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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



Hall of Fame Inductees

It is with great privilege I present to the field trial community this year's Hall of Fame inductees. Each one of these personalities and canine competitors has left a lasting impact on the sport. Their memories and legacies continue to live on through this sport and all the great things they have done within it. We thank the families of all of this year's inductees for sharing these individuals and dogs with the sport and allowing them to add so much to this great sport of field trialing.

• *Larry Smith*

Larry is described by many as a true giver in the sport. As we all know, good grounds are hard to find and can be harder to keep in the sport. Mr. Smith has selflessly supported the sport through providing use of his grounds at Smith Farms for years, providing a top-class location for field trials. Besides grounds, another necessity for a field trial is judges. As a judge, you donate your time and travel to an event which prevents you from running in yourself. It's a simple fact in itself, but when you think of it from a competitor's standpoint, it's a missed opportunity to exhibit your dogs and handling prowess. A further example of his generosity to the sport was his willingness to judge. It was said that his passion for the sport was not overshadowed by his willingness to help. Many say that on many occasions, without hesitation, he would step in to help a fellow competitor even at the expense of himself. Many describe him as a perfect example of a giver in the sport. As a competitor, judge, scout, breeder, owner, judge, and property owner, he was overall a fantastic example of an individual who belongs in the Hall of Fame. Thank you, Linda Smith, for sharing Larry for decades and supporting the sport with him and through him.

• *Sandy Walker*

Mr. Walker is another fabulous addition to the American Field Hall of Fame. His contributions to the sport directly affected many. There was no shortage of endorsements for him; if you read any of them, you would see the recurring theme of his generosity. It can never be reiterated enough how valuable an asset to the sport good grounds can be. Mr. Walker provided high-class grounds at the Round Pond and Pretty Pond Plantations. Open to not just trials but for training as well, his plantations are said to be what helped make countless Pointers and Setters, which, in turn, bettered their breeds by having those grounds to compete on. He was said to be a fierce competitor but never lost sight of being a good ambassador for the sport. Mr. Walker makes another great addition to the Hall of Fame, and we thank Mrs. Walker and his son Neil for sharing him with the sport for all these years and keeping his spirit of giving alive by providing the grounds for some of the premier American Field trials.

• *Erin's Hidden Shamrock*

Owned by Sean Derrig

Erin's Hidden Shamrock set a new standard for Setters and left a lasting impact not only on the breed but also on the sport as a whole. As an individual, "Jack" earned three championship titles, seven runners-up, and a total of 15 placements at prestigious trials such as the Continental and International Pheasant Championship. He had the ability to win in any and all conditions, from the Prairies to the Continental. Those who have seen him run or train have spoken of his ability to outrun pointers even in the heat. His drive, skill, and determination show him to not just be "great, for a Pointer" but to be "great," period. His production record gives even more insight as to his impact on the sport. His genetics and winning abilities were passed down to 84 winners who have earned a combined total of 333 placements. Jack's impact on the sport has yielded a highly competitive Setter progeny, and he will join the other impactful Setters on the walls of the Hall of Fame. Congratulations to all those who had a hand in Jack's impact and to owner Sean Derrig.

• *Miller's Bring The Heat*

Owned by Fran and Jack Miller

If you have followed the Hall of Fame inductions for some years, you may have noticed how seldom a bitch is inducted. It takes a special female to gain the recognition of the field trial community as being so impactful as to earn their vote for the Hall of Fame. Miller's Bring The Heat is known by the callname "Lacey." Males get a lot of attention with head-turning production numbers having the ability to produce both quality and quantity. While Lacey may have only produced three litters totaling 20 dogs, 90% of those dogs produced went on to be champions with a combined total of 227 placements, 88 championship titles, 17 National titles, one National Champion, and four Purina Awards earned by her progeny. In between litters, she was still able to earn 20+ wins. Even now, her genetic predisposition for greatness has shown through in the second generation, already having earned 13 championship titles and two Purina Awards. There's no doubt that this white, lightly marked Pointer female has made a lasting impact on the breed. Congratulations to all those who had a hand in Lacey's impact on the sport!

— *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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ON THE
COVER

MIA STAR

#F1702751 • Sire: Windstar • Dam: Hometown Queen
George Najor, Owner • Robert Ecker Jr., Handler

ALL-AMERICA OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Melrose Big John Named Champion; Grand Prairie Thrill, Runner-up

By Lance Schulz | Carson, North Dakota | September 2, 2024



All-America Open Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Ch. Melrose Big John with Eli Taylor and R-U Ch. Grand Prairie Thrill with Jason Loper. (Standing with plaques): Terry Chastain, Tommy Rice. David Taylor, Joe Runyan, Buck Heard (judge), Alex Mauck (judge), George Hickox, and Debbie Ozner.

The North Dakota Pointing Dog Club hosted the All-America Open Shooting Dog Championship and Open Derby trial from September 2nd through the 5th, near Raleigh, North Dakota. This event would not have been possible without the support and generosity of the local landowners—the Miller, Stewart, Hartman, and Bachmeier families—who graciously offered their land for the trial. We extend our deepest gratitude for their hospitality and for enabling the success of this event.

We would also like to express our appreciation to Purina for their sponsorship, providing bags of Pro Plan Sport Dog 30/20 for all placing dogs. Such support from Purina is instrumental in maintaining the quality and prestige of these competitions.

The success of the trial is a testament to the dedication and hard work of many individuals. A heartfelt thanks goes out to our club volunteers, judges, dog wagon drivers, and marshals, including Joe Runyan, Billy Stewart, Alex Mauck, Buck Heard, Shawn Kinkelaar, Tommy Rice, Virgil Moore, Jason Loper, Lance Schulz, and Doug Swingley. Their efforts ensured that the event ran smoothly and efficiently each day.

Managing logistics for this event was no small feat. With over 25 horses to be

transported daily from Shawn's camp to the breakaway farmyard, the operation became a finely tuned process. By the final day, the team had perfected it to the point where loading and departure took less than 10 minutes—an impressive accomplishment!

On Wednesday evening, a Landowners Appreciation Steak Dinner was held at Shawn's camp. The presence of all the landowners made it a special occasion for handlers, scouts, dog owners, and attendees alike, providing a chance to express personal thanks for their generous support. These landowners are not just valued partners in this sport but are also integral members to their neighbors as you could hear the conversations of them collaborating to support one another's farming and ranching operations, whether it was managing cattle, coordinating harvests, or tending to other vital agricultural duties.

The following is the reporter's brace report of the Open Shooting Dog Championship, capturing Finds, Stop-to-Flush, Unproductive, Back, and Picked Up perspectives. While the finds and STFs were confirmed with the judges, please note that these reports are not reflective of the overall performance of each dog but rather represent their

activity around game.

The Running

Brace 1: Perfections Razzleberry (Hann) and Chelsea's Mae West (Kinkelaar). Hann: F1 at 38. Kinkelaar: NP1 at 15, F1 at 40, NP2.

Brace 2: Cheap Thrill (Lueck) and Ellen Charming Primrose (Rice). Lueck: F1 at 35 (40-bird sharp-tail grouse covey), F2 at 41, F3 at 43, STF1 at 48, F4. at 52. Rice: NP1 at 3, picked up at 25 after the second pasture.

Brace 3: Hale's Smooth Touch (Kinkelaar) and Travelin In Perfect Style (Hann). Kinkelaar: NP1 at 15, B1 at 23, NP1 at 30, F1 at 47, F2 at 49. Hann: F1 at 23 (3 birds flushed), STF1 at 45, F2 at 49.

Brace 4: Tallokas New Business (Loper) and Thunderbolt's Wild Agin (Kinkelaar). Loper: NP1 at 20, STF1 at 52, NP2 at 55. Kinkelaar: Failed to back at 20.

Brace 5: Perfections Huckleberry (Hann) and Dark Rebel (Rice). Hann: F1 at 5, F2 at 25 (a large group of 40-50 birds), F3 at 30, picked up at 30 due to a DQ for running out of order. Rice: Picked up at 20.

Brace 6: Wiggins Pree Dawn Reward (Hennes) and Charlies Perfect Angel (Hann). Hennes: F1 at 36. Hann: Disqualified for running out of order.

Brace 7: Grand Prairie Thrill (Rice) and Touch's Steely Dan (Moore). Both Rice and Moore recorded finds at F1 at 45 and F1 at 55, respectively.

Brace 8: Tiann Gotta Lotta (Lueck) and Hunt's Full Moon Rising (Kinkelaar). Lueck: F1 at 34, STF1 at 40, F2 at 54. Kinkelaar: Neglected a F/STF at 25.

Brace 9: Thunder Bolt's Storm (Rice) and Panther Creek Rosie (Kinkelaar). Rice: STF at 26, NP1 at 50. Kinkelaar: F1 at 12 (lacked style), picked up at 35.

Brace 10: Elhew Johnny Utah (Lueck) and Laura Pergolizzi (Kinkelaar). Kinkelaar and Lueck picked up at 45.

Brace 11: Upfront's Charlie (Kinkelaar) and Brighter Days (Moore). Kinkelaar: F1 at 15, STF1 at 20, picked up. Moore: F1 at 15.

Brace 12: Cottonwood Bud (Hennes) and Pineywoods Showstopper (Rice).

Both dogs picked up at 40 after STF1 at 7 and STF at 24, respectively.

Brace 13: Big Man On Campus (Kinkelaar) and Land's Can't Touch This (Moore). Kinkelaar neglected STF1 at 10. Moore: F1 at 15 (covey of Huns), bumped pheasants at 20.

Brace 14: Georgian (Kinkelaar) and Cold Creek Thrill Tuff (Rice). Both dogs recorded non-productive efforts: NP1 at 17, NP2 at 22 for Kinkelaar and NP1 at 20, NP2 at 42 for Rice.

Brace 15: Cole Fusion (Hennes) and Minnesota Red Confidence (Rice). Hennes: NP1 at 50. Rice: F1 at 23 (covey in trees after alfalfa field and creek crossing), B1 at 50.

Brace 16: Lester's Another Shockwave (Kinkelaar) and Cross Country Ryan (Hennes). Kinkelaar: STF1 at 3, F2 at 7, F3 at 13, F4 at 56 (pheasants after creek crossing). Hennes: B1 at 7, picked up at 22.

Brace 17: Due Respect (Loper) and Shagtime Sunny (Kinkelaar). Both recorded divided finds at F1 at 13. Kinkelaar: B1 at 19. Loper: F2 at 19. Both picked up at 46.

Brace 18: Real Thing Dolly (Rice) and



Open Derby (l-r): 1st Place Merrily Amazing with Tommy Rice, 2nd Place Silver W Wildflower with Shawn Kinkelaar, and 3rd Place Merrily Special Edition with Lewis Peterson. (Second row, l-r): Alex Mauck (judge), Terry Chastain Jr., Virgil Moore (judge), and Debbie Ozner.

Upfront's Southern Star (Kinkelaar). Rice: Picked up at 40. Kinkelaar: STF1 at 15, described by judges as "the kind of dog they're looking for."

Brace 19: Upfront's McQuade (Kinkelaar) and Melrose Big John (Chastain). Kinkelaar: F1 at 7, F2 at 13. Chastain: F1 at 7, F2 at 13, STF1 at 49. The most exciting brace of the event. Both dogs ran prairie shooting dog races. Both finished strong, with Kinkelaar outpacing Chastain at time.

Brace 20: Dollywood Thrill (Rice) and Silver W Jill Z (Kinkelaar). Performance:

Rice: Picked up at 25. Kinkelaar: NP1 at 10, NP2 at 18.

Carson, N. D., September 2

Judges: Buck Heard and Alex Mauck

ALL-AMERICA OPEN SHOOTING DOG

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 32 Pointers, 4 Setters, and 4 German Shorthairs

Winner-MELROSE BIG JOHN, F1708582, pointer male, by Brakenslide Ben-Melrose Rebel Lou. Terry J. Chastain Jr., owner and handler.

Runner-Up-GRAND PRAIRIE THRILL, F1676501, pointer female, by Seekin A Thrill-York's Hollywood. Mac Stidham, owner; Tommy Rice III, handler.

Open Derby

The Open Derby ran after the conclusion of the Open Shooting Dog Championship. After the last brace had run, the judges named their placing dogs.

Judges: Alex Mauck and Virgil Moore

OPEN DERBY – 8 Pointers

1st-MERRILY AMAZING, unreg., pointer female, by Nonami's Johnny Come Lately-Melrose Goodbye Kiss. Daphne Wood, owner; Terry James Chastain, handler.

2d-SILVER W WILDFLOWER, F1711106, pointer female, by Elhew Sinbad-Silver W Free Spirit. Debbie Ozner, owner and handler.

3d-MERRILY SPECIAL EDITION, unreg., pointer by Nonami's Johnny Come Lately-Melrose Goodbye K. Daphne Wood, owner; Terry James Chastain, handler.

LEHIGH VALLEY POINTER & SETTER CLUB

Fall Trial Held At York Club Grounds

By Ernie Saniga | Rossville, Pennsylvania | September 8, 2024

The Lehigh Club ran its fall trial September 8 at the York Club grounds near Rossville, Pennsylvania, in very nice weather. Karen Saniga is the officer in charge of all of the details of the trial. She was helped by Roger Dvorak, who planted the birds. Greg Strausbaugh got the engraved glasses which went to all winners.

The Southern Bird Hunters Association (SBHA) sponsored the trial, and each winner got a bag of Eukanuba dog food.

Our judges were veteran field trial people who have run dogs and judged many events over many years. They were Ben Dillard from Maryland and Payton Gunby from Georgia in the Amateur Shooting Dog. Joe Lordi from New Jersey and Dave McKay from Pennsylvania judged the Amateur Derby.



Amateur Shooting Dog (Back row): Ben Dillard and Payton Gunby. (Front row): Ernie Saniga with Bella Bulli, Joe Lordi with Newfield Primus, and Dave McKay with Iron Bully.

We had 18 in the Amateur Shooting Dog. The stake was won by Bella Bulli, a Pointer female handled by this reporter to a four-find effort with strong groundwork. Pointer male Newfield Primus was second for Bo Mamounis with a good ground race, and three



Amateur Derby (l-r): Greg Strausbaugh, Stacy Goodie with Freight Train A League of Her Own, Roger Boser with Switchblade, Thor Kain with Mohawk Mill All Fired Up, June McKay, and Dave McKay.

finds. Third went to Iron Bully with three finds, a pair of backs, and a stop to flush.

In the Amateur Derby, Thor Kain's Pointer male Mohawk Mill Fired Up had a classy race with multiple finds to take the blue. Roger Boser's Red Setter

Switchblade was second, also with multiple finds and a good ground effort. Freight Train A League of Her Own was third; Stacy Goodie's Shorthair had a good effort on the ground and a single stylish and polished find to win third.

Thanks to all participants for coming, and thanks also to all of those who lent a hand.

Rossville, Pa., September 8 – One Course
Judges: Ben Dillard and Payton Gunby
SBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 15 Pointers, 1 Setter, and 2 Irish Setters
 1st-BELLA BULLI, F1674898, pointer female, by Bully Bragg-Bullerina. Ernie & Karen Saniga, owners; Ernie Saniga, handler.
 2d-NEWFIELD PRIMUS, F1704494, pointer male, by Little Wing Inked Up-Prison Break Turk. George Mamounis, owner and handler.
 3d-IRON BULLY, F1686077, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Bullerina. Ernie & Karen Saniga, Bill & Muriel Primm, owners; Ernie Saniga, handler.

Judges: Roger Dvorak and Dave McKay
SBHA AMATEUR DERBY – 2 Pointers, 3 Irish Setters, and 1 German Shorthair
 1st-MOHAWK MILL FIRED UP, F1706690, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Knight Hawk-Bear Creek Rebellion. Thor Kain, owner and handler.
 2d-SWITCHBLADE, F1706611, Irish setter male, by Wayward-Slingshot. Roger Boser, owner and handler.
 3d-FREIGHT TRAIN A LEAGUE OF HER OWN, F1716806, German Shorthair female, by Friedelsheim Freight Train-Hi N's Laying It Down Sally. Stacey Goodie, owner and handler.

ASSOCIATED FIELD TRIAL CLUBS OF FLORIDA

A New Generation

By Petie Brown | Punta Gorda, Florida

The best thing to come out of our annual spring meeting, besides marking courses and recognizing our highpoint dog of the year, was Justin Muzynski becoming the club's President and Katie McEwen taking on the job as Secretary, left vacant by our much beloved Don Wood, who assumed so many rolls, for so many years. Justin and Katie are "Webb Brats," a term coined by this author for those who spent their formative years growing up field trialing on the Webb.

Yes, it's wet at the moment due to the seasonal normal, plus Debby, plus Helene, and now Milton...are you listening, John, as we know you love the Webb too?! As the late, great Jimmy Buffet said, we're just "trying to reason with hurricane season," and thankfully, it does not seem to bother the quail. The Muzynskis were training this morning (October 6) and checking the grounds, moving seven coveys off the high road. The condition report is that it's wet. Training fees are still \$20 a day or \$200 for the season, which ends February 18, 2025, and the grounds will be open for training for two days after each trial for those who do not have to rush back home.

At the spring meeting, Cason Pope, with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FFWC), reported on the conditions of the grounds, plans for burning larger areas, and the plentiful bird count. All the feed plots were composted, and the plan is to do



Highpoint Dog of the Year (Front row, l-r): Debbie McEwen, Beth Brown with Myakka Freddie Freeloader, and Petie Brown. (Second row): Justin Muzynski, Katie McEwen, and Vince Feltner. (Standing): Christian McGraw. (Seated in Buggy): Paul Daniel and Kenny Muzynski. (Mounted): Daniel Linehan.

that every four years. It was noted that baby grasshoppers were in the plots attracting birds. Like many areas of Florida, the Babcock Webb is a watershed prone to seasonal wetness. With encroaching development, there is always concern about how that affects wildlife, the naturally managed beauty of the land, and long-term sustainability. Thankfully, there are many who want to see the area preserved indefinitely and continue to have the care and management that currently sustains it.

Purina has been a generous supporter of our trials, for which we are most grateful. They have supplied Purina Pro Plan to the winning placements and sponsored a Purina Dinner during the December Everglades trial. Our trials have changed this year to not conflict with other trials, most notably the Super

Bowl trial, which moved from December to February.

2023-2024 AFTCF Dog of the Year Awards

All-Age

- 1st: Myakka Lucy Diamond (PF), Petie Brown
- 2nd: Myakka Time Shifter (PM), Beth Brown
- 3rd: Holopaw's Rear Axel (PM), Justin & Kenny Muzynski

Shooting Dog

- 1st: Myakka Freddie Freeloader (PM), Beth Brown
- 2nd: Funseeker's Texas Preacher (PM), Don Wood
- 3rd: Molly (PF), Tom Hennes
- 3rd: Arnold's Heat Wave (PF), Jeff Arnold

Derby

- 1st: Myakka Revolution (PF), Beth Brown
- 2nd: CKC Gun Runner (PM), Kent Cantrell
- 3rd: Checkmates Country Sunshine (PF), Vince Feltner

Puppy

- 1st: McEwen's Southern Pride (PM), Katie & Debbie McEwen
- 2nd: Checkmates Catch Me If You Can (PF), Vince Feltner
- 3rd: Myakka Debutante (PF), Petie Brown

Beth Brown's Myakka Freddie Freeloader took the overall High Point placement, which this scout was very pleased to have supported. Freddy is not a youngster anymore, but he is a dedicated bird finder, and when he gets rolling, you can't help but ride with a smile, imagining him back on the prairies. Congratulations, Beth!

NATIONAL AMATEUR PHEASANT SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Alex Smith and Calico's Country Strong Bring Home The Blue; Backcountry Pure Gold Named Runner-up

By Joe Cammisa | Bloomingdale, Ohio | September 20, 2024

A continued short history of the National Amateur Pheasant Shooting Dog Championship shows the most recent winners since 2017.

- 2017: Touch's Katrina, F1654628, pointer female, by Touch's White Out-House's Proud Mary. Austin Turley, owner and handler.
- 2018: Touch's Hail Stone, F1653857, pointer male, by Touch's White Out-Touch's Maswood Anne. Alexander Rickert, owner and handler.
- 2019: Upfront's Southern Star, F1662579, pointer female, by Ransom-Double Wild. Lance Schulz, owner and handler.
- 2020: Touch's Diamante, F1651518, pointer male, by Touch's White Out-Henson's Go Girl. Austin Turley, owner and handler.
- 2021: Hightailing Maggie, F1674283, pointer female, by Bail Me Out-Walden's Ridge Liz. Kevin & Maureen Joyce, owners; Kevin Joyce, handler.
- 2022: Navajo Cody, F1668520, pointer male, by Great River Ice-Blaze's Isis. Camille Masiello & Saverio Morelli, owners; Joseph E. Lordi, handler.
- 2023: Miller's Cover Girl, F1675005, pointer female, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat, Jack & Fran Miller, owners; Fran Miller, handler.

Let the record books now reflect: 2024 Calico's Country Strong, F1679850, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Calico's Touch of Class. Calico Kennels, owner; Alex Smith, handler. She comes from Frank and April Henderson's Calico Kennels, home of notables such as Calico's Dancing Bear and Calico's Thrillology. She was a previous Southern Bird Hunters Amateur Shooting Dog of the Year and won The Round Pond Classic, Elwin Smith Classic, and many shooting dog placements.

Backcountry Pure Gold is a product of Chris Catanzarite's breeding program and won The National Pheasant Shooting Dog Futurity on these grounds.



National Amateur Pheasant Championship (front, l-r): Alex Smith with Champion Calico's Country Strong and Chris Catanzarite with Runner-up Champion Back Country Pure Gold. (Behind, l-r): Allen Linder, Muriel Primm, Karen Saniga, Aaron McAfee (judge), Stacey Goodie, George Tracy, Greg Strausbaugh, Tiffany Smith, Jimmy Wallace (judge), Jeff Haggis, Dave Hughes, Tyler Bowser, and Bill Primm.

She was placed in the National Walking Shooting Dog Futurity, and her first title was runner-up in the Region 16 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship in Union Springs, Alabama. She additionally has many shooting dog placements.

The judges for the trial were Jimmy Wallace of Prospect, Ohio, and Aaron McAfee of Clinton, Illinois. Aaron has judged the Pheasant Futurity twice on these grounds and numerous regional and shooting dog championships. Aaron has also judged the Red Setter National Championship. Jimmy has judged many championships, weekend, and classic trials. Both are long-time owners, handlers, and trainers, and there are many placements between them. They were very attentive and gave the dogs every benefit of the doubt. They are two great sportsmen and outdoorsmen who have given of their time freely.

The winner and runner-up are detailed in the brace descriptions.

The Running

Brace 1: Miller's Special Version (PF/Madison McDonald) and Bella Bulli (PF/Ernie Saniga). Breakaway was at 8:15 on the very first day. When loosed, both were eager, raced to the top of

the hill, and split up when they hit the hedgerow. Special Version at 3 slammed home on the right and pointed. A short flushing attempt ensued, but nothing was produced. When released, she went out and left at the rockpile crossing, continuing in her bid, trying to use what little wind there was to her advantage. Bella Bulli was ever forward and at the half, both were watered. Both showed far forward at 50, with Bella Bulli using up 5,000 of the Mingo 5,500 acres.

Brace 2: Runner-Up "Dee" Backcountry Pure Gold (Chris Catanzarite) and Calico's Guns N Roses (Alex Smith) By 9:30 at the breakaway, it is noted that the grass was already dry, and the sun was beginning to beat down on the scorched grounds. Both dogs were off and running, filling up the landscape. The grounds here at Mingo are as dry and hard as I have ever seen them. At 8, Dee was very mannerly for a stop to flush with Pure Gold backing nicely. At 11, Guns N Roses, when at the top of the hill after her first road crossing, swapped ends and pointed. A pheasant was produced, all in good order, and she was moved on. She suffered an unproductive at 13, Dee stylishly backing with conviction. Guns N Roses suffered a second unproductive

at 18. She was then moved on to where she took to the far front with a gorgeous cast. Unfortunately, at 47, the tracker was called for, and Guns N Roses ended her bid. Chris Catanzarite had the course to himself and settled in with a fancy moving Dee. She ran big and hard but was kindly handling, showing just when need be. Her race was maintained far and forward throughout. The weather was getting hotter, but she never let up, running more forward with determination. At 30, she was found stopped on the hillside past the water tubs, and with Chris flushing, a pheasant was produced. Staying tight and with all in order, she was moved on to where she finished with a strong race in dry, hot conditions.

Brace 3: Miller's Triple Digit (PM/Buddy Morrison) and Raag's Rich and Rare (PM/Greg Strausbaugh). With the sun now beating down evermore, the brace started at 10:52. Triple Digit was alongside Raag's Rich and Rare, fighting to get ahead and forward. At 10, Triple Digit was nowhere in sight. Raag's fought the high heat and stayed forward. He used the ponds to his advantage, cooling off when nearby. No birds were pointed.

Brace 4: Miller's Upgraded Dot Com (PF/Fran Miller) and Miller's Extreme Heat (PF/Joe McHugh). The first brace of the afternoon was let loose at 2:05, and both took to the hills and stayed forward to the rockpile crossing. Both had taken a good line along the center hedgerow. Just after the first road crossing, Joe called for the tracker at 17. Dot Com broke to the left along the tree line and pointed. A chukar was flown, and she looked like a million dollars. At 32, she was watered at the first pond, but at 32, she decided to take a pheasant for a stroll and was up.

Brace 5: Sugarknoll White Lightning (PM/Pete Del Collo) and Bull Finch (PF/Ernie Saniga). Both were released at 2:50 and were quick to take the front. Both were at the limit, going up the hill and then off to the left road tree line and forward from there. With the heat index climbing, no birds were pointed, and both were up by 32.

Brace 6: Miller's Little Duce Coupe (PF/Madison McDonald) and Backcountry Buddy (PM/Chris Catanzarite). The last

brace of the day broke away at 3:40. Both started out with a foot race to get to the front and were down over the hill and to the rock pile crossing. Duce Coupe went straight across the road and up the hillside. Buddy stayed left and, at 21, pointed. Chris flushed in the dense tree line, relocated Buddy, and then took an unproductive. Duce was up by 23 and Buddy went on to finish the hour but did not have a bird.

Brace 7: Miller's Authentic Version (PM/Madison McDonald) and Reedy Creek Dial Tone (PM/Joe McHugh). A new day has dawned, and both were let go a little after 8 a.m. Dial Tone took the front right away and shot off to the left of the top of the hill hedgerow. Authentic Version ran a good shooting dog race, consistent while powering his way forward. At 7, he was standing, and with a great attempt at flushing, no bird was produced. Joe called for the tracker at 28. Dial Tone was let loose, and going forward once more, he slammed to a halt, high and tight at 34. A pheasant was put to the air by his handler, and all was in order at the shot. Off again, to the top of the hill at the bowl, just past the water tubs, he made a stance again. A bird was seen by the handler but not the judge. Version was up by his handler.

Brace 8: Cape Point Hidden Jewel (PF/Bill Bonnetti) and Glenmere's Silver Roo (PF/Jeff Haggis). Off at 9:10, at 1, Roo went right....and was quickly up. Jewel broke away and was forward, searching hard, and was standing at 11, on the top right just before the well pad. A flushing attempt ensued with no results. At 32 at the top of the hill No. 1 breakaway, Jewel stood again, this time with someone home. A pheasant was put to the air, and a shot was fired, everything in order. At 39, she was well mannered for a stop to flush on the right before the first road crossing.

Brace 9: Miller's Southern Gossip (PF/Madison McDonald) and Calico's Over The Top (PM/Alex Smith). The Breakaway was at 10:56; both were far-flung and out to and past the left roadside tree line. Over the top and across the road to the top of the next hill was their next moves. One hunted left, and one hunted right. A nice brace to watch. Around and past the well pad

and back to the rock pile. Both had nice big races, but Gossip ran straight for the clubhouse at 30, and by the time we got back to the rockpile at 50, both were up by their handlers.

Brace 10: Iron Bully (PM/Ernie Saniga) and Miller's Upgraded Version (PM/Fran Miller). In the heat of the day...2:04, the two of them broke loose and headed for the hilltop hedge row. Just over the top at 7, both dogs were seen standing, but the handlers quickly determined it was a backoff and moved them on. Within two minutes, Iron Bully was standing tall over what looked like a good find. And a good find it was. Ernie flushed a pheasant, fired and all was in order. At 16 both dogs were watered at the rockpile water tubs. Let go once more. Upgraded Version stopped at 18, looking high and poised. Fran flushed and relocated her charge, but no bird was produced. The heat was becoming intolerable at 30, and the first pond, Iron Bully's handler threw in the towel and cooled Bully in the water. Upgraded Version continued but no bird was pointed by him. Both dogs, during their times down, had extended races.

Brace 11: Miller's Automatic Upgrade (PM/Fran Miller) and Calico's Country Strong. Bryant's Give It A Rip scratched, and Automatic Upgrade was brought up from the 19th brace. Automatic Upgrade came with his running shoes laced tight. He broke away with Country Strong at 3:13, which may appear to be an unlucky number to some. Automatic never really looked back. Upgrade was gone to the hills and picked up by his handler at 15. Calico's Country Strong started out on his journey with a breakaway going forward to the top of the first hill, where last year's winner, Miller's Cover Girl, pointed a covey of quail on the right-side hill. At the end of the left road tree line at 7, Calico's Country Strong stopped and pointed just before the road crossing. Alex flushed and produced a pheasant, firing; all was in order. Starting forward once more, he took to the cover at hand, tallied another pheasant at 20, and then started to roll on and up the hill and past the well pad. In the far grove past the well pad, he stood posed for one of the early morning pheasants that had been released. Alex dismounted and went over to the statue rock-hard

charge and flushed a pheasant, firing and bringing the headcount total to three. Calico's Country Strong was not done yet, pounding his way towards the No. 1 breakaway hill. It was there after the turn, on that hedgerow right side, that he stopped abruptly, and nothing could be produced. Moving on, just a short distance further down the row, he stopped again, and Alex produced a quail, fired, moved on, and 50 yards further up the row, one more stop for another quail that required a searching effort to flush. Calico's Country Strong stood perfectly through the fast and furious few minutes, a shortened time barrage of action. Cut loose one final time, he shot out forward, down the hill, crossing the bottom road, over the hill, and out towards the rockpile crossing, where he finished strong.

Brace 12: Miller's Flowers and Lace (Buddy Morrison) and Hightailing Maggie (Kevin Joyce). Hightailing Maggie scratched, and Millers Flowers and Lace ran as a bye. Buddy let Flowers and Lace go at 4:20, and she took off like a rocket. At 12, she was found standing on the right at the far edge of the second pond. Buddy flushed and Judge Weaver stated that he saw a rabbit go out. Moving on, she climbed the long hill and took off for the well pad area, only to be stopped by a pheasant find at 27 with everything in order. Off towards the well pad, and just before it, she was watered, loosed, and then found stopped at the sorghum right side at 36. Buddy flushed, and Judge Weaver was in just the right place to block the pheasant, and it took flight. Buddy fired, and she stood tight, holding her ground. One might have thought that the three of them may have done this together before, well executed. At 38, she stopped to flush on a pheasant and then finished her hour.

Brace 13: The Secret (PM/Joe Lordi) and Backcountry Champagnesupernova (PF/Chris Catanzarite). The morning started at 8:06 with a nice breakaway and both dogs cruising forward. The Secret had one thing on her mind, and that was putting space between her and her handler, which she did in fine fashion. Supernova wasn't giving up anything and stayed right by his side at the top of the hill hedgerow. At 7, Supernova was found stopped just

before the bottom of the hill crossing. Standing tall and tight, she had her quarry pinned to where Chris was able to easily flush the pheasant and fire his pistol. All in order, she was moved on to the rock pile, where she pointed again on the left after the road crossing in the dense cover. Unfortunately, no one was home. On and out to where she next took in the powerline hill, and at 31, she tallied another pheasant find, again all in order. It was after that find that the handler decided to pick her up.

Brace 14: Miller's War Bonnet (PM/Joe McHugh) and Miller's Upgraded Design (PM/Fran Miller). At 9:12, the 14th brace began, and both were gone like a shot. At 7, both were well applied and headed for the well pad turn. The first stop for this train was at 12, where Upgraded Design dug into the left-side woods across from the well pad, pinning a pheasant for his handler. Fran flushed, fired, and moved on. At 15, both were on the far left, and by 19, both were across the road, up the powerline hill, and over towards the rockpile. After the No. 1 breakaway turn to the hedgerow, Upgraded Design was found in the far-left corner, standing with War Bonnet backing. A pheasant was seen leaving as all rode up. Fran elected to flush, but nothing more was produced. At 49, Upgraded Design pointed again at the rockpile crossing, and War Bonnet once again backed. Both heading for the powerline hill, they separated, War Bonnet forward and Upgraded Design on a short detour, and then later they met up. At 58, things turned around for War Bonnet, where this time he was pointing far off on the powerline vista, and Upgraded Design was now backing. All things in order and properly handled, and they finished their hour.

Brace 15: Jolene Jolene (PF/Dave McKay) and Calico's Sky's The Limit (PF/Joe Lordi). At 10, both were far forward past the roadside tree line on the left, crossing the road and up the hill. Jolene went into the black hole for a short while; just past the powerline hill, scout Joe McHugh was dispatched, and she was found a good distance away standing a bird, and Dave elected to pick her up. In last year's performance at this same trial, I called her a fancy little youngster that was a bird-finding

machine. At 15, Sky went on to point a pheasant on the right-side hill before the "Chukar Crossing." All was in order for her, and she was moved on. Calico's Sky's The Limit, at 27, was left and forward from the well pad, and a pheasant erupted off to her side, and soon after, Joe elected to pick her up.

Brace 16: Miller's Blazing Hot Chick (PF/Ernie Saniga) and Waybetter Bobby (PM/Bob Verderosa). Breaking away at 2:10, both were forward, out and past the hedgerow, and heading for the rockpile crossing. When at the rockpile, both took full advantage of the water tubs. At 15, Hot Chick took a dip in the first pond on the left. There were a few clouds in the sky, but they only provided less sunlight for brief moments. At 26, Ernie called for the tracker. Just after the ponds, Bobby was seen forward at the "Frans Covey" location. At 42, Bobby pinned a pheasant at the left roadside tree line. Joe went in, flushed and all was in order. Further down the tree line at 48, just before the road crossing, Bobby swapped ends and tallied another pheasant find. At 52, a pheasant was seen flying from forward and far left. Bobby had another contact before his hour was over, and that was a stop to flush at 58. Bobby ran a good forward race.

Brace 17: Miller's Strolling For Gold (PF/Fran Miller) and Hillhavyn's Wild Child (PF/Joe McHugh). Off at 3:26, the breakaway was at the well pad. Down across the sorghum row, they went driving hard to get to the right-side cover and the hilltop. They were next headed for the rockpile crossing when Wild Child was found standing at 17. A pheasant was produced, and all was in order. Coming next to the clubhouse turn, Fran directed Strolling For Gold to the parking lot, ending her bid. At 40, she was watered, and Joe noticed her pads cut up and elected to pick up.

Brace 18: Glenmere's Cruiser (PM/Jeff Haggis) and Backcountry Bruiser (PM/Chris Catanzarite). The breakaway was at the road crossing leading to "Frans Covey" in the bottom of the hollow. Both broke away and started a far-flung pace. At 13, Bruiser slid to a halt in the sorghum edge, and Chris was right behind him. A flushing attempt

occurred, but no bird was produced. Ten minutes later, at 23, Cruiser had his own quarry to deal with. He swapped ends and pinned, with Jeff flushing; no bird was moved, then relocating Cruiser to where he pinned the bird, and all was in order. At 29 on the right-hand side towards the well pad, Bruiser hit a home run, locating and holding fast a pheasant that Chris flushed and fired over. Bruiser stood tight and was then moved on. At 29, Cruiser, trying to match wits with a pheasant, got just a little too close in his effort to pin it down, and the bird got up, ending Cruiser's bid. Bruiser stayed well far forward, and the handler called for the tracker at 47.

A huge thank you goes out to all the supporters of this trial. I've often heard the phrase, "It takes a village of people." Well, these villagers came together in what I would call the very harshest of conditions at a field trial that I have ever seen. The ground was hard and resembled 6-grit sandpaper; the cement-like hardness was responsible for tearing up the pads on numerous dogs. What little wind that was there was hot and dry, and the heat was unbearable; the sun beat down with no

relief from the clouds.

The top-shelf quality of the following people who continuously helped each other cannot be denied, and our grateful thanks go out to them for making this trial an exciting experience:

Alex Smith, Tiffany Smith, Ernie Saniga, Karen Saniga, Joe McHugh, Dave Hughes, Allen Linder, Madison McDonald, Mike Tracy, Pete Del Collo, Pat Casey, Jeff Haggis, Chris Catanzarite, Kelsey Hajek, Kevin Joyce, Maureen Joyce, Joe Lordi, Dave McKay, Greg Strausbaugh, Stacey Goodie, Jack Miller, Fran Miller, Bob Verderosa, Buddy Morrison and anyone I may have missed. This group could move a mountain.

The National Amateur Pheasant Shooting Dog group would like to thank our sponsor, Purina and Greg Blair, for their untiring support this year. Additionally, they sponsored the Thursday Night Banquet. We would also like to thank The Mingo Sportsman's Club for their support in providing a lunch menu along with bird planting duties. Chris Catanzarite for sponsoring the Friday night fish fry by Jim Winnen. We would also like to thank the local 4H club for providing a dinner during their

fundraising week on Saturday night. Additionally, we are most grateful to The Amateur Field Trial Club of America for their oversight and to Piper Huffman for taking entries and conducting the draw. Thank you to Garmin for their continued support of Garmin products and to Bruce Fox for making the winners' plaques. Thank you to Jeff Haggis for providing the judges' gifts.

Thank you to Santa Cruz Biotechnology for providing samples of their canine salmon oil and equine fly and tick spray. Thank you to Dave Hughes for driving the dog truck, putting out and keeping the water tubs full, and for his help wherever needed. And a huge thank you to the many other unsung heroes. Thank you to all who helped make this the hugely successful trial that it was.

Bloomington, Ohio, September 20

Judges: Aaron McAfee and Jimmy Wallace
NATIONAL AMATEUR PHEASANT SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 37 Pointers
Winner-CALICO'S COUNTRY STRONG, F1679850, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Calico's Touch of Class. Calico Kennels, owner; Alex Smith, handler.
Runner-Up-BACKCOUNTRY PURE GOLD, F1694791, pointer female, by Springflow's Backcountry P-Backcountry Tornado. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.

UPCOMING PRINT DEADLINES

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***Deadline December 5**

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**Please submit ads prior to the deadline date to allow time for revisions and approvals.*

Material must be received and approved by 4:30 p.m. on the deadline date.

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NATIONAL AMATEUR PRAIRIE CHICKEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Pearl Jam Nation Named Champion; Erin's Doc Holliday, Runner-up

By Mark Johnson | Wisconsin Rapids, WI | September 20, 2024

The 33rd renewal of this premier wild bird trial was held again this year on the 8,000-acre Buena Vista Grasslands near Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. Weather conditions were good, albeit warm for the afternoon braces. Cover was high, reflecting the extensive early spring rains that prevailed in this region, and most importantly, birds were prevalent. Prairie chickens were moved in virtually every brace over a daily venue of six one-hour courses. Twenty-one dogs were drawn, reflecting a mix of 15 Pointers, six Setters, and one Irish Setter. The judges for this year's championship were Steve Auxier (Lincoln, Nebraska) and Bruce Bryant (Silver City, Iowa). The action watching these wild prairie chickens is fast and tests the best of dogs, handlers, and judges. Both Steve and Bruce were attentive and focused for each brace. All appreciated their professionalism, and their decisions were well received.

In addition to the great judges, it takes considerable effort to effectively run these championships. I'd like to call out the great assistance from Ed Liermann, who not only marshaled almost every brace but also orchestrated the behind-the-scenes duties of obtaining state permits, having the tent erected, organizing the Saturday Purina-sponsored banquet, having hay brought in, and the list goes on! Ed also chairs the Open Shooting Dog Championship which is run immediately following the Amateur. Additionally, we thoroughly appreciate the top-drawer dog wagon work of Gary Wolf. Gary is a Wisconsin DNR employee who gives up a week of his time each year to make sure the right dogs are at the right place at the right times for both the Amateur and Open Championship. Along with Gary, one of this championship's long-time leaders, Doug Reisner, was on hand to help with road crossing safety and assorted other involvement. Long-time patrons George and Ann Ihrke were unable to attend this year due to a conflicting engagement.



National Amateur Prairie Chicken Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Sean Patrick Derrig, Susie DuVall, Jarrett Bell posing Runner-up Champion Erin's Doc Holliday, Mark Johnson, Allison Connolly Bell, Steve Auxier (judge), Bruce Bryant (judge), Scott Jordan, Mike DuVall, Dave Moore posing Champion Pearl Jam Nation, Dean Reinke, Doug Reisner, Ed Liermann, and Nick Zeners.

I would be remiss not to mention that this championship's co-chair, Frank LaNasa, was unable to attend in person but he certainly was present in spirit and by remote interaction. The important processes of placing ads, ordering trophies, taking entries, conducting drawings, and completing post-trial paperwork deserve huge recognition. Thank you, Piper Huffman! Certainly, not last or least, the support of each handler and owner who attended the 2024 AFTCA National Amateur Prairie Chicken Shooting Dog Championship deserves a big THANK YOU!

In today's world of rising costs and event expense increases, the support of sponsors is even more appreciated. No amount of gratitude is enough for the tremendous support this championship and the AFTCA receive from Nestlé Purina. Purina representative Terry Trzcinski was on hand and augmented the support extended by Greg Blair. Pro Plan dog food for the winners, judges' gifts, and banquet raffle items from Purina are most appreciated. Additional sponsorship support from Garmin Corporation, who awarded collars to the winners, and The Saddle Guy and Santa Cruz Biotech, who provided nice leather judges' bookholders and samples of

their products, respectively.

This Prairie Chicken Championship is special not only due to the venue and distinction as one of the very few wild bird trials east of the Mississippi but also due to the mix of parties and entities engaged in the land resource itself. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, local landowners, well-organized habitat-focused conservation groups, county properties, and The University of Wisconsin/Stevens Point yield a superb venue and leadership mix unrivaled nearly anywhere. The collaboration and cooperation between these entities and the field trial community are simply outstanding and serve as a model for how our sport can posture itself as a respected beneficiary of such great public and private natural resources. Of note, the Saturday banquet and accompanying raffle raises monies for scholarship gifts, which are annually extended to two (2) University of Wisconsin students who are directly involved in the Buena Vista Grasslands site and Prairie Chicken Program.

The Winners and Others

This year's National Amateur Prairie Chicken Champion Pearl Jam Nation (PF) ran in the seventh brace Saturday

morning for her owner and handler, Scott Jordan. Pearl and Scott are no strangers to the wild bird quest in tough cover and challenging conditions. As a team, they showed us all “how it’s done.” Running a focused, strong forward race with intelligence and class, Pearl carded a quality find at 35 with brace mate Grouse Feather Witcher (Dunbar) backing. Pearl went on to finish the hour with a consistently strong forward race punctuated with intelligent application and purpose.

The 2024 runner-up title was extended to Erin’s Doc Holliday (PM). Doc is owned by Allison and Jarrett Bell and was handled in a smooth manner by Jarrett throughout the hour. Running in the first brace of the championship on Friday morning, Doc carded a nice covey find at 20, a stop to flush at 35, and a non-productive at 50. He finished the hour forward and well applied.

Other dogs in the mix for consideration were Erin’s Tin Lizzie/Johnson (PF), with birds pointed at 15 and 21 and a non-productive at 30, and Nine to Five Nation/Moore (PM), who laid down an exciting ground race, in the heat of the day, without a pointed bird.

The Running: Brace-by-brace

Brace 1—Erin’s Doc Holliday/Bell (reported above) and G F Parabellum/Dunbar. Following 30 minutes of hunting a stop to flush was too much for Parabellum, who was then picked up by

Dr. Dunbar.

Brace 2—Erin’s Wild Atlantic Way/Derrig and Cole Fusion/Womack. Wild Way was strong on the ground. The handler called for a retrieval device at 19. Cole Fusion hunted the cover with a breach of manners at 20 and harnessed.

Brace 3—Confident Nation/Jordan and Stellar’s Little Man/DuVall. Confident Nation had bird contact at 5 and finished the hour. Stellar’s Little Man carded finds at 5 and 11 with a breach of manners at 15.

Brace 4—Worsham’s Silver Comet/Worsham and Saginaw Luke Skywalker/Johnson. Silver Comet was strong and gone. The handler called for Garmin at 30. Skywalker had a forward race, no birds, and finished the hour.

Brace 5—Nine to Five Nation/Moore (reported above) and B G K’s Luke/Bell. The handler picked up Luke at 15.

Brace 6—Murphy’s Law/Womack and Erin’s Southern Comfort/Derrig. Murphy’s Law was under a bird at 7 and harnessed. Erin’s Southern Comfort was a big goer. The handler called for a retrieval device at 57.

Brace 7—Pearl Jam Nation/Jordan (reported above) and Grouse Feather Witcher/Dunbar. Witcher carded finds at 5 and 26, backed brace mate at 35, and finished the hour.

Brace 8—Bocomo Dutchman/Lewis and Erin’s Rebel Attraction/Derrig. Dutchman was credited with a find at 6,

under birds at 10, and picked up. Erin’s Rebel Attraction was credited with a find at 19, a second non-productive at 45, and harnessed.

Brace 9—Stone Creek Rooster/Jordan and Cedar Creek Sixgun/Liermann. Rooster pointed birds at 11 and 14. The handler elected to pick up at 28. Sixgun had a consistent application with a nice find at 48 and finished the hour.

Brace 10—Worsham’s Spitfire/Worsham and Erin’s Tin Lizzie/Johnson (reported above). Spitfire was carded with a stop to flush at 2 and a back at 30. He finished the hour forward.

Brace 11—Cochise B/Brown. The handler elected not to run, and the brace mate ran as a bye.

We cordially invite all of this year’s owners, dogs, and handlers back next September and extend a sincere invitation to those who have not yet experienced this great wild bird venue and field trial.

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., September 20

Judges: Steve Auxier and Bruce Bryant

NATIONAL AMATEUR PRAIRIE CHICKEN


SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour


Heats] – 15 Pointers, 5 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter

Winner-PEARL JAM NATION, F1701309, pointer female, by Confident Nation-Notorious Rebel Woman. Scott & Julie Jordan, owners; Scott Jordan, handler.

Runner-Up-ERIN’S DOC HOLLIDAY, F1704304, pointer male, by Erin’s Lone Star Law-Erin’s Little Lullaby. Jarrett & Allison Bell, owners; Jarrett Bell, handler.

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NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND OPEN WOODCOCK CHAMPIONSHIP

Asper Hill Bandit Named Champion; Paucek's Little Tommy Tucker, Runner-up

By Jamie Nee | Fryeburg, Maine | September 20, 2024

The Maine Bird Dog Club hosted its annual Northern New England Open Woodcock Championship on September 20-22. This smoothly run event yielded a healthy entry of 40 top-quality cover dogs.

Mother Nature cooperated, giving us three cool mornings and evenings, although temperatures rose considerably by midday. This premier, cover dog event is run on grounds yielding ample opportunities for dogs to point woodcock and partridge. A champion can be named with either bird along with acceptable bird work, ground race, and finds.

Kellie Short, the club's president, marshaled every brace. Kellie and Roy Hargreaves did an excellent job grooming the courses during the summer. A lot of hard work went into preparing these courses; they were well-marked, clear, and easy to navigate, even if separated from the gallery. We never had to send out any search parties! Haha.

Deb Kennedy, the club secretary, was the trial chair. Deb attended to the many moving parts and details it takes to execute such a field trial of this caliber. Deb's leadership skills and warm, welcoming personality made everyone comfortable while putting on a smooth, well-organized class championship. Nice job, Deb!

Club members Cal Robinson, Bruce Burnell, and Roy Hargreaves were omnipresent throughout the trial and willing to help at many levels. Bruce provided the lunches, Cal kept everyone hydrated with cases of soda and water and brought shrimp, cheesecakes, and many bags of ice. Roy walked just about every brace to make sure things went smoothly, along with Kellie's support. They both have a set of legs on them!

The Saturday evening Barbecue Banquet was first class. Bob Paucek was the head chef. We were treated to barbecued chicken, locally grown corn on the cob, other veggies, potato salad,



Northern New England Open Woodcock Championship (front, l-r): Jon Cullen with Champion Asper Hill Bandit and Kellie Short with Runner-up Champion Paucek's Little Tommy Tucker. (Behind): Judges Mike Brown and Jamie Nee.

shrimp cocktail, cheesecake, and many other treats. Everyone enjoyed the dinner and the animated conversation.

Judges for this event were Michael Brown from Michigan and your scribe, Jamie Nee. Mike Brown hails from Linden, Michigan and started hunting grouse with his first cover dog in 1995. Mike has a wealth of cover dog experience. Mike has hunted all over Michigan's lower peninsula and upper peninsula. Mike was first introduced to cover dog trials in 2007 while competing in U. S. Complete and NBHA trials. Mike has competed in many different venues and regions across the country. He is a much sought-after judge for cover dog events and will be judging the top cover dog competition in November, The Grand National Grouse Championship in Wisconsin. Mike also provided delicious zucchini bread baked by his wife and home-smoked cheese, which was unbelievably good.

Your scribe lives on Cape Cod and started trialing in the late 1980s. I have hunted partridge and woodcock all over Maine and Massachusetts for over 40 years, more so in Northern Maine than in my home state.

This was the first time I met Mike. We were in alignment as to what we wanted to see in a championship cover

dog performance. It was a pleasure judging with Mike. After each brace, we discussed things. We both came to the same conclusions very easily. We never had any disconnects. It's great to have a judging partner with the same expectations. It was a joy.

Overall, the courses were dry this year. A wet and rainy spring coupled with huge storms caused the Saco River to breach its banks, pushing the sand from the river bottom onto some parts of the courses—usually covered in rich, moist soil. The sand and many weeks of dry weather also contributed to less-than-ideal course conditions.

Nevertheless, we produced birds on every course. There was more woodcock than partridge this year. (This was the second time your scribe had judged this event.)

Due to the warm weather and dryness, some dogs went birdless, although the gallery walked up many birds. Our little beaked friends were very skittish this year. The best estimate is around 35 birds, pointed, with dog contact, or walked up.

The Winners and Others

The judges named Asper Hill Bandit as this year's champion. Bandit is a female

setter owned and handled by Jon Cullen. Runner-up Champion was Paucek's Little Tommy Tucker, a male setter owned and handled by Kellie Short.

The newly crowned champion, Bandit, ran in the last brace of the championship. After her bracemate called for the tracker early in the hour, Bandit had the course to herself. She had her first and only find of the hour at the 15-minute mark. It was deep in a cedar swamp where no other dogs had pointed any birds in the previous 19 braces. It was a stylish find with all in order. Bandit continued to run a hard race, digging deep in areas and pockets. It was demonstrably obvious that the handler and dog had a strong rapport. Jon handled his setter surgically when he needed to. She handled very well and was extremely responsive when she needed to be.

Our Runner-up Champion, Paucek's Little Tommy Tucker, ran in the 17th brace. Tucker scored three classy woodcock finds in the hour. Tucker got separated from his bracemate early in the hour after an extremely long stand around the 10-minute mark. After being found standing and after a long flushing attempt, a woodcock was produced, with Tucker displaying exceptional manners. Tucker went on to score two more classy and stylish finds. He ranged when the course warranted it and closed in when the course required it. It was a solid, classic cover dog hour.

Kellie's father, Maine Bird Dog legend Bob Paucek, witnessed this hour. Bob walked the entire hour at 97 years young. What a memory for the two of them to experience! It was something



Jean C. Sanderson Memorial Open Derby: Fowler with Kellie Short (owner/handler), Little Hollywood with John Stolgitis (handler), and Deb's Jane with Deb Kennedy (owner/handler) joined by judges Deb Sloan and Jon Cullen.

everyone present will never forget. It was a great and proud family moment, for sure.

The dogs listed below had exceptional ground races. The outcome may have changed if there had been solid birdwork or bird connections. However, that was not to be the case: Ralphy's Hillbilly (PM); Mohawk Miss Ellie (PF); Chasehill Poison Ivy (PF); Henry's Susieq Dot (ESF); Chasehill Snoop Dog (PM); and Higby Arcade (PM).

Conclusively, in the end, both judges were in alignment without much discussion. They confidently named the top two dogs of the championship.

Fryeburg, Me., September 20

Judges: Mike Brown and Jamie Nee

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND OPEN WOODCOCK CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 27 Pointers, 12 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter

Winner-ASPER HILL BANDIT, F1694498, setter female, by Super Storm-Asper Hill Pippi. Jonathan Cullen, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-PAUCEK'S LITTLE TOMMY TUCKER, F1679370, setter male, by Long Gone Wallace-Paucek's Hickory Roxy. Kellie Short, owner and handler.

Jean C. Sanderson Memorial

Open Derby

By Deb Sloan

The dry and warm conditions continued to present a challenge for the derbies. The first-place winner was Paucek's Fowler, a male tricolor Setter owned and handled by Kellie Short. Fowler pointed close to the course and exhibited acceptable derby manners on his woodcock. He was forward and biddable and stylish on his bird.

The second-place dog was Little Hollywood, a snappy female English setter handled by John Stolgitis and owned by Judith Hamilton. Little Hollywood barely needed handling as she was a natural front-runner who could be heard in all the right places on her course, but she came up empty.

Third place went to Deb's Jane, a stylish, strong-running Setter owned and handled by Deb Kennedy. Jane also searched deep into the cover for birds, handling kindly for her owner but also coming up birdless. The field of dogs was highly competitive, and the judges had to split hairs when discussing races.

Judges: Jon Cullen and Deb Sloan

JEAN C. SANDERSON MEMORIAL OPEN DERBY

– 4 Pointers and 8 Setters

1st-PAUCEK'S FOWLER, F1704853, setter male, by Long Gone Dequan-Paucek's Jordi. Kellie Short, owner and handler.

2d-LITTLE HOLLYWOOD, F1706379, setter female, by Cedar Ridge Insider-Cedar Ridge Timex. Judith Hamilton, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.

3d-DEB'S JANE, F1706487, setter female, by Sterlingworth Jack-Long Gone Hatfield. Deborah Kennedy, owner and handler.

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SAMSUNG



NATIONAL SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY

Deena Jet Wins 61st Breeders Classic

By Mike Husenits | Bloomingdale, Ohio | September 23, 2024

The 61st running of the National Shooting Dog Futurity commenced on September 23 and was conducted over the Mingo Sportsman's Club grounds near Steubenville, Ohio. This Breeder's Classic is one of the most prestigious annual shooting dog derby stakes, historically run on pheasants as the primary game bird with credit allowed for handling any other game bird per established futurity guidelines. The history of this prestigious event dates to the inaugural running held on October 4, 1964, at Baldwinsville, New York. The founding fathers included notable patrons and Hall of Famers, i.e., Dr. Tom Flanagan, Bob Wehle, Harold Crane, Frank Ash, Anthony Imbesi, Dr. Alvin Nitchman, Richard Shear, Harry Townsend, Lee White, and others. This event, coupled with the sister United States Quail Shooting Dog Futurity, is the most sought-after derby trial on the major shooting dog circuit. The initial running in 1964 drew 40 dogs, then gradually increased throughout the '60s and into the mid-90s, averaging about 66 entries, with 1982 holding the record high of 106. In that period there were several large breeding operations that enrolled 80 to 100 litters annually. Around the turn of the century, nominations declined to current levels of 15 to 25 annually, with average entry levels around 36. Of note, overall performance levels in the past 20 years indicate much higher quality of derby age contenders versus earlier years, thereby providing some evidence that futurities and selective breeding programs produce superior animals and upgrade the breeds. The main objective of a futurity is to recognize the potential and ability in young dogs to advance and win important shooting dog championships such as the National Pheasant and the National Open Shooting Dog Championship.

Futurities require more management of the details. Litters must be nominated properly within 60 days of whelping; otherwise, entries from non-nominated



National Shooting Dog Futurity Winners (l-r): Deena Jet with Payton Gunby, BK Real McCoy with Brooke Lanning, Midwest Thunderstorm with Hallie Moreland, and High Drive Impact with Fran Miller, joined by George Tracy, Dave Hughes, Mike Tracy, Mark Hughes, Aaron McAfee (judge), Chris Rider (judge), Meredith Mays, Stacie Goodie, Muriel Primm, Bill Primm, Chris Catanzarite, Joe Lordi, Bob Verderosa, Joe McHugh, Jack Miller, Ralph Gillota, Buddy Morrison, Greg Strausbaugh, and Allen Linder.

litters are required to pay a substantial late fee to become eligible. The bulk of futurity management falls on Secretary Mark Hughes, who was elected to the position some four years ago. Retired Secretary Mike Husenits helps with reporting and post-trial paperwork and has done so for the past 21 years. Prior to Mark and Mike, Secretarial duties were performed by Keith Severin for 22 years, Verle Farrow for 16 years, and David Miller for the first two years. Currently, Mike Tracy holds the position of president, which rotates on a two-year basis. Chris Catanzarite and Mike Husenits are the current vice presidents. Chris was very instrumental in the success of this event, obtaining strong flying birds, scouting, and marshaling, along with co-chairing with Mark Hughes.

Others who made notable contributions included Mary Tracy for supplying snacks, water and all the arrangements and leg work for the Monday evening dinner attended by over 40 people. A highlight at the dinner was the presentation of a masterfully crafted painting by Mary McPherson of last year's futurity winner, Mo's Curtain Call, owned by Tim Moore and

Teresa and Jim Morrell, bred by Casey Hollander and handled by Mike Tracy. Dave Hughes, assisted by Dennis Hood, managed the dog wagon duties with expertise, no easy task to have dogs on the line when running 30-minute heats on continuous courses. Thanks to all.

Thanks, and heartfelt appreciation to Greg Blair of Purina for continued support, supplying Pro Plan food for the winners, advertising materials, and an annual cash donation.

The most important element of any field trial is judges. We are proud to report that this year's team could not have been better. Aaron McAfee, from Clinton, Illinois, returned after judging last year's trial, teamed with Chris Rider of Smithfield, Pennsylvania. Both have judged numerous important events all over the country. They rode at a steady pace, always giving their full attention to the dogs and always with a positive attitude. This reporter and all participants thank them for their cooperation and a job well done. Hopefully, they will return in the future.

Weather conditions were less than ideal due to dryness that caused hard ground and dust. The tall goldenrod and

green autumn olive thickets, plus sunny warm weather, made for a challenge both days.

A bloodline review of the 34 entries shows Miller's Heat Seeker as the most popular sire, followed by Lester's Storm Surge, Touch's Fire Away, Springflow's Backcountry P, Bittersweet War Cry and Wayward Flyin Tomato, the only English Setter sire with entries. Leading breeders are Jack and Fran Miller, Sean Derrig, Frank Henderson, Chris Catanzarite, and Ross Calloway.

The Winners

Deena Jet, a lightly marked Pointer female owned by Steve and Daren Boyer of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, and handled by Mike Tracy, was named to first place. Jet was bred by Mick Marietta of Pittsburg, Kansas, from a litter sired by champion all-age contender Touch's Fire Away; her dam World Class Catie whelped on March 23, 2023. Her extended pedigree reveals notables Erin's Bad River, Maswood Hawk, and Miller's On Line, to mention a few. The classy Jet appeared late in the 16th brace, starting at 11:50 a.m. on Wednesday. Almost immediately, a pheasant was in the air, Jet credited with a mannerly stop to flush, no fault, rather great manners for a derby. Jet, seemingly fired up and eager for the hunt, continued forward, reaching the limits and gaining strength as she met the challenge of the thick cover. Time had nearly expired near the road crossing when Jet slammed into a high-styled point at 29 and remained steadfast as the handler flushed a perfectly located pheasant.

Second place was BK Real McCoy, a Pointer male owned by Brooke Lanning and Sergio Velez, bred and handled by Brooke Lanning of Medina, Ohio. Sired by Ralph Gillota's winner Bittersweet War Cry, his dam Bittersweet Recovery whelped January 3, 2023. McCoy has a star-studded pedigree tracing such notables as Sugarknoll War Paint and Buckskin, Elhew Fibber McGee, Rock Acre Blackhawk, Just Irresistible, Dunn's Tried N True, and Miller's Dialing In. McCoy performed in the 9th brace starting at 3:58 the first day, opening cast straightaway with plenty of eye



Mike Tracy accepts a painting of the 60th renewal winner, Mo's Curtain Call, from Secretary Mark Hughes. (Painting by Mary McPherson.)

appeal. He pointed with rock solid style at 5 in tall goldenrod field with Brooke trying hard at flush over a wide expanse, then asking for relocation that resulted in McCoy taking a coupled steps with the well-located pheasant airborne; McCoy mannerly for the shot. He had the bird pinned solidly initially, but the handler didn't get it flushed in the thick cover. Back up front, McCoy put on a display of classy forward hard charging hunting for the remainder, adding a mannerly stop to flight near pick-up.

Third went to Midwest Thunderstorm, a Pointer male owned by Jerry Alden, bred by Deb and Sean Hauser, and handled by Mike Tracy. The litter whelped January 17, 2023, sired by all-age champion Lester's Storm Surge, his dam Hauser's Rebel Ruby. Family tree notables include famous names such as Ransom, Nat. Ch. Whippoorwill Wild Agin, Rock Acre Blackhawk, Elhew Sinbad, Miller's Dateline, and others. Storm ran in the 10th and final brace of the first day, starting with a burst of energy well forward and pointed with picturesque style at 10, holding steady for the shot as bracemate flushed his bird. With bracemate up, Storm canvassed the fore at medium range before recording a second solid find at 16 along the right-side wooded edge. Storm continued to hunt the cover with high cracking tail and vigor, shortening up near the finish. A third contact at 25 wasn't clearly defined, but no fault to the dog.

Fourth was High Drive Impact, a Pointer male owned by Allen Linder, bred by Sean Derrig, and handled by Buddy Morrison. From a litter whelped January 9, 2023, sired by Erin's Grey Justice, the dam Erin's Miss Daisy. Close up, his pedigree is loaded with famous ancestors, the likes of Erin's

Redrum, Dominator's Rebel Heir, Funseeker's Rebel, Erin's Whiskey River, Whippoorwill Wild Agin, Elhew Sinbad, several of which trace back to Hall of Fame sire Erin's Southern Justice. Impact made his appearance first brace on Wednesday released at 8:14 from the traditional starting point near the pavilion. Action started quickly with the classy moving Impact handling a find at 5 with 12 o'clock pointing style along the ridge line, quickly adding a second find at 8 before making the turn into the bottom. His ground effort was forward, showing plenty of style and medium range with intelligent application throughout. A slight shortening in range near the end provided the judges with differentiation material in their decision.

The Running

Thunder Road (M. Tracy) with Miller's Smoking Gun (Fran Miller). Thunder ran a wide classy ground race and contacted a pheasant at 25, with the handler stopping him to be shot over. Gun hunted hard at short range with plenty of style, pointed solidly at 6 but unproductive, adding a nicely handled find at 20, finishing ahead. Both showed potential and were carried for a spell.

Erin's Fighting Irish (P. Casey) with Miss Bullette (M. Tracy). Irish hunted but failed to reach out, stopped to be shot over after contacting a pheasant, and suffered a late unproductive. Bullette started fast and was appealing to the judges until lost at 15 and counted out.

Speck of Gold (G. Tracy) with Erin's Simple Man (K. Stewart). Speck ran with a stylish way of going but couldn't come up with birds. Man hunted hard at medium range, pointed stylishly before putting the bird airborne, shortening near the end.

Hausers Chip Shot (M. Tracy) with Miller's Friday Night News (F. Miller). These two started fast and looked good early; Chip with a well-handled pheasant find at 14 along the right side, followed by a second at 22 along the feed strip before shortening to finish. News hunted hard with a classy way of going, notched a stylish find on quail at 10, steady to wing and shot, followed by a pheasant contact with the handler stopping him for the shot, finishing

ahead and in contention.

Backcountry Jacob (C. Catanzarite) with Heatseeking Hurricane (M. Tracy). Both raced away fast. To begin with, Jacob returned at 6 and hunted well forward with an unproductive stylish stand at 16, then shortened up. Hurricane never did regain the front and counted out at 20.

Backwoods Dine & Dash (M. Hughes) with Hausers Bottom Line (M. Tracy). Dash was most impressive with his hard-charging attack on the ground, plus plenty of eye appeal. He hunted through the heavy cover with ease, never on a path, noticeably intent on finding birds. Unfortunately, his bold attack strayed off course and counted out at 25. Line started slow and failed to gain momentum, harnessed at 10.

Hausers Power Surge (M. Tracy) with Miller's Customized Upgrade (F. Miller). These two ran with plenty of eye appeal but were somewhat restricted in overall range. They shared a find at 18, showing a bit of uncertainty. Upgrade stood solidly at 21 with Surge backing. Both finished and were considered for possible placement.

Southbound Hotdog Homer (P. Casey) with Sterling Ridge Caladen (M. Tracy). Hotdog started fast, reaching well forward with strength, but closed in as time wore on; no birds found. Caladen failed to reach out and was picked up at 20.

Dunn's Country Club (G. Tracy) with BK Real McCoy (B. Lanning). The club couldn't get on track and picked up at 7. McCoy's outstanding performance was described earlier, and had himself in the number one position at this juncture.

Buffalo Junction Calico (P. Casey)



Judges (l-r): Chris Rider and Aaron McAfee in serious discussion.

with Midwest Thunderstorm (M. Tracy). Calico started strong but was up early after flushing birds brace mate had pointed. Storm's third-place performance was described earlier.

High Drive Impact (B. Morrison) with Bittersweet War Dance (P. Casey). Impact's fourth-place finish is described above. Dance made several impressive moves on the ground but wasn't consistent in application. He scored a find at 23 and finished ahead.

Wayward Stewed Tomatoes (M. Hughes) with Bluebar Maggie (M. Tracy). "Stewie" hunted hard in the thick cover but a bit short in range. He had a stop to flush early and scored a well-mannered find at 28. Maggie started strong and forward but closed in and up at 20.

Heat Seeker's Pearl (G. Tracy) with Dunlookin's Takoda (P. Casey). Pearl wore her running shoes and faded away, picked up near the half. Takoda made contact with birds three times, with the handler electing to pick up at 18.

Hausers Georgia Pride (M. Tracy) with Mojo's Winston Joy (M. Hughes). Pride's performance had him in contention with a stylish find at 3, followed by a classy running ground effort that culminated

with a maturely handled find at 29. Winston hunted with enthusiasm at close to moderate range. He handled a pheasant at 26 with perfect style and manners, backed brace mate at 29 to finish.

Backcountry Fearless (C. Catanzarite) with Heat Seekers Big Bet (G. Tracy). Fearless hit the ground with a classy way of going and found birds twice but was uncertain and a bit immature. Bet failed to get started and picked up early.

Miller's Traditional Upgrade (F. Miller) with Deena Jet (M. Tracy). Upgrade hunted hard with a classy way of going. She pointed stylishly at 14 with no results and again at 25 before the road crossing on a rabbit. Deena's winning performance was described earlier.

Sterling Ridge Carly (M. Tracy) with Miller's Intense Heat (F. Miller). Carly ran a wide-range forward race with plenty of eye appeal, had one short absence, and no bird work. Heat applied her effort to the front at medium range, carding a pretty find in feed strip handled with style and manners, finishing ahead.

Bloomington, Ohio, September 23

Judges: Aaron McAfee and Chris Rider

61ST NATIONAL SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY

— 32 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-DEENA JET, unreg., pointer female, by Touch's Fire Away-World Class Catie. Steve & Daren Boyer, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

2d-BK REAL MCCOY, F1705532, pointer male, by Bittersweet War Cry-Bittersweet Recovery. Brooke Lanning & Sergio Velez, owners; Brooke Lanning, handler.

3d-MIDWEST THUNDERSTORM, F1714784, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-Hauser's Rebel Ruby. Jerry Alden, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

4th-HIGHDRIVE IMPACT, F1706166, pointer male, by Erin's Grey Justice-Erin's Miss Daisy. Allen R. Linder, owner; Buddy Morrison, handler.

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NEW ENGLAND OPEN GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

Open Under New Management

By Jim Hathaway | Berlin, New Hampshire | September 23, 2024



The Winners (l-r): Eric Rizza (judge), John Stolgitis with Chasehill Snoop Dog, Adam Dubriske with Mohawk Mill Miss You, and John Olfson (judge).

This year ushers in the New Guard for this championship's 30-year run. Kelly Hays stepped into the chairmanship and hit the ground running. With the help of other Setter Club of New England members, this transition flowed seamlessly to the next generation. More about all that later.

As the management of the championship changes, so do the grounds and courses it's run on. When I first ran here over 20 years ago, there were at least nine championship courses. Since then, all but three one-hour courses have been taken offline for various reasons. In most instances, either natural changes or changes by the Forest Service have altered the habitat or made the courses impassable. Either way, even with only three championship courses, there are still over 15,000 acres in Kilkenny not yet scouted, to turn into new courses. Hopefully, Kelly and the New Guard will explore the possibilities. They already have, in a smaller way. While working to reclaim a stretch of the Moosehorn derby course, though we walked up a number of grouse,

the footing was treacherous. Without chainsaws and greater manpower, restoring this course was impossible in time for the championship. As a result, Kelly and David Theroux scouted out a new and yet unnamed derby course that we used this year. This year's new derby course may become next year's new championship course with a bit more work.

Also, when the New England Open Grouse Championship started, the weather was much different. My first fall here, I pitched my tent in Kilkenny, near the river, not far from the morning staging area. That first morning, I woke to nearly an inch of snow on the ground. Snow in September in Kilkenny just doesn't happen anymore. This year, we didn't even get a hint of frost all week long, and the morning temperatures barely broke into the forties.

So, let's get into this, starting with Tuesday. By breakfast, it was hardly even sweater weather. My drive from Stark to Kilkenny was spent trying to figure out if the heater should be on, the windows open, or both. It was,

as usual in the morning up there, a foggy drive. It always looks worse than field trial weather on the up and down Route 10 drive south until you turn onto York Pond Road. On the ride from the highway down to the meeting area, the fog always disappears. The foliage was just starting to change. Mostly because of nearly three weeks of very dry weather, which was a good thing. Three weeks ago, when we put in a couple of days of work cleaning up the courses, the trails more resembled streams that emptied into swamps. Now, though, some spots on the courses were ankle-muddy. None had green-boot-eating mud holes anymore. So, it's time to get this trial underway.

Under the old management, each day started with a prompt departure from the meeting area no later than seven am. If all the needed dogs and personnel were there earlier, there was no reason to wait until 7. Stragglers would be left on their own to figure out where we went. Funny thing, nobody shows up late twice. However, with the New Guard, an easier morning routine was adopted. We could leave at 7:30 or earlier if we got tired of waiting around.

The Running

At the line for brace number one on the Moosehorn course, Doodle Ridge Elroy (ESM), owned and handled by Bruce Mueller and John Stolgitis with Chasehill Poison Ivy (ESM). John and Ivy took runner-up here two years ago on the Goldenrod course. This, however, wasn't to be Ivy's year. After the 7:41 breakaway and only five minutes down the course, Ivy's bell went dead. John Stolgitis, with Judge John Olfson, went off course in search of Ivy. Two grouse were walked up by the handler and judge in the search. After nearly 20 minutes of searching, John got his tracker from the judge. Ivy was up and out of the competition. But that wasn't the end of the story. When Ivy was found, she was standing a scattered brood of grouse. Depending on who you

heard tell the story, nine to 15 grouse were put to wing on Moosehorn during the search for Ivy. During all this Roy had a nice Grouse find. Roy had a good run alone with handler Bruce Mueller and Judge Eric Rizza. With 15 minutes left in the hour, Roy stopped in on the left and deep in the cover. Despite a prolonged search by Bruce and scout David Theroux, Roy wasn't found until well past the hour.

Back up to the breakaway for the Ammonoosuc course next. A good section of this course had to be rerouted a day or two before the drawing. We had to bypass a section halfway into the hour that was still and just too deep in water and mud despite the nice dry weather two weeks before. At the line for brace two, Mohawk Mill Miss Ellie (PF), handled by John Stolgitis, and Wizard's Cas Dubh, owned and handled by Jim Hathaway. Both dogs scoured the course well for the first half hour. Finley worked larger and outside Ellie for the first half of the hour. By the rerouted section of the course, both dogs were equal in pace and range. At 37 minutes into the hour and just past the rerouted section, Ellie's bell stopped. Off to the right of the course and only about 30 yards into the cover, Ellie had a good grouse find. All in order after the shot, Ellie was taken on and was back to the front soon. Without a bird, 40 minutes in, Finley shortened up. Ten minutes later, he slowed to a trot, so I leashed him for the rest of the walk in. Ellie finished the hour showing the effects of Ammonoosuc's dense cover and rugged terrain.

The Goldenrod course is a good drive from Moosehorn and Ammonoosuc, which are only a couple of miles from mutual starting points and ending points. Goldenrod is a third of the way around on the opposite side of the loop road. To get there and back to Moosehorn and Ammonoosuc we pass the meeting spot off York Road twice. The first time past the meeting point, we just pass on the way to brace three Goldenrod. The second time, we'll stop for lunch.

Now to Goldenrod, brace three. At the breakaway, Lucy's Pride (ESF), Adam Dubriske handler, and Elhew Snake

Dancer (PF) handled by Craig Doherty. The breakaway went off just before 11 a.m. Two minutes later, Snake Dancer had rounded the freshly cut goldenrod field and was back near the breakaway looking for Craig. Snake Dancer had Ideas of her own today. She was back on the road at the trucks 10 minutes later. Meanwhile, Craig, on the course where he should be, but Snake Dancer wasn't, got his tracking receiver from the judge. Both Craig and the judge walked up a woodcock and a grouse in search of Snake Dancer. Both were back in their truck about 20 minutes after the start. Lucy is a first-year shooting dog and a snappy little Llewellyn Setter that has sharpened up under Adam Dubriske's training and handling. Today, she had a stop to flush on a grouse but shortened up in the late stages of the run.

Halfway through the day and after our lunch break, we are back up Loop Road for the fourth brace of the day. At the breakaway of Moosehorn, Dot (ESF) with her owner David Theroux and Chasehill Wicked Wilma (PF) handled by John Stolgitis. Right from the breakaway at 12:42, Wilma ruled the ground, covering both sides of the course and often working at the edge of bell range. Dot worked hard but much more inside of Wilma. Dot tried to manufacture birds several times in her hour, pointing most unsuccessfully. Though grouse were walked up on the course and one flushed wild on one of Dot's relocations, neither dog scored a find by the end of the hour.

Brace five, and this championship is still any dog's to win. Breaking away at two o'clock on the dot, Craig Doherty with Elhew Snakewood (PM) and Mohawk Mill Miss You (PF) with handler John Stolgitis. The highlight of this brace happened a third of the way along. Pearl stopped short just 20 yards off to the left of the Ammonoosuc course. Before John even left the course, the grouse got up. Pearl held tight. Later, Craig must not have been excited enough with Snakewood's attitude or application that day. So, he leashed him up with 10 minutes left in the brace. Pearl finished her hour.

The last brace of the day, number six, left the line at 3:36. Adam Dubriske

was handling Super Storm Cliff (ESM). Mohawk Mill Good Advice (PM) was running under John Stolgitis. This was one of those braces you just pray for a bird so the dogs could at least hear the guns get fired. Sorry guys. Nice runs. No birds.

Rain was the weather prediction for the next two days. So, we all were dressed in our finest muck boots and wet weather gear. The only upside was that it didn't rain hard for most of the braces, and when it did rain hard, it didn't last long.

First up this morning on Moosehorn, John Stolgitis with Mohawk Mill Double E (PF) and Wild Apple Pop's Dorothy (PF) with Craig Doherty handling her. Breaking away a little after 7:30, John's pointer's bell was the first to stop, only 10 minutes from the start. John went in on the left, looking for his dog. He sent his scout, Adam, in on the right. It all kinda fell apart for Mohawk Mill Double E. First, she relocated before John got to her. Then the grouse decided to leave, and she decided to follow it, I guess. Dot had a nice run and looked dead serious, hard-hunting the cover to the right of the course 43 minutes into her run. The rain really started right after that. Any grouse that may have been on the ground before that were probably up in spruce, tight to the trunk waiting out the rain.

Brace eight on Ammonoosuc, Adam Dubriske with Pool Brook Dobby (ESM), and Kellie Short with Little Tommy Tucker broke away before 9 a.m. Little Tommy Tucker just came off a nice run a couple three days ago, getting the runner-up spot in the Northern New England Woodcock Championship. Tucker wasn't on his game today, however. His race was less controlled than the judge's standard. Dobby, unfortunately, finished his hour without any bird contact.

Up next, Sunkhaze Vera Masardis (PF) handled by John Stolgitis and Asper Hill Bandit (ESF) with John Cullen. This brace, number nine on Goldenrod, started at 10:50. This was another case of nice running dogs but no birds.

Back to Moosehorn to start the second half of the day. Neo (ESM) with David Theroux and Chasehill Snoop Dog (PM) with John Stolgitis, ready to go.

Any or all the dogs running in this or any championship have the potential to put down a special run at any time. These two dogs have been known to do just that. Neo is a runner-up Woodcock champion, and Snoop just picked up a Woodcock champion title in New Brunswick a couple of weeks earlier. Neo had a nice run but stopped or pointed for David unproductively too many times. Snoop Dog on the other hand, put everything into his run any handler could hope for. That, combined with his two nearly perfect pieces of bird work in less-than-ideal weather conditions, set him an hour apart from the others.

Ammonoosuc comes next. North Country's Soda Pop (ESF), handled by Adam Dubriske and John Stolgitis with Boomer of Blackwater (PM), started brace 11 at the judges' OK at quarter past two. Damn rain. What else can I say? Boomer was last year's champion. Two hard-working dogs. But no grouse for all their efforts.

Last brace of the day. Thankfully, the rain seemed to be lightening up for Lloyd Murray with Long Gone Juniper (ESF) and Mooselook Texas Star (PM) with Adam Dubriske. About a third of the way into this brace that started at a quarter of four, something happened; I say something because even for the judges, it was unclear. The bottom line was that both dogs were working in the same thick cover. A grouse got up. Adam figured whatever happened, he wasn't going to let his Pointer think he may have gotten away with something and leashed him up. Lloyd opted to continue the brace with Juniper. Unfortunately, that one grouse was the only one to be seen in the hour.

Yesterday's weather may have been crap for field trialing. Today promised to be double that. As a result, the bye-dog in the 14th and last brace was scratched. So, let's get on with it then. Last brace, lucky number 13, Higby Arcade (PM), handled by John Stolgitis, good to go with Super Storm Nell (ESF) with Adam Dubriske. The short story is that the rain was nasty, and the birds were nowhere or still up in the trees.

From here, it was down to York Pond intersection road for the winners' announcements.

The courses at Kilkenny are tough on dogs. Only the best-conditioned dogs can finish the hour, and only the cream of them can combine it with grouse finds. There were plenty of grouse, and a woodcock or two moved on all the courses this year, though because of the damn rain, more on the first day than the other two. Chairman Kelly Hays did the honor of thanking the judges and all those who helped put on this year's event. Then, in the pouring rain, she announced the Runner-up Champion, Mohawk Mill Miss You, owned by Gary Winall and handled by John Stolgitis. And this year's 2024 New England Open Grouse Champion, Chasehill Snoop Dog, owned by Erin Stolgitis and handled by John Stolgitis.

After the photos were taken, the floor, as it were, muddy and getting worse by the minute, was given to me. The Setter Club of New England, at our annual meeting, resolved to award Lloyd Murray a Bird Dog Hall of Fame Life Patron Membership Plaque. It was left to me as the Secretary of the Setter Club to collect donations from club members and others for this purpose. Then, decide when and where to award the plaque to Lloyd. That was the easy part. The rest of the plan was to keep this a secret from Lloyd yet known to everyone else. Anyone who has ever associated with Lloyd will appreciate this difficulty. How to get as many of his bird dog associates and him in the same spot at the same time without having to let the cat out of the bag. So, I made the decision; here we were, and so was Lloyd. It all worked, except for the one uncontrollable variable: the weather. So, as we all stood in the pouring rain, Lloyd Murray was made a Life Patron Member of the Bird Dog Hall of Fame. John Stolgitis, graciously and in a voice loud enough to be heard over the pounding rain, read for us all to hear the inscription on the plaque below Lloyd's photo. Here is what is written and John read:

"Lloyd Murray Jr. lives in Stark, New Hampshire. A tiny town not far from the Canadian Border.

Here, Lloyd continues his family's three-generation-old successful line of grouse dogs.

Continuing his grandfather's and father's tradition, Long Gone Setters blood runs in the veins of uncounted hunting dogs and countless field trial champions. Under Lloyd's direction, Long Gone Kennels produces the savviest Setters in the grouse woods. Lloyd's reputation as a breeder goes hand in hand with his accomplishments as a promoter of northeastern wild bird trials. In the early 1990s, Lloyd took the lead, working with the U. S. Forest Service and others to establish the Kilkenny section of the White Mountain National Forest as a premier multi-course grouse trial venue. Lloyd has continued his grandfather, Bernie Murray's support of the Setter Club of New England. First, by petitioning the American Field for permission to run the club's Burnham Grouse Classic as the New England Open Grouse Championship. Then chairing that championship for 29 of its first 30 years in Kilkenny. Additionally, Lloyd, a Northeastern director of the Grand National Grouse Club, has chaired the Grand National Grouse Championship at Kilkenny in its rotation, as well as the National Amateur Grouse Championship a number of times to boot. Lloyd's passion for field trials, grouse hunting, and breeding the best Setters for both pursuits is a worthy goal for a worthy man."

Photos were taken. The rain continued. And it was time to wrap up this day with the Florence Harwarth Memorial Derby. So, back up the road, we went to the first derby course. Our derby is run on three half-championship courses. As this is the last of the championship and, everyone is stretched to near exhaustion from already walking hours or watching and handling dogs. The derby is given to the judges, and it's theirs to run. In the past, derbies were run over one or more wild bird courses, and the top dogs called back and worked on quail if no grouse or woodcock were pointed. Callbacks have also been done by sending the best callback dogs into guaranteed woodcock cover. One year, George Doyle and I judged the derby here on a single out-and-back course on horseback. The course was so muddy and steep that we had to let the horses pull us up the muddy hills by their tails. Fortunately, no one has photos of that.

It was before cell phones. There have also been years when callbacks were not possible or practical; derbies were placed on run by the judges.

So, considering all that, I will spare the readers who have made it this far the gruesome details of the brace-by-brace running. The rain only slightly lightened for the five braces of the derby. No callbacks were requested as the placing dogs had acceptable fall derby birdwork. The winners of the Bill Kearns Memorial Open Derby Classic for 2024 were: 3rd Place—Hifive's Sweet Basil (PF), owned and handled by Eric Rizza; 2nd Place—Still Meadows Little Sunray (ESF), owned by Kelly Hays, handled by Adam Dubriske; and 1st Place—Points North Pour Another (PF), owned and handled by James Welsh.

As I ended the report's first paragraph, now is the time to run down the whys and wherefores of the Changing of The Guard, as it were, for the New England Open Grouse Championship. From the Championship's inception, it has been run by a handful of stalwart Setter Club of New England Club members, among those but not limited to Lloyd Murray, Tony Bly, Bob Lang, and Craig Doherty. The truth is what it is, and time catches up with all of us, and the better of us know when it is time to usher in and mentor the New Guard, if you will. This is exactly what is happening now. Though Lloyd, Tony, and Bob have retired from the day-to-day running of the New England Open Grouse Championship, they remain active



Lloyd Murray presented with the Bird Dog Hall of Fame Life Patron plaque (l-r): Kelly Hays, John Olfson, Deb Kennedy, Adam Dubriske, Jeremy Avery, Lloyd Murray, Tony Bly, John Stolgitis, and Eric Rizza.

in assisting the New Management, Setter Club members Kelly Hays, David Theroux, Adam Dubriske, and others. To them from all of the Setter Club Officers and Members, we thank you and look forward to years of the best competition the New England grouse woods has to offer.

Thirty years; that should count somewhere north of 60 judges over the years, including the derby judges. Hardly anything I could say here can express the gratitude of the New England Open



Bill Kearns Memorial Open Derby Classic (l-r): David Theroux (judge), James Welsh with Points North Pour Another, Adam Dubriske with Still Meadows Little Sunray, Eric Rizza with Hifive's Sweet Basil, and Jeremy Avery (judge).

Grouse Championship's management. Thank you all. And thank you especially to Eric Rizza for your first year in Kilkenny. Thank you to John Olfson. John is a workhorse and sharp-eyed judge. I believe this is your fourth go-round in Kilkenny. Our derby judges this year were David Theroux and Jeremy Avery. For a job well done in the rain for two and a half hours, we all thank you.

To wrap this all up and say goodbye until next September, thank you to Purina, Greg Blair, and Bruce Mueller. Purina's sponsorship is greatly appreciated.

See y'all next year.

Berlin, N. H., September 24

Judges: John Olfson and Eric Rizza

**NEW ENGLAND OPEN GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 14 Pointers and 13 Setters**

Winner-CHASEHILL SNOOP DOG, F1703110, pointer male, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Erin Stolgitis, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.
Runner-Up-MOHAWK MILL MISS YOU, F1703199, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Big Stuff-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Gary S. Winall, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.

**Judges: Jeremy Avery and David Theroux
BILL KEARNS MEMORIAL OPEN DERBY CLASSIC –
2 Pointers and 8 Setters**

1st-POINTS NORTH POUR ANOTHER, F1705570, pointer female, by Wild Apple Boa Constrictor-Prairie Creek Dolly. James Welsh, owner and handler.
2d-STILL MEADOWS LITTLE SUNRAY, F1704573, setter female, by Long Gone Wallace-Chase's I'm Miss Smith. Brian & Kelly Hays, owners; Adam Dubriske, handler.
3d-HIFIVE'S SWEET BASIL, F1705357, pointer female, by Hifive's Ruff Runner-Wild Apple Siri. Eric Rizza, owner and handler.

UPCOMING PRINT DEADLINES

JANUARY 2025

***Deadline December 5**

FEBRUARY 2025

***Deadline January 5**

MARCH 2025

***Deadline February 5**

**Please submit ads prior to the deadline date to allow time for revisions and approvals.*

Material must be received and approved by 4:30 p.m. on the deadline date.

Deadlines that fall on weekends or holidays move to the next business day.

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REGION 14 (AFTCA) AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Carbonado's Country Spectre Named Champion; Drifter's Calypso, Runner-up

By Shawn Abbott | Great Falls, Montana | September 28, 2024



Region 14 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Michelle Turley, Austin Turley with Champion Carbonado's Country Spectre, Ryan Mulcahy (judge), Anthony Grimaldi with Runner-up Champion Drifter's Calypso, and Emily Grimaldi.

The Region 14 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship was held on September 28, 2024. As with most trials this time of year, it was dark out when participants started their day of feeding their horses and airing their dogs. About an hour before the trial began, you could hear the waterfowl hunters shooting several miles away.

The grounds used for this trial have hosted dog trials for almost three decades, with some minor shifts due to CRP leases. In its heyday, we hosted 80 entries for a weekend trial and were able to run six one-hour champion courses. The fields hold pheasants, Sharptail grouse, and Hungarian partridge, and for this trial, the Sharpies were in abundance. The land is CPR grasses and rolling hills with coulees. All the land used to run the trial is privately owned, and we greatly appreciate their graciousness in letting us run the dogs there.

Judges for the Championship were Ryan Mulcahy of Boise, Idaho, and Shawn Abbott of Vaughn, Montana. They both have years of experience in bird dogs and judging.

Named champion of the Region 14 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship was Carbonado's Country

Spectre, owned and handled by Austin Turley of Molt, Montana. The runner-up champion was Drifter's Calypso (ESF), owned by Anthony Grimaldi of Joliet, Montana.

The Running

The running started in cooler temps of around 40 degrees with blue skies and minimal wind. First bracemates West Mountain Speed Wave (PF/McCardle) and Drifter's Calypso (ESF/Grimaldi) set off in style with handlers walking behind. Calypso had a clean find on Sharptail at 5 while Speed Wave was making a big cast over some rolling hills. Both dogs continued to show to the front, working hard to find birds. At the 50-minute mark, Calypso had another STF, which she handled well. Shortly afterward, McCardle's dog had an STF but broke when additional birds lifted.

The second brace was with Carbonado's Silver Sage (PF/Turley) and B K Spot On (PF/Curtis). Spot had an STF at 3, and all was in order. Sage was hitting a big lick and had an STF at 7. She had a second STF a short time afterward. Spot made a big move, looking for birds, but handler Curtis picked her up at 15. Turley picked up at 14.

Bells Yellowstone Pride ("Maggie")

PF/Anderson) and Carbonado's Country Spectre (PM/Turley) were released for the third brace. Maggie ran large and was out of sight for a time. Spec was running a big race and came up with a find at 15. He had a high head and tail, standing still for the flush and shot. At 16, Maggie came on point. Spec came running and slammed into a back. Anderson flushed, and both dogs were steady throughout. Anderson picked up his dog at 28. Spec continued with a great ground covering style and had an STF at 40, a find at 49, and another at 50. He looked stylish and held strong for each flush and shot, finishing the hour well.

The final brace was the bye dog, The Alberta Clipper (PM/Jones). Clipper took off in a southwesterly direction from camp, headed to the low hills and coulees in the distance. Temperatures had risen to the mid-70s. Clipper was serious about hunting the coulees and hit them hard. The course circled back toward camp, and Clipper pointed a bird but gave chase and was picked up.

Great Falls, Mont., September 28

Judges: Shawn Abbott and Ryan Mulcahy

REGION 14 AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 6 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner-CARBONADO'S COUNTRY SPECTRE, F1705811, pointer male, by Brush Country Spectre-Empire On Line. Austin Turley, owner and handler. Runner-Up-DRIFTER'S CALYPSO, F1695261, setter female, by T's Gunslinger-Erin's Red Rose. Anthony Grimaldi, owner and handler.

Big Sky Field Trial Club

Judges: Ryan Jones and Brad McCardle

OPEN DERBY – 8 Pointers

1st-CONFIDENT SUN, F1709512, pointer male, by Northern Confidence-Red Sunshine. Andrew Baisley, owner; Ryan Mulcahy, handler.

2d-CARBONADO'S CALDERA, F1713506, pointer male, by Nevada's Copper Jim-Boudica. Austin Turley, owner and handler.

3d-F40 IVY LEAGUE, F1714416, pointer female, by LBF Up In Smoke-West Mountain Speed Wave. Darrell Curtis, owner and handler.

Judges: Keith Anderson and Anthony Grimaldi
OPEN DERBY – 12 Pointers

1st-CONFIDENT SUN, F1709512, pointer male, by Northern Confidence-Red Sunshine. Andrew Baisley, owner; Ryan Mulcahy, handler.

2d-F40 IVY LEAGUE, F1714416, pointer female, by LBF Up In Smoke-West Mountain Speed Wave. Darrell Curtis, owner and handler.

3d-CARBONADO'S CALDERA, F1713506, pointer male, by Nevada's Copper Jim-Boudica. Austin Turley, owner and handler.

Judges: Darrell Curtis and Ryan Mulcahy
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 6 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-DRIFTER'S CALYPSO, F1695261, setter female, by T's Gunslinger-Erin's Red Rose. Anthony Grimaldi, owner and handler.

2d-BELLS YELLOWSTONE PRIDE, F1687338, pointer female, by Touch's Diamante-Bellita. Keith Anderson, owner and handler.

3d-CARBONADO'S COUNTRY SPECTRE, F1705811, pointer male, by Brush Country Spectre-Empire On Line. Austin Turley, owner and handler.



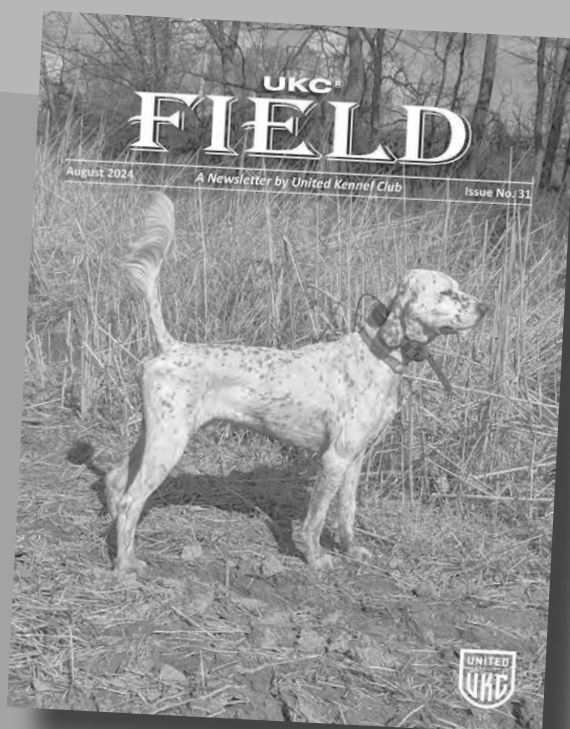
Big Sky Amateur Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Anthony Grimaldi with Drifter's Calypso, Keith Anderson with Bells Yellowstone Pride, and Austin Turley with Carbonado's Country Spectre. (Back row): Judges Ryan Mulcahy and Darrell Curtis.

Judges: Keith Anderson and Austin Turley
OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 7 Pointers

1st-LUCKY MAN, F1695973, pointer male, by Wild Billy's Circus Story-My Lucky Day. Ryan Mulcahy & Jessica Vandenbush, owners; Ryan Mulcahy, handler.

2d-LIGHT OF DAY, F1683754, pointer male, by True Confidence-Red Sunshine. Ryan Mulcahy, owner and handler.

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MINNESOTA GROUSE DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Over The Hill Morgan Named Champion; Northwoods Cedar, Runner-up

By Katie Cook | Mora, Minnesota | September 30, 2024



Minnesota Grouse Dog Championship (l-r): Justin McGrail (judge), Ron Lein with Champion Over The Hill Morgan, Eric Saetre with Runner-up Champion Northwoods Cedar, and Ryan Hough (judge).

The 35th Minnesota Grouse Dog Association Championship commenced Monday, September 30, 2024, and ran through Thursday, October 4. Handlers from as far as Pennsylvania traveled to the Rum River State Forest near Mora, Minnesota, for a trial held a week earlier than usual to accommodate other regional events drawing from the same competition pool. Thirty-nine shooting dogs vied for the trophy. The companion Ruehl Henry Pietz Derby Classic drew 18 youngsters. Despite thick cover due to heavy blowdown two winters ago, temperatures in the 80s early in the week, high humidity, and windy conditions, a near-record number of over 60 grouse were tallied by judges Ryan Hough, a local MGDA club officer, and Justin McGrail, a respected pointing dog trainer from Nunica, Michigan. Due to the extreme heat, the judges opted to run four morning braces, break for a leisurely two-hour lunch, and resume at 4 p.m. to attempt to provide competitors equitable opportunities for bird work. Lunches were hosted in the “clubhouse” on the Duane Peterson property, which he and his wife Kay have generously provided for field trial use over the years. Jeff Sullivan, in addition to running his

dogs, also provided pulled pork lunches, and Nik Zewers stopped by on his way home from training in Montana to fire up his grill and cook up a feast of brats. We are beyond grateful to those who feed and shelter us so well! The Club and competitors appreciate the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for their cooperation and our knowledgeable judges for wearing out their boots and paying close attention to each dog as if it were the first brace. Much gratitude also to club volunteers for annual course maintenance, and especially to our sponsors, Purina (Greg Blair) and OnX (Ben Brettingen). This well-run trial was a lot of fun thanks to volunteer participation from many club members, old and new. We enjoyed visits with long-time MGDA stalwarts like Jim Tande and Don Dack. And notably, our gallery included the youngest spectator on these courses to date, August Peterson, newborn son of MGDA members Kyle and Hannah Peterson, who each handled and scouted their own dogs.

The Winners

The 2024 Minnesota Grouse Dog Association Champion is 3-year-old Pointer female Over The Hill Morgan,

bred, trained, and campaigned by Chippewa Falls long-time professional Rod Lein and owned by Robert Zielke. Morgan showed what judge Ryan Hough referred to as a “flawless performance” without fault. “Usually, there’s something you need to forgive, but not on this one,” Hough said. “So many things could have gone wrong, but nothing did.” Morgan’s first lock-up was less than a minute into the brace, no running off steam for this little locomotive. She was a statue on point in thick cover, head high and stinger 12 o’clock tail, holding staunch and proud as Lein picked his way to her in the center of an impenetrable blowdown, multiple grouse erupting as he approached. She had a second grouse find nearly halfway in and ran a steady race in all the right places.

Runner-up Champion is Northwoods Cedar, a 5-year-old Setter female owned by Lindsey and Eric Saetre of Holyoke, Minnesota, and handled to her first title in a championship stake by Eric. Cedar consistently ranged far and wide in a heart-stopping search for game. She produced one expertly handled grouse on her way back toward the course from a wide cast around a swamp, thrilling the gallery, who rounded a bend to find her standing just off the trail.

The winners ran back-to-back braces on Tuesday afternoon on Courses 5 and 6.

Lein, a long-time MGDA competitor and heavily involved with running the Chippewa Valley Grouse Dog Club trials for many years, commented that although he has earned runner-up titles here before, this is his first time taking home the Minnesota Championship trophy. He also mentioned that this was among the most fun trials he has had the pleasure of competing in, where it was evident that everyone was having a good time.

Cedar enjoyed a successful derby career and was pinned with her first runner-up championship title, an exhilarating accomplishment for her

owners. Five years ago, they thought they were adding a hunting puppy to their family but were persuaded to give cover dog trialing a shot when breeder Jerry Kolter of Northwoods Bird Dogs convinced them of her potential. The hook has been set deep! Eric and Lindsey have been a wonderful addition to the MGDA Club, and their joy in this achievement was shared by all their competition.

The Ruehl Henry Pietz Derby Classic winners are, in first place, Big Big Energy ("Lotto"), owned and handled by Jordan Pharris of Brainerd, Minnesota, who scored two grouse finds in his half-hour and ran like a shooting dog. In second place was Clover Valley's Mulak ("Mack"), owned by Jerry Furnish of Two Harbors, Minnesota, and handled by Greg Johnson of Superior, Wisconsin, the current president of neighboring Moose River Grouse Dog Club. Mack is a son of Northwoods Atlas, a successful young field trial winner Johnson tragically lost this past summer right in his prime after being named MN/WI Shooting Dog of the Year last fall. Seeing Johnson bring a son of "Jet" to the winners' table was an emotional moment for all who shared in his grief. Third place honors went to first-time field trial competitor Levi Glines of Andover, Minnesota, running his diminutive white and orange speckled female Setter Cook's Run Kit, who hit a lick from the start through tangles that kept others close in and handled honestly from the far reaches of the woods. We are excited to see this pair at the breakaway again soon! Many thanks to derby judges Chris Bye and Lindsey Saetre for a tough job sorting out the top three from a large field of quality performances.

The Running

Monday, September 30, 2024

1A Dauntless Rogue ("Reba")/Jordan Pharris

1B Meredith Grade Penny ("Penny")/Scott Chaffee

Reba had a stop-to-flush on a grouse at 33, 10 yards off the right side of the trail. At 35, Penny locked up 20 yards right of the course, but the bird was uncooperative. At 52, both dogs stopped in good cover, Penny backed by Reba.

Chaffee's flush produced no bird, and he moved Penny on. She stopped when a grouse lifted, and then Chaffee flushed a second grouse for her. The first course of the trial produced seven birds in all, with dog work on three.

2A Springpond Rockin Sidney ("Sidney")/Tammy Chaffee

2B Kona's Blue Skye ("Kona")/A. J. Kalupa

Two grouse flushed wild at 6 and 26. The wind picked up at 19. At 27, Sidney stopped in great cover with Kona backing, moved herself up, and stopped again; no bird flushed. At 35, she had a point just right of course, but the bird eluded all flushing attempts. Sidney ran big and did not let the heat inhibit her race.

3A Boatright's Maverick ("Ricky")/James Kleve

3B Jewett's Creek Oakley ("Oakley")/Jeff Sullivan

After fading to the front right of course at 13, Kleve sent his scout in after Ricky, who reported the bell to the front. At 19, Ricky's bell was gone again, and the scout was unable to locate him on the near side of a long swamp paralleling the course. Kleve asked for his tracker just before time and found Ricky pointing a woodcock on the backside of the swamp near the beginning of the course. Oakley ran strong into a grouse find at 36 on a swamp edge 50 yards off course. Sullivan flushed the grouse out of thick cover 15 yards ahead of Oakley's point and finished her race running strong.

4A Grouse Tails Little Bud ("Bud")/John McKellop

4B Meridith Grade Corky ("Corky")/Tammy Chaffee

The judges decided to run four braces before lunch and wait to run the remaining two at 4 o'clock to try to avoid the worst of the heat and humidity. Nevertheless, the fourth brace on Monday presented challenging conditions. McKellop picked up Bud at 12, concerned about a previous health condition, although Bud looked to be running strong, and Chaffee leashed Corky after 19.

5A Snyder's Centerfold Peach ("Peach")/Tammy Chaffee

5B Northwoods Sir Gordon ("Gordy")/Ben McKean

The fifth brace turned loose just after 4 p.m. Heat and humidity were still fierce. Chaffee walked out with Peach after 11 minutes. Gordy's bell faded to the front, and after 10 minutes, McKean sent in his scout. Gordy blasted past the gallery to the front at 13 but, at 16, came racing out to the trucks spooked and could not be persuaded to return. The route will henceforth be lightheartedly referred to by those who walked this foreshortened brace as "Sasquatch Course."

6A E J Jonesy ("Jonesy")/Scott Chaffee
6B Jewett's Creek Beauty ("Beauty")/Jeff Sullivan

The final brace of the first day cut loose at 4:40. Conditions improved remarkably throughout the hour as a front moved in. Beauty's bell stopped at 9. The judge reported hearing two grouse fly, one about 30 seconds after the first. Sullivan found Beauty on point and flushed a third grouse for her at 13:30. Jonesy ran with style but went birdless. Both handlers took the precaution of soaking their dogs down a couple of times early in their hour, and both dogs finished strong to the front.

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

7A Woods R Callin Saddle ("Saddle")/Bill Frahm

7B Grouse Trails Black Knight ("Knight")/John McKellop

The first brace of a cooler 60-degree second morning was off and running at 8:04 with a light breeze under clear skies. The Setter-Pointer match-up got the gallery's blood flowing early when Saddle and Knight both stopped at 4 on a divided grouse find. McKellop located the brace mates first and shot his blank pistol; both dogs held staunch. At 10, Saddle pointed a pair of woodcock with Knight backing about 10 yards right of the course. At 21, both dogs stopped about 50 yards left of the course, each with separate woodcock finds. Saddle pointed a grouse at 34, 30 yards left of the course, followed by a stop-to-flush on a grouse at 49 and a final grouse find at 55 backed by Knight. Saddle's handler walked the brace impressively silently, only occasionally singing her around course turns.

8A Hog Hill's Pretty Penny ("Penny")/Tammy Chaffee

8B Bad Habits ("Lucy")/Ben Mergens

Early in this brace of female Pointers, a pair of woodcock and a grouse were flushed by the gallery behind the front-running dogs. At 29, Lucy's handler sent her on from a point after his flush attempts came up empty. At 37, Penny was found on point at the edge of a swamp, but no bird could be persuaded to fly. At 40, Lucy got on the board with a clean woodcock find. She backed her bracemate at 42, although Penny's point yielded no bird.

9A Grouse Trails Warrior Cat ("Kitty")/John McKellop

9B Big Big Energy ("Lotto")/Jordan Pharris

Kitty, a compact female Pointer, and Lotto, a big derby-aged tri-color male Setter, shot from the start to the edges of their bell ranges in a freshening wind that caused the gallery to strain to keep track of the pair. Kitty's bell made a definite stop at 5, 50 feet right of the course, and her handler heard a bird flush wild as he walked in, but it was not logged. The same fate fell on Lotto a minute later, and a handful of minutes after his stop, the gallery noted a wild flush as they passed. At 32, Lotto made game and relocated – while no birds rewarded his effort, some in the back of the gallery heard a bird fly shortly thereafter. When time was called, Kitty's bell had been silent for a couple of minutes, so the handler, judge, and scout started their search. Kitty was found stylishly pointed deep to the right at a likely swamp edge, and a woodcock was produced with all in order. Both dogs ran respectable forward races, methodically covering the pocket and handling easily in increasingly tough, windy conditions.

10A Snyder's Sadie ("Sadie")/Tammy Chaffee

10B Kasida ("Z")/Paul Cook

A brace of female Setters, Sadie and Z, ran the last hour of the second morning before the extended afternoon break. Sadie stopped at 2:30, backed by Z, and was sent on with no bird flushed. At 20, both bells went silent one after the other. While Chaffee dug deep into the tangled thicket left of the course looking for Sadie, Cook located both dogs to the front just left of the course, pointed a few feet apart, facing each other. It was determined that Sadie's bell was the first to fall silent; Z was credited with

the back. As Chaffee fought her way to the pair, Cook and the gallery watched a grouse flush from her vicinity and fly directly over Sadie's point just a few feet overhead; both dogs held staunch. Chaffee moved Sadie on. Two minutes later, she stopped hard again, and a single grouse was flushed for her point once more.

11A Ruffed Country Sweet Lily ("Lily")/Jordan Pharris

11B Northwoods Cedar ("Cedar")/Eric Saetre

Cedar ran an exciting race at the farthest reaches of her bell. The handler and judge stopped now and then to cup an ear, straining to pinpoint the ringing. Each time, within a couple of seconds, they had her to the front or coming around. At 21:30, Cedar stopped hard on her way back from a wide cast around the far edge of a swamp. As the course turned a bend Cedar appeared standing tall on the left. She held tight as the hour's only grouse spooked away 20 yards down course. Lily pointed twice in the first half hour but moved herself on or was sent on both times.

12A Ralph's Chasehill Rip ("Rip")/Scott Chaffee

12B Over The Hill Morgan ("Morgan")/Rod Lein

The final brace of day two left the line at 5:10. Morgan, a slight and sleek black and white Pointer female, stopped fast in a tangled blowdown at just one minute in. Judge and handler picked their way in and found her looking sharp. Lein flushed three grouse while Morgan stood high and tight. At 24, her bell fell silent again, and she was spotted ten yards off the course looking confident. Lein's flush produced one big male grouse in front of Morgan's second picture-perfect point. She and bracemate Rip, last year's Grand National Grouse Champion, were matched in their classy ground-covering runs.

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

13A I'm Easy Money ("Easy")/Kyle Peterson

13B Moss Meadow Seeker ("Seeker")/Ken Moss

Easy, a former MN/WI Derby of the Year and multiple-champion Seeker, kicked off day three on the Boy Scout

Course. At 16, as the handlers topped a ridge, Easy's bell faded into a low, gnarly swamp to the left. Peterson's scout headed in and called point. As Peterson and the judge picked their way to within a few feet of Easy, a grouse flushed close over them. Just before the course crosses a gravel road at 32, Easy stopped again and held steady for his second grouse. At the 44-minute mark, Seeker had a woodcock find. Easy stopped a third time at 53 with Seeker backing, and Peterson flushed a woodcock.

14A Grouse Trails Bathilda ("Tillie")/John McKellop

14B Fireside Sally Forth ("Sal")/Tammy Chaffee

The wind picked up during brace two of day three, with temps in the mid-50s. McKellop's Tillie pointed a woodcock at 18:30 with all in order. Sal's bell faded in and out throughout the hour, with her scout dispatched several times. Chaffee asked for the tracker at 53 after a few minutes of searching, and shortly thereafter, Sal came back around on her own.

15A Snyder's Big Nose Kate ("Kate")/Tammy Chaffee

15B Lake Effect Ali ("Ali")/Tim Kaufman

Ali diligently worked, likely coverts with two points at 36 and 41 with no birds produced. At 49, she pinned a woodcock for Kaufman's flush and shot. Chaffee picked Kate up at 28 minutes, not having seen the performance she was capable of.

16A Northern Slopes Bell ("Bell")/James (Ed) Graddy

16B Over The Hill Try ("Try")/Rod Lein

Bell worked the cover, ranging far to the front. At 28, her bell stopped, but her handler was unable to locate her before flushing a grouse on his way in, after which Bell moved herself on. Try entertained the gallery with her joyful singing as she shot to the front from the start but finished birdless.

17A Birdogn True Confidence ("Sadie")/Jordan Pharris

17B Northwoods Cedar Edge ("Enni")/Lindsey Saetre

Young Enni pointed at 10, just off the trail, and went with a big grouse as it flushed, ending her bid. At 18 Sadie had

the honor of pointing the 50th grouse of the trial, five yards left of the trail. She pinned a second grouse at 27 and a third at 46 in a young cut.

18A Little Hawk ("Little")/Paul Cook

18B Ponderosa Ace ("Percy")/Scott Chaffee

Little launched from the start and stopped after two minutes with a woodcock find and Percy backing. She handled reliably at the edge of her bell to the front. At 38, her handler called her in for water, and a grouse got up. She stopped twice more with no birds put up. Percy put forth a worthy effort but finished without birds.

Thursday, October 3, 2024

19A North Slopes Allie ("Allie")/James (Ed) Graddy

19B Grouse Trails Dottie "Dottie"/John McKellop

Allie started her brace running hard and fast to the front but shortened up midway through her hour, and Graddy elected to collar her at 43. Dottie's bell



Reuel Henry Pietz Derby Classic (l-r): Lindsey Saetre (judge), Jordan Pharris with Big Big Energy, Greg Johnson with Clover Valley's Mulak, Chris Bye (judge), and Levi Glines with Cook's Run Kit.

stopped at 15 and two grouse lifted as McKellop and his judge made their way to her. McKellop rewarded her point with a third grouse flush in front of her, and a shot fired. At 27 she stopped again before the road crossing in a covert that produced grouse throughout the trial but moved herself on with no birds in the air.

20A Snyder's Fireside Ed ("Ed")/Tammy Chaffee

20B Bye

Eddie stopped at 32 on the edge of a thick young cut, and as he was relocating, the judge heard a grouse fly and ordered

him up. Three more grouse flushed as Chaffee collared Ed back to the course.

Mora, Minn., September 30

Judges: Ryan Hough and Justin McGrail

MINNESOTA GROUSE DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 13 Pointers and 26 Setters

Winner-OVER THE HILL MORGAN, F1699010, pointer female, by J T H Scion-Over The Hill Patty. Robert Zielke, owner; Rod Lein, handler.

Runner-Up-NORTHWOODS CEDAR, F1691883, setter female, by Erin's Prometheus-Northwoods Carly Simon. Eric & Lindsay Saetre, owners; Eric Saetre, handler.

Judges: Chris Bye and Lindsay Saetre

REUEL HENRY PIETZ OPEN DERBY CLASSIC

– 6 Pointers and 12 Setters

1st-BIG BIG ENERGY, F1705733, setter male, by Northwoods Atlas-Clover Valley's Millie. Jordan Pharris, owner and handler.

2d-CLOVER VALLEY'S MULAK, F1705658, setter male, by Northwoods Atlas-Clover Valley's Millie. Jerry Furnish, owner and handler.

3d-COOK'S RUN KIT, F1717276, setter female, by Keystone's Red Rage-Alder Fork Tuff. Levi Glines, owner and handler.

NORTHWEST CHUKAR & NATIONAL AMATEUR CHUKAR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Bridget Ledington | Marsing, Idaho | September 30, 2024

For many years, these trials have been held at Prairie Wind Ranch, but disaster struck in August. The Paddock Fire, started by lightning on August 18, devastated the sagebrush hills and rocky outcroppings and burned nearly 190,000 acres, including most of the ranch. As a result of the fire and the later date, many thought the Northwest Chukar trials would have to be canceled this year, but with great effort from many people, the stakes were moved to the legendary Mile Post 9 grounds south of Marsing, Idaho, and were thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees.

Boise Valley Pointing Dog Club would like to thank Jim and Martha Ledington, Bridget Ledington, Phil and Sharon Bowden, the German Pointer Club of Idaho, Kevin McRae, Alex Mauck and Christina Wall, Cliff Mesnard, Mel Lueck, Bill Owen, and all the others that helped making these trials successful.



Northwest Chukar Open All-Age Championship (Front, l-r): Mike Wilkin, Ed Mayhew (judge), Bridget Ledington (scout) with Champion BK Unforgiven, Sergio Velez (handler), and Phil Bowden (owner) with Runner-up Champion BK Bulletproof. (Back, l-r): A curious spectator, Ray Carter, Brian Gingrich, Jarry Waldon, Mel Lueck, Rich Burgi (judge), Bill Owen, and Jim Ledington.

Without the efforts of all these people, the Chukar trials would not have been possible. Also, the Club would like to

thank the attendees and professionals who come each year. The Boise Valley Pointing Dog Club would also like to



Northwest Chukar Open Shooting Dog Championship (Front, l-r): Bridget Ledington (scout), Bill Owen with Champion Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Ajax, Matt Blockovich (scout) with Runner-up Champion O T F's K's Good Time, Brian Gingrich (handler), Ed Mayhew, and Sergio Velez. (Back, l-r): Jim Ledington (judge), Alex Mauck (owner/handler), Kris Wall, Jason Staley (judge), Anne Tyson, Jenne Burgi, and Rich Burgi.

extend our deepest gratitude to Purina, SportDOG, Garmin, The Saddle Guy, and UltraCruz for the sponsorship of these trials.

The trials started with the Larry Brech Memorial Classic Derby. Painted Owyhee Ky, owned and handled by Jim Ledington, was first; Dezasterous Silver Bandit, owned by Robby Thompson and handled by Brian Gingrich, was second; and Circle B Americus RJ, owned by Phil Bowden and handled by Sergio Velez, was third.

The Shooting Dog Championship was next, judged by Jim Ledington and Jason Staley. Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Ajax was champion on a solid race and a find in the middle of the hour of brace 7. O T F's Good Time was named runner-up, owned by Mat Blockovich and handled by Brian Gingrich. Good Time ran in the second brace and had a stop to flush and a find near the end of the hour.

The weather caused a delay in the All-Age Championship for half a day, but the stake was eventually swept by Canadian professional Sergio Velez. The champion was BK Unforgiven, owned by Sam Handous, and the runner-up was BK Bulletproof owned by Phil Bowden, Rod Lecher, and Sergio Velez. In the third



National Amateur Chukar Championship (Front, l-r): Jason Staley (scout) with Champion Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Dallee, Alex Mauck (owner/handler), Kris Wall, Jim Ledington (scout) with Runner-up Champion Painted Owyhee Breeze, Bridget Ledington (owner/handler), and Mel Lueck. (Back, l-r): Sergio Velez, Mike Wilkin, Bill Owen, Brian Gingrich (judge) with Heffe, Rich Burgi (judge), and Jennie Burgi.

brace, Unforgiven had a very nice race and a very striking covey find near the end of the hour, which set the bar for the rest of the stake. Bulletproof had a forward all-age race after a find in the first quarter hour in the 10th brace. The All-Age judges were Rich Burgi and Ed Mayhew.

The National Amateur All-Age Championship was held on the weekend and was judged by Rich Burgi and Brian Gingrich. Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Dallee was named champion, owned and handled by Alex Mauck, and Painted Owyhee Breeze was named runner-up, owned and handled by Bridget Ledington. Both had all-age races, and the judges ordered a call-back to complete the placements.

Marsing, Ida., September 30

Judges: Alex Mauck and Bill Owen

LARRY BRECH MEMORIAL OPEN DERBY CLASSIC
– 14 Entries

1st-PAINTED OWYHEE KY, F1708747, pointer male, by Miller's Total Eclipse-Painted Owyhee Breeze. Jim Ledington, owner and handler.

2d-DEZASTEROUS SILVER BANDIT, F1709966, pointer male, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Bandit's Hill Lady. Robert Thompson, owner; Brian Gingrich, handler.

3d-CIRCLE B AMERICUS RJ, F1704282, setter female, by Audubon Americus-Circle B Burning Stardust. Circle B Setters & Phil Bowden, owners; Sergio Velez, handler.



Larry Brech Memorial Open Derby Classic (Back, l-r): Jim Ledington (owner), Bill Owen (judge), Ed Mayhew, Kris Wall, Phil Bowden, and Alex Mauck. (Front, l-r): Bridget Ledington (breeder/scout) with Painted Owyhee Ky, Robbie Thompson (owner/scout) with Dezasterous Silver Bandit, Mel Lueck with Circle B Americus RJ, and Sergio Velez (handler).

Judges: Jim Ledington and Jason Staley
NORTHWEST CHUKAR OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 19 Entries
Winner-MAUCK'S WYEAST OWYHEE AJAX, F1694269, setter female, by P W Sunrise-Lee Ann's Sassy. Alex Mauck, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-O T F'S GOOD TIME, F1694428, German Shorthair male, by W D K's Otis-OTF's Tickle Me Wild. Mat Blockovich, owner; Brian Gingrich, handler.

Judges: Rich Burgi and Ed Mayhew
NORTHWEST CHUKAR OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 28 Entries
Winner-BK UNFORGIVEN, F1699366, pointer male, by Fastforward's B K Gunner-B K Northwest Express. Sam Handous, owner; Sergio Velez, handler.
Runner-Up-BK BULLETPROOF, F1696564, pointer male, by Fastforward's B K Gunner-Wiggins Miss Stella. Sergio Velez, owner and handler.

Judges: Rich Burgi and Brian Gingrich
NATIONAL AMATEUR CHUKAR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 19 Entries
Winner-MAUCK'S WYEAST OWYHEE DALLEE, F1687695, setter female, by T's Gunslinger-Hidden Jasmine. Alex Mauck, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-PAINTED OWYHEE BREEZE, F1669636, pointer female, by Utah's Red Rock Express-Little Willow Aaron. Bridget & Jim Ledington, owners; Bridget Ledington, handler.

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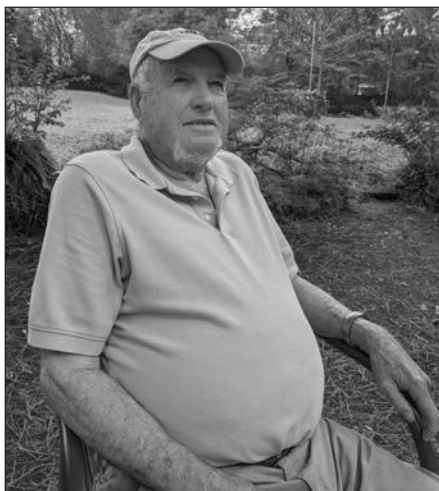
“What A Career!!”

By David A. Fletcher

Almost unbelievably, my good friend Buddy Smith of Collierville, Tennessee, is still training and working bird dogs and winning heavily in field trials at the ripe age of 91. His career has been sensational and far beyond the role of just a field trial handler and trainer of pointing dogs. He studies bloodlines and breeds litters of very successful bird dogs, buys puppies or young dogs from litters he anticipates very good results from, and gives the resulting prospects his best training skills. He develops them into potential contenders in major field trials. His prospects then usually sell to very competitive field trial owners who compete them at the highest level extensively. That is only part of Buddy's career accomplishments. Let me give some insights into his very successful and multi-faceted career.

Born into a sharecropping family in Ripley, Mississippi, on December 16, 1933, the Smith family did not own the land they farmed and harvested but shared the crops' financial proceeds with the owner. It was a rural upbringing for Buddy, but the family never owned bird dogs. The Smith family moved to Walnut, Mississippi, and in that school system, Buddy was a high school standout basketball player; his team won the State Championship, earning him recruitment to a Jr. College where he again was part of a State Basketball Championship winning team. It was a time when he met Clarice, his wife and lifelong partner now of 67 years, also blessed with one boy and three girls. After college Buddy was employed for 25 years by Shell Oil Company. It was also the time Buddy met and began to work dogs with Hoyle Eaton. Hoyle trained in the area, and Buddy became his pupil. He continued to work for Shell Oil and was not an employee of Hoyle Eaton, but the two spent much time together, Buddy learning training and handling and they attended trials together where Buddy did some handling and scouting. It was not long before Buddy had a horse and trailer and began training on his own. Hoyle would furnish Buddy with Red Water Rex and Riggins White Knight puppies which Buddy trained well into derby age, then he and Hoyle went on with the best prospects added to their strings.

Buddy has been the breeder, owner, and developer of many outstanding field trial dogs. Some he has bred; some he purchased from well-known and very successful breeders, and he used his training skills to develop them. Perhaps the most notable among these was Shadow Oak Bo, a setter male who won the National Championship in consecutive years—2013 and 2014. Buddy was the owner of Bo's dam Ray's Sundrop Jill, a gift to his partner in whelping and raising litters, Ray Woods, who was listed as breeder. Jill was bred to Shak Ti, whose talents Buddy was aware of. Buddy developed Bo to derby age and, on several occasions, went to Georgia to Robin and John Rex Gates' grounds to put their prospects on multitudes



Buddy Smith

of quail. Buddy broke Bo to perfection, explaining to me his unusual method of steadying the dog to perfection. Here is his rather unusual, innovative routine. Put out a bird and get Bo on point—attach two pigeons together with a shoelace and hang them over the dog's back or neck. Have his very young granddaughter on her hands and knees crawl under Bo, side to side and front to back several times while he is standing on point, then flush the quail and fire the gun. Bo showed no concern over these proceedings and remained tall and tight throughout. It was time to go to Robin Gates and show the finished dog. After six days of lots of coveys, abetted by perfect performances by Bo, when Buddy was set to leave for home, Robin stated, “This dog is not going home with you; he's staying here.” Robin found Butch Houston and his partner Dr. John Dorminy as owners.

Other notable field trial winners Buddy has either bred or purchased and developed include Lehar's Main Tech, winner of eight championships, including the three-hour Free-For-All, eight runner-up titles, and two Purina Dog of the Year Awards. Another winner, House's Rain Cloud, was bred by Buddy and won five Open Championships and six runner-up titles, the Quail Championship Invitational three times and scored 37 total wins. Buddy also bred and developed Cedar Oak Kate, which won the National Championship under the ownership of Tom Honecker. He also raised and developed Warhoot Rogue, which won a National Championship, Hall of Fame member Admiral War Bond, and Connect Shine, winner of a National Shooting Dog Championship.

Another interesting facet of Buddy Smith's career was his invention of the “Buddy Stick” which this writer is very grateful for, in my own training routines. The “stick” solves the constant problem of working dogs alone. You have a dog on point, the bird is out there 5 yards in front, covered, and the dog is on point on a somewhat tight check cord. How do you get out front to flush the bird, keep the dog steady, and shoot your



Shadow Oak Bo Wins National Championship

gun without a partner to flush it, or loosen the check cord as you walk without inviting the dog to move up with you as you walk to flush the bird? With a Buddy Stick attached to the dog's collar, you can keep a bit of pressure and control of movement abetted by the "whoa" command until you are totally in front of the dog and flush the bird. The stick also gives you control of the chase if it happens.

Accomplishments by Buddy Smith are many. He has been inducted into three Halls of Fame: the American Field, the National Bird Hunters, and the Southern Bird Hunters. He has conducted many dog training and handling seminars and has judged a myriad of field trials of all categories across North America. In 1986, Buddy's Warbond won the first NBHA Walking Futurity, and he also won the American Field Pheasant and Quail Futurities. In 1987, Buddy's dogs logged 80 wins in horseback and walking trials, setting a record. In 1988 and 1989, Buddy was named NBHA Handler



Shadow Oak Bo

of the Year and runner-up the following year. In 1989, in winning the title, he scored 70 wins in Horseback, Derby, and Puppy competition. To this writer, Buddy's great knowledge of bloodlines and top-notch breeders and his great training skills have enabled him to produce a host of outstanding bird dogs that have won at every level of field trial competition. He has given the field trial game horseback all-age championship dogs who won at Grand Junction and a lot of other top places, yet he has also contributed a multitude of horseback shooting dog champions and great walking trial dogs. I got to know the huge talents of Buddy Smith during my 10 years of reporting at the National Bird Hunters National Championships, where he loved to compete and show his contenders. His seasonal field trial wins of 70 to 80 placements are historic.



NATIONAL BRITTANY OPEN GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP ASSOCIATION

October Bird Dog Fest

By Kenny DeLong | Meredith, Michigan | October 3, 2024



Restricted Breed Open Grouse Championship: K Del's Eagle Magnum Hotshot with Kenny DeLong (breeder/owner/handler). (Behind): Jeff "Keystone" Keller (judge) and Mark Hughes (judge).

We had a great entry and good weather for our October Bird Dog Fest at the famed Gladwin Refuge. Lots of good folks, fellowship, food, friends, and festivities added to the great canine competition. We have been graced with excellent bird numbers this summer and fall: more than 75 birds ("Ruff"ly equal numbers of grouse and woodcock) were moved over this long weekend. Thanks to all participants from far and wide, as well as volunteers/

helpers, including marshals, vehicle movers, etc. We thank Greg Blair and Purina for their support, our judges, the Hollisters for the horses, the McKalkos for the fine food, and Tammi for her administrative expertise. We thank the Lord for His bountiful blessings.

More than 50 dogs entered the Theda Langstaff Memorial Open Shooting Dog, giving us a very full two days of running on Thursday and Friday, keeping judges Dave Heavlin and Marc Dozeman busy.

All the placed dogs ran on Friday, with the winner coming from the last brace. Veteran professional Robert Ecker handled the classy, forward-ranging Setter Mia Star over Course 15 to quality finds on grouse and woodcock, earning first-place honors (and a fat check!). Hillbilly Stevie Graham's Setter Lucy "tore it up" on Course 13 under the whistle of pro Rich Hollister, with classy bird work on two 'doodles and a chicken to snag the red ribbon. Mike Singleton's Setter, Kati, ran big and strong on Course 2 first thing Friday morning, and he was able to bring her around in a timely fashion, approaching the cuttings to score on a grouse and take third place.

Eleven dogs entered Saturday's Restricted Breed Open Grouse Championship that featured Brittany's and Irish Setters this fall. Several dogs had birds, although not all of them were handled in a mannerly fashion. Our judges from Pennsylvania, Mark Hughes and Jeff "Keystone" Keller, were most impressed with the championship performance of Kenny DeLong's Brittany, who ran an exciting, forward-searching, intelligent race on Courses 7 and 8. "Shooter" had picturesque limb finds on



Open Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Doc Najor (breeder), Mia Star with Robert Ecker (handler), and Back Creek Lucy with Rich Hollister (handler). (Behind): Marc Dozeman (judge), Steve McKalko, Chuck Langstaff, and Dave Heavlin (judge). (Not pictured): Kati with Mike Singleton.



Open Puppy (front, l-r): Scott Forman with Grouse Hill Dixie, Robert Ecker with Iv's Feed The Flame, and Amy Gauthier with Comeback Misty Bay. (Behind): Travis Whitfield (judge) and Marc Forman (judge).



Open Derby (front, l-r): Shane Haskin with Hatton Hills Luci and Scott Forman with Highlander's High Voltage. (Behind): Travis Burnett (judge) and Brandon Short (judge). (Not pictured): Mike Singleton and Singletons Gracie May.

grouse at 33 and 39, then later sticking a buried but ambulatory timberdoodle at 48 while standing staunchly knee-deep in the muck. He finished his hour far forward and hunting hard, earning the title and garnering the blue. No runner-up was named.

Puppies also ran Saturday morning, scrutinized by judges Marc Forman and Travis Whitfield. While not a huge entry, there were good dogs to watch. Scott Forman handled the forward and animated Pointer "Dixie" to the top spot. Bobby Ecker's Pointer charge, Fuel The Flame, came in a close second, handling well and staying out front. Amy Gauthier's Bailey Irish did a fine job, running to the front stylishly and taking the yellow ribbon.

The Open Derby ran on Sunday, featuring a nice-size entry of 23 dogs for judges Brandon Short and Travis Burnett to evaluate. The clear winner was "Luci," a pretty Setter owned by Shane Haskin. Luci ran majestically on Course 12 and "looked like a million bucks" when she stuck a woodcock almost halfway through. "Odis," a Setter handled by Scott Forman, was shining on Course 6 and scored on a mudbat just before time for second place. Mike Singleton's Setter "May" had absolutely scorched Course 2 first thing that morning and was placed third on the strength of her run.

We are grateful for everyone's participation and entries. We hope

everybody enjoyed it and had fun. The fellowship, the food, the fall colors, the competition, the camaraderie, the stories shared, and the memories made are a big part of why we field trial. Of course, the dogs and the birds are the centerpiece of it all. We are truly blessed. Thank you all. Winter well, and we look forward to seeing y'all in the spring!

Meredith, Mich., October 3

Judges: Mark Dozeman and Dave Heavlin
THEDA LANGSTAFF MEMORIAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 18 Pointers, 27 Setters, 3 Brittays, and 3 Irish Setters

1st-MIA STAR, F1702751, setter female, by Windstar-Hometown Queen. George Najor, owner; Robert Ecker Jr., handler.

2d-BACK CREEK LUCY, F1683067, setter female, by Peyton's Legacy Kip-Girl's Little Dixie. Steve Graham, owner; Richard Hollister, handler.

3d-SINGLETON'S LADY KATI, F1692672, setter female, by Jetwood-I'm Blue Who. Mike Singleton, owner and handler.



Beautiful Gladwin Grounds early Sunday morning, the first brace of the Open Derby.

Judges: Mark Hughes and Jeff Keller
RESTRICTED BREED OPEN GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 9 Brittays and 2 Irish Setters

Winner-K DEL'S EAGLE MAGNUM HOTSHOT, F1685770, Brittany male, by Magnum High Velocity-K Del's Eagle's Chance To Soar. Kenny DeLong, owner and handler.

Judges: Marc Forman and Travis Whitfield
OPEN PUPPY – 4 Pointers, 4 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter

1st-GROUSE HILL DIXIE, F1710163, pointer female, by Grouse Hill Rambo-All On. John Capocci, owner; Scott Forman, handler.

2d-IV'S FEED THE FLAME, F1712100, setter female, by Bo of Piney Woods-Sugar On Fire. Samantha Adams, owner; Robert Ecker Jr., handler.

3d-COMEBACK MISTY BAY, F1710202, Irish setter female, by Come Back Billy Boy-Hatcreek Misty Blue. Amy Gauthier, owner and handler.

Judges: Travis Burnett and Brandon Short
OPEN DERBY – 4 Pointers, 17 Setters, and 2 Brittays

1st-HATTON HILLS LUCI, F1706362, setter female, by Swift Rock Lawbreaker-Swift Rock Julie. Shane Haskin, owner and handler.

2d-HIGHLANDER'S HIGH VOLTAGE, F1711458, setter male, by Long Gone Porky-Kelly's Rainbow Krin. Katie Myers, owner; Scott Forman, handler.

3d-SINGLETONS GRACIE MAY, F1711859, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-I'm Blue Who. Mike Singleton, owner and handler.

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DUPLIN COUNTY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Annual Fall Trial

By G. B. Hatcher | Faison, North Carolina | October 4, 2024

The Duplin County Field Trial Club held its annual fall trial on October 4-5. Bill Faust and Dr. W. C. Sanderson were the prime movers in this club for many years. We lost Dr. Sanderson in 2017 and Bill in 2023. This was the second renewal since Bill's passing. The trial was held on Bill's training grounds owned by him and some of his friends for quite a few years. Since the 2023 trial, the grounds have been sold and are no longer available to the Club. A new venue had been arranged for this year's renewal, but Hurricane Helene had other plans. She dumped several inches of rain on the area only a few days before the start date. An assessment of the advertised grounds was made the weekend prior to the trial, and there were still areas of standing water with more rain forecast for the week. Fortunately, Sammy and Nida Giddens stepped in to save the day by offering to host the trial at Hunter's Creek Kennels, their home farm. As usual, cover was high and still green, but Sammy had done extensive mowing and had already released coveys for his training purposes. The farm has a natural loop that is about 30 minutes long. There are plenty of places where a dog could be lost. Some availed themselves of the opportunity. The Club purchased birds to be planted along the courses but most of the finds were on Sammy's pre-released coveys. They sat well but flew strongly when flushed. The weather was warm and sunny, fine for the people but not so much for the dogs. There was adequate birdwork to separate the winners. Case in point, Joe Edwards' derby, Come Back Buster, took first in both Derby stakes with multiple finds in each.

They say it takes a village to raise a child. The same could be said for putting on a field trial. In addition to hosting a field trial on their grounds, Sammy and Nida did everything in their power to make sure everyone enjoyed themselves. Sammy had spent countless hours on the tractor and bush

hog before the trial and he spent hours in the saddle marshaling and doing anything needed by the handlers. Nida was a big help with the drawing and communicating last-minute changes. She also opened up her kitchen to help prepare lunches on both days. Carolyn Quinn took the entries, organized everything for the drawing, and communicated with the participants. Bill Faust once told Greg Robinson that Carolyn was the "pick of the litter" and that she is. She also orders the awards, takes the entry fees, and dispenses the winners' checks. In addition to all her other chores, she helped serve lunch on both days and prepared the lunch for Saturday. Mariana Hatcher provided a butterscotch pecan pound cake, and Laura Pittman brought brownie cookies to satisfy everyone's sweet tooth. Kyle Whitfield brought his UTV for bird planting and use as a gallery wagon. A mechanical problem occurred, but Sammy stepped in to offer his. Kyle later was able to repair his machine, and it was put back into service as a gallery wagon. Hoss Earley performed bird planting duties on both days, which was no easy task. Reverend Andrew Brown provided refreshments and snacks for both days. The Duplin County Field Trial Club appreciates the support of Nutrena and its local representative, James Costin. James and Nutrena donated a bag of its TRUE PROFESSIONAL premium food to the first-place winner in each stake, plus sample bags were available to attendees. Sean Melvin and John Outlaw again did most of the heavy lifting of judging, but they were spelled by Daniel Bell, Kyle Whitfield, Hunter Prevatte, Marvin Roth, Will Herring, and Jason King. David Huffine, the club secretary, was hiding out in Montana, but we still managed to find things he could help with. Thanks to all who contributed, including everyone who entered and ran dogs. This trial was a testimonial to what makes field trialing such a great sport. Competitiveness took a back seat to camaraderie and sportsmanship.

Faison, N. C., October 4 – One Course

Judges: Daniel Bell and Kyle Whitfield

OPEN PUPPY – 6 Pointers and 2 German Shorthairs

1st-RAWLINSON'S CONFIDENT SECRET, F1716235, pointer male, by Confident Nation-Rawlinson's Big Secret. Worth Lewis, owner; Calvin Curnutte, handler.

2d-BELLA ZINGARA, F1708842, setter female, by Tioga-High Prairie Gypsy. John Fort, owner; Calvin Curnutte, handler.

3d-SUE, unreg., pointer female, by Miller's Blindsider-Miss Clinique. Gary Miller, owner and handler.

Judges: Sean Melvin and Hunter Prevatte

OPEN DERBY – 4 Pointers, 4 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter

1st-COME BACK BUSTER, F1705441, Irish setter male, by Come Back Billy Boy-Come Back Little Bit. Joe A. Edwards, owner and handler.

2d-STUMP HILL FARMS MAILMAN, F1709114, pointer male, by Class Act Stud-Herring's Bell. Daniel Bell, owner and handler.

3d-HIGHTAILINIT ON FIRE, F1704944, setter male, by Woodville's Yukon Cornelius-Hightailinit's Sugar N Spice. James Rickman IV, owner; Calvin Curnutte, handler.

Judges: Sean Melvin and John Outlaw

OPEN SHOOTING DOG - 8 Pointers, 4 Setters, and 6 German Shorthairs

1st-RED OAKS SUNSHINE VON HEIDBRINK, R315-833, German Shorthair female, by Royalrun Sam Adams-Red Oaks Heart of Dixie. Jason King, owner and handler.

2d-SOUTHPOINT'S SPEEDY G, F1692332, pointer male, by Miller's Speed Dial-Bonner's Ransom Dot. Whitley Stephenson, owner and handler.

3d-PEARL'S DYNASTY, F1702010, setter female, by Merritt's Bear-A Tarheel Pretty Penny. Kyle Whitfield, owner and handler.

OPEN DERBY – 3 Pointers, 3 Setters, 1 Irish Setter, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-COME BACK BUSTER, F1705441, Irish setter male, by Come Back Billy Boy-Come Back Little Bit. Joe A. Edwards, owner and handler.

2d-I'M CROSSROADS, F1706410, setter male, by Hot Blooded-Shamrock's Miss Grace. Sammy & Nida Giddens, owners; Sammy Giddens, handler.

3d-STUMP HILL FARMS ZIPCODE, F1705557, pointer male, by Class Act Stud-Herring's Bell. Daniel Bell, owner and handler.

Judges: Will Herring and Marvin Roth

OPEN ALL-AGE – 4 Pointers, 2 Setters, and 3 German Shorthairs

1st-SMOKERISE BUCK II, F1697777, setter male, by Smoke Rise Buck-Shagtime Hope. Fred Rose, owner; Calvin Curnutte, handler.

2d-I'M THE LONE RANGER, F1703796, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-B K Deighton's Jewel. Sammy & Nida Giddens, owners; Sammy Giddens, handler.

3d-HEAFNER'S BRILLIANT BRUTUS, F1705756, German Shorthair male, by Highstanding Cutting Edge-Chicoree's Glitter and Gold. William Heafner, owner; Jason, handler.

Judges: Sean Melvin and John Outlaw
AMATEUR DERBY – 1 Pointer, 1 Setter,
and 1 German Shorthair

1st-WHITEHALL'S FLEETWOOD MAC, F1703561,
setter male, by Hot Blooded-Shamrock's Miss
Grace. Kyle Whitfield, owner and handler.

Judges: Jason King and John Outlaw
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 3 Pointers, 2 Setters,
and 1 German Shorthair

1st-PEARL'S DYNASTY, F1702010, setter female,
by Merritt's Bear-A Tarheel Pretty Penny. Kyle
Whitfield, owner and handler.
2d-BRITA LOVES HAPPY DELMY, F1704275, German
Shorthair female, by Wilson's Right Is Right Sawyer-
Wilson's Lovely Lady Mae. Abigail Grace Smith,
owner; Robert Smith, handler.

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NORTH COUNTRY SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Northwoods Cedar Named Champion; Northern Slopes Bell, Runner-up

By Lindsay Saetre | Augusta, Wisconsin | October 5, 2024

The 2024 North Country Cover Dog Championship hosted by the North Country Bird Dog Club was held in the Eau Claire County Forest near Augusta, Wisconsin. It started on Saturday, October 5, and commenced on Monday, October 7. Joe Landowski and Tim Kaufman judged 18 braces with 35 dogs over the three days. Thank you to the judges for their time and for walking many miles to evaluate an outstanding group of dogs. Lunches were held at the newly constructed shelter overlooking Knight's pool on the beautiful Eau Claire River. This structure will be utilized for many years to come. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this idea become a reality.

The first day started with sunny skies and temps of 48°, but they quickly rose to over 75° by the fifth brace. The dry and hot conditions were tough on scenting conditions and birds were hard to find. The afternoon forecasted clouds and possible rain, and that's what the dogs needed to turn things around. You could feel a drop in the temps and a rise in humidity for the last brace of the first day ran on the Horse Creek course. Northern Slopes Bell, a small but mighty, mostly white and orange female owned and handled by Ed Graddy, took full advantage of the conditions. While handling her birds staunchly, she expertly moved through the course with woodcock finds at 16, 50, and 55. She laid down a mostly forward race while showing a strong connection to her handler. This was enough to garner Bell runner-up champion, her first well-deserved title.

The second day provided slightly

cooler temps but continued with very dry and windy conditions. This generated more birds found and respectable dog work.

The third day presented four braces to complete the competition. Mother Nature was relentless with her sunny, dry, and windy weather but gave the dogs a break with temps in the high 30s for the first brace of the day. Once again, the cooler temps equated to more birds being located. The last brace started at noon with temps in the 60s on the culvert course.

Northwoods Cedar, an athletic black and white female Setter owned and handled by Eric Saetre, laid down a commanding, forward race. She pushed the limits of bell range when needed but also worked closer and scoured the young, tight cover. The handler and scout lost Cedar's bell around 15 minutes into the brace. Her bracemate, Kasida, was still working hard and in the hunt for birds when Kasida's bell fell silent. Judge



Runner-up Champion Northern Slopes Bell with Ed Graddy (owner) and Tim Kaufman (judge).



North Country Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Joe Landowski (judge), Northwoods Cedar with Eric and Lindsey Saetre (owners), and Tim Kaufman (judge).

Tim Kaufman looked to where he last had Kasida's bell and spotted Cedar standing with Kasida honoring her point. Both handlers went into flush in a thick patch of willows, and a woodcock fluttered from its hiding spot. Both dogs stood steady to wing and shot. According to the judges, Cedar's drive and determination and the fact that she was always out front were what sealed the deal on her first championship title.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with lunches, moving trucks, donuts, and coffee. The trial would not be a success without everyone's contributions. Another huge thank you to the sponsors, Purina and OnX. Your continued support helps cover dog field trials thrive.

Augusta, Wis., October 5

Judges: Tim Kaufman and Joe Landowski

NORTH COUNTRY SHOOTING DOG

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 17 Pointers, 15 Setters, and 2 Irish Setters

Winner-NORTHWOODS CEDAR, F1691883, setter female, by Erin's Prometheus-Northwoods Carly Simon. Eric & Lindsey Saetre, owners; Eric Saetre, handler.

Runner-Up-NORTHERN SLOPES BELL, F1682006, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Out Of The Shadows. James Graddy, owner and handler.

Open Derby

The Open Derby stake entry was robust. Field trial clubs use these juvenile stakes to judge the potential of their up-and-coming cover dogs. The contestants ran on a single course to prove their potential to judges Brent Sittlow and Ben Mergens. The stake was run over two days on the "H" course. Coming out on top was a trio of attractive, young, active, and busy

setters.

Clover Valley's Evans earned the blue ribbon, handled by Jerry Furnish. Second place was awarded to Clover Valley's Mulak, handled by Greg Johnson. Third place was given to Northwoods Rip Roy, also handled by Greg Johnson. All three winners separated themselves from the rest of the field by hitting the likely grouse cover with speed, purpose, and independence.

**Judges: Ben Mergens and Brent Sittlow
OPEN DERBY – 10 Pointers, 10 Setters, and 2 Irish Setters**

1st-CLOVER VALLEY'S EVANS, F1705659, setter female, by Northwoods Atlas-Clover Valley's Millie. Jerry Furnish, owner; Jordan Pharris, handler.

2d-CLOVER VALLEY'S MULAK, F1705658, setter male, by Northwoods Atlas-Clover Valley's Millie. Jerry Furnish, owner; Greg Johnson, handler.

3d-NORTHWOODS RIP ROY, F1711135, setter male, by Woodville's Yukon Cornelius-Northwoods Redbreast. Greg Johnson, owner and handler.



Open Derby (l-r): Clover Valley's Evans with Jordan Pharris, Clover Valley's Mulak with Roger King, and Northwoods Rip Roy with Greg Johnson.

MICHIGAN WOODCOCK CHAMPIONSHIP & ACCOMPANYING STAKES

Shady Hills Zeena Wins 35th Running; Meredith Grade Penny, Runner-up

By Tammy Chaffee, Club Secretary | Gladwin, Michigan | October 9, 2024



Michigan Woodcock Championship: Michael Penn (judge), Marc Forman with Champion Shady Hills Zeena and owner Deb Nihart, Scott Chaffee with Runner-up Champion Meredith Grade Penny and owner Dennis Keysor, and Pat Cooke (judge).

The mornings were crisp, but afternoons were brutal, the headline for this year's Championship. September into October was untypically warm and dry for Michigan, making scenting conditions difficult at best. Despite the very challenging

environment, many dogs finished with multiple finds on native woodcock and grouse.

Shady Hills Zeena, owned by Deb Nihart and handled by New York pro Marc Forman, knocked down a

win at the New York Championship in mid-September and came to put an emphasis on her winning ways at the famed Gladwin Game Refuge in Michigan. Drawing Courses 5-6 on day two of the championship, she put on a show with five finds—two on grouse and three on woodcock. Course 6 had just been improved upon during the summer by a group of Michigan field trialers, and the improvements proved to be award-winning. So much so that the new runner-up champion, Meredith Grade Penny, owned by Denny Keysor and handled by Michigan pro Scott Chaffee also put her winning hour together on Course 5-6 with a grouse and two woodcock finds.

Zeena's brace broke away after a tailgate lunch with temperatures in the 60s and bluebird skies, a field trialer's nightmare. Course 5 starts with an older mixed timber cut, opening up into some oak scrub, and finishes with the crossover to Course 6 in rather open fields. The first half of six is a mixture

of cover and open areas, ending with an older popple cut that was added to with a new trail through a newer cut that seemed to be a favorite of woodcock. Zeena scored almost immediately with a grouse find at the seven-minute mark on Course 5. This initial find set the tone for her hour as she combed the cover to the front. Moving on through Course 5 and onto 6, she scored again at 33 on another grouse, following that up with three woodcock finds, the final one at time.

While Zeena is a field trial veteran at eight years old, Penny is a veritable rookie at three years of age. She was the 2022-23 Michigan Derby of the Year, Flanagan Award winner, and the Purina Cover Dog Derby of the Year. She ran the last brace on day three, with the temperature again in the 60s. She lost her bracemate at the halfway point, but Penny continued, making a big impression with her gutsy, tough-minded performance for the entire 60 minutes. She scored her first find at the beginning of Course 6, following up with two woodcock finds towards the end of her hour in the cuts at the end of the course.

As with all field trials, there were many in attendance to help keep the trial running smoothly: Ruffed Grouse Field Trial President Chris Wasserman, Vice Presidents Craig Merlington and Bryan Wood, along with directors Rob Ellis, Lonnie Rademacher, and Marc Dozeman. And, as always, many, many participants pitched in whenever asked to marshal, move cars, or whatever else was needed. Board members provided tasty tailgate meals, and Betsy Dozeman provided much-loved breakfast burritos

for the weekend contestants. Rich and Jenny Hollister provided the judges with steady steads for the championship, derby, and puppy stakes. Jenny was a great help in keeping everything running smoothly on Saturday, with two stakes running at the same time—always a challenge. Thanks, Jenny!

Purina provided certificates for bags of dog food for the champion and runner-up and discount certificates for the derby and puppy winners. We are thankful to Greg Blair and Purina for their continued support.

Bill Wendt was an early supporter of creating the Woodcock Championship 35 years ago. The championship was run as a classic for a few years before being granted championship status. Acknowledging his hard work, the club created the Bill Wendt Memorial Open Derby Stake in his honor. Judging this year's renewal were Marc Dozeman and Scott Johnston. This year's winner was Flambeau Moon River, a female English Setter owned and handled by Joe Colglazier. "Rem" drew Course 9 and put together a super ground race coupled with a grouse find on a nice relocation. Second was awarded to Hypointe Sharpshooter, a male English Setter owned by Nick Mellon and handled by Scott Chaffee. "Zeke" handled Course 8 with a forward race and a broke find on a grouse. Rounding out the winners for third was Prairie Forged Jay, owned by Robert Jones and handled by Tammy Chaffee. Jay cut loose on Course 7, connecting with two grouse during his 30-minute run.

The inaugural running of the Bernie Bauman Memorial Open Puppy stake was named in honor of a man loved by

all and a great fan of field trials and bird dogs. His close friend Tom Vanecek, along with Bill Darr agreed to handle the judicial duties. First place was awarded to Grouse Hill Patch, a female Pointer owned by Michael Capocci and handled by Marc Forman. Second went to Grouse Hill Dixie, a female Pointer owned by John Capocci and handled by Scott Forman. Third was Shady Hills Hickory, owned and handled by Scott Forman.

Gladwin, Mich., October 9

Judges: Patrick Cooke and Michael Penn

MICHIGAN WOODCOCK CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 17 Pointers, 34 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter

Winner-SHADY HILLS ZEENA, F1667955, pointer female, by Erin's War Creek-Brave Heart Cassie. Debra Nihart, owner; Marc Foreman, handler.

Runner-Up-MEREDITH GRADE PENNY, F1694628, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Eldridge's Beauty and Beast. Dennis Keysor, owner; Scott Chaffee, handler.

Ruffed Grouse Field Trial Club

Judges: W. M. Darr and Tom Vanecek

BERNIE BAUMAN MEMORIAL OPEN PUPPY

– 5 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-GROUSE HILL PATCH, F1710162, pointer female, by Grouse Hill Rambo-All On. Michael Capocci, owner; Marc Forman, handler.

2d-GROUSE HILL DIXIE, F1710163, pointer female, by Grouse Hill Rambo-All On. John Capocci, owner; Scott Forman, handler.

3d-SHADY HILLS HICKORY, F1706949, pointer male, by Grouse Hill Bullet Proof-Shady Hills Panda Bear. Scott Forman, owner and handler.

Judges: Marc Dozeman and Scott Johnson

BILL WENDT MEMORIAL OPEN DERBY

– 4 Pointers and 15 Setters

1st-FLAMBEAU MOON RIVER, F1710595, setter female, by Grouse Busters Deacon-Grouse Busters Gracie. Isaac Colglazier, owner and handler.

2d-HYPOINTE SHARPSHOOTER, F1706315, setter male, by Dun Ravens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. Nicholas Mellon Jr., owner; Scott Chaffee, handler.

3d-PRAIRIE FORGED JAY, F1704524, setter male, by Jackson's Let Er Rip-Jones' Big Sky Lanius. Robert T. Jones, owner; Tammy Chaffee, handler.



Bernie Bauman Memorial Open Puppy: Tom Vanecek (judge), Marc Forman with Grouse Hill Patch, Marc Dozeman (club director), John Capocci with Grouse Hill Dixie, Chris Wasserman (club president), Scott Forman with Shady Hills Hickory, and Bill Darr (judge).



Bill Wendt Memorial Open Derby: Joe Colglazier with Flambeau Moon River, Marc Dozeman (judge), Scott Chaffee with Hypointe Sharpshooter, Scott Johnston (judge), and Tammy Chaffee with Prairie Forged Jay.

NORTH MISSOURI FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

NBHA Trial

By Kevin Western | Martinstown, Missouri | October 12, 2024

North Missouri Field Trial Association hosted an NBHA trial at Martinstown, Missouri, the weekend of October 12-13. 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 hot on Saturday, and the athletes had to bring their best to finish.

A special thank you to Gary Cowell for helping drive the gallery wagon. Gary is retired now but was a fierce competitor and a sought-after judge in the Midwest when he was actively running dogs. It was great to see long-time field trialer Jim Giles there to make a few rounds in the gallery wagon. Jim has always been a helping hand and a great sounding board for us. In addition, he is a pretty good dog man, too. We were especially blessed to have our club's longest-tenured member there for a while, Mr. Charlie Beeler. Scott, Charlie's son, was gracious enough to bring Charlie over for a visit; it was a real treat. Co-chairs for this trial were Tim Penn and Kevin Western. The judicial team consisted of Dan Crunk, Jack Glover, Tim Penn, and Kevin Western. A big thanks for their dedication and attention to the job at hand. Big thanks to our NBHA sponsors, Purina Pro Plan and Gun Dog Supply, for their support. Other NBHA sponsors who support the NBHA throughout the year are Garmin, Mule Brand Clothes, OnX Hunts, and Gun Dog Central. Thanks to all who participated and made this a



Open Shooting Dog: Kenny Snow with Hey Mr. Tin Man, Kevin Western (judge), Dan Crunk (judge), Rob Warner with Sky Hawk's Little Rascal, Tim Penn, and Jack Glover with Glover's Flintstone.

great event.

Martinstown, Mo., October 12

Judges: Dan Crunk and Kevin Western

NBHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 6 Pointers, 4 Setters, and 2 Irish Setters

1st-HEY MR. TIN MAN, F1680641, pointer male, by Crazy Train-My Lil Whiskey Girl. Kenny Snow, owner and handler.

2d-SKY HAWK'S LITTLE RASCAL, F1670670, setter male, by Hytest Palladin-Sky Hawk's Blues Traveler. Robert R. Warner III, owner and handler.

3d-GLOVER'S FLINTSTONE, F1691597, setter male, by Islander-Kodiak Island Bird Dog. Jack Glover, owner and handler.



Kevin Western, Tim Penn, and Charlie Beeler.

Judges: Jack Glover and Tim Penn

NBHA OPEN DERBY – 5 Pointers, 2 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-GIZMO'S SWEET LITTLE WONDERFUL, F1714104, pointer female, by Dennis Rock Handsome-Honky Tonk Pearl. Ed Disher, owner and handler.

2d-SULPHUR BENDS SHAMROCK, F1705480, setter male, by Jojo's Quick Justice-Shamrock's Tish. William D. Langley, owner and handler.

3d-COOK CREEKS PRIDE CROW, unreg., German Shorthair male, by Mack's Moesgaard Charlie Brown-My Queen Saydy Ross. Cory Huchteman, owner and handler.

Judges: Tim Penn and Kevin Western

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 2 Pointers, 7 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-GLOVER'S PEPPER SHAKER, F1695618, setter female, by Erin's Wild Atlantic Way-C C Erin O'Shamrock. Jack Glover, owner and handler.

2d-SKY HAWK'S LITTLE RASCAL, F1670670, setter male, by Hytest Palladin-Sky Hawk's Blues Traveler. Robert R. Warner III, owner and handler.

Judges: Jack Glover and Tim Penn

NBHA AMATEUR DERBY – 4 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-SULPHUR BENDS SHAMROCK, F1705480, setter male, by Jojo's Quick Justice-Shamrock's Tish. William D. Langley, owner and handler.

2d-GIZMO'S SWEET LITTLE WONDERFUL, F1714104, pointer female, by Dennis Rock Handsome-Honky Tonk Pearl. Ed Disher, owner and handler.

3d-MISS GRACE, F1704743, pointer female, by Small's White Charger-Blue Mound's Mainstreet. Dan Crunk, owner and handler.

Judges: Robert Warner and Kevin Western

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 1 Pointer and 2 Setters

1st-HIGH PRICE BAUER, F1700276, setter male, by Woodsway's Bojangles-High Price Kallie. Aaron Ladzinski, owner and handler.

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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.

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NORTHEASTERN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Trumped Wins 66th Renewal; Miller's High Heat Index Annexes Runner-up Title

By Tom Gates | East Windsor, Connecticut | October 14, 2024

Owned by the popular Allen Linder of Livingston, Tennessee, Trumped (PM) was a spectacular sight to see. Handler Mike Tracy had Trumped in the first brace on Monday morning. The hour's performance set a high standard for the next 14 braces! Away at 8:25 on Monday, October 14, Trumped was braced with Miller's Little Duce Coupe (PF/George Tracy). I must start by saying that these two dogs were extremely stylish going, with high snapping tails and a 'hard-charging' pace. Trumped has a flashy, fast-driving gait that makes you look at him as the cracking high tail catches your eye. At 8, Coupe was found standing covey birds on the right. She has a very attractive pointing style. Birds lifted everywhere at shot. At 15, Trumped was high and tight with a covey of his own. Perfect at flush. Pretty pointing dog! All in order. Moving on, Trumped again swapped ends for a covey at 25 with Coupe backing stylishly from about 40 feet. Adding a single at 30 Trumped was unstoppable! We found both dogs standing at 35 for a divided find on a large quail covey. Trumped's final find was at 42 on the Dearborn property. The Pointer male was a sight to see on the left edge at time. He just ran bigger and bigger. Extremely impressive without slowing down the whole hour. One of those hours that you will never forget!

Runner-up laurels went to Miller's High Heat Index. Co-owned by Allen Linder and Casey Tracy of Blakley, Georgia, Index was also handled by Mike Tracy. Away at 8:15 on Wednesday morning, Index ran as a bye-dog. The powerful Pointer male was like a rocket off the line and never slowed down. We found him standing at 9 with a large covey well located. Birds blasted in all directions as Mike flushed, with Index remaining like a statue. Found standing a sizable covey again at 15, Index was high and tight! And, of course, a single was recorded at 21 up toward the clubhouse. This Pointer didn't let up one bit on the ground and attacked the cover



Northeastern Open Championship (front, l-r): Mike Tracy with Trumped and Haley Moreland with Miller's High Heat Index. (Standing, l-r): Amilcar Pereira, Gene Casale (chairman), Tony Forte, Tom Gates, John Malone (judge), Chris Catanzarite (judge), George Tracy, Keith Cagle, and future field trialers.

while flowing on the edges. Out to the Dearborn property, he traded ends at 39. Two Bobwhites lifted directly over his head, and he never moved an inch! At time, Index was pointed out, taking the left edge as a distant dot. Wow!

The Field Trial

This was the 66th renewal of the prestigious event. The trial was staged at the well-known Dr. John Flaherty Field Trial Area in East Windsor, Connecticut, October 14-16. This Championship draws only the most talented dogs in the Eastern U. S. while others avoid the high-level competition. The Casale family has chaired the Northeastern Championship for nearly 47 years. Hall of Famer Eugene Casale ran the event for many years at the Glastonbury Meadows venue in Glastonbury, Connecticut. Helping him with the trial for most of those years was his son Gene Casale. Gene took the reins as chairman about 34 years ago. Gene is very detailed in his approach, making every aspect of the trial run smoothly and at the highest level. This year was no different. Thank you, Gene, for another perfect renewal! Additionally, David O'Brien has been a major part of this event for as long

as I can remember! After chairing the Region 1 Shooting Dog Championship on these grounds the days before, Dave labored to make this trial perfect again. Thank you, Dave! Gene and Dave are the guys that keep field trials alive in the Northeast.

A major championship of this caliber requires judges of the highest level! We were fortunate to have John Malone of Bolton, Connecticut, and Chris Catanzarite of Scenery Hills, Pennsylvania, in the judicial saddles. John Malone is nationally recognized as a top choice, with many major events judged in his resume. Chris Catanzarite needs no introduction. He has won and/or judged every major championship in the East. His outstanding Pointer female, Backcountry Pure Gold, won the Region 1 Shooting Dog Championship on these grounds the day before this trial started! Congratulations again, Chris!

Having judged a few dozen championships over the past 50 years, I watch judges as well as dogs/handlers at a trial. I must commend these two gentlemen on their judicial manner and approach. From setting and maintaining the pace to the way

that they complemented each other, covering a find - they were certainly the best! Experience and ability at its finest! Thank you both!

PURINA has sponsored this event for as long as I can remember. Somewhere near 50 years! Greg Blair of Purina is a very knowledgeable "dog man." He provides a huge amount of assistance and support to the Northeastern Championship. A great man and a great dog food! Purina is the choice of everyone that I know in New England! Thank you again, Greg!

No one, repeat, NO ONE, leaves the Northeastern Championship hungry! Pam Casale (Gene's wife) deserves a huge "thank you" for her continued dedication in the clubhouse. From coffee and donuts in the morning to two types of soup and sandwiches plus pizza at lunch to handlers' dinners extreme! This year, Pam outdid herself with Shrimp Scampi, fried chicken, salad, homemade vegetables, and apple crisp or blueberry pie for dessert. Additionally, Chef Tony Forte supplied a huge offering of his famous fried eggplant. George likes the pie and ice cream best! Thank you, Pam and Tony, for your devoted effort.

Dave O'Brien, Anna (Casale) LaRose, and John Olsson were out every brace to handle bird liberation. Craig Santos and his daughter, Frank Scarpinato and Almicar Pereira, were on hand to assist when needed. Thank you all!

The Running

It was an awesome New England setting for this Championship. Crisp fall air with temperatures down in the mid-20s at night and colored leaves that are only this beautiful in New England.

Brace No.1: Trumped (PM/M. Tracy) with Miller's Little Duce Coupe (PF/G. Tracy). This brace was covered above.

Brace No. 2: Erin's Envy (PM/M. Tracy) with Miller's Special Cinderella (PF/G. Tracy). Nice running pair! Unfortunately, they got into a foot race and were lost, not returning within time.

Brace No.3: Miller's Extreme Heat

(PF/M. Tracy). Bye-dog. Stylish, hard-running dog. She was perfect on a quail covey at 9. Heat scored again out back in the Dearborn property at 42, logging two birds taking flight. Strong finish!

Brace No.4: Jolene Jolene (PF/M. Tracy) with Miller's Lock and Loaded (PM/G. Tracy). Jolene was a bullet off the breakaway. She took a right at 3 to the Dearborn property, not to return under contention. Loaded found the big covey at 7 with plenty of style on point. He locked up at 13 with a pair of Bobwhites bursting out as George flushed. Loaded added another single at the Tobacco Barn area. Nice moving dog!

Brace No. 5: Ramey's Elhew Independence (PM/G. Tracy) with Faithful (PF/M. Tracy). These two Pointers were big going and eventually lost to the front. Too bad, as they both looked great running!

Brace No. 6: Steel Valley Raven (PF/M. Tracy) with R Q's Saddle (PM/G. Tracy). Saddle was fast and stylish. She ran bigger and bigger, eventually being lost to the front. Raven pinned the big covey at 7 with more than adequate style. Nice tail! She logged a single at 13 behind Fox Hill and a three-bird covey at 16. Her last find was near the clubhouse at 28, with a hard-to-flush single finally taking flight.

Brace No. 8: Calico's Sky's The Limit (PF/G. Tracy) with Mo's Curtain Call (PF/M. Tracy). Curtain Call scored first with the big covey at 7. Limit backed stylishly from 30 feet. Roles reversed at 14 with Limit pointing a big covey and Curtain Call backing. Limit is a pretty pointing dog! Also, quite a bird finder. She logged a single at 19 and another single near the clubhouse at 23. Carding another find at 40, Limit had everyone's attention! Unfortunately, she was lost to the front, not returning within time. This dog would have been a sure pick!

Brace No. 9: Erin's Big Casino (ESM/M. Tracy) with Miller's Strolling For Gold (PF/G. Tracy). After a road race off the breakaway, Gold dived into the deep cover for an extended period. We found Big Casino standing pretty at 23 behind Fox Hill. A feisty quail took wing after a prolonged flush with manners perfect. Very nice running and pointing dog!

Brace No. 10: Miller's Automatic Upgrade (PM/G. Tracy) with Waybetter Rebel (PM/M. Tracy). A hard-charging pair of male pointers! Upgrade had the covey at 7 with Rebel stylishly backing from 40 feet away. Repeat at 13 with Upgrade standing and Rebel backing again. A divided find was recorded at 45 out to the Dearborn property. All in order with each dog on the opposite side of the hedgerow. Nice running dogs!

Brace No. 11: Backcountry Snake Eyes (PF/M. Tracy) with Great River Bella (PF/A. Pereira). Frank Scarpinato was down from Saratoga, New York, to see his attractive first-year shooting dog (Specs) run for Mike. Specs pinned the big covey at 8, standing high and proud. Bella was out of control, knocking the birds as Specs remained a statue. Specs was nice going and locked up on a covey again at 17. Bella returned from a runaway absence and knocked this covey also. Bella was finally taken up. Specs has a brilliant future, hopefully with a good brace mate!

Brace No. 12: Miller's Southern Gossip (PF/G. Tracy) with Triple Nickel Carbon Copy (PM/M. Tracy). Both dogs were nice going and very fast on the ground. Gossip was pretty pointing on a single at 7. Copy locked up at 7 on the other side of the dirt road, but no bird could be produced. Gossip added another single behind Fox Hill at 16. Nice find! She added a third find at 46 out to the Dearborn property.

Brace No. 13: Bully Rock (PM/M. Tracy) with Raag's Rich and Rare (PM/G. Tracy). Bully Rock looked like a picture on a big covey at 10. High and tight at flush. Raag's disappeared off the breakaway, not to be seen again under contention. Bully Rock added a great find at 35, swapping ends for a nice big quail covey.

Brace No. 14: Miller's High Heat Index (PM/M. Tracy). This brace was covered.

Brace No. 15: Pine Straw Hot Chocolate (ESF/M. Tracy) with Miller's Heat Seeker (PM/G. Tracy). The final brace was bold and determined with a show of class, speed, and style! The Setter scored first at 7 with the big covey. Heat Seeker backed stylishly from about 30 feet. All in order. At 18, both

dogs were found standing birds together. Nice, divided find! In the back of the Dearborn property, Heat Seeker was found standing a single with Chocolate backing nicely. Nice brace!

East Windsor, Conn., October 14

Judges: Chris Catanzarite and John Malone

66TH NORTHEASTERN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 25 Pointers and 2 Setters

Winner-TRUMPED, F1690083, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Image-Bevy's Cadillac Jukebox. Allen Linder, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

Runner-Up-MILLER'S HIGH HEAT INDEX, F1685674, pointer male, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Allen Linder & Casey Hollander, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN COVER DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

8-Year-Old Warrior Zeke Captures Title; 4-Year-Old Ponderosa's Copper Penny Earns Runner-up

By Tom Fruchey | Meredith, Michigan | October 16, 2024

The Beaverton Grouse Dog Club conducted the 15th running of the prestigious Northern Michigan Cover Dog Championship on the premier field trial grounds near Meredith, Michigan. The Club was most fortunate to have Ben Mergens of Inver Grove, Minnesota, and Shane Haskin of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, perform the judicial duties for this year's championship. They were both extremely attentive to all the contestants, and their decisions were well received.

The trial started on Wednesday, October 16, and concluded Sunday morning with just two braces that day. Seven braces were run each of the other four days, and the weather for the entire trial was unseasonably dry and warm. While this type of weather made for difficult scenting conditions, more than enough birds were seen and pointed over the five days to make for a very worthy champion and runner-up.

Purina was once again our major trial sponsor and handed out Pro Plan dog food certificates to the winner and runner-up and also provided coupons for feed to the Derby winners. We are very much appreciative of their generosity to our cover dog clubs and look forward to a long-lasting relationship.

The Beaverton Club provided free of charge, lunches each day, coffee and donuts each morning, and snacks all



Northern Michigan Cover Dog Championship (l-r): Mark Hughes with Warrior Zeke, Ben Mergens (judge), Tom Fruchey (club secretary), Rob Ellis with Ponderosa's Copper Penny, and Shane Haskin (judge).

week long. The highlight of the trial was Saturday night's chicken dinner. Nearly 40 people attended and had their fill of hot and juicy chicken with green bean casserole and scalloped potatoes, finishing it off with dessert. No one left hungry.

Horses for the judges, as always, were provided by Dun Roven Kennels. Jenny and Rich Hollister make sure the mounts are ready to go each morning and go beyond the call of duty to move them when needed and the surefooted easy, riding mounts make for a very enjoyable day in the woods. Thank you very much, Rich and Jenny, for all you do for Gladwin's clubs!

The Winners

This year's winner ran in the last brace of the trial as a bye-dog on Sunday morning. Warrior Zeke, owned by Mike Husenits of West Lebanon, Pennsylvania, and handled by Mark Hughes, was loosed as the second morning brace on Course 11/12. Zeke was all business right from the start as he slammed into point at the two-minute mark just after breakaway and carded a beautiful grouse find on a mature bird; his style on point was magnificent. He watched the bird fly away, remaining tall at the flush and shot! Once released, he continued hunting all the likely cover reaching to the edges but remaining

forward and in check with the handler. His style on the ground was smooth and fluid, making his ground efforts very easy on the eyes. His forward hunting efforts were rewarded again at the 12-minute mark with another flawless grouse find, all very much in order. He continued his strong forward and classy ground applications through Course 11 and merged onto Course 12, the halfway point, with a minimal amount of handling and checking out all the aspen stands as well as the scrub oak cover where the birds should be. When nearing the end of his hour, Zeke caught scent of a woodcock and eased into point; with the bird being well located off his nose, handler Hughes had no problem putting the bird into flight, and once again, Zeke remained high and tight throughout the entire flushing, flight, and shot. He finished his hour strong and forward with gas still left in the tank even though the course was warm and dry!

This was Mark's first big championship win in Michigan, and he told me it was most gratifying to win a prestigious event such as the Beaverton Club's Cover Dog Championship. This was truly a very good performance, and he bested a huge field of some very nice grouse dogs from all over the Cover Dog Circuit!

Close on the heels and being carried as the champion until the last brace was a classy four-year-old Setter female owned, handled, and trained by a fairly newcomer to the cover dog world, Rob Ellis. Rob has only been in the game for about four years; he told me that veteran Bob Wheelock introduced him to field trials by inviting him to run his Shorthair brag dog in the club's hunting dog stake. Rob fell in love with the game right away and started his search for a field trial dog, which just happened to be this Penny dog. Call it beginner's luck or just hard work, but Rob was able to put a title on his very first field trial dog; either way, we are very fortunate to have Rob in our game.

Penny ran in the first brace of Saturday morning on Course 11/12, the same course as the winner. When loosed, she sped off, moving free and fancy hunting the scrub oak thoroughly. At the 8-minute mark, she was found



Wolverine Derby Classic (l-r): Scott Chaffee with Hypointe Sharpshooter, Tom Fruchey (judge), Russell Fazio with Hitail Roxy Afield, Sean McKellop (judge), and Shane Haskin with Hatton Hills Luci.

standing on a grouse. Rob put the bird to flight, and Penny showed good manners throughout the entire episode. When released, she sped to the front and made a nice cast down a slight slope to the left into a birdy-looking bottom. Her bell went silent down in the valley, and she was soon found on point. This time, during the flushing effort, a pair of grouse were put to flight, and Penny withstood all the temptations with perfect manners throughout the shot, a very nice piece of work. After being released, she made some very large cast towards the front at times out of bell range but returned each time in the right places. She stayed strong and fancy through the rest of the hour. Nearing the end of her brace, she was found standing, but as hard as Rob tried flushing, he could not put a bird into the air, thus carding a nonproductive. She finished her hour strong and going away to the front!

The judges stated that well over half the field of dogs had some type of birdwork. Grouse and woodcock were seen on every course, but the warm, dry weather conditions made it tough to get birds pointed and also made it difficult for dogs to finish their hour with the drive needed to capture the championship title.

Meredith, Mich., October 16
Judges: Shane Haskin and Ben Mergens
NORTHERN MICHIGAN COVER DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 23 Pointers
and 36 Setters

Winner-WARRIOR ZEKE, F1668664, pointer male, by Erin's War Creek-Brave Heart Cassie. Mike Husenits, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.
Runner-Up-PONDEROSA'S COPPER PENNY, F1690593, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Eldridge's Beauty and Beast. Robert Ellis, owner and handler.

Wolverine Derby Classic

The juvenile event was held on Sunday and was judged by Sean McKellop of Grayling, Michigan, and your scribe. The temps reached into the mid-70s this day and made it very hard for the young canines to finish their heats and even harder to point a bird.

Hypointe Sharpshooter is a nice, stylish running Setter handled by veteran pro Scott Chaffee and owned by Nicholas Mellon of Murrysville, Pennsylvania. He started strong, moving gracefully to the front and hunting all the likely cover on Course 16. At the 5-minute mark, he had a nice stylish stand, but no bird could be put to flight. He continued hunting hard, and at 20, his bell went silent off to our left. Chaffee went in and quickly put a woodcock to flight, all in order. Releasing and moving forward and out of the slashing cover and into some standing oak, Shooter started making game and started working a bird off to our right. He continued working this running bird for about 50 yards when suddenly he stopped right in front of us, saying here it is, boys and sure enough, a large, ruffed grouse blew out in front of him all in order a very impressive piece of work and earned him the blue!

Second place was awarded to Hitail Roxy Afield, with a very strong and classy race always showing in the right places and hitting all the likely coverts with no letdowns even though the temps were in the mid-70s. It was noted that this dog is a littermate to the winner, and I am sure we will see more of these two back in the winners' circle.

The third-place derby ran in the same brace as the second-place derby on Course 3. Hatton Hills Luci also ran a fast, classy race to the front and a shy shorter in range than her bracedmate. She is owned and very capably handled by Club President Shane Haskin.

The Beaverton Grouse Dog Club would like to recognize all who made this trial a huge success. First and foremost, Purina for their donations of feed to the winners and the gifts for the judges. Field Trial Chairmen Bryan Wood, Marshals Ken Moss, Dale Ash, Tom Fruchey, Bob Wheelock, John McKellop, Jeff Keller, Mike Singleton,

Joe Colglazier, Brian Ralph, Brent, and Denise Peters. Dennis Keysor helped immensely by bringing lunches and dinner to the grounds at the appropriate times each day. Also, thanks to all the cover dog pros who support our club, Scott and Tammy Chaffee, Scott and Marc Forman, Mark Hughes, and Rich Hollister. So many help to make these trials a success, and we want to thank you all for your participation.

Judges: Tom Fruchey and Sean McKellop
WOLVERINE DERBY CLASSIC – 5 Pointers,
17 Setters, and 2 Brittany's

1st-HYPOINTE SHARPSHOOTER, F1706315, setter male, by Dun Ravens Zip-Castle Rocks Autumn Breeze. Nicholas Mellon Jr., owner; Scott Chaffee, handler.

2d-HITAIL ROXY AFIELD, F1705101, setter female, by Dun Ravens Zip-Castle Rocks Autumn Breeze. Russell Fazio, owner and handler.

3d-HATTON HILLS LUCI, F1706362, setter female, by Swift Rock Lawbreaker-Swift Rock Julie. Shane Haskin, owner and handler.

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PENNSYLVANIA GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

Miller's Special Upgrade Named 2024 Champion

By Mike Husenits | Marienville, Pennsylvania | October 22, 2024

This year, 2024 marked the 78th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Grouse Championship, one of the oldest grouse dog championships in the nation. Prior to the origination of the Pennsylvania Club and Championship in 1947, the same organization held the National Grouse Championship, which was formed in 1913 and eventually evolved into the Grand National Grouse Championship that we know today. Thus, the Pennsylvania Club began holding grouse trials in 1913 at Indian Creek, Pennsylvania, remarkably amassing 111 years of historic grouse dog competition. Throughout the years, the Allegheny National Forest grounds have experienced ups and downs relating to wild grouse populations and their availability on the thousands of acres the forest encompasses. To all who follow grouse, bird numbers are historically cyclic, with the up and down cycle generally revolving around 10-year spans. However, in recent decades, the cycle in Pennsylvania and other parts of the northeast region have trended downward. Many wildlife experts claim the downward spiral is due to a lack of acceptable habitat, such as old-growth forest, and the onslaught of West Nile Virus (WNV) disease caused by warming trends and increased numbers of disease-carrying mosquitoes. Whatever the cause, it has been a problem at Marienville for the past 20 years. However, the situation is not gloom and doom; this year, no less than a dozen grouse were moved in a day and a half



Pennsylvania Grouse Championship Winner Miller's Special Upgrade is posed by handler Mark Hughes with the magnificent Pennsylvania Grouse Championship Trophy. (Standing, l-r): Gerry Mercatoris, Bruce Mueller, Steve McKalko, Dr. Tim Perschke (judge), Joe Cammisa, Jarrod Specht (judge), Carlos Escalante (owner), Dick Brenneman, Dr. George Najor, Dave Duell, and Mike Husenits (reporter).

of running. The increase is encouraging and creates optimism for the future of these historic grounds. History does reveal that many Pennsylvania Grouse Championships held during the 1940s, '50s, '60s, and early '70s required second and even third-series callbacks to determine a winner. At least 13 times, no champion was named due to either lack of grouse or failure to handle them. The picture brightened sharply in the late '70s when grouse numbers exploded upward all over the region and held steady through the '80s, '90s, and into the new century when we started to witness a sharp decline. Your reporter judged this Championship in 2011 with Russ Richardson when we counted over 100 grouse moved

with a near record entry of 85 starters. Hopefully, the upward trend we witnessed this year will continue. Wild bird field trials have always been and most likely will always be either feast or famine. That's what makes them such a treasured prize to win. Some advocate that Marienville and its 111-year history should be abandoned for greener pastures. For one, this reporter is hard-pressed to envision grouse trials ending at Marienville. Memories of past winners and distinguished participants are etched in our minds, and abandoning this venue would surely create profound sadness throughout the cover dog world. The founding fathers of Marienville grouse trials are such noted dignitaries as Sam Light, Bob Wehle,

Rich and Larry Tuttle, Bob Habgood, Art Haight, The Willis brothers, and the Flanagan family. Famous dogs, names prefixed with Sam L's, Elhew, Orchard Valley, Pleasant Valley, Grouse Ridge, and many others. Early legendary reporters included Marc J. Deberti, Bill McCarty, Walter S. King, Bill Allen, Al Pilon, and Ben Jones. Marienville has withstood the test of time and, with a little patience, will rise again.

Currently, The Pennsylvania Grouse Club membership consists of a small group of dedicated men and women. Appreciation is extended to all who contributed to this and recent years' events. Trial Chairman Joe Cammisa and Secretary Dave Duell organized the pre-trial arrangements, handling the advertising, securing judges, motel and restaurant reservations, and drawing. Stake Manager Dick Brenneman ensured dogs were on the line and kept the trial on schedule. Brian Ralph, Norm Meeder, Rich Wartens, Bob Smith, Steve McKalko, and your reporter moved vehicles from course to course. Joe Cammisa, with generous contributions from Suzie Cammisa and Helen Brenneman, kept the party well-fed with an array of cookies, brownies, snacks, drinks, and hoagies made by Bettina's Italian Restaurant in Marienville, where the club also sponsored a Tuesday evening dinner.

David Powell of Nittany Valley Trail Rides provided sure-footed woods-wise trail horses for the judges and anyone desiring to ride.

Sincere appreciation is extended to Greg Blair and Purina for their ongoing support in providing premium Pro Plan dog food to the winners. Also, to Eric Munden of Lion Country Supply for gift certificates for the judges and reporter.

Weather conditions were far less than ideal for grouse hunting, with a sunny sky, warm temperatures, and dry ground. Plus, most of the foliage had already fallen, making it impossible to walk quietly through the woods, which also may have attributed to the bird count.

The Club and participants are grateful for the services of well-qualified and attentive judges. Dr. Tim Perschke of Marienville, Pennsylvania, has competed

in and judged numerous field trials over these grounds, in addition to being an avid hunter and owner of several outstanding dogs. Though younger in years, Jarrod Specht of Newmanstown, Pennsylvania, has undeniable experience with grouse dogs and field trials. These two gave their undivided attention to each competitor and reached a fair and unanimously popular decision.

Championship Winner and Contenders

Miller's Special Upgrade, a marked Pointer female, owned by Carlos Escalante of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and handled by Mark Hughes, emerged victorious over a quality field of 23 contenders. Upgrade, or "Penny," is not a stranger to the winners' circle, having won the U. S. Complete Regional Shooting Dog Championship at Oak Ridge, plus numerous other placements at just four years of age. Penny was bred by Fran and Jack Miller of Barwick, Georgia, from a cross between Miller's Upgraded Version and Miller's Special Edition. Jack and Fran bred this cross twice; the first litter whelped in 2020 produced no less than three champions. The second litter from the same cross just turned two years old and has produced multiple futurity winners. Several ancestors are already enshrined in the Hall of Fame, plus their grandmother, Miller's Bring The Heat, is one of this year's contenders. Penny displayed her winning performance on Lamonaville Course 3, which starts on the recently timbered hilltop, traversing in a semi-circle through a mix of cut-over second growth, a few open edges, then downhill to end near a parking area called the pit. Penny began her bid at 10:17, strong and hunting the cover with vigor until her bell fell silent at 31 along a rock-laden edge, a somewhat open area. Bracemate Iv's Whiskey In A Teacup honored nicely. As handlers approached, a perfectly located grouse went airborne with the styled-up Penny holding steady as the shot rang out. Penny continued to hunt well forward the remainder of her hour, finishing with strength.

Beyond the new champion, there were four others the judges really liked. Had any of them had positive birdwork,

the outcome of this trial could have been different. Two appeared in the first brace, namely Grouse Hill Rambo, handled by Robert Ecker, and A Distant Spec, handled by Mark Hughes. The ground race and application bar were set high, with Spec holding the edge on overall range. Others with impressive performances on the ground were Ralph's Hillbilly, handled by owner Brian Ralph from the fourth brace, and Doodle Ridge Elroy, handled by owner Bruce Mueller in Brace 11.

The Running

The first brace broke away at 7:40 on Course 1 along Lamonaville Road with Grouse Hill Rambo (Robert Ecker) and A Distant Spec (Mark Hughes). As noted, both earned honorable mentions for their efforts, but neither had official bird work. Rambo pointed with beautiful style and intensity near the 15-minute mark in a likely spot. The handler called the flight of a grouse and shot, but unfortunately, neither judge saw a bird. At the 45-minute mark, a grouse lifted near pine thicket; neither dog was involved.

The second brace featured Mulberry Fields Molly (Mark Hughes) with Dun Rovens Midnite Ike (Robert Ecker). Molly flitted through the woods with style and speed at moderate range, consistent for the hour. Ike's ground effort was similar, hitting the likely-looking cover and finishing the hour with strength.

The third brace had Miller's Special Upgrade (Mark Hughes) with Iv's Whiskey In A Teacup (Robert Ecker). Upgrade's winning championship performance has been noted above. Whiskey, a very fast, hard-hunting Brit, canvassed a lot of territory, backed bracemate, and finished strong.

The fourth brace had Ralph's Hillbilly (Brian Ralph) with Beaver Meadow Bit (Mark Hughes). Hillbilly ranged well ahead and was noted as one of the top-ground races. Bit hunted all the likely cover at medium range, pointed stylishly at 7 and 55 with nothing shown either time.

The fifth brace featured Millers Dusty Version (Mark Hughes) and Sammy The Rock Star (Robert Ecker)—breakaway after lunch at 1:10 under dry windy

conditions. Dusty never got untracked, seemed confused, and went AWOL at 15. Sammy hunted the cover with ambition but closed in after the half and leashed.

The sixth brace started at 2:29 on Course 1 along Loleta Road with Full Breeze (Dick Brenneman) and Backwoods Wild Fire Blaze (Mark Hughes). This course has an area that sometimes produces woodcock, but not today. Breeze pointed at 4 in a likely area but to no avail, then suffered a second unproductive at 20 after closing in on range. Blaze hunted hard in likely cover but ended up birdless.

The seventh brace had Double Deuce Zeke (Mark Hughes) and Meridith Grade Longshot (Brian Ralph). Zeke, a well-known grouse champion, hunted the likely cover with a consistent forward race, pointed positively at 59 with no results. Near the 50-minute mark, a grouse exploded wild near a swampy area. Longshot laid down a well-applied ground race but couldn't contact game, bringing an end to the first day's running.

The eighth brace started at 7:42 on Lamonaville Course 1 with Deciding Point (Mark Hughes) and Mia Star (Robert Ecker). Grouse were again present on

the course, but unfortunately, neither dog could connect today. At least seven birds were moved by the party, most flying out of trees. Point looked positive at 10, but no bird; she pointed solidly again at 30 but corrected and moved on to finish ahead. Star had owners Steve McKalko and Dr. George Najor in the gallery. She did not disappoint with a classy forward race and a solid stand at 50 that was unproductive.

The ninth brace had Buck of Piney Woods (Robert Ecker) and Warrior Zeke (Mark Hughes). Owners Rich Warters and Dr. George Najor were here for their young star Buck, who started well forward but was up early after shortening in the heat. Zeke was fresh off his big win in Michigan and hunted well forward with plenty of eye appeal, but for the second day in a row, no birds were sighted on this course despite inviting cover.

The 10th brace had Miller's Hopped Up Version (Mark Hughes) with Saddled Up Sadie (Dick Brenneman). Both hit the front, ranging well while maintaining contact with handlers. Excitement mounted at 40 when Sadie was found pointing with high style and rock-solid intensity near a likely spot, Version in for a perfect back. The handler went

into flush and was surprised by a curled-up snake. A later suggestion from Suzie Cammisa was, "You should have checked to see if it had eaten a bird," but at the time, there were no volunteers. Both finished the hour strong and forward.

West Wind Big Jake (Mark Hughes) and Doodle Ridge Elroy (Bruce Mueller) comprised the 11th brace. Gerry and C. G. Mercatoris were on hand to pull for Jake, who started high, wide, and handsome but got out of pocket before halftime and counted out. Roy ran a super ground race, forward and at the edge of bell range the whole time. All he needed was a bird.

The 12th and final brace was a bye with Mojo's Remington Steal (Mark Hughes). Away on Lamonaville Course 5 at 1:31 under bright sunny skies and warm temperatures. Remi hunted hard and well forward but failed to find game with the bluebird conditions that prevailed.

Marienville, Pa., October 22

**Judges: Jarrod E. Specht and Dr. Tim Perschke
PENNSYLVANIA GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 13 Pointers, 9 Setters,
and 1 Brittany**

Winner-MILLER'S SPECIAL UPGRADE, F1695107, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Carlos Escalante, owner and handler.

CHICKAHOMINY FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Fall Trial Held At Hunt's Game Preserve

By Mert Jones | Jarrett, Virginia | October 26, 2024

The Chickahominy Field Trial Association returned to Hunt's again this spring for our third trial on these grounds. Hunt's Game Preserve is a well-maintained set of hunting grounds that lends itself to walking and horseback field trials. Its owner and manager, Mr. Clint Holloway, is an accommodating and extremely helpful host. This past spring, the clubhouse and its kitchen were lost to a fire, and Mr. Holloway modified a nearby building, adding additional bedrooms and a fully equipped kitchen. Thank you, Mr. Holloway, for all you have done!

Our field trial chairperson, Sharon Townley, made sure the arrangements for all the necessary things for a first-

class trial were in place. Sharon and Phil Rutter judged the Derby stake on Saturday and the Puppy and Derby stakes on Sunday. Grace Ann Lawson and Terry McCormick judged the Shooting Dog stake on Saturday, and Jim Jones and Art Cohen judged the Shooting Dog stake on Sunday. On both days, Danny Gooch planted the birds for every brace. As usual, Phil Townley was busy the whole trial, not only tending their string of dogs and horses but also driving the tractor, pulling the gallery wagon on Saturday, and driving the dog truck on Sunday. Our galley wagon was supplied by Pat Brooks and was pulled by the John Deere furnished by Clint Holloway. We thank them both for this! Judy and Rita Jones served lunches centered around chicken

casserole on Saturday and meatloaf on Sunday, which all enjoyed.

The U. S. Complete Amateur Derby was the first stake to run on Saturday morning. Named first was Jimmy Crandall's Pointer, Ben, with three broke finds and an unproductive, followed by Steve Moore's Setter, Jade, as second with three finds, which allowed the handler to flush before the chase. Both dogs had moderate derby races.

The Derby was followed by the Dave Pomfret Memorial Shooting Dog Stake, which was judged by Grace Ann Lawson and Terry McCormick. The Dave Pomfret Memorial Shooting Dog Stake winner was "Big," an appropriately named Pointer male handled by Ashby Morgan. Big ran



Amateur Derby Winners (front, l-r): Calico's Ben Ten with Jimmy Crandall and Wayside Jake with Steve Moore. (Behind): Phil Rutter (judge) and Sharon Townley (judge).

in the sixth brace, handling the warm and dry conditions well with a powerful, forward race. He carded five well-placed finds with great style. Second place was awarded to "Mavis," a Pointer female handled by Jameson Crandall in the last brace. Mavis demonstrated a pleasing forward pattern, carding two stylish finds and one unproductive. Third place went to "Jake," a Pointer male handled by Jimmy Crandall. Jake ran in the first brace of the stake, showing a snappy running style and carding one very stylish find"

We began the Virginia Association of Field Trial Clubs horseback trial on Sunday morning. In the Amateur Puppy stake, first was "Ryder," a male Pointer handled by Worth Lewis, with Terry McCormick's German Shorthair Pointer male finishing second. These two youngsters put down a nice puppy race that was fun to watch.

The Amateur Derby was won by a Pointer male named "Smudge." Smudge was handled by Jeff Smith and had a powerful forward race with two derby finds. Second was George Doyle's female Setter, Patty. Her race was not as quite as big as the first-place dog as she hunted her way around the course. Birds were hard to find with scenting



Horseback Amateur Puppy Winners (front, l-r): Ryder with Ashley Lewis and Smoke with Terry McCormick. (Behind): Worth Lewis, Sharon Townley (judge), and Phil Rutter (judge).

conditions limited by the dry conditions. Third place was Jeff Smith's other Pointer named Stella, a female with seven game contacts, two of which were pheasants, three of which she pointed, and one of which Jeff could flush. She started slow but finished stronger.

The Amateur Shooting Dog stake was run in warm and dry conditions, and scenting conditions were not the best. However, the winning dogs managed some good finds and managed the warm conditions well. All finished strong and well to the front. "Samantha," a white Pointer female, took first with three finds and an aggressive forward race for owner Larry King. She was stylish both on the ground and on game. "Jack," a black and white Setter male, took second with two finds and a strong forward race for handler Lee Flanders. Lee also handled "Molly," a Pointer female, to third place with two finds and a good forward race. All three dogs showed the style and class you would expect from a winning field trial performance.

Your reporter thanks Judge Grace Ann Lawson and Judge Jim Jones for the descriptions of the performances of the winners of the Walking and Horseback Shooting Dog stakes.

We will return to Hunt's Game Preserve in the spring and hope you and your dogs will join us!

Jarrett, Va., October 26 – One Course
Judges: Phil Rutter and Sharon Townley
AMATEUR PUPPY – 2 Pointers
and 1 German Shorthair

1st-RYDER, unreg., pointer male, breeding not given. Worth Lewis, owner and handler.

AMATEUR DERBY – 4 Pointers
 1st-TREETOP SMOKIN SMUDGE, F1712133, pointer male, by Hirollins Gone And Done It-Dry Creek Tiny Dancer. Jeffery & Lynnrenee Smith, owners; Jeffery Smith, handler.
 2d-DRY CREEK FATTY PATTY, F1716799, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Dry Creek Ginger Snap. George Doyle, owner and handler.



Horseback Derby Winners (front, l-r): Treetop Stella with Lyn Smith, Dry Creek Fatty Patty with George Doyle, and Treetop Smokin Smudge with Jeff Smith. (Behind): Phil Rutter (judge) and Sharon Townley (judge).



Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (l-r): Mohawk Mill Big Stuff with Ashby Morgan, Sorrows of Satan with Jameson Crandall, and Jake The Joker with Jimmy Crandall. (Behind): Terry McCormick and Grace Ann Lawson.

Judges: Art Cohen and Jim Jones
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 12 Pointers,
4 Setters, 1 Brittany, and 2 German Shorthairs

1st-L F DIALING SAMANTHA, F1669132, pointer female, by Walnut Tree Fred-Dialing Kate. L. J. & Casey King, owners; L. J. King, handler.
 2d-CHIPPOKES CRACKER JACK, F1691321, setter male, by Skyview New Edition-Grid Iron's Sorrell's Penny. Lee S. Flanders, owner and handler.
 3d-CHIPPOKES FANCY LADY, F1689564, pointer female, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Hirollins Fancy Lady. Lee S. Flanders, owner and handler.

Judges: Philip Rutter and Sharon Townley
AMATEUR DERBY – 2 Pointers and 1 Setter
 1st-CALICO'S BEN TEN, F1713827, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Calico's Country Strong. Frank Henderson, Tiffani & Alex Smith, owners; Jimmy Crandall, handler.
 2d-WAYSIDE JADE, F1706544, setter female, by Blue Ridge Chance-She's A Jewel. Steve Moore, owner and handler.

Judges: Grace Ann Lawson and Terry McCormick
DAVE POMFRET MEMORIAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 9 Pointers and 5 Setters

1st-MOHAWK MILL BIG STUFF, F1691821, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Hirollins Fantasy Girl. Gary S. Winall, owner; Ashby Morgan, handler.
 2d-SORROWS OF SATAN, F1681535, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Pirate-Mohawk Honey. Jimmy Crandall, owner and handler.
 3d-JAKE THE JOKER, F1693052, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Legacy's Pride-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Mitch Forrester & Jim Crandall, owners; Jimmy Crandall, handler.



Horseback Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Chippokes Fancy Lady with Grace Ann Lawson, Chippokes Cracker Jack with Lee Flanders, and L F Dialing Samantha with Larry King. (Behind): Jim Jones (judge).



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A National Championship Almanac for 2025

By Stephen "Steeple" Bell

Where the winds of change turn out to be a cool, fresh breeze...through a series of board meetings held over this past year, a great number of changes were made regarding the running of this year's National Championship.

The foremost of these is perhaps the changes for the Ames Plantation itself. With the retirement of Dr. Rick Carlisle, a new director has been named. Matt Backus's association with Ames Plantation dates back to 2012; he has been the assistant director for the previous two years and was co-host of the National Championship in 2024. We welcome him to this important role and wish him success.

Changes were also made to the composition of the board of directors for the National Championship Field Trial Association. It may be useful to remind everyone that this board is independent of the Ames Plantation's board of trustees of the Julia Colony Ames Trust. The Ames Plantation Trustees are the hosts for the field trial, making the grounds and buildings available each year; it is the NCFTA that orchestrates the running, determines the qualifications, etc. In the past, the directors of Ames Plantation (Dr. Carlisle and Charlie Frank Bryan before him) have also held president positions in the NCFTA, so we have become used to saying "the folks at Ames" in regard to both entities, but now this distinction will be more evident.

During last February's board meeting, David Williams, Keith Wright, and Joey McAlexander were added as directors. Matt Backus was named to fill the role of secretary/treasurer (the traditional NCFTA board position of the Ames Plantation director). In a July meeting, Dr. Rick Carlisle and Charlie Frank Bryan stepped down and are now Honorary Directors, Jadie Rayfield resigned, and Dr. Stan Wint was named president with Joey McAlexander as vice president. And in a September meeting Tom Shenker and Larry Garner were added to the board, while Bobby McAlexander stepped down to an Honorary Director position due to health reasons.

Also, at that September meeting, your scribe, Stephen "Steeple" Bell, was named the Archivist. A

meaningless, non-voting position which I nevertheless intend to exploit without ruth. So when you see me, you need to buy me a cup of coffee because otherwise I will get nothing. Humor aside, I hope to have at least a good start toward making a digital archive of the past American Field trial reports available online in time for the next renewal in February. It will be searchable PDFs; cool, trust me, bro...

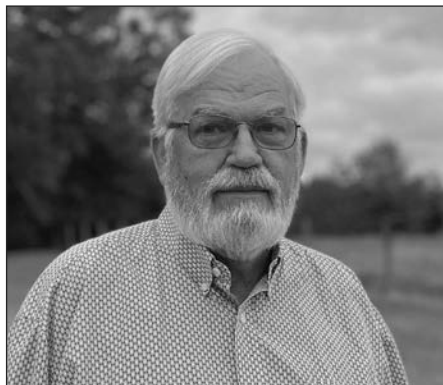
One of the first changes made by the new board was the selection process for the judges. Each of the board members was able to nominate potential judges, and a list of those nominated was compiled. This list was then given to each board member to rank their choices. A tally was made, and the top three were selected, with others ranked in order for standbys. The result of this process named three new judges for this year's competition: Richie Robertson, Bill Mason, and Greg Bain. It should also be noted that these judges will be given greater independence and, at their discretion, will make the decisions for weather delays, breakaway times, etc., in order to best see the dogs run rather than run the trial on schedule.



Director of Ames Plantation Matt Backus

The changes for qualification that were first made public on social media are, of course, foremost on the handlers' and owners' minds. The new qualifications are: Any dog with a first-place finish in any qualifying event in its lifetime is qualified for the 2025 National Championship. Any dog with two placements in any of the qualifying events in its lifetime is qualified for the 2025 National Championship. There is no change to the list of the qualifying trials. These changes are for the 2025 Championship only. The board will re-evaluate the standards at their February board meeting and update them then as they deem necessary. All previous National Champions will be qualified for the life of the dog.

With this change, the doors to the dance hall are wide open now. In the past, the big dance most resembled a country club debutante ball, but now we are looking at a barn dance hoedown. It is difficult to list all of the potentially qualified dogs; a review of the past five year's placements yields a list of approximately 130. But a review of that list finds a great number of those dogs are



National Championship Judge Greg Bain



National Championship Judge Rich Robertson



National Championship Judge Bill Mason

no longer active on the field trial circuit, either retired or dead.

Your scribe's best guess is that there will be around 60 entries, and that guess was made by looking at the dogs drawn in three trials run approximately at the same time (the Carolina Celebration trials, the Oklahoma Championship trials, and the Mid-South trials at Hell Creek, Mississippi) and seeing which of the dogs drawn in those trials are qualified or half-qualified (needing any placement to qualify). Those numbers are 98 combined entries in the three trials, and of those, 52 are qualified. And your scribe is pulling his hair out over this in preparation of writing the contestant profiles for this

year's event, so if your dog is qualified and you intend to run, please send me an e-mail as soon as you decide: steeplebell@icloud.com

If you have read this far into the article looking for the usual history and statistics which I write about, here is a tantalizing tidbit: for the very first time ever, there are German Shorthair Pointers who are qualified; I hope they come. I look forward to the challenge of writing their profiles (and this is a VERY BIG DEAL because, trust me, bro...)

There are further changes for the social functions planned for this year's big dance, which will be announced at a later date. We hope to see you there. 🐾

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Mr. John Fort, Owner



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Facebook: DC Bird Dogs



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Online chat is the fastest way to receive immediate assistance during regular business hours. Initiate a chat at www.americanfield.com and speak with a real person, trained and ready to help. Wait time is less than 3 minutes!

Field Trials



LICKING RIVER BIRD DOG CLUB

Member NBHA, AFTCA & KFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

December 7-8, 2024 • Berea, KY

Grounds: Miller Welch Central KY WMA, 638 Dreyfus Rd., Berea, KY.

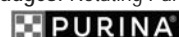
Entries Close/Drawing: Tuesday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.

Drawing to follow at 8:00 p.m., at the home of the chairman.

AMATEUR PUPPY (20 Min.).....	\$30.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....	\$50.00
AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.).....	\$40.00
OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.).....	\$30.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....	\$60.00
OPEN DERBY (30 Min.).....	\$45.00

— Ribbons or plaques to all placements —

Judges: Rotating Panel



Entries to: JONATHAN DUNN • (859) 404-7359

NBHA, Bluegrass WSD Club, AFTCA, or KFTA are not liable for accidents or injuries to persons and/or animals.



MOHEGAN BIRD DOG CLUB

Member USCSDA & AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024 • STARTS 7:00 A.M.

Grounds: Faith Pheasant Preserve, 330 Hobbie Rd., Nescopeck, PA 18635. To be run on pheasants. Drawing: Friday, December 6, 5:00 p.m., at the Midnight Kennel office.

OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—40% split 50-30-20.....	\$65.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG—Awards.....	\$60.00
OPEN PUPPY—Time permitting; No Purse.....	\$40.00

Judges: Jamie Nee, Cape Cod, MA,
and Nick Puhak, Conyngham, PA



Entries to: ROBERT ECKER • (570) 778-3009

Club members and landowners not responsible for accidents.



BLUEGRASS WALKING SHOOTING DOG CLUB

Member NBHA, AFTCA & KFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

December 14-15, 2024 • Berea, KY

Grounds: Miller Welch Central KY WMA, 638 Dreyfus Rd., Berea, KY.

Entries Close/Drawing: Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.

Drawing to follow at 8:00 p.m., at the home of the chairman.

OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.).....	\$30.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....	\$60.00
OPEN DERBY (30 Min.).....	\$45.00
AMATEUR PUPPY (20 Min.).....	\$30.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....	\$50.00
AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.).....	\$40.00

— Ribbons or plaques to all placements —

Judges: Brian French and Rich Meadows



Entries to: GARY VITALI • (859) 351-1266

NBHA, Bluegrass WSD Club, AFTCA, or KFTA are not liable for accidents or injuries to persons and/or animals.



INDIAN TERRITORY BIRD HUNTERS CLUB

Member NBHA, AFTCA & ABHA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

December 14-15, 2024 • Starts 8:00 A.M.

Grounds: Trails End Ranch, located between Hwy. 10 and 4250 Road, between Lenepah and Welch, OK. Signs will be posted. From Lenepah, go 12.77 miles east on Hwy. 10 to 4250 Road and turn south to grounds. From Welch, go 18.67 miles west on Hwy. 10 to 4250 Road and turn south to grounds. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Drawing: Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Jessica Hardy, Tulsa, OK.


(Sat.) OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Prizes	\$60.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG DERBY (30 Min.)—Prizes.....	\$50.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Prizes.....	\$60.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—JC@F; Prizes	\$60.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG DERBY (30 Min.)—Prizes	\$50.00

Judges: Kenny Snow, Frank Schoenborn, Bruce Sooter, Bill Osborne, and others to be announced

Apprentice Judging Introduction: Interested parties are encouraged to enter a drawing to ride along with stake judges and join in to get a first hand perspective of the judging experience, insight into judging standards, and judging procedures. Two participants will be drawn at the start of the day for each stake. Apprentice judges will not be involved in actual placements. Drawn parties are required to provide their own horse, tack, etc.



Entries to: JESSICA HARDY • Phone: (918) 636-3132 • Email: jessicahardy930@gmail.com
DANIEL BRIDGEWATER, Trial Chairman • Phone: (918) 734-1822 • Email: dabxpressls@gmail.com
The ITBHC, officers, directors, members, and landowners assume no responsibility for participants or spectators in the event of injury or damage to persons or property.



YOUTH TRIAL

MIKE REYNOLDS MEMORIAL YOUTH TRIAL

Saturday, December 21, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Reynolds Farm, 8120 County Rd. 37, Mathews, AL 36052
— Alabama and SBHA Youth Handler Points Trial —
For handlers 17 and younger • 20-Minute Braces
Dogs judged on Horseback Gun Dog standards.
\$20.00 entry fees graciously paid by Chris and Cindy Sellers of Selmer, TN!
Drawing: Tuesday, December 17, 6:00 p.m.,
at 1081 Merrywood Dr., Pike Road, AL.
Judges: To be announced
Entries to: DARRON HENDLEY—(334) 300-5836
-or- TONY REYNOLDS—(334) 850-3313
Club officials, organizers, members, landowners, and entrants are not responsible
for accidents or injuries to persons or animals or loss of any kind.



YOUTH TRIAL



**POWHATAN
FIELD TRIAL CLUB**
Member USCSDA & AFTCA

JANUARY 4-5, 2025 • STARTS 7:30 A.M.

Grounds: Slate River Farm, 2016 Slate River Mill Rd., Buckingham, VA 23921
(hook-ups and camping available for \$20.00). Lunch available on grounds.
Drawing: Thursday, January 2, 7:30 p.m.
— Continental Breeds Welcome —

(Sat.) AMATEUR PUPPY	\$30.00
AMATEUR DERBY	\$45.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG	\$50.00
(Sun.) OPEN DERBY—No Purse	\$50.00
AMATEUR GUN DOG.....	\$40.00

Judges: To be announced
Entries to: DENNIS KIVIKKO
Call or Text: (804) 218-4581 • Email: dtmnine@gmail.com
— Cash or checks made payable to Dennis Kivikko —
Club officials and landowners not responsible for accidents, injury or loss to any person or animal.
Manufactured Blank Pistols Only!

RIVER VALLEY SPORTSMAN ASSOCIATION

Member AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

December 15-17, 2024

Camp Robinson Field Trial Grounds, Conway, AR

**A Region 6 & National Amateur Invitational
Shooting Dog Points Trial**

Drawing: Wednesday, December 11, 8:00 p.m.,
at the Robby Robinson home.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG	\$80.00
OPEN DERBY	\$75.00

— Ribbons awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place —

Judges: To be announced

Entries to: ROBBY ROBINSON, President • (479) 970-0434
P.O. Box 29, 16630 W. State Hwy. 155, Dardanelle, AR 72834

The club and its members are not responsible for accidents or injury.

AMERICAN RED SETTER BIRD DOG CLUB

Member USCSDA

DECEMBER 28-29, 2024 • WALKING TRIAL

Open to all FDSB Registered Pointing Breeds

— A U. S. Complete Points Trial —

Grounds: To be held on the grounds of Joe and Brenda Edwards, 2517 Register Sutton Rd., Rose Hill, NC 28458; (GPS: 34.823367, -78.291128). U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association rules apply. Disabled handlers permitted with proper verification from U. S. Complete. Drawing: Thursday, December 26, 7:00 p.m., at the trial grounds.

OPEN WALKING PUPPY (20 Min.).....	\$30.00
OPEN WALKING DERBY (30 Min.)	\$40.00
*OPEN WALKING SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)	\$50.00
AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC (45 Min.)	\$80.00

*Purse divided 50-30-20 • Awards to 3 placements, minus grounds fees

Judges: To be announced



Call entries to: (440) 969-0273 or (440) 969-0567

Email: conneautcreekredsetters@gmail.com

(Email entries must include phone contact for verification)

Landowners and club officials are not responsible for accidents, losses, death or damages of any kind.

YOUR FIELD TRIAL AD HERE

All field trial ads may be found on the website
Calendar at: www.americanfield.com

Submit early to be included in print!

Please email ad particulars to:
gsmith@ukcdogs.com

ASSOCIATED FIELD TRIAL CLUBS OF FLORIDA

Babcock Webb Wildlife Management Area
Punta Gorda, FL

— 2024-25 Field Trial Schedule —



November 30-December 1 Char-Lee Trial

30-Min. Shooting Dog & All-Age; 20 Min. Puppy & 30-Min. Derby at club's discretion

December 28-30 Everglades Trial

Purina Points Trial

One-hour Shooting Dog & All-Age; 20-Min. Puppy & 30-Min. Derby at club's discretion

January 18-19 Piney Woods Trial

One-hour All-Age & 30-Min Shooting Dog; 30-Min. Derby & Puppy at club's discretion

February 1-2 Super Bowl Trial

One-hour Shooting Dog & All-Age; 20-Min. Puppy & 30-Min. Derby at club's discretion

February 15-16 Puppy/Derby Classics

30-Min Puppy, Derby, All-Age & Shooting Dog

All one-hour stakes are eligible for AFTCA Amateur Invitational Points

Continuous courses with native Bobwhite quail. The trials will be run in accordance with the "Guidelines to Field Trial Procedure and Judicial Practice." Drawings will be held at 8:00 p.m., in the clubhouse on the eve of each trial. No cash purse, prizes only. Bring your own meat for cookouts. Running water, electric hook-ups, stables, kennels, kitchen and showers available.

— Grounds will be open for training for two days following each trial —

JUSTIN MUZYNSKI, Pres.—Phone: (407) 744-4695

KATIE McEWEN, Secy.—Phone: (239) 357-8800; Email: Sarahkmce@gmail.com

BETH BROWN, Treas.—Phone: (941) 737-3660; Email: bbrowndvm@mindspring.com

HOFFMAN AMATEUR FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA & NCFTA • Blank ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns only!

DECEMBER 6-8, 2024

ROBERT GORDON AREA, HOFFMAN, NC



AMATEUR ALL-AGE INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL

PURINA POINTS TRIAL

Drawing: Tuesday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.,
at the home of Derek Bonner.

AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.) \$ 75.00

Points Stake for U.S. Amateur Derby Invitational Classic

AMATEUR ALL-AGE (1 Hour) \$125.00

Judges: Larry Cox, Randleman, NC,
and Whitley Stephenson, Smithfield, NC

Entries to: DEREK BONNER, Chairman
1065 Ferry Rd., Mooresboro, NC 28114

Phone: (828) 289-2300

The NC Wildlife Department, Hoffman Amateur Field Trial Club, and club members
are not responsible for accidents, or injuries to persons, animals, or equipment.

CONECUH STATION AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

Hosted by Conecuh Station Field Trial Club

Starts December 12, 2024, 8:00 a.m. until completion
Union Springs, AL



A PURINA POINTS TRIAL



ALABAMA FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION POINTS
DIXIE TRACE FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION POINTS
SOUTHERN BIRD HUNTERS ASSOCIATION POINTS

Directions to Grounds: Take Hwy. 29 South from Union Springs, AL. Travel approximately 8 miles. Turn right on South Gate Rd. just past Mile Marker 136. Look for Conecuh Station field trial sign. **Drawing:** Thursday, December 5, 6:00 p.m., at the Union Springs Country Club. Handlers will not be required to run in more than two consecutive braces. Registration information required. **Accommodations:** Master Rack Lodge (334) 474-3600. Ask for field trial rates. Barn, lots, and camper set-ups available at field trial site with handlers and their owners having priority. Breakfast and lunch provided.

AMATEUR DERBY \$ 60.00

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG \$125.00

Judges: Mike Moses and Squire Lee

Entries to: LISA LITTELL • Phone: (334) 649-0076

Entries accepted with the understanding that the Conecuh Station Field Trial Club, its officers and landowners, are not in any way responsible and cannot be held liable for any accidents or injuries involving anyone attending the trial, their horses, dogs or equipment. Abuse of Judges and Club Officials will not be tolerated. Unsportsmanlike conduct will result in immediate disqualification.



Eukanuba
Sporting Dog



SWAMP FOX OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

— Presented by Cock-N-Fire Field Trial Club —

Starts December 27, 2024*, 8:00 a.m.

Hoffman, NC Field Trial Grounds

*Start date depends on number of entries



A PURINA TOP SHOOTING DOG AWARD
& PURINA HANDLER AWARD POINTS TRIAL

NATIONAL SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER

OPEN SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour)—50%, 50-30-20.. Entry Fee \$275.00

OPEN DERBY—Time Permitting; 50%, 50-30-20 ... Entry Fee \$150.00

Judges: Gary & Ellen Winall, Powhatan, VA

A BBQ Supper will be held Saturday, December 28, at the clubhouse.

Drawing: Thursday, December 19, 5:00 p.m.

Entries to: ALLEN JOHNSON—(803) 464-5525

-or- JERRY RAYNOR—(910) 237-0619

Participants and spectators attend at their own risk.

UNITED STATES OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP & OPEN DERBY

Championship starts December 6, 2024, 7:30 a.m., with the Derby immediately following
at M. Barnett Lawley Forever Wild Field Trial Area
(former Cattle Ranch Grounds), Greensboro, Alabama



UNITED STATES OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP* (One-Hour Heats)

Entry Fee: \$400.00 • Purse: 50% divided 70-30

(**Runner-Up will be named.*)

**A PURINA TOP DOG AWARD POINTS STAKE, A PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR AWARD POINTS STAKE
& NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING STAKE**

(*\$20/dog NFTCA fee is included in entry fee.*)

All Championship entries must have a prior qualifying placement—1st, 2d, or 3d in an Open All-Age or Open Derby Stake—in order to be eligible.

OPEN DERBY (30 Min. Heats)

Entry Fee: \$150.00 • Purse: 50% divided 50-30-20

— NO LIVE AMMUNITION ALLOWED ON GROUNDS —

Blank Ammo .32 or larger

Drawing: Monday, December 2, 7:00 p.m. (CST).

Judges: Bill Mason, Moundville, AL, and Dr. Justin Howard, Sardis, AL

Entries to: RUTHANN EPP • Cell: (334) 412-7426 • No email entries accepted

Neither M. Barnett Lawley Forever Wild Field Trial Area nor the United States Field Trial Association will be responsible for any accidents of any kind at the trial.



Member AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

NVA WESTERN SHOOTING DOG, MORTENSEN DERBY & BILL GIBBONS NATIONAL ALL-AGE CLASSICS

January 4, 2025 to Conclusion • Sonoita, AZ

Grounds: Empire Ranch, 16655 East Empire Ranch Rd., Sonoita, AZ 85637 (GPS Coordinates: 31.7927, -110.62659). **Drawing:** Thursday, January 2, 8:00 p.m. (MST), on the grounds. Bitches in season may not run.

SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC\$200.00
DERBY CLASSIC\$100.00
ALL-AGE CLASSIC\$175.00

Judges: *Shooting Dog*—Forrest McPherson, Eagle Mountain, UT, and Art Cox, Eagle Mountain, UT; *Derby & All-Age*—Guy Mollicone, Hereford, AZ, and Dallas Hansen, Oakley, UT.

Entries to:

BONITA AUSTIN, Secretary • Phone: (801) 699-3943
7240 West Cole Creek Ln., Herriman, UT 84096
Email: boaaustin1@gmail.com

PATRICK CLARK, Co-Chair • Phone: (801) 712-6689
2941 Kletha Trail, Flagstaff, AZ 86005
Email: patrick@allpointsbirddogs.com



SANDLAPPER FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA & SCFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**JANUARY 9-12, 2025 (Depending on entries)
SPRING TRIAL**

**A PURINA TOP AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG AWARD
& AMATEUR INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL**



Sponsored by Purina

Grounds: John & Sue Ivester's Sawtooth Plantation, McBee, SC. From McBee, SC, go north on U.S. 1 3.5 miles to Wildlife Dr. (Carolina Sandhills Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Headquarters), turn left, go 1.4 miles and turn right on Wire Rd., go 1.7 miles to stone gate on right. **Pre-Drawing:** Monday, January 6, 6:00 p.m., at the home of Tim Ruff. Must submit AFTCA number when entering dogs.

***OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—50%, 50-30-20..... Entry Fee \$ 55.00**

***AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.) Entry Fee \$ 45.00**

H. COOPER BLACK MEMORIAL

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour)..... Entry Fee \$100.00

*Prizes to winners • *Time permitting*

Judges: Steve Browder, Pinewood, SC,
and Daniel Bell, Kenansville, SC

Entries to: TIM RUFF, Secretary • Cell: (803) 479-0880

— Please text entries if possible —

Any entry is accepted as a waiver of any claim for loss, or damage of any kind against the clubs, landowners, and sponsors. Current twelve-month Coggins required on all horses.



NBHA NATIONAL AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted by Missouri Bird Hunters Association

Member NBHA & AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

Starts December 4, 2024* • Grovespring, MO

(*May start December 3, depending on entries)

Grounds: Sportsmen's Association Grounds, Grovespring, MO. **Drawing:** Friday, November 29, 7:00 p.m. (CT), at the home of Trial Chairman Christian Ogle. **Qualification:** An Amateur Shooting Dog or Amateur Derby placement. FDSB registration and individual AFTCA member numbers required. **Meals:** Lunch will be served daily on the grounds. **Accommodations:** Hotels available in Lebanon, MO. Electrical hook-ups (\$10/day). Bunkhouse (first come, first served).

OPEN SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour)Entry Fee: \$ 90.00 + \$30.00 Grounds Fee
AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP (1 Hour)Entry Fee: \$130.00 + \$30.00 Grounds Fee
AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.).....Entry Fee: \$ 55.00 + \$20.00 Grounds Fee
AMATEUR PUPPY (20 Min.).....Entry Fee: \$ 40.00 + \$20.00 Grounds Fee

Judges: Kevin Western, Queen City, MO; Tim Penn, Edina, MO; Jim Ogle, Jasper, MO;
Jim Lawless, Sparta, IL; and Kenny Snow, Mouldrow, OK.

Entries to: CHRISTIAN OGLE, Trial Chairman

Phone: (417) 388-0734 • Email: jojoenglishsetters@gmail.com

NBHA, AFTCA, or Missouri BHA are not responsible for any accidents or injuries to any persons and/or animals. All participants, spectators, or visitors entering the grounds do so at their own risk.



Tony King
President

Ric Peterson
1st Vice-President

Larron Copeland
2nd Vice-President

Jim Pendergest
3rd Vice-President

ANNOUNCING THE FORTY-FOURTH RUNNING OF THE

NATIONAL AMATEUR ALL-AGE INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Sponsored by Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America • Manufactured solid barrel guns with blank ammo to be used.

Starts December 9, 2024

**Ames Plantation
Grand Junction, TN**



**Entry Fee: \$300.00
(One-Hour Heats)**

**Purina Amateur All-Age
Award Points**

Invitations have been extended to the following:

Game Heir (Dr. Fred Corder)
Imagine (Jim Pendergest)
Storm's End (Matt Pendergest)
Haney's Silver Dollar (Chris Cagle)

Touch's Lone Dominator (Kent Cantrell)
Haney's Storm Warning (Chris Cagle)
Como Thunder (David Russell)
Rebel Survivor (David Williams)

Phillips Linebacker (Nathan Phillips)
Coldwater Crackerjack (Gary McKibben)
Dialed In (Jim Pendergest)
Betty's Karma (Darrel Miller)

Dogs will be drawn unless notified otherwise. It is the owner's responsibility to confirm entry.

Grounds: No alcoholic beverages allowed on the courses. No stallions will be allowed on Plantation property. All horses must have a current negative Coggins Test (less than 12 months). All individuals stabling horses on Plantation property must provide Ames Plantation, for permanent possession, a photocopy of their current negative Coggins Test upon arrival. Those in attendance are special guests of the Ames Plantation and will be asked to comply cooperatively with staff concerning traditional running rules on the Ames Plantation. All entries must have AFTCA ID number. It is the owner's responsibility to confirm entry. **Drawing:** Sunday, December 8, 6:00 p.m. (CST), at the Rhea building. **Motel:** Travelers Inn, Bolivar, TN—(731) 658-7888. Field Trialers welcome. Ask for field trial rate. **Social:** Purina will host a dinner Monday night, December 9 at the Bird Dog Museum.

Judges: Ric Peterson, Germantown, TN, and Tony King, Audrain, MO • **Reporter:** Jim Atchison, Caruthersville, MO

GARMIN collars to the Winner and Runner-up.

No dog or handler suspended by The AMERICAN FIELD/UNITED KENNEL CLUB or FDSB will be declared a winner.

For information, contact: PIPER HUFFMAN • Cell: (662) 471-1700

REGION 3 (AFTCA) AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only! • .32 Caliber or Larger

— Sponsored by Purina —



Starts Thursday, December 12, 2024 (depending on entries)

To be run at Sandhills Wildlife Area, Hoffman, NC

Entry Fee: \$150.00 • Trophy to winner and runner-up

— **A NATIONAL AMATEUR INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER** —

Judges: Larry Cox, Randleman, NC, and Todd Williams, Derby, NC

Pre-Drawing: Tuesday, December 10, 2:00 p.m. Must be an AFTCA member. **Qualification:** Dogs must have an AFTCA Win Certificate in an Amateur All-Age or Amateur Derby stake. **Accommodations:** Best Western, Southern Pines, NC—(910) 693-2280. Ask for field trial rate.

Entries to: PAUL GADD • Cell: (828) 310-6688 • Office: (828) 322-9223

Tony King
President

Ric Peterson
1st Vice-President

Larron Copeland
2nd Vice-President

Jim Pendergest
3rd Vice-President

ANNOUNCING THE THIRTY-FOURTH RUNNING OF THE NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Sponsored by Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America • Manufactured solid barrel guns with blank ammo to be used.

Starts December 13, 2024
Round Pond Plantation
Leslie, GA



Entry Fee: \$300.00 (One-Hour Heats)
Purina Top Amateur Shooting Dog
Award Points

Invitations have been extended to the following:

Miller's Heat Wave (Fran Miller)
One Day Queen Bee (Lane Hodges)
Nemaha Tap Water (Dr. Pat McInteer)
Backcountry Bruiser (Chris Catanzarite)
J Maple Jester (Joe & Tessa Hughes)
Calico's Country Strong (Alex Smith)



Ramblin Rivers Natural (Bill Stapleton)
Calico's Over The Top (Alex Smith)
Alliwood's Eleventh Hour (Adam DeLude)
Great River Yellowstone (Brian Sanchez)
Southern Ritz Lane (Brian Peterson)
Miller's Triple Digit Heat (Allen Linder)

Accepted dogs will be drawn unless notified otherwise.

Directions to Grounds: From Leslie, GA, approx. 7 miles south on State Hwy. 195 and east on Batts Rd. (dirt). From Leesburg, GA, approx. 10 miles north on Hwy. 195 and east on Batts Rd. Follow signs. **Pre-Drawing:** Wednesday, December 11, 6:00 p.m. (CST), at the office of the secretary. All entries must have AFTCA ID number. It is the owner's responsibility to confirm entry. **Lodging:** Hampton Inn—(229) 924-3890 -or- Jameson Inn—(229) 924-2726. Both are in Americus, GA. Motels also in Albany, GA (20 Miles). **Social:** Purina will host a dinner Friday evening, December 13, on the grounds for participants of the Championship; Callbacks after Saturday's running, December 14, on the grounds, with appetizers for participants of the Championship.

Judges: John Mathys, DePere, WI, and Scott Jordan, White Bear Lake, MN

GARMIN collars to the Winner and Runner-Up.

No dog or handler suspended by The AMERICAN FIELD/UNITED KENNEL CLUB or FDSB will be declared a winner.

For information, contact: PIPER HUFFMAN • Cell: (662) 471-1700

REGION 3 (AFTCA) AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

Hosted by Gamecock Field Trial Club
December 13-15, 2024 • Camden, SC



Entry Fee: \$150.00

Judges: Mark Hughes, Grampian, PA, and Joe Cammisa

Grounds: Located seven miles east of Camden, SC, off U. S. Hwy. 1, on Kershaw County Park Land. Trial grounds courtesy of Mid-Carolina Field Trial Club. **Drawing:** Sunday, December 8, 8:00 p.m., at the home of Warren Parrott. Must have AFTCA number when calling entries in.

Entries to: WARREN PARROTT • Phone: (843) 598-1962

U. S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG ASSOCIATION



U.S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG ASSOCIATION OPEN INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

**Dogs listed are the Top Qualifiers, not necessarily the final entry.*

Smoke Rise Jake

Fred Rose, Owner
Tony Bingham, Handler

Miller's Hopped Up Version

Carlos Escalante, Owner
Mark Hughes, Handler

Miller's Special Upgrade

Carlos Escalante, Owner
Mark Hughes, Handler

Sweet Grass Skipper

David Huffine, Owner & Handler

Erin's Battle Cry

Dennis Beauford
& Charlie Timmerman, Owners
Tony Bingham, Handler

Wildland Hide The Wine

Eric Munden, Owner & Handler

December 16-18, 2024

Starts 8:00 A.M. each day

**Mid-Carolina Field Trial Grounds,
Camden, SC**

Drawing: Sunday, December 15, 6:30 p.m.,
at the grounds clubhouse.

Judges: Joe Cammisa, Butler, PA,
and Roger McPherson, Chesterfield, SC

Stake Manager: Cliff Monroe, Mooresboro, NC

Inquiries to: JAMESON CRANDALL, Secretary

Phone: (804) 577-3788

Email: jameson.crandall@gmail.com

Double Deuce Zeke

Doug McMillen, Owner
Mark Hughes, Handler

Sweet Grass Slim

David Huffine, Owner & Handler

Grousehill Rambo

John Capocci, Owner
Robert Ecker, Handler

Chasehill Poison Ivy

William & Karen McFadden, Owners
John Stogitis, Handler

Emert's Sho Me Mo

David Emert, Owner
Tony Bingham, Handler

Cates Rocket Girl

David Cates, Owner
Zach Erne, Handler



NORTH CAROLINA OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP & COMPANION OPEN DERBY

Hosted by North Carolina Field Trial Association

Member AFTCA & NCFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!



December 17, 2024 to Conclusion • Starts 8:00 A.M.
Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, Hoffman, NC



NORTH CAROLINA OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP (1 Hour)..... \$280.00

— A PURINA TOP SHOOTING DOG AWARD & PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR AWARD POINTS TRIAL —

Purse: 50% of entry fees split 50% to champion, 30% to runner-up, and two dogs named by the judges will receive 10% each.

Judges: Ed Jesson, Monroe, NC, and Hunter Prevette, Sanford, NC

NORTH CAROLINA OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—Time Permitting; Purse: 50% divided 50-30-20 \$100.00

— A PURINA TOP DERBY AWARD POINTS TRIAL —

Judges: Grayson Guyer, Midway, NC, and Mark Fulmer, Aiken, SC

Chairman: Johnny Atkinson • **Reporter:** Calvin Curnutte

Entries Close: Thursday, December 12, 12:00 noon. **Drawing:** Thursday, December 12, 8:00 p.m., at the Hoffman FTG clubhouse. Registered names only. **Qualification:** Placement in an American Field recognized Open Shooting Dog or Open Derby stake.

Lunches: Will be served. All State of North Carolina COVID-19 protocols in place will be adhered to. Electrical hook-ups available on a first come, first served basis for \$10 per night.

— Supported by Richmond County Tourism Development Authorities —

Entries to: CALVIN CURNUTTE • **Cell:** (910) 995-7902 • **Email:** drowningcreekgundogs@yahoo.com

Email will be confirmed and must be received before noon, Thursday, December 12.

Please do not request favors in draw. No entries via phone message.

Horses must have a Coggins test. Tracking collars allowed. Entries accepted with the understanding that the NCFTA, its members and directors are not responsible and cannot be held liable for any accidents or injury to any person, animal or property.

U.S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY, LES HOBBS PUPPY CLASSIC & ROBERT E. LEE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC



January 13-19, 2025 • Mid-Carolina Grounds, Camden, SC
Hosted by Broad River Field Trial Club

Start date and time dependent on entries • Supported by Purina & Garmin

ROBERT E. LEE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC (1 Hour)—Purse: 40% minus \$10/dog bird fee split 50-30-20 Entry Fee: \$150.00

Judges: Chris Catanzarite, Scenery Hill, PA, and Jameson Crandall, Kilmarnock, VA

29th U.S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY—To follow Robert E. Lee Classic Entry Fee: \$125.00

Judges: Ronnie and Daphne Rogers, New Market, TN

Purse: \$1,500 to be divided between breeders and owners (4 placements) • Winner also receives a Garmin collar and Purina dog food.

Proof of DNA required at owner's expense. Eligible derby dogs and litter information available from:

Verlene Stephenson, Futurity Secretary—Home: (252) 589-1521 or Email: verlene_stephenson@ncsu.edu

LES HOBBS OPEN PUPPY CLASSIC (30 Min.)—Open to all puppies; To follow Futurity Entry Fee: \$ 60.00

Judges: Cliff Monroe, Mooresboro, NC, and Tony Bingham, Shelby, NC

Directions to Grounds: Located seven miles east of Camden, SC, off US Hwy. 1, on Kershaw County Park Land at intersection of Field Trial Road and Greenfield Road. Lunch available on grounds. A handler meal sponsored by Carlos Escalante, owner of 2024 Bob Lee Classic winner, Miller's Hopped Up Version, will be provided. Futurity meal sponsored by Chris Catanzarite, owner of 2024 Futurity winner, Backcountry Snake Eyes. **Entries Close:** Thursday, January 9, 6:00 p.m. **Drawing to follow. Lodging:** Comfort Inn & Suites, Camden, SC—(803) 425-1010.

CLIFF MONROE, Field Trial Chairman • Phone: (704) 692-3580

All entries to: VERLENE STEPHENSON, Futurity Secretary

Home: (252) 589-1521 • Email: verlene_stephenson@ncsu.edu • [No voicemail or text entries. Emails will be confirmed.]

Manufactured closed barrels only. Retrieval collars permitted but not provided. USCSA Futurity, its officers, directors and sponsors are not in any way responsible for accidents or injury to person, animals or property. U.S. Complete handicap rule applies.

SOUTHEASTERN OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Member AFTCA & Dixie Trace FTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

January 15, 2025 to Conclusion • Starts 8:00 a.m. (EST)

The Farm, 157 SE Endless Ct., Lake City, FL 32024



**A PURINA TOP SHOOTING DOG AWARD, HANDLER OF THE YEAR AWARD
& DIXIE TRACE FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION POINTS TRIAL
NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER**



Qualification: Placement in an American Field recognized 30-minute or longer Open Shooting Dog or Derby stake. In the event more than 60 dogs are entered at the time of the drawing, the stake will revert to a 30-minute qualifying series with the judges selecting up to 12 dogs to run in a one-hour call-back. **Directions to Grounds:** Take Hwy. 247 South out of Lake City for 8 miles; The Farm will be on the left. Signs will be posted. To be run on continuous courses with wild and pre-released birds. **Drawing:** Monday, January 13, 1:00 p.m. (EST), at Joel Norman's house, 39 SE 891 Ave., Suwannee, FL 32692.

SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP (One-Hour Heats) Entry Fee: \$300.00 + \$25.00 Grounds Fee

Purse: 60% of entry fees divided 70-30

Judges: Mark Haynes, Brownsville, TN, and Keith St. John, South Fulton, TN • **Reporter:** Joel Norman

*Thank you to Mr. Chester Stokes for the promotion of the sport and for providing
a great place for the Southeastern Open Shooting Dog Championship to be held.*

Entries to: JOEL NORMAN, President • Phone: (352) 356-3561

P.O. Box 87, Suwannee, FL 32692

The Southeastern Open Shooting Dog Championship, its officers, members, and landowner disclaim all liability or responsibility for loss, accident or injury to visitors, participants, their animals and equipment.



REGION 6 (AFTCA) AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted by Carroll County Field Trial Club

Member AFTCA, Region 6 & Mid-South AFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

Starts Thursday, January 23, 2024 • Huntingdon, TN

*(*Depending on number of entries)*



**A NATIONAL AMATEUR ALL-AGE INVITATIONAL, REGION 6 DOG OF THE YEAR
& PURINA AMATEUR ALL-AGE POINTS TRIAL**

Entry Fee: \$125.00 + \$25.00 Bird Fee • One-Hour Heats

Judges: Dr. Allen Dunbar, Oconto, WI, and Ed Liermann, Palmyra, WI

Grounds: Located at 1431 Smyrna Rd., Huntingdon, TN 38344. **Drawing:** Monday, January 20, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Region 6 Secretary Lisa Little. An AFTCA Win Certificate number, AFTCA Member number and FDSB registered name and number must accompany each entry.

Entries to: LISA LITTLE, Region 6 Secretary, 1301 Ross Dr., Woodlawn, TN 37191

Phone: (931) 980-0452 • Email: doubletroublestables@yahoo.com

Region 6 and its members are not responsible for accidents. Participation in the trial as either a spectator, handler, owner, scout, or in any other capacity constitutes a waiver and release of Region 6 officers, members and landowners from any and all liabilities for accidents or other losses.

NGSPA

Open Shooting Dog Invitational
The Standard is Set!

2024 NGSPA Open Shooting Dog *Invitational Championship*

December 2-5, 2024

Smith Farms, 5002 State Highway O, Gentry, MO

Entry Fee: \$500.00 (Due the night of drawing)

Drawing: Sunday, December 1, 6:30 P.M., at Hughes Bar X Ranch, 1405 E. Hwy. 136, Albany, MO.

Judges: Tom Griffin, Esparto, CA, and Mick Cheshire, Highlands Ranch, CO

NGSPA DOG OF THE YEAR AND PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR POINTS TRIAL

Confirmed Participants:

- **Llano's Game On Greta**
Chad Inderman, Owner • Josh Nieman, Handler
- **Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee**
Kirk Loftin, Owner & Handler
- **Monkeyshine's Call Me The Breeze**
Helmut Schoen, Owner • Dan DiMambro, Handler
- **Uodibar's Robbi Jo**
Sherri Tangsrud, Owner • Kirk Loftin, Handler
- **Autry's Natural Chromoly Steel**
Heath Autry, Owner • Josh Nieman, Handler
- **Hi N's Curtain Call**
Hank Lewis, Owner & Handler
- **Quijano's W D Forty Rusty**
David Quijano, Owner • Josh Nieman, Handler
- **P W That Was Then This Is Now**
Keith & Bobbi Richardson, Owners • Rich Robertson, Handler
- **Right Stuff's Rock N Roll**
William Padavano, Owner • Dan DiMambro, Handler
- **B D K's Dirty Harry**
Mark Wasserman & Emily Weiss, Owners • Josh Nieman, Handler
- **Perfections Huckleberry**
Jon & Jess Hann, Owners • Jon Hann, Handler
- **Macke's Jim Bob**
Abe Macke, Owner & Handler

PRIZE PACKAGES

Winning Handler:

- \$5,000 Guaranteed Purse
- Purina ProPlan: 12 large bags

Winning Dog's Owner(s):

- Purina Gift: Original Ross Young Oil Painting of Winner
- Garmin Collar
- \$500 Cabela's Gift Certificate

Twelve dogs will compete. Their selection is based upon NGSPA Open Shooting Dog award points earned from June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024. The prior year's winner receives an automatic invitation. All braces will be one-hour heats on two consecutive days. Third day is a call-back with one-hour heats. Judges will determine number of dogs called back.

General Information

Both Invitationals will be held back to back with one day in between. Closest airport is Kansas City, MO. Quail are released. Calcutta night of drawing. All meals catered at cost of \$45 per day per person. Limited electrical hook-ups available. Horse pens and hay available. JJJ wrangled horses available with prior arrangements—call (641) 202-6604. Catered dinners nightly at Hughes Bar X Ranch, Albany, MO. Special wines from Keith's cellar. Jacket and tie appreciated. Guidelines and other information on www.NGSPA.org.

For questions, contact:

Keith Richardson

Cell: (307) 630-9907

Email: gspkeith@gmail.com



NGSPA

2024 NGSPA Amateur Shooting Dog *Invitational Championship*

Amateur Shooting Dog Invitational

The Standard is Set!

Starts second day after Open Shooting Dog Invitational ends*
Smith Farms, 5002 State Highway O, Gentry, MO

**Probable dates are December 6-8, 2024*

Entry Fee: \$500.00 (Due the night of drawing)

Drawing: The night before start date, 6:30 P.M., at Hughes Bar X Ranch, 1405 E. Hwy. 136, Albany, MO.

Judges: Ray Larrondo, Nampa, ID, and one to be announced

NGSPA DOG OF THE YEAR AND PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR POINTS TRIAL

Confirmed Participants:

• B M B's Madison Ave

Brandon & Jennifer Blum, Owners • Brandon Blum, Handler

• Uodibar's Robbi Jo

Sherri Tangsrud, Owner • Kirk Loftin, Handler

• In Country's Hurricane Jane

Robert Reynolds, DVM & Chris Young, Owners • Chris Young, Handler

• M S R's Kiss My Lily

James & Sarah Messer, Owners • James Messer, Handler

• Hi Tailyn Skye

Scott Bodensstab, Owner & Handler

• Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee

Kirk Loftin, Owner & Handler

• Autry's Natural Chromoly Steel

Heath & Allison Autry, Owners • Heath Autry, Handler

• Uodibar's Lover Boy

Sherri Tangsrud, Owner • Kirk Loftin, Handler

• Sunny Fields Warchief

Art Terstage, Owner & Handler

• Highwaters Lex Luther

Blake Rizzo, Owner & Handler

• Macke's Jim Bob

Abe Macke, Owner & Handler

• Hi N's Curtain Call

Hank Lewis, Owner & Handler

Winning Owner Prize Package Includes:

- Purina Gift: Original Ross Young Oil Painting of Winner
- Tucker Saddle, Engraved
- Purina ProPlan: 12 large bags
- SportDOG Collar
- \$500 Cabela's Gift Certificate

Twelve dogs will compete. Their selection is based upon NGSPA Amateur Shooting Dog award points earned from June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024. The prior year's winner receives an automatic invitation. All braces will be one-hour heats on two consecutive days. Third day is a call-back with one-hour heats. Judges will determine number of dogs called back.

General Information

Both Invitationals will be held back to back with one day in between. Closest airport is Kansas City, MO. Quail are released. Calcutta night of drawing. All meals catered at cost of \$45 per day per person. Limited electrical hook-ups available. Horse pens and hay available. JJJ wrangled horses available with prior arrangements—call (641) 202-6604. Catered dinners nightly at Hughes Bar X Ranch, Albany, MO. Special wines from Keith's cellar. Jacket and tie appreciated. Guidelines and other information on www.NGSPA.org.

For questions, contact:

Keith Richardson

Cell: (307) 630-9907

Email: gspkeith@gmail.com



Gary Futch
President
Statesboro, GA
(912) 536-0129

Art Lively
Vice-President
Waynesboro, GA
(706) 360-2235

Craig Elliott
Secretary
Waynesboro, GA
(706) 833-3574

Nell Mobley
Secretary Emeritus
Waynesboro, GA
(706) 466-2991

John Ray Kimbrell
Stake Manager
(803) 322-3073

GEORGIA FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

Welcomes owners, handlers and guests to the 2025 running of the GFTA!
Starts Thursday, January 2, 2025 • Waynesboro, Georgia

— *Bird Dog Capital of the World* —

GEORGIA DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP

— One of the three Derby Championships to qualify for the National Championship —
Winner of the Derby Championship will automatically qualify to run in the 2025 National Championship

Entry Fee: \$250.00** • **Purse:** 55% divided 60-40 (Runner-Up will be named)

*Beautiful sterling silver "Berol's Greenwood Pep" Challenge Trophy to winner, donated by
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Berol (to be kept in club's possession). Keepsake trophy to winner donated by GFTA.*

Judges: Tim Moore, Blakely, GA, and Harold Johnson, Shorter, AL

followed by GEORGIA QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP

QUALIFYING TRIAL FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP • A PURINA AWARD POINTS STAKE

Entry Fee: \$300.00** • **Purse:** 55% divided 60-40 (Runner-Up will be named)

*The "Addison Simpson Memorial Challenge Trophy" to the winner, donated by
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Berol (to be kept in club's possession). Keepsake trophy to winner donated by GFTA.*
A dog must be qualified by having placed in a recognized Open All-Age or Open Derby stake to participate.

Judges: Tricia Rentz, Brooks, GA, and Larry Cox, Randleman, NC • **Reporter:** To be announced

****Includes \$10 bird fee and \$20 National Championship qualifying fee**

Pre-Drawing: Monday, December 30, 2024, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Nell Mobley.

Entries to Nell Mobley—(706) 554-2991, (706) 466-2991 or Gary Futch—(912) 536-0129.

Following the Quail Championship, but not before Friday, January 10

Plenty of birds, including released daily. Courses have been opened up with viewing to please any handler!

GEORGIA SHOOTING DOG DERBY CLASSIC

Entry Fee \$175.00 + \$10 bird fee • One-Hour Heats • Purse: 55% of entry fees to be divided 50-30-20.

Judges: Mike Jackson, Battle Ground, IN, and Phil Stevenson, Saltville, VA

followed by GEORGIA OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Entry Fee \$250.00 + \$10 bird fee • One-Hour Heats • Purse: 55% of entry fees divided 70-30 (Runner-Up will be named).

Berol Challenge Trophy to Champion (stays in club's possession). Keepsake trophy to winners.

Lamar Mobley Open Shooting Dog Championship Memorial Trophy will be given to the Champion (stays in club's possession). Keepsake trophy to winners.

A dog must be qualified by having placed in a recognized Open Shooting Dog or Open Derby stake to participate.

— **POINTS STAKE FOR PURINA TOP SHOOTING DOG & PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR AWARDS** —

Judges: Whitley Stephenson, Smithfield, NC, and Phil Stevenson, Saltville, VA

Pre-Drawing: Wednesday, January 8, 7:00 p.m., at home of Nell Mobley. Phone: (706) 554-2991 or (706) 466-2991.

Phoned entries accepted until 7:00 p.m.

All one-hour heats qualify for all Amateur and Open Shooting Dog Championships, except the National.

Trials will be run on Di-Lane Plantation, 4854 Herndon Road, Waynesboro, Georgia (property purchased by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, leased to the State of Georgia as Public Wildlife Management land). Birds will be released daily. Retrieval collars may be used. Six braces each day. **NO LIVE AMMUNITION!** No dogs will be posted. No vehicles allowed on courses. **Headquarters & Accommodations:** Hampton Inn, 235 Peachtree St., Waynesboro, GA. Call for reservations: (706) 558-4190. Ask for field trial rates. Stalls and hay available. Lunch to be served. Owners' and Handlers' Banquet to be announced.

— **Sponsored by Purina, Hampton Inn and Burke County Chamber of Commerce** —

The club, club members and Georgia Department of Natural Resources are not responsible for accidents or injuries to animals or persons.





Open All-Age Invitational
The Standard Will Be Set!

2024 NGSPA 7th Annual Open All-Age *Invitational Championship*

January 4-6, 2025 • Hell Creek WMA*, Blue Mountain, MS

**Do not use GPS directions; Proper directions mailed to entrants or call Keith.*

Entry Fee: \$450.00 (Due the night of drawing)

Drawing: January 3, at the Hell Creek Clubhouse during dinner.

Judges: To be announced

NGSPA DOG OF THE YEAR AND PURINA HANDLER OF THE YEAR POINTS TRIAL

Confirmed Participants:

- **B M B's Free Ride**

Brandon & Jennifer Blum, Owners

- **Chicoree's Riden High Trixie**

Rondal J. Alexander, Owner

- **B M B's Freeloader**

Brandon & Jennifer Blum, Owners

- **Hi N's Dirty Secret**

Hank Lewis, Owner

- **Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee**

Kirk Loftin, Owner

- **Texas Tuff**

Terry Bomer, Owner

- **High Standing Cuttin Edge**

Anthony & Dayna Rusciano, Owners

- **Evergreen's Jed**

Lance Olsen, Owner

- **Hi N's Allison Miranda**

Kirk Loftin, Owner

- **H's Am Cruiser**

Harlan Higginbotham & Chase Verdoorn, Owners

- **A O Tripps To Win**

Alan O. Davison, Owner

- **Cuttin Wild's Rebel Yell**

Michael Patrick, Owner

PRIZE PACKAGES

Winning Handler:

- \$5,000 Guaranteed Purse
- Purina ProPlan: 12 large bags

Winning Dog's Owner(s):

- Purina Gift: Original Ross Young Oil Painting of Winner
- Garmin or SportDOG Collar

Twelve dogs will compete. Their selection is based upon NGSPA Open All-Age award points earned from June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024. The prior year's winner will receive an automatic invitation. All braces will be one-hour heats on two consecutive days. Third day is a call-back with 90-minute heats. Judges will determine number of dogs called back.

General Information

Closest major airport is Memphis, TN. Grounds are about a 90-minute drive. Quail are released. Calcutta night of drawing. All meals catered at a cost of \$45 per person per day. Limited electrical hook-ups available. Horse pens and hay available. There will be a charge for hay. Jacket and tie appreciated. Unique Guidelines apply to this event; Available at www.ngspa.org.

For questions, contact:

Keith Richardson

Cell: (307) 630-9907

Email: gspkeith@gmail.com



Amateur Field Trial Clubs of Americawww.aftca.org

Piper Huffman, Secretary

Phone: (662) 223-0126

Email: piper.huffman@aim.com**American Bird Hunters Association**www.facebook.com/trialabha/

Ronnie Rogers, President

Phone: (865) 712-9229

Email: esetter34@yahoo.com**National Bird Hunters Association**www.nbhadowg.org

Ken Sauer, President

Phone: (281) 960-2508

Email: kfsauer@sbcglobal.net

Tim Penn, Secretary

Phone: (660) 341-1165

Email: tpennhwy6@gmail.com**National German Shorthaired Pointer Association**www.ngspa.org

Natalie Inderman, Secretary

Phone: (806) 777-2769

Email: Nataliealicia@ymail.com**National Red Setter Field Trial Club**www.nrsftc.com

Ed Liermann

Phone: (414) 625-0715

Email: eal1886@aol.com**National Vizsla Association**www.thenva.org

Robert Tomczak

Phone: (715) 829-8104

Email: shilohkl@aol.com**Southern Bird Hunters Association**www.southernbirdhunters.org

Marty Robinson, President

Phone: (770) 862-6568

Bruce Mercer, Secretary

Phone: (470) 345-6369

Email: mercercbruce@hotmail.com

Georgia Casey, Treasurer

Phone: (618) 638-2952

U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Associationwww.uscomplete.org

Chris Catanzarite, President

Phone: (724) 884-7244

Email: Catanzarite@fairpoint.net

Bill Bonnetti, Vice-President

Phone: (508) 648-0598

Email: bonnetti-william@comcast.net

Jameson Crandall, Secretary/Treasurer

Phone: (804) 577-3788

Email: jameson.crandall@gmail.com

FUTURITIES

Grand National Grouse Futurity

Thor Kain

Phone: (570) 702-6670

Email: TKain63@gmail.com**Midwest Vizsla Futurity**

Rodney Albin

Phone: (636) 366-9746

Email: rodneyalbin@centurytel.net**National Bird Hunters Assn. Futurity**

Jim Ogle

Phone: (417) 388-0734

Email: jojosenglishsetters@gmail.com**National German Shorthaired Pointer Assn.**

Jeff Wallace, Futurity Manager

Phone: (641) 891-9513

Email: jeffwallace@iowatelecom.net**National Red Setter Futurity**

James Inbody

Phone: (330) 306-8065

Email: BonasaHunter72@aol.com**National Shooting Dog Futurity**

Mark Hughes

Phone: (814) 591-3540

Email: mdh275@gmail.com**National Walking Shooting Dog Futurity**

Krysta Munden

Phone: (724) 840-8400

Email: krystamunden@gmail.com**New England Shooting Dog Futurity**

Margaret C. Drew

Phone: (910) 206-0079

Email: margaretdrew39@gmail.com**North American Woodcock Futurity**

Joe Dahl

Phone: (207) 478-3063

Email: JosephDahl@aol.com**Southern Bird Hunters Assn. Futurity**

Bruce Mercer

Phone: (470) 345-6369

Email: mercercbruce@hotmail.com**U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Assn. Futurity**

Verlene Stephenson

Phone: (252) 589-1521

Email: verlene_stephenson@ncsu.edu**United States Quail Shooting Dog Futurity**

Margaret C. Drew

Phone: (910) 206-0079

Email: bmdrew@windstream.net

RECOGNIZED FIELD TRIALS

NGSPA Open Shooting Dog**Invitational Championship**

December 2 / Gentry, MO

Contact: Keith Richardson

Phone: (307) 630-9907

Email: gspkeith@gmail.com**South Carolina Open Shooting Dog Championship**

December 2 / Cheraw, SC

Contact: Roger McPherson

Phone: (814) 657-0712

Email: rjmcpherson46@gmail.com**Kentucky Quail Classic**

December 3 / Kevil, KY

Contact: Mary Sue Schalk

Phone: (270) 625-0196

Ozark & Arkansas Open Shooting Dog**Championships**

December 4 / Conway, AR

Contact: Steve Messick

Phone: (501) 680-2862

Alabama Field Trial Club

December 5 / Myrtle, MS

Contact: Greg Bain

Phone: (256) 762-2014

Bama Quail Classic

December 5 / Tuskegee, AL

Contact: Bill Goodwin

Phone: (334) 467-5100

Hoffman Amateur Field Trial Club

December 6 / Hoffman, NC

Contact: Derek Bonner

Phone: (828) 289-2300

NGSPA Amateur Shooting Dog**Invitational Championship**

December 6 / Gentry, MO

Contact: Keith Richardson

Phone: (307) 630-9907

Email: gspkeith@gmail.com**Region 11 (AFTCA) Amateur Shooting Dog Championship**

December 6 / Valley Springs, CA

Contact: Jan Corbitt

Phone: (209) 613-5327

Email: Ladymarten@aol.com**Tennessee Valley Field Trial Club**

December 6 / LaVergne, TN

Contact: Ronnie Rogers

Phone: (865) 712-9229 or (865) 475-3459

United States Open Championship & Derby

December 6 / Greensboro, AL

Contact: Ruthann Epp

Phone: (334) 412-7426

Lee County Field Trial Club

December 7 / Bronwood, GA

Contact: Larron Copeland

Phone: (229) 317-1812

All Japan Open Shooting Dog Championship

December 8 / Tone River, Ibaraki Pref.

Contact: Yoshiharu Akisada

Phone: 0537-73-2393

National Amateur All-Age**Invitational Championship**

December 9 / Grand Junction, TN

Contact: Piper Huffman

Phone: (662) 471-1700

Missouri State All-Age Classic & Memorial Derby

December 12 / Grovespring, MO

Contact: Jay Lewis

Phone: (573) 489-4373

Region 3 (AFTCA) Amateur**All-Age Championship**

December 12 / Hoffman, NC

Contact: Paul Gadd

Phone: (828) 310-6688 or (828) 322-9223

National Amateur Shooting Dog**Invitational Championship**

December 13 / Leslie, GA

Contact: Piper Huffman

Phone: (662) 471-1700

Region 3 (AFTCA) Amateur**Walking Shooting Dog Championship**

December 13 / Camden, SC

Contact: Warren Parrott

Phone: (843) 598-1962

Region 6 (AFTCA) Amateur**All-Age Championship**

December 13 / Greensboro, AL

Contact: Bill Mason

Phone: (334) 654-1372

River Valley Sportsman Association

December 15 / Conway, AR

Contact: Robby Robinson

Phone: (479) 970-0434

Tsukuba Field Trial Club

December 15 / Sakaecho Field

Contact: Susumu Yagami

RECOGNIZED FIELD TRIALS

North Carolina Open Shooting Dog Championship

December 17 / Hoffman, NC
Contact: Calvin Curnutte
Phone: (910) 995-7902

South Carolina Amateur Classic Celebration

December 20 / Pamplico, SC
Contact: Rodney Poston
Phone: (843) 319-4814
Email: Rposton1023@gmail.com

Bando Field Trial Club

December 22 / Bando Tone Field, Ibaragi-ken
Contact: Toshikazu Tanaka
Email: east-city@aa.wakwak.com

Shadow Oak Field Trial Club

December 26 / Leesburg, GA
Contact: Martha Neely
Phone: (229) 894-7766

Swamp Fox Open Shooting Dog Classic

December 27 / Hoffman, NC
Contact: Allen Johnson
Phone: (803) 464-5525

Associated Field Trial Clubs of Florida

December 28 / Punta Gorda, FL
Contact: Petie Beth Brown
Phone: (941) 962-4024

Eastern Kanto Field Trial Club

December 29 / Sakaethyo Field, Tiba-Pref.
Contact: Kazumi Sekioka
Phone: 090-3542-5087

Ames Amateur Joe G. Walker

Memorial Field Trial
December 30 / Grand Junction, TN
Contact: Kent Walker
Phone: (901) 277-1527

— 2025 —

Georgia Derby & Quail Championships

January 2 / Waynesboro, GA
Contact: Nell Mobley
Phone: (706) 554-2991 or (706) 466-2991

United States Quail Shooting Dog Futurity

January 2 / Hoffman, NC
Contact: Margaret C. Drew
Phone: (910) 281-5259 or (910) 206-0079
Email: bmdrew@windstream.net

South Carolina Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

January 3 / Cheraw, SC
Contact: Mac Stidham
Phone: (803) 479-5606
Email: mstidham49@yahoo.com

Tennessee Open Shooting Dog Championship

January 3 / LaVergne, TN
Contact: Pam Morrison
Phone: (931) 668-9319 or (931) 212-5628
Email: bjpmorrison@benlomand.net

NGSPA Open All-Age Invitational Championship

January 4 / Blue Mountain, MS
Contact: Keith Richardson
Phone: (307) 630-9907
Email: gspkeith@gmail.com

NVA Western Shooting Dog Classic

January 4 / Sonoita, AZ
Contact: Bonita Austin
Phone: (801) 699-3493
Email: boastin1@gmail.com

Sandlapper Field Trial Club

January 9 / McBee, SC
Contact: Tim Ruff
Phone: (803) 479-0880

Georgia Open Shooting Dog Championship

& Derby Classic
January 10 / Waynesboro, GA
Contact: Nell Mobley
Phone: (706) 554-2991 or (706) 466-2991

Fuji Field Trial Club

January 12 / Bando Tone River Field
Contact: Satoshi Kobayashi

California Bird Dog Championship

January 13 / California City, CA
Contact: Terry Erickson
Phone: (562) 208-2334

Tachibana Bird Dog Club

January 13 / Kanna River Field, Fujioka Gunma-Pref.
Contact: Norio Yamazaki

Coalfield Bird Dog Club

January 15 / Kevil, KY
Contact: Mary Sue Schalk
Phone: (270) 625-0196

Southeastern Open Shooting Dog Championship

January 15 / Lake City, FL
Contact: Joel Norman
Phone: (352) 356-3561

Arizona Open Shooting Dog Championship

January 17 / California City, CA
Contact: John Beauchamp
Phone: (480) 235-1570
Email: johnbeauchamp@gmail.com

Gulf Coast Open Shooting Dog Championship

January 20 / Union Springs, AL
Contact: Robert Moorer
Phone: (334) 558-7080

Atlantic Coast Open Shooting Dog Championship

January 21 / Hoffman, NC
Contact: David Huffine
Phone: (910) 620-2970
Email: dhuffine1951@gmail.com

Region 6 (AFTCA) Amateur

All-Age Championship

January 23 / Huntingdon, TN
Contact: Lisa Little
Phone: (931) 980-0452
Email: doubletroublestables@yahoo.com

National Open Shooting Dog Championship

February 3 / Union Springs, AL
Contact: Heather Klinck
Phone: (334) 207-9422
Email: hsklinck@gmail.com

Fort Mill Field Trial Club

February 13 / McBee, SC
Contact: Tom Brigman
Phone: (410) 908-4428

NVA Eastern Shooting Dog Classic

February 14 / Cheraw, SC
Contact: Brandon Johnson
Phone: (757) 784-1626
Email: bwjohn@icloud.com

Delaware Valley Bird Dog Club

February 16 / Bernville, PA
Contact: James Humes Jr.
Phone: (484) 550-2957
Email: jphjr1215@gmail.com

Carolina Amateur Field Trial Club

February 20 / Hoffman, NC
Contact: Calvin Curnutte
Phone: (910) 995-7902

Region 5 (AFTCA) Amateur

Walking Shooting Dog Championship

February 21 / Cutler, IL
Contact: Brad Hargis
Phone: (618) 292-1798

West Kentucky Field Trial Club

February 21 / Kevil, KY
Contact: Mary Sue Schalk
Phone: (270) 625-0196

Chestnut Bird Dog Club

February 23 / Ibaraki, Japan
Contact: Kouzou Sakanashi
Email: kouzouilly@gmail.com

Eastern Kanto Field Trial Club

February 24 / Sakaethyo Field, Tiba-Pref.
Contact: Kazumi Sekioka
Phone: 090-3542-5087

Delaware Valley Bird Dog Club

March 1 / Bernville, PA
Contact: James Humes Jr.
Phone: (484) 550-2957
Email: jphjr1215@gmail.com

Willie "Byrd" Owens Puppy & Derby

March 6 / Union Springs, AL
Contact: Hunter McDuffie
Phone: (334) 207-3887

All-America Championships

March 7 / Cutler, IL
Contact: Nathan Phillips
Phone: (812) 499-0418

South Carolina Open All-Age Classic

March 10 / Cheraw, SC
Contact: Calvin Curnutte
Phone: (910) 995-7902

9A Field Trial Club

March 13 / Union Springs, AL
Contact: Hunter McDuffie
Phone: (334) 207-3887

Tsukuba Field Trial Club

March 16 / Sakaecho Field
Contact: Susumu Yagami

Cedar Valley Open Shooting Dog Classic

March 21 / Hoffman, NC
Contact: Calvin Curnutte
Phone: (910) 995-7902

Kanto Pointing Dog Club

March 23 / Fujioka-City, Gunma Pref.
Contact: Nobumasa Takeishi
Phone: 0299-69-2915

Region 5 (AFTCA)

Amateur All-Age Championship

March 27 / Pinckneyville, IL
Contact: Jon Lam
Phone: (618) 967-5906
Email: Jonlam17@yahoo.com

Egyptian Open Shooting Dog Championship

March 31 / Cutler, IL
Contact: Jim Lawless
Phone: (618) 317-7811

ABHA TRIALS

(No trials scheduled)

NBHA TRIALS

NBHA National Amateur Championship

December 3 / Grovespring, MO
Contact: Christian Ogle
Phone: (417) 388-0734
Email: jojoenglishsetters@gmail.com

Licking River Bird Dog Club

December 7 / Berea, KY
Contact: Jonathan Dunn
Phone: (859) 404-7359

Bluegrass Walking Shooting Dog Club

December 14 / Berea, KY
Contact: Gary Vitali
Phone: (859) 351-1266

Indian Territory Bird Hunters Club

December 14 / Lenepah, OK
Contact: Jessica Hardy
Phone: (918) 636-3132
Email: jessicahardy930@gmail.com

Northern New Jersey Field Trial Club

December 15 / Franklin, NJ
Contact: Jillian Stuhr
Phone: (570) 369-8624
Email: jillian.stuhr@gmail.com

NBHA Kentucky State Classic

December 20 / Kevil, KY
Contact: Mary Sue Schalk
Phone: (270) 625-0196

RECOGNIZED FIELD TRIALS

— 2025 —

Arkansas State Classic
January 16 / Booneville, AR
Contact: Glenn Cumbie
Phone: (479) 461-5509

Coalfield Bird Dog Club
April 11 / Dixon, KY
Contact: Mary Sue Schalk
Phone: (270) 625-0196

SBHA TRIALS**Alabama Open Shooting Dog Championship**

December 2 / Union Springs, AL
Contact: Robert Moorer
Phone: (334) 558-7080

Conecuh Station Field Trial Club

December 12 / Union Springs, AL
Contact: Robert Moorer
Phone: (334) 558-7080

USCSDA TRIALS**Peninsula Bird Hunters Club**

December 7 / Ahoskie, NC
Contact: Ashby Morgan
Phone: (804) 384-7185

Mohegan Bird Dog Club

December 8 / Nescopeck, PA
Contact: Robert Ecker
Phone: (570) 778-3009

USCSDA Open Invitational Championship

December 16 / Camden, SC
Contact: Jameson Crandall
Phone: (804) 577-3788
Email: jameson.crandall@gmail.com

American Red Setter Bird Dog Club

December 28 / Rose Hill, NC
Contact: Al Fazenbaker
Phone: (440) 969-0273 or (440) 969-0567
Email: conneautcreekredsetters@gmail.com

— 2025 —

Powhatan Field Trial Club

January 4 / Buckingham, VA
Contact: Dennis Kivikko
Phone: (804) 218-4581
Email: dtmnine@gmail.com

USCSDA Futurity & Classics

January 13 / Camden, SC
Contact: Verlene Stephenson
Phone: (252) 589-1521
Email: verlene_stephenson@ncsu.edu

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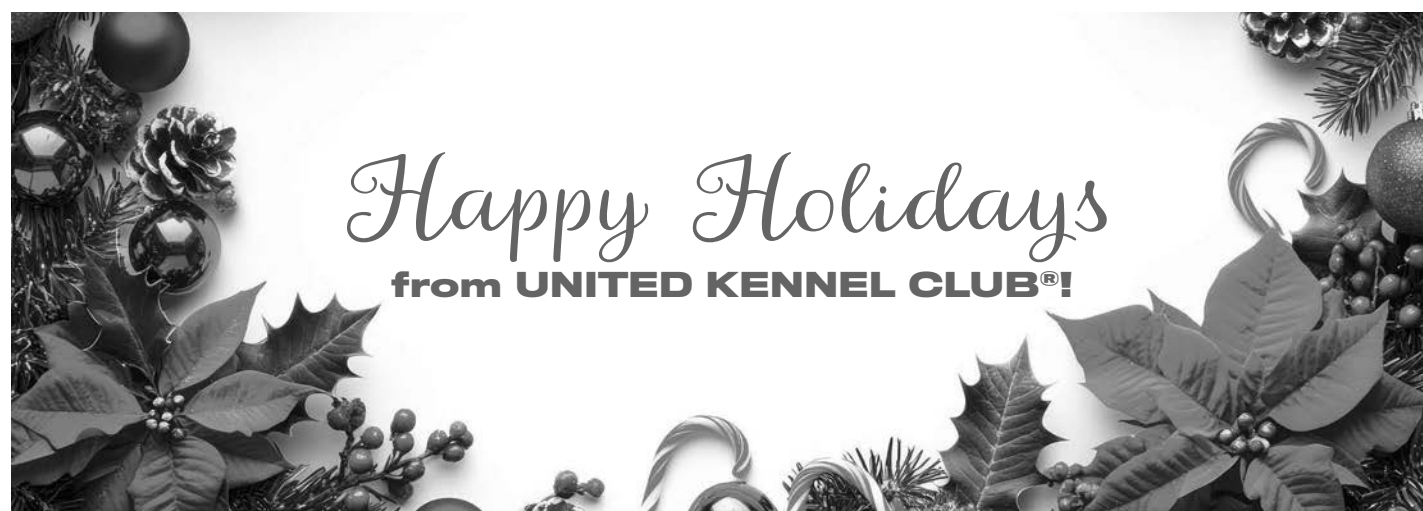
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