multimedia Designer
Bailey Verschoof — bverschoof@ukcdogs.com

ADVERTISING
Gina Smith — gsmith@ukcdogs.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS
subscriptions@ukcdogs.com

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We welcome articles on training, breeding, health and care, and other areas of interest. Material for publication shall include breed association columns, association columns, articles from state associations, veterinarians, etc., as well as regular columns of interest to field trialers. All photos should include the name of each person and dog shown, as well as each dog's FDSB number. Address all communications to UKC® Field, 100 E. Kilgore Rd., Kalamazoo, MI 49002-5584.

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UKC's MISSION STATEMENT
As an international dog registry, we celebrate the Total Dog through family-friendly events and programs highlighting canine bonds, instincts, and heritage while maintaining the virtue of our pedigrees. Through these efforts, we give Honor to Whom Honor is Due™.

UKC TEAM IN THE FIELD

— An update from Domenick Muoio



June

We find ourselves halfway through 2024. With the arrival of June comes the buzz of the Hall of Fame nominations and the eagerness for the Purina Bird Dog Award Ceremony coming later this month. I personally look forward to seeing many of you in Huntsville, Alabama, and congratulating those earning jackets and new patches.

One of my favorite aspects of the award ceremony is hearing the acceptance speeches. So much history of the sport comes out and, as a guest, you get to learn about how successful owners and handlers got into the sport of field trialing. One theme that always seems consistent across those stories is about the support and encouragement from peers, trainers, and family to pursue greatness. Often others see the potential in them or their dog before they themselves see it. Their network of support then helps mold them to achieve that potential. That encouragement and brotherhood is something that has existed in this sport since its conception and is what will help this sport endure for a hundred more years. It's a welcomed reminder that when a guy or gal shows up with one dog in a truck to their first field trial, your encouragement and support may very well be part of their speech one day.

Good luck to those training and trialing this month, and I look forward to seeing many of you soon.

— Domenick Muoio
Field Trial & Hunt Test Program Manager

National Champion



TOUCH'S GALLATIN FIRE

Alex Rickert, Owner | Mark McLean, Handler | Keith A. Wright, Breeder

[Photo by Chris Mathan]

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Cedar Valley Open Shooting Dog Classic

Course 2, Brace 21 • Photo by Chance Curnutte



2024



Bird Dog Awards

JUNE 29, 2024 The Purina Bird Dog Awards will recognize this year's award winners from the 2023-2024 season! Join us for an evening where we will honor the top handlers, dogs and owners! Relax and enjoy a ceremony, highlighted with awards, food, and fun in HUNTSVILLE, AL!



PURINA ALL AGE AWARDS

- 61st Purina Top All Age Dog Award
- 36th Purina All Age Handler Award
- 17th Purina Amateur All Age Dog Award
- 12th Purina All Age Derby Award

PURINA SHOOTING DOG AWARDS

- 42nd Purina Top Shooting Dog Award
- 36th Purina Shooting Dog Handler Award
- 21st Purina Amateur Shooting Dog Award
- 12th Purina Shooting Dog Derby Award

Saturday, June 29, 2024 • Social Hour: 5:30 pm • Dinner: 6:30 pm • \$60.00

THE WESTIN HUNTSVILLE

6800 Governors W • Huntsville, AL 35806 • 256-428-2000

For a SPECIAL ROOM RATE, reservations must be made by Thursday, June 6, 2024.

To receive this rate, call 256-428-2000 and mention that you are with the Purina Bird Dog Awards, or click

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1706215425452&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

BANQUET TICKETS

Tickets must be reserved prior to the event.

Contact GAIL INMAN at gail.inman@purina.nestle.com or 314-570-5732.

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ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA FIELD TRIAL CLUBS

Hirollins B K Bulletproof Wins South Carolina Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

By Jadie Rayfield | Patrick, South Carolina | January 5, 2024

The South Carolina Amateur Shooting Dog Classic held its 59th renewal January 5-7 at the fabled H. Cooper Black, located between Cheraw and Patrick, South Carolina, just off Highway 1. The Association was blessed to receive 35 of the best amateur shooting dogs in the South and Northeast for this year's event.

Birds and quality judges are the two main ingredients in any field trial's success. We were fortunate to obtain Mark Hughes of Grampian, Pennsylvania, and Scott Miller of Beaufort, South Carolina. These two gentlemen worked exceptionally well together. Mark and Scott rode at a perfect pace and gave each entry their undivided attention.

The Winners

Claiming first place in this highly competitive stake was the handsome-made orange and white Pointer male, Hirollins B K Bulletproof. Warren Parrott of Pamplico, South Carolina, is the proud owner and handler. "Boogie" drew the third brace Friday morning, rendered an intelligent display of forward hunting, and was mindful of his handler. Boogie's efforts were rewarded at 4, 10, 35, and pickup time. Boogie's picturesque pointing style and manners to the gun were extraordinary on each find. Everyone riding in the gallery knew the Parrott contender would be tough to beat.

Second place was awarded to the dynamic Pointer male Calico's Over The Top, co-owned by Alex and Tiffany Smith and Calico Kennels. Long-time field trainer Mr. Frank Henderson made the trip with son-in-law Alex to scout the Calico string. Calico's Over The Top made his gusty bid in the first brace Saturday morning. Over The Top was found pointing at 4. Alex confidently dismounted and flushed quail



South Carolina Amateur Shooting Dog Classic (front, l-r): Warren Parrott with Hirollins B K Bulletproof and Chris Catanzarite with Backcountry Bruiser. (Behind): Paul Kelly, Mark Hughes (judge), Scott Miller (judge), and Mac Stidham. (Not pictured): Calico's Over The Top.

for his stylish animal. Once again, at 25, Alex called point in the "mind field" with everything in order for flush and shot. The rain had become harder with gusty winds blowing. Over The Top continued hunting at great distances for the remainder of his hour.

A trial is never over until Backcountry Bruiser has made his run. Pennsylvanian Chris Catanzarite is the proud owner and handler of the strapping 6-year-old Pointer male. Bruiser ran an ideal shooting dog race, which was complimented by a textbook field trial find at 7. Bruiser and Chris were in perfect sync throughout the entire hour.

The Shorthair, Snow River, presented birds to the gun on five occasions for his owner/handler, Mr. Miller. In the first race, Calico's Country Strong had two great pieces of birdwork and a back with brace mate B.K. Blinder with four

finds. Sugar Knoll White Lightning was rewarded for his efforts on five different occasions.

The South Carolina Association greatly appreciates Greg Blair of Nestlé Purina for helping support our Classic this year. We are planning next year's event and are looking forward to seeing all in January 2025.

**Patrick, S. C., January 5 – One Course
Judges: Mark Hughes and Scot Miller
SOUTH CAROLINA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats]**

– 33 Pointers, 1 Setter, and 1 German Shorthairs
1st-HIROLLINS B K BULLETPROOF, 1696564, pointer male, by Fastforward's B K Gunner-Wiggins Miss Stella. Warren Parrott, owner and handler.
2d-CALICO'S OVER THE TOP, 1692315, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Calico's Country Strong. Calico Kennels & Alex & Tiffani Smith, owners; Alex Smith, handler.
3d-BACKCOUNTRY BRUISER, 1672645, pointer male, by Erin's War Creek-Backcountry Tornado. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.

FIELD TRIAL HALL OF FAME

The hallmark of a candidate for Hall of Fame recognition is contributions to the sport.

For *Dogs*, the win record of a canine candidate should be impressive, not just the number of wins, but the significance of the wins. Performances by a deserving nominee should be such that they elevated the quality of a stake in which he or she competed. Likewise, emphasis

is also placed on production.

Insofar as *Persons* to be considered for Hall of Fame honors, contributions to the sport is paramount—club official, breeder, owner, handler, correspondent, patron of the sport, and usually a combination of these facets and over a goodly span of time.

As in the past two years, the summer

months (June-August) are earmarked for readers to submit endorsements for *Dogs* and *Persons* they deem deserving of election to the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

Please send endorsements (200 words or less) to dwellmann@ukcdogs.com. If you'd like an ad space, please email gsmith@ukcdogs.com.

Nominations close August 5.

NATIONAL DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP

Rampage Wins 2024 Running; Haney's Last Call Named Runner-Up

By Morgan Brewer | Greensboro, Alabama | January 28, 2024



National Derby Championship (l-r): Luke Eisenhart, Chris Koutras, Judd Carlton with Rampage, Tom Shenker (judge), Ruthann Epp, Lee Phillips, Connie Hicks, Morgan Brewer (reporter), Korry Rinehart with Haney's Last Call, John Ivester, Alex Mauck, Kris Law, Kirk Law (judge), Chris Cagle, Stacey Croy, Jerry Raynor, Mark McLean, and Schley Rutherford.

The National Field Trial Club commenced the National Derby Championship on January 28 at the acclaimed grounds of M. Barnett Lawley Forever Wild Field Trial Area in Greensboro, Alabama. This prominent championship is the epitome of the future of field trials as we know it. These young competitors cover the country at the "Cattle Ranch" like seasoned veterans; it is truly a site to see. I look forward to this trial every year and am beyond grateful for the opportunity to report it for the third consecutive year.

Patty Sexton of Selma, Alabama, Olivia Alison and Fontaine Alison, both from Birmingham, Alabama, provided the food and hospitality. These ladies entertained in true Southern fashion, and everyone had a good time. The Club hosted everyone at the Brick House on the first night of running and to say the meal was delicious would be an understatement. Schley Rutherford, Ruthann Epp, Jennifer McKemie, and Bill Mason do an excellent job putting on this trial. It is a lot of work, and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

There are not enough thanks to Purina for sponsoring the trial; if trials did not have support from Purina, they would not be possible. The Epp family donated the trophy for the champion, and John Ivester donated the runner-up trophy; these trophies were certainly a prize for the winners. A portrait of the winner by Alabama artist Mary McPherson was also included in the champion's winnings.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the saddle with judges Tom Shenker, Hurtsboro, Alabama, and Kirk Law, Dawson, Georgia. They rode hard and gave each competitor a watchful opportunity.

The Running

It was 48 degrees and very windy at the breakaway for the first brace when Erin's Happy Hour, owned by Mike Sweet and handled by Judd Carlton, and Game Star, owned and handled by Dr. Fred Corder, came to the line. Happy Hour had two perfect finds at 7 and 84. Star had a strong ground race and finished the brace without birdwork.

CS Haymaker, owned by Becky and Tony Gibson and handled by Steve Hurdle, and Sandy Hill Ike, owned by Bob Lanier and handled by Jerry Raynor, were in the second brace. Haymaker ran a classy front-running race, had a find at 6, and an unproductive at 43. Ike had a back at 6 and finished the brace without birdwork.

CS Pistol Pete, owned by Becky and Tony Gibson and handled by Steve Hurdle, and Comanche, owned by Tucker Johnson and handled by Luke Eisenhart, turned loose for the third brace. Pete, a stout orange and white Pointer male, had three solid finds at 7, 19, and 38 and unfortunately had to ask for the tracker at 85. Comanche was picked up at the 42-minute mark.

Haney's Southern Angel, owned by John Mathys and handled by Judd Carlton, and Woodville's Long Hard Ride, owned by

Carl Owens and handled by Mark McLean, proceeded toward the line for the fourth brace. Angel, a stylish Pointer female, had birdwork at 8, 74, and 90 and a back at 2. Hard Ride, a snappy Setter male, had bird contacts at 2, 17, and 70 and a back at 74.

It was 40 degrees and sunny for the fifth brace when T S Coal Train, owned by Dr. Ron Deal and handled by Lee Phillips, and Lester's War Bird, owned by Gary Lester and handled by Korry Rinehart, turned loose. Train was picked up at the 49-minute mark. War Bird ran a big running race and locked down clean finds at 16, 81, and 87, and had an unproductive at 75.

Haney's Last Call, owned and handled by Chris Cagle, and Rampage, owned by S. Tucker Johnson and handled by Luke Eisenhart, came to the line for the sixth brace. This brace was the one to watch; the race was on for these two Pointer males. Last Call ran a strong front-running race with stylish finds at 2 and 16, a back at 7, and an unproductive at 77; he finished strong and was awarded runner-up champion. Rampage had a superior, strong front-running race with perfect finds at 7 and 16 and an incredible finish; he was awarded champion for his stellar performance.

Haney's Easy Money, owned by Stacy and Steve Croy and handled by Mark McLean, and T S Jet Airliner, owned by Kathy Vignos and handled by Mark Henley, were in the seventh brace. Money, a liver and white Pointer male, had a back at 3 and was picked up at 39. Airliner, an orange and white Pointer male, had finds at 3 and 32 and was picked up at 40.

Mayhaw's Georgia Time, owned by Dr. Ron Deal and handled by Trey Mills, and Lester's Front Porch, owned by Gary Lester and handled by Korry Rinehart, turned loose for the eighth brace. Time, a Pointer female, and Porch, a Pointer male, were picked up at the 38-minute.

Greensboro, Ala., January 28

Judges: Kirk Law and Tom Shenker

NATIONAL DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP

[Ninety-Minute Heats] – 15 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner-RAMPAGE, 1705323, pointer male, by Touch's Red Rider-Southpoint's Dixie Chick. S. Tucker Johnson, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

Runner-Up-HANEY'S LAST CALL, 1702601, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle Sr., owner and handler.

NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Grand Prairie Thrill Named Champion

By Elton Bray | Union Springs, Alabama | February 5, 2024

The 63rd renewal of the prestigious National Open Shooting Dog Championship began Monday, February 5, and concluded Tuesday, February 13. A string of 58 dogs, including 53 Pointers and five Setters, were drawn to compete for the best of the best. Seventeen of the most renowned professional and amateur dog handlers vied for the title of their dog to be named champion.

The venue for this historical event was none other than the famous Sedgefields Plantation near Union Springs, Alabama. If one has never visited there, you should add it to your list. The towering pines, native grasses, and food plots make for the perfect Bobwhite habitat. Sedgefields is owned by Raymond and Katheryn Harbert. Without their continued generosity of usage of their beautiful facilities and grounds, it would be almost impossible to hold such a prominent event. The Harberts are to be commended for their kindness and hospitality.

A huge thank you also goes out to Jason Howard, Sedgefields manager and field trial board member. He and all the plantation staff help make the trial run smoothly. From manning the road crossings to making sure the trash barrels are empty, it all gets done every day. Bill Lee is another notable board member and a major part of the Sedgefields operation. He is on hand daily as the stake manager and does whatever it takes to make the trial run fluently. His love for the sport and the people is well-noted throughout the field trial world. If something needs to be addressed during the running, Bill Lee is the “go-to” man who always has a plan.

Club President Joe Varner was also on hand each day assisting with the chores and was on horseback for much of the running. Joe is a Union Springs native, and his passion for the sport and the outdoors runs deep. He and his wife, Shirley, contribute a generous amount of time and resources to the National and support all surrounding bird dog events.

Most successful field trial clubs have a secretary and treasurer, but none are lucky enough to have Heather Klinck. Heather can do it all and does it all. She handles the ad, entries, judges, dog wagon goodies, and scheduling for day and night events. From flower arrangements to judges' books, Heather gets everything done. Klinck's time and dedication are some of the major parts of the trial's success each year.



National Open Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Elton Bray, Grayson Francis (judge), Mac Stidham, Harrison Lee with Grand Prairie Thrill (champion), Tommy Rice, Johnny Atkinson (judge), and Mike Jackson (judge).

Steve Hutto was in charge of the dog wagon duties. Hutto is always in the right places at the right times and is also in charge of making sure the wagon is stocked full of snacks and drinks each day.

Minding the marshaling duties were Chance Kelley, Harrison Lee, Squire Lee, and Harold Johnson. With these men in attendance, no handler took wrong turns, and judges were never left behind.

Annie Buce and Anna Grace Tompkins helped in the barn and washed the judges' horses after each ride. All greatly appreciated their kindness and attention to detail.

As advertised, this year's competition judges were Mike Jackson, Battle Ground, Indiana; Johnny Atkinson, Marion, South Carolina; and Grayson Francis, Brookneal, Virginia. Each gentleman has a rich history with bird dogs, and they watched each competitor with careful intent.

Purina is the official dog food sponsor. Their representative, Greg Blair, was in attendance for several days and was accompanied by his daughter, Maddie, a student at Auburn University. Purina is a very important part of this Championship; not only do they provide financially, but also with rewards, gifts, and dog food to the winner. Without the support of Greg Blair and Purina, our sport would be nearly dissolved. Other official sponsors for the trial were Garmin, 5 Star Equine Products, Dan's Hunting Gear, The Saddle Guy, Cook Chevrolet, Thompson Cat, AmeriFirst Bank, Becky and Tony

Gibson, Phillip's Feed and Seed, Eater Plantation, Ginny and David All in honor of the Bullock County Humane Society, and the Alabama Field Trial Association. Sponsoring the cocktails this year were: Becks Turf/The Wildlife Group, Three Notch Lodging, Tracy McPherson, ALFA; TJ Williford/Partners Realty, Greenway Sportsman Club, Walking on the Moon Animal Hospital, Hembree Furniture, Union Springs Home Center, Alabama Field Trial Association, and Jackson Thornton, CPA. The help and support of these sponsors from all over Bullock County gives everyone a welcoming feeling.

The Tourism Council of Bullock County and its many sponsors provided a full-course breakfast each morning during the running. Dream Field Farms prepared and served a delicious lunch each day, with a wide variety of options for everyone.

A function was held every evening during the running. Sunday night's kickoff party was held at BHouse. Everyone was invited to the Country Club for a delicious steak dinner sponsored by Purina on Monday night. Tuesday, we enjoyed a delicious meal at the Field House. On Wednesday night, everyone was invited to the Union Springs Country Club for dinner and a party celebrating the 2023 National Open Shooting Dog Champion, C S Code Blue. Blue's owners, Tony and Becky Gibson, sponsored the meal and celebration. The Gibsons spoke about Blue and their tenure in the field trial fraternity. Steve Hurdle, Blue's handler,



Greg Blair with his daughter, Maddie.



2023 National Open Shooting Dog Champion Portrait of C S Code Blue (l-r): Bo Brewer, Joe Varner, Whitney Woods, Steve Hurdle, Becky Gibson, Tony Gibson, and Heather Klink.



Judges Grayson Francis, Mike Jackson, and Johnny Atkinson.

also spoke about Blue’s performance the previous year and what an honor it was to handle and win “another” National Open Shooting Dog Championship. A beautiful portrait commissioned by Ross B. Young was presented to the Gibsons. We were again treated to another delicious meal at the Field House on Thursday evening. Everyone enjoyed a cookout sponsored by the Alabama Field Trial Association on Friday night. Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, everyone enjoyed cocktails and meals at the Field House.

This was the first year of releasing wild birds on the afternoon courses. The program that Tall Timbers has in set seems to be working. Five years ago, Tall Timbers started the wild bird project on the morning courses. The afternoon courses still have a couple more years in the program, but if the results are as equal to the morning side, Sedgfields will be at the very top of premier venues for bird dogs.

The Champion

The 21st brace produced the National Open Shooting Dog Champion, starting Saturday morning with Upfront’s Southern Star (Shawn Kinkelaar) and Grand Prairie Thrill (Tommy Rice). It was 63 degrees and overcast, which made for favorable hunting conditions. At 18, scout Harrison Lee called point for Thrill on the left side of the course. As Rice arrived, a big covey flew before he dismounted. Thrill stood stylish and bold after the shot. Nearing the Old Bridge Road at 24, she was credited with a second find. Rice was able to produce game after a very nice relocation. Just up the road on the right side at 29, Star was seen pointed by her handler. The birds flushed from the side, and all was in order. Thrill’s third piece of birdwork came at 41, just before getting to the New Bridge. As everyone arrived, both dogs were seen on point together. The handlers were not able to produce game, and each relocated. After the release, Thrill pointed again, and Star honored. This time, she had them pinned. Thrill’s fourth and final find came at 1:05,

just under the hill behind the cemetery. The birds were flying as the judges arrived. She stood tall and proud as she was on her previous three. Thrill completed her heat crossing the levee at the Big Lake. She stayed strong and snappy the entire 90 minutes. Star also completed near the levee hunting the front.

At the completion of the trial, judges decided that Grand Prairie Thrill’s ground performance, superb style on game, and rapport with her handler earned her the title of 2024 National Open Shooting Dog Champion. The liver and white Pointer female is owned by Mac Stidham, handled by Tommy Rice, and scouted by Harrison Lee.

Union Springs, Ala., February 5
Judges: Johnny Atkinson, Grayson Francis, and Mike Jackson
NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [Ninety-Minute Heats]
– 53 Pointers and 5 Setters

Winner-GRAND PRAIRIE THRILL, 1676501, pointer female, by Seekin A Thrill-York’s Hollywood. Mac Stidham, owner; Tommy Rice III, handler.

ASSOCIATED FIELD TRIAL CLUBS OF FLORIDA

Puppy Derby Classic

By Petie Brown | Punta Gorda, Florida | February 10, 2024

The Puppy Derby Classic is all about trophies, both big and old, in memory of competitors’ past. To name just a few, Dick Pritchett, Dr. Bob Knowles, Dr. Bill Wheat, and Don Price have all deservedly laid claim to the beautiful Paul Revere Puppy Bowl. This year, we were fortunate to have plenty of puppies and derbies entered, which bodes well for a healthy club.

John Milton and Robert Franks have spoiled us in the past with their culinary hosting skills, and now the trial chairs, the Muzynski family, have joined in the “gastronomical” effort of feeding field trialers. Prior to the Friday night drawing, the Muzynski family set the mood for the

weekend with a fantastic fish boil complete with shrimp, crab legs, crawfish, andouille sausage, and grits, with a never-ending array of sides and desserts. If the drawing ran a little long, it was because we had a huge number of entries to sort through, and we all needed a nap!

We have three continuous hours of running on the morning course and another three on the afternoon course. The morning course splits depending on the stake, All-Age or Shooting Dog, with the Derbies running on the All-Age course. With only 30-minute stakes, the number of entries was such that we would have been running into Tuesday, so participants were asked to place dogs in one event, and some members

even pulled their dogs completely to accommodate the timeframe.

Many thanks to Purina for again sponsoring our field trials with Purina Pro Plan for the winners. The club members and participants greatly appreciate a beneficial prize for the winners.

We are also grateful to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FFWC) for their diligent efforts in setting the table for the sustainability of the wild bird habitat and population. When the winds are right, the FFWC burns larger areas than in past years, which did not hinder the birds or running on the grounds.

The Puppy Derby Classic concludes



Open Derby (front, l-r): Paul Daniel with CKC Gun Runner, Doc Hall with Dan The Farm, and Tommy Rice with Real Thing Foreal. (Second row, l-r): Scott Ford (judge), Jeff Arnold, Leroy Griffis, Carl Womack, and Beth Brown. (Back row, l-r): Justin Muzynski, Daniel Linehan, Carol Muzynski, Jennifer Hamilton, and Judith Hamilton.



Open Puppy (front, l-r): Katie McEwen with McEwen's Southern Pride, Vince Feltner with Checkmates Catch Me If You Can, and Judith Hamilton with Little Hollywood. (Behind): Justin Muzynski and Paul Daniel.



Open All-Age (front, l-r): Holopaw's Rear Axel with Kayleigh Muzynski, Myakka Lucy Diamond with Petie Brown, and Holopaw's Cracker with John Castelli. (Second row): Carol and Justin Muzynski, Leroy Griffis (judge), Daniel Linehan, Doc Hall (judge), and Beth Brown. (Back row): Jeff Arnold.

the AFTCF's field trial season, except for our spring meeting. We ended on a great note with plenty of judges, well-received decisions, and enough leftovers that everyone was in a grand mood until they had to load and go home or back to work.

The Winners

Due to the number of entries, we started the Derby at 7:30 Saturday morning with excellent conditions. New to our neck of the woods after making the long haul south, hopefully finding the trek worthwhile, was Tommy Rice, who placed third with "Slasher," showing a nice run and listening to his handler in the final, warmest, brace of the Derby. Second place went to "Dan," a big running Pointer with a nice find, owned and handled by Leroy Griffis. Not to be outdone, making the gallery sit up tall and breathless, taking first place with a powerful, rolling, all-age run was Kent Cantrell's "Nick," who locked up like a statue way out and waited a long time for his handler, Paul Daniel. While celebrating Nick's win, we missed Kent's enthusiasm and the pleasure his wife, Becky, took in beating him at Jenga.

We were back out for the Shooting Dog at 2 p.m., which was nearly dominated by Jeff Arnold, who placed first as the owner and handler of Arnold's Heat Wave ("LuLu") with two finds scouted by Justin Muzynski. The last brace of the day with long shadows, Jeff earned third place with Arnold's True Confidence ("Buzz"); he handled beautifully with Katie McEwen, one of the hardest working scouts around. As a club, we have enjoyed watching Jeff and his dogs learn the grounds and perform beautifully, enjoying the amenities and camaraderie that make the AFTCF what it is. Come back next season so we can try to win the Club's silver back!

The All-Age started after 9 a.m.



Open Shooting Dog Winner Arnold's Heatwave with Jeff Arnold and judges Leroy Griffis and Doc Hall.

Sunday and the stake was shortened with scratches by Paul Daniel and Mike Moses. Third place with a nice run in the last brace of the All-Age was earned by Holopaw's Cracker ("Buddy"), owned and handled by Justin Muzynski. Second place was awarded to Myakka Lucy Diamond, pleasing her out-of-breath owner/handler with a nice covey after multiple relocations during which time was called. First place went to Buddy's littermate, Holopaw's Rear Axel ("Alex"), who showed confidence, trust, and desire to please his owner and handler, Justin Muzynski. Watching Justin with his dogs, it's apparent how tuned in he is to their personalities and quirks.

Shadows were lengthening when we rode along the Bob Whiddon road towards camp to finish the Puppy stake. Judith Hamilton handled her Setter "Holly" to a third-place win, and we all cheered when she popped a single. Holly was very pleased with herself. Prior to that, taking second was Katie McEwen, handling Checkmates Catch

Me If You Can ("Jackie") for owner Vince Feltner. First place in the afternoon heat was Jackie's littermate, McEwen's Southern Pride ("Miller"), who ran big and produced birds for owner and handler Katie McEwen.

Punta Gorda, Fla., February 10

Judges: Scott Ford and Greg Poole

OPEN DERBY — 13 Pointers and 1 German Shorthair

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

2d-DAN THE FARM, unreg., pointer male, by Southern Bear Necessity-C's Penny Chick. Leroy Griffis, owner and handler.

3d-REAL THING FOREAL, 1704823, pointer female, by Miller Unfinished Business-Real Thing Reba. Tommy Rice Jr., owner and handler.

Judges: Leroy Griffis and Doc Hall

OPEN SHOOTING DOG — 15 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-ARNOLD'S HEAT WAVE, 1704466, pointer female, by Confident Nation-Notorious Rebel Woman. Jeffrey Arnold, owner and handler.

2d-REAL THING ANN DORST, 1700677, pointer female, by Erin's Tough Grit-Deke's Chasehill Maria. Tommy Rice, owner and handler.

3d-ARNOLD'S TRUE CONFIDENCE, 1700805, pointer male, by Boumeester's Duramax-Oday Nation. Jeffrey Arnold, owner and handler.

OPEN ALL-AGE — 9 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-HOLOPAW'S REAR AXEL, 1690238, pointer male, by Holopaw's Axel-Hot Digity Dot. Kenneth & Justin Muzynski, owners; Justin Muzynski, handler.

2d-MYAKKA LUCY DIAMOND, 1665013, pointer female, by Elhew G Force-Myakka Hey Jude. Petie Brown, owner and handler.

3d-HOLOPAW'S CRACKER, 1690236, pointer male, by Holopaw's Axel-Hot Digity Dot. Kenneth & Justin Muzynski owners; Justin Muzynski, handler.

OPEN PUPPY — 6 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-McEWEN'S SOUTHERN PRIDE, 1708288, pointer male, by Myakka Time Shifter-Nacho's Drama Ma Ma. Debbie & Katie McEwen, owners; Katie McEwen, handler.

2d-CHECKMATES CATCH ME IF YOU CAN, 1706156, pointer female, by Myakka Time Shifter-Nacho's Drama Ma Ma. Vince Feltner, owner; Katie McEwen, handler.

3d-LITTLE HOLLYWOOD, 1706379, setter female, by Cedar Ridge Insider-Cedar Ridge Timex. Judith Hamilton, owner and handler.

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POWHATAN FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial Held At Slate River Farm

By Trey Rector | Buckingham, Virginia | February 24, 2024

The Powhatan Field Trial Club brought off a successful and well-attended trial on Saturday, February 24, on the beautiful quail habitat of Slate River Farm near Buckingham, Virginia. The weather Gods presented a perfect day to make up for the rain cancellation of this trial's first scheduled Saturday back in January. Early sunshine gave way to overcast skies and a gradually rising humidity, making for fine scenting conditions.

Kathy Shannon graciously allowed the use of her Slate River Farm for another year. The cover is extensive but well-groomed, providing the best of both worlds. Her generosity was greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

Trial Chairman Dennis Kivikko combined attention to detail with a polite and easy-going style, making the trial efficient and just plain fun. The whole family made a big contribution, with Donna, Marge, and Darek Kivikko supplying and serving a beautiful lunch. There was plenty of great food for everybody, and the chicken pot pie set a new standard for deliciousness. Jennifer Rector chipped in with a variety of desserts for lunch and pastries for the morning. Kathleen Shorter also added a plate of brownies to the ample list of sweets.

Many thanks to Pat Brooks for the loan of his gallery wagon. Trey Rector and Andy Shorter took turns driving the tractor to pull the very attentive spectators. Steve Moore provided his side-by-side vehicle and Kirk Regensburg brought his four-wheeler for the handicapped handler designation.

Patrick Sheridan and Tyler Wolfe tirelessly and conscientiously planted birds, one of the most important tasks of the trial. The birds were excellent flyers, and their careful placement seemed to give every dog a fair and equal chance.

Last but certainly not least, big thanks go to stalwart sponsor Purina for providing their support and dog food coupons for the placements.

The Running

The Puppy stake started bright and early with cool temperatures. Kirk Regensburg and Trey Rector had the judging responsibilities. Steve Moore's young Setter female, "Jade," won first place. Her graceful, tail-cracking gait and flashy forward race made more than one spectator secretly wish to take her home. She was in a race by herself and a class by herself.

Jim Winnen and Pete Del Collo gave up their day to donate their expertise in evaluating the dogs in the Amateur Derby and the Amateur Shooting Dog. Always savvy and alert, they spent a long day watching what they characterized as an excellent field of competitors. Their judicial contribution was very much appreciated by all attendees.

Jenna Johnson piloted her French Brittany, "Tanzi," to second place in the Derby category. Tanzi had one find with derby broke manners and ran a big race characterized by sweeping forward casts with intelligent application to the birdy cover. Pointer female "Sugar" had one game contact to win first, under the guidance of capable young handler James Allred. Her snappy way of moving and classy bearing makes Sugar one of those dogs you can't take your eyes off.

The judges commented that they had many good performances to separate among the shooting dog participants. Shooting Dog honorable mentions go to "Louie," handled by Dennis Kivikko, and "Mugsy," handled by Jimmy Crandall.

Lee Flanders brought his tri-color male Setter, "Jack," into third place. Jack had

two finds and two backs and displayed his gorgeous trademark look in everything he did.

Verlene Stephenson's "Heart" had two finds and a strong forward race. The Pointer female took second place while demonstrating the class on game that makes her a threat every time she runs.

"Jake" had three finds and the forward, seeking race of a dog with his mind on birds. Near the end of his heat, the Pointer male disappeared over a small rise well out front. He was soon spotted on point at the far forward edge of the last field, a picture of frozen intensity. The spectators on the gallery wagon had a great view as handler Jimmy Crandall flushed and fired and then collared his flawless statue with 15 seconds left to close the book on a winning performance.

Buckingham, Va., February 24 – One Course

Judges: Trey Rector and Kirk Regensburg

AMATEUR PUPPY – 3 Setters

1st-WAYSIDE JADE, 1706544, female, by Blue Ridge Chance-She's A Jewel. Steven Moore, owner and handler.

Judges: Pete DelCollo and Jim Winnen

AMATEUR DERBY – 3 Pointers and 1 Brittany

1st-RED'S SNAKE EYED SUGAR, 1704659, pointer female, by Compton's Rail Sport-Knights White Dove. Ryan Allred, owner; Jamie Allred, handler.

2d-TANZI DE LA SOURCE HANNAHATCHEE, R323-040, Epagneul Breton female, by Newton De La Source D'Hannahatche-Barbadun Hada I. Jennifer Johnson, owner and handler.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 10 Pointers and 5 Setters

1st-JAKE THE JOKER, 1693052, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Legacy's Pride-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Mitch Forrester & Jim Crandall, owners; Jimmy Crandall, handler.

2d-RINGO'S SWEET HEART, 1668688, pointer female, by Southbound Ben-Shadow's Carolina Molly. Verlene Stephenson, owner and handler.

3d-CHIPPOKES CRACKER JACK, 1691321, setter male, by Skyview New Edition-Grid Iron's Sorrell's Penny. Lee Flanders, owner and handler.

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NBHA NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Southern Shadow's Bootlegger Named Champion; Brushville Burton Spencer, Runner-Up

By Greg Blair | Dancyville, Tennessee | February 28, 2024

The music has come to an end, and the final dance in Dancyville has been completed. This year's judges, Daniel Bolden and William Smith, named Southern Shadow's Bootlegger the 2024 NBHA National Open Champion! "Robert" is owned and handled by Klaus Schmidt and was scouted by Ike Todd. Joining him on the podium is Runner-up Champion Brushville Burton Spencer. "Spencer" is owned by Ken Millikin, was handled by Dale Creek Gundogs professional Tom Waite, and was scouted by Andrea Ward. The NBHA can't thank Bill Currie, Chris Mullen, Ike Todd, Dr. Gene Spiotta, Gene Spiotta, and the entire West Tennessee Field Trial Club for everything they've done for us each and every year!

Due to unforeseen family responsibilities, the chairperson/reporter for this event was unable to attend. The NBHA would like to thank Andrea, Tom, Ken, Mike, Sylvester, Zach, Andy, David, and everyone who stepped up to keep everything running smoothly. We are forever grateful. We apologize for the shortened report, but that does not take away from a historically great event and the crowning of two strong performances! This year's championship is again brought to you by our upstanding sponsors in Purina Pro Plan, Garmin, Gundog Central, Mule Brand Clothing, World Class Bird Dogs, Gundog Central, and OnX Hunt.

Dancyville, Tenn., February 28 – One Course

Judges: Daniel Bolden and William Smith

NBHA NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 26 Pointers, 10 Setters, 3 Irish Setters, 1 German Shorthair, and 1 Gordon Setter

Winner-SOUTHERN SHADOW'S BOOTLEGGER, 1700852, pointer male, by Lester's Prime Poison Lane-Southern Ritz Lane. Klaus Schmidt, owner and handler.
 Runner-Up-BRUSHVILLE BURTON SPENCER, 1668700, setter male, by Jetwood-Fireside Drama Queen. Ken Millikin, owner; Tom Waite, handler.



NBHA National Open Championship (l-r): Garry Malzone, Jillian Stuhr, Brian Petersen, William Smith (judge), Dr. Gene Spiotta, Daniel Bolden (judge), Ken Millikin (owner of runner-up), Tom Waite with Brushville Burton Spencer, Andrea Ward, Karl Forsberg, Don Knight, Chris Mullen with Southern Shadow's Bootlegger, Klaus Schmidt (owner of champion), Ike Todd, Marty Todd, Bill Currie, Julia Currie, and Mechelle Mullen.

Judges: Ike Todd and William Smith

NBHA OPEN DERBY

– 5 Pointers, 2 Setters, and 2 Irish Setters

1st-INDIAN CREEK PEARL JAM, 1703034, setter male, by Indian Creek Wingman-Erin's Deja Vu. Jillian Stuhr & Garry Malzone, owners; Garry Malzone, handler.

2d-BANDIT HILL BERSERKER, 1700699, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Bandit's Hill Lady. Klaus Schmidt, owner and handler.

3d-RAINTREE SIMPLY SINGULAR, 1700318, Irish Setter male, by Zansett Simply Red-Come Back Stellar. Cathy Lewis & Dean Reinke, owners; Tom Waite, handler.

NBHA OPEN PUPPY

– 8 Pointers, 6 Setters, and 2 Irish Setters

1st-CLEAR CHOICE, 1705151, setter male, by Daphne's Gage-Windy Hill Hidden Kelly. Buddy Smith, owner; Aaron Smith, handler.

2d-ROSE, unreg., pointer female, by Bonner's Hot Rize-Lester's Sundancer. Buddy Smith, owner; Aaron Smith, handler.

3d-SOUTHLANDS MILLIE GIRL, 1705373, pointer female, by Hillside Hey You-Annie's Rose's Halo. Karl Forsberg, owner and handler.

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MASTERS OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Waybetter Rebel Named Champion; Panther Creek Rosie, Runner-Up

By Steve Standley | Albany, Georgia | March 1, 2024



Masters Open Shooting Dog Championship (front, l-r): Waybetter Rebel with Mike and Casey Tracy and Muriel and Bill Primm and Panther Creek Rosie with Jessie Graffam and Tommy Rice III, joined by Kevin Beane, Tommy Davis, Marty Adams, Tim Moore, Shon Powell, Steve Wiley, Buster Cobb, Steve Hutto, Jason Williams (judge), Ray Pearce, Tommy Rice Jr., Steve Standley (reporter), Justin Hunt, Greg Shepherd (judge), Ronnie Beane, and a curious spectator.

The 41st renewal of the Masters Open Shooting Dog Championship began on March 1. It is hosted by the Southern Field Trial Club across some of South Georgia's finest private wild quail hunting estates. Joe Davenport of Wildfair Plantation, the Mellon Family of Pineland Plantation, and Ted Turner of Nonami Plantation graciously allow this prestigious Championship to be contested on their property. Competing on these grounds offers a true test of a field trial bird dog. The wild bird population here is almost unimaginable for those who have not seen it firsthand.

First and foremost, the plantation owners are thanked. The managers, Kevin Beane of Wildfair, Aubrey Iler of Pineland, and Ray Pearce of Nonami, are like the grounds; they exemplify class. Our marshals were invaluable: on Wildfair, Kevin Beane, Ronnie Beane, and Robbie McCue; on Pineland, Marcus Cornwell, and Ed Chance; and on Nonami, Ray Pearce, and Cody McLean.

Jason Williams of Blakely, Georgia, and Greg Shepherd of Leesburg, Georgia, judged the Championship. Both men have competed on the circuit, are excellent dog and horse trainers, and are journeyman land managers. The Club and participants appreciate their time and expertise.

Southern Field Trial Club members Shon Powell, Tim Moore, Steve Wiley, Kevin Beane, and Ray Pearce rode every

day. These men represent the quality of this Championship, and their integrity reflects the best of the sport. The field trial community extends its thanks for the years of dedication to this special event.

The Club also enjoys the support of Flint Ag and Turf, Albany, Georgia, for the John Deere tractor to pull the dog wagon, as well as other contributions. Nestlé Purina and their representative, Greg Blair, have a large footprint in our sport, and their support is always valued.

Grace's Place and Catering of Leesburg, Georgia, provided hot, homemade lunches each day. Hannah Sholar Marchbanks and her husband Winn prepared and served these delicious meals each day. They also handled the club fish fry (mullet and catfish) on Friday evening. This was well attended and enjoyed.

Fifty-three dogs entered, and 53 came to the line for their opportunity to add this valued crown to their resume.



Judges Jason Williams and Greg Shepherd.

The Winners

The Championship performance occurred in the 13th brace, which began on Sunday morning. It was foggy, 60 degrees, and overcast. We started at 8:17 a.m., and Chelsae's Mae West (Kinkelaar) was under her birds at 2 and put on the rope. This left the stage for Waybetter Rebel (Mike Tracy) to perform alone. Bill and Muriel Primm own Rebel with their friend Allen Linder. The Primms were mounted in the field. Muriel later advised that she and Bill had Rebel in their home as a small puppy.

Rebel scored at 7 with classic style. At 20, Rebel was off a farm road with a beautiful find in the cover. A large, strung-out covey was put to wing by Tracy. At 40, we rode around the south end of Wolf Pond. Mike rode deep to maintain contact with his dog. From this work, Rebel produced an excellent connection again. Shortly after this, Rebel showed well, offered extended casts through the Adams Block, and again had an attractive contact at range. The black and white Pointer male remained staunch for the work. We rode up another bevy on our way to him.

We saw Rebel on a forward cast at 45, and his efforts were rewarded with another excellent stand. Next, at 54, on a pine line next to a weedy strip along a fallow field, the black Pointer was discovered once Mike topped the hill. The birds were well located and well handled by the Primm/Linder Pointer. Rebel appeared fresh and classy and finished his six-find hour ahead in good form. This was the Masters Championship performance the Tracy team has pursued for several years and was well-earned.

The runner-up laurels went to Panther Creek Rosie (Tommy Rice III) for owner Frank Rutland. Miller's Extreme Heat (Tracy) and Panther Creek Rosie began the third hour brace on Wildfair. Owner Joe McCarl was in the saddle to see Heat swing along the firebreak at the Colquitt Ford edge. She established a picturesque stand there facing into the cover. She was well-composed and stylish for the work.

Rosie pointed at 19. She seemed to glow in the setting. Her find was to the front and good. At 33, as the course turns left, Rice called point. She was posed some 125 yards up an incline with complete composure as Tommy went to her and put the birds to wing. She is long-framed, and

her build reminds you of a male dog. She travels in a merry fashion, her tail cracking with each stride. When you see her afield, the word that comes to mind is classy.

At 36, Tracy called point for Heat, and this was a good connection. Shortly after, Rosie stood near a farm road, and Rice flushed a single bird for her. We continued, and Heat stood in some hardwood bramble as Mike completed the work. Mike was unable to finish his dog in this brace.

By this point, Rosie's effort had been great, but she worried us as she was absent in the waning minutes. Thankfully, within

time, she came in to complete her exciting brace.

Albany, Ga., March 1

Judges: Greg Shepherd and Jason Williams

**MASTERS OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**

– 49 Pointers and 5 Setters

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

Runner-Up-PANTHER CREEK ROSIE, 1691574, pointer female, by Panther Creek Merlin-Pineywood's Belle Aire. Frank Rutland, owner; Tommy Rice III, handler.

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DEAN RAYMOND CRABBS

March 8, 1942–March 15, 2024

Dean Raymond Crabbs, 82, passed away peacefully with his family by his side Friday evening, March 15, 2024, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

He was born March 8, 1942, in Warren, the son of the late Thurman D. Crabbs and Regina M. Crabbs Hermann.

He was a 1960 graduate of Braceville High School and a graduate of the University of Michigan with a degree in Forestry. After college, Dean joined the U. S. Air Force, attaining the rank of Captain. He spent his career as a law enforcement officer with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He then worked at the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska as the SAC, running the law enforcement for the state, retiring in 1995.

Dean pursued a dream to navigate his own boat down the inside passage of Alaska and did so for several summers



with many friends. Dean grew roots in Vale, Oregon, where he found a new love for hunting upland birds, which led him into the pointing dog world.

He married Diane Goracke on July 7, 2007, and they shared 17 years of marriage together. During their journey together, they joined the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Idaho and began trialing their dog, Jake. Jake went on to win many awards, but his most coveted was runner-up in the National Shooting Dog Championship

in Booneville, Arkansas. The NGSPA became a huge part of both Dean's and Diane's lives, and they made many lifelong friends. Dean ran the NGSPA National for nine years solo before a committee was created. He served on the board of directors for over seven years. He was honored in 2023 when he was inducted into the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

Dean is survived by his wife, Diane; one son, Scott; and one brother, Albert (Terri) Crabbs. He also leaves behind his beloved German Shorthaired Pointers, BJ, Buster, and Dusty, who will continue to keep the couch warm for him.

Condolences may be sent to the family at P.O. Box 3016, Alpine, WY 83128.

Memorial donations may be made, in Dean's name, to Bird Dog Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 774, Grand Junction, TN 38039.

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DOGS DON'T KNOW HEAT CAN HURT

EXERCISE-INDUCED HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS

:When a dog's activity causes his body to generate more heat than he can dissipate.

Heat Related Illness (HRI) in sporting dogs is serious and can result in significant injury, if not death. It occurs when a dog's core body temperature increases faster than he can dissipate the buildup of heat. While HRI can impact any dog in a hot, confined space with inadequate ventilation and cooling, exercise-induced HRI is more prevalent.¹ Running in the summer can cause a dog to produce a lot of internal heat that is difficult to release when it's hot and humid. While a dog's normal core body temperature ranges between 99.5-102.5°F,²

he can experience difficulties when it exceeds 104°F. A temperature greater than 106°F may cause brain damage.³

Most of a dog's internal heat is dissipated through the skin. Some heat is released by perspiration through his paw pads and nose. Additional heat dissipates through panting. But when the air temperature meets or exceeds a dog's core body temperature, his natural methods of cooling become less effective. When he's unable to effectively dissipate the heat, the progressive stages of HRI may appear.

KEYS TO KEEPING COOL



HYDRATE

Increase water intake
3-5 days before
outdoor activity



CONDITION

Get active before
sudden heat
exposure



ACCLIMATE

Start slow and
break to cool
down frequently

KNOW THE SIGNS OF HRI



**STAGE 1
HEAT STRESS**

- Increased thirst
- Excessive panting
- Widened or flat tongue
- Cheeks pulled back, revealing molars
- Pasty saliva
- Slower, unfocused, or apprehensive

ACTIONS TO TAKE

- Take a break. Rest your dog in a shady area with a cool breeze and rehydrate him with lots of water.
- Rinse out his mouth with fresh water to remove any pasty saliva from his gums and tongue.
- Apply cool water to his paw pads and underbelly to help reduce his core body temperature.
- Check his temperature. If elevated, apply rubbing alcohol-soaked pads to the pinnae of the ears, armpits and groin area to help cool surface blood.
- Wait until your dog is fully recovered before continuing with additional exercise.
- Consult your vet for additional instruction.



**STAGE 2
HEAT EXHAUSTION**

- Weakness or stumbling
- Sunken, dry eyes
- Dry mouth, gums or nose
- Vomit or diarrhea
- Muscle tremors
- Uncontrollable panting

ACTIONS TO TAKE

- Rinse out your dog's mouth with fresh water to remove any pasty saliva from his gums and tongue.
- Place a cool, wet towel on the bottom of his kennel.
- Be sure his crate is large enough for him to lie on his side. The ability to stretch out helps him maximize heat dissipation.
- If you have a fan on the crate door, turn it on.
- Apply cool water to his paw pads and underbelly.
- Apply rubbing alcohol-soaked pads to the pinnae of the ears, armpits and groin area.
- Get to the nearest vet ASAP.



**STAGE 3
HEAT STROKE**

- Unresponsive or confused
- Dark urine or lack of urine
- Seizures
- Collapse
- Coma
- Lack of coordination

ACTIONS TO TAKE

- Get your dog to the nearest vet ASAP.
- Take actions from Stage 2 to maximize your dog's ability to dissipate heat en route to the nearest vet.



74%⁴
of HRI incidents were exercise induced



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¹ <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/10/8/1324>

² <https://www.akcchf.org/canine-health/sporting-field-dogs/hyperthermia-in-dogs-fast.html>

³ UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. 2020 May 26. Heat-related illness in dogs. <https://healthtopics.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/health-topics/heat-stroke-dogs#:~:text=Risk%20factors%20for%20heat%20stroke,result%20in%20increased%20heat%20gain>

⁴ Hall, E et al. Animals 2020 July; 10(8): 1324

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U. S. COMPLETE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Erin's Battle Cry Wins 2024 Running

By David Huffine | Hoffman, North Carolina | March 1, 2024



U. S. Complete Southeast Regional Championship (front, l-r): Mark Hughes (scout) with Erin's Battle Cry and David Huffine with Sweet Grass Slim. (Behind): Tony Bingham (handler), John Outlaw (judge), Avery West, Cliff Monroe, Bob Youngs (judge), Gretchen Adsit, Barb Hughes, Jamie Leitch, and John Adsit.

Erin's Battle Cry, a 7-year-old white and liver Pointer male, bested a 38-dog field to win the Southeast Regional Championship of the U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association held March 1 at the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds in Hoffman, North Carolina. The 2024 champion is out of Erin's Redrum and Three Stripe's Jewel. Tony Bingham, veteran pro from Shelby, North Carolina, masterfully handled the champion for owners Dennis and Hope Beauford, Charles Timmerman, and Richard Cooke, showing his handling skill and knowledge of the Hoffman grounds. This was a repeat Championship for Tony, who had also handled the 2023 champion, Smoke Rise Jake.

Runner-up went to Sweet Grass Slim, a 5-year-old Setter male, owned and handled by David Huffine. Slim is a veteran of the grounds, having won the U. S. Complete National Championship at Hoffman two years prior. Slim is out of Sterlingworth Jack and Sandland Miracle Maggie.

The Championship took place on the famed Hoffman Field Trial Grounds, which has six continuous courses carved out of longleaf pine and wiregrass in the 63,000-acre Sandhills Gamelands. Trials at Hoffman began in 1954. They were primarily horseback trials until a few years ago when U. S. Complete began holding its National Championship and this Regional

Championship on the grounds. The facilities are wonderful with a comfortable clubhouse for lunches and dinners. A multitude of kennels are available for the comfort of traveling dogs over the week, and a barn and numerous corrals are on-site for horses.

In this reporter's opinion, Hoffman is the best test of a dog and walking handler in North Carolina. The handler and dog must be fit to handle the sugar sand and changing elevations of the North Carolina sandhills, and the dogs must be adept bird-finders as there are no daily releases.

The bird populations at Hoffman were quite good this year. Additional early releases prior to the October All-Age Championships and timely supplemental releases significantly enhanced the bird work for this trial. We commend the North Carolina Field Trial Association for its efforts.

The Judges

The Championship was fortunate to have two experienced and capable judges. John Outlaw returned from paternity leave to fill one of the judging saddles. For many years, John judged no less than six trials a year, many of them All-Age or Shooting Dog Championships. Bob Youngs, now of Hoffman, filled the other saddle. Bob has years of experience training, showing, scouting, and judging bird dogs. He has

an excellent eye and a wonderful judicial demeanor.

Champions' Summary

The champion ran in the eighth brace on Hoffman's Course 4. His bracemate was Tenacee Rowdy, a handsome Pointer male handled by Greg Isenberg. Rowdy was initially perturbed by the soldiers' holding maneuvers on the grounds, but his race and confidence strengthened throughout his brace. He had an unproductive at 36, followed by a very strong finish. The champion, callname "Wink," had a stylish and searing race, showing as appropriate. He had a clean find at 42 that secured his birdwork necessary for the Championship. Mark Hughes scouted Wink.

The runner-up champion was braced with Smoke Rise Hanna, a Pointer female handled by Bingham. Both dogs broke away extremely well. Hanna disappeared before the road crossing on Course 4. Tony was pretty sure that he had left her on point. The tracker at 18 confirmed that she was shortly behind the gallery and, indeed, on point. Slim continued at the road crossing and into the long field. He had a nice find on the right side of the long field at 20, producing a nice covey of birds. His second find was after the bunker at the second road crossing, producing a single bird. An unproductive at 40 marred his performance but he finished his hour. Mark Hughes scouted Slim also.

Hoffman, N. C., March 1

Judges: John Outlaw and Bob Youngs

U. S. COMPLETE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

- 30 Pointers and 8 Setters

Winner-ERIN'S BATTLE CRY, 1675085, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Three Stripe's Jewel. Dennis & Hope Beauford, owners; Tony Bingham, handler.

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

Paul Walker Open Derby Classic

Nine derbies faced off in the Paul Walker Derby Classic. Smoke Rise Doc (PM/Bingham) was clearly the class of the Derby stake with two finds. He looked great on his birds and on the ground. Second place went to Sweet Grass Scout (ESF/Huffine), who had a nice find and a solid derby race. Third place was awarded to Millers Dusty Version (PF/Hughes). She produced no birdwork but had exceptional style and ground application.

PAUL WALKER OPEN DERBY CLASSIC
– 6 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-SMOKE RISE DOC, 1705372, pointer male, by Quickmarksman's Excalibur-Hirollins Fancy Lady. P. F. Rose, owner; Tony Bingham, handler.
2d-SWEET GRASS SCOUT, 1700663, setter female, by Shag Time Bobo-Black Cloud's Angel. David Huffine, owner and handler.
3d-MILLERS DUSTY VERSION, 1706290, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Mike Husenits, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.



Paul Walker Open Derby Classic (front, l-r): Roger Nole with Smoke Rise Doc, Avery West with Sweet Grass Scout, and Mark Hughes with Miller's Dusty Version. (Behind): Tony Bingham, John Outlaw, David Huffine, Bob Youngs, and Bill Britt.

Afterword

The U. S. Complete contingent at Hoffman has established a wonderful team that has worked together to facilitate two championships at the venue in 2024. Tony Bingham is responsible for ground operations, which may include recruiting judges, securing "loaner" horses, buying groceries, and consulting with the trial chairman on "in trial" matters. Margaret Drew shepherds all of us, reminding us of what must be done and what should be done and covering for us when we don't do it exactly right. For several years, our missing "piece" was the hospitality. Gretchen and John Adsit have filled that void, working tirelessly to see that

lunches are available in the clubhouse and stretching dinner leftovers to help greatly with our tight budgets. Gretchen recruits Hoffman friends to assist, and their help is essential.

Greg Roberson drives the dog/gallery wagon and is an absolute delight. He is reliable and timely, but he is also engaged in the trials, following each dog and handler attentively.

We give special thanks to Fred Rose, owner of last year's champion, who

sponsored the handlers' dinner. The food was delicious, but the dining experience was enhanced by the stories, ribbing, and laughter among old friends and competitors. Fred has had some health issues, and it was great to see his charming smile at the event.

The Cape Fear Field Trial Club thanks the Wildlife Resources Commission and the North Carolina Field Trial Association for making this trial possible. Hoffman has 52 horse stalls, corrals, and numerous kennels, all with running water which makes a multi-day trial easy on the organizers and the competitors.

The Club also thanks Purina for its sponsorship of the Championship. Our trial and many others would not occur without the support of Greg Blair and Purina.

We also offer our condolences to Cliff Monroe, who lost his wonderful young dog Twiggly in a trial-related accident several weeks after this Championship. Twiggly was a delight to watch with her class, range, and animation. We will miss her, and we share in Cliff's loss.

MASTERS QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP

Erin's Perfect Storm Wins 55th Running; Touch's Breakaway Fred Named Runner-Up

By Andrew Campbell | Albany, Georgia | March 6, 2024

The 55th running of the Masters Quail Championship was held between March 6-8 on the south side of Albany on the legendary properties of Blue Springs Plantation and Nonami Plantation. From a field of 29 starters, 27 Pointers and two Setters, the experienced judges, Steve Hurdle of Hickory Flat, Mississippi, and Gary McKibben of Hernando, Mississippi, awarded the Norman J. Ellis Memorial Trophy to Erin's Perfect Storm, owned by Brad Woodie, and handled by Luke Eisenhart, with Touch's Breakaway Fred, owned by Becky and Gary Futch, and Karen and Bruce Norton, and handled by Mark McLean, as runner-up. With retirements, deaths, and illness, the trial entry numbers were the lowest in a long time.

While the trial is largely run on the same grounds as it was at its inception, this year embodied a first for two reasons. It would be the first time the Masters Quail Championship had been recognized as a one-time qualifier for the National Championship at Ames Plantation, and it would be the first time for Luke Eisenhart to claim the overall win at this event. (He had taken runner-up twice in 2020 and



Masters Quail Championship (front, l-r): Judd Carlton with Erin's Perfect Storm and Cody McLean with Touch's Breakaway Fred, joined by participants.

2023, both to Jamie Daniels handling Miller's Blindsider.)

The Southern Field Trial Club is deeply indebted to Mr. Witt Stephens of Blue Springs and Mr. Ted Turner of Nonami for their permission to use these remarkable properties and to their respective

managers, Marty Adams and Ray Pearce, for their studious stewardship. The Club is also deeply grateful to Flint Equipment for the loan of the tractor to pull the gallery wagon and for Buster Cobb's able chauffership. Thanks, too, to Steve Wiley and Insurance Market for sponsoring the delicious lunches catered by Grace's Place

& Catering of Leesburg, Georgia. Last but not least, a heartfelt thanks also goes to Nestlé Purina for their ongoing support of this event.

The Winners

Erin's Perfect Storm had run alone in the 15th and final brace on Friday morning. With the previous brace ending prematurely, he would be turned loose at the western edge of the Carey House Field, the brick chimney the sole sentinel reminder of the homestead that had been there. Punching out to the north, he would take the edge of the first cover crop field and then disappear into the woody median where he would be found standing at 0:03, some 125 yards north of the prominent live oak whose arches frame the main trail. Perhaps only a single would be successfully produced out of the morass of downed tree limbs ahead of the dog, but in either event, all was in order as he was taken back to the front across the Booger Field. But he would stop in its southwest corner at 0:05, looking into the boundary of young volunteer pines, a covey successfully prompted out of the broomsedge. He would stop once more at 0:13 on the slight rise to the north above the eastbound turn in the trail at the culmination of the Allison Swamp, the same location that Erin's High Note had pointed in the second brace, the birds loyal to the location.

At this point, Perfect Storm would be sent out to the east even with the course's impending turn to the north, the handler comforted knowing that the dog would still be hemmed in to some degree by the Flint River several hundred yards out, a tactic of the first order. Eisenhart would continue to sing confidently to his dog as the course turned north for another thousand yards as it passed Cat Pond. With the course scheduled to turn northwest, Eisenhart would range ahead and then, apparently hearing the trace of a call from his scout at 0:28, raise his hat and immediately begin to canter across the freshly turned crop field to the right. Nevertheless, when the handler and judging party arrived at the seeming location, there was neither dog nor scout to be seen or heard. At which point, Eisenhart began a sweeping arc out to the north to reconnect with his dog. Good fortune and skill combined, as Eisenhart called point at 0:31, now some 600 yards to the north-northwest, Perfect Storm pointed on a woody corner barely 150 yards south of the prominent power lines that run west from the Mitchell Power Plant across the river. (He may even have crossed the boundary

line into Nonami!) The birds, one more, were exactly ahead of the stylish dog.

Needing to rejoin the actual course after such a spectacular find, the party would head south-southwest to the branch of piney woods that casts westbound towards the big rotator field. Sent down through the woods to the southwest, he would nonetheless be spied, standing at 0:43 some 15 yards out in the field to the southwest, turned back and looking head high into the bushy oak scrub on the field's edge. The birds would rise ahead of him as the judging party rode up, his manners impeccable. Taken across the rotator field and then sent out into the patchwork of fields to the south and west, he would be found standing at 0:51 directly to the front on the southwest corner of the cover crop field now set up as a five-stand clay target range. He would continue to power through the woods towards the dogleg in the powerlines some three-quarters of a mile ahead, invisible at the call of time, but readily returned well within the grace period. Perfect Storm had nonetheless demonstrated his profound sense of the front and his confidence in pursuing it; his six finds far from limiting his race but helping to mark the limits of it and affirming his commitment as a bird dog.

Touch's Breakaway Fred would run in the 12th brace on the third afternoon course over on Nonami braced with Dominator's Wild Bill, his owners Nick Berrong and Jack and Sarah Schwarz riding in the gallery and handled by Jamie Daniels. Turned loose southwards from the red dirt road, the course immediately arcing east, the two dogs turning with their handlers, Fred already showing his desire to swing wide ahead of his handler. He would be found deep out to the southeast at 0:06 in the shade of a gently arcing live oak, the initial flush producing nothing but the relocation, getting the covey pinned some 25 yards further downwind. Coming back to the front, he would point another covey in an oakey thicket at 0:09, some 300 yards further east of his first find.

In the meantime, Wild Bill had come to a stop in the southeast corner of a cover crop field at 0:12, but sadly, the flushing effort would only prompt some deer into flight. The course would now arc back around to the east and then south towards the access roads to the Nonami stables and equipment shed, both dogs pushing out through the woods to the left. Some 600 yards south of the workshed, Fred would spin to a stop on a north-facing slope at 0:29, the birds rising ahead of the stylish dog as the handler

approached, their flight clearly seen by the judge. With the course following the main feed trail that heads south along the slope above the low valley of live oak trees, Wild Bill would pivot to a stop at 0:32 as the trail bends southeast around the head of the valley, his head looking over his shoulder, the birds behind him exactly as he indicated. Fred had pushed up across the slope out to the east in a bold, wide move, the scout then emphatically calling point at 0:34, and then as the judging party arrived, the flight of birds, although with only the scout seeing the birds leave the stylish dog, the handler would elect to take him on. He would swing across the front of the course and drop down towards the valley floor, coming to a stop at 0:39 under a live oak tree near its southerly terminus. He stopped looking upslope into the northeasterly breeze, the birds pinned directly ahead of him.

With the temperatures still close to 80 degrees, McLean would take his dog over to the water trough to cool him down. The course would then make its turn to the west, Wild Bill swinging wide through the piney glades now dappled in the late afternoon sunshine and coming to a stop out to the south at 0:45. Sadly, despite an extended relocation effort, this would prove fruitless ending his bid. In the meantime, Fred had pushed out directly ahead of his handler as the course undulated over the low, woody ridges immediately south of the open rotator fields. By the time the course approached the low bowl to the south, Fred had been gone for some time, and a sense of urgency had clearly taken over. With the call of time, McLean would make a deep swing out towards Hardup Road and the original afternoon breakaway, and, upon return, be advised he only had four minutes of time remaining to produce the dog. The dog only needed two before locating the gallery wagon by himself and bringing to a close the first performance to clearly stamp itself as an all-age performance.

The judges nevertheless also acknowledged the efforts of both Haney's Storm Warning (Eisenhart) and Erin's High Note (Carlton).

Albany, Ga., March 6

Judges: Steve Hurdle and Gary McKibben MASTERS QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 27 Pointers and 2 Setters

Winner-ERIN'S PERFECT STORM, 1692323, pointer male, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Erin's Bet On Me. Brad Woodie, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

Runner-Up-TOUCH'S BREAKAWAY FRED, 1680750, pointer male, by Touch's Mega Mike-Touch's American Baby. Bruce & Karen Norton, Gary & Becky Futch, owners; Mark McLean, handler.

GEORGIA-FLORIDA INVITATIONAL FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Annual Running Held At Osceola Plantation

By Amy Fuller | Thomasville, Georgia | March 8, 2024

The annual spring running of the Georgia Florida Invitational Field Trial Club was March 8-11 at Osceola Plantation, courtesy of the Williams and Parker families, Jason Loper, and Osceola Plantation staff. Located south of Thomasville, Georgia, Osceola is intensively managed for wild quail. The grounds are picturesque, with rolling hills to showcase a good-going dog with ample birds. It takes good club members and property owners to continue this trial, now in its 61st year of running. We are thankful for both!

During the running, many birds were pointed and seen. After a long season of being hunted, it definitely takes a little luck to have a winning dog. The judges this year were Greg Shepherd of Thomasville, Georgia, and Erik Small of Tallahassee, Florida. We were pleased to have two judges who are also trainers and hunt wild birds. These gentlemen knew what they were looking for, and their decisions were well received.

The winning dog was Nonami's Johnny Come Lately, handled by Ray Pearce and owned by R. E. Turner. Johnny and Ray are no strangers to the winners' circle, having won the Masters and the Southeastern Open Shooting Dog Championships in 2023. The winning dog was run in the fourth brace of the Open Shooting Dog trial on Friday morning. Johnny had four evenly spaced finds with a strong forward race and was ridden for at time.

Placing second was Nonami's Smokin Joe, handled by Cody McLean and owned by R. E. Turner. Joe ran a good forward race, showing well to the front when needed, coupled with two good finds and a strong finish. Joe is a derby, having won



Open Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Ray Pearce with Nonami's Johnny Come Lately, Cody McLean with Nonami's Smokin Joe, and Thomas Rice III with Cheap Thrill, joined by Erik Small (judge), Greg Shepherd (judge), and participants.

the fall Derby stake of this trial along with several derby placements this season. It's safe to say this dog has the markings of a good future.

Third place went to Cheap Thrill, handled and owned by Tommy Rice III. "Reba" ran a very smooth shooting dog race with two finds. She is a classy young dog who took second place at the Carolina Celebration only two days before.

The Derby stake was judged by Reid Hankley of Tallahassee, Florida, and Keith Wright of Covington, Indiana. We are thankful to have two judges who have trained and handled winning dogs. They knew what to look for and had several dogs to consider, with some good performances seen.

The winning derby this year was Mayhaw's Georgia Time, handled by Trey Mills and owned by Mayhaw Plantation. Georgia had a strong forward and showy race with two finds, with the second find observed are time far to the front.

Second place was Minnesota Red Confidence, handled by Tomas Rice III and owned by Rylee Ann Wood. He ran

a strong forward race coupled with two finds, with the second find coming after the time being found far to the front.

Third was T S Standing Rock, handled and owned by Lee Phillips. Rock ran a classy forward race with two finds.

Thomasville, Ga., March 8

Judges: Greg Shepherd and Erik Small
OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 32 Pointers

1st-NONAMI'S JOHNNY COME LATELY, 1694190, male, by Ransom-Pinewood's Jenny Bell. R. E. Turner, owner; Ray Pearce, handler.

2d-NONAMI'S SMOKIN JOE, 1703258, male, by Touch's Malcolm Story-Beane's Sky Liner. R. E. Turner, owner; Cody McLean, handler.

3d-CHEAP THRILL, 1699020, female, by Just Thrillin-Charitable Deed. Thomas Rice III, owner and handler.

Judges: Reid Hankley and Keith Wright
OPEN DERBY – 17 Pointers

1st-MAYHAW'S GEORGIA TIME, 1706479, female, by Mayhaw's Cowboy Magic-Mayhaw's Queen Flush. Mayhaw Plantation, owner; Trey Mills, handler.

2d-MINNESOTA RED CONFERENCE, 1702232, male, by True Confidence-Red Sunshine. Rylee Ann Wood, owner; Tommy Rice III, handler.

3d-T S STANDING ROCK, 1704655, male, by Touch's Mega Mike-T S Dial Again. Lee Phillips, owner and handler.

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U. S. COMPLETE AMATEUR INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Super Storm Named Champion; Chippokes Cracker Jack, Runner-Up

By Thor Kain | Felton, Delaware | March 8, 2024

March 8-9 brought the top amateur dogs on the U. S. Complete circuit to Felton, Delaware, for the Amateur Invitational Championship. The Norman G. Wilder Recreation Area is maintained by the State of Delaware and has a long history of being used for field trials and other bird dog events.

The dogs invited to this year's renewal were Chippokes Cracker Jack (Flanders), Chippokes Fancy Lady (Flanders), Henry's Susieq Dot (Theroux), Double Deuce Zeke (McMillen), Caliber Peak Hundredth Meridian (Gomes), No Limit (Kain), Super Storm (Kain), Lightning Flash Remington (Dix), Jake The Joker (Crandall), Twiggy (Monroe), Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella (Festa), and Ledge Hill Chippewa (Levesque).

Bart Hasting from Seaford, Delaware, and Chad Wheeler from Riner, Virginia, judged this event. To say Bart has been around bird dogs, competed with them, and judged them for a while would be an understatement. He's judged from the Deep South to the West and everywhere in between. Chad Wheeler is another experienced judge who's sat in the judicial seat all up and down the East Coast and as far west as Wisconsin.

The course for Day One was challenging due to heavy coastal flooding in the region. Some rerouting was required which brought more turns in the course than normal. All the dogs on Day One navigated the course without issue despite the challenge from Mother Nature. The judges commented on the following dogs as putting down solid performances on Day One: Double Deuce Zeke with a forward race and three-find performance, and Lightning Flash Remington had a solid race, breathtaking pointing style,



Super Storm
U. S. Complete Amateur Invitational Champion

and two-find performance; Chippokes Cracker Jack with a hard-charging ground effort and three solid finds; Blue Ribbon Harper Bella with a solid ground race and a beautiful find that required a relocation; and Super Storm with a fancy forward race and three far-reaching finds. It should be noted that all the dogs finished clean the



Chippokes Cracker Jack
U. S. Complete Amateur Invitational Runner-up

first day, and as this championship is a two-day performance, it does not mean that the other dogs were out of the mix after Day One. The above-listed dogs were just the standouts on day one.

Day Two brought cloudy skies and cool temps. Super Storm, handled by this reporter, was in the first brace and put down a big going ground race with five pretty finds, several of which he found way to the front. He finished strong, going out the front. Chippokes Cracker Jack followed Super Storm's performance with a memorable one of his own. He remained in the pocket for most of the hour, requiring little handling, and he also stood five times as pretty as a dog could be. These performances earned Super Storm the title of champion and Chippokes Cracker Jack runner-up honors.

On behalf of the U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association, I would like to thank Bart Hastings and Chad Wheeler for their time in the saddle. The State of Delaware for allowing use of the grounds and facilities. Garmin for providing products to the winners. Last but not least, a big thank you to Greg Blair and Purina. Their continued support of dog food and other sponsorship opportunities to not only U. S. Complete but also the sport of field trialing is appreciated.

Felton, Del., March 8

Judges: Bart Hastings and Chad Wheeler

U. S. COMPLETE AMATEUR INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

- 6 Pointers and 6 Setters

Winner-SUPER STORM, 1675530, setter male, by Pennstar-Straight Forward. Thor Kain, owner and handler. Runner-Up-CHIPPOKES CRACKER JACK, 1691321, setter male, by Skyview New Edition-Grid Iron's Sorrell's Penny. Lee Flanders, owner and handler.

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WEST KENTUCKY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Super Storm Named Champion; Chippokes Cracker Jack, Runner-Up

By Mary Sue Schalk | Kevil, Kentucky | March 9, 2024



Open Shooting Dog (l-r): Dennis Sneed (judge), Grin'n Bear It with Eryn Pearson (owner/handler) and Mike Crouse (scout), Panther Creek Moonshine with Jordan Phillips (scout) and Patrick Siebels (handler), Crouse's Pond River Gus with Cora Clary (scout), and Vincent Major (judge).



Open Derby (l-r): Delenise Sneed, Dennis Sneed (judge), PHP Rebel Intimidator with Patrick Siebels (handler), Crouse's Comeback Kid with Mike Crouse (scout), World Class Migraine with Jordan Phillips (scout), and Eryn Pearson.



Amateur All-Age (l-r): Dennis Sneed (judge), Delenise Sneed, Eryn Pearson (owner/handler) with Grin'n Bear It, Mike Crouse (scout), and Patrick Siebels (judge).

On the weekend of March 9-10, the West Kentucky Field Trial Club hosted its annual spring horseback field trial at the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area in Kevil, Kentucky. Dennis Sneed from Benton, Illinois, filled the judicial saddle for the Amateur All-Age, Open Derby, and Open Shooting Dog stakes over two days. Due to a scheduling conflict, advertised judge Shane Duckworth was replaced by Patrick Siebels of Donalsonville, Georgia, Eryn Pearson of Princeville, Illinois, and Vincent Major of Providence, Kentucky. We appreciate all the judges' time in the saddle and the willingness of those available to fill in on short notice. All judges were attentive and gave competitors their full attention during each stake. Special thanks to Alan Benson, who drove the dog wagon for the weekend.

The Amateur All-Age stake, judged by Dennis Sneed and Patrick Siebels, kicked off the trial on Saturday morning, drawing six competitors. Grin'n Bear It, an English Setter male, bested the field by finishing his hour and showing his best manners for owner/handler Eryn Pearson. He ran the third hour, hunting earnestly and handling well.

The first brace of the stake paired Crouse's Pond River Gus, a Pointer male, with Crouse's Total Eclipse, a Pointer female. Gus was handled by Mary Sue Schalk, and Total Eclipse was handled by Mike Crouse. Total Eclipse was gone off the breakaway, while Gus made an earnest effort the first 40 minutes and even carded an unproductive at 25. Both trackers were called for before time was called the first hour.

The second brace again had the father/daughter team paired against one another, with Schalk handling Crouse's Woodrow F

Call, a Pointer male, and Crouse handling Crouse's Tennessee Game Kate, a Pointer female. Both found their wheels early, with Call visible and forward the first 25 minutes. Kate had a huge cast off the breakaway and was seen forward again at the Iron Gate, but unfortunately, that was the last time. Both dogs were out of pocket, and the trackers were called for again.

The winner of the Amateur All-Age stake was paired with Crouse's Illinois Maverick, handled by Mike Crouse. As mentioned earlier, Grin'n Bear It stayed the course for Eryn Pearson, while Maverick had other ideas and was gone off the breakaway.

Dennis Sneed and Eryn Pearson judged the six Pointers drawn for the Open Derby stake, which ran immediately after lunch. The first brace, PHP Rebel Intimidator, was handled by Patrick Siebels and is owned by PHP Kennels, with Crouse's Comeback Kid and owner/handler Mary Sue Schalk. The liver and white Pointer males were placed first and second, respectively. An enjoyable brace to watch, the two young dogs charged forward and hunted earnestly throughout their half hour. Rebel Intimidator handled well and finished strong to the front. Comeback Kid was strong and forward throughout, although not always as biddable as his bracemate, thus separating the two.

The second brace paired the Crouse/Schalk team against one another with two puppies. Schalk handled a black and white Pointer female, Crouse's Irish Trooper, with Crouse handling the orange and white Pointer male, Crouse's Buffalo Junction. Neither pup is quite a year old yet; however, the two were not shy in the horseback field trial event. Buffalo Junction had the bigger race, while Irish

Trooper hunted diligently during her brace. These two pups have some potential for sure!

The third brace produced the third-place dog in World Class Migraine, owned by Michael Marietta and handled by Patrick Siebels. The lemon and white Pointer male was braced with liver and white Pointer male, Crouse's Illinois Maverick handled by owner Mike Crouse. Illinois Maverick had a strong ground race, disappearing to the front off the breakaway and, unfortunately, did not show again until 20 minutes into the brace, thus eliminating him from contention. World Class Migraine hunted earnestly during his half-hour, making some honest casts to the front for Siebels. The effort was a respectable third-place performance.

The Open Shooting stake drew 16 dogs and was able to begin on Saturday. Dennis Sneed and Vincent Major took the judicial saddles for the event. (Unfortunately, this reporter had to return home due to a family illness during the event and can only report the results). Emerging as the winner of the field was again Grin'n Bear It for owner/handler Eryn Pearson; second place was earned by Panther Creek Moonshine, owned by Frank Rutland and handled by Patrick Siebels, and rounding out the field was Crouse's Pond River Gus, owned and handled by Mike Crouse.

This event wrapped up the season for the Ohio Valley Field Trial Circuit. The Circuit wishes to thank the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area and Tim Krehr, area manager, for all their hard work in developing the area and allowing us to utilize it for horseback field trials. We also would like to extend our gratitude to all the participants and volunteers throughout the season. We certainly could not have any

events without everyone's help.

Kevil, Ky., March 9

Judges: Patrick Siebels and Dennis Sneed

AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]

– 5 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-GRIN'N BEAR IT, 1673739, setter male, by Skydancer Flash Drive-Skydancer Penzey Spur. Eryn & Colleen Pearson, owners; Eryn Pearson, handler.

Judges: Eryn Pearson and Dennis Sneed

OPEN DERBY – 6 Pointers

1st-PHP REBEL INTIMIDATOR, 1705135, male, by Raymond's Double Rebel Tex-Raymond's Annie. PHP Kennels, owner; Patrick Siebels, handler.

2d-CROUSE'S COMEBACK KID, 1701214, male, by Crouse's Heart of Dixon-Crouse's Skiptomylu. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Mary Sue Schalk, handler.

3d-WORLD CLASS MIGRAINE, 1705992, male, by Dunn's Tried'n True-Yale's Sunny Hill Dot. Michael Marietta, owner; Patrick Siebels, handler.

Judges: Vincent Major and Dennis Sneed

OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]

– 14 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-GRIN'N BEAR IT, 1673739, setter male, by Skydancer Flash Drive-Skydancer Penzey Spur. Eryn & Colleen Pearson, owners; Eryn Pearson, handler.

2d-PANTHER CREEK MOONSHINE, 1697108, pointer male, by Miller's Speed Dial-World Class Makin Bank. Frank Rutland, owner; Patrick Siebels, handler.

3d-CROUSE'S POND RIVER GUS, 1680453, pointer male, by Lester's Sunny Hill Jo-Crouse's Pine Landy. M. D. Course & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; M. D. Crouse, handler.

CENTRAL PRAIRIE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring NBHA Trial

By Rick Stanford | Orchardville, Illinois | March 10, 2024

The Derby entries were down, but the quality was not. First place went to Steven Fuess, handling Trigg, a Pointer male. Trigg had several broke finds and a back for his brace. Trigg ran a far-reaching race and stayed in contact with his handler. Rob Warner's Setter male, Jack, finished second with five finds and a back for his brace. Jack sure was a strong bird-finder in this brace.

Amateur Gun Dog

We had nine dogs enter this stake. There were lots of birds on the course for this stake, giving each entry an opportunity to find and point birds. Sadie, a female Pointer, was selected for first place. Craig Hiatt calls her "Tripod," as she only has three legs. Sadie lost a rear leg when she was very young. She does not let the loss of a leg to slow her down. Sadie had multiple finds with the majority being broke finds. Second place went to "Diamond," a German Shorthair female handled by John Landolina. Diamond is a bird-finding machine. Third went to David Cates's Setter male, "Scout," with a forward race and pointing several birds.

Amateur Puppy

The judges for this Puppy stake were

very impressed by the quality of the eight entries that came to the line. Don Heisner won the Puppy stake with "Abby," a Setter female sired by Don's "Buck" dog, so that line looks like it will continue. Second place went to "Queenie," a Pointer female who ran a big race and handled for Travis Patterson. Third place went to a dog that came from North Carolina to compete. "Spot" is a Setter male owned and handled by Worth Lewis.

The Central Prairie Field Trial Club would like to recognize our sponsors Purina Pro Plan, Garmin, onX Hunt, Mule Brand Gear, and Gun Dog Central. These sponsors are a big part of holding a field trial. We would also like again to thank the Ellis Family for use of their farm. Thanks to all the owners and entries.

Orchardville, Ill., March 10

Judges: Georgie Casey and Dan Crunk

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 16 Entries

1st-CRAIG'S RUNIN ROXIE, 1665573, pointer female, by Mac's Silver Dollar-Hilo Southern Tea. Craig Hiatt, owner and handler.

2d-GLOVER'S FLINTSTONE, 1691597, setter male, by Islander-Kodiak Island Bird Dog. Jack Glover, owner and handler.

3d-BEAUCOUP CREEK BUCK, 1666952, setter male, by Shadow Oak Bo-Beaucoup Creek Ellie. Donald R. Heisner, owner and handler.

NBHA AMATEUR DERBY – 3 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-ELM HILLS TO THE TRIGGER, 1701516, pointer male, by Redhawk's Clyde-Rolling Hill's Alice. Steven Fuess, owner and handler.

2d-WARNER'S UTAH JACK, 1701466, setter male, by T's American Gunfighter-T's Whistling Dixie. Robert Warner III, owner and handler.

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 9 Entries

1st-CRAIG'S SASSIE SADIE, 1690033, pointer female, by Greypointe Izquierda-You Never Can Tell. Craig Hiatt, owner and handler.

2d-NO LIMIT'S WILDFIRES WILDCARD, 1705637, German Shorthair male, by P J Wildfire's Little Bud-P J Wildfire's Little Angel. John Landolina, owner and handler.

3d-DAVE'S MISS SCOUT, 1698467, setter female, by Toby Rock Gaffney-Swift Rock Paint. David Cates, owner and handler.

Judges: Frank Christie and Dedan Wheat

NBHA AMATEUR PUPPY – 4 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-BEAUCOUP CREEK ABBY, 1704369, setter female, by Beaucoup Creek Buck-Glover's Pepper Shaker. Donald R. Heisner, owner and handler.

2d-HUBER'S ICE QUEEN, 1705274, pointer female, by Lester's Shockwave-Bonner's Carolina Belle. Aaron T. Patterson Jr., owner and handler.

3d-SPOT, unreg., setter male, breeding not given. Worth Lewis, owner and handler.

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MIDWEST OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Upfront's Southern Star Named Champion; Game Sport, Runner-Up

By David Taylor | Elk City, Kansas | March 12, 2024

The 37th running of the Midwest Open Shooting Dog Championship and accompanying Derby stake was concluded on March 17. The trial was contested over three one-hour courses on the Bill Westfall ranch near Elk City, Kansas. Sixteen juveniles were drawn for the Derby stake, and 39 shooting dogs competed in the Championship.

The Midwest Field Trial Club was privileged to have Dr. Stan Wint from Gardner, Kansas, and Dr. Robert Rankin from Edmond, Oklahoma, to judge this trial. These two gentlemen are nationally known. Each has contributed to field trials as judges and club members, competed with their own dogs, and patronized professional handlers. Their decisions were well received.

After the running, trial chairman Garvin Collins thanked everyone and announced the winners. Upfront's Southern Star was named champion, and Game Sport was runner-up. Upfront's Southern Star ran a fast animated race going to every objective. She had three well-spaced finds during an exciting hour. Her second find was on a wild covey not seen again during the trial. Star's location, style, and manners were impeccable on each of her finds. With a Midwest Championship early in her career and a championship in 2022, runner-up in 2023, and champion in 2024, Star has become the queen of this championship. Star is owned by Lance Schulz from Bismark, North Dakota, was handled by Shawn Kinkelaar, and was scouted by Virgil Moore. Game Sport, an orange and white Pointer male, owned by Bart Hicklin of Grimes, Iowa, and handled by Harold Gearhart, was named runner-up. Sport, running on the second course, reached the top of the high hill to the plateau area. Sport ran a strong, well-applied race. He had two finds that were well-located, and he demonstrated excellent manners. He remained stylish and intense for Gearhart to flush his birds. Sport, scouted by Chuck Stretz, was a worthy runner-up.

In addition to the champion and runner-up, 13 other dogs had birdwork and completed the hour. Luke Warm Whiskey, another Hicklin entry, had two wild covey finds. Twelve dogs had single finds. Listed in order of running, they were: High Flyer, Touch's Wild Finale, Brighter Days, Aim High Hadley, Lester's Another Shockwave, Touch's Shameless, Tug O'War, Thunder



Midwest Open Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Shawn Kinkelaar, Dr. Stan Wint (judge), Dr. Bob Rankin (judge), Virgil Moore with Upfront's Southern Star, Curtis Teare, Scott Hadley with Game Sport, Harold Gearhart, and Randy Wilson.

Bolt's Storm, High Demand, Resolution, Panther Creek Rosie, and Creative Lady. In some cases, a stronger or better-applied race plus additional birdwork could have allowed them to challenge for recognition.

The Kansas wind played a significant role in the outcome of the Derby stake. All three placed dogs ran with the wind at their backs. No birds were pointed; thus, the placements were based on race. Hale's Country Buzz placed first with a strong forward race. Buzz was handled by Eddy Taylor for owner Dr. Jeff Hale. The second and third-placed dogs ran in the second brace and dueled throughout the 30 minutes. Littermates Creative Lady and "L.P." ran fast-forward races, with Creative Lady having a slight edge in range and maturity. Lady is owned by Bob and Catherine Reynolds and was handled by Chuck Stretz. Shawn Kinkelaar handled L.P. for owners Nicole Lombardi and Doug Swingley.



Open Derby (l-r): Dr. Stan Wint (judge), Dr. Bob Rankin (judge), Virgil Moore with Hale's Country Buzz, Eddy Taylor (handler), Harold Gearhart with Creative Lady, Bob Reynolds (owner), Curtis Teare with Laura Pergolizzi, and Randy Wilson (master chef).

Patrons, Sponsors, Workers, and Fellowship

The Midwest Field Trial Club is indebted to Bill Westfall for the use of his ranch as well as the use of the facilities and equipment during the championship. The ranch is home to the Midwest, Jayhawk, and Sunflower Shooting Dog Championships and several all-age championships.

New Ranch Manager Wally Olson and wife Jennifer were on hand to assist during the trial. We enjoyed them joining the group for several evening meals. Wally and his son Trip rode the dog ATV with Garvin Collins and enjoyed learning about field trials.

Special thanks are extended to Purina and representative Greg Blair for providing feed to be awarded to the winners. Access to the new Purina store was also appreciated. New company representative Scott Johnson rode with us one day.

A special thank you to Randy Wilson, who provided three meals a day for the trial. The menu included comfort food everyone enjoyed after a day in the saddle. The desserts were a big hit with Judge Rankin and myself.

Thanks to Bob Reynolds, long-time trial chairman, for taking care of the dog wagon duties.

All those in attendance enjoyed the traditional steak dinner honoring last year's champion, Thunder Bolt's Storm. Storm's owner, Dr. Tom Jackson, and handler,

Shawn Kinkelaar, provided the dinner.

Thank you to the owners and handlers who entered their dogs in the trial. Without their support, the trial could not continue.

Luke Topp provided his ATV to transport dogs and release birds. Luke has been very supportive of the championship for several years.

Thanks to club members for all their efforts to make the trial a success, especially Scott Hadley and Harold Gearhart. Scott saw that the gates were open for handlers, and Harold took care of many of the jobs preparing for the start of the trial.

Garvin Collins helped found the championship and has served in many capacities over the last 37 years. He continues his leadership as trial chairman, attending to the details necessary to host

a successful trial. He leads with his usual optimistic attitude.

Bart Hastings traveled from Delaware to visit his uncle Garvin Collins and stayed on to judge the Jayhawk Championship. He arrived early and brought an ice chest of fresh oysters. The evening after the trial was over, he shucked oysters for those who remained. It was a festive evening full of good humor, with many memories recalled. It was good to see a long-time friend again.

Elk City, Kan., March 12
Judges: Dr. Robert Rankin and Dr. Stan Wint
MIDWEST OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
– 35 Pointers and 4 Setters

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

Runner-Up-GAME SPORT, 1673797, pointer male, by Coal Trian-Game Bee. Bart Hicklin, owner; Harold Gearhart, handler.

OPEN DERBY – 15 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-HALE'S COUNTRY BUZZ, 1709409, pointer male, by Game Heir-Hale's High Kick. Dr. Jeffrey Hale, owner; Eddy Taylor, handler.

2d-CREATIVE LADY, 1701680, pointer female, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Buche's Elhew Rebel. Bob & Catherine Reynolds, owners; Chuck Stretz, handler.

3d-LAURA PERGOLIZZI, 1705950, pointer female, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Buche's Elhew Rebel. Nicole Lombardi & Douglas Swingley, owners; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.

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CARL LEFLER
1943–2024

Carl Lefler, owner of Rocky River Kennels, passed away on March 5, 2024. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Sue Lefler, and two children, a daughter, Sharon Sneed, and a son, Luther, plus several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Carl grew up in the village of Georgeville, near Concord, North Carolina. He was an avid quail hunter, but like many other quail hunters, he turned to pointing dog field trials later in life.

He purchased two Pointer puppies in the early '80s and turned them over to John Ray Kimbrell for early development.

When Gerald Tracy moved part of his winter training headquarters to nearby Chesterfield, South Carolina, and later to Norwood, North Carolina, Carl put the two pups with Gerald. Those two pups were multi-winners, Rocky River Buck and Lucky Country Boy. Lefler was hooked. He began breeding and starting Pointers, using the kennel name of Rocky River Kennels.

Over the years, Carl bred and started lots of young Pointers. He sent most of them to Gerald Tracy and then George



Carl Lefler and Gerald Tracy

Tracy to campaign in field trials.

Rocky River Master, Rocky River Loaded, and Rocky River Bandit are just a few of the Pointers he and his wife Sue started in field trials. Most times the prospects were sold to owners who left them in the Tracy strings.

Later, Carl sent prospects to several trainers/handlers. He soon became a close friend of Phil Stevenson, the Virginia professional, and at his death, he had interest in two derbies in Stevenson's string.

It should be noted that Sue Lefler played an important part in breeding, whelping, developing, and caring for the puppies born in Rocky River Kennels.

Tommy Kimrey, an Albemarle, North Carolina amateur field trialer, was also an important cog in the Rocky River Kennel organization.

Carl started in construction as a laborer and worked his way to operator of all equipment and supervisor of road projects. He ended his career as a manager and consultant of the equipment division, where he had worked for all his career days.

The best way to sum up Carl Lefler's life might be the following, copied from his obituary printed by Saint Martin Lutheran Church of Concord, North Carolina.

"It was a great treat for the children, grandchildren and later great-grandchildren playing with the many puppies he raised over the years. It always brought a smile to his face. His knowledge and expert eye for a champion bird dog showed up at many field trials. So many wonderful friends evolved as a result of those trials. So many memories...that will always be with us."

He was my friend, and as the obituary says, so many memories.

— By Dwight Smith

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PONY EXPRESS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Westfall's Wheels Up Wins Larry Smith Heartland Open All-Age

By Steve Auxier | Gentry, Missouri | March 13, 2024

The Pony Express Field Trial Club members came together and hosted a successful event! This year's event was highlighted by amazing performances, and it also maintained the camaraderie that everyone looks forward to each spring. With the recent passing of Mr. Larry Smith, the Heartland Open All-Age was renamed the Larry Smith Heartland Open All-Age! With Larry/Linda Smith's vision, the Club was honored to carry on the tradition and standard that Larry envisioned for Smith Farms. Larry was an amazing sportsman, great friend, and mentor to so many in the world of field trialing. Larry truly wanted what was best for field trials. Larry will be missed by so many.

We want to thank all the bird dog breeders, owners, handlers, judges, and sponsors for this National qualifying event. Without their support, this event would not be possible. Sponsors for this year's event include Purina Pro Plan, SportDOG, The Saddle Guy, Gun Dog Supply, Rogue Pet, Smart Earth Pet Supply, and Good Life Fitness.

The Heartland Open All-Age commenced on March 13 over the rolling north Missouri countryside known as Smith Farms, west of Gentry, Missouri. The field trial venue, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Smith, has been laid out with three continuing one-hour courses to showcase all-age dogs. The grounds include horse corrals and dog kennels, available on-site for all participants.

A Polaris ATV was provided for all spectators and owners present so those who did not want to ride a horse could view the field trial. The Pony Express Field Trial Club provided horse hay and all meals for participants and spectators. We would like to thank Mr. Bill Westfall for bringing his Polaris and assisting the dog wagon with transporting dogs to areas that were challenging for the dog wagon.

Smith Farms has a quail program with habitat designed to sustain wild quail and

pheasants. Plus, birds are released every day prior to the day's running, where every entry could have ample opportunity to find game.

The Larry Smith Open All-Age judges were Mr. Sean Hauser of Whigham, Georgia, and Mr. Sheldon Rogers of Asquith, Saskatchewan. The judges for the Open Derby were Mr. Tommy Smith of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and Mr. Jerry Alden of Masonville, Iowa. 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 birdwork 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 Derby

This year's Open Derby stake was exciting to watch, with many solid performances. The derbies have had a very successful season. First place was credited to Shaws Money Mabel, handled by Mr. Matt Cochran. This nice Setter female showed her speed/class on the ground with several all-age casts showing her future potential. Second place was Blackhawk Lucky Charm, handled by Mr. Allen Vincent. This young dog does a nice job with several all-age performances. Third place, Wild Covey Sundial, handled by Mr. Andy Daugherty, put on a nice performance with a nice stylish find to secure her in the top three.

Gentry, Mo., March 13

**Judges: Jerry Alden and Tommy Smith
OPEN DERBY – 5 Pointers and 3 Setters**

1st-SHAW'S MONEY MABEL, 1701750, setter female, by Shamrock's Hidden Cash-Shamrock's Hidden Bristol. Gary Shaw, owner; Matt Cochran, handler.

2d-BLACKHAWK LUCKY CHARM, 1703965, pointer female, by Blackhawk Jet-Hard Rock Archer City. Jim Mills, Steve Lightle & Natalie McDonald, owners; Allen Vincent, handler.

3d-WILD COVEY SUNDIAL, 1701529, pointer male, by Miller's Speed Dial-Wild Covey Jackie. Tony King, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

Larry Smith Heartland Open All-Age

First place Westfall's Wheels Up, handled by Mr. Andy Daugherty and scouted by Mr. Ryan Westfall, ran in the seventh brace. Wheels Up ran a nice forward all-age race and was credited with several finds. His last find entered Garvin's gulch. Wheels Up was seen at time with a strong forward finish, showing his endurance and stamina!

Second place Westfall's True Grit, handled by Mr. Ryan Westfall and scouted by Mr. Steve Auxier, ran in Brace 3. True Grit started off strong with a find at 12 next to the cedar tree on the fence line. He was credited with multiple finds, showing his strong desire to find birds and all-age stamina/endurance with his performance.

Third-place Texas Wild Rex, handled by Mr. Allen Vincent and scouted by Mr. Andy Daugherty, was turned loose in Brace 1. Rex had several nice finds at 8 with nice style and intensity. He was turned loose and found on point at 15 along the fence. Rex continued to push the front on the fence lines, showing his independence on several nice casts. Rex finished the hour strong to lock in her third-place performance.

Judges: Sean Hauser and Sheldon Rogers

LARRY SMITH HEARTLAND OPEN ALL-AGE

– 20 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-WESTFALL'S WHEELS UP, 1680653, pointer male, by Westfall's Black Ace-Westfall's Quick Trick. Bill Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, 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-TEXAS WILD REX, 1685409, pointer male, by Whippoorwill Forever Wild-Washita River Wild. Aaron Bolli, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.

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SOUTHERN FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Youth Trial

By Maria Bassham | Albany, Georgia | March 16, 2024

The Southern Field Trial Club held its first youth field trial on the splendid Nilo Plantation in Albany, Georgia, on March 16. We were so excited to have 16 kids compete with their dogs on that glorious Saturday, some for their first time. There were 19 Pointers and two English Setters that ran with their young handlers. All the kids did a superb job and were supported by a spectacular gallery of 82 riders and two dog wagons loaded with spectators. We ran six braces that morning and then stopped to enjoy a wonderful lunch the Southern Field Trial Club provided. After a nice break, we headed back out for the last braces and ended the day with a bye-dog in the 11th brace.

We want to thank Steve “Kudzu” Wiley, of Dawson, Georgia, and Jessie Graffam, of Pavo, Georgia, for judging these young field trialers and inspiring them to keep doing what they love. Thank you to Tim and Polly Moore for all they did to make this special trial happen. Thank you to Garrett Jones and the entire crew at Nilo for ensuring this beautiful day ran smoothly. The Youth Field Trial Alliance provided rosettes for the top three winners and participation ribbons and dog biscuits for the winners. Goodie bags from the Southern Field Trial Club were also given to all the kids. The judges were presented with Strideaway-published books as a thank-you for their time in the saddle. Youth Field Trial Alliance’s Chris Mathan photographed the fabulous day. She sent 8x10 winners’ prints to all three winners as well as a large 10x20 print of the entire crowd as a thank-you gift to Nilo Plantation for hosting such a special day.

This Dixie Trace Field Trial Association points trial was spearheaded by Nilo Plantation’s manager, Garrett Jones. He was eager to give his son, Payson, and other local children the opportunity to run a dog in a youth trial. Hall of Fame handler Tommy Davis had been giving Payson some handling tips.

Our first exciting brace of the day was run by Kaidence Cumbie with her English Setter female, “Lady,” and Loretta Cook with her male Pointer, “Pickles.” The wild birds were in abundance for Lady, having two finds and two backs. Pickles also stopped and honored Lady on one of her finds. Loretta, in her tiny chaps and pink cowgirl hat, enjoyed her 20 minutes with her grandfather, Tracy Swearingen, helping her along the way.



Southern Field Trial Club Youth Trial (front, r-l): Blaine Beane and Kevin Beane with Tank, Addison McDuffie with Lou, and Sawyer King with Stan. (Second row): Matt King, Hunter McDuffie, Mindy Taylor McDuffie, and Steve Wiley (judge). (Third row): Jesse Graffam (judge), an unidentified spectator, and Roger King.

In the second brace were Addison McDuffie with her second-place-winning female Pointer, “Lou,” and first-time youth field trialer Skylar Riley with her male Pointer, “Tom.” Lou ran an impressive race with five finds in her 20 minutes on the ground. Tom had one find with birds up and one back. Skylar, who runs barrels on most weekends, was enthusiastic about her first experience as a field trialer and being braced with Addie, a seasoned winner. It was an exciting brace for the two girls and their Pointers.

The third brace was our first-place winner, Blaine Beane, with his male Pointer, “Tank,” and Harper Wiseman, with her male Pointer, “Ike.” It was fun watching first-timer Blaine, with his grandfather, Ronnie Beane, by his side, have two impressive finds. He was thrilled to raise his little cap gun high in the air while Tank held steady to wing and shot. His scout, Kevin Beane, could not have been prouder of his son. Ike had a nice run with one find and one back. It was a pleasure watching Harper, who is normally in the show ring, run her bird dog with her dad, Quintin Wiseman, as her scout.

In the fourth brace were Pearce Garland with his female Pointer, “Patsy,” and Kira Jenkins with her female Pointer, “Bess.” Pearce got to experience his first trial with his grandfather, Ray Pearce, at his side. Patsy had one classy find during her time on the ground. Bess also had one find for Kira with a nice covey up.

The fifth brace was Evelyn Taff with her male Pointer, “Mud,” and Griffyn Long with her female Pointer, “May.” Evelyn enjoyed her time in the saddle with her grandfather, Tim Moore, helping her. Both dogs stopped, with May honoring Mud. The Pointers continued their race and finished their 20 minutes for their young handlers.

The sixth brace was Harper King with her female Pointer, “Rose,” and Loretta Cook with her male Pointer, “Patches.” Rose, no stranger to field trials, had two finds in her 20 minutes, and Patches had a stop to flush with birds up. The girls enjoyed being braced together and watching their dogs run.

In the seventh brace were Kira Jenkins with her male Pointer, “Buzz,” and Montana McLean with her English Setter female, “Sally.” Montana had the assistance of her dad, Cody McLean, while she ran Sally. Both dogs ran an impressive race and handled well for their young field trialers.

The eighth brace was Payson Jones with his Pointer female, “Jill,” and Kimbrell Durr with her Pointer female, “Abby.” Kimbrell enjoyed her 20 minutes riding with her mom and having her grandfather, Ray Pearce, guide and encourage her. Her Pointer, Abby, had one back honoring Jill. Both dogs stopped when time was called just in time to flush a bunny from the brush. This was the first youth trial for both Payson and Kimbrell, and they did an incredible job handling their dogs! Payson, who had been riding up front the entire day watching and learning, gave 100% during his time on the ground.

The ninth brace was our third-place winner, Sawyer King, with her male Pointer, “Stan,” and Harper Wiseman and her male Pointer, “Jake.” The girls had an exciting brace, with Stan having three impressive finds and one back. Jake had a stop to flush with one bird getting up and one additional find.

In the 10th brace was Payson Jones and his male Pointer, “Big,” and Denim Dalton with her female Pointer, “Sally.” Big ran an impressive race for his young handler. Both dogs had a stop to flush a nice covey rise. Payson and Denim shot their guns while the dogs held their classy points. This was Denim’s first time experiencing the thrill of running a bird dog.

The 11th brace was a bye-dog for Addison McDuffie and her female Pointer, “Dot.” Dot ran her solo race, stopping to point with mere seconds remaining. She was relocated, but to no avail. The Pointer from Alabama wrapped up a fun and exciting day for these kids that got to experience field trialing with some of the best. We were lucky to have Field Trial Hall of Famer Tommy Davis help scout for the kids. I think he had the most fun out of all of us! It was a thrilling day and one that won’t soon be forgotten.

VIDALIA FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Final Trial of the Season

By Sharon Gunby | Glenwood, Georgia | March 16, 2024



Amateur All-Age (l-r): Barry Stumbo (judge), Spitfire's Diamond Dude with Darrell Gunby, Swift Creek Barney with Benjie Stephens, Oran Dukes, and Just Sayin with Rebecca Avrett.



Amateur Derby (l-r): Wells Fine N Fancy with Darrell Wells, Brad Macke (judge), Hammock Branch Ben with Oran Dukes, and Marsh's Rebel Charm with Randy Marsh.



Amateur Shooting Dog (l-r): Barry Stumbo (judge), Spitfire's Diamond Dude with Darrell Gunby, B F E Bruiser with Drayton Lewis, and Double L's Tiny Tina with Lee Avery.

March 16-18 marked the final trial of the season at the beautiful grounds of AG Preserve in Glenwood, Georgia. With over 70 dogs entered, it did not disappoint. The weather was a wonderful 70 degrees, and just a little fog delayed the start of the Vidalia Field Trial Club's first event since 2018 when their last trial was held due to some health and family issues. We want to thank all those who came and brought some very competitive dogs to perform some amazing birdwork for all to see and enjoy.

Our thanks begin with the Sweet Onion Food truck on-site throughout the trial to provide breakfast, lunch, and one of the tastiest judges' suppers anyone could hope to eat. We continued with a nod to the tractor and dog wagon driver, Ruben Connell. We all know it takes a village, not only the days of the trial but all year long, to prepare and maintain the grounds, yet it is a true labor of love, and we appreciate all involved and who have supported the cause and the club.

We were honored to have Mr. Barry Stumbo, Mr. Jason Armstrong, Mr. Brad Macke, Mr. Ron Lambert, Mr. Lee Avery, and Mr. Drayton Lewis as our judges this year. We certainly appreciated their time and attention to each dog. Good judges are hard to find, and we were blessed to have

these at our trial. We hope to see you all again next year.

Glenwood, Ga., March 16

Judges: Jason Armstrong and Brad Macke

AMATEUR ALL-AGE

- 4 Pointers, 3 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter

1st-SPITFIRE'S DIAMOND DUDE, 1692712, pointer male, by Larry's Creek Beau-That's My Q. Darrell Gunby, owner and handler.

2d-SWIFT CREEK BARNEY, unreg., setter male, by Swift Creek Big-Meadowwood's Irish Rose. Benjie Stephens, owner; Lee Avery, handler.

3d-JUST SAYIN, 1698956, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Worth The Wait. Mike Moses, owner and handler.

AMATEUR DERBY

- 8 Pointers, 1 Setter, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-WELLS FINE N FANCY, 1700589, pointer female, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Wells Southern Charm. Darrell Wells, owner and handler.

2d-HAMMOCK BRANCH BEN, 1705856, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Erin's Little Faye. John Moses, owner and handler.

3d-MARSH'S REBEL CHARM, 1702411, pointer female, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Wells Southern Charm. Randy Marsh, owner; Donald Marsh, handler.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

- 9 Pointers, 3 Setters, and 2 Irish Setters

1st-SPITFIRE'S DIAMOND DUDE, 1692712, pointer male, by Larry's Creek Beau-That's My Q. Darrell Gunby, owner and handler.

2d-B F E BRUISER, 1691922, pointer male, by Wyncreek Boomer-P P L Amy. Darrell Gunby, owner and handler.

3d-DOUBLE L'S TINY TINA, 1703230, pointer female, by Wyncreek Boomer-P P L Amy. Lindsay Cuming, owner; Lee Avery, handler.

Judges: Ron Lambert and Barry Stumbo

OPEN ALL-AGE

- 9 Pointers, 3 Setters, and 4 German Shorthairs

1st-A G PRESERVE CREED, 1691920, pointer male, by Wyncreek Boomer-P P L Amy. Darrell Gunby, owner and handler.

2d-MELROSE BIG JOHN, 1708582, pointer male, by Brakenslide Ben-Melrose Rebel Lou. Terry Chastain Jr., owner and handler.

3d-NEELY'S BUSINESS MAN, 1691539, pointer male, by Miller Unfinished Business-Neely's Orange Crush. John O. Neely, owner and handler.

Judges: Lee Avery and Barry Stumbo

OPEN DERBY

- 8 Pointers, 2 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-REAL THING BUSINESS CHIC, 1704822, pointer female, by Miller Unfinished Business-Real Thing Reba. Tommy Rice Jr., owner and handler.

2d-NEELY'S SPECIAL BUSINESS, 1701736, pointer male, by Miller Unfinished Business-Neely's Party Girl. John Neely, owner and handler.

3d-MELROSE BIG JOHN, 1708582, pointer male, by Brakenslide Ben-Melrose Rebel Lou. Terry Chastain Jr., owner and handler.

Judges: Drayton and Lewis Barry Stumbo

OPEN SHOOTING DOG

- 7 Pointers, 2 Setters, and 9 German Shorthairs

1st-SWIFT CREEK BARNEY, unreg., setter male, by Swift Creek Big-Meadowwood's Irish Rose. Benjie Stephens, owner; Lee Avery, handler.

2d-MELROSE BIG JOHN, 1708582, pointer male, by Brakenslide Ben-Melrose Rebel Lou. Terry Chastain Jr., owner and handler.

3d-SPITFIRE'S DIAMOND DUDE, 1692712, pointer male, by Larry's Creek Beau-That's My Q. Darrell Gunby, owner and handler.



Open All-Age (l-r): Barry Stumbo (judge), A G Preserve Creed with Darrell Gunby, Benjie Stephens, Melrose Big John with Terry Chastain, John Neely, Neely's Business Man with Lee Avery, and Martha Neely.



Open Derby (l-r): Barry Stumbo (judge), Real Thing Business Chic with Tommy Rice, Benjie Stephens, Neely's Special Business with John and Martha Neely, Melrose Big John with Terry Chastain, and Lee Avery (judge).



Open Shooting Dog (l-r): Barry Stumbo (judge), Swift Creek Barney with Lee Avery, Benjie Stephens, Melrose Big John with Terry Chastain, and Spitfire's Diamond Dude with Darrell Gunby.

PINEWOODS BIRD DOG CLUB

John Abbott Youth Field Trial

By Maria Bassham | Quitman, Georgia | March 17, 2024

The Pinewoods Bird Dog Club held the 1st John Abbott Youth Field Trial at the glorious Pinion Point Plantation in Quitman, Georgia, on March 17. Thirteen kids were braced together for the horseback portion of the trial and were eager to compete on that beautiful St. Patrick's Day. Of the 15 dogs entered to run, we had eight females and seven males, all Pointers. Eight horseback braces were scheduled that day. The walking stake immediately followed with a large gallery still spectating from our saddles.

We want to thank our horseback judges, Michael Hill and Parker Weeks of Thomasville, Georgia, for watching these young handlers and their canine athletes. Former co-workers of Pinion Point, JW Williams Jr., and Chip Jenkins, were marshaling the event. The course directors were JW Williams Sr. and Bernard Parker, both of Four Oaks Plantation. Bernard, along with his wife Erica, also cooked a delicious lunch for everyone to enjoy under the shade of the picturesque lakeside oak trees. Beautiful trophies were presented to the top three winners, as well as an honorable mention. The Youth Field Trial Alliance paid for the entries for all the kids, provided rosettes for the winners, gave ribbons to all the participants, and gifted all the judges Strideaway-published books.

Thank you to Greg Blair and Purina for providing dog food, lanyards, and hats to all the participants. Youth Field Trial Alliance's Chris Mathan photographed the day and sent winners' prints to the top three winners, the honorable mention winner of the horseback stake, and the three winners of the walking stake. A large 10x20 print of the gallery, the youth handlers, their dogs, the judges, and the Four Oaks crew was given as a gift to Pinion Point/Four Oaks Plantation for hosting this wonderful trial.

Jeff Arnold also received an enlarged print to hang at Pinewoods Plantation as a huge thank you for the time and effort he put into organizing this special event. It was thrilling to watch Jeff's vision of hosting youth trials come to life this year, with this being his second youth trial of the season. It took a couple of years of planning and the support of so many to see this dream of his come to fruition. We are all so proud of him and happy for the kids who learn and thrive in the sport because of mentors like Jeff. Thank you to Dixie Trace Field Trial Club for starting his dream of the Pinewoods Bird Dog Club and to Youth



Horseback Stake Winners (r-l): Foshalee Lou with Wyatt Rehburg, Lady with Kaidence Cumbie, Rose with Harper King, and Foshalee Jess with McKenzie White. (Behind): Bubba White, Matt King, Michael Hill (judge), Riley Cumbie, Roger King, Chris Rehburg, and Parker Weeks (judge). [Photo by Chris Mathan].

Field Trial Alliance for guiding him along this journey.

The first brace of the morning was "Stan," handled by Sawyer King, and "Joey," handled by Grant McCall. The pair of Pointers started the youth trial off strong. Both stopped to point, with Joey honoring Stan. Stan held steady to wing and shot. They stopped again with separate points, but both continued their hunt. One last divided find for the two resulted in birds up for both canines! Grant, along with the help of his field trial grandfather, John Milton, shot his pistol excitedly in the air.

In the second brace was Four Oaks Bill, handled by first-time youth field trialer Emaria Parker, and Foshalee Jess, handled by honorable mention winner McKenzie White, also new to the sport. Both dogs handled well for the girls and stopped to point with Bill out front. Emaria flushed with the help of her dad, Bernard Parker, and birds took flight. Jess then had a find with nice covey up, and Bill stopped to honor. Both dogs continued their time on the ground, with Jess stopping with a last classy point, but she moved on until time was called.

Coming out of the third brace was our second-place winner, "Lady," handled by Kaidence Cumbie, and our first-place winner, Foshalee Lou, handled by Wyatt Rehburg. It was an exciting brace with plenty of birdwork for both contenders. Lou had five clean, stylish finds, with one producing a very large covey rise. The dogs were well-braced, and Lady had four nice finds for her young handler. Of those four, two were a stop to flush, and one was a divided find. She also honored Lou on one of his finds. Both dogs impressed the judges with their classy hunting styles.

In the fourth brace was "Tom," handled

by Skylar Riley, and "Patch," handled by Ellis McCall. Tom had two impressive finds for Skylar, which made her second youth trial very exciting. Patch ran a good race for Ellis and his grandfather, John Milton, who, by his side, could not have been more proud.

The fifth brace was "Jake," handled by Harper Wiseman, and Pinewoods Sam, handled by Kira Jenkins. Jake ran a great race for Harper with one back, one point with birds getting up behind him, and a relocation right as time was called. Sam had one clean find for Kira in his 20 minutes on the ground.

In the sixth brace were "Ike," handled by Harper Wiseman, and "Rose," our third-place winner, handled by Harper King. The Harper vs. Harper brace started strong, with both dogs stopping to point with Rose out front. Rose had one more point with birds up and stopped to back Ike at one of his finds. Ike had two more finds, and birds also flushed when he stopped for a water break.

The seventh brace saw Pinewoods Bess, handled by Kira Jenkins, and "Eva," handled by Warren King. Bess had two nice finds for her handler. Eva pointed a nice find for first-timer Warren. His dad, Matt King, helped him shoot his pistol after the birds took flight.

The eighth and final brace of the horseback stake was a bye-dog, "May," handled by Griffin Long. May concluded the horseback stake with one steady find, two relocations that resulted in a flight of birds, and one stop to flush. It was an exciting way to bring the youth horseback stake to a close.

The Walking Stake

We were excited to have six kids compete in the walking stake. This was a first-time experience for all these kids to handle a bird dog. Our judges, who graciously gave of their time to watch the dogs and young handlers, were Chris Mathan of Pavo, Georgia, and Carli McFalls of Quitman, Georgia. Manager of Pinewoods Plantation and president of Pinewoods Bird Dog Club, Jeff Arnold, also walked along, giving tips and guiding the kids. Thank you to Bernard Parker of Four Oaks Plantation and Chip Jenkins for helping on foot. It was thrilling to watch the dogs work so close by and to see the excitement and encouragement of all the

kids.

We had three braces immediately following the horseback stake. The first brace was Kayson Thompson with “Jag,” our first-place winner, and Rolin Royce with “Peggy,” who took home second place. Jag had three beautiful finds for his young handler in his 15 minutes on the ground. Peggy ran a clean race and placed second with two backs.

Our second brace was Matthew Holden with “Ike” and Mackenzie Bach with “Ben.” Ike and Ben exchanged, honoring



Walking Stake Winners (r-l): Pinewoods Jag with Kayson Thompson, Pinewoods Peggy with Rolin Royce, and Four Oaks Chase with Madison Vincent. (Behind): Bernard Parker, Carli McFalls (judge), and Jeffrey Arnold. [Photo by Chris Mathan].

each other at the two finds they stopped for. They handled well and gave the first-timers some valuable knowledge about bird dogs.

Our third and final brace of the day was our third-place winner, Madison Vinzant with “Chase” and Jalon Stover with “Boyd.” Chase had one classy find with birds up. Boyd had a nice race and stayed close to his young handler.

It was a great afternoon for these young kids; hopefully, it made a lasting impression. We hope to see them again at our next youth trial in the fall.

MISSOURI OPEN ALL-AGE TRIALS

Erin’s Perfect Storm Wins Open All-Age; Haney’s Storm Warning, Open Champion

By Bonnie Hidalgo | Grovespring, Missouri | March 19, 2024

Haney’s Storm Warning captured the highly sought title of Missouri Open Champion. This title comes with an automatic qualification for the 2025 National Championship. The Missouri State Field Trial Association hosted the Championship as it has since its inception in 1953. Haney’s Storm Warning, a Pointer male, is proudly owned by Chris Cagle of Woodlawn, Tennessee. He was expertly handled by Luke Eisenhart. Rester’s Cajun Spirit was named runner-up in this 38-dog stake. The Pointer male is owned by Allen Linder, Livingston, Tennessee, and was capably handled by Judd Carlton.

Luke Eisenhart swept the top two placements in the Missouri Open All-Age stake. The winner was Erin’s Perfect Storm, a Pointer male owned by Brad Woodie, Waxhaw, North Carolina. Second-place honors went to Haney’s Silver Dollar owned by Chris Cagle, Woodlawn, Tennessee. Westfall’s Wheels Up was a strong third in this star-studded stake. He is owned by Bill Westfall, Liberty, Missouri, and was handled by Andy Daugherty. The Field Trial Sportsmen’s Association of Southwest Missouri sponsors this National qualifying stake. It also hosts the Don Fox Memorial Derby.

Ike Todd handled the top two derby dogs in the Don Fox Open Derby. Dr. Fred Corder of Corinth, Mississippi, owns the winner, Game Star, a Pointer female. Bandit’s Hill Avenger, a Pointer male owned by Ann Forrester of South Fulton, Tennessee, earned second. Rampage, a Pointer male, was third for handler Luke Eisenhart and owner Tucker Johnson of Hobe Sound, Florida.

The drawing was conducted at the



Missouri Open All-Age (front, l-r): Judd Carlton with Erin’s Perfect Storm, Luke Eisenhart with Haney’s Silver Dollar, and Matt Cochran with Westfall’s Wheels Up. (Behind): Douglas Spale, Jarrett Bell, Mark Verdoorn (judge), Bill Westfall (judge), George Hill, Andy Daugherty, Bonnie Hidalgo, Bob Rankin, Mike Lemons, Tim Self, Kipp Linard, and Ike Todd. [Photo by: Dennis Hidalgo].

home of Andy and Sharleen Daugherty on Saturday evening, March 16. Sharleen conducted the draw with Andy’s assistance. The Missouri Open All-Age attracted a field of 40, an increase of two over the 2023 draw. The Don Fox Memorial Derby drew 21 entries, also up by two from the previous spring. The Missouri Championship drew 38 dogs, just as it did in 2023. The previous trial had been delayed by the Missouri Open Shooting Dog Championship’s large entry, which forced this trial to delay its start by one day.

The Missouri Open Championship was originally held at the Busch Wildlife Area outside St. Louis, beginning in 1953. By the mid-’90s, the Busch area had a serious road problem due to the amount of people recreating there. The Missouri Field Trial Association experimented with holding the event at Grovespring for a few years in the mid to late ’90s. Back then, it was a working cattle ranch owned by Rudy Lehar, who had Pointers with Andy

Daugherty, including Ch. Lehar’s Main Tech and Ch. Lehar’s Perfect Tech. When Rudy was ready to quit ranching in 2000, Springfield sportsman and philanthropist Lee Cruse arranged to purchase the portion of the ranch used for field trials; the deal was completed in 2001. Lee Cruse donated it to the Field Trial Sportsmen’s Association to run as a publicly available venue. By 2005, with the Grovespring grounds being groomed for field trials, this set of National qualifiers permanently moved to Grovespring and the Field Trial Sportsmen’s Association grounds. The 2024 trial was the 20th consecutive running of the Missouri Open on these grounds; it was the 71st running of the Missouri Championship (not held in 2004).

These grounds are some of the finest in the country. They are groomed for field trials, which means that the courses have a good flow to them. The Sportsmen’s Association releases 1,500 quail every fall. Feed strips, natural cover, and regular spreading of feed keep these birds on

the courses. Most trials also supplement the coveys by planting birds during their events. There was no shortage of birds at this trial. Multiple dogs had 3-5 finds in their hours. Some of this year's handlers remarked that they like to come here because there are always plenty of birds. The ability to use ATVs to plant the courses and to follow the gallery to pick up and release braces when it's too wet to take the dog wagon is invaluable. The convenience of ample horse corrals and dog kennels is a huge bonus. The clubhouse, with its kitchen, dining area, showers, and bunkroom, gets lots of use. "Per dog" grounds fees and donations keep this place afloat. If you have ever enjoyed the sport here, you might consider contributing to its welfare. The Field Trial Sportsmen's Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contact Sharleen Daugherty or any of the Association's Directors, including Andy Daugherty, Bob Burchett, and Tony King, to donate.

The Missouri Open All-Age stake judges were Jarrett Bell of Troy, Missouri, and Mark Verdoorn of Platte City, Missouri. Jarrett trains and handles his own Vizslas and Pointers and has won numerous championships with them. Mark owns and handles German Shorthaired Pointers and has enjoyed much success over many years. They were cheerful and friendly, but most importantly, they paid attention to the performances.

Dave Capstick of Jonesburg, Missouri, and Kipp Linard of Foristell, Missouri, officiated the Don Fox Derby. Both gentlemen have extensive experience as handlers and judges. Dave has had success in the Brittany world, having owned, trained, and handled a National Champion. Kipp has competed successfully with Pointers and has judged numerous major all-age trials. They kept a steady pace and watched the dogs carefully.

Popular Indiana sportsmen Mike Jackson and Keith Wright were the judges for the Missouri Open Championship. Mike has trained and competed with his own Pointers in amateur all-age and amateur shooting dog championships and enjoyed much success. Mike resides in Battleground, Indiana. Keith Wright, Covington, Indiana, is the founding owner of the Touch bloodline of Pointers. Keith has trained and campaigned his own dogs and has enjoyed great success with dogs such as House's Ring of Fire and Touch's Grey Street, to name a few. Keith has also placed dogs with professionals who have won for him on the major circuit; Ike Todd and 2011 National Champion Touch's White Out come immediately to mind. Mike and Keith saw eye-to-eye, kept in



George Hill, chairman of this event since 1985, is now retiring. [Photo by: Dennis Hidalgo].

good humor, set a near-perfect pace every hour, and knew what they were looking for. Their decision came as no surprise.

Mother Nature treated the 2024 renewal reasonably well, with the sun showing its face often. There were a few frosty mornings and some cloudy, windy days, but only one day of rain. The rain was heavy enough to halt the running on Monday of the second week. Luckily, it wasn't enough to flood the creeks; the running was able to resume the next day.

Purina's support of this event is highly valued by the club members and participants. This year, changes were implemented on how dog food donations and judges' gifts are contracted. Purina got together with AFTCA; now, clubs can order gifts, trophies, and dog food through the AFTCA online store. This appears to be working out well for the clubs and Purina. The Missouri State Field Trial Association and the Field Trial Sportsmen's Association are grateful to Purina for their continued support in this time of skyrocketing expenses. This trial is a Purina points trial, which adds to its prestige and popularity with the handlers, most of whom feed Purina's top product, Purina Pro Plan Sport 30/20.

Sharleen Daugherty provided cocktail hour on five evenings during the event. Unless you have been here to experience one of Sharleen's social hours, you cannot imagine the scope of the spread. Thank you, Sharleen!

The John Evans Memorial fish fry was held on Thursday evening, March 21. Betty Evans, Bonnie, and Dennis Hidalgo sponsored it. John was a 20-year member of this group that hosts the Missouri All-Age trials. He loved the grounds, the people, and the camaraderie found at this particular field trial. A big thank you is extended to Allen Vincent and Andy Daugherty for cooking the fish, fries, and hush puppies, and to Sharleen for the side

dishes and for all the arrangements for putting this meal together. Dave Capstick and Tim Self were great assistants to the chefs and helped to serve the meal. The efforts of all are greatly appreciated. Thank you to the clean-up crew of Piper Huffman, Tommi Smith, Marian Mills, and Sharleen Daugherty!

The Champion's dinner was held on Sunday, March 24, at the clubhouse. It was a delicious steak dinner sponsored by Jamie Daniels and the 2023 Missouri Champion, Miller's Blindsider. The meal was delicious! Randy Anderson and Kipp Linard were cooking, assisted by Dave Capstick and Tim Self. Sharleen helped put the sides together and did clean up, along with Piper Huffman.

George Hill served as chairman of the 2024 renewal of this highly respected open all-age trial. George attended his very first Missouri Championship in 1970. He went to Busch Wildlife Area to see what this event was all about. According to George, he was hooked and decided to give up calf roping for field trials. His involvement during his early years revolved around school teaching and coaching, but he helped when he could. By the 1980s, he took on more responsibility and became chairman of the Missouri Championship trial in 1985. That is a position that George Hill has held for 40 years! Under his guidance, this trial runs like a well-oiled clock.

In March 2023, George announced that he would be retiring from chairmanship after one more year. This was met with great disappointment by his committee and by those who regularly compete in this field trial. The 2024 renewal is the final time George will chair, but he has admitted that he'll "probably show up next year, as long as he gets to choose what job he does and when he does it."

The people who work with George to make this trial a great success are dedicated sportsmen and women who get along great and have fun in the process. Dave Capstick planted the course in the early morning, every morning except one. Tim Self handled dog wagon duties with some assistance from George, Dave, and Dennis. Tim also assisted Dave with the early morning plant. William Smith replanted the course every morning behind the gallery. Dennis Hidalgo planted birds one early morning, marshaled the course in the afternoons, and filled in wherever a hand was needed. Kipp Linard marshaled the afternoon braces of the Championship. Lunches were set up and cleaned up after by Tommi Smith, Piper Huffman, and Dennis Hidalgo.

George has selected his replacement in

Bonnie and Dennis Hidalgo; it will take two co-chairs to fill the shoes George has worn! Sharleen Daugherty will be the Secretary/Treasurer of the Missouri Field Trial Association, just as she is for the Southwest Missouri Field Trial Sportsmen's Club. Most of the committee members have already committed to sticking with it. It is planned to keep this trial running in the manner to which all have become accustomed. The Missouri Open has been called "the best trial all year" by the trainers who patronize it, and we're all going to keep it that way!

Missouri Open All-Age

Judges Mark Verdoorn and Jarrett Bell had a quality-packed stake to select their winners. In addition to those placed, several noteworthy performances were given. In order of appearance, these dogs were: Erin's High Note, Haney's Storm Warning, I'm Gallant, World Class Instigator, Rester's Johnny Ringo, and Westfall's True Grit.

The Winners

Erin's Perfect Storm, handled by Luke Eisenhart, ran a big, predominantly forward race for the win. He scored at the clubhouse gate at 36 with a high-tailed find. On the far end of the Clubhouse loop at 44, he pointed beside the pond with excellent style and manners. Storm was forward past the barns and through the alley. He finished the hour with a big move on the far-right edge. He is sired by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt; his dam is Erin's Bet On Me. He is owned by Brad Woodie.

Haney's Silver Dollar started from the top of Don Fox Hill; owner Chris Cagle Jr. was on hand for the show. Dollar was handled to second by Luke Eisenhart. Dollar scored on game at 8, just before Little Vine road. He showed magnificent style and manners. At the corner of the alley and Sycamore, Dollar was pointed again at 29. His stance and intensity were perfect, as were his manners at the flush. He went wide as the course went up into Little Vine but showed forward. Dollar's third find was at 37, on a big covey on top of Daugherty's Ridge; his posture and decorum were flawless. He scored another quality find at 43, on the right before the old house site. Dollar's race was fast and far forward for the hour. He was exciting to watch. Haney's Silver Dollar was sired by Ransom out of the top producing female, Haney's North Star.

Westfall's Wheels Up was handled by Andy Daugherty to third place. Wheels was released at Little Vine; his owner, Bill Westfall, was there to watch him. Wheels Up scored his first find at 9, just out of Little Vine loop. He was high and



Don Fox Memorial Open Derby (front, l-r): Luke Eisenhart with Game Star, Ike Todd with Bandit's Hill Avenger, and Judd Carlton with Rampage. (Behind): Tim Self, Bonnie Hidalgo, Dave Capstick (judge), George Hill, and Kipp Linard (judge). [Photo by: Dennis Hidalgo].

tight for flush and shot. He made a nice move through Sycamore bottom and was rewarded with a find on the hillside at 20, all in order. Up the hill and down Daugherty ridge he went, wasting no time. Point was called for him at 26, on the ridge. His style and manners were beyond reproach. He showed forward beyond the barns on the left edge and carried it into the bull pasture. At 37, Wheels Up pointed quail below the first draw. Again, his birdwork was attractive and mannerly. Wheels was briefly absent before the Clubhouse gate but caught the front at the pond. At 58, he notched his fifth and final find. His was an impressive hour. Westfall's Wheels Up was sired by Westfall's Black Ace; his dam was Westfall's Quick Trick.

Grovespring, Mo., March 19
Judges: Jarrett Bell and Mark Verdoorn
MISSOURI OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]
- 38 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-ERIN'S PERFECT STORM, 1692323, pointer male, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Erin's Bet On Me. Brad Woodie, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

2d-HANEY'S SILVER DOLLAR, 1698758, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

3d-WESTFALL'S WHEELS UP, 1680653, pointer male, by Westfall's Black Ace-Westfall's Quick Trick. Bill Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

Don Fox Derby

Judges Dave Capstick and Kipp Linard had the pleasure of deciding the winners from a great group of young dogs in this extremely competitive open derby stake. Twenty-one of the season's best gathered here; unfortunately, only three could be placed.

Game Star won this stake for owner Dr. Fred Corder and handler Ike Todd with a fine performance. Released into the Clubhouse loop, she went quickly up the hill. Game Star pointed beautifully at 8 and was rock solid through flush and shot. Her second find came at 12, on the west side of the loop. She exhibited beautiful style and perfect decorum on her game; her race was excellent from start to finish. This nice young dog was sired by Lester's Storm Surge and is out of Game Belle.

Bandit's Hill Avenger, handled by Ike

Todd and owned by Ann Forrester of South Fulton, Tennessee, placed second in this hotly contested Derby stake. Avenger scored a solid find at 5 in the far corner of Little Vine loop, all in order. In the valley beyond the loop, he was pointing again at 13. He showed high style and great manners. At the end of Sycamore, both dogs pointed and backed, but the handlers felt they were backing each other and took them on. At 24, Avenger honored his brace mate's point. He went up on Daugherty's ridge for a strong finish. Avenger was sired by Touch's Smooth Rider and is out of Bandit's Hill Daisy.

Rampage was handled to third place in this tough Derby stake by Luke Eisenhart. Rampage is owned by Tucker Johnson. Rampage put down a powerful and forward race. He pointed birds in the far corner of Davis bottom at 27, showing high style and perfect manners. Rampage was sired by Touch's Red Rider; his dam is Southpoint's Dixie Chick.

Judges: Dave Capstick and Kipp Linard
DON FOX MEMORIAL OPEN DERBY
- 19 Pointers and 2 Setters

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

2d-BANDIT'S HILL AVENGER, 1702642, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Bandit's Hill Daisy. Ann Forrester, owner; Ike Todd, handler.

3d-RAMPAGE, 1705323, pointer male, by Touch's Red Rider-Southpoint's Dixie Chick. S. Tucker Johnson, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

Missouri Championship

The Winners

Haney's Storm Warning, handled by Luke Eisenhart, emerged as judges Mike Jackson and Keith Wright's choice for champion. His performance made him an obvious one. Haney's Storm Warning is owned by Chris Cagle. He began his hour-long exhibition in the west end of Climer's pasture; he was forward through both pastures. Storm went left into Clubhouse loop when the course went right, and he was absent for several minutes. Storm Warning was found on point at 19 on the west end of the loop. He was class-personified and high on both ends throughout the work. Storm scored his second find at 28, beyond the barns; again, he was flawless in every aspect. He flew forward down the alley and into Sycamore bottom, where he stood along the old fence line at the road and carded another great find at 37. His fourth and final find came at 40, just beyond Double Gates near the pond. Top style was evident, as were exceptional manners. He sped forward, past the cemetery and the corrals, showing beautifully on the forward lines. Storm Warning was sent down the valley on the

right of Ridge loop, and he swung up the hill to show well in front. Off the hill, he turned left as time expired. His handler and scout collected him in short order. This performance was a thrill to witness.

Rester's Cajun Spirit, handled by Judd Carlton and owned by Allen Linder, was a popular choice for runner-up champion. He turned loose, heading onto Apple Tree hill. Spirit scored a very classy find at 8, coming into Little Vine. Spirit was on point again at 19, and it was a perfectly executed find. In the top end of Sycamore, Spirit pointed on the left at 28. It was a difficult flush due to an old dead tree, but the bird was eventually produced. Spirit was high and tight throughout. He went through



Missouri Open Championship (front, l-r): Luke Eisenhart with Haney's Storm Warning and Judd Carlton with Rester's Cajun Spirit. (Behind): Mike Jackson (judge), Keith Wright (judge), Bonnie Hidalgo, George Hill, Tim Self, William Smith, Dave Capstick, and Kipp Linard. [Photo by: Dennis Hidalgo].

Sycamore on a full head of steam, showing nicely. Spirit pointed at the far end at 34, exuding high style and excellent decorum. He came from the right on Daugherty's

Ridge and worked the ridge to the twin barns. Spirit took the right side beyond the barns and was not seen again until he crested the far hill in the bull pasture 13 minutes later. He went on to finish going away in Climer's pastures. His was an excellent performance, marred only by the absence.

Judges: Mike Jackson and Keith Wright

MISSOURI OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 36 Pointers and 2 Setters

Winner-HANEY'S STORM WARNING, 1691416, pointer male, by Valiant-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

Runner-Up-RESTER'S CAJUN SPIRIT, 1695796, pointer male, by Miller's Blindsider-Rester's Amazing Grace. Allen Linder, owner; Judd Carlton, handler.

NORTH CAROLINA OPEN QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP

Touch's Malcolm Story Named Champion; Rocky River Halo, Runner-Up

By Derek Bonner | Hoffman, North Carolina | March 19, 2024



North Carolina Open Quail Championship (front, l-r): Touch's Malcolm Story with Jerry Raynor (scout) and Rocky River Halo with Ellen Winall (scout). (Second row): Mark McLean (handler), Scott Griffin, Mack Hilliard (judge), Derek Bonner, Whitley Stephenson (judge), Larry Cox, Gary Winall, a curious spectator, and Phil Stevenson (handler). (Third row): Gretchen Adsit, Lynn Deaton, Greg Robinson, and Brian Tiffany. (Fourth row): John Adsit, Jennie and Jim Emerson, and Fred Potts.

The 2024 running of the North Carolina Quail Championship began on March 17. It was welcomed by great weather and a field of 20 all-age dogs. Mack Hilliard and Whitley Stephenson judged this year's renewal. Both men are well-versed in the field trial world; Mack, a seasoned pro of many years and many championship wins, and Whitley, a competitive amateur handler. These two men rode attentively to each entry. We certainly appreciate their efforts. With

several good performances to choose from when it was all said and done, they chose Touch's Malcolm Story as the champion and Rocky River Halo as the runner-up champion.

Malcolm Story had a good all-age race and two nice finds to garner the championship for handler Mark McLean and owner Alex Rickert. Rocky River Halo had three well-spaced finds to earn the runner-up title for handler Phil Stevenson

and owners Carl Lefler and Phil Stevenson.

Touch's Midnight Rider, Haney's All In, and Woodville's Yukon Cornelius also gave noteworthy performances.

No trial is accomplished without the help of a lot of people. I'm incredibly grateful to Randy Bradshaw for shouldering a lot of the responsibilities for this championship. Thanks to board members Scott Griffin, Chad Adams, and Larry Cox for all they do to make this trial successful. Once again, thank you to Debbie Bonner for her awesome mandarin orange cake. Our gratitude is also extended to Sean Derrig, the owner of last year's champion, Erin's Wild Atlantic Way, for sponsoring our supper on the first night of the trial. As always, we're grateful for the continued support of Greg Blair and Purina and their sponsorship of this championship and our sport at all levels.

We look forward to seeing you all for next year's renewal.

Hoffman, N. C., March 19

Judges: Mack Hilliard and Whitley Stephenson

NORTH CAROLINA OPEN QUAIL

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

– 15 Pointers and 5 Setters

Winner-TOUCH'S MALCOLM STORY, 1675103, pointer male, by Touch's Knight Rider-Blackhawk's Sunflower. Alex Rickert, owner; Mark McLean, handler.

Runner-Up-ROCKY RIVER HALO, 1703164, pointer male, by Southpoint's Speedy G-Lone Tree Last Snow. Carl Lefler & Phil Stevenson, owners; Phil Stevenson, handler.

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NATIONAL AMATEUR PHEASANT CHAMPIONSHIP

Haney's Silver Dollar Named Champion; Game Heir, Runner-Up

By Steve Auxier | Gentry, Missouri | March 20, 2024

The Pony Express club members came together to host the National Amateur Pheasant Championship. This prestigious trial is the second-oldest amateur field trial championship. This year's event was highlighted by amazing performances and maintained the camaraderie that everyone looks forward to each spring. With the recent passing of Mr. Larry Smith, we felt honored to host an event of this magnitude! Larry and Linda Smith have created an amazing field trial venue with over 2,500+ acres of rolling hills, long tree lines, waterways, CRP strips, and over 43 ponds. This layout consists of four consecutive one-hour courses to showcase the all-age performance. Smith Farms has a quail program with habitat designed to sustain wild quail and pheasants. Plus, birds are released every day prior to the day's running, where every entry could have ample opportunity to find game. Larry's vision and his attention to detail to create an "experience" of hospitality for the field trialer and spectator was his goal. He would commonly say, "What is best for field trialing!" Smith Farms is designed with horse corrals, 56 dog kennels, a comfortable clubhouse, complimentary meals and hay for all, a Polaris ATV for spectators/owners, and on-site lodging for judges. With Larry/Linda Smith's vision, the club was honored to carry on the tradition and standard that Larry envisioned for Smith Farms. Larry was an amazing sportsman, great friend, and mentor to so many in the world of field trialing. Larry truly wanted what was best for field trials.

We want to thank Mrs. Linda Smith for the opportunity to host this event on her beautiful farm. We would also like to thank all the handlers and sponsors for this National qualifying event. Without their support, this event would not have been possible. Sponsors for this year's event include Purina Pro Plan, Garmin, Gun Dog Supply, Conkey's Outdoors, Rogue Pet, Smart Earth Pet Supply, Cable Gangz, Okie Dog Supply, Pleasant Hill Productions, Alpha Dog Nutrition, and Whites Safety Equipment. For this event, we held several raffles and giveaways.

We want to thank the following for donating frozen semen and dog training for the event: WF Setters (Mr. Bruce Sooter), Robertson's Kennel (Mr. Rich Robertson Jr.), and Vincent Kennels (Mr.



National Amateur Pheasant Championship (front, l-r): Joe Worsham with Haney's Silver Dollar and Steve Auxier (scout) with Game Heir. (Behind): Chris Cagle Jr., Allison Bell, Jarrett Bell, Terry Doolittle, Mark Johnson (judge), Linda Smith, Colton Carpenter, Dr. Fred Corder, Rita Corder, Frank LaNasa (judge), and Tommy Smith.

Allen Vincent). On Friday night, we held a special Purina-sponsored dinner. We also had a sponsored cocktail hour provided by Jon and Jessica Hahn of Perfection Kennels. On Friday night, we had a special New York strip barbeque dinner sponsored by Certified Piedmontese Beef and prepared by Mr. Scott Carpenter.

The Championship judges were Mr. Mark Johnson of Winnebago, Illinois, and Mr. Frank LaNasa of Isanti, Minnesota. The Pony Express Field Trial Club is truly honored to have these fine gentlemen in the judging seats. The judges noted a great trial with many dogs finding birds. They also noted the sportsmanship of everyone helping each other out with turning a dog loose and always willing to help—a great trial with great camaraderie from all.

The Champion & Runner-up Braces

Brace 1: Haney's Silver Dollar (Cagle) and Nemaha Lima Bean (McInteer). The Championship started at 8 a.m. with clear skies and 38 degrees. Both dogs headed west, with Silver Dollar scoring first at 10 on a trio of quail. Next, a find at 14 for Lima Bean standing on the east fence line next to the pond with Silver Dollar backing. Pat relocated Lima Bean to produce quail in the air. Both dogs headed to the north, reaching across the ridge. Silver Dollar reaching to the front, and Chris continued to point him out to the front as the young dog continued forward. Silver Dollar was spotted along the crick line with Lima Bean coming in for a back. Chris, after a

lengthy flushing attempt, was unable to produce a bird in a tough brushy area. Both dogs headed north across the crick, making the big loop, and headed back south. Silver Dollar was spotted standing on the edge at 49. The dog was standing high and tight, and Chris was able to flush a nice pheasant busting out of the cover! The dogs headed across the crick and headed south. Both dogs were found standing at 55 for a divided find. Silver Dollar headed south for a nice finish, showing his stamina and all-age endurance to finish the hour!

Brace 8: Game Heir (Corder) and Nemaha Touch A Grey (McInteer) were turned loose, heading across Dead Tree pond to the east and turning to the northeast. Game Heir was credited at 12 with a pair of quail along the long line. He continued to push the front. Both dogs were found standing on the edge of the long tree line, a divided find at 16. The dogs headed west over the hill towards the pond dam. The scout found Touch A Grey standing in the waterway. After relocation, a pheasant was produced. Game Heir continued to show power and range and was found standing high and tight at 24 on the northwest waterway. A pair of quail were produced. Game Heir headed to the north and turned west. He was credited with another pheasant at 31. As he headed west and turned back to the north, he was credited with another quail find at 42. The scout found him standing along the east crick line. A pheasant was produced at 52. He finished the hour. Touch A Grey was

picked up by handler at 45.

Gentry, Mo., March 20

Judges: Mark Johnson and Frank LaNasa

NATIONAL AMATEUR PHEASANT

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 21 Pointers

Winner-HANEY'S SILVER DOLLAR, 1698758, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle, owner; Chris Cagle Jr., handler.

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



Amateur Derby (front, l-r): Steve Auxier with Intensive Big N Fancy, Tommy Smith with Spot, and Joe Worsham with Snipe Creek Rider. (Behind): Frank LaNasa (judge), Linda Smith, Mark Johnson (judge), Colton Carpenter, and Doug Watt.

AMATEUR DERBY – 5 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-INTENSIVE BIG N FANCY, 1711593, pointer male, by Texas Cool-Hey Sugar Suga. Steve Auxier, owner and handler.

2d-SPOT, unreg., pointer male, by S F Slipknot-S F Miss Lily. Larry Smith, owner; Colton Carpenter, handler.

3d-SNIPE CREEK RIDER, 1705568, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Bandit's Hill Daisy. Doug Watt, owner and handler.

DERBY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Miller's Heat Seeker Wins Cedar Valley Open Shooting Dog Classic

By Margaret C. Drew | Hoffman, North Carolina | March 22, 2024

Spring arrived in North Carolina two days before the Cedar Valley Open Shooting Dog Classic was scheduled to start on the infamous Sandhill Wildlife Game Lands known as J. Robert Gordon Field Trial grounds located off Derby Road just three miles from the center of Hoffman, North Carolina. Folks turn off State Highway 1 onto Caddell Road at the BP Gas station in the center of Hoffman. Keeping right onto York Avenue (which becomes Derby Road), you then travel three miles to a large brown state sign designating J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area. Turn left at the wooden state sign onto a dirt road. At the first intersection, bear left and continue until you reach the clubhouse, barn, and dog gathering area.

The Cedar Valley trial history is well documented as one of Georgia's earliest and most prestigious shooting dog events. Beginning in the early '50s, the Georgia event attracted great handlers and their top dogs. Among these handlers were Robin Gates, Captain Freddy Epp, Eddie Epp, Freddie Rayl, Mike Wrenn, George Tracy, Mike Tracy, Travis Gellhaus, Shawn Kinkelaar, Luke Eisenhart, Matt Basilone, and Jeanette Tracy.

The grounds in Georgia were graciously donated by J. L. Lester, who allowed his cattle farm to be transformed into the field trial venue. LeRoy Robinson and his sons, Marty and Danny, had the vision to work with Georgia Speaker of the House Tom Murphy, allowing the property to be purchased from Mr. Lester. The area then fell under the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and became an area for field trials hosted by bird dogs and rabbits.

Members of the bird dog family worked endlessly to see that the grounds were bird dog friendly, with the Cedar Valley Classic being a favorite January event. The club



Hatteras Rip Tide, "Best Setter of the Classic"

also hosted a big fall event in October. Members instrumental in keeping these grounds alive were Ray Jeffers, Bob Coile, and Bobby Fox, who annually planted feed patches, mowed courses, arranged thinning, and numerous other items needed to host a trial. This included pre-releasing quail in September each year. There was a barn and, later, a great clubhouse on the grounds. With the aging of several club-founding members, the task of continuing these two trials fell to Terry Anderson and Bruce Mercer; consequently, in 2020, Calvin Curmutte, with the help of the Southern Bird Hunters Association (SBHA), the Cedar Valley Shooting Dog Classic was relocated to Hoffman. It needs to be noted that SBHA has been instrumental in promoting walking and horseback trials in the southern states, as well as stretching its influence in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

In hopes of attracting a large entry, Calvin devised a new format where more dogs and handlers could be recognized. He instructed the judges to name a "Dog of the Day" for each of the five days. These dogs were awarded \$300. He also included \$500

for each of the two dogs in the "Best Brace of the Trial." Not stopping there, Calvin offered a "Best Setter of the Trial" in honor of Terry Merritt Setters. This dog received an additional \$400. Of course, the purse was split between three placements. The total of all these special recognitions was \$10,000. In addition to the monetary units involved with this Cedar Valley Classic, there were engraved sterling silver items for the judges and etched glass decanter sets for the three placements.

As readers can see, the Sandhills Game Lands area (Robert Gordon Field Trial area) attracts several very prestigious events. In the 2023–24 calendar season, the fall began with four weeks of the All-Age Jamboree, which included pheasant and quail competitions. The North Carolina Open Shooting Dog Championship drew 54 December entries, with 30 derbies to follow. The U. S. Complete Shooting Dog group held its National Shooting Dog Championship here in February for the seventh year and the Southeastern Open Championship in early March. The U. S. Complete are walking events, unlike the horseback all-age and other shooting dog events held at Hoffman. These grounds have indeed begun to live up to the founding father's vision.

Without the support of dog owners and their trainers/handlers, a trial cannot happen. For "top shelf" events, chairmen have to obtain monetary support from other sponsors. The Cedar Valley Open Shooting Dog Classic had a small booklet dedicated to military men and women who gave their lives protecting ours and those still fighting for us. Inside the book were sponsor ads, but even more special were three biographies of friends of Calvin who gave their lives so that we might continue to live in a free land where we can enjoy field trials. Sponsors were: Drowning Creek



Smooth Talkin, Friday Dog of the Day



Miller's War Bonnet, Saturday Dog of the Day



Harbor City Express, Sunday Dog of the Day

Bird Dogs, Godwin's Outdoors. Inc., Hog Slat, the operation foundation, Aberdeen Supply, Smoke Rise Kennels, American Timber & Wildlife, 75th Ranger Regiment of military working dogs, Fort Setters, Comfort Studio Furniture, Midnight Kennel, Haney Pointers, Sandland Setters, Merritt Setters, Pat Brooks, Nutrena, Bob and Barbara Young, Dr. Debbie Ozner, Suemac Kennels, Roger McPherson, Calvin Curnutte Sr., George Hickox, Coach Allan Johnson, Doug Meyer, Hunter Prevette, Will Herring, and Ed Jesson. **If interested in supporting the 2025 Classic with a donation or taking an advertising ad in the booklet, please contact Calvin Curnutte at (910) 995-7902 or email: drowningcreekgundogs@yahoo.com.

Judges for these six busy days were Jim Crayne, Centre, Alabama, and Kyle Whitfield, Seven Springs, North Carolina. This pair was attentive to each dog and handler, often seen conversing at the end of a brace. This had been a very hard trial to judge; the grounds were nearly perfect, stretching for miles with lots of cover and objectives to hunt. One judge noted that several dogs had races we would all like to see our dogs put down. On top of this, there were several dogs with quail contact, again, often handled with high standing style after exhibiting stamina and ground pattern intelligence. The judges remarked that this had been a pleasure to judge and they were thankful that chairman Curnutte had provided for the recognition of more than the traditional three placements. From the judges: "A job well done," chairman Curnutte.

Also assisting with the smooth-flowing operation of the trial were marshals every brace for announcing the dogs and making sure that handlers were on course. Sam Giddens, Bob Young, Chris Joyal, Calvin Curnutte, and Larry Cox served as marshals. As always, during the 2023-2024 season, Greg Robinson was on hand and in charge of the dog/people

wagon. He picks up and returns dogs and even provides water for dogs and clean hay. His favorite role is greeting the trail guests, whether handlers or guests, to observe the dogs. He provides beverages and snacks, including some freshly roasted peanuts and fruit. A better wagon master one cannot find. Lunch was available every noon, prepared and served by Calvin Curnutte, Sr. On the last day, some construction was underway at the Drowning Creek Kennels at the Merritt Setter grounds; consequently, Donna Crayne laid out everything needed to make your sandwich.

While attending a trial at the Hoffman location, there is a short 16-mile jaunt to Aberdeen or Southern Pines, where every hotel chain and even more restaurants are available. Some "special effects" were in place during the Cedar Valley Classic. On Monday, a farrier was present for resets and shoeing. The local Aberdeen Supply offered to deliver any preorder for horse grain, dog food, or hay.

Dogs of the Day

At a trial, there is an amount of luck involved in earning a placement. Often, the day has a variety of weather, the time of day, and the course one is drawn to run on. To recognize dogs that could have and would have placed at a different time, Chairman Curnutte requested the judges to name a dog of the day for each of the five days. Judges considered style, range, ground application while hunting, and if birds were located, how the dogs looked, and how they handled the birds.

Friday's Dog of the Day went to Patrick Roach's Pointer male, Smooth Talkin, with Doug Ray. He had a nice race and was very classy moving. He scored a nonproductive at 45, albeit a high and tight point at 55, which ended in a relocation attempt, putting birds in the air.

Saturday was sunny, with the promise of showers holding off until a few sprinkles during brace 12, the final brace of the day.

This threatening weather is usually a good bird-finding day at Hoffman, and today did not disappoint. Miller's War Bonnet, a female Pointer owned by Joe McHugh with Mike Tracy, was given the title. The judges said War Bonnet's race was flawless, perfect in every way, until she locked up tight with handler, failing to flush birds. When tapped to relocate, things quickly came to a screeching halt as birds lifted before War Bonnet could get stopped.

On Sunday, those riding knew we were probably watching a winner when Tom Brigman brought his Pointer male, Harbor City Express, to the line on Course 2. Harbor City had a strong race, highlighted by two finds (more detail with the placements).

On Monday, Miller's Little Duce Coupe, a Pointer female and 2023 Top Purina Derby winner owned by Allen Linder and granddaughter Madison McDonald with Mike Tracy, was tapped for the day's honors. She had a consistent range and a very active and forward race. She scored a find and then had a mishap when relocating on her second covey find.

Tuesday signaled the final day of six braces a day. Miller's Heat Seeker, a Pointer male with Mike Tracy, ran in this 29th brace, which took place after lunch on Course 5. He is owned by Muriel and Bill Primm, Dennis Hood, and Fran and Jack Miller. The judges commented, "Another perfect race, the kind you think you will never see." Those of us riding knew he had to be knocking on the judges' favorite lists with his three exquisite covey finds.

The judges chose the sixth brace of Day One as the "Best Brace of the Classic." The honors went to Waybetter Rebel, a Pointer male owned by Allen Linder and Bill and Muriel Primm. Rebel was under the whistle of Mike Tracy. The judges commented on how gleefully he breezed around the course, always to the front, head and tail cracking: a thrill to watch. He and



Miller's Little Duce Coupe, Monday Dog of the Day



Waybetter Rebel, "Best Brace of the Classic"



Miller's Heat Seeker, Tuesday Dog of the Day

bracemate had points called at 58 minutes for individual finds. Both dogs handling their individual coveys with polished manners. Smoke'N'Mirrors required a relocation, which she handled to perfection. Smoke'N'Mirrors, a Pointer female owned by Richard Gillis and Stacy Goodie, was with Matt Basilone. Smoke'N'Mirrors had the rain beginning to fall as she and bracemate began their hour. However, the weather was no distraction for these two. Her race was consistent from beginning to end, always hunting independently with an animated carriage and seldom in the path.

In honor of Terry Merritt Setters, the "Best Setter of the Classic" went to Hatteras Rip Tide, a 5-year-old white and tan Setter male owned by Jett Ferebee, who was present to observe his performance. The handler was Doug Ray.

When all the braces had been run, the judges met briefly to write down their choices, which we had all been told would be announced at 6:30 in the clubhouse. As it was late, photos were planned to be taken at noon on Wednesday; however, heavy rain and thunderstorm threats canceled those plans.

Cedar Valley Classic winners were announced following the special recognitions.

Gaining the blue was Miller's Heat Seeker, a Pointer male out of Just Irresistible x Miller's Bring The Heat. Owners are Bill and Murel Primm, Dennis Hood, and Jack and Fran Miller. Mike Tracy was the handler for this almost

8-year-old Pointer. Heat Seeker ran in the heat of the early afternoon, although he was vigorously fast as he consistently powered through the course in an always forward pattern. Always to the front, we kept getting glimpses of his cracking tail and snappy animation. His three intense finds were breathtaking.

Second went to orange and white Pointer male Harbor City Express owned and handled by Tom Brigman of Ross Hill, North Carolina. Harbor City Express is almost 4 years old and out of Stoney Run's Buddy x Mohawk Mill Ziva. His race was strong, with one brief absence; however, when found standing, he was well to the side of the course in an area where no other dogs had gone. His reward was a very large covey flushed while he remained intense for wing and shot. "An awesome sight," remarked the judge. He handled well and



Smoke 'N' Mirrors, "Best Brace of the Classic"

orchestrated the course to perfection, scoring one additional covey in his hour. He was carried from Sunday morning in brace 14 until Tuesday afternoon's brace 29.

Third went to the best Setter in this classic, English Setter male Hatteras Rip Tide with Doug Ray. As noted previously, owner Jett Ferebee was mounted to watch. Doug Hinton had whelped this dog with Black Top x Jo Veeta in late 2019. Rip Tide ran on the final morning of the classic on Course 1. Breaking away below the clubhouse at 8 a.m., this brace was away and to the front before scouts were on their horses. He was powerful on the ground, motoring through every objective with one abbreviated absence. He was stylish on point with well-indicated and handled covey finds. He had two finds and a back during his hour.

Hoffman, S. C., March 22

Judges: Jim Crayne and Kyle Whitfield

OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats]

- 51 Pointers and 9 Setters

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

2d-HARBOR CITY EXPRESS, 1695399, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Mohawk Mill Zeva. Tom Brigman Jr., owner and handler.

3d-HATTERAS RIP TIDE, 1690467, setter male, by Black Top-Jo Veeta. Jett Ferebee, owner; Doug Ray, handler.

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NATIONAL AMATEUR CHUKAR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Love Train Named Champion; Rocking J's Pearl, Runner-Up

By Todd Schaaf | Maupin, Oregon | March 23, 2024

The Pacific Coast Championship Field Trial Club, in conjunction with the AFTCA, hosted the 2024 National Amateur Chukar All-Age Championship. Piper Huffman did the drawing on Thursday, March 21; we had a sold entry of 21 dogs with a good mixture of Pointers, Setters, and German Shorthairs. We had some great sponsors for this event, and thank them for their support. Thank you, Purina, Garmin, and Bruce Fox. We could not put the quality we do without your support. This year's judges were Dan Hoke and Derrick Olsen; both did a great job, and we thank you for your time in the saddle. After looking at 21 dogs, the champion came from the second brace, top dog Love Train, owned and handled by Tom Griffin. The runner-up champion was Rocking J's Pearl, the top dog in the fifth brace, owned and handled by Jerry Walton.

Champion's Run

The breakaway for Course 2 can be difficult. The course goes right, and the lay of the land goes left. Everything left is more inviting than everything downrange on course. Surely, as a handler, you should identify where you can win or lose a trial. This is one of those places. Love Train and Warrior both went left; Love Train, figuring out the front sooner, headed towards the base of Mt. Krumpet. Warrior was not in sight but there was discussion as to which dog was forward. Cresting Mt. Krumpet, the view is incredible. The snow-covered Mt. Hood and Mt. Jefferson in the distance. The Berg of Kent is off to the east; thankfully, you can't see Portland. We did see a dog far off in the distance. Mt. Hood is some 11,000 feet high. It seemed the white dot out on the horizon might have been that far away from the gallery—plenty of rumination about the situation,



National Amateur Chukar All-Age Championship (l-r): Chris Perkins, Phil Bowden, Josh Miller, Sergio Veles, Mark McFarlin, Tom Griffin (owner/handler) with Love Train (champion), Jim Ledington, Dan Hoke, Todd Schaaf, Derrek Olson, and Chase Cochran.

Perkins asking for the retrieval unit at 30. As we approached the windmill, a chorus was heard. Something like, "Come, dog, join me." Like magic, Love Train came out of the bottom and rejoined the smiling Griffin. He headed her up Mad Hatter, and at 57, she was found on point. After the birdwork, she was released to the front and finished her remaining minutes heading south.

Runner-up's Run

Walton kept Pearl in check off the line. Once lined out towards Mt. Krumpet, she opened up like he knew she would. Pearl made smart moves up on Mt. Krumpet while Primrose was on the eastern ridge of her course. As we descended the backside of Mt. Krumpet, "Point" could be heard from the distant ridge. Pretty as she could be, Pearl stood for a chukar. Turning into the weird two-gate part of the course, Pearl

didn't use either gate as she took the ridge down to the windmill. Walton gathered Pearl on the corner, sending her south to the finish.

It takes a group of people to put on a quality championship. I want to thank Piper Huffman for all she does, the AFTCA for offering such great National Amateur Championships, and all my helpers for putting this event on. Thank you, Dan Hoke, for the running writeup.

Maupin, Ore., March 23

Judges: Dan Hoke and Derrick Olsen

NATIONAL AMATEUR CHUKAR ALL-AGE

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

– 11 Pointers, 6 Setters, and 4 German Shorthairs

Winner-LOVE TRAIN, 1686322, pointer female, by Miller's Blindsider-Lyons Platinum. Tom Griffin, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-ROCKING J'S PEARL, 1702191, pointer female, by Kelly's Rebel Louie-Saddle Up Reba. Jerry Walton, owner and handler.

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REGION 4 (AFTCA) AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Storm's End Named Champion; Imagine, Runner-Up

By Jim Pendergest | Berea, Kentucky | March 23, 2024

The Region 4 Amateur All-Age Championship concluded on March 24, with judges Bill Mason and Jennifer McKemie awarding Storm's End championship honors and Imagine the runner-up title over a field of 16 competitors.

The Region 4 Championships are rotated between Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio; in Kentucky, between the Miller Welch Wildlife Management Area and the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area. This year was the Miller Welch turn in the rotation. Judges Mason and McKemie are from Moundsville, Alabama, and have a wide range of experience in the bird dog world. Bill has recently retired from managing the Forever Wild area in Greensboro, Alabama, which has been host to many trials, including the National Free-For-All Championship and the United States Open Championship. Bill has been successful this year with his excellent derby, Greensboro's Flyover, winning in both the all-age and derby ranks with his young dog. Jennifer has been along to experience all of the trials and tribulations of the field trial game with her father, and we are thankful to both for agreeing to judge this trial.

Many thanks go out to those who helped make this trial happen. Mary Sue Schalk is the secretary of Region 4 and carries the bulk of the workload in seeing that the three championships come off successfully each year, and this one was no different. Amy Pendergest handled dog wagon duties and lunch preparation and served a wonderful lasagna and salad dinner on Saturday night after the running. Tim Hammons, Mike Crouse, and Matt Pendergest assisted with marshaling duties throughout.

Purina and Greg Blair sponsored the Championship like many others, and the champion and runner-up were awarded bags of Purina Sport Pro

Plan as an additional reward for their accomplishments. Purina's support is instrumental in continuing to put on first-class trials for the competitors, and we can't thank them enough.

The Winners and Others

Storm's End, owned by Matt Pendergest and Megan Henry, competed in the third brace Saturday morning and put on a bird-finding exhibition. Her finds occurred at 4, 11, 21, 26, 29, 34, and 46. The first was at the conclusion of a big swing across the front in the big bottom from the Old House breakaway. The second came after a brief absence when scout was sent back to search in the last place Pendergest had seen her. On the third, she was found standing to the front at the Drive-In field after a big swing through the Agee bottom. Shortly after, she was located just below the trap range standing. No. 5 occurred just as she caught the front. She was released from this one and made a nice swing to the left front and out of site to be found standing at the Old Barn crossing. She was sent down the Twentieth Century Fund chute, made a swing to the left and around the property line fence, and was subsequently found standing directly in front on No. 7. All of her finds were stylish and mannerly, and her finish was strong.

Imagine ran in the first brace Saturday morning for owner/handler Jim Pendergest. He was away with a nice cast through the Dewey bottom and then across the concrete culvert and to the Round Woods. After casting to the right front, point was called to the front at the Old Barn location with a picturesque stand at 16. Manners were good with birds flying over the top of the dog. The handler was pointing the dog out on good swings through the back part of the course, and after a 10-minute absence, Imagine showed to the front just before the creek crossing. Past the Round Woods, point was called again with similar results to the first stand. Across the blacktop road,

he was showing well around the Goose Pond and finished the hour with a strong swing to the front.

Casey Creek Ice Crystal, in the last brace on Saturday, was challenging for a placement with finds at 25, 34, and 41, coupled with a big race, but an unproductive in the last 10 minutes and a spell behind at pickup time derailed her chance.

Crouse's Heart of Dixon was braced with Imagine and impressed with a strong all-age race coupled with one well-handled find at the first gravel road crossing at 17. He completed the hour without further game contact.

In the Amateur Derby stake, Flightline garnered first with a strong ground race and one mannerly find on quail for Matt Pendergest. Mary Sue Schalk handled Crouse's Comeback Kid to second place with three game contacts and a stylish forward ground pattern. Boatrights Iron Eagle took third place honors with a classy, strong ground race. Point was called once, but the dog worked through the scent and finished his heat as strong as he started for owner/handler Terry Boatright.

Berea, Ky., March 23

**Judges: Bill Mason and Jennifer McKemie
REGION 4 AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats]**

- 10 Pointers, 3 Setters, and 3 Irish Setters

*Winner-STORM'S END, 1687221, pointer female, by Dunn's Tried'n True-K F Prairie Storm. Matt Pendergest & Megan Henry, owners; Matt Pendergest, handler.
Runner-Up-IMAGINE, 1693699, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Dialed In. Jim Pendergest, owner and handler.*

AMATEUR DERBY - 5 Pointers and 1 Setter

*1st-FLIGHTLINE, 1703306, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-Storm's End. Jim & Matt Pendergest, owners; Matt Pendergest, handler.
2d-CROUSE'S COMEBACK KID, 1701214, pointer male, by Crouse's Heart of Dixon-Crouse's Skiptomyly. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Mary Sue Schalk, handler.
3d-BOATRIGTHS IRON EAGLE, 1700325, setter male, by Woodville's Yukon Cornelius-Outcast Starbreeze. Terry Boatright, owner and handler.*



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UTAH FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Annual Spring Trial

By Rich Burgi | Berea, Kentucky | March 23, 2024

Utah Field Trial Association held its annual field trial at Howell, Utah, on Saturday, March 23. This trial has occurred at this site consecutively for over 50 years. The grounds this year were in remarkable shape, with excellent growth from the above-average moisture that northern Utah has experienced the past couple of seasons. These trial grounds have traditionally carried some native birds, and it was nice to see this year an increase in sharptail grouse and paired Hungarian partridge, consistent with the good cover and moisture. All braces had bird contact with the wild birds and released chukar. The weather mostly cooperated with breezy conditions, but no storms occurred until the trial had finished and participants were packing up to leave. At that time, strong winds with torrential rain and sleet came, which would have made it impossible to continue the trial if it had occurred just minutes earlier.

The Open Shooting Dog attracted 11 participants, with all races showing well and having bird contact. First place was awarded to "Cephus," a German Shorthair Pointer male owned by Shawn Miller. Cephus had a strong, forward race, accompanied by three excellent finds on chukar at 7, 22, and 29. Second place was awarded to "Willow," a Vizsla female owned and handled by Daniel Mayer. She had a nice race with three finds at 15, 22, and 28. The second find was on wild sharptail grouse. Third place was won by "Hersh," a German Shorthair Pointer owned and handled by Kyle Oxborrow. Hersh ran a nice hunting and searching race, scoring birdwork three times at 15, 17, and 22. The second was a stop to flush.

The Open Derby stake had eight dogs. Trip, a German Shorthair Pointer male owned and handled by Mat Blockovich, won first place. All derbies showed well, but Trip had a strong forward race covering the country and a find on liberated chukar. It was Trip's strong race and finish, which attributed to the first-place finish. Second place was won by "Fran," a German Shorthair Pointer female, owned and handled by Dr. Mike Van Zomeren. Fran had a nice, directed race, with two finds on chukar. "Tucker," a male English Setter



Open Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Kyle Oxborrow with K O's Brown Sugar Showtime, Daniel Mayer with Hillbillie's Willow Maize, and Shawn Miller with O T F's Cephus Gone Wild. (Behind): Robbie Thompson, Connor Erickson, Art Cox (judge), Scott Evans, Derek Evans, Rich Burgi (judge), Ray Carter, Mat Blockovich, and Brett Burgi.

owned and handled by Ray Carter, won third place. Tucker had a good, consistent ground race with three finds. On his second find, he demonstrated broke dog work.

All judges felt this was a very competitive trial for both stakes. All braces had bird contacts, making it fun to judge and watch. We thank judges Scott Evans, Kyle Oxborrow, Rich Burgi, and Art Cox for their time and attention. Thanks also to all participants, and congratulations to the winners. Special thanks to Jeanne Burgi for organizing the event and Brett Burgi for planting birds and marshaling. Thanks to Scott Evans for judging, raising the chukars for this event, and helping in any way.

Well-deserved congratulations to all the placements!

Howell, Utah, March 23 – One Course

Judges: Richard Burgi and Art Cox

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 11 Entries

1st-O T F'S CEPHUS GONE WILD, 1693905, German Shorthair male, by W D K's Otis-OTF's Tickle Me Wild. Shawn Miller, owner and handler.

2d-HILLBILLIE'S WILLOW MAIZE, 1698553, Vizsla female, by Hillbillie's Cherokee Brave-Hillbillie's Too Legit To Quit. Daniel Mayer, owner and handler.

3d-K O'S BROWN SUGAR SHOWTIME, 1675907, German Shorthair male, by Sliderock's Showtime Stopper-P P K's Sugar. Kyle Oxborrow, owner and handler.



Open Derby (front, l-r): Shawn Miller with Good Times Triple Threat, Dennis Pennington with Super Frantastic, and Ray Carter with Valor's Lucky Tucker. (Behind): Mat Blockovich, Kyle Oxborrow, Dr. Mike Van Zomeren, and Scott Evans.

Judges: Scott Evans and Kyle Oxborrow

OPEN DERBY

– 1 Pointer, 3 Setters, and 4 German Shorthairs

1st-GOOD TIMES TRIPLE THREAT, 1703848, German Shorthair male, by Kimber Tactical-Covey Up's Shake The Bank. Mat Blockovich, owner and handler.

2d-SUPER FRANTASTIC, 1703699, German Shorthair female, by W S K's Road Trip-W S K's Voodoo Queen. Mike Van Zomeren, owner and handler.

3d-VALOR'S LUCKY TUCKER, 1703473, setter male, by T's American Gunfighter-T's Whistling Dixie. Ray Carter, owner and handler.

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PACIFIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

Battle Born Bette Wins Open Shooting Dog; Hirollins B K Bulletproof, Runner-Up

By Todd Schaaf | Maupin, Oregon | March 25, 2024



Pacific Coast Open Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Nicholas Schade, Chris Perkins, Emily Deasy, James Wallace, Mark McFarlin, Tyler Schillereff, Mel Lueck, Tim Schillereff, Thomas Griffin with Battle Born Bette, Jim Ledington with Hirollins B K Bulletproof, Landen and Chase Cochran, Sergio Velez, Cliff Mesnard, Phill Bowden, and Josh Miller.

The 124th running of the Pacific Coast Championships was run on the beautiful Imperial Ranch in Maupin, Oregon, for the fourth year. The entries are getting bigger, even with a few of our regulars not being able to make it this year. Our drawing was held on Friday, March 22, at the River Side Bar and Grill. We had a great turnout, with 26 dogs in the Pacific Coast Shooting Dog and 21 in the All-Age.

The Pacific Coast Shooting Dog Championship started on Monday, March 25, with a cold but beautiful day to run dogs. Our judges were James Wallace from Ohio and Cliff Mesnard from California. Thank you both; you did a great job. Our

champion was Battle Born Bette, owned and handled by Thomas Griffin. Tom was on a hot streak; he had just won the National Amateur Chukar Championship the day before with his dog, Love Train. Way to go, Tom. Our runner-up champion was Hirollins B K Bulletproof, owned by Sergio Velez, Phil Bowden, and Rod Lecher and handled by Sergio Velez.

The Champion's Race

In brace 2, bottom dog Battle Born Bette's run was just what the judges were looking for—a strong to-the-front race that flowed across the terrain but did not reach all-age statues. Bette did that with two finds, one at 18 and the other at 46, with

great style and perfect birdwork.

The Runner-up Champion's Race

In brace 9, top dog Hirollins B K Bulletproof started strong up the draw, hitting all the rimrock. He was found to the front on point at 25. He had his second find, a 43, and finished the hour strong to the front. He was a big running dog from start to finish.

Maupin, Ore., March 25

Judges: Cliff Mesnard and James Wallace

PACIFIC COAST OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 26 Entries

Winner-BATTLE BORN BETTE, 1698151, setter female, by Sunrise's Final Chapter-Lying Eyes. Tom Griffin, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-HIROLLINS B K BULLETPROOF, 1696564, pointer male, by Fastforward's B K Gunner-Wiggins Miss Stella. Phil Bowden, owner; Sergio Velez, handler.


PACIFIC COAST OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]


– 16 Pointers, 6 Setters, and 4 German Shorthairs
[PLACEMENTS WITHHELD
PENDING INVESTIGATION]

OPEN ALL-AGE – 3 Pointers and 2 Setters
[PLACEMENT WITHHELD
PENDING INVESTIGATION]

Another great championship series is in the books. We had great support for handlers across the Pacific Northwest. Thank you all for coming. Thank you to Greg Blair, Purina, Jim Morehouse, and SportDOG—two great sponsors. This event could not be put on without all our club members' support and help. We are a small group but seem to get it done every year.

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AMERICAN DERBY INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Bandit's Hill Avenger Wins 31st Renewal; Game Star, Runner-Up

By Bonnie Hidalgo | Grovespring, Missouri | March 28, 2024

Bandit's Hill Avenger ran away with the 2024 American Derby Invitational Championship title. An extremely impressive first series performance earned him top dog honors; his incredibly flawless second series shut the door on the rest of the contestants. The 2-year-old Pointer male belongs to Ann Forrester of South Fulton, Tennessee, who also bred him. Avenger was skillfully guided through both series by his trainer and handler, Ike Todd.

Game Star grabbed the runner-up honors for owner Fred Corder, Corinth, Mississippi. The classy Pointer female was expertly handled by Ike Todd. With a terrific first-series performance, Game Star was brought back in the second series as the number two seed. She came back with sore feet, but she ran on heart. She was beautiful on her birds—truly a game star!

In addition to the winners, three dogs were announced as stand-bys: Haney's Last Call, owned by Chris Cagle and handled by Ike Todd; Lester's Front Porch, owned by Gary Lester and handled by Korry Rinehart; and Rampage, owned by S. Tucker Johnson and handled by Luke Eisenhart. The stand-bys were not called upon to run in the second series.

This was the 31st renewal of the American Derby Invitational Championship. It moved to the Field Trial Sportsmen's Grounds at Grovespring, Missouri, in the spring of 2018. It is hosted by the Southwest Missouri Sportsmen's Club and follows the Missouri Open Championship. When it first moved to Missouri, Kendall Schmidt was its chairman; he passed that dubious honor on to Kipp Linard, beginning with the 2022 renewal. This year, the American Derby Invitational commenced on Thursday, March 28. The drawing was held at the Grovespring clubhouse on the eve of the running. George Hill, Kipp Linard, and Dave Capstick conducted it. Dennis and Bonnie Hidalgo filled out judges' books.

The Invitational Championship consists of two series; dogs are invited to the first series according to their points ranking among the season's best derby dogs. Ideally, the top 12 dogs are invited and compete, but a provision allows for the next dog or dogs on the list to be invited. If any of the top 12 refuse the invitation, no dog ranked lower than 20 may compete. In this renewal, two dogs declined the



American Derby Invitational Championship (front, l-r): Korry Rinehart with Bandit's Hill Avenger, Myles Jaeger, and Ike Todd with Game Star. (Behind): Dave Capstick, Ann Forrester, Keith Wright (judge), George Hill, Kipp Linard (judge), Bonnie Hidalgo, and Chris Jaeger.

invitation, and two others entered but scratched since females in season may not compete.

This year's rankings, in descending order, were:

1. Rampage, S. Tucker Johnson, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.
2. Full Ride, Kevin Dixon, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.
3. Erin's Happy Hour, Mike Sweet, owner; Judd Carlton, handler.
4. Comanche, S. Tucker Johnson; owner, Luke Eisenhart, handler.
5. Haney's Easy Money (this dog was not entered), Chris Cagle, owner; Ike Todd, handler.
6. Haney's Last Call, Chris Cagle, owner; Ike Todd, handler.
7. Game Star, Fred Corder, owner; Ike Todd, handler.
8. Lester's War Bird, Gary Lester, owner; Korry Rinehart, handler.
9. Bandit's Hill Avenger, Ann Forrester, owner; Ike Todd, handler.
10. Moss Hill Conference Call (not entered), Brian and Emily Spear and Buck and Lynn Heard, owners; Mark McLean, handler.
11. Lester's Front Porch, Gary Lester, owner; Korry Rinehart, handler.
12. Quail Woods Pine, Dr. Greg Adams, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.
13. Shaws Money Mabel (scratched before draw), Gary Shaw, Owner; Matt Cochran, handler.
14. Wynona's All Business (scratched before draw), Bruce Sooter, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.
15. Blackhawk Lucky Charm, Jim Mills, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.
16. Wild Covey Sundial, Tony King, Owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

The first series must run in its entirety on a single day since dogs must have a similar rest period between series. The initial series is a one-hour heat that is drawn for running order. The rules allow them to continue in the first series even if they make errors on game. The dogs do not have to be seen at the end of the first series to be called back. In the final series normal field trial rules apply in regard to the performances. The judges select the final series dogs based on their performance and may call any number back; they also arrange the order of running for this series. The second series is a 90-minute heat. Typically, four dogs are brought back for the finals. The judges may place others on standby in case their top choices fail to suit in the final round.

As you may have guessed, this year's final series was anything but typical. It is not possible to brace the top two dogs together when they are handled by the same man, a man who also handled the third-ranked dog from the first series. The judges chose the only option that made

sense and called back the top two dogs as byes. They braced their number three dog with their fourth dog and placed them on standby. Furthermore, they placed a fifth dog on standby in the event the other four failed at their tasks.

The advertised judges for the Championship were Joe Don House of Clinton, Kentucky, and Mike Matney of Big Sandy, Tennessee, but they were unable to attend due to illness in their families. On short notice, chairman Kipp Linard secured the services of Keith Wright, who agreed to stay over after having judged the Missouri Open Championship. Failing to find another replacement judge, Kipp stepped up to judge and left the running of the event to his excellent committee. Keith has had dogs that have competed and won this stake in previous years; this Championship has special meaning to him. Both judges are very knowledgeable bird dog men. They were discerning in their choices; they watched carefully and set an excellent pace. Keith and Kipp did not take this assignment lightly.

Purina sponsors this Championship and provides Pro Plan Sport 30/20 to the winners. Everyone in attendance, from club officials to the winners, appreciates this support! Our sincere thanks to Purina and its representatives, Greg Blair and Terry Trzcinski.

Following the first series, the Invitational Championship pork chop dinner was held. A hungry crowd was in attendance. Kipp Linard, Dave Capstick, George Hill, and Tim Self helped prepare the dinner. The announcement of the second series' dogs followed dinner.

As mentioned previously, Kipp Linard chaired this event. Tim Self drove the dog wagon during the first series; George Hill drove it in the second. Dave Capstick planted birds before each morning's running; Tim assisted on the first morning. William Smith replaced birds that were moved during the morning braces of the first series. These men are a hard-working team, and due to their efforts, this trial ran smoothly.

The Winners' Total Performances

In the first series, Bandit's Hill Avenger, handled by Ike Todd, appeared in the first brace after lunch. Ann Forrester was in the gallery to watch Avenger; he did not disappoint. He was nicely forward through Breakaway field. He crossed the



Breakaway in the Derby Invitational finals, showing Ike Todd, Ann Forrester (owner), and Korry Rinehart with Bandit's Hill Avenger.

creek bed and went wide to the right front beyond Daugherty's house. Avenger was found pointing, out on a limb, in Sycamore bottom at 15. In Davis bottom, Avenger backed his bracemate nicely at 27, in the far-right corner. On Apple Tree hill, he scored a find on the south line at 48, all in order. This dog was fast and forward; he never let up during the hour. Bandits Hill Avenger was textbook on running edges.

In the second series, Bandit's Hill Avenger was again handled by Ike Todd. Avenger was forward down the first meadow and then went quickly out of sight. Minutes ticked by, and everyone, including Ann Forrester, was thinking that the top qualifier was lost. At 14, a cry of point was heard in the distance. Scout Korry Rinehart had found the young dog on point on the west side of Parks Creek road, in Sycamore bottom. Avenger showed fine style. Todd flushed thoroughly with no luck; playing it cautiously, he opted not to relocate and took the unproductive. Avenger was released on the east side of the road. He took to the edge and swapped ends at 20, very impressive! Again, Todd didn't find the quarry, but this time, he sent Avenger for the relocation. The young Pointer did it so exceptionally that the gallery was enthralled. It was a perfect piece of birdwork!

At 25, he pointed in the last cross row before Davis bottom. Again, the young Pointer was flawless in style and demeanor. Avenger ran the Davis bottom edges the way they were meant to be hunted; he did it with speed, range, and style. At 34, in the far end, he was rewarded for his intelligent moves with another perfect find. Avenger continued his great race through Island field and up Horse Killer. He showed going across Apple Tree hill and then into Little Vine loop's bottoms. Todd called point and rode to the end of the field near Little Vine road; Avenger stood there with head and tail held high and his birds

well located for the flush. Nice job! He was sent up Little Vine hill and showed a couple of times as he traversed it. In the bottom again, Avenger scored his fourth find at 115. He showed class and mature manners. Avenger finished his hour with a fast and forward trip through Sycamore bottom. This was a performance that will long be remembered by those who were lucky enough to witness it.

Game Star, under the guidance of Ike Todd, turned loose up Little Vine hill for her first series run. She ran a strong forward race from start to finish. She took the left side into Clubhouse loop and pointed nicely at 59. Her style and manners on game were exceptional.

In the final series, Game Star was released by 8-year-old Miles Jaeger, who headed her toward Daugherty Ridge for handler Ike Todd. Star's feet were wrapped to avoid further abrasion from the hard, rough ground. She was nicely forward and fast on the ridge and past the twin barns. At 13, Korry called point for her. Star was alongside the fence, just beyond the big pond. She was high and tight on both ends; her manners were perfect. Star ran through the bull pasture, showing forward from time to time. In the clubhouse loop, on the west end, she carded her second find at 56. She needed to relocate several times before pinning the elusive quail. Her manners were good on this one, too. After the hour mark, she slowed but still made the effort to cover the country.

There was no doubt in the judges' minds that Avenger's two superb performances were unequaled. The judges felt that the combination of Game Star's two performances could also not be challenged by the standby dogs. Further running was canceled, and Bandit's Hill Avenger was announced as the 2024 American Derby Invitational Champion for owner Ann Forrester and trainer Ike Todd. Game Star was named the runner-up for owner Dr. Fred Corder and handler Ike Todd.

Grovespring, Mo., March 28
Judges: Kipp Linard and Keith Wright
AMERICAN DERBY INVITATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Qualifying Heats; Ninety-Minute Finals]
- 12 Pointers

Winner-BANDIT'S HILL AVENGER, 1702642, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Bandit's Hill Daisy. Ann Forrester, owner; Ike Todd, handler.
Runner-Up-GAME STAR, 1704929, pointer female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Belle. Dr. Fred Corder, owner and handler.

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CASCADE OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Touch's Amazing Greyce Named Champion; Circle B Wanted Ryder, Runner-Up

By Alex Mauck | Payette, Idaho | April 2, 2024

April 2 brought field trialers from around the Northwest from as far away as British Columbia, California, Washington, Montana, and Wyoming to the famed Prairie Wind Ranch owned by Keith and Bobby Richardson. The ranch is managed by newly inducted Hall of Fame recipient Richard Robertson Jr. The weather greatly improved over last year's trial, with minimal rain and wind.

Prairie Wind offers true western all-age field trial grounds. It's impossible to hide a dog or front scout; there are no tree lines, hedgerows, or edges, just wide open chukar, Hungarian partridge, California Valley quail, and pheasant country. The Northern Prairies are small by comparison. The terrain is not for the lighthearted steep hills with an overabundance of rocks. Flatlanders who have judged out here include Charlie Frank Byron, Fred Rayl, Jamie Daniel, Charles Morton, Risky Furney, Judd Carlton, and Dr. Terry Terlep, to name a few. Collectively, they will tell you that people who trial here are crazy to train and trial here.

The amenities at Prairie Wind are as good as anywhere in the country: a clubhouse with a commercial kitchen, washers and dryers, bathrooms with showers, an open eating area, a bar, and two big-screen TVs. Upstairs are two complete rooms with bathrooms and a common area with a TV for judges. In addition to the clubhouse, there is a five-bedroom house with rooms for rent for those who don't have LQ trailers.

Outside are several horse pens, a bird-holding-outbuilding, and 20 RV spaces with water, including 30- and 50-amp service. The Richardsons have sparred nothing in making Prairie Wind one of the premier field trial venues in the country. This should be a bucket list place to see and compete.

This year, the Cascade Field Trial Club hosted three premier events: The Cascade Open All-Age, a National Qualifier, the Can-Am Open Shooting Dog Classic, and the Region 10 Amateur All-Age Championship. All three events were run on a continuous course abundant with wild birds supplemented by released chukar. Birdwork was excellent, with the majority of dogs having finds or encounters with birds. We want to thank our sponsors: Purina for donating their premium 30/20 Pro Plan food and SportDOG for providing



Cascade Open All-Age Championship (front): Runner-up Champion Circle B Wanted Ryder with Jim Ledington. (Behind): Terry Erickson, Matt Huston (judge), Rich Burgi (judge), Ryan Marriott, Sergio Velez, Tami Larrondo, Phil Bowden, Ray Larrondo, Anne Tyson, Alex Mauck, Jess Wall, and Kris Wall. (Not pictured): Champion Touch's Amazing Greyce.

training collars to the winners.

Kris Wall aptly prepared and provided breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I want to especially thank Kris for all the work she does, as well as our other members Ryan Marriott, Phil and Sharon Bowden, Talmage Smedly, and Rich Robetson Jr. A special thank you to Terry Erickson, Ann Tyson, and Jim Ledington for helping us with dog truck driving, bird planting, and overall help. Please forgive me if I missed someone.

Cascade Open All-Age (23 contenders)

This year's judges were two seasoned field trialers: Rich Burgi of Sandy, Utah, and Matt Huston of Kennewick, Washington. Both judges have trained and campaigned their own dogs. We were fortunate to acquire their services, and their decisions were well received.

This year's winner was Touch's Amazing Greyce, a Pointer female owned and handled by Austin Turley of Montana. Greyce is no stranger to the winners' circle, having won two previous qualifiers and competing in the National Championship in Grand Junction in 2023. This win re-qualifies Greyce for the 2025 National. Greyce had a strong forward race with a find at 26, an unproductive at 35, and a find at 51. Her finish was in true "Greyce" all-age fashion, far out to the front.

This year's runner-up champion was Circle B Wanted Ryder, handled by Sergio Velez and owned by Phil and Sharon

Bowden of Payette, Idaho. Ryder had a perfect find at 19 and a steady, flowing forward race. This was Ryder's second field trial, having started his field trial career later than most. His future looks bright.

Payette, Ida., April 2

Judges: Rich Burgi and Matt Huston

CASCADE OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats]

- 12 Pointers, 10 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

Winner-TOUCH'S AMAZING GREYCE, 1693629, pointer female, by Touch's Grey Street-Intentional. Austin Turley, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-CIRCLE B WANTED RYDER, 1702409, setter male, by T's American Gunfighter-Circle B Burning Stardust. Phil Bowden, owner; Sergio Velez, handler.

Judges: Terry Erickson and Kris Wall

OPEN DERBY

- 3 Pointers, 3 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-KC MOEN'S FREEDOM'S BELLE, 1705721, German Shorthair female, by Hawk's Doublea Baker-KCmoen's Freedom Isn't Free. Scott Kragerud, owner and handler.

2d-BK DIALING LANCELOT, 1705199, pointer female, by Sand Mountain Jim-Gold Creek Laurie Girl. Sergio Velez, owner and handler.

3d-PAINTED OWYHEE KY, unreg., pointer male, by Miller's Total Eclipse-Painted Owyhee Breeze. Jim Ledington, owner and handler.

Judges: Terry Erickson and Ryan Marriott

OPEN ALL-AGE - 5 Setters

1st-MAUCK'S WYEAST MOLLY, 1699454, setter female, by P W Sunrise-High Prairie Gypsy. Alex Mauck, owner and handler.

2d-CIRCLE B WANTED RYDER, 1702409, setter male, by T's American Gunfighter-Circle B Burning Stardust. Phil Bowden, owner; Sergio Velez, handler.

Region 10 Amateur All-Age Championship

The Cascade Field Trial Club hosted the Region 10 Amateur All-Age Championship at the Prairie Wind Ranch near Payette, Idaho, April 6-7. Weather conditions were exceptional for a spring trial.

Judges were Ray and Tami Larrondo of Caldwell, Idaho, well-known West Coast amateurs. Ray and Tami are highly successful in campaigning their German Shorthairs and have had much success.

We want to thank our members and volunteers who made the trial a success, especially Kris Wall, for her well-prepared meals.

The champion emerged in Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Dallee. This is Dallee's second All-Age Champion title; she previously won the Region 9 Amateur All-Age title in the fall of 2023. In addition, she has four runner-up titles. She was bred by Talmage Smedley and purchased as an 8-week-old pup. Dallee has won trials in



Region 10 Amateur All-Age Championship (front, l-r): Champion Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Dallee with Jim Ledington, and Runner-up Champion Mauck's Wyeast Molly with Terry Erickson. (Behind): Cedar Fisher, Ray Larrondo (judge), Anne Tyson, Kris Wall, Alex Mauck, Tami Larrondo (judge), and Phil Bowden.



Tekoa Mountain Sunrise sculpture

the West, Kansas, and Florida. Thank you to Jim Ledington for scouting Dallee.

Mauck's Wyeast Molly was named runner-up champion. Molly is a first-year dog and recipient of the 2023 Region 10 Derby of the Year. This is her first champion title. She ran a far-flung all-age race somewhat helter-skelter. Those in the gallery wondered if she would make the turns back to her handler. Molly is a granddaughter of HOF Tekoa Mountain Sunrise. She was bred by Chad Hanson and also purchased as an 8-week-old pup. Thank you to Terry Erickson for scouting Molly.

Judges: Ray Larrondo and Tami Larrondo REGION 10 AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 1 Pointer and 8 Setters

Winner-MAUCK'S WYEAST OWYHEE DALLEE, 1687695, setter female, by T's Gunslinger-Hidden Jasmine. Alex Mauck, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-MAUCK'S WYEAST MOLLY, 1699454, setter female, by P W Sunrise-High Prairie Gypsy. Alex Mauck, owner and handler.

BIG SKY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Tower Hill's Deep Wonder Wins Sharptail Classic

By Taylor Todd | Winnett, Montana | April 4, 2024



Sharptail Open Shooting Dog Classic: Taylor Todd (owner/handler) and Tower Hill's Deep Wonder with judges Ed Mayhew and Sean Melvin.

In early April, the Big Sky Field Trial Club (BSFTC) held its annual running of the Sharptail Classic at the Joe King & Sons Ranch in Winnett, Montana. We want to thank the King family for the use of the grounds; their kind hospitality is greatly appreciated. Their progressive land stewardship practices have also created great habitat harboring native Sharptail and Sage grouse and Hungarian partridge and pheasant. The event was judged by Ed

Mayhew of Winchester, California, and Sean Melvin of Garland, North Carolina. Both judges have extensive experience looking at dogs, and we thank them for their time in the saddle.

Twelve dogs entered the stake, and one placement was awarded to Tower Hill's Deep Wonder ("Pearl"). The white and lemon Pointer is owned and handled by Taylor Todd. Pearl is a first-year shooting

dog that ran a classy forward race where she disappeared into the sage-filled hills multiple times during the hour but always remained in contact with her handler. Pearl had three finds during her time on the ground, two on Sage grouse and one on a single Sharptail. She finished the hour running strong while crossing in front of her handler.

The accompanying Derby stakes drew 20 dogs, with eight entries in the All-Age Derby and 12 in the Shooting Dog Derby. John McIltrout of Roundup, Montana, and Sean Melvin of Garland, North Carolina, judged both derbies. The judges both rode hard, looking at these young dogs, and BSFTC is grateful for their time.

The All-Age Derby was thrilling to watch, and the wide-open country in Winnett is always an amusing place for young, big running dogs to move through the country. First place went to LBF Bohemian Rhapsody, a male Setter owned and handled by Brad McCardle. Bo ran a strong 30 minutes and was seen deep to the front multiple times throughout the brace. Bo disappeared for a while on a turn in the course, but his handler and scout were able to get him back to the front in time to be seen running strong for the last few minutes of the brace.



Open All-Age Derby (l-r): Brad McCardle with LBF Bohemian Rhapsody, John McIltrout (judge), Marcos Puiggari with Camas Prairie Win, Sean Melvin (judge), and Trevor Walz with Madison Valley's Easy Ryder.

Second place went to Camas Prairie Win, a young female Pointer owned and handled by Marcos Puiggari. Win ran a stylish race and looked classy on a single Sharptail find about two-thirds of the way through the brace. She finished strong at time as the field trial party stopped atop a hill, watching her cross and fade into the basin to the front.

Third place went to Madison Valley's Easy Ryder, a black-headed Pointer male owned and handled by Trevor Walz. Ryder had no birdwork during his time on the ground but ran a huge all-age race for 30 minutes. He had a short absence during the brace and, near time, was finally spotted by judge and handler moving across a sage-filled basin to the front.

The Shooting Dog Derby wrapped up the final afternoon of running with a touch of sun shining through the clouds of an otherwise cold Montana spring day. First place was awarded to Camas Prairie Win, who earned her second placement of the day. Owner/handler Marcos Puiggari

showed Win could handle to the front, and she ran an animated and classy 30 minutes on course 3 of the Derby.

Second place went to Bud, a male Gordon Setter who was handled by Taylor Todd and owned by Johnny Banks. Bud ran strong for 30 minutes, crossing in front of his handler and occasionally making longer casts to the front, which secured his placement in the derby.

Third place went to Knight of Shame, a male Setter owned and handled by John Mahoney. Steven, as his handler calls him, had two pieces of birdwork during his brace; the second was a stylish point on some tight-holding Hungarian partridge on course 2. Steven's agreeable birdwork helped him earn third place.

BSFTC would also like to thank everyone who traveled from afar to participate in the trial and support the club and all of those involved in putting on the trial. These grounds are remote, requiring extra work and travel by all to make this wonderful trial happen. Hillary Walz did a fantastic job managing the dog truck. John McIltrout and Michelle Sutton helped tremendously with logistics behind the scenes. We would also like to thank Purina and Greg Blair for sponsoring the event and providing us with dog food and prizes for placements. Without these hard-working individuals, we couldn't have made this trial happen. BSFTC is already looking forward to next year when we can turn dogs loose at the King Ranch in Winnett, Montana.



Open Shooting Dog Derby (l-r): Marcos Puiggari with Camas Prairie Win, John McIltrout (judge), Taylor Todd with Hightail Budreaux, Sean Melvin (judge), and John Mahoney with Knight of Shame.

Winnett, Mont., April 4

Judges: Ed Mayhew and Sean Melvin
SHARPTAIL SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 7 Pointers and 5 Setters

1st-TOWER HILL'S DEEP WONDER, 1696399, pointer female, by Touch's Diamante-Seranao's Union Station. Taylor Todd, owner and handler.

Judges: John McIltrout and Sean Melvin
OPEN DERBY – 6 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-LBF BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY, 1702241, setter male, by T's Gunslinger-Erin's Red Rose. Brad McCardle, owner and handler.

2d-CAMAS PRAIRIE WIN, 1709945, pointer female, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Camas Prairie Daze. Marcos Puiggari, owner and handler.

3d-MADISON VALLEY'S EASY RYDER, 1703747, pointer male, by Bull Ryder-Tabasco. Trevor Walz, owner and handler.

OPEN DERBY – 12 Entries

1st-CAMAS PRAIRIE WIN, 1709945, pointer female, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Camas Prairie Daze. Marcos Puiggari, owner and handler.

2d-HIGHTAIL BUDREAUX, unreg., Gordon setter male, breeding not given. Johnny Barks, owner; Taylor Todd, handler.

3d-KNIGHT OF SHAME, 1703958, setter male, by T's Ridge Reaper-Roysetter's West Wind. John Mahoney, owner and handler.

CHIPPEWA VALLEY GROUSE DOG ASSOCIATION

Clover Valley's Millie Wins Don Didcoct Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

By Roger King, Brent Sittlow, and Jordan Pharris | Augusta, Wisconsin | April 4, 2024

We checked all the boxes for a spring field trial—5 inches of snow the night before, windy conditions, and finally, sun and warm weather. Mother Nature has her way of messing with and challenging us.

Most will agree that securing qualified, experienced judges is the essence of holding a successful field trial. In the cover dog world, this is at the top of the list with one additional ingredient—good legs. Most days, the judges walk 12-15 miles in challenging terrain. We were blessed to have six outstanding judges with loads of knowledge, campaigning winning dogs, and having experience in the woods.

The weekend started on Thursday with

Brent Sittlow and Lindsey Saetre charged with looking at 29 open shooting dogs in two days. Judges Sittlow and Saetre would have their hands full looking over all the contestants on eight one-hour courses. Conditions on day one were clear and cold, with fresh snow to start the stake. Moving through the morning, the snow melted and proved perfect conditions for finding migrating woodcock and resident grouse. Day Two was clear and sunny, drying out in the afternoon. Fourteen dogs would finish with bird work, and about half would finish with multiple finds. It was a very good stake, with many worthy dogs. Woodcock would dominate the scoreboard, but quite a few grouse were seen and heard but not readily found by our contestants.

First place was awarded to Northwoods Atlas (Greg Johnson), a veteran Setter male who tore up the Horse Creek course from start to finish. Johnson worked hard on the twisting front half of the course to keep Atlas on track. But both settled in on the back half with a more comfortable handle. Atlas was searching the whole way, charging through cover and sparkled doing it. He suffered an unproductive at 8 but secured two picture-perfect dug-out woodcock finds in the second half. The birdwork exemplified confidence and style.

Second place went to Birdogn True Confidence Sadie (Jordan Pharris), an up-and-coming Pointer female. "Sadie" was the smoothest running dog in the stake. She floated from covert to covert

with an effortless gait. She made game off the breakaway, and point was called at 5, at some distance from the path, down in a swampy draw. As handler left the path and approached the dog, he called, "Grouse!" However, it was not seen by the judge. Undeterred, Pharris collared his charge from the area and sent her on a mission to find another. Sadie made good on that challenge and was rewarded with a no-doubt grouse near the end of the Wilson Park course. Sadie stopped once more at time, but handler elected not to flush and preserved the scorecard.

Third place was awarded to Over The Hill Morgan (Rod Lein). Morgan, a Pointer female, ran on the Crash course (named Crash because of the countless dogs that were unable to negotiate cleanly through the hour in prior years). She pounded out a nice ground race through some heavy cover and was rewarded with two perfect woodcock finds to go along with a nifty stop to flush. Her second find was dug up in a newly harvested poplar cut, which needed expert scouting. Her style and composure on game were top-notch.

Bright and early Saturday morning, the 31st annual running of the Don Didcoct Amateur Classic started. The trial is run in the Eau Claire County Forest and is known as one of the best cover dog trial grounds around the country. The plan was to run seven braces on Saturday and six on Sunday over the eight-course venue. Chippewa Valley Grouse Dog Association officials decided to use all eight courses continuously to find the best, most consistent six for the upcoming fall championships and the Grand in November. We had a large draw of 29 fine bird dogs to look at. With this being such a large stake and running concurrent with a large derby draw, there was a lot of work to be done by all members of the CVGDA club, the Moose Junction Grouse Dog Club, and the Minnesota Grouse Dog Association. All the clubs came together and made this trial one to remember.

It was a tale of two different days, as it is often in the Northwoods. Saturday was a beautiful sunny day with many competitors in their t-shirts. The rain and wind came in Sunday, making it hard for the handlers and the dogs. We moved birds on almost every brace, but ruffed grouse contacts were hard to come by. Thank goodness woodcock were moving through to give us some much-needed bird work.

Bill Frahm, a past two-time winner of the Didcoct, and Jordan Pharris, a professional dog trainer and winner of several Cover Dog trials just this spring, judged the Don Didcoct Classic. Both are avid bird dog guys who have seen many

dogs run over the years.

First place went to Jerry Furnish and Clover Valley's Millie. She had a very strong forward race that was appealing to the eye. Millie ran in the first brace of the stake starting at 7:30 a.m. on Wilson Park course No. 1. She carried the first-place nod for 13 braces—a remarkable performance. She had two evenly spaced woodcock finds to garner her first place.

Second place went to Ed Graddy and Northern Slopes Star, the 2021 winner of the Didcoct. Star made large moves the whole hour and pointed a woodcock on the Culvert course in a fresh-cut Aspen stand near the end of the brace.

Third place went to Jeff Sullivan and Jewett's Creek Beauty. Jeff and Beauty were braced with Ed Graddy and Star, which made for a very exciting hour to witness. Beauty also made big moves and a strong forward race. She went on point just before time was called. Jeff's scout, Jeremy Moore, found Beauty standing the bird; Jeff flushed the woodcock, and the dog's manners were great. Make note that Beauty is just 25 months old, so get ready for more from her and Jeff to come in the future.

"There are many people we need to thank, and I am sure I will miss some important names. First, we would like to thank Roger King for all his hard work and dedication to this trial. Without him, none of this could happen. We would also like to thank Bert Benshoof for marshaling all the braces. He walked every brace the whole weekend, even the Open Shooting Dog stakes. He helped guide the judges and competitors around the courses with great knowledge of the grounds. Other names that should be recognized are Rod Lein, Jim Kleve, Brent Sittlow, Larry Davidson, Tim and Debbie Callahan, Colin Peterson, Jeff Sullivan, Denny Baumann, Scott King, Mike Rosario, and many more."

— Jordan Pharris

Running 55 shooting dogs in one-hour braces over four days forced us to run derbies on a single course. It was not the desired option, but pending weather coming Sunday confirmed it was the only option. As was mentioned earlier, we had an excellent panel of judges. Both Derby judges, Tim Kaufman and Ed Graddy, are previous winners of the Didcoct Classic. In addition to that, they both are accomplished grouse hunters and spend a great deal of time in the woods. Many will say that judging derbies is a demanding task requiring skill to look at the future potential of the next generation of cover dogs.

First place was Blind Faith ("CeCe") from Jordan Pharris's string, handled by

Jerry Furnish. CeCe, a Pointer female, was characterized by the judges using three "Fs"—fast, fancy, and forward—in addition to thoroughly covering the most likely bird cover of the course. Second place was Goodgoing Tickety Boo, a Pointer female owned and handled by Brett Edstrom. After a several-year hiatus, it is great to see Brett back in the cover dog world. "Tick" ran a more controlled mature race, including contact with a woodcock. Tim's Setter Meg, a female Setter owned and handled by Tim Callahan, is yet to reach her first birthday. Meg ran a 10-2 race in a very athletic, fancy style. The judges remarked that there were six other dogs that, on any given day, could have been rewarded with a placement.

Another successful Didcoct is in the books. The good news is that the number of entrants is up, and cooperation from all that attended was at an all-time high. The future looks bright! See you next year!

Augusta, Wis., April 4

Judges: Lindsey Saetre and Brent Sittlow

OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]

— 8 Pointers, 20 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-NORTHWOODS ATLAS, 1674557, setter male, by Northwoods Grits-Northwoods Nickel. Greg Johnson, owner and handler.

2d-BIRDOGN TRUE CONFIDENCE, 1693417, pointer female, by True Confidence-Elli Elhew Birdogn. Ben Fleischacker, owner; Jordan Pharris, handler.

3d-OVER THE HILL MORGAN, 1699010, pointer female, by J T H Scion-Over The Hill Patty. Robert Zielke, owner; Rod Lein, handler.

Judges: Bill Frahm and Jordan Pharris

DON DIDCOCT MEMORIAL AMATEUR

SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]

— 4 Pointers and 22 Setters

1st-CLOVER VALLEY'S MILLIE, 1696614, setter female, by Clover Valleys Ace-Clover Valley's Willow. Jerry Furnish, owner and handler.

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

3d-JEWETT'S CREEK BEAUTY, 1703337, pointer female, by Toth's Tornado Reloaded-Grouse Trails Warrior Cat. Jeff Sullivan, owner and handler.

Judges: Ed Graddy and Tim Kaufman

OPEN DERBY — 11 Pointers and 20 Setters

1st-BLIND FAITH, 1706568, pointer female, by Miller's Blindsider-Nine To Five Nation. Ben Fleischacker, owner and handler.

2d-GOODGOING TICKETY BOO, 1704883, pointer female, by Kinni Creek Fyn-Goodgoing Northern Latte. Brett Edstrom, owner and handler.

3d-TIM'S SETTER MEG, 1705309, setter female, by Rebellious Fearless Fred-Lake Effect Ali. Tim & Deb Callahan, owners; Tim Callahan, handler.

GREENFIELDS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Virginia Classics

By Tommy Stargell | Augusta, Wisconsin | April 4, 2024



Virginia Amateur All-Age Classic (l-r): Rester's Bayou Bandit (3rd) with Kirk Regensburg, Rocky River Loaded (2nd) with Steve Mills (scout), and Rocky Ridge's Second Chance (1st) with Grayson Francis. (Behind): Sharon Townley (judge), Phil Rutter (judge), and Club President Til Hankley.

This spring gala was on tap to start Thursday, April 4, and run for four days. The entries were excellent in quality and quantity. The birds were flighty, the food was prepared, the participants were arriving, and now, if only the weather would cooperate.

There wasn't a person associated with this trial who didn't check their phone a hundred times on Wednesday. It was always the same report: strong winds, large downpours, hail, and cold temperatures. Not an auspicious pretrial report. And it all happened all day. But the report said no rain after Wednesday. Therefore, we went to plan B, avoided the creek crossing, and devised a suitable 30-minute course with repeat starts—classic weekend trial fare.

True, it was cold, and the winds blew, but it essentially worked quite well. We ran the 30-minute Shooting Dog, ate lunch, and then ran the Derby after lunch, finishing the day. Judges for both stakes were Pat and Marilyn Lockhart, who divided their time between Virginia and Montana until recently when they settled into their Virginia home permanently. They had dogs with Fred Rayl for many years. We are delighted to have them join our fold.

Running in the last brace as a bye, Bruce Conover's Bad News Bob captured the blue with multiple birdwork and a nicely applied forward race. In second was Beechwood's She's All That for the Sharon and Phil Townley team. They always run nice dogs and are never out of the fray.

After a big ole Miss Julie lunch, we ran the Derby. Our buddy Larry King brought a pair of littermates and took the blue and red ribbons. Both had birdwork, and both looked good going through the country. Sweet Sorrow was placed first, and her male littermate, Umpteen Tries, was

second. In third was our new friend coming from the wars at Hoffman. Kyle Whitfield brought his good Setter derby Pearl's Dynasty to these grounds and came away with a third-place win.

Friday, Darryl Miller (the most outstanding bird planter in recorded history) and I checked the creek at dawn, and we determined it was high but doable; game on. And so, we began the All-Age with dependable and worthy judges Sharon Townley and Phil Rutter in charge. When the dust settled, the mud was all splattered, the winds died down, and our buddy, Grayson Francis, had scored a hat trick. There were three entries and three placements, and all three were deserved. Most of us who know Grayson believe it was accomplished only because he enlisted a great scout, Steve Mills, to help him. His three dogs had five finds, five finds, and two finds, respectively, plus put out ground races of which anyone would be proud. There is no question that the relocation performed by Rocky Ridge's Second Chance in the final green field sealed the deal for first place. Few handlers would have risked it. Few dogs could have handled it, icing on the cake.

Rocky River Loaded and Rester's Bayou Bandit gave quality accounts and were suitably placed, but this was Hitch's day. This was a good stake with 16 entries.

The Shooting Dog began Saturday mid-morning and also had 16 entries. Steve Mills and Tommy Stargell judged the hour Shooting Dog.

The winner and second dog shared the first brace. One Day Queen Bee needs no introduction. She is known for giving the owner and handler great showings every time out. Saturday was no exception. She and youngster Montana Dream for Brad Macke (who will become a Daddy for the first time in July) complimented each other perfectly the entire hour. Multiple birdwork was accomplished, backs were done kindly and readily, and the entire 60 minutes were fun. Queen Bee is, no doubt, a first-tier dog. Brad Macke has a young dog with the sparkle, class, intensity, and umph to go on to great things. Watch both of these dogs!

Absolutely no slouch was solid; beautiful performance by Sugarknoll White Lightning. Owned and handled by the only Philadelphia lawyer I know who lives in Virginia, this was an hour, both fun and intense. This dog, who resembled



Virginia Amateur Shooting Dog Classic (l-r): One Day Queen Bee with Lane Hodges, Montana Dream with Kirk Regensburg, and Pete Del Collo with Sugarknoll White Lightning. (Behind): John Milton (host), Tommy Stargell (judge), and Steve Mills (judge).

a young Silverwood, just clicked off bird after bird after bird, including a pair in a place where no dog has ever found birds before. The pressure came as this was all done after an unproductive in a known bird place. If there was a beauty contest for pointing style in this trial this dog wins, hands down.

Thanks go to Kirk and Mike on the dog wagon. Darell was a King once again. To our judges, many thanks. Till came from Georgia, and we love him for it. We met the glorious photographer Diane, and now you know the way here. Steve was an MVP, as always. Jeff Smith, your wife, melted our hearts. Tessa and Joe, please make the trip again. Matt, it was a pleasure. Kyle, please come again. Julie, nobody does it like you and always nice! John and Vivian are the greatest hosts in the world, thank you! This was a great trial, soup to nuts, and we couldn't have done it without every one of you!

We thank Purina for sponsorship and all they do for trials.

Scottsville, Va., April 4 – One Course Judges: Marilyn Lockhart and Pat Lockhart AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 4 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-BAD NEWS BOB, 1678771, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Pirate-Mohawk Mill Southern Belle. Bruce & Karen Conover, owners; Bruce Conover, handler.

2d-BEECHWOOD'S SHE'S ALL THAT, 1686446, setter female, by Grouse Ridge Gambler-Beechwoods Madison. Sharon & Phil Townley, owners; Sharon Townley, handler.

AMATEUR DERBY – 6 Pointers, 1 Setter, and 1 Brittany

1st-SWEET SORROW, 1702479, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Knight Hawk-Full Effect. L. J. & Casey King, owners; L. J. King, handler.

2d-UMPTREEN TRIES, 1702133, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Knight Hawk-Full Effect. L. J. King & Casey King, owners; L. J. King, handler.

3d-PEARL'S DYNASTY, 1702010, setter female, by Merritt's Bear-A Tarheel Pretty Penny. Kyle Whitfield, owner and handler.

Judges: Phil Rutter and Sharon Townley
VIRGINIA AMATEUR ALL-AGE CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 14 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-ROCKY RIDGE'S SECOND CHANCE, 1671423, pointer male, by Erin's Kentucky Gambler-Burning Edge Julie. Grayson Francis, owner and handler.
 2d-ROCKY RIVER LOADED, 1696572, pointer male, by Broken Halo-Morgan's Mountain Maggie. Grayson Francis, owner and handler.
 3d-RESTER'S BAYOU BANDIT, 1700102, pointer male, by Touch's Blue Knight-Rester's Katie Lee. Grayson Francis, owner and handler.



The Greenfield's Big House

Judges: Steve Mills and Tommy Stargell
VIRGINIA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 14 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-ONE DAY QUEEN BEE, 1684579, pointer female, by Heard Hill's Memory Lane-DuBose's Snow White. Lane Hodges, owner and handler.
 2d-MONTANA DREAM, 1702082, pointer female, by Dominator's Ghost Rider-Lindleys Free Bird. Brad Macke & Anthony Grimaldi, owners; Brad Macke, handler.
 3d-SUGARKNOLL WHITE LIGHTNING, 1700086, pointer male, by Lester's Shockwave-BK White Rain. Peter & Christine DelCollo, owners; Peter DelCollo, handler.

REGION 8 (AFTCA) AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Nemaha Tap Water Named Champion; Haney's Silver Dollar, Runner-Up

By Mike Griffin | Inola, Oklahoma | April 5, 2024

The Region 8 Amateur All-Age Championship was held on April 5 at Ingersoll McFarland Ranch Inola, Oklahoma.

With 18 entries, judges Alex Jacocks and Bob Rankin declared Nemaha Tap Water (PM/McInteer) as the winner. He ran in the first brace and did a very good job handling using a lot of country. He had very good spaced-out finds and handled his birds with

good manners and style, which was a very nice hour.

Runner-up Haney's Silver Dollar (PM/Cagle) ran in the fourth brace. He ran with style and grace. He handled nicely, had one find at 10, and was hunting the rest of the hour with big moves but always in touch with his handler. A very good hour was pleasing to watch.

Inola, Okla., April 5

Judges: Alex Jacocks and Bob Rankin

REGION 8 AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 18 Pointers

Winner-NEMAHA TAP WATER, 1696256, pointer male, by Coldwater Spectre-Coldwater June. Dr. Pat McInteer, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-HANEY'S SILVER DOLLAR, 1698758, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle, owner and handler.

UNITED STATES AMATEUR ALL-AGE DERBY INVITATIONAL

Southern Shadows T-Bird Named Champion; Game Nation, Runner-Up

By Jim Atchison | Dancyville, Tennessee | April 5, 2024



United States Amateur All-Age Derby Invitational (front, l-r): Lance Servais with Southern Shadows T-Bird and Rita Corder with Game Nation, joined by handlers Brian Peterson and Dr. Fred Corder, Judges Mark McLean and Cody McLean, and members and guests of the United States Amateur Derby Invitational and West Tennessee Field Trial Clubs.

The United States Amateur Derby Invitational Club and the West Tennessee Field Trial Club hosted the fifth renewal of the United States Amateur All-Age Derby Invitational on the West Tennessee Club's grounds near Dancyville, Tennessee, April 5-7. Southern Shadows T-Bird, owned by Lance Servais and handled by Brian Peterson, was the winner, and Game Nation, owned and handled by Dr. Fred Corder, was the runner-up. Lance

Servais and Brian Peterson are from Cecil, Alabama, and Dr. Corder is from Corinth, Mississippi.

Judges were the Georgia father/son duo, Mark McLean and Cody McLean. The credentials of both judges loudly proclaim their judicial qualifications as Mark is the handler of the current reigning National Champion, Touch's Gallatin Fire and Cody is Assistant Manager of Ted Turner's 9,000-acre Nonami Plantation, proclaimed

to be the finest of the numerous quail inhabited plantations in Georgia. While the judges were serious and responsible while in their saddles, they were funny and entertaining while gathered around the fire that never goes completely out while field trials are happening at the West Tennessee clubhouse.

Purina was the primary sponsor of this Invitational, and the company was represented by their consultant, Gailen Cooper, in his second return from Colorado in just over 30 days, as he judged the Open All-Age and Derby stakes hosted by the West Tennessee Club in late February. The generosity of Purina, many other generous donors, landowners, and the West Tennessee Club members will be reported later in this report. The list is so long and impressive that this Invitational may be the most awarded and most classy amateur field trial contest in the nation.

The concept of the trial and its' execution are attributable initially to Quintin and Tasha Wiseman, who are joined by a committee consisting of Todd Babbel, Rich Heaton, Whitley Stephenson, and



Twelve Derbies (l-r): Bubba Spencer with Cocklebur Ranger Danger, Gary McKibben with Coldwater Cracker Jack, Dr. Fred Corder with Game Nation, Jay Lewis with Southern Shadows T-Bird, Chris Cagle with Haney's Last Call, Mike Lemons with Miss Arkansas, Jarret Bell with Erin's Doc Holiday, Tony King with Wild Covey Derecho, Brian Peterson with Southern Shadows King Pin, Mason Ashburn with Nosam's Silver Spark, Lance Servais with Southern Secret Lane, and Rita Corder with Game Star. (Behind): Bill Hunt and Judges Mark McLean and Cody McLean.

Jay Lewis. The Wisemans and Jay Lewis were at Dancyville from Thursday through Sunday, making sure that everything went perfectly and that everyone was well cared for.

The Winner and Runner-up

Southern Shadows T-Bird won this Invitational based on the consistency of his three strong 45-minute performances. He was drawn to compete in the fifth brace on Friday, the first brace on Saturday morning, and the first callback brace on Sunday morning. His strong forward races, excellent range, and overall all-age capabilities were apparent each time he ran, and again, the consistency of those appearances was not overlooked by the judges. T-Bird had one find on Friday afternoon, at 18, while in the area of pine trees and Johnny houses located on Dr. Spiotta's land. He hunted aggressively and handled the flush and shot well for Brian Peterson. The following morning, he had birds twice, at 23 and again at 43, as he coursed the land owned by the Currie brothers, Skip Taylor, and Mrs. Jan McCloud. He found no birds during the callback but maintained his strong all-age demeanor. As the winner, Southern Shadows T-Bird won the 2024 Gary Phillips Memorial Breeders Cup for Lance Servais and Brian Peterson, his breeders.

Game Nation won runner-up for Dr. Corder with excellent performances in the fourth brace on Friday, the first brace on Saturday, and the most impressive cast of the entire contest on Sunday. He pointed at 35 on Friday afternoon, and Dr. Corder easily located the birds and shot. On Saturday morning, Game Nation had a find at 21, backed his bracemate at 23, and had an unproductive stand at 38. The strength, range, style, and reflection of the all-age standards expected of these top derbies were strongly demonstrated in his first two 45-minute races, thus earning his being called back to compete in the first brace on Sunday. While neither dog found any birds during this callback brace, Game Nation's race in that third appearance was the best of his three and was highlighted by the most impressive cast of any contender seen during the three days. That cast came

near the end of the period as he literally gobbled up the edges of a large part of the land owned by Ike and Marty Todd in the final eight minutes of the brace, starting around the east edge of an upper terraced field and continuing through a narrow opening before going almost out of sight hunting the edge of that perfect place for an amazing finish.

Dancyville, Tenn., April 5

Judges: Cody McLean and Mark McLean

UNITED STATES AMATEUR ALL-AGE DERBY

INVITATIONAL [Forty-Five-Minute Heats on two

Consecutive Days; Forty-Five-Minute Finals]

– 12 Pointers

Winner-SOUTHERN SHADOWS T-BIRD, 1705877, pointer male, by Southern Shadows T Rex-Southern Ritz Lane. Lance Servais, owner; Brian Peterson, handler.

Runner-Up-GAME NATION, 1704928, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Belle. Dr. Fred Corder, owner and handler.

Hosts, Sponsors, Donors, Landowners, Club Members

As mentioned earlier, Quintin and Tasha came up with the idea for this Invitational, and they, together with their committee, take care of everything that happens year-round to prepare for this early spring event. Quintin and Tasha work all year so the three wonderful days can come to fruition each year. They seek sponsors and donors, gather qualifying records, host super qualifiers, order and organize prizes and gifts, arrange for judges, plan and prepare meals, arrange hospitality hours, and the list goes on and on. The Wisemans efforts that go into this competition are amazing.

Purina's sponsorship, which was mentioned earlier, was huge. Their contributions included eight bags of Purina Pro Plan for the winner, four bags for the runner-up, and one bag for each other owner of the dogs competing. The Saturday evening dinner of prime rib and all the trimmings was the Purina Dinner and Awards Banquet, and that was the occasion where Quintin Wiseman, assisted by board member Jay Lewis, made several presentations and also told more about each prize and award while sharing the names of the contributors who had made them possible. Also, the callbacks for the following morning were announced.

While Greg Blair was unable to attend, the presence of Purina Consultant Gailen Cooper was acknowledged and appreciated.

Wiseman shared that the Friday evening dinner of tender pork loin and the accompanying sides had been sponsored by board member Whitley Stephenson. He announced that the leading contender for receipt of the Jim Crouse Memorial Award to be given to the National High Point Dog was Cocklebur Ranger Danger, owned by Bubba and Amy Spencer, but the outcome of the Invitational could cause that to change. (However, that standing did hold, and Ranger Danger was recognized as the National High Point Dog when the Invitational ended on Sunday morning). The Leah Brigham painting provided by Brian and Brooke Sanchez and won by David Russell for last year's winner was prominently on display, as was the Jim Crouse Memorial silver tray.

Henry rifles, provided by Alex and Bryana Rickert, were presented to the owners of the Regional High Point Dogs. Those winners were Bubba Spencer for the Eastern and Chris Cagle for the Central regions. Wiseman announced that the awards and prizes to the winner would include a Haggis saddle given by Scott Griffin, the Purina Pro Plan previously mentioned, a Garmin TT25 Tracking Collar & System given by that company, a Leah Brigham painting of their dog commissioned by Brian and Brooke Sanchez, and two custom-made roading harnesses made and given by Kevin White. Wiseman also stated that the runner-up would receive a Haggis saddle given by Scott Griffin, four bags of Pro Plan, a painting of their dog on a turkey feather by Mike Kearney of Trophy Bone Artistry, and custom-made roading harnesses by Kevin White. The Gary Phillips Memorial Breeders Cup Award given by Nathan Phillips would be awarded to the breeder(s) of the winner, and saddles by B & B Tack had been given to the winners of the previously held Super Qualifiers for each region. Additionally, the winning scout would receive custom-made chaps by Patty's Custom Chaps, and all handlers, judges, and reporter would receive

personalized vests given by Chris Cagle and Chris Cagle Jr.

Each handler received a swag bag containing several gifts, including caps, engraved drinking glasses, drink cozies, and other small items. Also in each bag were Sam McKee's 360 wound care and thrush treatment products, highly touted by Wiseman as the best he ever used.

Enough cannot be said about all the work done by the West Tennessee Field Trial Club and the generosity and support of field trialing exhibited by the property owners who permit their land to be used by the club members, not just for this Invitational but for several other trials each

year. Those owners, whose contiguously located properties enable the club to maintain three outstanding one-hour courses, are Bill and Allen Currie, Skip Taylor and Mrs. Jan McCloud, Ed and Alice McClanahan, Dr. and Mrs. Gene Spiotta, Gordie Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Humber, Ike and Marty Todd, and Alex and Bryana Rickert. Club members who helped in various ways included Bill Currie, Allen Currie, Chris Mullin, Dale Pool, Gary Brown, Gene Spiotta, III, and Crutcher Stoots. Some started working on Thursday, putting out birds, and then members faithfully did everything the Wisemans, Jay Lewis, handlers, and guests needed them to do throughout the three days. They helped

as needed with kitchen duties, marshaling galleries, managing the dog wagon, horse shuttling, feeding and watering horses, and everything else needed for a smooth operation. Additionally, with years of practice, they have mastered the arts of five-star hospitality and camaraderie. They truly make everyone feel welcome and well cared for.

So, while some celebrated into the late afternoon on Sunday, many parted for their homes, with the fifth renewal of the United States Amateur All-Age Derby Invitational wrapped up. They left hoping to qualify to be invited to return to Dancyville for the sixth, on about March 28, 2025.

NORTH MISSOURI FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

NBHA Trial

By Kevin Western | Martinstown, Missouri | April 6, 2024



Amateur Shooting Dog (l-r): Robert Warner with Sky Hawk's Little Rascal, Kevin Western (judge), Eryn Pearson with Hytime Dixie, Scott Beeler (judge), and Jack Glover with Glover's Pepper Shaker.

The North Missouri Field Trial Association hosted an NBHA trial at Martinstown, Missouri, the weekend of April 6-7. The grounds are perfect to allow a dog to open up, but needs to be biddable and hunt. A special thanks goes to Kevin and Heather Western for allowing the club the opportunity to run this trial on these grounds. The weather was nice but extremely windy, and the athletes had to bring their best to finish.

Tim Penn and Kevin Western were co-chairs of this trial. Special thanks to Gary Cowell for helping drive the dog wagon. The judicial team consisted of Scott Beeler, Jack Glover, Tim Penn, and Kevin Western. A big thanks for their dedication and attention to the job at hand. Thanks to our NBHA sponsors, Purina Pro Plan and

Gun Dog Supply, for their support. Other NBHA sponsors who support the NBHA throughout the year are Garmin, Mule Brand Clothes, OnX Hunts, and Gun Dog Central.

Thanks to all who participated and made this a great event.

Martinstown, Mo., April 6 – One Course
Judges: Scott Beeler and Kevin Western
NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
– 5 Pointers, 5 Setters, 2 Irish Setters,
and 2 German Shorthairs

1st-SKY HAWK'S LITTLE RASCAL, 1670670, setter male, by Hytest Palladin-Sky Hawk's Blues Traveler. Robert R. Warner III, owner and handler.

2d-HYTIME DIXIE, 1682354, setter female, by Hytest Palladin-Wynona's Bohawk Dixie. Brian Tiffany, owner; Eryn Pearson, handler.

3d-GLOVER'S PEPPER SHAKER, 1695618, setter female, by Erin's Wild Atlantic Way-C C Erin O'Shamrock. Jack Glover, owner and handler.

Judges: Scott Beeler and Jack Glover
NBHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG
– 3 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-WESTERN'S SECOND CHANCE, 1701153, setter male, by Penrosa Hidncash-Shamrock's Tish. Kevin Lee Western, owner and handler.

2d-NITRO ELHEW RIPP, 1698831, pointer male, by Nitro Elhew Einstein-Nitro Elhew Country Rose. Cristofer W. Gandolfo, owner and handler.

Judges: Jack Glover and Tim Penn
NBHA OPEN DERBY – 5 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-WESTERN'S ARAPAHOE BRAVE, 1710140, pointer male, by Arapahoe Player-Rockin H Rose. Kevin Lee Western, owner and handler.

2d-HACKBERRY'S BRIGHT ROSE, 1706529, pointer female, by Hackberry's Elhew Chief-Hackberry's Stormy Night. Robert Konz, owner; Brian Kennedy, handler.

3d-HUBER'S ICE QUEEN, 1705274, pointer female, by Lester's Shockwave-Bonner's Carolina Belle. Aaron T. Patterson Jr., owner and handler.

Judges: Scott Beeler and Kevin Western
NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 5 Pointers, 4 Setters, and 1 German Shorthairs

1st-CUTTER'S IGNITED HUSTLER, R323-711, German Shorthair female, by Cutter's Ignited Winning Bid-D.H. Burr Oaks Annie. William R. Creason, owner and handler.

2d-GLOVER'S FLINTSTONE, 1691597, setter male, by Islander-Kodiak Island Bird Dog. Jack Glover, owner and handler.

3d-GLOVER'S PEPPER SHAKER, 1695618, setter female, by Erin's Wild Atlantic Way-C C Erin O'Shamrock. Jack Glover, owner and handler.

Planning a Field Trial?

Submit your Fixture information as soon as dates have been confirmed. Please include: Name of club, start date, location of grounds (city and state), and contact name, phone number and email address.

BIG SKY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Costas Wins Broomhill Open All-Age Classic

By Austin Turley | Winnett, Montana | April 8, 2024

The Broomhill Open All-Age Classic ran last in September 2019 in Broomhill, Manitoba, under the leadership of Colvin and Mazie Davis of Minter, Alabama. The Big Sky Field Trial Club was interested in running an Open All-Age qualifying trial for the National Field Trial Championship. Rick Carlisle coordinated with Colvin and Mazie Davis about the opportunity to revive the Broomhill in Montana, and Colvin and Mazie graciously agreed. One request of the Davis's was that a donation be made to a local charity for each running. This request was gladly accepted as the Big Sky Field Trial Club has donated to local charities in landowners' names for many years.

The Broomhill Open All-Age Classic is now run on the native sage prairies near Winnett, Montana. For years, the King family graciously allowed us access to their ranch for field trialing. Native grouse, as well as Hungarian partridge and pheasant, are available on the six continuous courses. Birds were plentiful, and opportunities were spread well across all the courses this year. We experienced some wind during the running, but otherwise, conditions were seasonal. Just days before, rain and snow had been prevalent in the surrounding areas, but somehow, largely missed the ranch.

Nutri-Source and Tuffy's Pet Foods once again donated to our trial. They have been a generous sponsor of our trials for over 20 years. Their pet food is of the highest quality, and I have been feeding it for over 20 years. SportDOG and Jim Morehouse once again donated collars to the winners. Their collars are put to good use by the fortunate winners. Bridger Transportation supported our trial again this year. Please support those who support our sport whenever feasible.

The Idaho and Utah contingent that supports these trials has been very formidable for many years. Once again, they were to be reckoned with. A thank you to Sophie Robbins needs to be extended for her getting her father off the couch and into the field. Sometimes, Mike



Broomhill Open All-Age Classic (l-r): Gordy Jones with Costas and Sophia Robbins with Name Like Mike. (Behind): Taylor Todd, Chad Hanson, Ed Mayhew, Ben DeJonge, Mike Robbins, Alex Rickert (judge), Dave Noel, Tim Fullerton (judge), and Darrel Curtis. (Not pictured): Perkins Sawyer's Warrior.

Robbins and Gordy Jones get a bit stodgy, and thankfully, young Sophie came to the rescue.

Judges for the inaugural running were Tim Fullerton of Rigby, Idaho, and Alex Rickert of Bozeman, Montana. Tim is an old-time all-age trialer who also takes a few dogs in for training. Alex has dogs with professionals Ike Todd of Dancyville, Tennessee, and Mark McClean of Doerun, Georgia. Most notable of Alex's dogs have been Ch. Touch's Malcom Story, 2021 Purina All-Age Dog of the Year, and Touch's Gallatin Fire, 2024 National Champion. Tim and Alex gave every contestant a good look.

The Winning Dogs

In third place was Perkins Sawyer's Warrior, handled by Chris Perkins. "Jack" ran the third course of the first morning. Jack started strong and had a commendable find on grouse at 10. Jack's race stayed strong throughout his hour finishing to the front.

Second place was Name Like Mike with Mike Robbins. Mike ran on day two, course 4. He was strong on the ground and mostly forward. An unproductive

was taken before the half, and he finished well to the front. Being found after time pointed.

First place was Costas, handled by Gordy Jones. "Bob" ran in the second brace of the first morning. Bob started his hour with a stop to flush on grouse at 5. Bob continued to run the front, being found pointed in the hills at 25, partridge produced. Bob was again pointed in the bull pasture at 45, partridge again produced. Bob sealed his win with a strong forward finish. Several dogs ran strong all-age races but finished without birdwork or did not finish. A couple of dogs had multiple birdwork but did not have the ground race of the winners.

Winnett, Mont., April 8

Judges: Tim Fullerton and Alex Rickert
BROOMHILL OPEN ALL-AGE CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 19 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-COSTAS, 1698042, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Searchin For A Rainbow. Gordon Jones, owner and handler.

2d-NAME LIKE MIKE, 1687329, pointer male, by Dominator's American Rebel-Searchin For A Rainbow. Mike Robbins, owner and handler.

3d-PERKINS SAWYER'S WARRIOR, 1694443, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Intentional. Chris Perkins, owner and handler.

Hall of Fame nominations close August 5!

Submit your nominations of 200 words or less to: dwellmann@ukcdogs.com
Need more space or want to add a photo? Place an ad by emailing: gsmith@ukcdogs.com

RUFFED GROUSE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Stakes

By Tammy Chaffee | Meredith, Michigan | April 12, 2024



Open Shooting Dog (l-r): Jeff Secor, Tammy Chaffee with Meridith Grade Corky, Scott Chaffee, Mike Brown (judge), Rich Hollister with Grouse Ridge Larry, Ronnie Eldridge (judge), Craig Merlington, Bruce Minard with Hifive's Top Shelf, and Bryan Wood.



Open Derby (l-r): Bryan Wood, Lonnie Rademacher, Ronnie Eldridge with Eldridge's Winning Oscar, Rob Ellis (judge), Bruce Minard with Hifive's Northern Gold, Shane Haskin (judge), and Scott Chaffee with Ghost Train Minnie.

The Cover Dog Open spring stakes commenced on April 12 at the famed Gladwin Game Refuge with the Ruffed Grouse Field Trial Club's Jack Secor Memorial Open Shooting Dog stake. The Club drew 92 dogs to compete in Shooting Dog, Derby, and Puppy stakes. As always, we had the much-appreciated help of many field trial participants, including horse wranglers Rich and Jenny Hollister, stake manager Bryan Wood, Betsy Dozeman for the delicious breakfast burritos and lunch, along with Chris Wasserman for Sunday's tailgate lunch and the club members and directors and several others with marshaling and moving vehicles. Thank you to all. Thanks go to Purina for their continued support of cover dog events.

Judges Ronnie Eldridge and Mike Brown adjudicated 40 hopefuls across 16 courses over a day and a half in the saddle for the Jack Secor Memorial Open Shooting Dog stake. Rising to the top was Meridith Grade Corky, a male Setter owned by Dennis Keysor and handled by Tammy Chaffee. Corky drew Course 16, ran on day two, and covered the course well with a perfectly handled woodcock find in the dense popple cut. Second was awarded to Grouse Ridge Larry, a male Setter owned by Paula Giulitto and handled by Rich Hollister. Larry ran on Course 9 on day one and carded a stop to flush on a woodcock and a divided find on another

while having a solid run in the afternoon heat. Third was Hifive's Top Shelf, a female Pointer owned by Ben and Meledye Batey and handled by Bruce Minard. Top Shelf ran on Course 1 on Day Two and tallied up a woodcock find with her far-reaching race.

The John R. Stuart Derby Classic began on Saturday, and judges Rob Ellis and Shane Haskins placed Eldridge's Winning Oscar, a male Setter owned by Ronnie Eldridge and handled by Scott Chaffee, as the top dog. Oscar ran a powerful, big, forward race with a grouse find. Second was awarded to Hifive's Northern Gold, a male Pointer owned by David Miotto and handled by Bruce Minard. Gold handled well for Bruce remaining forward during his 30 minutes and had a limb find on a relocation effort on a woodcock. Third was Ghost Train Minnie, a female Setter owned by Tom Fruchey and handled by Scott Chaffee. Minnie's race was more modest than the first two placements, and she showed great style on a grouse find near the end of her run.

Mike Bentley and Scott Johnston handled the Ruth Stuart Open Puppy Classic judicial duties, reviewing 18 potential cover dogs. Placing first was a new participant to cover dog trials, Andrew Purcell, with his female Pointer Silvershot's TC Tilly. According to the

judges, she ran a flawless race, hitting all the available objectives. Second went to Singleton's Gracie May, a female Setter owned and handled by Mike Singleton. May ran well and impressed the judges with her strong finish across a large field and circling back to the front at time. Third was Hatton Hills Luci, another female Setter, owned and handled by Shane Haskin. She ran a very nice race and handled well for her owner.

Meredith, Mich., April 12

Judges: Mike Brown and Ronnie Eldridge

JACK SECOR MEMORIAL OPEN SHOOTING

DOG – 12 Pointers, 27 Setters, and 1 Brittany

1st-MERIDITH GRADE CORKY, 1681353, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Call Me Maggie. Dennis Keysor, owner; Tammy Chaffee, handler.

2d-GROUSE RIDGE LARRY, 1673191, setter male, by Long Gone Boston-Grouse Ridge Merri. Paula Giulitto, owner; Richard Hollister, handler.

3d-HIFIVE'S TOP SHELF, 1686517, pointer female, by Hifive's Unlisted-Hifive's Betts Placed. Ben & Meledye Batey, owners; Bruce Minard, handler.

Judges: Rob Ellis and Shane Haskins

JOHN R. STUART DERBY CLASSIC

– 8 Pointers and 26 Setters

1st-ELDRIDGE'S WINNING OSCAR, 1701135, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Eldridge's Beauty And Beast. Ronnie Eldridge, owner; Scott Chaffee, handler.

2d-HIFIVE'S NORTHERN GOLD, 1702444, pointer male, by Titanium's Hammer-Hifive's Allisin. David Miotto, owner; Bruce Minard, handler.

3d-GHOST TRAIN MINNIE, 1700252, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Springpond's Autumn Adeline. Ghost Train Kennel, owner; Scott Chaffee, handler.

Judges: Mike Bentley and Scott Johnston

RUTH STUART OPEN PUPPY CLASSIC

– 3 Pointers, 14 Setters, and 1 Brittany

1st-SILVERSHOT'S TC TILLY, 1704753, pointer female, by Crosswind Jim-Silvershot's Lil Fancy Pants. Andrew Purcell, owner and handler.

2d-SINGLETON'S GRACIE MAY, unreg., setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-I'm Blue Who. Mike Singleton, owner and handler.

3d-HATTON HILLS LUCI, 1706362, setter female, by Swift Rock Lawbreaker-Swift Rock Julie. Shane Haskin, owner and handler.

Upcoming Print Deadlines

July Issue — June 5 • August Issue — July 5 • September Issue — August 5
October Issue — September 5 • November Issue — October 5 • December Issue — November 5

NATIONAL RED SETTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Championship Series and Futurity

By Bonnie Hidalgo | Pinckneyville, Illinois | April 14, 2024

Full Red Afterburn won the 2024 National Red Setter Shooting Dog Championship at Illinois' Pyramid State Park with an attractive race and one beautiful find. Full Red Afterburn, or "Fireball" as he is called, is owned by Mike Fox of Patriot, Indiana. Tom Waite, Burlington, Wisconsin, handled the 4-year-old Irish Setter male, which Andrea Ward scouted. Silver Creek Wild Again was named runner-up for owners Tim and Kristine Hammons of Berea, Kentucky. Tim handled this 4-year-old male while Kristine scouted. Wild Again ran a big, predominantly forward race and scored two stylish finds.

In the National Amateur Red Setter Championship, Red Bird's The Fifth Element turned in a fine performance to capture the Championship for his handler, Kelli Aitken-Thompson of Box Elder, South Dakota. Kelli co-owns 5-year-old male "Griffin" with Kristi Gallino of Sublimity, Oregon. Hotrod Ricky Joe took runner-up with a big, edge-running race and two perfect finds. "Joe" is owned by Tim and Kristine Hammons; he was handled by Tim and scouted by Kris.

Ruff Country Simply Ginger, owned and handled by Andy Wiek of Freeville, New York, won the National Red Setter Futurity. Ginger was bred by Cathy Lewis and Dean Reinke. Second place went to Shotgun, owned, handled, and was bred by Roger Boser of Seven Valleys, Pennsylvania. In third was Dale Creek Simply Rouge, owned by Andrea Ward of Burlington, Wisconsin. Rouge was handled by Tom Waite and was bred by Cathy Lewis and Dean Reinke. Quantas Repeat Offender, owned and handled by Kelli Aitken-Thompson and bred by Catrena Cardwell, was fourth.

The drawing was held on Wednesday, April 10, at the home of Milt and Wendy Schafer in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Entries closed on the evening of April 9. Milt and Wendy conducted the drawing and prepared the running orders for all participants. The Open Shooting Dog Championship drew 21 entries. The National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship drew a field of 17 dogs. In the Red Setter National Futurity, there were 10 entries. The supporting stakes were an Open Walking Shooting Dog with 10 entries, an Open Walking Derby with nine drawn, and an Open Walking Puppy with four dogs. This trial's entries came



National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog Championship (front, l-r): Amy Gauthier, Bonnie Hidalgo, Tom Waite with Full Red Afterburn, and Tim Hammons with Silver Creek Wild Again. (Behind): Ed Liermann, Terry Trzcinski, Mike Fox, Andrea Ward, Kristine Hammons, Jon Lam (judge), Lee Long (judge), and Don Beauchamp.

from Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The 2024 National Shooting Dog Championship trial kicked off on Sunday morning, April 14, near Cutler, Illinois. The Pyramid State Park's Captain area was the venue. The grounds were exceptionally well-groomed, and the parking lot, clubhouse, barn, and corrals were tidy. The NRSFTC greatly appreciates the work of the State personnel who manage and groom this area. Local field trialers, spearheaded by Jim Lawless and Jon Lam, also play a huge part in the maintenance and improvement of the facilities. They also have an advisory role in the improvements to the courses. Three one-hour courses are utilized for the National Red Setter Championships. Members of the local trial clubs lay out these courses. Alan Benson marshaled three of the four days of the horseback stakes, beginning with the first morning to make sure we all knew the route. Alan's knowledge was needed and appreciated, especially by the handlers here for the first time.

The Red Setter Open Walking Derby kicked off the event on Sunday morning, followed by the Open Walking Shooting Dog and the Open Walking Puppy. Since the NRSFTC was sharing the grounds with a local walking trial, our walking stakes were held on the top of a ridge known as "The Mountain." It was an out-and-back

course, with "the back" having some hill to climb. The Open Championship commenced on Monday morning and concluded on Tuesday afternoon.

The National Futurity started promptly at 8 on Wednesday morning and finished early that afternoon with a callback. The Amateur Championship ran two braces late Wednesday and completed the remaining six on Thursday. Birds were planted every morning on all courses and were replanted for the afternoon running. There were a few native quail found on courses.

Kay Morrison of Coulterville, Illinois, and Jon Lam of Makanda, Illinois, judged the walking stakes. They are both very knowledgeable, not only about bird dogs but also about the grounds. Kay and Jon were very helpful to the foot handlers and often pointed their dogs out. Their decisions were well received.

Jon Lam and Lee Long of Berkey, Ohio, officiated the horseback stakes. These gentlemen were a pleasure to be around, courteous, and knowledgeable in their judicial roles. The club greatly appreciates their time, attention, and patience.

The National Red Setter Field Trial Club is extremely grateful for its generous and faithful sponsors, Purina, Garmin, and SportDOG! Purina is a terrific company with an incredible product in Purina Pro Plan 30/20, which keeps our dogs in excellent performance condition. We appreciate the quality of their product and the company's dedication to the sport of

field trials. Greg Blair and Terry Trzcinski represent Purina well; they are always very helpful to clubs and individuals. Purina provided dog food for the winners of this trial, which was happily received by all. Thank you, Purina, Greg, and Terry, for all you do for us!

Garmin provided their highly sought-after training products for the winners of the National and National Amateur Championships and Futurity. The NRSFTC is pleased to receive Garmin's continuing support, which adds greatly to the success of the event and is very much appreciated.

SportDOG donates products for fundraising, which helps to keep the event in the black. We appreciate our relationship with Jim Morehouse, SportDOG's well-loved representative. Jim is always willing to teach someone how to best use the SportDOG products and to help with product support. Thank you to SportDOG and their best asset, Jim Morehouse!

Ken Dinn attended his first-ever National Red Setter field trial, where he traveled from his home in Newfoundland, Canada. He is quite knowledgeable about birddogs and is at home on the back of a horse. Ken is hoping to be back next fall with dogs to enter. We look forward to it!

Ed Liermann served as trial chairman, as he has for every trial the club has held in Illinois since the spring of 2013. Milt and Wendy Schafer drove two vehicles to the trial to bring their ATV, which was indispensable at the trial. Additionally, they brought their camper so they could be on the grounds for early morning duties. Each morning, Milt, accompanied by Dennis Hidalgo to keep him on course, started planting birds at 5:30 a.m.

Ed Liermann's truck was used on Sunday for the walking stakes. Dean Reinke helped with the ATV dog wagon during the running of the walking stakes. Roger Boser generously allowed the use of his truck during the horseback stakes, except when the temperatures were dangerously high, and the dogs were hauled two at a time in the Beauchamp's air-conditioned van. Various dog truck drivers were Don Beauchamp, Roger Boser, Sam Nutting, Kelli Aitken-Thompson, Amy Gauthier, Andy Wiek, and Mike Harryman. Milt was accompanied in the ATV at various times by several people, including Joe Edwards, Andy Wiek, Sam Nutting, Mike Fox, Ken Dinn, and Dennis Hidalgo. This made it possible to share horses with those who had none. The dog wagon personnel were kind enough to release dogs for the horseback stakes, making things easier for the handlers and scouts. Alan Benson was the course marshal for much of the

horseback trial; Dennis Hidalgo and Ed Liermann also aided in this. Wendy Schafer served scrumptious lunches in the clubhouse every day. Linda Beauchamp helped with the meals, supplied delicious desserts, and covered her duties as club treasurer. Brenda Edwards was in the kitchen early, cheerfully fixing and serving breakfast to everyone.

Although the days were long with the late completion of the running, the group gathered every evening during the trial for dinner and camaraderie. The board of directors held their meeting on Sunday night following the walking stakes and dinner at the clubhouse. Dennis Hidalgo cooked a hamburger dinner for all in honor of Firefly's Beeline winning the 2023 Open Shooting Dog Classic. Milt and Wendy Schafer cooked a delicious steak dinner on Monday night, which was pretty well devoured! On Wednesday evening, Kelli Aitken-Thompson baked her fabulous chicken pot pie at the clubhouse for everyone to enjoy in honor of her win of the 2023 National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship with Red Bird's The Fifth Element. A brief annual membership business meeting was held, year-end awards were given out, and the election of officers and directors was conducted. The trial concluded late Thursday afternoon with the announcement of the Amateur Championship winners.

National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog Championship

The Winners

Full Red Afterburn, the new champion, appeared in the sixth brace of the stake on a very warm afternoon. His performance caught and held the judges' attention. Judges Jon Lam and Lee Long chose him from the 21 starters in this stake. Fireball was whelped in April 2020 in a litter sired by Zansett Simply Red and out of Foxy's Lil Red Missy. Fireball is owned and bred by Mike Fox of Patriot, Indiana. He was professionally handled by Tom Waite.

Fireball made some good moves from his release west of Haul road. He got out of pocket briefly, approaching Scale House road, but came up with the scout just as Tom dusted himself off after his horse fell. Tom took a few minutes to catch his breath before continuing. Across Scale House, Fireball pointed stylishly at a cedar tree. Relocation ensued, and a big turkey lifted, scoring neither a plus nor a minus for the dog. Fireball pointed at 36, just beyond the course marker approaching Scale House road from the west. This was a beautiful find with excellent manners. At the base of the "Mountain," at 43, Fireball pointed again, but this time his quarry was a turtle.

He finished the hour, coming from the left near the end of the mountain. Fireball was apparently heat-resistant on this relatively warm afternoon.

Silver Creek Wild Again, handled by Tim Hammons, won runner-up honors in this Championship. He is now a two-time runner-up champion, having taken that honor in the 2023 Red Setter National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship. Silver Creek Wild Again was sired by Zansett Ricky O'Ryan and is out of S C Miss Behaving. He turned 4 last month. He is owned and bred by Tim and Kristine Hammons.

Released heading west from Haul road in the third hour of Tuesday morning, Silver Creek Wild Again ran a big, forward race. He scored two perfect finds, showing top style and unquestionable manners. The only mar in his performance was an absence late in the hour.

Pinckneyville, Ill., April 14

Judges: Jon Lam and Lee Long

NATIONAL RED SETTER OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 21 Irish Setters
Winner-FULL RED AFTERBURN, 1691624, male, by Zansett Simply Red-Foxy's Lil Red Missy. Mike Fox, owner; Tom Waite, handler.

Runner-Up-SILVER CREEK WILD AGAIN, 1692221, male, by Zansett Ricky O'Ryan-S C Miss Behaving. Tim Hammons, owner and handler.

The 52nd National Red Setter Futurity

The National Red Setter Futurity standard insists that all placed dogs must point game. While a finished performance is ideal, the Futurity dogs are not required to be steady on point; breaking at flush is acceptable. If less than four dogs find and display point on course, a callback must be held to place four dogs. The callback must be set up in suitable cover, preferably on an edge; this edge is to be well-planted with quail. The dogs are then run from horseback until they have been given a reasonable opportunity to find and point game. Once they have satisfied the pointing requirement, they are finished. Historically, the dogs have been run individually; this year, the judges wanted to observe them as a brace.

Judges Jon Lam and Lee Long called back three dogs and a standby, noting they were carrying a fourth dog that had successfully pointed birds on course. Originally, the callback was set up along a ditch line covered in grass and some trees. After the first pair unsuccessfully worked this line, the birds were put in a row of Russian olive with little undercover. Scenting was much improved, and the three callback dogs had no trouble pointing their game. The standby dog did not take the line and was out of contention.



National Red Setter Futurity (front, l-r): Andy Wiek with Ruff Country Simply Ginger, Roger Boser with Shotgun, Andrea Ward with Dale Creek Simply Rouge, and Kelli Aitken Thompson with Quantonas Repeat Offender. (Behind): Bonnie Hidalgo, Cathy Lewis, Don Beauchamp, Jon Lam (judge), Dean Reinke, Tom Waite, Lee Long (judge).

The Winners

Ruff Country Simply Ginger was the obvious choice for the win. Her owner, Andy Wiek, handled her. She was bred by Cathy Lewis and Dean Reinke from a litter sired by HOF Ch. Zansett Simply Red and out of Come Back Stellar. Ginger was fast and snappy at medium range. She hunted intelligently and was rewarded with a nice find on course. She was steady until the flush. Ginger was not required to be called back since she had adequately displayed her ability to point birds on course.

Shotput was placed second for Roger Boser, her breeder, owner, and handler. Shotgun ran an excellent race with no finds in the first series. Her performance earned her a high rank in the callback. Shotgun is from the mating of Ch. Gratitude and Slingshot. In the callback, she was in the first brace with Dale Creek Simply Rouge. On the first line, Shotgun pointed beautifully, but no bird could be found. When the callback location was changed, Shotgun quickly pointed. Her style was high class; she was perfectly steady through flush and shot.

Dale Creek Simply Rouge earned third place in the Futurity. Tom Waite handled her for owner and scout Andrea Ward. A littermate to Ruff Country Ginger, Rouge is by Ch. Zansett Simply Red out of the good-producing dam Come Back Stellar and was bred by Cathy Lewis and Dean Reinke. Rouge ran a beautiful, forward race, gaining her a callback spot. She went without bird contact in the first series. Rouge had no luck in what became the failed attempt of the callback. When the birds were put on a better line, Dale Creek Simply Rouge had no problem nailing her game. Rouge showed excellent style and was steady until the flush.

Quantonas Repeat Offender placed fourth for her owner and handler, Kelli Aitken-Thompson, and scout Clayton

Thompson. Redo was bred by Catrena Cardwell from a litter by C H K Quantonas Rolling Rock out of C H K Quantonas I'm Seeing Red. Redo ran a nice forward race to claim a callback slot. She was in the second brace of the callback with Firefly's MacKinnon, the standby dog. Repeat Offender found and pointed game promptly. She pointed with fine style and was mannerly until the flush.

NATIONAL RED SETTER FUTURITY

- 10 Irish Setters

1st-RUFF COUNTRY SIMPLY GINGER, 1703466, female, by Zansett Simply Red-Come Back Stellar. Andy Wiek, owner and handler.

2d-SHOTPUT, 1704405, female, by Gratitude-Slingshot. Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.

3d-DALE CREEK SIMPLY ROUGE, 1703499, female, by Zansett Simply Red-Come Back Stellar. Andrea Ward, owner; Tom Waite, handler.

4th-QUANTONAS REPEAT OFFENDER, 1709804, female, by C H K Quantonas Rolling Rock-C H K Quantonas I'm Seeing Red. Kelli Aitken-Thompson, owner and handler.

Red Setter National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

The Winners

Red Bird's The Fifth Element made it two in a row by winning this Championship. He also won the 2023 title in Hoffman, North Carolina. The 5-year-old male is owned by Kristi Gallino and Kelli Aitken-Thompson and handled by Kelli. Red Bird's The Fifth Element was sired by Eshod's Barn Burner and out of Red Bird's River Wild. He was drawn in the fifth brace of the stake. "Griffin" made a strong move to the forward line from the start. He scored an excellent find on Dead Horse hill at 30. In the bottom before the road crossing, he pointed again at 35. Relocation was necessary but was unsuccessful. Red Bird's The Fifth Element was consistently forward and in good range for the hour. He showed an excellent rapport with his handler.

Hotrod Ricky Joe was named the runner-up champion in this stake. He is a littermate to Silver Creek Wild Again, the runner-up in the Open Championship. Ricky Joe is owned and handled by Tim Hammons and scouted by Kristine Hammons.

Joe appeared in the first brace on Thursday, fast and forward. Joe scored a good find with all in order just before Beltline road. On to the front again, he ran the edges beautifully. His second find came on the edge of the woods in the wheat field. He was lofty on both ends and held perfect composure throughout. Hotrod



National Red Setter Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (front, l-r): Lee Long (judge), Jon Lam (judge), Clayton Thompson with Red Bird's The Fifth Element, Kelli Aitken Thompson, Dennis Hidalgo, and Ed Liermann. (Not pictured): Tim and Kristine Hammons and Silver Creek Wild Again.

Ricky Joe continued to drive forward until the hour elapsed, rendering an exciting performance.

NATIONAL RED SETTER AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

- 17 Irish Setters

Winner-RED BIRD'S THE FIFTH ELEMENT, 1687076, male, by Eshod's Barn Burner-Red Bird's River Wild. Kelli Aitken-Thompson & Kristy Gallino, owners; Kelli Aitken-Thompson, handler.

Runner-Up-HOT ROD RICKY JOE, 1692220, male, by Zansett Ricky O'Ryan-S C Miss Behaving. Tim Hammons, owner and handler.

Supporting Stakes

Red Setter Open Derby

Dale Creek Simply Rouge bested this field of nine derbies to take the win. She is owned by Andrea Ward and was handled by Tom Waite. "Rou" ran a great race, showing off her easy gait and speed. She had one find on which she displayed style and intensity until the flush.

Ruff Country Simply Ginger took second place for owner and handler Andy Wiek. She was fast and snappy moving and always busy hunting.

Raintree Simply Singular, handled by Tom Waite for Cathy Lewis and Dean Reinke, earned third place. He ran a big forward race partially marred by an absence.

All of the Derby winners showed exceptional potential for great trial careers. They are all littermates, a big win for breeders Cathy Lewis and Dean Reinke. Judges for this stake were Kay Morrison and Jon Lam. Kay's horse spooked and bolted through the trees during this stake, causing her to eject herself before he could run her into one. She got back on and finished the day of judging, for which we applaud her. We sincerely hope that she has not suffered lingering effects.

Email your Hall of Fame nominations of 200 words or less to: dwellmann@ukcdogs.com



National Red Setter Open Derby (front, l-r): Andrea Ward with Dale Creek Simply Rouge, Andy Weik with Ruff Country Simply Ginger, and Tom Waite with Raintree Simply Singular. (Behind): Kay Morrison (judge), Amy Gauthier, Jerry Gauthier, Jon Lam (judge), and Ed Liermann.

Judges: Jon Lam and Kay Morrison

RED SETTER OPEN DERBY – 9 Irish Setters

1st-DALE CREEK SIMPLY ROUGE, 1703499, female, by Zansett Simply Red-Come Back Stellar. Andrea Ward, owner; Tom Waite, handler.

2d-RUFF COUNTRY SIMPLY GINGER, 1703466, female, by Zansett Simply Red-Come Back Stellar. Andy Weik, owner and handler.

3d-RAINTREE SIMPLY SINGULAR, 1700318, male, by Zansett Simply Red-Come Back Stellar. Cathy Lewis & Dean Reinke, owners; Tom Waite, handler.

Red Setter Open Shooting Dog

Cedar Creek Titan, handled by Sam Nutting for owner Ed Liermann, scored three very nice finds to take first place. Titan put down an edge running race that

took him into heavier cover on the edge of the hillside, where he was able to find game.

Foxy Lady Sadie, owned by Mike Fox and handled by Tom Waite, was second in this 10-dog stake. She turned in a very attractive ground race but found no birds.

Cedar Creek Braden, owned by Amy and Jerry Gauthier and handled by Amy, placed third. Braden gave a very nice walking shooting dog performance. He did not have game contact.

RED SETTER OPEN SHOOTING DOG

- 10 Irish Setters

1st-CEDAR CREEK TITAN, 1700527, male, by Cedar Creek Sixgun-Cedar Creek Copper River. Ed Liermann, owner; Sam Nutting, handler.

2d-FOXY LADY SADIE, 1691626, female, by Zansett Simply Red-Foxy's Lil Red Missy. Mike Fox, owner; Tom Waite, handler.

3d-CEDAR CREEK BRADEN, 1664951, male, by Cedar Creek Skyliner-Cedar Creek Rocket Baby. Amy Gauthier, owner and handler.

Red Setter Open Puppy

Dale Creek Simply Sweet, owned and handled by Andrea Ward, won this four-dog Puppy stake. She is a nice running dog with snap, crack, and a good pattern. She showed high potential.



National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Sam Nutting with Cedar Creek Titan, Andrea Ward with Foxy Lady Sadie, and Amy Gauthier with Cedar Creek Braden. (Behind): Kay Morrison (judge), Tom Waite, Ed Liermann, and Jon Lam (judge).

Raintree Moonlit Journey was second for owners Cathy Lewis and Dean Reinke. She proved to be a nice young puppy advanced for her five months of life. Cathy handled her to this placement.

RED SETTER OPEN PUPPY – 4 Irish Setters

1st-DALE CREEK SIMPLY SWEET, 1706119, female, by Heavy Chevy Jason-Dale Creek Jane's Peep. Andrea Ward, owner and handler.

2d-RAINTREE MOONLIT JOURNEY, 1711170, female, by Raintree Blue Moon-Jamison. Cathy Lewis & Dean Reinke, owners; Cathy Lewis & Dean Reinke, owners; Cathy Lewis, handler.

MICHIGAN OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Thunder Bolt's Storm Strikes Again

By Joe Guzman | Ionia, Michigan | April 15, 2024



Michigan Open Shooting Dog Championship (front, l-r): Billy Stewart with Thunderbolt's Storm (champion), Blake Rizzo with Thunder Bolt's Wild Agin (runner-up), and Jim Cipponeri. (Behind): Mark Johnson (judge), Ron Williams, Shawn Kinkelaar, Joe Guzman (judge), Diane Vater (hiding), and Chuck Cooper.

The 2024 running of the Michigan Open Shooting Dog Championship was held as scheduled upon the conclusion of the Region 13 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship on April 15. This

followed the club taking a one-year hiatus from hosting the year's final Purina points championship of the season. The traditional entry numbers have declined over the past several years due to a variety

of reasons, but the tradition of hosting on a great venue with ample bird counts, great camaraderie, and good quality judges provided a great opportunity for all to show their dogs. Thirty starters were drawn for the Championship and 10 for the 45-minute Derby Classic. The trial ran smoothly, as expected from trial chairman and club president Jim Cipponeri. Jim is an original founding member and has been in attendance for every running under the banner of the Michigan Open Shooting Dog Championship Club. He is supported by your scribe, Joe Guzman, as club secretary and treasurer (20+ years), and club members Ron Williams, dog truck driver, cook, and all-around support, and Richard Lipski, bird planter and on-course dog box driver. Many other usual suspects were on hand to help where needed, including Blake Rizzo, Kelsey Hajek, Paul Renius, Kathryn Lipski, and Tom Winters. Without everyone's help, it would be impossible to run this caliber trial.

This was the 45th running of this prestigious event on these grounds and was supported by a wide cast of professionals

and amateurs from six different states and Ontario. Dr. Allen Dunbar provided a great spaghetti dinner in the clubhouse on Saturday. It was attended by all from the Region 13 and Michigan Championships and enjoyed by all. The traditional “Derby Winner” pizza dinner at Olivera’s and a night out at the local Mexican place were well attended, and the evening highlights during the trial. Everyone had a really good time.

The weather held up well for the entire running, but all the participants kept an eye on the forecast and helped expedite things for the impending storm. Temps ranged from the upper 30s to the upper 60s with mixed clouds and sun. The Championship started Monday afternoon following the Derby and concluded within a couple of hours of the skies opening on Wednesday afternoon with high winds, horizontal rains, and lightning. One benefit of the ‘gully washer’ was that it cleaned the parking lot and camping places. For the balance of the clean-up, we owe credit to Blake Rizzo for the barn and tractor work, as well as Jim and Connie Cipponeri for the clubhouse and all the other tasks around the grounds. It’s a thankless job but always necessary.

The stake began as always with the running of the 45-minute Derby Classic and was judged this year by Blake Rizzo and Tom Vanecek, both from Michigan and with years of experience on these grounds from the judicial saddle. The winner emerged from the final brace, Glenmere’s Silver Roo, capably handled by his owner, Jeff Haggis of Ontario, Canada. Roo’s ground application was fast, forward, well-mannered, and in contact with his handler. This maturity is what set him apart from the runner-up. Roo had one find on the gravel pit portion of the course with applicable derby manners to seal his title and the opportunity for his owner to buy the traditional pizza dinner. Many thanks to Jeff for continuing the tradition and being a good sport!

The runner-up, Windfall Mackinaw Straights, ran as a bye-dog in the fourth brace; he was handled by his owner, Joe Guzman. “Mac” was a handful right from the start as he took the line to the north and west and cut through to Logan’s lookout, where he was found by scout on point. After producing the bird with all in order, he was gathered up and started back to the south. He had four more finds with a derby bobble on the fourth but regained perfect form on the last. His race was big and on the edge of the lunatic fringe. Birds were the only thing stopping him and allowing his handler to hang on, which separated him from the winner.



Michigan Derby Classic (front, l-r): Kelsey Hajek with Windfall Mackinaw Straights (2nd place) and Jeff Haggis with Glenmere’s Silver Roo (winner), (Behind): Joe Guzman, Blake Rizzo (judge), Jim Cipponeri, and Layne Hodges.

The birds for this stake, mixed with holdovers from previous trials this season, made it difficult for all the dogs. Young, well-flight-conditioned birds are hard to come by at this time of the year, and not all fly well. This made flushing difficult for the handlers, and the temptation on their charges was high!

The Championship was judged this year by Mark Johnson from Winnebago, Illinois (for the third time!) and Joe Guzman from Millersburg, Michigan. The Club feels very fortunate to secure a judge with Mark’s experience and quality reputation; he is a true gentleman and ambassador of the sport. I stepped in this year at the last moment when our advertised judge, Bill Branham of Carleton, Michigan, was hospitalized. Bill is out and doing well now and hopes to be “back in the saddle” this summer. Bill was scheduled to be the first native judge from our state this year, but by default, that honor fell to your scribe.

We saw several dogs finish their hour on the ground with acceptable birdwork, but two clearly separated themselves from the pack. They both had impeccable shooting dog applications of the grounds, high and tight presence on multiple finds, and stamina that held with style for their full hour. This led to the coined phrase of the article’s title, “Thunderbolt Strikes Again.” Both the winner, Thunder Bolt’s Storm, and runner-up, Thunder’s Wild Agin, were sired by three-time Michigan champion Chelsea’s Thunder Bolt, and all were handled by Shawn Kinkelaar. This was the fifth consecutive running of the Championship that Bolt or one of his progeny won—quite a feat. Over many years, both judges have watched, judged, and/or scouted for hundreds of championship braces in which Shawn has been a handler. Yet both agreed that the winner’s brace, the first on Tuesday morning, was the finest start to finish they had seen him in. Storm had finds at 2, 6, 8, 39, 48, and 51. She was always forward with no backcasting, smooth and stylish with high head and tail, an effortless gait, and always swinging with the handler in a true shooting dog race. There were no holes, and the find at 48 was a true limb find. It was a pleasure to watch, and as

Mark commented, “This would have made a great educational video to show new field trialers how to put down a super shooting dog race, dog and handler!” Even the scout, Billy Stewart, enjoyed the ride on this brace.

When Storm ran, we were already carrying Thunder’s Wild Agin, who ran in the first brace following the Derby on Monday afternoon. She also ran a very nice race for her full hour. She was forward and applied herself to the course with few exceptions, always in contact with her handler. Wild had finds at 6, 12, and 42, all high and tight with precise location of her game. At 20, she had a stop with all the style of the previous, but after an unsuccessful flush, she was relocated and didn’t establish point again in the area. Handler elected to move on, and things picked up as before until she had her final find at 42. She finished as strong, smooth, and fancy as she had been the whole hour, a very good shooting dog performance.

Ionia, Mich., April 15 – One Course

Judges: Joe Guzman and Mark Johnson

MICHIGAN OPEN SHOOTING DOG

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 30 Entries

Winner-THUNDER BOLT’S STORM, 1684304, pointer female, by Chelsea’s Thunder Bolt-Lacey Underall. Thomas Jackson, owner; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.

Runner-Up-THUNDER’S WILD AGIN, 1691314, pointer female, by Chelsea’s Thunder Bolt-Double Wild. Doug Swingley & Brett Bruggeman, owners; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.

Judges: Blake Mizzou and Thomas Vanecek

OPEN DERBY CLASSIC – 9 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-GLENMERE’S SILVER ROO, 1702832, pointer female, by Mac’s Silver Chief-Mac’s Silver Shadow. Jeff & Mat Haggis, owners; Jeff Haggis, handler.

2d-WINDFALL MACKINAW STRAIGHTS, 1701992, pointer male, by Knight’s Last Chipster-Windfall Queen of Soul. Joe Guzman, owner and handler.

Postscript / Opinion of Author

As noted, this was the 45th running of the Michigan Championship in Ionia! Over the years, thousands of memories have been made. Hundreds of great dogs have competed under the whistles of dozens of professional and amateur handlers in about every kind of condition that Mother Nature can dish out. In the “hay day,” there were sometimes over 100 entries, and the norm was in the 80s-90s, which took up to 10 days to complete. Many factors have influenced the reduction in these numbers over the past several years. Some include factors on which we have a more direct influence, and some we are just affected by because of the changing demographics of our society.

Everyone today has more varied opportunities and obligations to spend their time and with whom. Couple this with the sheer monetary investment that it takes to own all the required equipment,

additional veterinary care, feed, farriers, trucks, trailers, fuel, etc., that it takes to “go horseback,” and it impacts just the potential number of those able to participate. All these factors have affected the ranks of professionals, their clients, and amateurs alike.

We are the last generation who grew up “outside” with chores and outside activities, which were all we knew. We hunted and fished and explored the woods and fields as our entertainment. We camped and swam in lakes, rivers, and ponds. Most of our children and grandchildren have done these things only as the exception—not the norm but as one of many choices. This is not a criticism, just an observation that has had a long-term effect on the pool of “wannabe” participants for the sport we all love. This is not to say there isn’t an interest in sporting dogs or field trials—look at the walking dog trial entries, which have record highs!

The horseback community is specifically what I am speaking of, and it’s shrinking at an alarming rate. We all need to do our part to address this in any way we can for the future of the sport. Supporting the Youth Field Trial Alliance is a great way, as is supporting any horse and kid activity like 4H, FFA, or just trail riding. Invite a friend, neighbor, interested family member, high

school equine team, or any others that may have an interest or think “it’s cool.” When they come, put them on your best horse and look after them. Do your best to ensure they have a safe and enjoyable experience. All of these are good things to help cultivate the future, but there is one even simpler thing that all of us can do at any time. When you see that new or interested-looking person at the trial, go out of your way to welcome them and extend a sincere hand in helping them get acquainted and feel welcome. Be the first—remember who that person was for you and its impact!

Now, you may still be asking (or should be), what else can I do to enjoy this sport I love while it is still available to me? The short-term answer is just as simple as the long-term is complicated. Just ATTEND and PARTICIPATE! It’s what we all want to do and is the one thing we control! Life deals us enough complications these days without the need to manufacture excuses about why we can’t or shouldn’t. Amateurs and professionals alike need to address what they can and do control before the choice will be made for us and there are no longer events to attend. We in Michigan have been wrestling with a solution to this problem for years (as I’m sure many others have). How can you plan and prepare for a first-class trial when you don’t know who and how many are coming and from

what direction the “wind is blowing?” Forget about the points or who you might draw against! Wouldn’t you rather say you beat the best at all the trials and took on all instead of sitting on the tailgate and counting what-ifs and maybes?

We in Michigan are now running the Region 13 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship and the Michigan Open Shooting Dog Championship back-to-back to help encourage amateurs to stay and run in both. We have even reduced the entry fee to help as well. As an amateur, I should have no fear of running a dog or two that I rub on and feed every day in my kennel. I know what kind of condition he is in and where he is in his training. If I’ve done my job well enough to run him in the weekend trial or the Amateur Championship, then there is no reason I shouldn’t run against today’s limited number of pros. In many respects, I feel there is an advantage with our rapport and the fact that our bramate is a professional. The judging standards are the same for all.

We used to take a week’s vacation to run this Championship. Now, most of us are retired and have a limited window of years to run in this or any event. Let’s not waste any of them and support the trials and their future in any way we can, as much as we can.

BEAVERTON GROUSE DOG CLUB

Spring Stakes

By Tammy Chaffee | Meredith, Michigan | April 19, 2024



Wayne Fruchey Open Shooting Dog Classic (l-r): Tom Butler with Shawnee’s Old Paint, Tammy Chaffee with Meridith Grade Corky, and Brian Ralph with Stokely B Annie, surrounded by the field trial community and the Fruchey family.

The Beaverton Grouse Dog Club held the inaugural Wayne Fruchey Open Shooting Dog Classic at the Gladwin Game Refuge on April 19 and 20. This stake was announced last fall and was well received by the field trial community, as Wayne and his wife Marlene were present at the announcement. According to their

son Tom, Wayne was very honored by the acknowledgment of his lifelong love and commitment to quality grouse dogs.

Judging the inaugural stake were Ron Levitan and Brandon Short. With an entry of 54 dogs, they had their work cut out for them. They named Shawnee’s Old Paint, a male Pointer owned and handled by Tom

Butler, the winner. Paint ran a powerful, forward running race, with two finds on woodcock, the second a limb find at the end of his brace. Second was Meridith Grade Corky, a male Setter owned by Dennis Keysor and handled by Tammy Chaffee, with a wide-ranging race on course 13 and a stylish find on a grouse. Third was Stokely B Annie, a female Setter owned and handled by Brian Ralph. Annie ran a flashy quartering race coupled with a perfectly mannered woodcock find.

The Eaton Spring Derby Classic, with 46 entries, was handled by judges Bob Wheelock and Jeff Sweet. Winning was Grouse Hill Mac, a male Setter owned by John Capocci and handled by Scott Forman. Mac had a far-reaching race coupled with a grouse find. Second was Confidence Squared Kelly, a female Pointer owned and handled by Rachel Van Eyk. Kelly had a steady run and hunted up a grouse to secure her placement. Third was Springpond’s Addy’s Boy, a

In Memory of Wayne Fruchey

“Very few of us leave a mark in life, even fewer in the bird-dog world, fewer yet in the cover-dog world, except for one man: Wayne Fruchey.

If memory serves me right, Wayne won four championships, one runner-up championship, and innumerable placements in the woods. But his winnings are not the only mark I am talking about. It is the people he welcomed or introduced into the grouse trial fraternity. People who, to this day, are cleaning courses, assisting in putting on the trials, judging, and reporting the trials—people who got their start because of Wayne’s urging, his smile, and his handshake.

The biggest mark he leaves behind is the Gladwin Field Trial area. No, he did not purchase the finest wild bird venue in bird dog competition, but he fought for and helped make this piece of state land what it is today by lobbying for and working hand-in-hand with the Michigan DNR.

How many of you remember the biggest threat to these grounds when someone proposed opening the area to fall deer hunting to bow hunters? Can you imagine what a fiasco that would be? Wayne beat a path to the Gladwin office and the public hearings with his brother-in-law and others to help put an end to that idea.

Then there was the cutting program where he and others worked with DNR Wildlife Biologists to vastly improve the bird habitat, rerouting courses when necessary, resulting in what the area is today. If a dog can hunt, they will find birds.

Those are the legacies Wayne Fruchey has left behind.”

— Contributed by Tom Novak

male Setter owned and handled by Lonnie Rademacher. “Otto” had a nice race and topped it off with a beautiful find on a pair of grouse.

The Michigan Grouse Dog Puppy Classic ran on Sunday, and judges Ken Moss and Mike Singleton reviewed 14 entries. Placing first was Still Meadows Little Sunray, owned by Brian and Kelly Hays and handled by Adam Dubriske. Sunray had a consistent and big race, showing great endurance. Second was Dunrovens Rolling Stone, owned by Mark and Tom Fernandez and handled by Rich Hollister. Stone showed a consistent range and race to capture the red ribbon. Third was Creekside’s Siren, a female Setter owned and handled by Chris Wasserman. Siren was flashy and animated during her 25-minute heat.

Many thanks to those who helped with

the running of the trial: Tom and Kelly Fruchey for the lunches, donuts, and coffee delivered by Dennis Keysor, Bryan Wood as stake manager, and Rich and Jennie Hollister as the horse wranglers. Also, many thanks to those who marshaled, moved vehicles, and did whatever was needed. And finally, thank you to Purina for their continued support of cover dog trials.

Meredith, Mich., April 19

Judges: Ron Levitan and Brandon Short

WAYNE FRUCHEY OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC – 22 Pointer, 31 Setters, and 1 Brittany

1st-SHAWNEE’S OLD PAINT, 1703362, pointer male, by Crosswind Jim-Loneridge Justify’d Shawnee. Thomas Butler & Rachel Van Eyk, owners; Tom Butler, handler.

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

3d-STOKELY B ANNIE, 1667183, setter female, by Stokely’s Frankie B-Fernwood Cove’s Bella. Brian Ralph, owner and handler.

CORRECTIONS / CLARIFICATION

The Highland Field Trial Club report appears on pages 40-41 of the May issue. At the time of printing, the first-place Open Puppy placement was incomplete. Earning first place was Dunrovens Rolling Stone, owned and handled by Richard Hollister.

Placements are as follows:

Highland, Mich., March 16

Judges: Mark Beniak and Steve Mikalko

OPEN PUPPY - 5 Setters and 2 Pointers

1st-DUNROVENS ROLLING STONE, 1705028, pointer male, by Crosswind Jim-Highbank’s Down’N’Dirty. Richard Hollister, owner and handler.

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

3d-CREEKSIDE’S SUNSHINE, 1704976, pointer female, by Creekside’s Riptide-Creekside’s April Fools. Chris Wasserman, owner and handler.



Open Derby (l-r): Bryan Wood, Jeff Sweet (judge), Scott Forman with Grouse Hill Mac, Bob Wheelock (judge), Rachael Van Eyk with Confidence Squared Kelly, Tom Butler, and Lonnie Rademacher with Springpond’s Addy’s Boy.



Open Puppy (l-r): Ken Moss (judge), Adam Dubriske with Still Meadows Little Sunray, Rich Hollister with Dunrovens Rolling Stone, Mike Singleton (judge), Chris Wasserman with Creekside’s Siren, April Wasserman, and Theo Wasserman.

Judges: Jeff Sweet and Bob Wheelock

EATON SPRING DERBY CLASSIC

– 19 Pointers, 26 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter

1st-GROUSE HILL MAC, 1702136, setter male, by Grouse Hill Bullet Proof-Spata Setters Sally. Giovanni Capocci, owner; Scott Forman, handler.

2d-CONFIDENCE SQUARED KELLY, 1703363, pointer female, by True Confidence-My Lucky Day. Thomas Butler & Rachel Van Eyk, owners; Rachel Van Eyk, handler.

3d-SPRINGPOND’S ADDY’S BOY, 1699904, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Springpond’s Autumn Adeline. Lonnie Rademacher, owner and handler.

Judges: Ken Moss and Mike Singleton

MICHIGAN GROUSE PUPPY CLASSIC

– 3 Pointers and 1 Setters

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

2d-DUNROVENS ROLLING STONE, 1705028, pointer male, by Crosswind Jim-Highbank’s Down’N’Dirty. Mark & Tom Fernandez, owners; Rich Hollister, handler.

3d-CREEKSIDE’S SIREN, 1709191, setter female, by Swift Rock Lawbreaker-Swift Rock Julie. Chris Wasserman, owner and handler.

Nominating a Dog or Person for the Field Trial Hall of Fame?

Email your nominations of 200 words or less to:
Dinora Wellmann
dwellmann@ukcdogs.com

[Nominations will be updated weekly at www.americanfield.com]

REMEMBERING WAYNE FRUCHEY

I was saddened when I learned of the death of Wayne Fruchey. It was well after his funeral that I learned of his passing, and it made me remember all the great attributes of this wonderful grouse trial personality.

I met Wayne in 1970. Ken McLaughlin, secretary of the Lake States Grouse Championship, invited me to report on that event for the American Field. I had recently moved to Michigan from Chicago but had to get directions to the Gladwin grounds; once there, I rode to witness Wayne running a dog named Ghost Train. He was an older dog and did not challenge the winners, but you could see his grouse dog skills as he searched the best cover and came around in front like the veteran he was. Wayne and I were only six months apart in birthdays; Wayne born in the first half of 1935, and I the latter part of 1934. As we got older, we always talked about how each other was making it. I nominated Wayne to the Field Trial Hall of Fame, as did

others, but the grouse world was small in number, and he was never elected; nevertheless, he was a very worthy candidate.

I am sure Wayne was a founder of the Beaverton Grouse Dog Club and, for over half a century, was one of that Club's stalwarts and a leader and benefactor to the rest of the grouse dog world. If work was needed for grounds, club or course issues, or any other problem, Wayne was there. Wayne's great grouse dog, Ghost Train, was not only a winner at grouse trials, including a win at the Grand National in 1969, but he virtually established a line of breeding that was foremost among cover dogs over the years. Ghost Train had a remarkable influence on grouse trial bloodlines. He won 19 field trials placements and produced 57 winners, with a total of 326 wins. Remarkable for a dog whose producing years were over 40 years ago.

Wayne's family has carried on the great

task of putting on grouse trials. Son Tom has been secretary and president of the Grand National Grouse Championship for many years, and nephew Roger Johnson has also been a tireless worker for the Beaverton Club and many other grouse woods activities.

One thing must be said before I close this article about grouse dogs. They have to run in the woods, no horseback scouting; they must come around by their own doing, stay under judgment, be nimble, and race through heavy tree stands and thick cover. They have to handle one of the toughest and touchiest birds to get pointed, the ruffed grouse. Generally speaking, the winners are very good bird dogs. Wayne Fruchey came from a grouse dog family, grandparents, parents Art and Mae, and Mae cooked lunches in Alibi Hall for a host of years. Wayne gave his all to grouse trials for the better part of seven generations.

— By David A. Fletcher

SHARPTAIL FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Inaugural U. S. Complete Trial

By David Huffine | Barber, Montana | April 19, 2024



Open Shooting Dog: John McIlrott, Michelle Sutton, a field trial participant, Tara Griffin, Taylor Todd, Alex Rickert, Phil Forrester, Larry Brutger, and John Holt.



Open Derby: Trevor Walz, Taylor Todd, Brad McCardle, Dick Martinsen, Phil Forrester, Larry Brutger, Alex Rickert, and John Todd.



Restricted Open Derby: Taylor Todd, Brad McCardle, David Huffine, Doug Miller, Abby Todd, John McIlrott, and Alex Rickert.

The Sharptail Field Trial Club held its inaugural U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association trial at the Table Rock Ranch in Barber, Montana, on April 19. The trial drew 46 dogs for the two-day event, and more importantly, it drew many new handlers to the Montana walking trial experience.

Table Rock Ranch supports good native populations of sharptail grouse, Hungarian partridge, and pheasants. No birds were released, but wild birds were plentiful with all gamebird species seen during the trial. Seeing birds was easy, but getting them pointed in the dry and windy conditions

was quite a challenge. The ranch contains approximately 1,000 acres and is sufficient for three courses. All courses produced sufficient bird opportunities for each brace.

Judging all stakes were John Todd of Willow Creek, Montana, and Alex Rickert of Bozeman, Montana. Both judges were knowledgeable, attentive, helpful, and pleasant. They have spent years watching the best bird dogs in the world. We were fortunate to have them and appreciate their service.

First place in the Open Shooting Dog stake went to Tower Hill's Deep Wonder, a snappy 3-year-old Pointer female, owned

and handled by Taylor Todd, a Montana pro out of Helena. She had a clean find and a good race. Taylor and his dogs have made the winners' circle in most recent Montana trials, and we anticipate that he will remain a consistent winner in the future.

Second place went to Sweet Grass Skipper, a 2-year-old Setter male owned and handled by David Huffine. Skipper was runner-up in the U. S. Complete National Championship but appears to be stuck in runner-up status in the face of the Todd dogs. Skipper had no birdwork but had an exceptionally strong, forward race and a stop to flight on a bird flushed by the



Restricted Open Shooting Dog: Phil Forrester, John McIltrout, Dick Martinsen, Taylor Todd, and John Todd.



Open Puppy: David Huffine, Emmet Sasser, John McIltrout, Alex Rickert, Connor Erickson, Tara Griffin, and John Todd.



Amateur Shooting Dog: Tara Griffin, Phil Forrester, Melody Murter, Emmet Sasser, Dick Martinsen, Brad McCardle, and Alex Rickert.

handler.

Third place went to Sweet Grass Slim, a Setter male, also owned and handled by David Huffine. Slim had abundant bird contact, but most resulted in stop to flushes. He had a good race and a final find on a pheasant near time.

The Open Derby stake followed, with Madison Valley's Sexy Lexi taking first. Lexi is a Pointer female owned and handled by Trevor Walz. She had a sparkling race to secure her position.

Second place went to Seranoa's Hoppin John, owned and handled by Taylor Todd. John is a young dog out of former Purina Points All-Age winner Touch's Malcolm Story and showed tremendous potential.

Third place went to Brad McCardle's young Pointer, LBF Beast of Burden, who, at 9 months old, showed that he will have the motor and style to compete in walking and horseback competitions.

Lupine Forrester, a stylish 2-year-old Setter female, took a well-deserved first place in the Restricted Open Shooting Dog stake. She is owned by first-time handler Phillip Forrester, who did an admirable job of showing and handling his classy young dog. She had a find/stop to flush on a pair of huns that secured her placement. We look forward to having Phillip as a regular at Montana field trial venues.

Second place went to Seranoa's Good Boy Leroy (ESM/Todd), who had a good, controlled race and a nice finish. Leroy is owned by John Hudgens of Bozeman.

Third place went to the stylish, black GSP, Little Hunters Midnight Ranger, owned and handled by Dick Martinsen of Brady, Montana. Ranger got to the front and stayed to the front, showing good range and handle for Dick. Dick was new to U. S. Complete stakes and did a great job with his dog. We look forward to his continued participation.

Salmon River Whiskey (ESM) put down a race that was competitive with any other at the trial to secure first place in the Restricted Open Derby. In a rare burst of pedestrian energy, handler John McIltrout trotted to the top of the hill on Course 1 to admire his dog. The owner, Doug Miller of Boise, Idaho, was present and was treated to a very nice performance by his dog.

Brad McCardle continued to eschew the puppy stake to place another young dog in the Restricted Derby. LBF Sound and Fury (PM) had a nice walking dog race to secure second place.

Third place went to Crazy Mountain Pearl (ESF/Huffine), owned by Tracy Clower of La Pryor, Texas. Pearl began her race with some nice moves to the front but then settled into a shorter pattern. She looked good on an unproductive near time.

The Open Puppy trial was so much fun! Winner Sweet Grass Slick (ESM/Huffine) was braced with John McIltrout's Darcy. Slick is 43 pounds and ran big for a puppy stake. Darcy is cute and diminutive and kept everyone's attention, especially on her unproductive, where she looked great!

Emmet Sasser handled Connor Erickson's pretty and promising Setter female, Powder River Jane, to a second-place finish. Jane had wonderful range and looked great going. She handled exceptionally well for Emmett.

Third place went to Bodhi (ESM/McIltrout); he had a nice forward race and seemed to enjoy his time on the ground immensely.

The Amateur Shooting Dog stake possibly produced the most bird contact of any stake. Tara Griffin handled her veteran GSP to first with a steady performance and multiple finds. Tara is new to our walking stakes, and we hope her success entices her to return.

Phillip Forrester handled Lupine

Forrester to her second placement of the trial with a nice race and solid birdwork.

Third place went to Melody Murter with her beautiful Gordon Setter female, Tallgrass Big Horn Capri. Melody is new to our game and brought a lot of excitement and energy to the trial. She also brought a really fine bird dog.

Table Rock Ranch is owned by the Rickert family, who not only allow us to use the ranch but also provide lunch accommodations, transportation of dogs and handlers, and good companionship. We extend our utmost thanks to the Rickerts for their contributions and commitment to the Montana field trial community.

U. S. Complete has been very helpful in accepting our application for a new club and facilitating our first trial. Chris Catanzarite and Jameson Crandall are both instrumental in the success of our trial.

We also thank Purina (Greg Blair) for graciously assisting with awards for our winners.

**Barber Mont., April 19
Judges: Alex Rickert and John Todd
OPEN SHOOTING DOG**

- 3 Pointers, 5 Setters, and 2 German Shorthairs

1st-TOWER HILL'S DEEP WONDER, 1696399, pointer female, by Touch's Diamante-Seranoa's Union Station. Taylor Todd, owner and handler.

2d-SWEET GRASS SKIPPER, 1698209, setter male, by Sweet Grass Slim-Tower Hill Zoey Zee. David Huffine, owner and handler.

3d-SWEET GRASS SLIM, 1685332, setter male, by Sterlingworth Jack-Sandland Miracle Maggie. David Huffine, owner and handler.

OPEN DERBY - 8 Entries

1st-MADISON VALLEY'S SEXY LEXI, 1703749, pointer female, by Crosswind Jim-Dan's Bad River Tessi. Trevor Walz, owner and handler.

2d-SERANOVA'S HOPPIN JOHN, 1705082, pointer male, by Touch's Malcolm Story-Seranoa's On Guard Annie. Taylor Todd, owner and handler.

3d-LBF BEAST OF BURDEN, 1708785, pointer male, by LBF Up In Smoke-West Mountain Speed Wave. Brad McCardle, owner and handler.

Next Print Deadline: June 5

OPEN RESTRICTED SHOOTING DOG – 7 Entries

1st-LUPINE FORRESTER, 1700865, setter female, by Skedaddle's Kingpin-Skedaddle Smokin Skipper. Phillip Forrester, owner and handler.

2d-SERANOVA'S GOOD BOY LEROY, 1704814, setter male, by Sweet Grass Slim-Tower Hill Zoey Zee. John Hudgens, owner; Taylor Todd, handler.

3d-LITTLE HUNTERS MIDNIGHT RANGER, R323-107, German Shorthair male, by Hunter Up's Kennels Elevated Standards-Wolf Plain Brooks Little Miss Duchess. Dick Martinsen, owner and handler.

OPEN RESTRICTED DERBY

– 2 Pointers and 6 Setters

1st-SALMON RIVER WHISKEY, 1702872, setter male, by Seranova's Sweet Grass Chet-The Queen's Gambit. Doug Miller, owner; John McIltrout, handler.

2d-LBF SOUND AND FURY, 1708784, pointer male, by LBF Up In Smoke-West Mountain Speed Wave. Brad McCardle, owner and handler.

3d-CRAZY MOUNTAIN PEARL, 1706787, setter female, by Caladen's Andy Warhol-Caladen's O'Keefe. Tracy Clower, owner; David Huffine, handler.

OPEN PUPPY – 6 Setters

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

2d-POWDER RIVER JANE, 1705249, female, by Skyview High Stakes-Skyview Hidden Gem. Connor Erickson, owner; Emmet Sasser, handler.

3d-BODHI, unreg., male, breeding not given. John McIltrout, owner and handler.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 4 Setters, 2 German Shorthairs, and 1 Gordon Setter

1st-NMK'S WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, 1704207, German Shorthair male, by Starfield's Army Strong V Bulk-NMK's Limited First Edition. Tara Griffin, owner; Emmet Sasser, handler.

2d-LUPINE FORRESTER, 1700865, setter female, by Skedaddle's Kingpin-Skedaddle Smokin Skipper. Phillip Forrester, owner and handler.

3d-TALLGRASS BIG HORN CAPRI, 1710325, Gordon setter female, by Whitehorns Tahosa Penn-Tallgrass Red Dot. Melody Murter, owner and handler.

Upcoming event?
Puppies for sale?

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Questions?
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Field Trials / Events

Awards Banquet

ALABAMA FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION



Saturday, June 8, 2024

Dream Field Farms

6376 Hwy. 82

Union Springs, AL

4 p.m.: Business Meeting

5-6 p.m.: Social Hour (Cash Bar)

6 p.m.: Dinner & Awards Presentation;

Live Auction to follow

RSVP by May 31 to:

Renee Hendley, AFTA Secretary

Text/Call: (334) 314-8196

- All are welcome; you do not have to eat to attend!
- Dinner: \$25 per person; children 12 and under eat free.
- To be a sponsor or donate items for the auction please contact Renee Hendley—(334) 314-8196 or President Hunter McDuffie—(334) 207-3887.
- RV hookups and cabin rentals available. For information, call: (334) 534-6976 or visit: dreamfieldfarms.com

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American Bird Hunters Association

www.facebook.com/trialabha/
 Ronnie Rogers, President
 Phone: (865) 712-9229
 Email: esetter34@yahoo.com

National Bird Hunters Association

www.nbhadowg.org
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 Email: kfsauer@sbcglobal.net
 Tim Penn, Secretary
 Phone: (660) 341-1165
 Email: tpennhwy6@gmail.com

National German Shorthaired Pointer Association

www.ngspa.org
 Natalie Inderman, Secretary
 Phone: (806) 777-2769
 Email: Nataliealicia@gmail.com

National Red Setter Field Trial Club

www.nrsfct.com
 Ed Liermann
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 Email: eal1886@aol.com

National Vizsla Association

www.thenva.org
 Robert Tomczak
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 Email: shilohkl@aol.com

Southern Bird Hunters Association

www.southernbirdhunters.org
 Marty Robinson, President
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 Bruce Mercer, Secretary
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 Phone: (724) 884-7244
 Email: Catanzarite@fairpoint.net
 Bill Bonnetti, Vice-President
 Phone: (508) 648-0598
 Email: bonnetti-william@comcast.net
 Jameson Crandall, Secretary/Treasurer
 Phone: (804) 577-3788
 Email: jameson.crandall@gmail.com

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Jim Ogle
 Phone: (417) 388-0734
 Email: jojoesenglishsetters@gmail.com

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Jeff Wallace, Futurity Manager
 Phone: (641) 891-9513
 Email: jeffwallace@iowatelecom.net

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Mark Hughes
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 Email: krystamunden@gmail.com

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 Email: bmdrew@windstream.net

Recognized Field Trials

Chickahominy Field Trial Association

October 27 / Jarrett, VA
 Contact: Meredith Jones
 Phone: (804) 512-7567 or (804) 512-9637
 Email: fewpointers@gmail.com

ABHA TRIALS

(No trials scheduled)

NBHA TRIALS

(No trials scheduled)

SBHA TRIALS

(No trials scheduled)

USCSDA TRIALS

Chickahominy Field Trial Association

October 26 / Jarrett, VA
 Contact: Meredith Jones
 Phone: (804) 512-7567 or (804) 512-9637
 Email: fewpointers@gmail.com

**FIELD TRIAL REMINDER
 2024-25 Field Trial Season**

Trial dates that have been scheduled and confirmed for the season may be submitted for inclusion in the Kennel Fixtures column to provide an early notice of the club's trial before the formal announcement appears.

To comply with the minimum requirements, ads must appear on the website Calendar at least two weeks prior to the start of the event.

To be included in a print edition, please see deadlines below:

Issue	Deadline
July	June 5
August	July 5
September	August 5
October	September 5
November	October 5
December	November 5

Material must be received and approved by 4:30 p.m. on the deadline date. Deadlines that fall on weekends or holidays move to the next business day.

Questions? Email: gsmith@ukcdogs.com



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