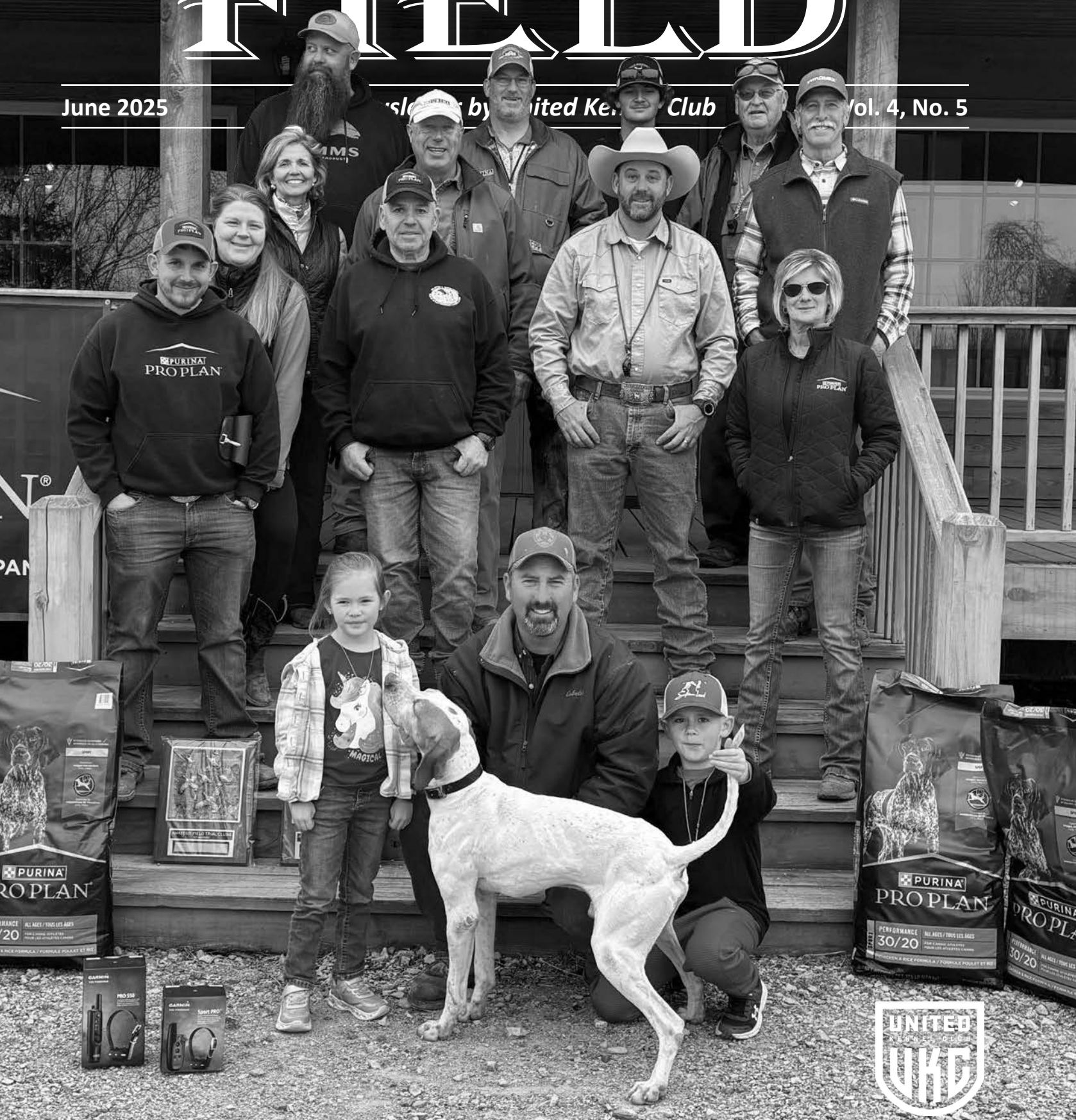


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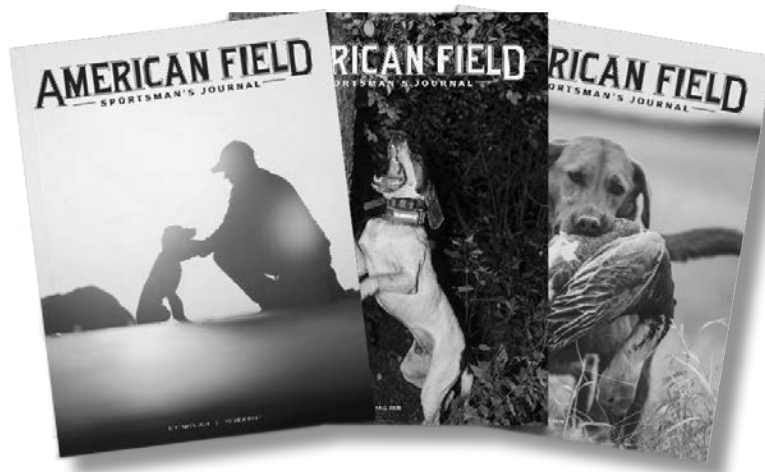


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National Champion



ERIN'S PERFECT STORM

Brad Woodie, Owner | Luke Eisenhart, Handler | Sean Derrig, Breeder
[Photo by Chris Mathan]

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ON THE
COVER

CH. CALICO'S OVER THE TOP

#F1692315 • Sire: Ch. Dominator's Rebel Heir • Dam: Ch. Calico's Country Strong
Alex & Tiffani Smith, Owners • Alex Smith, Handler



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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™.

Remembering Dr. John Webb

By David A. Fletcher

My thanks to Mary Crawford for sending me notice of the death of my longtime friend, Dr. John Webb of Carrollton, Ga., on April 4. He was 98. John was a great friend, a companion at many trials, and one of the most dedicated men to the Brittany breed and Brittany field trials I have ever known. He was a great leader and president of many organizations, some nationally, and he chaired annual meetings and other functions with great dexterity and expertise. When I got the news of his death from Mary Crawford, I immediately phoned Bernie Matthys, Dale Bush, and Rick and Delmar Smith to give them the sad news. Those were the only personalities left among my friends who had spent time with and knew well the wonderful qualities of Dr. John Webb. My condolences also go out to John's wife, Judy, who shared John's many years with the Brittany field trial group.

Born in Mountain View, Arkansas, John graduated from the University of Arkansas School of Medicine, enlisted in the Army, and served a term in Italy as a company doctor.

John's wife of 62 years, Judy, was also a member of the military. Back home, John served in the Army reserves, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, then completed a Pathology residency at the University of Texas in Galveston, Texas. He next entered private practice in Houston, Texas.

My connection with Dr. John Webb came at Brittany field trials. As I recollect, that came at the U. S. Open Brittany Championship at Ardmore, Oklahoma, and at the International Brittany Championship at Dr. Heap's farms at Watertown, New York, and there may have been others. To tell of his willingness to help Brittany field trials, he came to the U. S. Open Brittany Championship to help as the



dog wagon driver.

I grew up hunting pheasants in cattail gullies on the edges of farm fields and Grouse and woodcock in the popple stands and heavier woods cover in my native Ontario. In 1964, I met Delmar Smith at Frobisher, Saskatchewan, where we rode together 14 days at the Border International Chicken Championship. After that marathon trial, on a somewhat yearly basis, gift Brittany puppies arrived for me from Delmar. They developed into really good dogs, and Delmar soon got me loving and owning Britts. Those dogs hunted rather widely in heavy coverts but always handled easily, and I tabbed them good walking hunting dogs. Dr. John grew up in the big open spaces of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arkansas, and he wanted wide-running dogs that would reach way out to the bird-holding cover. The more they reached out, the more Dr. John liked them. There were occasions when I was judge and/or reporter while Dr. John ran one of his dogs. I knew him well enough that I could get on him a bit, and I would, after he ran his dog ride up to him and blurt out, "You are one of the ones that are taking the Britt from a nice going foot gun dog to a Pointer and Setter type horseback all-age."

He would reply, "Yes, I am." We would both grin. His handling was ride hard, send the dog to the farthest places on the course, and keep sending him deep. He loved handling a wide dog, and he loved the field trial sport.

A few years later, the Bird Dog Foundation came into existence, and I was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors, as was Dr. John. After a few seasons, I became secretary to the Board, and Dr. John became president. We worked closely together on many situations. As I mentioned earlier, John was a great leader. This was very evident at the BDF annual meeting, where every item of the agenda was brought to the floor, problems solved, and nothing left untouched.

He also served as the president of the American Brittany Club and headed several associations related to his medical field of Pathology.

He was an extreme patriot. He loved his country, and he loved serving in the armed forces. He told me many tales about his grandfather, who fought in the Civil War, and he honored his grandfather's saddle with a prominent place in his home.

At the Bird Dog Foundation annual meeting, Dr. John, as president, addressed the audience, thanking them for their attendance and relating other matters about the Foundation. I was usually next on the agenda, presenting the Life Patron and Patron Memorial plaques and bringing family to the podium for the presentations. Dr. John and I were the small guys on the Board, neither of us approaching 5'6". As I took over the microphone and while he was still beside me, I said, "I'm real glad to take over the mic from you Dr. John, it is one of those rare occasions when I have to raise the mic." Dr. John will go down in Brittany field trial history as one of its most dedicated servants.

NATIONAL AMATEUR QUAIL & AMATEUR DERBY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Game Heir Named Quail Champion; Rester's Fair Play, Derby Champion

By Maria Bassham | Greenville, Florida | February 24, 2025



National Amateur Quail Championship (front): Rita Corder, Jim and Mary Womack, Spectator, Woody Watson with Game Heir, Dr. Fred Corder, Tommy Smith, Til Hankley with Just Sayin, Mike Moses, and Shannon Nygard. (Back): Ben Melvin, John McCormick, Jim Pendergest, Larron Copeland, William Smith, Cecil Rester, Brian Spear, Chip Pendergrass, Lance Servais, David Williams, Randy Floyd, and Brian Peterson.

The Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America hosted the 104th running of the National Amateur Quail Championship on the beautiful, prestigious grounds of the former Dixie Plantation (Livingston Place), the last week of February 2025. The 90-minute all-age braces began on a rainy Monday morning, February 24, and concluded on Thursday afternoon, February 27. The drawing for the all-age and derby participants was held Friday, February 21, and placed 29 pointers and two setters in their running order for the All-Age stake and 26 pointers and two setters in the hour-long braces of the Derby stake.

Thank you to our two judges, William Smith of Moscow, Tennessee, and Chip Pendergrass of Dayton, Tennessee, for spending their time in the judicial saddles for the All-Age stake. It was a pleasure riding with these two fine men, and Mr. William Smith always supplied us with endless jokes and comic relief! For the Derby, we were honored to have judges, and lifelong friends, Hoyt Henley Jr. of Haynesville, Alabama, and Brian Spear of Lowendale, Alabama. We thank all these gentlemen for their expertise and watchful eye in judging these four-legged athletes.

Thank you to manager John Michael McCormick and the entire staff of

Livingston Place for their help in making sure the trial ran smoothly. John, Ben Melvin, and Reece Birdeau marshaled each day and kept the gallery on course. Daily lunches were provided for us by Gloria Hagan and Christina Burns, and we can't thank these two ladies enough for all they did to keep our bellies full. And of course, thank you to Randy Floyd for all his stories and help throughout the week.

Thank you to our friend and dog wagon driver, Til Hankley, for being there every day, making sure the dogs were loaded on the wagon and ready for each of their breakaways. Also, for having a cooler (when it didn't fall off the wagon) full of snacks, drinks, and water for everyone at every brace change. A big thanks to Matt, Megan, and Jim Pendergest for helping with the donation of all those goodies! It was very much appreciated and enjoyed by everyone in the gallery. And finally, to our glue, Piper Huffman, who always goes above and beyond to hold this organization together. This trial would not run with such ease if it weren't for everyone who so selflessly contributed.

We are very grateful to Greg Blair and Purina, the official sponsor and supporter of this trial, for the wonderful fish fry dinner on Thursday evening for all to enjoy. It was the perfect way to

wrap up the conclusion of the All-Age stake. Purina also presented the winners with bags of Purina dog food, Garmin e-collars, and beautiful plaques.

The Winners

Temperatures for the week were unfavorably warm for the 31 dogs entered to run in the All-Age stake. Monday morning's rain and 51-degree temp proved to hold the best results for the dogs and presented us with the winning dog's brace that morning and the runner-up's that afternoon. Handsome pointer male, Game Heir, put on a show for the gallery and his owner/handler, Dr. Fred Corder, in the second brace that cool, rainy morning. He and his bracemate, James Pond Knightranger, started strong, stopping at 11, with Game Heir backing. Both dogs continued up the hill, and both handlers called point. Knightranger continued his race. Birds were seen for Game Heir, and he held steady to wing and shot. Knightranger did not perform to his handler's liking; therefore, he was picked up at 17. Game Heir continued his strong, classy, solo race for the remainder of his time on the ground. Scout Ruthann Epp found him holding a gallant point at 37 with a grand covey up. A third stylish point was called at the 1-hour, 7-minute mark, giving Game Heir another chance to showcase his superb handling skills. He had one last find at 1 hour, 18 minutes with a relocation that produced a sizeable covey rise. The pointer continued to run a big, clean, forward race that kept spectators and judges riding high in their saddles. Game Heir was found when time was called, thus concluding his exciting, winning brace.

Just Sayin, a male pointer owned and handled by Mike Moses, was crowned runner-up after another invigorating brace on Monday afternoon. The cool, 62-degree temperatures provided good hunting conditions for Just Sayin, who was paired with Chipper Jones, on that misty afternoon. At 38, he had his first find with a nice-sized covey up. He continued to handle well and ran a strong, forward race. He produced his second find at 54, just under the big

oak tree, and held steady to wing and shot. His bracemate was not seen for some time, resulting in his tracker being requested at one hour. Just Sayin had one final find at one hour, 3 minutes, with a flight of birds seen by the judges. He finished his impressive race out front and was with his handler when his 90-minute brace came to an end.

The Running

Due to the unseasonably warm north Florida temperatures and damage from Hurricane Helene, a number of dogs unfortunately did not finish their braces in these challenging conditions. In addition to the two winners, only eight of the 31 contenders were able to complete their 90 minutes on the ground.

In the first brace of the All-Age stake, pointer female Touch's Dancing Nancies, with owner/handler Kent Cantrell, had a find at 59. After a relocation, flight of birds was seen by the judges. She also stopped again just after time was called, producing a covey rise.

The third brace paired pointer female Silver Line Destroyer Gold (Paul Daniel, owner/handler), with pointer female Storm's End (Matt Pendergest). Silver Line completed her brace with no birdwork. Storm's End had two finds and two unproductives, one being feathers, and returned when time was called.

The 10th brace was first-timer Colt Copeland and his pointer female, Showtime Mocking Jay. With the help of his scout, Dad Larron, Colt handled his first Amateur Quail Championship. Jay stopped at 8, but Colt did not dismount to flush. It was said that birds had taken flight before the judges' arrival. At 16, he stopped one more time and held steady for wing and shot. The handsome pointer was found shortly after time was called.

Both dogs in the 13th brace finished their 90 minutes that Thursday morning. Pointer female Rebel Dream with David Williams and pointer male Showtime Houston Solution with Larron Copeland each had one find and one



National Amateur Derby Championship: Ben McCormick, Til Hankley, Paul Daniel, Cecil Rester with Rester's Fair Play, Brian Spear, Lance Servais, Brian Peterson with Southern Shadows Copper, Hoyt Henley, Jim Tande, Maria Bassham, and Randy Floyd.

unproductive, and both were seen when time was called.

The 15th brace paired Rester's Cajun Justice (Cecil Rester, owner/handler) with Rebel Survivor (David Williams). Both male pointers completed their time on the ground. Justice had one find and one unproductive, and Survivor had a relocation that resulted in an unproductive.

Greenville, Fla., February 24

Judges: Chip Pendergrass and William Smith
NATIONAL AMATEUR QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP
[Ninety-Minute Heats] – 28 Pointers and 3 Setters
Winner-GAME HEIR, F1691409, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Game Snow. Dr. Fred Corder, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-JUST SAYIN, F1698956, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Worth The Wait. Mike Moses, owner and handler.

National Amateur Derby Championship

Derby winner Rester's Fair Play, a pointer female owned and handled by Cecil Rester, ran in the 12th brace of the Derby stake. Temperatures reached 77 degrees that Saturday afternoon with clear skies. Both dogs started out with a strong, forward brace. Fair Play had her first classy find at 22 with flight of birds. She continued her race out front and handled well with flawless manners, impressing the judges along the way. At 36, she had her second find with an abundant covey up, holding steady

to wing and shot. Fair Play finished her hour on the ground and was with her handler when time was called, completing her winning derby brace. Cecil, who is no stranger to the National Amateur Derby Championship, has won the Derby Champion title three times and runner-up a total of four times in his amateur career.

Derby runner-up Southern Shadows Copper, a pointer male owned by Brian Peterson and Lance Servais, handled by Brian, ran in the third brace of the Derby stake Friday morning. Clear skies and 65-degree temperatures proved favorable for Copper. His first find at 11 had him looking spectacular on his game, and he held well for wing and shot. Two shots were fired out of pure excitement. He stopped again at 41, with a relocation, resulting in an unproductive. The judges certainly enjoyed watching this pointer run his forward, well-handled brace. Copper was with his handler when time was called.

Judges: Hoyt Henley and Brian S. Spear **NATIONAL AMATEUR DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP** **[One-Hour Heats] – 28 Pointers**

Winner-RESTER'S FAIR PLAY, F1706927, pointer female, by Rester's Johnny Ringo-Rester's Cajun Queen. Cecil Rester, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-SOUTHERN SHADOWS COPPER, F1716938, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-The White Pearl. Lance Servais & Brian Peterson, owners; Brian Peterson, handler.

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

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HANOVER FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Mohawk Mill Big Stuff Wins Waverly Coleman Shooting Dog

By Kirk Regensburg | King William, Virginia | March 1, 2025



Waverly Coleman Amateur Shooting Dog (l-r): A young specator and Ashby Morgan with Mohawk Mill Big Stuff, Jimmy Crandall with Sorrows of Satan, and Lee Flanders with Mohawk Mill Charmer.

The Hanover Field Trial Association's Spring U. S. Complete Trial was held on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at the Cohoke Shooting Preserve. The Association would like to thank the Gottwald family for allowing the trial to be held on their private shooting preserve.

Dennis Bosewell had the facilities in good condition for the field trial. The Club is fortunate to have use of these pristine grounds for field trials. It was a beautiful sunny day with temperatures in the 60s. It was a good day to run dogs.

We would like to thank Purina for being the National Sponsor of the U. S. Complete weekend and championship trials. Purina is providing discount coupons for their dog food to all dogs who have earned placements in the various stakes.

Several club members pitched in to make this field trial a success. George Ramkey, David Coleman, and Kirk Regensburg planted birds. Retta Ramkey typed the program. Art Mourino provided the Kawasaki Mule, which Hall Carter used to transport the dogs and handlers to the starting line. The gallery wagon was provided by Pat Brooks. Dennis Kivikko drove the truck that pulled the gallery wagon.

Charlotte Regensburg provided lunch.

The Hanover Club is fortunate to have many members and wives who help make this trial a success. We appreciate everyone's help.

Four dogs were in the Puppy stake, the Derby stake had eight, and 14 were entered in the Shooting Dog stake. Judging the Puppy stake were George Ramkey and Bert Wright; George Ramkey and Mike Winchester judged the Derby; and Garrett Preis and Mike Winchester judged the Shooting Dog stake.

"Hawkeye," a pointer male, took first in the Puppy stake. Owned and handled by Darrell Miller, Hawkeye started with a big run and handled very well from beginning to end. He hunted objectives purposefully and was very impressive. Hawkeye is very attractive on the ground.

Second was "Buck," a pointer male handled by Jimmy Crandall. He had a big run but not as strong as the first-place dog. Buck is a nice, pretty running dog on the ground.

Third place was "Kelly," a pointer male handled by Kirk Regensburg. Kelly did not have as strong a start, but he finished with a strong run at the end. All three dogs were impressive, showing very good running on the ground.

In the Derby stake, "Taylor," a setter male, took first place. Handled by Ashby

Morgan, Taylor had four finds. He had a strong run and hit all his objectives. Second place was "Katie," a pointer female, handled by Lee Flanders. Katie had two finds and a nice run. She handled very well. Third place was "Jade," a setter female handled by Steve Moore. Jade had one find and one back. She handled well with a nice finish.

We would like to thank Chris Childress for entering his Blue Picardy Spaniel in the Derby. This was Chris's first U. S. Complete trial. He also introduced us to a new breed. He was a beautiful dog.

The Shooting Dog stake was very competitive with dogs and handlers showing the judges and gallery a number of high-class bird dogs and terrific sportsmanship between and among handlers. The grounds at Cohoke can be challenging as they are not that big and are tight at times. At the same time, between big turns in the course and the ups and downs of the terrain, it can be easy to lose a dog, especially on foot. The winning dogs of this stake were always found forward but stayed in touch with their handlers and showed themselves consistently, with style and composure on a lot of impeccable birdwork.

"Big Stuff," a pointer male handled by Ashby Morgan, took first. Big Stuff chewed up the course with gusto while handling kindly. Throughout the entire course, Big Stuff appeared to be the happiest dog on earth, cracking his tail with vigor and covering lots of ground with a nice rhythm between five finds. Big Stuff was always forward, exhibited perfect manners, and stood like a statue on his birds.

"Mavis," a pointer female handled by Jimmy Crandall, was second. She had five finds and one unproductive. Mavis showed her maturity and class as three birds flushed around her before Crandall could get to her. Mavis covered a lot of ground and found birds in the pines, on the edges, and in the woods, where she was found on point and finished her nice run.

"Charmer," a setter female handled by Ashby Morgan, was third. Charmer moved forward fast and was quickly



Amateur Puppy (l-r): Darrel Miller with Roll On Hawkeye, Jimmy Crandall with Buck, and Kirk Regensburg with Kirk's Ray of Joy. (On the gallery wagon): Jenna Johnson and George Ramkey.

separated from her brace mate. In the early part of the course, Charmer showed herself appropriately, but then Morgan had to turn to his scout, who found Charmer standing wide left in the woods, with all in order, as a bird flushed easily as Morgan moved through thick briars. Charmer finished the brace with another find, showing perfect form.

Big Stuff, owned by Gary Winall and

handled by Ashby Morgan, was named Dog of the Day, winning the Waverly Coleman Shooting Dog trophy.

The Club would like to thank all the participants and guests for coming. The Association looks forward to their next U. S. Complete Trial scheduled for fall 2025.

**King William, Va., March 1 – One Course
Judges: George Ramkey and Bert Wright
AMATEUR PUPPY – 4 Pointers, 3 Setters,
and 1 Brittany**

1st-ROLL ON HAWKEYE, F1714962, pointer male, by Rocky River Loaded-Sadie Ridge Sally. Darrel Miller, owner and handler.

2d-BUCK, unreg., pointer male, breeding not given. Jimmy Crandall, owner and handler.

3d-KIRK'S RAY OF JOY, F1714961, pointer male, by Rocky River Loaded-Sadie Ridge Sally. Kirk Regensburg, owner and handler.

**Judges: George Ramkey and Mike Winchester
AMATEUR DERBY – 8 Entries**

1st-PINEKONE TAYLOR MADE, F1710243, setter male, by Chippokes Cracker Jack-Mohawk Mill Charmer. Ashby Morgan & Gary Winall, owners; Ashby Morgan, handler.

2d-CHIPPOKES KATE, unreg., setter female, by Miller Green Street-Walnut Tree Allie. Lee Flanders, owner and handler.

3d-WYASIDE JADE, F1706544, setter female, by Blue Ridge Chance-She's A Jewel. Steven Moore, owner and handler.



Amateur Derby (l-r): Ashby Morgan with Pinekone Taylor Made, Lee Flanders with Chippokes Kate, and Steve Moore with Wayside Jade. (Standing on the gallery wagon): Jenna Johnson and George Ramkey.

**Judges: Garrett Preis and Mike Winchester
WAVERLY COLEMAN AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
– 5 Pointers, 8 Setters, and 1 Brittany**

1st-MOHAWK MILL BIG STUFF, F1691821, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Hirollins Fantasy Girl. Gary Winall, owner; Ashby Morgan, handler.

2d-SORROWS OF SATAN, F1681535, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Pirate-Mohawk Mill Honey. Jimmy Crandall, owner and handler.

3d-MOHAWK MILL CHARMER, F1682716, setter female, by Mohawk Mill Lucky Charm-Fort River Jackie. Gary Winall, owner; Ashby Morgan, handler.

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MASTERS OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Big Man On Campus Named Champion; Erin's Primetime, Runner-up

By Steve Standley | Albany, Georgia | March 1, 2025



Masters Open Shooting Dog Championship (front): Big Man On Campus with Tommy Rice, and Erin's Primetime with Tracy Swearingen and Brian Sanchez. (Back): Ronnie Beane, Tim Moore, Buster Cobb, Shawn Powell, Harold Johnson (judge), Dr. Fred Corder (judge), Rita Corder, Darron Hendley, Ray Pearce, Christy Swearingen, Wiley, Kevin Beane, and Robbie McCue.

The 2025 Master's Open Shooting Dog Championship began on March 1, 2025. It was contested over the usual glorious ground south of Albany, Georgia. The mornings were spent on Joe Davenport's beautiful Wildfair Plantation and the Mellon family's spacious Pineland Plantation. The afternoons were run over Ted Turner's Nonami Plantation. These plantations are not open to the public and are offered to the Southern Field Trial Club to run this prestigious Championship. The value of these grounds to our sport is beyond measure. The use of these properties allows these dogs to be tested in realistic settings with a vast amount of wild game. Our thanks are also extended to Wildfair manager Kevin Beane, Pineland manager Aubrey Iler, and Nonami manager Ray Pearce. Also invaluable were Ronnie Beane, Robbie McCue, and Club President Shon Powell. Club members Steve Wiley and Tim Moore are long-time contributors to this event.

Retired Pineland Plantation dog handler Buster Cobb piloted the tractor that pulled the Purina dog wagon. Purina was also an important sponsor of this Championship, and we thank Greg Blair for arranging this support. We enjoyed a wonderful Purina-sponsored fish fry on Saturday night. Greg is a Senior Specialist at Purina. Greg's true

knowledge of field trial bird dogs and his commitment to the clubs, handlers, and participants involved in this sport are unwavering.

There were 51 dogs entered, which included 42 pointers and nine setters. Our judges were the most qualified and focused. Dr. Fred Corder of Corinth, Mississippi, was accompanied by his lovely wife, Rita. Dr. Corder has competed successfully both in amateur and professional stakes. He first garnered attention with his multiple-time champion, Game Maker, and has gone on to win numerous Championships.

Another seasoned veteran, Harold Johnson, of Shorter, Alabama, expertly filled the other judicial saddle. Harold campaigned open shooting dogs for many years with professional trainer Jason Williams.

On a happy note, the longtime reporter of this Championship, Barbara Teare, rode with us for a couple of days, joined by her friend Richard Wood of South Carolina. Richard is a retired dog man who not only won this event once but also judged it once. It was a true pleasure to see them again. They were greeted with a warm welcome from all.

On a sad note, Richard came off his horse on Monday afternoon when his

off-billet broke on his saddle. Ray Pearce took charge and had a truck remove him from the field. He wound up spending a few days in the hospital addressing broken ribs and some damage to his spleen. Tim Moore took care of their horses at the barn for several days. Gladly, later reports from Barbara state that he is well on his way to recovery.

The Winners

The champion appeared in the 16th brace on Monday afternoon on the beautiful Nonami Plantation. Big Man On Campus (Kinkelaar), owned by David Sylvester and Shannon Smith of Mt. Brook, Alabama, was handled to this title as he was paired with Erin's Envy (Mike Tracy), owned by Joe McHugh. At 4, both dogs stood about 45 degrees facing slightly away from each other. Both handlers walked into a slight wind to put a large covey to wing. The manners were impeccable.

We saw three separate coveys flush wild in the breakaway area as we hunted ahead parallel to Blue Springs Road. Erin's Envy pinned a covey at 9 with all in order. This was the fourth covey seen since breakaway. Erin Envy's owner, Joe McHugh, was in the saddle to witness his dog's performance.

Big Man scored an excellent find at 23, the birds well-located. Erin's Envy, a young 3-year-old, suffered an empty stand at 29 and was harnessed.

Kinkelaar had back-to-back finds at 32 on the right near the Blue Springs headquarters. Birds seemed to be everywhere as Shawn went to his dog after the work, and a single popped up from under the well-composed pointer's chin.

Big Man made a driving cast across the front; he was at a great distance when we saw him freeze "way over" there, right at the property line. Shawn rode to him and put the covey to wing for an excellent connection. This was at 39, and it was most attractive. The liver pointer continued to show out on the ground as Judge Johnson pointed him out, "Deep ahead on the hill up there." He went on with his flashy, slashing, ground-covering work that we all hoped

to see during a trip to the Masters!

There was a light breeze amid conditions that most would describe as too dry. No one told this pointer because he kept putting down a monster race complete with ample, perfectly handled bird work. All Shawn needed to do at this point was to keep him.

The brace ends at the road crossing ahead after we parallel Blue Springs Road near that turn. Big Man had made the bend and crossed a subsoiled field and a greenfield to be found hunting the cover at time. It was a true Championship performance that drew attention to itself.

The runner-up champion was found in the 19th brace on a beautiful Tuesday morning. Due Respect (Jim Tande) pointed right off the breakaway, at 1, and Erin's Primetime (Tracy Swearingen), owned by Great River Kennels, came in to back. During Jim's flushing effort, the birds evidently ran across the gridded block near a small plum thicket and took flight in the adjoining fallow field. Tande fired his gun, and all was good.

At 8, Primetime had a magnificent stand on the edge of a fallow field. There was just enough of a rise for the white and orange pointer to stand out as though illuminated from some source. A picture-worthy pose was followed by excellent manners for the shot.

Due Respect followed at 23 as he was spied pointing in a most attractive style, with one forefoot elevated, and totally locked down. Jim came to him as the setter stood one grid off a field. Tande flushed ahead of his charge, and as he turned back to the dogs, birds flushed all around the composed setter. It was attractive and excellent work.

As we continued, Swearingen rode at a flat walk, and soon the call of point rang out from scout Brian Sanchez. This stand was at 28, over to the right, and a great distance from our position. It proved to be an outstanding find for Primetime.

As they left the area, Primetime had another clean find. Upon release, they had yet another stand on birds with good manners on display. This is how it can be on Nonami!

Due Respect was pointed at 35, and after a flushing attempt, he was relocated. With no results from that effort, Jim accepted the UP and took his dog on. As the gallery rode through

the area of the initial stand, a single bird flew. Due Respect locked up as he was released, and Tande went back to put up a small group of birds as he shot for his dog.

Erin's Primetime ran a good forward race, located birds at 28, and had one more find at 40, followed by a back 57. This was a fast-paced brace by the Erin pointer with ample birdwork and plenty of race to earn the runner-up title.

The Running

It was 46 degrees, and the ground was dry at 8 a.m. as Nonami's Johnny Come Lately (Pearce) and Thunder's Wild Agin (Kinkelaar) were released onto Wildfair Plantation. Johnny Come Lately won this Championship two years ago, and Thunder's Wild Agin just came here from his National Shooting Dog Invitational Championship win in Arkansas.

This is always a special time here on this incredibly special place. As classy dogs are released, it's a bit like Christmas or a birthday. The anticipation is strong to see great things as this event unfolds. Early birdwork is a regular occurrence here, and Wild Agin produced a strong covey at 5, all good. Shawn next called flight of birds at 10 on the right, in the direction of the dry pond called the Big Jolly. He shot for his dog after judicial acknowledgement.

Wild Agin is a strong, classy dog. He delivered his third find straight down a mowed strip at 20. It was an excellent, "out there" find that one likes to see. This daughter of Chelsea's Thunder Bolt continued to call attention to her efforts as we came alongside Wolf Pond at the half, he pinned yet another Wildfair covey.

Meanwhile, Johnny Come Lately was seen on numerous occasions as Ray pointed him out. His ground pattern was attractive, strong, and responsive, but he missed the bountiful game here.

At the end of Wolf Pond, a common location for birds, Wild Agin offered yet another bevy at the half. This exciting pointer female located and handled her sixth find at the 45-minute mark. A great start to this Championship as time expired.

Ray Pearce did shoot over his dog at time, but did not deliver the performance desired.

We crossed Colquitt Ford Road onto Pineland Plantation for the second brace. Silver Wings (Swearingen) and

Dominator's Queen Bee (Marty Adams for Jamie Daniels) hunted ahead. It was dry and warm at the half as both dogs toured the front. Tracy was on the ground at 35 and flushed. Tracy was not satisfied with the job that was offered, and he withdrew Silver Wings after thanking the judges. Adams soon followed as he picked up Queen Bee.

It was 10:40 a.m. when Chelsea's Mae West (Kinkelaar) and Pine Straw Hot Chocolate (Tracy) were released onto Wildfair. The course runs along the edge of Colquitt Ford Road heading east.

Within the opening minutes of this brace, we had ridden past Mae West as she stood in the cover. Shawn came back to her at 3 and flushed her covey. Bracemate Pine Straw Hot Chocolate, a setter, had her owner, Mike Reeves of Wisconsin, riding to see.

At the half, Hot Chocolate had a find as Mae West honored after some encouragement by Tracy. Immediately after release, the setter pointed again a short distance ahead. Normally, the first thought would be that there was a single bird there from this covey that was just flushed. As Judge Johnson rode ahead to witness the action, another strong covey took flight from the other side of the path.

At 38, Hot Chocolate pointed. Mike could not raise any game, and as he took his dog on birds lifted, first a single, then a pair. Kinkelaar withdrew his entry, and Tracy ran his dog on. The brace ended without any meaningful work.

Lester's Another Shockwave (Kinkelaar) and Whitehawk Rocket (Rice) were released onto Nonami after lunch. It was in the 80s and dry. At 25, Shockwave was pointed near the Blue Springs line, which was at a great distance. Shawn brought his dog on after the contact. Things fell apart for this team, and by 40, Shawn took his tracker from the judge.

Rocket began to get stronger on the ground and later pointed. Birds were flushed, and Tommy shot, but the action was less than desirable. The heat and its effect on these dogs were undeniable. Little was accomplished during this time afield.

Across the service road, Upfront's McQuade (Kinkelaar) and Calico's Sky's The Limit (Tracy) were released in Brace 5. Kinkelaar called point at 8 ahead. When the birds flew, the dog spun and marked flight. There was no meaningful

work accomplished in the remainder of the brace.

The last brace on Saturday featured Melrose Big John (Terry James Chastain) and Miller's Heat Seeker (Tracy). At 8, we passed the top end of the golf course, and the Melrose entry stood stylishly for a large, spread-out covey. Excellent manners were displayed. Just short of the service road near the horse barn, Big John stood high-tailed as another Nonami bevy took flight. As soon as Terry James released his pointer, more birds were handled. This action was at 25, and the sheer number of birds in the air was confusing. Suffice it to say that there are more than enough birds in this area, and Big John handled them as well as he could.

Just past the barn area and ahead, Big John traveled with class and purpose to score again with all in order. Past the half hour, Terry James again had his hat in his hand, and one more covey was well-handled at 37.

Heat Seeker was harnessed at the main entrance road. Big Man was withdrawn at 50 after an unproductive to end the day.

Bill Owen had Miller's Concealed Weapon in Brace 7 on Wildfair paired with Marty Adams and Dominator's Rebel Queen. Bill had his daughter, Beth, join him in the field. She was down from Middletown, Rhode Island, and is an excellent horsewoman and knowledgeable in the sport.

Both dogs hunted ahead in an attractive manner, although rather short in their ground application. Owens harnessed Weapon at 30 past Wolf Pond. Adams had a find at 35. One bird flew at the initial flush, with others taking flight seconds later. With this work, Marty thanked the judges and put Queen on the rope.

Still on Wildfair, we loosed World Class Terminator (Lee) and Miller's Newest Version (Owen) toward the road at Pineland crossing. Scout called point, and this well-handled covey flew and completed the tableau. At 20, Terminator stood high and tight across a forward field in an attractive form. All was good with this work.

We continued onto Pineland, and point was called for Terminator. Lee relocated his dog after an empty flushing effort, and Owen's pointer came in to join that effort. Nothing came of this, and both dogs finished on the way back

to Wildfair crossing without any fanfare.

Late Hit (Shenker) and Bittersweet War Cry (Tracy) were off in Brace 9. Late Hit went with birds early and was out. War Cry suffered an empty stand at 22 and was later picked up at 50 after a good find in a beautiful setting.

Sunday, after lunch, found us back on Nonami with Steel Valley Raven (Tracy) and Erin's Grey Ghost (Owen). About 100 yards from the breakaway, both dogs stood. All was good as Owen shot over his dog, and Tracy took the back. Raven had her own find at 10, as owner Muriel Primm observed. She followed with her next find out the front at 13.

At the half, we passed Blue Springs headquarters on our right, and both dogs were to the fore. Grey Ghost delivered the best ground effort so far for Owen. Tracy had his next find at 40 after a relocation in thick hardwood sapling cover. She next stood at 50 with a covey flushing early as Mike approached.

During this time, Owen was far to the left of the course, dealing with his dog as Judge Corder observed. It was later reported that after a lengthy effort by Bill, an armadillo was urged from the area.

In the closing minutes, we arrived at the road crossing, and Tracy was sitting on his horse, pointing out Grey Ghost on a far forward swing through a distant field to finish. Bill Owen appeared and had his dog to complete the brace.

We left toward the north end of Nonami after tractor repair. Miller's Extreme Heat (Tracy) with owner Joe McHugh in the saddle was paired with Hale's Smooth Touch. The first 20 minutes were action-packed as each dog was on the far left or far right extremes, with the work not clearly visible. Shawn had shot over Smooth Touch twice, and Tracy had an unproductive way over there. Tracy soon withdrew his dog.

At 22, Kinkelaar had another find past Cody's house. This was followed by a distant find at 35 in the far corner near the pivot field. When Shawn returned to the center front at 45, his Hale entry scored once again. He followed that with more birds at 48. Once again, at 52, Shawn put a single to wing in thick hardwood sapling cover, his dog looking magnificent on his game. All of this went for naught as Touch had his second barren stand and was up.

It was 4:45 for the final brace of the day. Our hopes were up as Georgian (Kinkelaar) and Showtime Mocking Jay (Copeland) were released onto this famed course. Kinkelaar's setter handled birds in good order at 4.

As we approached the quarter hour, Judge Johnson pointed out Mocking Jay on a far wood line as he pushed to the front. Shawn raised his hat just before the main drive, and Georgian was stylish for the work. We continued across the service road with both dogs to the fore as we approached the heart of the birdy course.

By the half, Kinkelaar had his dog in the harness, and Mocking Jay had an unproductive. Mocking Jay looked attractive in her pose, but a second empty stand had her up at 35.

Dr. Debbie Ozner was mounted at 8 a.m. on Wildfair to see her Silver W Thunderbolt (Kinkelaar) run with Panther Creek Rosie (Rice). Rosie had owner Frank Rutland riding to support her. It was cool, and the ground was moist when Rosie stood at 10 for an excellent find. Shawn quickly called point on the left fore. This wound up being empty, as later reported by Judge Johnson.

Both dogs were attractive on the ground as we passed the Big Jolly. The bright white Wildfair guest house was visible at a distance on the right across the large dry pond. Rosie came in and checked with Rice several times, as one would like to see. At 19, both dogs were with us, Rosie to the fore, and Silver was 90 degrees to the left but still hunting in the right direction. Both were independent and fresh.

Rosie pulled up on her birds at 20 amid the pines, and all was good. So, at 26, Rice had two finds and Kinkelaar had an unproductive. At 40, Rice came in for his tracker after having lost contact with the bold Rosie.

At 45, Silver W was pointed in a small bottom, and after the birds boiled up into her face and she stood well, her manners were excellent for the gun. After a discussion with Judge Corder, Shawn decided to withdraw his competitor.

In Brace 14, we had Faithful (Tracy) and Rampage (Swearingen). Scout Hailey Moreland was riding for Faithful. Rampage handled a large covey at 8, all good. Faithful pointed at a great distance on the right at the field edge.

As we cantered over there, Rampage was pulled over and backed.

There was kind of a cluster as Mike's dog ran deep in the direction of the very distant Hwy. 91. By the time we got back, Swearingen was on the ground on the Pineland edge of Colquitt Ford Road with Rampage pointed. This proved to be empty, and we continued to the front to join Faithful.

At 37, as we approached the double orange flags marking the right turn, Mike came in for his tracker. Rampage was not having his day, and we turned to go back to Wildfair.

It was 10:20 as we turned Thunder Bolt's Storm (Kinkelaar) and Real Thing Dolly (Tommy Rice Sr.). Dolly's co-owner, Ray Brown from Blakey, Georgia, was in the gallery with his wife. Tommy found Dolly at 22 as she was stacked up on a covey by Colquitt Ford Road. All was good for the work. Dolly pinned a single bird at 28 and was composed for the gun and the flight.

At 45, Kinkelaar picked up Storm after not having accomplished anything. The morning ended with Dolly to the fore.

The 16th brace was on Monday morning and featured Champion Big Man On Campus, as earlier described in "The Winners" section.

The second brace on Nonami began across the Service Road as Nighthawk's Rebel (Swearingen) and Upfront's Southern Star (Kinkelaar) were loosed. Rebel had birds at 10 in front of Cody's house, and point was quickly called for Star to the back left. Judge Johnson went back to cover the action.

Judge Johnson later reported that Star had an unproductive at 2 followed by finds at 9 and 15, the latter after far-flung efforts.

Rebel scored next at 18 with all in order. At 33, the scout called point for Rebel near the woodline and the ag field. This was good.

Shawn requested his retrieval device right after the preceding action. Star had acquitted himself well, but Kinkelaar knew he was not getting the job done.

At 38, Rebel stood for what appeared to be two coveys taking wing as Swearingen shot. Rebel's next contact was at 42, at a moderate range, but well-handled. Rebel continued his bird finding spree as he produced yet another enormous covey at 50. Star finished his hour in classy form ahead of

his handler.

Minnesota Red Confidence (Rice) and Parkway (Tracy) began the 18th brace on the last course on Nonami. At 3, Red Confidence stood for birds in an area of small hardwood saplings. At 28, Tracy had a find to the front at moderate range. Tracy picked his dog up at 35 after some game contact.

This writer apologizes for not having information about Red Confidence's entire brace.

Runner-up Champion Erin's Primetime's performance was covered in "The Winners" section of this report.

On Pineland, we turned loose Tallokas New Business (Loper) and Pine Straw Half N Half (Loper) onto Pineland. There was a find at 10 for Half N Half. At 15, Loper was on the ground for his pointer, and many birds were put to wing, and the manners were just what we expect to see from a Tallokas entry, perfect.

Half N Half pointed at 19 as New Business backed. This was all good.

On a sidenote, we all enjoyed seeing Mackenzie Davis, Bubba Moreland's granddaughter, riding with us today. A bright-eyed, confident young lady who is a natural rider. Of course, this reflects the family she is from.

At 30, Loper put up an enormous covey to wing for the well-composed New Business. Mike Tracy had his dog at the front during this time. Both dogs were out of the game by 50.

Brace 21 contained Woodville's Long Hard Ride (McLean) and Cheap Thrill (Rice) as they began on Pineland on their way back to Wildfair. At 25, the call of point rang out on the right. Judge Corder and I went, the dogs out of sight. Upon our arrival, McLean walked the high-tailed setter buried up in the cover and put a large bevy to wing.

At 53, Rice called point off to the right of the course. This proved to be an empty stand. We finished the hour without further birdwork.

Waybetter Rebel (Tracy) and Erin's Three Leaf Shamrock (Swearingen) were off after lunch onto Nonami. Shamrock pointed at 2 but had to be relocated, and this was barren. The setter continued for a few minutes and was withdrawn near the Blue Springs headquarters.

Rebel had some type of contact at a very moderate range and was shot over by Tracy. Nothing further transpired

during this brace.

Jolene Jolene (Tracy) and Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Ajay (Mauck) were away in No. 23. At 12, past the lime sink, Jolene stopped and pointed, backed by Ajay. Tracy's dog suffered an infraction, and soon Mauck harnessed his setter.

It was 3:25, and Mayhaw's Georgia Time (Mills) broke away, paired with Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Dallee (Mauck). Mauck was displeased with his setter early, and she was on the rope. Also, having an abbreviated tour on Nonami today was Georgia Time. Trey did not see the normal strong effort by his Mayhaw pointer, and our day ended on Nonami Plantation.

It was 52 degrees on our last morning on Wildfair. It had rained about 4:30 this morning, and our hopes were high for an exciting end to this Championship. Grand Prairie Thrill (Rice) and Miller's High Heat Index (Tracy) were away at 8 a.m.

At 8, on the way, near the Big Jolly, Rice was on the ground for Thrill. This multi-time champion knows the game, but birds could not be produced. Thrill soon had a find out front just where you would want her to be.

At 18, Tracy came in for his tracker. At this time, Rice's scout called point for their dog. After an extensive relocation, Tommy put the birds up at 25. His pointer stood again two times without reward to end her time afield.

At 8:45, we turned the last dog of the trial loose. This was Great River Yellowstone (Swearingen) with owner Brian Sanchez scouting. At 15, Yellowstone had a good find just off the course in some scrubby cover. He was high-tailed and staunch for the work.

At the top end of Wolf Pond, the Great River entry scored again on an enormous Wildfair bevy. This classy pointer stood again at 18, after which Swearingen had a conference with Judge Johnson. Swearingen harnessed his contender to end the Masters Shooting Dog Championship for 2025.

Albany, Ga., March 1

Judges: Dr. Fred Corder and Harold Johnson MASTERS OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 42 Pointers and 9 Setters

Winner-BIG MAN ON CAMPUS, F1694291, pointer male, by Dragonfly-Cold Creek Ms. Kay. David Sylvester & Shannon Smith, owners; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.
Runner-Up-ERIN'S PRIMETIME, F1690313, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Erin's Quickmarksman's Mae. Great River Kennel, owner; Tracy Swearingen, handler.

NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIPS

Calico's Over The Top Named Shooting Dog Champion; Cochise B, Runner-up

By Chris Weatherly | Grand Junction, Tennessee | March 4, 2025

The National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship and its accompanying Derby were conducted on the historic field trial courses of the Ames Plantation beginning on March 4 and concluding on March 8, 2025. The host club for the trial this year was the Alabama Amateur Field Trial Club. Jeremy Taylor and Joe and Tessa Hughes represented the Club at the trial and helped facilitate the event in many ways. Many thanks go out to the trustees of the Hobart Ames Foundation and the director of Ames Plantation, Matt Backus, for making these grounds available for the running of this trial and others. The six one-hour courses had been hit hard by adverse weather and pressured heavily by continual use in the weeks leading up to this trial. Birds were jittery and quick to evacuate. These factors possibly attributed to birdwork being at a premium during the running, and the puzzling number of unproductive stands by the competitors.

Purina and Garmin are to be commended and profusely thanked for their continued support and sponsorship of this trial in particular, and the AFTCA and amateur field trials in general. Purina provided their top-of-the-line Pro Plan product for the winners and sponsored a meal at the Rube Rhea Memorial Clubhouse for all participants and officials on Wednesday evening following the day's running. Garmin once again provided its industry-leading dog recovery and training devices for the winners. The Saddle Guy, Kevin Parrish, provided nice leather judges' books as gifts for our judicial panel. Jeff Haggis Saddlery sent custom-made saddle bags for the judges to take home. Many thanks to all of these sponsors for their generosity.

Climbing into the judicial saddles this year were Jeremy Taylor of Rienzi, Mississippi, and Kent Walker of Collierville, Tennessee, for the Derby Championship, and the father and son duo of Mike and Frank Vicari of Hampshire, Illinois, for the Shooting Dog Championship. Thanks to you guys for graciously giving your time and opinions.

Piper Huffman, secretary of the AFTCA and all-around crisis manager,

once again did a great job of organizing and managing the running of this year's event. She even dragged her husband, Larry, out to transport judges' and participants' horses between the morning and afternoon breakaways. Thanks, Piper, for all you do behind the scenes to keep the rest of us running in the right direction.

Your reporter, Chris Weatherly, and Zack Parsons of the Ames Plantation handled front and back marshaling duties and did our best to keep participants on course and get wayward canines gathered up promptly when the tracking devices were requested by the handlers. We were assisted when needed by Kent Walker and Daniel Bolden. Ken Blackman handled the dog wagon duties and helped to control traffic along the roadways. He was assisted along the road by Squeaky Powell. Fayette County Sheriff's Department sent a deputy as needed to slow down traffic as well. Thank you guys for all of your help.

Handlers showing up to compete in the National Shooting Dog Championship and Derby were Brian Peterson, Klaus Schmidt, Chris Catanzarite, Chris Koutras, Marion Brown, Mark Johnson, Marty Moore, Jim Martin, Lance Servais, Betty Shearouse, Brent Cox, Joey McAlexander, Scott Little, Ben Weddington, Bubba Spencer, Jason Super, John Van Horn, Hunter McDuffie, Alex Smith, Buddy Morrison, Gary McKibben, Jeff Hale, David Williams, Joe Hughes, Jeremy Taylor, and Bryce Cooper. Thanks to all of these folks for their participation, support, and sportsmanship.

National Amateur Shooting Dog Derby Championship

The National Amateur Shooting Dog Derby Championship began on Tuesday, March 4 at 8 a.m. on Course #1, a day later than advertised in order to give the birds and plantation staff a little more recovery time from the National Field Trial Championship, which had ended just the Thursday prior after three weeks of competition. There was no running on that opening Tuesday afternoon due to thunderstorms in the area. The

Derby was concluded after the running of five braces on Wednesday. Sixteen dogs competed in the stake, and eight successfully completed their braces. Two coveys of birds were flushed for the juveniles under judgment.

Judges Taylor and Walker collaborated and came to the decision that they did not see a derby competitor with the combination of ground application and birdwork worthy of the title of champion. They placed the winners on ground race 1-2-3 as follows: Taking first place was Southern Shadows Copper, a pointer male handled by Brian Peterson and running in the first brace on Course #1. Released in the breakaway field, Copper made his way around Heartbreak Hill and crossed Ellington Road into the Morgan field to the front at the 9-minute mark. After swinging wide through the Morgan field and around the Avent house, he crossed Turner Road at 0:24, handling to the front and holding his edges like a seasoned pro. Copper took in the big edges around the Turner long neck field and the Tom Hurt field as well as could be done. He crossed National Championship Drive at 0:58 and finished fading to the front across the Mary Scott basin levee. Unfortunately, his nearly perfect ground race was not rewarded with any game contacts.

Finishing second was Erin's Sunshine Kate, a pointer female handled by Mark Johnson and running in the fourth brace on Course #1 Wednesday morning. Kate was released in the breakaway field across the road from the clubhouse and disappeared to the front. She was gathered up in time to cross Ellington Road and make a cast along the west side of the Morgan field, where she attempted to make game. Deciding better of the situation, she continued on through the new basin and across Turner Road. Kate continued her search for game through the Turner pines, across Govan Hill, and finished her bid to the front, crossing National Championship Drive. Though she hunted hard, she was unable to produce game.

Selected for third place was Southern Shadows T-Bone, a pointer male also handled by Brian Peterson. T-Bone ran in the fifth brace on Course #2 Wednesday

morning. Released from the breakaway on National Championship Drive, T-Bone headed for the row of pines up front, then swung wide to the right, catching the wind in search of game. Finding nothing home, he crossed Turner Road and headed south, rounded the Avent house place, and continued on back to the north, hunting all of the likely places. He searched hard for the entire hour, hunting to the front. His handler took advantage of his lack of a bracemate, who had been scratched, and allowed T-Bone to dig in to the cover in his pursuit of game. The pursuit proved fruitless; the birds just didn't seem to be moving. He finished his bid to the front in the Tobe Polk field, still searching.

Grand Junction, Tenn., March 4

Judges: Jeremy Taylor and Kent Walker

**NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG DERBY
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 17 Pointers
[Title Withheld]**

1st-SOUTHERN SHADOWS COPPER, F1716938, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-The White Pearl. Lance Servais, owner and handler.

2d-ERIN'S SUNSHINE KATE, F1709940, pointer female, by Erin's Bad River-Erin's Wild Covey. Mark Johnson, owner and handler.

3d-SOUTHERN SHADOWS T-BONE, F1716940, pointer male, by Southern Shadows T Rex-Southern Ritz Lane. Brian Peterson, owner and handler.

**National Amateur Shooting Dog
Championship**

The National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship began on Wednesday, March 5, at 3:25 p.m. on Course #6, immediately following the conclusion of the Derby. It was concluded after the 17th brace on Saturday, we missed no time for weather. Thirty-three dogs competed in the championship, and 22 successfully completed their runs. Nine bebies were produced for the judges in front of the canine competitors.

Judges Mike and Frank Vicari easily selected Calico's Over The Top, a pointer male handled by Alex Smith, as their champion. Top ran in the eleventh brace on Course #4 Friday afternoon. Released from the breakaway into the east pasture, he worked the left edge into the irrigation pivot field, made a big cast, was gathered up, and continued on towards Buster Graves driveway, which he crossed at 0:15. At 0:26, Top was seen taking the far edge around the Horseshoe field. After hunting hard down the right-hand side of the chute, unsuccessful in his pursuit of game, he made the difficult turn at the end and continued on to the front. At 0:39, Top suddenly stopped in the broomsedge before the entrance to Wolf Crossing,



National Amateur Shooting Dog Derby (back): Matt Backus, Kent Walker, Joe Hughes, Tessa Hughes, Brian Peterson with Southern Shadows Copper, Lance Servais with Erin's Sunshine Kate, Jeremy Taylor, Piper Huffman, and William Bain.

looking stylish and insisting that he had found what he was looking for. Alex dismounted and immediately set a feeding covey to flight directly in front of his staunch canine. Alex and Top rejoined his bracemate at the front at Miller's Cove. After making the hard left turn upon entering the Jack Harris cabin field, Top crossed the ditch and disappeared. As Alex ascended Pine Hill, he nervously called for his dog. Soon, the call of point was heard from his scout in the dense cover on the hillside. Once again, a feeding covey was produced in front of the stylish pointer. At 0:55, Top went far to the front, crossing the Marshall's Jack Harris field and disappearing into Kerry's seven acres. As we entered that area, he was observed hunting through the pines in search of more game. He was seen at pickup time rimming the field just east of the agronomy unit shed. Everyone in attendance knew that they had just witnessed the one to beat.

The judges picked Cochise B, a setter male handled by Marion Brown, as their runner-up. B ran in the eighth brace on Course #1 Friday morning. B was released from the morning breakaway and hunted his way through the cut milo stubble in the breakaway field. He was then seen taking the hard left turn in front of Heartbreak Hill, to the front, and headed to the Ellington Road crossing. After negotiating his way through the Morgan field and the new basin, B crossed Turner Road with his handler. Released along the course heading toward the Turner long neck field, B suddenly stopped just to the left of the course at 0:29, insisting that he had game. Dr. Brown dismounted and easily produced a single in front of his setter,

standing with style. B worked his way around the Turner basin and crossed Turner ditch at 0:45 after checking in with his handler. He followed the course around Govan Hill and finished his bid after crossing National Championship Drive, to the front.

The participants in this trial were the last ones in the field trial community to see the afternoon courses on Ames, #4-6, for the foreseeable future. The afternoon area was turned over to Tall Timbers immediately following the conclusion of this trial. Tall Timbers will be doing intensive habitat restoration on the afternoon courses for the next few years in an attempt to bring wild quail back to the Ames Plantation for us to run our dogs on. Once this improvement is completed on the afternoon courses, we will run dogs there again, turn the morning area over to them, and repeat the process. The goal is to once again have a sustainable wild quail population available to use to evaluate our canine competitors on the hallowed grounds provided to us through the generosity of the Hobart Ames Foundation. Changes can be a bit painful, please be patient as we go through them together. The hope is that the end result will be a much better product to be used for our benefit. Thanks to all for their continued support, and we hope to see you here running your dogs again next year.

Judges: Frank Vicari and Mike Vicari

NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

**CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 30 Pointers
and 5 Setters**

Winner-CALICO'S OVER THE TOP, F1692315, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Calico's Country Strong. Calico Kennels, Alex & Tiffani Smith, owners; Alex Smith, handler.

Runner-Up-COCHISE B, F1695918, setter male, by Shagtime Max-Shagtime Hope. Marion Brown, owner and handler.

On the front cover—National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (front): Alex Smith with Calico's Over The Top and Mabry and Brody Taylor. (Back): Matt Backus, Chris Weatherly, Bryce Cooper, David Williams, Tessa and Joe Hughes, Kent Walker, Heather, Mike, Frank Vicari, Jeremy Taylor, and Piper Huffman.

MASTERS OPEN QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP

Rester's Johnny Ringo Named Champion; Touch's Shadow Rider, Runner-up

By Andrew Campbell | Albany, Georgia | March 6, 2025



Masters Open Quail Championship (l-r): Luke Eisenhart, Judd Carlton with Rester's Johnny Ringo, Dr. Reuben Richardson, Darron Hendley (judge), Ed Chance (judge), Cody McLean with Touch's Shadow Rider, Mark McLean, and Bruce and Karen Norton.

The 56th running of the Masters Quail Championship was held between March 6-8 on the south side of Albany on the legendary properties of Nilo Plantation and Nonami Plantation. From a field of 33 starters—31 pointers and two setters—the judges, Ed Chance of Albany, Georgia and Darron Hendley of Union Springs, Alabama, awarded the Norman J. Ellis Memorial Trophy to Rester's Johnny Ringo, owned by Cecil and Holly Rester and Dr. Reuben Richardson, and handled by Luke Eisenhart, with Touch's Shadow Rider, owned by Bruce and Karen Norton and Dr. Reuben Richardson. These results alone are remarkable: Johnny Ringo had become one of the very few dogs to win both the Southeastern and the Masters All-Age Championships back-to-back, and Dr. Reuben Richardson may be the only person to have owned both the winner and runner-up at this championship. After last year's low, it was reassuring to see entries rebound slightly and witness sizable galleries of up to 60 riders in both the mornings and afternoons.

During the first morning's run, the news came through that Hall-of-Famer John Rex Gates had passed away, and a moment of silence was held for him and his family between braces. John Rex won the Masters four times with Palariel Stormy Clown (1974), HOF Texas

Fight (1976), Tar Hill Ranger (1979), and Librarian's White Cloud (1982), as well as taking runner-up three times with Flush's Dixie Melody (1970), Tradition's Peggy (1972), and Waycross (1975). The Southern Field Trial Club's thoughts remain with his family.

The Southern Field Trial Club is deeply indebted to the Williams Family of Nilo and Mr. Ted Turner of Nonami for their permission to use these two remarkable properties, and to their respective managers, Garret Jones and Ray Pearce, for their studious stewardship. The Club is also deeply grateful to Cody Gregory at Nilo and Cody McLean at Nonami for marshaling and providing horses for this reporter. Thanks, too, go to Flint Equipment in Albany for providing the tractor to tow the gallery wagon, and to Dane Philyaw, Colby Bryant, and the eternal Buster Cobb for chauffeuring it. Last but not least, a heartfelt thanks also goes to Purina for their ongoing support of this event.

The Winners

Rester's Johnny Ringo had run in the sixth brace drawn with Game Star, owned by Dr. Fred and Rita Corder, and handled by Fred, the final brace of the first afternoon over on Nonami. With the previous brace ending early, the two dogs were turned loose almost due south, the breeze coming across their

faces from the west. While Johnny Ringo had already begun to demonstrate a more consistently forward pattern, both dogs would be found together at 0:10. They would be standing in the shade of a large live oak, some 10 yards apart, and invisible to each other, the covey rising from the scrubby undergrowth ahead of them. Over the access roads to the barn and the workshed, Johnny Ringo would swing out onto the grassy ridge to the left, Game Star continuing to work more directly ahead of her handler. The call of point would come for Johnny Ringo at 0:21, the dog up high on the open rise looking into a broomsedge block, the birds readily flushed ahead of him, as pretty a move to a find as would be seen all trial. In the meantime, Game Star had moved out to the other side of the course and would be found in a median strip at 0:27, the birds readily ahead of her; as she approached the turn west, Game Star would stop at 0:34 once more some 200 yards west of the sole Nonami water tank with all in order. Having watered his dog in the same tank, Eisenhart would send Johnny Ringo out to the west, where he would come to a stop in a shady bowl at 0:39, the birds finally acquiescing to flush after an extended effort. With Johnny Ringo taking the outside turn and Game Star the inside arc through the turn, both dogs would come together again at 0:43 in an oaky hollow to the north, the birds seen leaving as Corder arrived on scene, both dogs standing tall. Sent on once more, Johnny Ringo would stop in the next shady hollow at 0:47, the dog's nose high into the westerly breeze, the birds at a good distance out ahead of him. While Game Star would continue to work consistently ahead of her handler, Eisenhart would send Johnny Ringo out along the northern edge of woods towards Hardup Road. And with Game Star handling kindly and taking the inside of the turn, Johnny Ringo would power around the turn and push south towards the breakaway, his hour packed with speed, initiative, and a strong, forward race. Touch's Shadow Rider had also run on the first afternoon, albeit in the fourth brace, eagerly watched by two of his owners, Karen and Bruce Norton, braced with Haney's

Silver Dollar, handled by Luke Eisenhart. The afternoon's conditions were decent with the temperature right around 60 degrees, but the skies were clear and blue, the air dry, and the strong breeze largely coming from the north. Not much was seen of either dog for the first 10 minutes as both appeared to sail out into the rolling woods on the north side of the course. McLean would successfully reconnect with his dog around 0:18 and take him over to the water trough, the Blue Springs headquarters now clearly in sight out to the west. Eisenhart would call point for Silver Dollar at 0:23, the dog down in the hollow parallel with the Blue Springs workshed; although, despite a relocation, this would prove non-productive. For his part, Shadow Rider would make the turn northeast parallel to the River Road and come to a stop at 0:24 in an oakly thicket some 200 yards north of the Blue Springs equipment shed and some 200 yards west of the road, the birds readily in front of him. Sent on, Shadow Rider would be seen pursuing the eastern edge of the long, skinny cover crop field to the right. As the course approached the turn east (roughly parallel to where the old Baptist church had stood) at 0:33, Shadow Rider would be glimpsed once more, still pushing hard out through the patchwork of fields to the northeast. As the course climbed out to the northeast, McLean would excitedly call point for Shadow Rider up on top of the rise at 0:44, and almost immediately afterwards call the flight of birds. The judges were still under the rise and in no position to have seen the flight; nevertheless, upon arrival, McLean opted to flush in the hopes of a straggler, but to no avail. Silver Dollar had not been seen for some time to this point, and Eisenhart would come in for his tracker at 0:44. As the gallery passed the sinkhole on the right, Shadow Rider would come to another stop in the woody median strip on the left at 0:49, looking into an oakly thicket. The initial flush would prove unsuccessful, the dog relocating around the large thicket, and with another flushing effort, the birds would then flush some 10 yards away to the north, apparently having run off as the dog initially pointed. Across the dirt road, McLean would send Shadow Rider down the left edge of the skinny cover crop field to cut in and disappear roughly halfway down. He would be found standing at 0:56 in the woody median strip, almost exactly parallel to where he had cut in, the birds directly

ahead of the mannerly dog. He would finish strong, moving out through the woods to the north. While there had been decent performances to this point, this was the first to clearly signal an all-age performance.

The Running

The first brace brought Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton) to the line with Woodville's Yukon Cornelius (McLean), the dogs turned loose on impeccable Nilo in cool, blustery conditions. The action would begin at 0:06 in the northwest corner of the first major cover crop field, roughly a half mile north of the breakaway, with Yukon Cornelius pointing and Heat Advisory backing. Sadly, despite three relocation efforts, McLean would be unable to produce birds ahead of his dog. In the meantime, taken on after the first relocation, Heat Advisory would come to a stop of his own at 0:08, some 300 yards further north, the birds readily produced ahead of him. While Heat Advisory's pattern was somewhat less consistent, Yukon Cornelius punched out ahead of him across the next east-west cover crop field to then disappear into the cover at 0:10, where he would be found standing in an oakly thicket, the birds pinned ahead of him. Sent on, he would be seen punching down the long eastern edge of the next field to be found standing once more at 0:21, this time in a stand of younger pines, the birds once more exactly where he indicated. As the course turned east underneath the old and new pecan orchards, Yukon Cornelius would be seen punching out in the low valley and climbing the next rise, still moving strong and purposefully. Three-quarters of a mile later, the course would turn south once more, paralleling one of the major dirt access roads, Heat Advisory gathered up and sent down the wooded median on the inside of the turn to the west, Yukon Cornelius unseen for several minutes and hopefully turning south through the wooded rise to the east. Sadly, as the course turned southwest, and after a final conference with his scout, McLean would concede defeat and come for his tracker at 0:57. For his part, Heat Advisory would finish out to the front after a succession of well-executed moves along the edges of the next series of smaller cover crop fields.

The second brace saw Tallokas New Business (Loper) brought to the line with Erin's Bold Ruler (Eisenhart), with owner

Claudia McNamee riding in support of her dog. While very little would be seen of New Business in the first 10 minutes or so as the course headed southwest towards the main first road, Bold Ruler could be seen pushing out to the lower swamp edge to the west and moving forward. Both dogs would be successfully gathered up, watered, and sent southward underneath the powerlines. The distant call of point would come at 0:30 for New Business, roughly a quarter mile out to the east, standing in the broomsedge near a prominent live oak, the birds easily flushed ahead of him. With the course following an almost-two mile path south along the Cooleewahee Way, Bold Ruler would initially stop at 0:43, the flight of birds called but unseen to either of the judges, and the dog would be taken on without incident; New Business would also stop shortly thereafter at 0:44, but after a deer burst out of the grass as the party arrived, he too would simply be taken on. As the course angles southeast and then east towards the old, stone Picnic Shed, New Business would swing wide to the south to make the turn and then come to a stop at 0:59 in a stand of adolescent, volunteer pines. Sadly, this would prove non-productive and bring the call of time; Bold Ruler, too, having gone birdless for his hour.

The third brace featured Touch's Breakaway Fred (McLean), with owners Bruce and Karen Norton and Gary Futch riding along in support, alongside Game Heir, owned by Dr. Fred and Rita Corder, and handled by Fred. After the dogs were turned loose to the north, Game Heir would be the first to strike at 0:05, standing off the southeast corner of a dried-out pond, the birds easily flushed ahead of him. With Fred casting wide out to the east, the call of point would filter through the blustery wind at 0:18, the dog standing in the woody median strip between two north-south cover crop fields some quarter mile to the east. Sadly, though, not even a relocation effort could produce birds ahead of the dog. Fred would stop again at 0:26, roughly a mile further down the course, standing in an oakly bottom, but this too would prove fruitless, ending his bid. In the meantime, Game Heir had begun to stretch out in the rolling terrain before the power line crossing, unseen for several minutes but successfully gathered up at the main dirt road crossing as the course began to angle back up to the northwest in

the general direction of the John Olin-designed skeet field. After a false alarm at 0:46 south of the skeet field, Game Heir would stop once more at 0:56, although a very brief inspection would reveal a freshly dead rabbit and the dog taken on. Game Heir would make a nice, showy finish, climbing out of a wooded bowl some three-quarters of a mile north of the skeet field.

The fourth brace featuring Touch's Shadow Rider and Haney's Silver Dollar is already covered in the placements.

The fifth brace drew Mayhaw's Georgia Time (Mills), head-to-head with Touch's Lone Dominator (Carlton). With the previous brace going the full duration, they would be turned loose towards the end of the skinny cover crop field heading north, parallel to the Blue Springs Road. Soon after crossing the large east-west cover crop field on top of the first major rise, Carlton would call point at 0:06 for Dominator out in the broomsedge to the west, flushing one covey ahead of the dog, another rising at the shot. Both handlers would successfully turn their dogs to the west and down into the valley below the first, big pivot field, Lone Dominator stopping once more at 0:10, birds seen rising ahead of the mannerly dog, and a final pair rising as the handler went ahead to fire his gun. As the course swung under the pivot field, both dogs would swing across the front, connect with the edge of the next pair of cover crop fields, and move out westbound. Nevertheless, as both dogs approached their handlers roughly parallel with the second of the two pivot fields, the judges excused both dogs at 0:24.

The sixth brace featuring Rester's Johnny Ringo and Game Star is also already covered in the placements.

The seventh brace brought Touch's Gallatin Fire (McLean), with proud owner Alex Rickert along to watch his dog, to the line with Touch's Blue Knight, owned and handled by Woody Watson. While the temperature was several degrees cooler than the previous morning, the sky was still a clear blue, and the breeze had dropped off almost entirely. Both dogs would start out well, both seen pushing out along the edges of the sequence of cover crop fields on the way north. Gallatin Fire would be the first to stop at 0:07, on the western edge of a roughly square cover crop field, a single bird boosted out of the broomsedge. Some 200 yards further

north in the hollow of a dried-out seasonal pond, Blue Knight had come to a stop at 0:13, but with this reporter still coming back to the front, the judge reported that after an initial flushing attempt, the handler then remounted to go on, the dog then repointed and a bird was flushed. Blue Knight would be seen pushing up the next long, slender cover crop field before crossing across the narrow neck from west to east. He would then be found standing at 0:21, some 25 yards into the cover, and another single bird put up in front of him. Both dogs would swing around the eastward turn below the pecan orchards, showing nicely along the far, facing slope. At the apex of the turn south, the call of point would come for both dogs at 0:35, standing roughly 150 yards apart, the birds seen leaving ahead of Blue Knight, another covey still balled up in front of Gallatin Fire. Heading south, Gallatin Fire would move down the edge of the wooded median to the right, ducking into the cover roughly two-thirds of the way down the mile-long field. He would be found standing by the scout at 0:45, standing on the slight downslope. An initial flushing and relocation effort would prove fruitless, but taken on, he would repoint barely 100 yards further upwind, and a single bird successfully flushed out ahead of him. Blue Knight had begun to stretch out through the patchwork of fields to the west as the course began its arc to the southwest and at the call of time, a frantic search began to return the dog to judgement, only to have him come in from the west and locate the gallery under his own recognizance. For his part, Gallatin Fire continued to show no lack of quit or initiative right up to time, even if his body had begun to show evidence of his long, successful career.

The eighth brace drew Game Surge, owned by Dr. Fred and Rita Corder, and handled by Fred, to the line alongside Miller's Blindsider (Daniels), with his owner Nick Berrong riding along in support. Both dogs would break away nicely, and for the first eight or nine minutes, as the course headed southwest and approached the main dirt road crossing towards the skeet field, little would be seen of them out front. Both handlers would reconnect with their dogs soon after the road crossing and send them off to the south. In the show of sportsmanship and camaraderie that seems to characterize the Southern trials, the opposing scout would call

point for Game Surge at 0:15, standing in a shady, oaky thicket some 200 yards out to the east, the birds readily flushed ahead of him. For his part, Blindsider would be found at 0:20, looking into a mass of downed branches from a large live oak, just off the northeast corner of a small, square cover crop field, the birds seen leaving by the judge as he arrived. Nevertheless, soon after both dogs had passed under the power lines, with the dried-out Big Richardson Pond out to the left, and an eye on what was already in their books, the judges would excuse both dogs at 0:31.

The ninth brace saw Touch's Malcolm Story (McLean), with owner Alex Rickert riding along to watch his dog, brought to the line with Erin's Perfect Storm. The brace would be short and bittersweet, as the course pushed south, both dogs appearing to move well down through the rolling terrain of the Cooleewahee Way. As the course began its curve to the east towards the old, stone Picnic Shed, Perfect Storm would be found at 0:12, standing in a shaded, oaky thicket, but after the relocation effort also proved nonproductive, Eisenhart would elect to pick up his dog. On top of the rise after the course had passed the picnic shed, McLean would come in for his tracker at 0:21.

The 10th brace featured Woodville's Long Hard Ride (McLean) alongside Erin's War Eagle (Eisenhart), with owners Bill Bruchey and Claudia McNamee riding in support of their dog. Sent off down parallel to the Wildfair Road, War Eagle would be first to stop at 0:05, standing in the shady southwest corner of a cover crop field, although neither flushing nor relocation efforts could produce birds. While McLean had managed to reconnect with his spirited charge, War Eagle had in the meantime continued his same eastward trajectory and would come to a stop at 0:11 in a broomsedge block roughly 100 yards north of the road, standing head high looking up into the southeasterly breeze, a large covey directly ahead of him. As the temperature began to climb through the 60s, McLean had gathered up Long Hard Ride and taken him to the perennial watering hole down towards the road, while War Eagle had crossed the course and begun to move down through the middle of the course. The call of point would come for War Eagle once more at 0:16, now standing in an oaky thicket in the shade of a prominent live oak, although sadly, once more,

neither flushing nor relocation efforts could produce birds, ending his bid. While Long Hard Ride had needed some managing along the way, he had tackled the course enthusiastically through the turn north past the Blue Springs workshed. Nevertheless, after a brief conversation with the judges, McLean would pick up his dog soon after making the turn at 0:31.

The 11th brace drew Haney's Last Call (Daniels), with one of his owners, Nick Berrong, riding to watch his dog, along with T S Coal Train (Phillips). Both dogs would break away in spirited fashion out to the north, and, after being brought in for water at 0:13, Coal Train would be seen making the pretty, clockwise swing around the upper shoulder to the east, while Last Call could be seen punching out directly towards the Blue Springs Road. As the gallery swung up and around past the prominent sinkhole, Last Call would be sighted at 0:11, standing in the woody median strip to the left, head high and looking back into the southerly breeze, his birds pinned directly ahead of him. Coal Train would then be found at 0:13, some 300 yards further north in the same woody strip, another covey successfully boosted skyward ahead of him, too. Nevertheless as the course wound up towards the red dirt road crossing, Last Call would be seen breaking hard out to the west, never to return, leaving Daniels to come for his tracker at 0:31. Crossing the road, Phillips would shortly also come to the same conclusion, that his dog had punched out into the woods and lost contact, asking for his tracker at 0:33.

The 12th brace saw Touch's Midnight Rider (McLean) brought to the line with Erin's High Note (Carlton) to be turned loose just slightly north of the usual second course start. While Midnight Rider would appear to punch due north out into the rolling terrain, High Note would swing out to the west, and be found pointed at 0:06, on top of the low rise some 300 yards west, in the southwest corner of a large cover crop field, the birds rising out of the oaky thicket ahead. As the course began to arc around to the west under the rotator fields, McLean would concede that he had lost contact with his dog and come for his tracker at 0:13. For his part, High Note could be seen swinging under the field edge to the north and punch along the boundary between the woods and the field. He would come to a stop at 0:16, almost directly south of the pivot,

birds once more successfully flushed out ahead of him. Nevertheless, after a strong start, something was clearly disturbing the dog, and, after watching him eat grass to try and alleviate it, Carlton would elect to pick up his dog at 0:30.

The 13th brace featured Dominator's Southern Bo (Daniels) and Haney's Storm Warning (Eisenhart) and saw them cast loose for the final morning at Nilo, the skies overcast, the air still, and a light drizzle in the air. As the gallery rolled due north, Storm Warning would be seen rimming the eastern edge of the large L-shaped cover crop field before dropping into the woods to the north once more, Southern Bo angling out into the rolling woods to the west. The call of point would come at 0:13 for Bo, the dog located some 300 yards out to the west in an open, broomsedge section. Standing looking up into the variable northerly breeze, an extended flushing effort would lead to a relocation; nevertheless, with a bird rising during the flushing effort, the dog would be excused by the judges. (This would be the same general location that a single bird had confounded Blue Knight the previous morning.) For his part, Storm Warning seemed to have trouble getting in full gear and punching out front, and the judges would excuse him, too, at 0:25.

The 14th brace drew Erin's Copper Colt (Carlton) head-to-head with Haney's All In (McLean), his proud owners Steve and Stacey Croy riding along in support of their dog. As the course turned eastward parallel to the pecan orchards, the call of point would come for both dogs at 0:07. Copper Colt would be found right on the edge of the orchard, self-relocating through ninety degrees in the ephemeral breeze before his handler arrived, the birds successfully pinned in the grassy edge. All In would be found some 150 yards further east and deeper into the woody median, but sadly, neither the flushing effort nor the subsequent relocation effort would prove fruitful. With the southbound turn less than 100 yards further on, All In would be sent out wide to the left while Copper Colt would be sent up the inside of the turn through the piney median to the right. Approaching the neck of the long, north-south field, Copper Colt would turn into the now southeasterly breeze, cross that field, and swing forward through the woods on the left. All In had been

absent for some time as the course now swung west, but as the gallery cleared the stand of volunteer pines to the south, McLean would reconnect with his dog and send him across the front of the course to the swampy edge. After a decent start, Copper Colt's pattern would begin to loosen, and Carlton would elect to pick him up at 0:37. All In, for his part, would be found standing just before the red dirt road crossing at 0:44, but after an extended flushing and relocation effort proved unsuccessful, his day would come to a close too.

The 15th brace saw Late Hit (Shenker) alongside Erin's Code of Honor (Eisenhart), the dogs turned loose from the red dirt road accessing the trap and skeet field. The call of point would come quickly for Code of Honor at 0:02, some 200 yards out to the west in an oaky thicket, the birds easily flushed ahead of him. Sent on, he would stay out to the west, and shortly after coming under the powerlines, he would be found looking into the scrubby cover near a large live oak at 0:08. Sadly, despite a thorough relocation effort, this would prove fruitless. In the meantime, Late Hit had been moving boldly out on the eastern side of the course and as the terrain rose slightly above the gallery out to the left, his scout would call point at 0:13. He would be found up on the rise some 300 yards out to the east, the birds readily ahead of him. Coming back to the front, he would make game at 0:16 in the midst of a patchwork of well-managed, broomsedge blocks, taking a few moments to be sure of himself, the reason abundantly obvious soon after. The first batch of birds would be ridden up on the way to the dog, a second flushed directly ahead of him, and a third rising from the side as the shot was fired, the feeding covey scattered across a 30-yard circle all around the dog. While this superb piece of birdwork had been taking place, Eisenhart, for his part, had recognized this was not his dog's best day and had elected to pick up at 0:14. Nevertheless, as the temperature and humidity began to rise tangibly, Late Hit would dig in to the cover along the Cooleewahee Way, such that as the gallery began to approach the turn towards the old, stone picnic shed, he had been noticeably absent for some time. Apparently hung up out to the west along the swamp edge, he would reemerge through the gallery at 0:48 and be excused by the judges shortly thereafter.

The 16th brace drew Haney's Easy Money (McLean), with his owners Steve and Stacey Croy, to the line with Nighthawk's Rebel (Swearingen). Turned loose from the regular afternoon breakaway, Rebel would swing out to the left side of the course and disappear, leaving Easy Money to punch directly forward. The call of point would come for Rebel at 0:05, out on the outer rim of the bowl, birds easily flushed ahead of him. Bringing the dog forward, he would stop roughly a half mile further west at 0:08, standing at the head of a long, skinny north-south cover crop field, birds seen rising out of the broomsedge ahead of the mannerly dog by the oncoming judge. He would stay out on the north side of the course and would stop in an oaky thicket at 0:14, birds easily produced ahead of him. In the meantime, Easy Money had slipped away from his handler, prompting McLean to come in for his tracker at 0:19. Still out on the north side of the course and shortly before the final rise before the clear view of the Blue Springs headquarters, Rebel would stop for a fourth time at 0:24, and after another flawless flush, Swearingen would actually take his dog back to the single water tub and soak him down. Sending the dog out to the east towards the River Road, at which point it would disappear, Swearingen would ride the course, calm and collected. After being almost bogged down in birds at the start, the almost-too-long absence was a convincing measure of the dog's commitment and ability to run,

especially in the rising temperatures. Gathered up on top of the low rise for water (where Shadow Rider had had birds rise ahead of him unseen by the judges in the fourth brace), he would be sent down the eastern edge of the course past the sinkhole and parallel to the road, a palpable sense that this might be a dog to change the placements. He would be found on point at 0:55 in the woods to the right, roughly 200 yards shy of the dirt road crossing, a single bird flushed ahead of him. Taken on and barely over the dirt road, Rebel would stop again at 0:58, the birds easily flushed ahead of him. Despite being in a hurry-up routine, with Swearingen eager to show a strong finish, Rebel would stop for a final time at 0:59, although after an unsuccessful flushing attempt, a bird would rise during the relocation, bringing a tragic end to the brace.

The 17th brace would bring Southern Thunder (Shenker) to the line with Dominator's Rebel Mark (Daniels), his owners Nick Berrong and Jack and Sarah Schwarz riding in the gallery to watch their dog. Rebel Mark would be the first to stop at 0:05, roughly parallel to the house on the east side of the course, although sadly, all efforts to produce birds would prove unsuccessful. Southern Thunder would be brought in for water as the course approached the large east-west cover crop field crossing, at which point Daniels would spot his dog standing out to the left on the southern edge of the crop field at 0:10; birds would be seen rising ahead of him by the oncoming judge with all in

order. As the course began to arc west, Southern Thunder could be seen out to the north burning up country, and it would take some adventurous, erudite scouting to locate him at 0:21 on point deep in a hollow at approximately 3 o'clock on the rotator field dial. The excitement would continue as a deer would then flush and vault the dog before the sizeable covey could be sent airborne ahead of him. During this multi-fauna experience, Rebel Mark would stop at 0:25, but sadly, this would also prove non-productive ending his bid. Roughly a half mile after the turn south towards the golf course, Southern Thunder would come to a stop out on the left side of the course at 0:33, birds seen rising by the judge. On top of the next rise in an oaky thicket at 0:36, out on the right side this time, he would stop once more, the birds readily flushed ahead of him. Barely 300 yards further on, he would stop once more, although neither flushing nor relocation efforts could produce anything. Assessing his own dog's performance in the mounting heat, Shenker would elect to pick up his dog, bringing this year's championship to a close.

Albany, Ga., March 6

Judges: Ed Chance and Darron Hendley

MASTERS OPEN QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 32 Pointers and 2 Setters

Winner-RESTER'S JOHNNY RINGO, F1695797, pointer male, by Miller's Blindsider-Rester's Amazing Grace. Cecil Rester & Dr. Reuben Richardson, owners; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

Runner-Up-TOUCH'S SHADOW RIDER, F1697543, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Touch's Gold Dance. Bruce & Karen Norton & Dr. Reuben Richardson, owners; Mark McLean, handler.

CENTRAL PRAIRIE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial At Ellis Farm

By Dan Crunk | Orchardville, Illinois | March 8, 2025

We held our spring trial on March 8, 2025, at Ellis Farm, Orchardville, Illinois. The Club had a very good draw, and the weather cooperated. The Club thanks Ted Ellis and Linda Ellis for allowing us to run our trial on this great venue. Lunch was prepared and served by Jae Crunk.

As I left the grounds at the end of the day, I reflected on the day of running dogs and all those who brought and entered dogs. There are so many wonderful men and women who trial dogs, and I am so fortunate to be

associated with this great sport. All of us want to win and work hard to achieve winning, but the sportsmanship and willingness to help each other during the trial speak volumes. I am blessed to be in this sport and be around many great men and women.

The Club would like to thank all those who judged the various stakes. The Butch Spelbring Shooting Dog, Amateur Derby, and Amateur Gun Dog were judged by Brad Hargis and Dan Crunk. The Amateur Puppy stake was judged by Rick Stanford and Steve Feuss.

The biggest stake of the day was the Shooting Dog, with 16 dogs drawn. All four stakes were very competitive.

Butch Spelbring Amateur Shooting Dog

Ken DeLong's Brittany male, "Shooter," was named the winner in this stake. Shooter had a big race to the front and was always hunting the right objectives. Shooter is fast on the ground and had two finds in his half hour. Craig Hiatt's pointer female, "Roxie," took home second place with three finds and a good race to the front.

"Hawk," a setter male for Rob Warner, took home the third-place plaque. Hawk had the only covey find for the weekend and handled the covey perfectly. Hawk had another find for Rob and a good race. On a sidenote, it was good to have Craig Hiatt at a trial. Craig has had some health issues, and we are praying for continued recovery.

Amateur Derby

Don Heisner's setter female, "Abby," took home the first-place plaque. What makes her special for Don is that her sire is "Buck," who has done his fair share of winning for Don. Abby had two finds and a race to the front. William Creason from Missouri took home third in the Derby stake. Mr. Creason's derby, "Mack," a German Shorthair male, took home the third-place plaque. [Second-place was voided.]

Amateur Gun Dog

The Amateur Gun Dog was won by "Pixie," a setter female for Charles Mason from Kansas. Pixie had five finds for her half-hour and was very attractive on the ground. Chris Gandolfo, a relatively new handler, took home second in this stake with "Noodle," a pointer male. Noodle had five finds in his half hour of work. Myah Landolina, our youth handler, took home third with her German Shorthair male. "Diamond" had

four finds for Myah and one requiring a relocation. Myah is always a force in the Gun Dog with Diamond.

Amateur Puppy

The Puppy stake had six nice entries for the judges to watch. "Preacher," a pointer male for Briam Stockrahm, was first. Brian has placed Preacher many times this season. Decklin Wheat placed his pointer, "Scout," with a very nice race. Scout is so attractive on the ground. Decklin is our other youth handler. His grandfather, Frank Christi, reports that Decklin does all the training. Third place went to "Jack," a pointer male handled by Dan Crunk.

The NBHA clubs are thankful for our sponsors, Purina Pro Plan, Garmin, onX, Mule Hunting Clothing, and Gun Dog Central. These sponsors enrich the NBHA trials. A big thanks goes to each of our sponsors.

Orchardville, Ill., March 8 Judges: Dan Crunk and Brad Hargis NBHA BUTCH SPELBRING MEMORIAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 16 Entries

1st-K DEL'S EAGLE MAGNUM HOTSHOT, F1685770, Brittany male, by Magnum High Velocity-K Del's Eagle's Chance To Soar. Kenric DeLong, owner and handler.
2d-CRAIG'S RUNIN ROXIE, F1665573, pointer female, by Mac's Silver Dollar-Hilo Southern Tea. Craig Hiatt, owner and handler.
3d-SKY HAWK'S LITTLE RASCAL, F1670670, setter male, by Hytest Palladin-Sky Hawk's Blues Traveler. Robert R. Warner III, owner and handler.

NBHA AMATEUR DERBY – 6 Entries

1st-BEAUCOUP CREEK ABBY, F1704344, setter female, by Beau coup Creek Buck-Glover's Pepper Shaker. Dan Heisner, owner and handler.
2d-CUTTER'S IGNITED WINNING BID [Placement Voided].
3d-CUTTER'S IGNITED SUNDANCE MAC, R331-661, German Shorthair male, by Cutter's Ignited Winning Bid-D. H. Burr Oaks Annie. William Creason, owner and handler.

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 6 Entries

1st-FIREBUG, F1686749, setter female, by Bugs N Dirt-Iron Afire. Charles Max III, owner and handler.
2d-NITRO ELHEW RIPP, F1698831, pointer male, by Nitro Elhew Einstein-Nitro Elhew Country Rose. Chris Gandolfo, owner and handler.
3d-NO LIMIT'S WILDFIRES WILDCARD, F1705637, German Shorthair male, by P J Wildfire's Little Bud-P J Wildfire's Little Angel. John Landolina, owner; Myah Landolina, handler.

Judges: Steven Feuss and Rick Stanford

NBHA AMATEUR PUPPY – 6 Pointers

1st-PB JOHN THE BAPTIST, F1708723, pointer male, by Small's White Charger-Blue Mound's Mainstreet. Brian Stockrahm, owner and handler.
2d-SCOUT, unreg., pointer male, breeding not given. Frank Christie, owner; Decklin Wheat, handler.
3d-JD'S HAPPY JACK, F1712298, pointer male, by Phillips Linebacker-Bluemounds White Reign. Dan Crunk, owner and handler.

GEORGIA-FLORIDA INVITATIONAL FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial At Hickory Head Plantation

By Maria Bassham | Quitman, Georgia | March 8, 2025

The 63rd Georgia-Florida Invitational spring trial was held at the beautiful Hickory Head Plantation in Quitman, Georgia, March 7-8, 2025. The 28 open shooting dogs and 12 derby dogs competed over the course of two days instead of three due to incoming storms predicted for that Sunday. Temperatures were favorable with clear blue skies on Friday, and rainy, cloudy conditions were in place on Saturday.

We want to extend a huge thank you to Gordon Mooney and the entire staff of Hickory Head Plantation for doing a wonderful job hosting this event and welcoming all the participants. Thank you to everyone involved for

the hospitality and for allowing us to compete amidst your beautiful South Georgia piney woods. Daily lunches were catered by Allen Popell and served on tables draped in white tablecloths set up next to the horse barn under a big oak tree. It was the perfect setting for everyone to eat, relax, and enjoy socializing before the afternoon braces.

Riding in the judicial saddles for the two days were John Neely of Albany, Georgia, and Jeff Gibbons of Prattville, Alabama. Thank you to these two fine gentlemen for giving their time and expertise and spending their weekend with us judging these canine athletes. Thank you to all of our sponsors and club members for keeping the field trial

sport and this trial alive and running for 63 years.

The Winners

First-place Open Shooting Dog winner, "Chance," and handler Jason Loper got the trial off to an exciting start on Friday morning with his smart, winning brace. Chance had two good, classy finds with bountiful coveys up during his time on the ground and ran a very impressive forward race. He was very thrilling to watch and was pleasing to both judges. Chance was also the winner of the Derby stake in the Fall trial back in 2022.

Second-place winner, "Bonne," and Jessie Graffam ran in the second brace of the morning with another exciting



Georgia-Florida Invitational (l-r): Jason Loper with Tallokas New Business, Jessie Graffam with Boone, Danny Tankersley with Captain's Blackbelt Buddy, Jeff Gibbons (judge), and John Neely (judge).

45 minutes on the ground. Bonne produced three abundant finds, holding steady to wing and shot, and the judges both enjoyed his stylish race.

Third-place winner, "Buddy," and Ray Pearce ran in the seventh brace Friday afternoon. Buddy also had three nice finds with a flight of birds. His race was competitive and placed him third in the judges' books.

Quitman, Ga., March 8

**Judges: Jeff Gibbons and John Neely
OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 29 Entries**

*1st-TALLOKAS NEW BUSINESS, F1701627, pointer male, by Miller Unfinished Business-Tallokas Sun Dial. Tallokas Kennels, owner; Jason Loper, handler.
2d-BOONE, unreg., setter male, breeding not given. Jessie Graffam, owner and handler.
3d-CAPTAIN'S BLACKBELT BUDDY, F1706757, pointer male, by Crouse's Heart of Dixon-Crouse's Skiptomylu. Danny Tankersley, owners; Ray Pearce, handler.*

The Derby

First-place winner, "Nell," and Tommy Rice III produced no bird work in her 30 minutes, but impressed the judges with her very strong forward race.

Second and third-place dogs were run by handler Terry James Chastain Jr. that Saturday afternoon. The second-place winner, "Grace," had one find, and 3rd third-place winner, "Thunder," had two. Both dogs ran a medium race and completed their time on the ground. All three winners handled well and showed enthusiasm while running with their bracemates.

OPEN DERBY – 12 Pointers

1st-ERINS TEEN IDOL, F1712926, pointer female, by Erin's Redrum-Erin's Whitesmoke Ellie. Sean Derrig, owner; Thomas Rice, handler.

2d-MERRILY AMAZING GRACE, F1708589, pointer female, by Nonami's Johnny Come Lately-Melrose Goodbye Kiss. Daphne Wood, owner; Terry James Chastain, handler.

3d-MERRILY BIG THUNDER, unreg., breeding not given. Daphne Wood, owner; Terry James Chastain, handler.

MIDWEST OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Upfront's Southern Star Named Champion; Touch's Shameless, Runner-up

By David Taylor | Elk City, Kansas | March 12, 2025

The Midwest trial kicked off March 12, with the running of the Derby stake. A strong field of 10 juveniles challenged for placement. Lex She's A Doozy, a white and orange pointer female, topped the field. She ran a strong forward race, handling with ease. Her response to her handler was excellent. Doozy pointed a wild covey and displayed finished manners while Virgil Moore put her birds to flight. Doozy is owned by Tom Kliebert Jr. Haney's Juggernaut, a white and orange pointer male, placed second in the stake. Zach Hilton is the owner of Juggernaut, and he was handled by Shawn Kinkelaar. Juggernaut ran an excellent race and backed his bracemate mannerly. He pointed a single from a covey that had been flushed during an earlier brace and was trying to reunite. Juggernaut stood with perfect manners for the birds to be flushed. High Line Drive, a white and orange pointer male, placed third based

on his outstanding ground performance. Drive was handled by his owner of record, Scott Hadley.

Many dogs placed in the Midwest Derby have won championships during their adult careers.

The championship running began the afternoon of March 12 and was completed on March 14, after 20 braces had been run. Those in attendance met at headquarters for the announcement. Judges Humphrey and Bryant rendered a popular decision naming Upfront's Southern Star the 2025 Champion. Star was handled by Shawn Kinkelaar and scouted by Virgil Moore for owner Lance Schulz. Star has amassed a remarkable record at this championship, winning four championships and one runner-up. The last four titles, three championships and one runner-up, have come in successive years, 2022-2025. Although Star is nearing the end of her

career, her performances do not show any less brilliance. Her ground speed, application, style, and perfect birdwork remain consistent. All of these qualities were on display in this performance. Star ran a dazzling race coupled with flawless finds at 12 and 55.

Touch's Shameless, a pointer male owned by Dr. Richard Steckley and handled by Chuck Stretz, was named runner-up. Shameless stood at 15, but no birds were produced. At 35, Shameless pointed, and birds were flushed with everything in order. Running a good shooting dog race, Shameless cast to the next hill where he was found pointed. After an extended relocation, birds were flushed with Shameless standing mannerly.

The judges made special mention of three dogs that impressed them with their performances: Ramblin Rivers Natural, handled by Bill Stapleton

(Upfront's Southern Star is Natural's dam), and Thunder Bolt's Storm and Chelsea's Mae West, both handled by Shawn Kinkelaar. Each of the special mention dogs is listed in the order that they ran.

The Westfall Ranch, near Elk City, Kansas, has become home to the Midwest Championship. The officers of the association appreciate Mr. Westfall's support. He provides the grounds, facilities, and equipment needed to host the trial. Ranch manager Wally Olson, his wife Jennifer, and son Trip joined the group for several trial activities. Wally checked each day to see if we needed anything. Jennifer joined the gallery one afternoon on her favorite mount. Trip opened gates for the dog wagon during the running and helped Garvin release and feed birds after the day's running.

Thanks are extended to Purina for providing product to those handlers who handled dogs that won placements in the trial. Greg Blair's work at the local and national levels is outstanding, and we thank him.

Jon Humphrey and Austin Bryant from Oklahoma filled the judicial saddles. They have participated at all levels of field trials in their home state. Both of these gentlemen were congenial, attentive, with positive attitudes. Their decisions were well received.

Shawn Kinkelaar and Lance Schulz provided steaks for the annual Champions Dinner in honor of the 2024 champion, Upfront's Southern Star. Virgil Moore, Star's scout, manned the grill. Randy Wilson provided delicious sides to go with the steaks. A festive evening was enjoyed by those in attendance.

Garvin Collins has served the Midwest in many positions and now serves as



Midwest Open Shooting Dog Championship (front): Virgil Moore with Upfront's Southern Star. (Behind): Harold Gearhart, Shawn Kinkelaar, Curtis Tear, Jon Humphrey (judge), Luke Topp, and Austin Bryant (judge).

president and field trial chairman. He put together an excellent group of workers in order to host this event. Randy Wilson was responsible for the headquarters and prepared three meals a day. Garvin and Harold Gearhart released birds the night before the trial began. Garvin and Trip supplemented the coveys and fed them each evening. Jay McKenzie provided an ATV for putting out and feeding birds. Scott Hadley opened the gates and marshaled. Handlers were quick to pitch in and help.

The championship committee appreciates the owners and handlers for supporting this event with their entries.

Elk City, Kan., March 12
Judges: Austin Bryant and Jon Humphrey
MIDWEST OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 29 Pointers and 3 Setters
Winner-UPFRONT'S SOUTHERN STAR, F1662579, pointer female, by Ransom-Double Wild. Lance Schulz, owner; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.
Runner-Up-TOUCH'S SHAMELESS, F1692246, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Touch's Conference Call. Dr. Richard Steckley & John C. Stretz, owners; John C. Stretz, handler.

OPEN DERBY – 10 Pointers

1st-LEX SHE'S A DONZY, F1706284, pointer female, by Certified Sam-Brighter Days. Tom Kliebert Jr., owner; Virgil Moore, handler.
2d-HANEYS JUGGERNAUT, F1716275, pointer male, by Pleasant Run Samuel-Pleasant Run Sally. Zach Hilton, owner; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.
3d-HIGH LINE DRIVE, F1711512, pointer male, by Miller's Blindsider-Hadley's Honky Tonk Song. Scott Hadley, owner and handler.



Open Derby (front row): Shawn Kinkelaar with Lex She's A Doozy, Curtis Tear with Haney's Juggernaut, and Harold Gearhart with High Line Drive. (Behind): Randy Wilson (our great chef), Jon Humphrey (judge), Virgil Moore, Scott Hadley, and Austin Bryant (judge).

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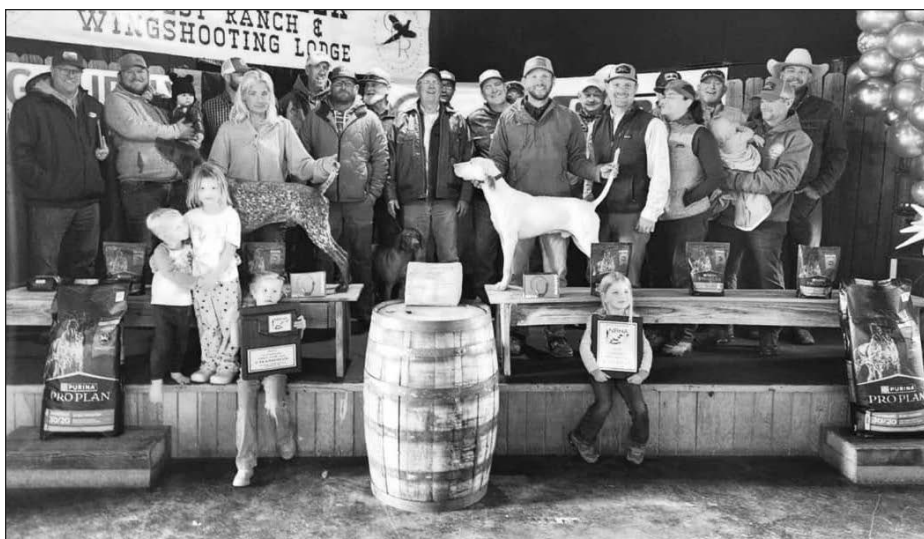
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NBHA NATIONAL FREE-FOR-ALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Perfections Huckleberry Named Champion; Uptown's West Mountain Boone, Runner-up

By Josh Pool and Tim Thornton | Cheyenne, Oklahoma | March 12, 2025



NBHA National Free-for-All Championship: Ch. Perfections Huckleberry with Jon Hann, and Uptown's West Mountain Boone with Jon Smith, joined by spectators.

The NBHA National Free-For-All Championship was held on the grounds of Croton Creek Guest Ranch and Wing Shooting Lodge near Cheyenne, Oklahoma. This was the second year in a row that the trial was held on this venue, and the action didn't disappoint. Thanks to generous sponsorships from Charger Systems, Mayfield Kennels, CUDD Pressure Control, and Croton Creek Ranch, the trial had an impressive payout of over \$15,800. Security State Bank of Cheyenne sponsored the Ronnie Crawford Award for Enthusiasm. Croton Creek Ranch sponsored the Sportsman of the Year Award. Meals were served daily in the 7,200 sq ft. event center, called the Social Barn. Field trials can't take place without a lot of support and help, and a huge thank you goes out to the kitchen staff, bird planters, dog wagon drivers, reporters, photographers, spectators, and competitors for making this an awesome event. A big thank you goes out to Stan Wint and Ryan Mulcahy who expertly judged the Championship. Both were road warriors as Stan was just returning from a 21-day tour of duty at the National Championship at Ames Plantation and Ryan was returning home to Idaho after a season of guiding wild quail hunts in Texas. The drawing took place on Friday, March 7. The public was encouraged to attend, and six people

took time out of their busy schedules to be in attendance.

The Free-For-All is a two-series trial. Thirty dogs competed in the one-hour first series. The judges narrowed the field to four callback dogs and two standby dogs for the second series. Due to our generous sponsors, every dog that made it to the callback received a payout. The top-qualifying dog received an additional \$500.

First Series Running

As reported by Josh Pool

First Brace: The morning started cool but warmed up quickly. Mayfield Storm Charger started the trial off with a find at the base of the first ridge on the right side of the course at :05. On the other side of the ridge, A Horse With No Name was standing, and Mayfield Storm Charger backed. This ended up being an unproductive. After that, Mayfield Storm Charger went on to have another find, and another one after that, and then an unproductive. Later on, A Horse With No Name chased a bird, which ended up being a stop to flush for Mayfield Storm Charger, thus ending the brace for A Horse With No Name. Mayfield Storm Charger went on to have another unproductive, where a pile of feathers was displayed, and another find. He finished the one-hour brace.

Second Brace: Rendrag's Red Line

Finnley and Webster's Elhew Dutton started out the brace with an unproductive each at the bottom of the first ridge. Handlers displayed feathers. Once over the ridge and through the first timbered draw, Webster's Elhew Dutton had a find, and Rendrag's Red Line Finnley backed. Further on across the same stretch of ground, Rendrag's Red Line Finnley had a find, and Webster's Elhew Dutton backed. It was some time and a few more timbered draws, ridges, and turns before the next dog was on point. This was Webster's Elhew Dutton with another unproductive; the handler displayed feathers. After this, both dogs went on to have a split find at the top of a bald outcrop and another split find in the bottom of a brushy draw. Both dogs finished the full hour.

Third Brace: Deep Creek Mason and R R's Bluegrass Unbridled broke away with Mason making a strong move to Willie's Ridge, where he pointed on the left side of the course at the apron. At :05, a bird was produced and all in order. Next, Mason pointed on the left side of the course at :20 in a plumb thicket about halfway down the long grassy chute, again all in order. He would have one more find before the end of his hour. R R's Bluegrass Unbridled had her first find at about :40 right after crossing back over Willie's Ridge on the right side, of course. She finished with two finds.

Fourth Brace: Jane's Atlantic Way started out the brace with a find halfway up the first ridge. This ended up being a dead bird, and she was moved on. Once past this, the two dogs crested the first ridge, and Perfections Razzleberry was not seen for some time. Eventually, the handler asked for her tracker. Jane's Atlantic Way went on to have a find in open country, and then it was a little while before she stopped again. This ended up being a back, as Perfections Razzleberry was held up pointed, and it was assumed that she had been that way for quite some time. As Perfections Razzleberry's handler had already called for the tracker, Jane's Atlantic Way was taken on and released by herself. Jane's Atlantic Way went on to have an unproductive in a big pile of timber and brush, and another find. She finished

the full hour.

Fifth Brace: The afternoon braces started at 80 degrees. Lady Lucks Revenge carried a bird back to its handler from halfway up the first ridge and was picked up. Uptown's West Mountain Boone was found standing in the general area of where Lady Lucks Revenge came from with the bird, and so his handler elected to take him on without flushing. Uptown's West Mountain Boone went on to have a stop to flush under a leafless tree and a find halfway up a ridge about halfway through his brace. He finished the full hour with a lot of run.

Sixth Brace: This brace started off with an early point by Erin's Gypsy Lady. This ended up being a dead bird. After that, both dogs opened up well, and there was a find by each dog before the first ridge. Once over the ridge and through the timbered draw, Charlies Perfect Angel had a find in a woody mott and then Erin's Gypsy Lady had a find at the top of a small rise. Both dogs went on to have another find, and then Erin's Gypsy Lady had a third find in the last few minutes of the brace. Both dogs finished the full hour.

Seventh Brace: This brace began with a find by Iron and Wine and a back by T D Sugar Show, well before the dogs reached the first ridge. Then the next find happened on the other side of the first ridge, and across the wooded draw, by Iron and Wine, with T D Sugar Show backing. T D Sugar Show had a find after this, and then both dogs moved over the country and held off into it with Iron and Wine disappearing over a ridge and not being seen for quite some time. The last bit of birdwork happened at the end of the brace, with both dogs breaking on the flush and both dogs being picked up.

Seventh Brace: The morning started cool. White Knuckle pointed well before the first ridge. He proceeded to pursue and catch his bird in a dogged display of athleticism and mouth-eye coordination. Flint Ridge Annie had a find well after the first ridge, and then another find after that. On down the course, on the backside, Flint Ridge Annie had an unproductive. Flint Ridge Annie finished the full hour.

Eighth Brace: Both dogs topped the first ridge early in the brace. Mayfield's Miss Kitty was picked up on birdwork further on into the run, and Rendrag's Lucky Piper was picked up without birdwork halfway through.

Ninth Brace: This brace started with the first bit of heat for the day. Reed's Super Spirit had a find in a thicket, and Haney's I. B. Fancy backed. Reed's Super Spirit followed this with another find and then a third find, where she was picked up on bird work. Haney's I. B. Fancy was picked up without birdwork.

10th Brace: With the heat in full swing, Bromance and Perfections Huckleberry split off in different directions before the first ridge, with a find each. Then, once over the ridge, Bromance had another find. In the meantime, Perfections Huckleberry had a stop-to-flush and another find before catching up with Bromance after the first ridge. Bromance went missing to the front, and the handler asked for the tracker. Perfections Huckleberry had an unproductive at 40 and another find soon after. He finished the full hour.

11th Brace: K C's Next Gen ran alone. He had a find before the first ridge and an unproductive after that. He went on to have another find just before the end of the brace. The heat seemed to take a toll on the dog. He finished the full hour.

13th Brace: One Eyed Willy ran big and finished strong. Pointed feathers at the end and finished the full hour. Flint Ridge Oakley ran nice with three finds, and then had an unproductive and another unproductive. She was picked up by her owner.

14th Brace: Shadow's Bootlegger and Ty One On went a long time without birdwork. Then Ty was called on point, and the handler opted to flush. It ended up being an unproductive, and most agreed that the dog was backing a piece of equipment. After this, Ty caught the front and both dogs were standing on a divided find next to a water tank and the gravel road. Both dogs stood through the flush. After this, Ty One On had a find and Shadow's Bootlegger backed. Both dogs went on to finish the full hour.

15th Brace: Travelin In Perfect Style had a find after the first ridge. She had a lot of race and another find about halfway through the run. Travelin In Perfect Style went missing in the last 10 minutes and showed up shortly before the end. She finished the full hour. Flint Ridge Ranger finished the full hour with no finds but one unproductive.

Callback & Standby Dogs

Uptown's West Mountain Boone (Jon Smith; Top Qualifying Dog); Rendrag's

Redline Finnley (Weldon Gardner); Perfections Huckleberry (Jon Hann); and Mayfield Storm Charger (Josh Pool). Standby Dogs: Charlies Perfect Angel (Jon Hann) and Erin's Gypsy Lady (Mathew Puckett).

The Callbacks

As reported by Tim Thornton

At the conclusion of the first series, the field trial schedule had to be adjusted slightly as the Oklahoma wind decided to make its presence known. It was decided to run the Derby as scheduled on Friday morning before the windstorm was predicted to start. The Puppy stake was moved to Saturday afternoon following the callbacks.

The plan seemed solid, but the storm had other ideas, and with two braces left in the Derby, the storm started with sustained winds of 30 mph and gusts over 50 mph. In the afternoon, gusts would reach over 80 mph. After our windy morning, we were happy to be back in the social barn before the sky turned completely red from the blowing dust!

In spite of the wind, the Derby stake was very competitive. A huge thanks to Mathew Puckett and Jake Davis for stepping in to judge the Derby stake, flipping their hats around backwards, and attentively enduring the conditions! And also a huge thanks to Jon Smith and Weldon Gardner for judging the puppies.

One of the benefits of running at Croton Creek Ranch is the likelihood of pointing wild coveys of Bobwhite quail. During the fall trial, eight wild coveys were pointed on a single 30-minute course! Curiously absent during the first series of the Free-For-All was a wild covey find. The first brace of the callbacks would change that trend.

First Brace: Uptown's West Mountain Boone, owned/handled by Jon Smith, was braced with Perfections Huckleberry (Jon Hann). Both dogs broke away well, each dog going about their business in their unique way. Boone had been named the Top Callback Dog for Jon Smith, who was handling in only his second field trial and his first walking trial ever! Jon Hann and Huck are an experienced team and very familiar with being in the winners' photo.

As both dogs crested Willie's Ridge, both dogs were running well. Hann, who had kept Huck in and ran a more



NBHA Open Derby Stake (l-r): Webster's Texas Ranger with Phillip Webster, Mathew Puckett (judge), Bandit Hill Bess with Klaus Schmidt, Jake Davis (judge), and Rendrags Hide and Seek with Weldon Gardner.

conservative first series strategy, was letting his charge have his head in the second series. Huck was happy to oblige, chewing up large chunks of country in his bid to be named Champion.

Boone has been wild bird hunted all over the western United States, and he was showing his abilities and talents to look for birds in all the likely places. Both dogs got their first real taste of field trialing in Western Oklahoma when, at :15, a wild covey of Bobwhite quail was seen flushing wild as Boone worked the left side of the course. Boone stopped to flush as the birds lifted well out in front. As judges and handlers arrived, Huck was also seen standing about 20 yards left of Boone and a safe distance from where the birds flushed. The work was scored as a stop to flush by both dogs, and all was in order after the shot.

Both dogs continued their strong ground performances down the grassy chute, making the dog leg right and past the water tank. Huck, nearing the top of the next ridge, pointed on the left side of the course in some shinary. Hann had an extended flushing effort as Huck stood solid. The murmurs in the gallery were that the birds had run off, as this is a known feeding area for wild coveys in the area. Hann trusted his dog and continued to flush. His efforts were rewarded as a single wild quail flushed near the horses, and then three more in popcorn fashion in the area of the dog. Huck had scored a wild covey feeding and stood with impeccable manners through the shot. This piece of work was approximately :25 into the brace. Energized by his second encounter with wild birds in 10 minutes, Huck went deep into the country, last seen crossing Willie's Ridge to the right of the course and angling right. Boone had watered at the blue water tub prior to Willie's Ridge and had disappeared over the ridge to the left. Scouts were sent in different directions to look for

both dogs. The course had turned away from Huck's last known location, while Boone was assumed to be to the left of course somewhere along Willie's Ridge. Jon Smith called point for his dog. Boone was pointed in a tough-to-get-to spot in a known wild covey location. Flushing efforts commenced but without success. Smith took his dog on. Huck had found the front on his own, and now both he and Boone had 15 minutes to show the judges what they had left. Jon Smith, knowing he needed to make something happen, informed the judge he was sending his dog into the red cliffs, though it was a bit left of course. He surmised that he needed a bird, and this area was his best shot as it is known to produce wild coveys. Boone made good on Jon's gamble, and point was called well left of course. Initial extended flushing efforts were futile with Boone standing high and tight. Boone was relocated and reestablished point. More efforts were made to flush. Birds were seen lifting well to the front as the running covey had finally had enough and lifted. Boone was solid, and all was in order at the shot.

Huck, staying on course and several hundred yards to the right of where Boone had his find, pointed in a little wash filled with grass and plumb thickets. Hann walked in and flushed a single liberated quail, Huck standing with his signature style and composure. Both dogs finished strong and to the front, concluding an exciting first brace of the callbacks. The standby dogs were notified that their services wouldn't be needed.

Brace 2: The standard had been set as Weldon Gardner with Rendrag's Red Line Finnley and Josh Pool with Mayfield Storm Charger walked to the starting line. Finnley and Gardner are no strangers to the Free-For-All callbacks. This was Gardner's third year in a row making the callback. He placed Rendrag's Lucky Piper runner-up two years ago; he had two dogs, including Finnley, in the callbacks last year, and they were back to try to win the Championship this season.

Mayfield Storm Charger was coming off of an excellent bird finding first hour at the All-Age National Championship at Ames Plantation just a week prior. He had shown his bird-finding talents and range in the first series for his handler, Josh Pool. Josh and his wife Rilee have become regulars on the NBHA circuit.



NBHA Open Puppy (l-r): Meadow Thornton, Tim Thornton with Oklahoma Smoke Show, Weldon Gardner (judge), Chris Craighead with Zeke, Jon Smith (judge), Ken Sauer, and Mike Taylor with Lil Chief Snake Feather.

Coming into the sport a year ago, they, like many of the new arrivals in the Oklahoma/Texas areas, have shown that though they may be new to trialing, they definitely know their way around a dog. They've hunted wild birds all over the western United States, and their dogs show it. Josh handling Mayfield Storm Charger was a natural fit as the dog, owned by Jake Davis, has been in the all-age string of Allen Vincent. Josh, wishing to gain more knowledge and experience, spent much of summer camp in Allen's camp and was very familiar with Storm Charger.

Both dogs broke away well, finally staying to the left front and reaching out to Willie's Ridge. Storm Charger made a strong move, showing his all-age roots, and went deep into the right front of the course, ending up where the course comes back over Willie's Ridge on the back half of the course. He then swung to the front on the backside of the ridge and was seen standing pointed to the right of the course as handlers and judges crested the ridge. Pool caught some bad luck as he flushed when the bird flew back into and over Storm Charger's head. It was too much for the amped up dog, and he made an effort to catch the bird as it cleared him. Storm Chargers' electric start to his callback performance ended at :10.

Finnley continued on course, watering just below where Storm Charger had his mishap. She was picked up at :35 after her second unproductive, bringing the gutsy little Vizsla's chances at the Championship to an end.

Thanks to the NBHA and all of our National Sponsors for supporting this event.

Cheyenne, Okla., March 12

Judges: Ryan Mulcany and Dr. Stan Wint

NBHA NATIONAL FREE-FOR-ALL CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Qualifying Heats; One-Hour Finals]

– 22 Pointers, 1 Setter,

6 German Shorthairs, and 1 Vizsla

Winner-PERFECTIONS HUCKLEBERRY, F1672078, German Shorthair male, by Odyssey's Perfect Traveler-H's Double A Flagship. Chase M. Benton, owner; Jon Hann, handler.

Runner-Up-UPTOWN'S WEST MOUNTAIN BOONE, F1706402, pointer male, by West Mountain Lucky Luke-M H Rockford Peach. Jon Smith, owner and handler.

Judges: Jake Davis and Matthew Puckett

NBHA OPEN DERBY – 7 Pointers and 7 Setters

1st-WEBSTER'S TEXAS RANGER, F1718880, pointer male, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Wynona's High Finance Rita. Phillip Webster, owner and handler.

2d-BANDIT HILL BESS, F1706165, pointer female, by Touch's Smooth Rider-West's Lucy. Klaus Schmidt, owner and handler.

3d-RENDGRAGS HIDE AND SEEK, unreg., pointer female, by Wahoo's Big Bull-RR Easter Lily. Weldon Gardner, owner and handler.

Judges: Weldon Gardner and Jon Smith

NBHA OPEN PUPPY – 15 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-CCR'S OKLAHOMA SMOKE SHOW, F1719953, pointer female, by Wahoo's Black Rail-T D Sugar Show. Tim Thornton, owner and handler.

2d-ZEKE, unreg., pointer breeding not given. Chris Craighead, owner and handler.

3d-LIL ELHEW CHIEF SNAKEFEATHER, F1709748, pointer male, by Hackberry's Elhew Chief-Hackberry's Elhew Ashlee. Mike Taylor, owner and handler.

PONY EXPRESS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Westfall's True Grit Wins Larry Smith Heartland Open All-Age

By Steve Auxier | Gentry, Missouri | March 12, 2025

The Pony Express Field Trial Club members came together and hosted a successful event! This year's event was not only highlighted by amazing performances but also maintained the camaraderie that everyone looks forward to each spring.

We would like to thank in advance all the bird dog breeders, owners, handlers, and all of the sponsors for this National Qualifying event. Without their support, this event would not be possible! Sponsors for this year's event included Purina Pro Plan and SportDOG.

The Larry Smith Heartland Open All-Age commenced on March 12 over the rolling north Missouri countryside known as Smith Farms, west of Gentry, Missouri. The field trial venue, which is owned by Mrs. Linda Smith, has been laid out with three continuing courses to showcase all-age dogs. The grounds include horse corrals and dog kennels that are available on site for all participants.

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

Smith Farms has a quail program with habitat designed to sustain wild quail and pheasants, PLUS birds are released every day prior to the day's running, where every entry could have ample opportunity to find game.



Larry Smith Open All-Age (front, l-r): Andy Daugherty and Tommy Smith's daughter with Westfall's True Grit, Matt Cochran with Wild Covey Strikezone, and Allen Vincent with I'm Gallant. (Back row, l-r): Thomas Smith, Tommy Smith, Bill Westfall, Stan Truska (judge), Linda Smith, Ethan Kelly, Howard Burbach (judge), Colton Carpenter, and Steve Auxier.

The judges for the Larry Smith Open All-Age were Mr. Howard Burbach of Pleasant Hill, Missouri, and Mr. Stan Truska of Panama, Nebraska. The judges for the Open Derby were Dr. Pat McInteer of Falls City, Nebraska, and Mr. Howard Burbach. The Pony Express Field Trial Club is truly honored to have these fine gentlemen in the judging seats. The judges had many great performances with multiple pieces of birdwork and good races. The judges noted they enjoyed the field trial, grounds, nice dogs, hospitality from the Pony Express Field Trial Club, and multiple bird contacts by all dogs.

Heartland Open Derby

This year's derby stake was an exciting one to watch, with many solid performances. This derby is key as it finalizes the year for points for the Top 12 derby dogs in the nation! The

Heartland Open Derby is a 45-minute derby testing overall stamina and endurance for these fine athletes. This derby showcased several Top 12 derbies in the nation that were qualified to run two weeks later in the American Derby Invitational Championship held in Grovespring, Missouri.

First place was credited to Wynona's Rebel, handled by Mr. Allen Vincent. This young dog showed extreme range with several nice pieces of birdwork. Wynona Rebel has been in the winners' circle multiple times throughout the season. This win secured his position in the American Derby Invitational Championship.

Second place was Beeler's Final Solution, handled by Mr. Scott Beeler. This young dog ran an extreme race and showed several nice all-age casts to secure second in this competitive derby.

Third place was Raymonds Patsy. This nice female has also been very competitive on the circuit this year for Allen Vincent's string, placing multiple times. She had several nice finds and an overall nice performance.

Gentry, Mo., March 12

Judges: Howard Burbach and Pat McInteer

HEARTLAND OPEN DERBY – 7 Pointers

1st-WYNONA'S REBEL, F1717783, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-White Smoke's Angel. Bruce Sooter, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.

2d-BEEKER'S FINAL SOLUTION, F1717889, pointer male, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Bandit's Hill Lady. Scott Beeler, owner and handler.

3d-RAYMONDS PATSY, F1712582, pointer female, by Raymond's Double Rebel Jess-Raymond's White Out. William Raymond, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.

Larry Smith Heartland Open All-Age

Westfall's True Grit, handled by Mr. Ryan Westfall and scouted by Mr. Andy Daugherty, started off strong with a find at 12 next to the cedar tree on



Heartland Open Derby (front row, l-r): Wynona's Rebel with Matt Cochran (scout), Beeler's Final Solution with Scott Beeler (handler), Larry Huffman (scout), and Raymonds Patsy with Allen Vincent (handler). (Back row, l-r): Tommy Smith's daughters, Thomas Smith, Dr. Pat McInteer (judge), Howard Burbach (judge), and Steve Auxier.

the fence line. He was credited with multiple finds at 16, 24, 29, 36, and 45, showing his strong desire to find birds and all age stamina/endurance with his performance finishing far to the front. True Grit has been very competitive at Smith Farms in his career.

Wild Covey Strikezone was handled by Mr. Andy Daugherty, with his strong

stamina and desire to find birds. Strikezone scored his first find at 9, 13, 18, 34, and 46. This young dog showed to the front for his handler and finished the hour strong.

I'm Gallant, handled by Mr. Allen Vincent, was turned loose with bird finding on his mind. I'm Gallant had multiple finds during his hour scoring at 12, 15, 19, 25, 34, 44, and finished his hour with endurance reaching the horizon!

Judges: Howard Burbach and Stan Truska

LARRY SMITH HEARTLAND OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats] – 26 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-WESTFALL'S TRUE GRIT, F1663635, pointer male, by Erin's Brave Heart-Westfall's Irish Bell. Ryan Westfall, owner and handler.

2d-WILD COVEY STRIKEZONE, F1697326, pointer male, by Open Range Terminator-Open Range Ice Breaker. Bill Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

3d-I'M GALLANT, F1696254, pointer male, by Valiant-Double Swami Dexie. Jay McKenzie, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.

NBHA WESTERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

T D Sugar Show Named Champion; Piper, Runner-up

By Tim Thornton | Cheyenne, Oklahoma | March 12, 2025



NBHA Western Regional Championship (l-r): Meadow Thornton, Kevin Guess, Tim Thornton with T D Sugar Show, Ken Sauer, Weldon Gardner with Piper, and Drey and Emory Gardner.

The NBHA Western Regional Championship commenced on March 16, 2025. The Championship had been postponed from its original date due to the weather and was rescheduled to follow the NBHA Free-For-All on the grounds at Croton Creek Ranch. Participants and dogs had already endured four days of high temperatures, 80 mph winds, and then

cold! The temperature fluctuated 50 degrees during the eight braces of the Western Championship. Four dogs found wild coveys, with six coveys of wild quail being located during this single course field trial.

The Running

The morning started off a calm, crisp 22 degrees with absolutely no wind. The

weather climbed into the 70s by mid-afternoon. It's been said that there's no place with more unpredictable scent conditions than western Oklahoma, and this day would do nothing to dispute that.

Under the conditions, birdwork came at a premium. Here's a synopsis of dogs that finished with birdwork:

Brace 2: Uptown's West Mountain Boone, fresh off of his Top Callback Dog Award and runner-up in the NBHA National Free-For-All a day earlier, and handled by Jon Smith, continued his bird finding ways with two finds, including a wild covey find in less-than-ideal scenting conditions. The young 3-year-old pointer, running his third one-hour brace in four days, gave a good effort on the ground. He showed his wild bird hunting background in the way that he interpreted the course and cover. His performance led the field for a good portion of the day, and he narrowly missed his second runner-up championship in two days.

Brace 5: Mayfield's Miss Kitty ("Rona") had a scorching start to her brace off of breakaway, disappearing over Willie's

Ridge on the right side of the course with her brace mate, Bromance, handled by Ryan Eichelberger in the same area. Rona showed back to the front at about the 15-minute mark as handler Tim Thornton and gallery crossed the creek after Willie's Ridge. Rona had the course to herself for the remainder of the braces; Bromance didn't return. Rona hunted gamely, making some strong moves to the front. Rona showed a lot of grit as she was fresh off of whelping a litter of puppies, and the temperatures had warmed considerably. At about 40, Rona's handler called point. The bird ran but was eventually flushed by handler Tim Thornton, and all was in order. Rona finished her gutsy hour to the front and still going strong. During her find, a bird got up under the judge's horse, which caused quite a stir, and the horse's reaction and subsequent rodeo led to a lot of conjecture and laughter for the rest of the day.

Brace 6: The weather continued to warm up, and so did the action as K C's Next Gen (Ken Sauer) and Piper (Weldon Gardner) turned loose. Both dogs had big races throughout the brace. Ben had a find at 35 with Piper backing below the one-hour course viewing area hill. At about 45, Piper was found pointing in a group of trees and plum thickets below the 30-minute course viewing area hill. It was a wild covey, and all was in order. Both dogs continued strong races out across the open prairie, finishing to the front.

Brace 8: T D Sugar Show (Tim Thornton) was the last dog turned loose after five grueling days on the single one-hour middle course at Croton Creek. Sugar broke away in warm conditions with the Oklahoma wind making its presence known. She made a big move to the front right of course up onto Willie's Ridge and then hunted the ridge to the front before dropping down into the valley. Thornton watered her there and then sent her to the right side of the course. As she swung to the front, she hit scent and pointed. She was in the creek bottom with a plum thicket above her. It was a tough flushing situation, and no birds were produced. Handler chose to relocate, and Sugar once again established point. The bird ran past her and left the thicket in front of the judges, and all was in order after the shot. Sugar continued forward, working objective to objective down the long grassy chute. Finally, making a sweeping cast to the left and pointing. As the handler walked in

to flush a covey of wild birds, they blew out in every direction, including right at the dog. After the shot, Sugar was once again released and hit the second water station well in front of the handler; she was in and out and continued on. Judges pointed her out well to the front as she topped a ridge and disappeared into the valley. She was seen moving well to the front again but failed to reappear after dropping off the edge of the dry pond. Jon Smith was scouting, and the handler asked the judges if he could send him for a look. Permission granted, Jon was gone a short time when point was called. An extended flushing effort was made, and the handler deduced the birds had made an escape and decided to take his dog on. Up and over Willie's Ridge and back onto the front side of the course, Sugar made a cast to the right into a group of plum thickets with no success, as she crossed back to the front, running strong, and disappearing into the next group of thickets.

Down through the creek and across the pond, Sugar hit scent again and began to trail. After about 150 yards, a covey of wild birds took to the air too far to the front to be pointed, but close enough that they had had enough. Sugar put on the brakes and stopped to flush. Handler shot and made up the 250-plus yards up the hill to retrieve his dog. Sugar took to the front and went out of sight over the last ridge. As the handler topped the ridge, he expected to see her well to the front in the open flats, but instead, she had gone left up the steep hill and was now bounding down the steep face and out onto the flats to the front. She went to the left of a plum thicket draw, using the wind to her advantage. Her gait changed, and she dropped off into the draw and didn't reemerge. The judge called point; the dog was standing at a steep downward angle on the side of the cut. As the handler entered the cut, wild birds erupted in all directions. Time was called, and the judge remarked, "That's how you end it!"

Field trials aren't possible without individuals taking time out of their busy schedules to participate, judge, plant birds, drive the dog wagon, cook, and any other number of things that come up that need to be taken care of. It is with the sincerest thank you that we recognize everyone involved who helped and attended this trial. I would like to thank our judges for their attentiveness during a long day in the saddle, as well

as Jesse Lambert, the original chair of the event, before its postponement. He put in a lot of work to line up judges and trophies and organize the event. The NBHA is an incredible organization; without them and their sponsors, these events wouldn't be possible.

A Little Background

This being the first Championship that we've won, I wanted to share a little about Sugar and her development and the place she holds in our string and as part of our family. Sugar was a COVID baby, as they say. Shortly after we acquired her, the whole world seemed to shut down. Her breeder and my good friend, David Uphoff, allowed me the privilege to own her. In those early days, my wife Melissa, who was learning to ride and learning about field trialing, would go out every evening with me and ride and run Sugar. We had other young dogs with her as well, but none of them found birds like her. It became a daily family outing to drive roads in the evenings and work her on ditch pheasants—my wife Melissa, daughter Meadow, and baby Hazel. Later, we worked her on Prairie chickens, pheasants, and quail that were plentiful around our little farmstead. She was a November-born pup out of a Funseeker's Rebel frozen semen breeding to Deep Creek Myrna. As such, she was just 10 months old when she began her derby season! We broke her at 12 months old, and at 14 months old, she narrowly missed a runner-up championship with three broke finds in the Region 17 Shooting Dog Championship! As a derby, she had wins at the Big Sky Open Shooting dog Derby in Circle, Montana, as well as in Kansas and Colorado.

Our whole family has been there watching and helping as we developed this magnificent dog, and it just so happened that they were watching and cheering from the dog wagon as her run progressed. The excitement on the kids' faces as Sugar was announced the champion is going to stick with me forever. Truly a family achievement, and we couldn't be prouder.

Cheyenne, Okla., March 16 – One Course
Judges: Kevin Guess and Dray Williams
NBHA WESTERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 14 Pointers and 1 Setter
Winner-T D SUGAR SHOW, F1691312, pointer female, by Funseeker's Rebel-Deep Creek Myrna. Tim Thornton, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-PIPER, F1687183, German Shorthair female, by W&W Rip N Dig-H&R Miss Rock Star. Weldon Gardner, owner and handler.

NATIONAL AMATEUR PHEASANT ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Erin's Southern Comfort Named Champion; Erin's Doc Holliday, Runner-up

By Steve Auxier | Gentry, Missouri | March 12, 2025



National Amateur Pheasant All-Age Championship (front row, l-r): Allison Bell with Erin's Southern Comfort, Tommy Smith's daughters, and Tony King with Erin's Doc Holliday. (Back row, l-r): Jarrett Bell, Steve Auxier, Ryan Griess (judge), Thomas Smith, Bruce Bryant (judge), Sean Patrick Derrig, Joe Worsham, and Brian Sheehan.

The Pony Express Field Trial Club members came together to host the National Amateur Pheasant Championship for the second year! This prestigious trial is the second-oldest amateur field trial championship. This year's event was not only highlighted by amazing performances but also maintained the camaraderie that everyone looks forward to each spring. To host an event of this magnitude, we felt honored! Larry and Linda Smith have created an amazing field trial venue with over 2,500+ acres of rolling hills, long tree lines, waterways, CRP strips, and over 43 ponds. This layout consists of three consecutive one-hour courses to showcase the all-age performance. Smith Farms has a quail program with habitat designed to sustain wild quail and pheasants, plus birds are released every day prior to the day's running, where every entry has ample opportunity to find game. Larry's vision and his attention to detail to create an "experience" of hospitality for the field trialer and spectator was his goal. He would commonly say, "What is best for field trialing?" Smith Farms is designed with horse corrals, 56 dog kennels, a comfortable clubhouse, complimentary meals and hay for all, a Polaris ATV for spectators/owners, and onsite lodging for judges.

We would like to thank Mrs. Linda

Smith for the opportunity to host this event on her beautiful farm. We would also like to thank all the handlers and all the sponsors for this National Qualifying event. Without their support, this event would not be possible. Sponsors for this year's event included Purina Pro Plan and Garmin. This event had some additional sponsors, including AKRS John Deere, Futuresone Brokerage and Risk Management, Haggis Saddles, The Saddle Guy, Conkey's Outdoors, Wild Covey Kennels, White Safety Equipment, Erin's Kennels, Good Life Fitness, and Certified Piedmontese Beef. For this event, we held several raffles and giveaways. We would like to thank Wild Covey Kennels, Good Life Fitness, and Erin's Kennels for the donated stud service of Ch. Erin's Wild Atlantic Way. On Friday night, we had a special NY strip barbeque dinner sponsored by Certified Piedmontese Beef and prepared by Mr. Tommy Smith. The steaks were done to perfection.

Smith Farms has a quail program with habitat designed to sustain wild quail and pheasants, PLUS birds are released every day prior to the day's running, where every entry could have ample opportunity to find game.

The judges for the Championship were Mr. Bruce Bryant of Silver City, Iowa, and Mr. Ryan Griess of Sutton, Nebraska. The Pony Express Field Trial Club is truly

honored to have these fine gentlemen in the judging seats. The judges noted a great trial with many dogs finding birds. They also noted the sportsmanship from everyone helping each other out with turning a dog loose, and always being willing to help. A great trial with great camaraderie from all.

The Running

Brace 1: Game Surge (Corder) and Worsham's Spitfire (Worsham).

The Championship started at 8 a.m. with clear skies and 38 degrees. Both dogs headed west with Game Surge scoring first at 10 on a pheasant, and all in order. Game Surge was not pleasing his handler and was picked up at 45. Spitfire had his first find at 38 on a pair of pheasants, concluding his brace.

Brace 2: Erin's Rebel Attraction (Sheehan) and Nemaha Tap Water (McInteer). Dogs turned loose heading north. Erin's Rebel Attraction scored with finds at 10, 16, 23, 34, 43, 49, and finishing his hour. Nemaha Tap Water scored his first find on pheasants at 16, concluding his brace.

Brace 3: Small's White Rambler (Small) and Erin's Doc Holliday (Bell). The final brace of the morning started off with both dogs making a big move to the south into the headwind. Both dogs showed their stamina and endurance fighting the headwind and reaching far to the front. This was an exciting brace to watch as dogs were credited on multiple finds of quail and pheasants, with some pretty birdwork. Like a boxing match exchanging punches, one dog would be on point with the other dog honoring. Small's White Rambler was credited with five finds, with his last find on pheasant causing a little too much temptation, ending his debut. Erin's Doc Holliday went on to score six finds and finished his hour reaching far to the front at time, showcasing his stamina and endurance.

Brace 4: Erin's Mighty Quinn (Derrig) and Intensive I'm On Fire (Auxier). Breakaway right after lunch. Both dogs headed west, making their move to the north along the far fence line. Both dogs got out of the pocket, which resulted in

both handlers gathering up their dogs to regain order. Auxier picked up his female at 20 as she was not pleasing him. Erin's Mighty Quinn went on reaching to the front and was credited with several nice finds. This young dog showed his potential to be a top contender in the years to come!

Brace 5: Erin's Southern Comfort (Derrig) and Rebel Dream (Williams). Both dogs turned loose heading south, making the long lines to the east. Erin's Southern Comfort showed his stamina and endurance, pushing the front with many noted all-age casts. The judges noted several times that Southern Comfort would be found standing and then released, pushing the front to be found on point again. Southern Comfort was credited with four finds and a big finish into the distance at time. Rebel Dream, with the strong wind, was not pleasing his handler, and Williams elected to pick him up, concluding his brace.

Brace 6: Game Heir (Corder) and Phillips Linebacker (Small). The final brace of the afternoon. Both dogs are heading south towards the Tornado Shelter. The first find was credited to Linebacker at 12 on a trio of quail with Game Heir honoring. All in order, next showing an exchange of finds and backs for each dog. Game Heir had finds at 16, 22, 29, 36 up, and 46 up. With the strong wind, this brace showed to be an exciting brace to test the stamina of these fine athletes. Both dogs were credited with four to five finds each. Game Heir was found pointed on the



Amateur Derby (front row, l-r): Allison Bell with Worsham's Samson and Steve Auxier with Erin's High Octane. (Back row, l-r): Bruce Bryant (judge), Jarrett Bell, Ryan Griess (judge), and Joe Worsham.

north side of the pond with Linebacker honoring, but was unable to produce birds, concluding his brace at 46 with a second unproductive. Linebacker finished the hour with a strong finish. Linebacker had finds at 12, 18, 26, 38, and 44.

Brace 7: Game Nation (Corder) and Erin's Grey Justice (Derrig). Dogs broke away at 8 a.m. in the first brace of the morning. Game Nation was not pleasing his handler, and Fred elected to pick him up. Erin's Grey Justice was credited with multiple finds, with the first at 12, then 25, 33, and 41, and finished the hour.

Brace 8: B G K's Luke (Bell) and Rebel Gold (Williams). Dogs were turned loose heading across dead tree pond to the east and turning to the northeast. B G K's Luke was credited with eight finds in his brace, combining quail and pheasants! Rebel Gold was not pleasing his handler and was picked up concluding the hour.

Brace 9: Game Star (Corder) was turned loose heading west. She was found on point at 6. Corder called flight

of pheasant on the back side of the draw, but the judges did not see the bird leave. Game Star was turned loose to the west, heading up the far south fence line. Game Star was not pleasing his handler and was picked up, concluding her brace.

Gentry, Mo., March 20

Judges: Bruce Bryant and Ryan Griess

NATIONAL AMATEUR PHEASANT ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 17 Pointers and 5 German Shorthairs

Winner-ERIN'S SOUTHERN COMFORT, F1693833, pointer male, by Erin's Lone Star Law-Erin's Irresistible Jane. Sean Derrig & Sean Patrick Derrig, owners; Sean Patrick Derrig, handler.

Runner-Up-ERIN'S DOC HOLLIDAY, F1704304, pointer male, by Erin's Lone Star Law-Erin's Little Lullaby. Jarrett Bell, owner and handler.

The National Amateur All-Age Pheasant Companion Derby was turned loose at 12:30 p.m. The weather had taken a turn with a storm coming from the south. With high winds, the derbies gave their best performances. Worsham's Samson for handler Joe Worsham was credited with one pheasant find and finished his brace with endurance, securing his first-place finish. Erin's High Octane for handler Jarrett Bell was credited with one find on a quail, showcasing his loftiness and desire to reach to stay on the front to lock in his second-place finish.

AMATEUR DERBY

– 5 Pointers and 2 German Shorthairs

1st-WORSHAM'S SAMSON, F1717675, pointer male, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Haney's Black Widow. Joe Worsham, owner and handler.

2d-ERIN'S HIGH OCTANE, F1712754, pointer male, by Erin's Grey Ghost-Erin's Sweet Justice. Jarrett Bell, owner and handler.

BEAVER VALLEY POINTER & SETTER CLUB

Spring Trial

By Al Fazenbaker | Rochester, Pennsylvania | March 15, 2025

The Beaver Valley Pointer & Setter Club hosted its annual spring trial on the weekend of March 15 at its iconic grounds in Rochester Twp., Pennsylvania. The Beaver Valley club, founded in 1949, has run field trials continuously since its inception, and this weekend was no exception, with 68 dogs running on the weekend.

The trial ran smoothly under the guidance of long-time club member Norm Meeder, who kept things moving in a timely manner. The club had plenty

of help as well from club members to make for a great weekend. We missed both Joe Cammisa and Deb Fazenbaker, who were recuperating from surgeries, and we wish for their speedy recovery. Our judging staff was a group of dedicated bird dog enthusiasts, and their input was much appreciated as they evaluated the dogs in play.

Special thanks to Norm Meeder, Bob Smith, Tyler Bowser, Alex Meeder, Al Fazenbaker, Reese Carroll, Jason Ketchel, Brian Ralph, Russ Fazio, and Sarah

Gomes for their time in the judging saddle. Thanks as well to Purina, a stalwart supporter of field trials in our region.

Open Puppy

"Dixie" and "Sprout" showed some potential, as they handled nicely, stayed to the front, and hunted the cover. Both dogs showed a moderate race.

In the second brace, "Porkchop" and "Blue" blew out of the gate and showed a wide cast to the front. They

maintained a wide and forward race, with Porkchop showing a classy gait as he moved forward, earning him second place.

"Mint" and "Parton" both had a pleasing forward race but lacked the maturity of the other dogs.

"Blaze" took first place in this stake, living up to his name with some serious blazing through the grounds. "Dill" was right with him to earn the third-place ribbon. Both dogs ran hard and finished with wide casts to the front.

"Charlie," running as a bye, showed good potential, hunting hard and making some nice forward casts.

Open Derby

"Tess," the second-place dog, pointed the first bird of the trial at 6, standing in a feed strip near the oil well, and showing broke manners. She scored again at 8, at the single tree down from the oil well, with "Dash" backing. Both displayed broke manners. A divided find was carded at 15, with both dogs dug in the woods. Both Tess and Dash were forward and showed a moderate race to finish.

"Otis" scored the first find at 9, near the single tree, with "Cece" honoring. Otis scored again at 17, in an open field; he broke and gave chase as the bird lifted. Both dogs showed a nice forward race and finished to the front.

"Roxie," the first-place winner of the stake, scored her first find on the upper tree line, displaying broke manners and looking very classy. "Winston" pointed on the backside of the course, with Roxie honoring; Winston went with the bird as it lifted, and gave a short chase. Roxie scored again at 11, along the edge of the woods, and held tight as her bracemate swept by. She scored again at 13, again displaying a very classy demeanor on her game to earn the first-place title.

The first find of this brace was credited to "Coach," who pointed at 5 on the upper tree line. Georgia followed one minute later with a find nearby. Coach was released by the handler and immediately swung around and pointed again, this time near the fence line to the oil well. He scored a find two minutes later at the lone tree and decided to travel with the bird as the quail lifted. Both dogs finished to the front.

Winston took the third-place ribbon, scoring a find at 6 along the upper treeline, showing good manners on his

game. Nick pointed at 9, in the backside of the course, with Winston honoring. Nick moved on the shot; both dogs finished strong and to the front.

Open Shooting Dog

1. "Cricket" (PF/Hughes) and "Lola" (PF/Munden). Cricket and Lola were both strong out of the gate, and soon split the course, with Cricket moving towards the upper tree line, and Lola racing along the lower treeline. Lola was found pointing in the valley near a feed strip at 5 but could not produce a bird after a relocation. Cricket scored her first find along the edge of the woods at 7, with Lola coming in to honor. Cricket scored again at 9 in a feed strip near the top of the course, with Lola coming in to back. At 11, Cricket scored again in the woods, and Lola was on the leash after failing to back. Cricket raced to the back of the course, scoring another find. Sending her on, she was found at 26 on the upper tree line, where a bird was flushed, and she showed good manners. She showed a hard and powerful push throughout the brace and finished strong and to the front.

2. "Jack" (ESM/Ralph) and Warrior Zeke (PM/Hughes). Both dogs broke away and showed a strong cast to the upper tree line, where each dog scored a find, with good manners displayed. Zeke pointed in the feed strips near the oil well, with all in order. Jack rimmed the far side of the course, scoring a dug-in find at 11 along the edge of the course; he scored again at 13 on the far backside of the course, with excellent manners and composure. Zeke pointed in a feed strip at the same time, showing similar manners. Moving to the front, Zeke scored near the woods in the bottom, with good manners displayed. He scored again in the open field in the valley. Jack showed a strong and forward race to complete the stake and take the blue ribbon.

3. "Blaze" (PM/Hughes) and "Lenni" (ISM/Fazenbaker). Blaze and Lenni were forward and running wide; Blaze scored a find at 11, with Lenni backing; he repeated at 18 and 24, again with Lenni backing. Blaze finished strong and to the front to take second place.

4. "Spec" (PF/Hughes) and "Chuck" (PM/Munden). Chuck scored the first find on the tree line at 6, with Spec honoring. Spec moved along the feed strips near the oil well, scoring his first find, with all in good order. He scored

again near the woods on the back side of the course, and again in the woods near the open field. Chuck pointed in the open field at 21, with Spec honoring from a good distance. A bird was produced after a lengthy relocation effort; both dogs finished strong and to the front, showing wide casts to the conclusion.

5. "Dusty" (PF/Hughes) and "River" (ISM/Fazenbaker). River scored the first find, in the treeline at 8; a bird was produced after an extensive flushing effort. Dusty scored in the vicinity, with everything in order. River suffered an unproductive in heavy multiflora cover; he scored his second find a 23 on a feed strip on the back side of the course. Dusty scored two additional finds in the same area. Both dogs were forward, hunted hard, and finished strong and to the front.

6. "Penny" (PF Hughes) and "Wayne" (PM/Munden). Penny was found standing on the tree line at 6; a bird was produced, and all was in good order. Wayne decided to follow the southern route and was found standing in the open valley, where a bird was produced. He pushed up the hill to the tree line just in time to back Penny, who was standing in heavy brush cover. Hughes was able to get a bird to flight, and all was in order. At 15, both dogs had finds on the back side of the course, Penny again in heavy cover, making her handler work for the bird. Wayne scored the final find of the brace in the woods near the open field. Both dogs finished to the front.

7. "Caroline" (PF/Munden) and "Sadie" (PF/Hughes). Caroline and Sadie shared a divided find at 5 at the tree line; Sadie scored again at 10, in a feed strip near the oil well; Caroline pointed shortly after in the same area, with both dogs producing birds and showing good manners. Sadie scored two additional finds, one in the woods on the back side of the course, and another in the lower tree line. Both dogs finished to the front with a good pace.

8. "Buddy" (PM/Bowser) and "Zeke" (PM/Hughes). Buddy scored his only find at 6 at the tree line. He showed a moderate forward pace to finish. Zeke scored his first find at 8, in heavy cover, making his handler work to put the bird to flight. He scored again at 12, again in heavy cover on the back side of the course. Showing a wide and forward pace, Zeke raced to the lower tree line, scoring his third find. His efforts earned

him a third-place finish in the stake.

9. "Bit" (PF/Hughes). Bit, running as a bye, scored her only find at 8. She disappeared from judgment, and the tracker was called to end her bid and the stake.

Amateur Puppy

1. "Sprout" (PM/Gomes) and "Cash" (PM/Lasica). Sprout showed a pleasing forward pattern and hunted for his handler; Cash showed an exceptionally wide race but was seldom seen and did not handle well.

2. "Mint" (PF/McMillen) and "Parton" (PF/Gomes). Mint and Parton both showed a nice forward race and looked classy on the ground. Parton showed a slightly better handle and was rewarded with second place in the stake for her efforts.

3. "Millie" (PF/Sampson) and "Dixie" (PF/Fazio). Millie and Dixie were both wide and forward out of the gate. They both showed excellent work ethic, hunting all the likely places. Dixie was exceptionally classy looking on the ground; both dogs showed consistent forward patterns throughout the brace; Dixie garnered the blue ribbon for her efforts, with Millie just behind to score a third-place finish.

4. "Arbiter" (PM/Gomes) and "Dill" (PM/McMillen). Both Arbiter and Dill hunted hard, with Dill showing an exceptionally hard driving effort, Arbiter close behind. Both of these pointers demonstrated a classy way of going, with high-tailing and a smooth gait.

5. "Kifaru" (PF/Gomes). Kifaru was not pleasing her handler and was on the leash early to finish the stake.

Amateur Derby

1. "Rubee" (PF/(Hronek) and "Bodie" (PM/Lasic). Rubee was a bird-finding machine in the first brace of the Derby; she scored four finds and pounded the course with a strong and forward race, earning a third-place ribbon. Bodie scored a single find but was not inclined to back his bracemate.

2. "Roxie" (ESF/Fazio) and "Storm" (PF/Napolitano). This brace produced the first- and second-place dogs. Both Roxie and Storm had a forward and aggressive race, reaching the far ends of the course. Roxie scored two finds, showing broke manners, and was backed by Storm on both finds. Storm scored her own find, also handled with

broke manners. Both dogs finished strong and to the front; Roxie took the first place, and Storm was close behind with a second-place finish.

3. "Pinyon" (PF/Gomes) and "Rain" (PF/Pelednik). Rain scored the first find, on the upper treeline; Pinyon elected not to back her bracemate. Rain scored a second find, showing nearly broke manners. Pinyon scored in the same area and gave chase on the shot. Both dogs finished to the front.

4. "Tess" (PF/Fazio) and "Cassie" (PF/Hronek). Tess thought this was a horseback stake and was not seen enough to be considered. Her bracemate, Cassie, had no birds.

5. "Loblolly" (PF/Gomes) and "Mickey" (PM/Bowser). Loblolly moved nicely, but not consistently; Mickey was not seen enough to garner a walking judgment.

Amateur Shooting Dog

1. "Caroline" (PF/Munden) and "Zeke" (PM/McMillen). The first brace of the Amateur Shooting Dog also produced the winner. Zeke produced five nicely handled finds, spaced throughout the course. He backed Caroline on two out of three of her finds. Caroline likewise honored two of Zeke's finds, both in the valley heading towards the finish. Zeke's performance garnered a first-place finish.

2. "Wayne" (PM/Munden) and "Shelby" (VIZF/Baicik). Shelby scored the first find on the back tree line; she backed Wayne on his first find at the single tree near the oil well. Wayne was on the leash after self-relocating on a potential bird. Shelby finished with no additional birdwork.

3. "Buddy" (PM/Bowser) and "Lenni" (ISM/Fazenbaker). Lenni showed a forward classy race, with three finds spaced throughout the course to earn him a third-place finish. Buddy scored two finds, his first being backed by Lenni, but could not be located and was found standing after the tracker was pulled.

4. "Jack" (PM/McMillen) and "River" (ISM/Fazenbaker). Jack and River each scored two finds, all in the valley on the latter end of the course. They both showed a strong forward race and finished to the front.

5. "Chuck" (PM/Munden) and "Miles" (PM/McMillen). Chuck scored the first find of this brace, on the tree line at the top of the course. Miles scored his first

find soon after, with Chuck honoring. Both dogs moved forward, and Miles pointed at the single tree with Chuck backing. Miles scored again on the back side of the course, and Chuck was found after a brief absence pointed deep in the woods. A bird was produced, and good manners displayed. Chuck showed a very wide race, and both dogs finished to the front.

6. "Rufus" (ISM/Fazenbaker) and "Sage" (PF/McMillen). Both dogs showed a strong forward pace; Sage scored at the top tree line, and again in the valley. Rufus was not seen, and after 15 minutes, the tracker was called for. He was found standing in cover in the tree line near the oil well, a bird in front. Sage finished to the front.

7. "Lola" (PF/Munden). Lola showed a classy performance and a hard-hunting style to earn the second-place finish. She scored two finds, both on the high side of the course, and displayed good manners on her birds.

We hope you will join us this fall as the Beaver Valley tradition continues.

Rochester, Pa., March 15

**Judges: Reese Carroll and Jason Ketchel
OPEN PUPPY – 9 Pointers**

1st-SELDOM REST BLAZE, F1712853, pointer female, by Ralph's Chasehill Rip-Grouse Trails Firestorm. Brian & Brandy Ralph, owners; Brian Ralph, handler.

2d-SELDOM REST PORK CHOP, F1712849, pointer male, by Ralph's Chasehill Rip-Grouse Trails Firestorm. Brian & Brandy Ralph, owners; Brian Ralph, handler.

3d-DOUBLE DEUCE DILLON OATS, F1713581, pointer male, by Cal Peak Hundredth Meridian-Double Deuce Sage. Doug McMillen, Jr., owner and handler.

**Judges: Jason Ketchel and Brian Ralph
OPEN DERBY – 7 Pointers and 3 Setters**

1st-HITAIL ROXY AFIELD, F1705101, setter female, by Dun Ravens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. Russ Fazio, owner and handler.

2d-HYPOINTE MONARCH EXPRESS, F1704239, pointer female, by Springflow's Backcountry P-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Nick Mellon Jr., owner; Russ Fazio, owner and handler.

3d-MOJO'S WINSTON JOY, F1705340, setter male, by Wayward Flyin Tomato-Doodle Ridge Fern. Nick & Renee, owners; Mark Hughes, handler.

**Judges: Sarah Gomes and Russ Fazio
OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 14 Pointers, 1 Setter,
and 2 Setters**

1st-SELDOM RED JACK, F1699460, setter male, by Pine Straw Black Hawk-Pine Straw's Tupelo Honey. Brian Ralph, owner and handler.

2d-BACKWOODS WILD FIRE BLAZE, F1691395, pointer male, by Erin's Wild Justice-Hollywood Hot'N'Tot. Justin Mason, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

3d-DOUBLE DEUCE ZEKE, F1673940, pointer male, by Double Deuce Peter-Funseeker's Holiday. Doug McMillen Jr., owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

Judges: Tyler Bowser and Alex Meeder

AMATEUR PUPPY – 9 Pointers

1st-HITAIL ROLLING DIXIE, F1714644, pointer female, by Hifives Rolling Stone-Speed Dialing Kaia. Russ Fazio, owner and handler.

2d-DD CPK DIAMONDS N RHINOS, F1713582, pointer female, by Cal Peak Hundredth Meridian-Double Deuce Sage. Douglas McMillen Jr., owner; Sarah Deline Gomes, handler.

3d-MILLIE THYME RYE, F1713588, pointer female, by Cal Peak Hundredth Meridian-Double Deuce Sage. Joanna Sampson, owner and handler.

Judges: Allen Fazenbaker and Alex Meeder

AMATEUR DERBY – 9 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-HITAIL ROXY AFIELD, F1705101, setter female, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. Russ Fazio, owner and handler.

2d-COUNTY LINE STORM, F1709699, pointer male, by Miller's Upgraded Version-County Line Sky. Tony Napolitano, owner and handler.

3d-HACKBERRY'S ELHEW RUBEE, F1704631, pointer female, by Hackberry's Elhew Falco-Hackberry's Addie Blackhawk. Debbie Hronek, owner and handler.

Judges: Norm Meeder and Bob Smith

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 13 Entries

1st-DOUBLE DEUCE ZEKE, F1673940, pointer male, by Double Deuce Peter-Funseeker's Holiday. Doug McMillen, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

2d-WILDLAND WARRIOR, F1676947, pointer female, by Erin's War Creek-Suemac's Coventry. Eric Munden, owner and handler.

3d-CC LENNI LENAPE, F1705228, Irish setter male, by Silver Creek Wild Again-Roses Are Red. Allen Fazenbaker, owner and handler.

U. S. COMPLETE AMATEUR INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Chippokes Cracker Jack Named Champion; Super Storm Liz, Runner-up

By Thor Kain | Felton, Delaware | March 21, 2025



U. S. Complete Amateur Invitational Championship (l-r): Gordon Raney, Lee Flanders with Chippokes Cracker Jack, Bo Mamounis (judge), Thor Kain with Super Storm Liz, Bart Hastings (judge), and Roger Dvorak.

The annual renewal of the U. S. Complete Amateur Invitational Championship took place March 21-22 on the Norman G. Wilder field trial grounds in Felton, Delaware. Twelve dogs make this championship every year based on points they accrue through placemats in U. S. Complete Amateur stakes. The 12 dogs who had the honor of being invited for 2025 are as follows: Mavis (J. Crandall), Braeval Rory (G. McCluskey), Huckleberry's Lucky Penny (D. Avillion), Lincoln County Jack (C. Monroe), Treasure Chest (C. Monroe), Mohawk Mill Big Stuff (C. Monroe), Henry's Susieq Dot (D. Theroux), Buck of Piney Woods (M. Festa), Lightning Flash Remington (B. Dix), Chippokes Fancy Lady (L. Flanders), Chippokes Cracker Jack (L. Flanders), and Super Storm Liz (T. Kain).

Before going over the highlights of this championship, many thanks are in order. Purina has been a longtime supporter of

U. S. Complete, and we are thankful for their commitment to field trials. Garmin sent collars for the winner and runner-up, and we also appreciate their continued support. Bo Mamounis of New Jersey and Bart Hastings of Delaware judged this event. Both men have lots of experience competing with their dogs and judging. They were attentive and positive in their assessments during the running. Bart was also nice enough to lend us his UTV as a dog/galley vehicle. On behalf of the U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association, thank you for your time and commitment to judge for us. David Prince hauled the UTV to the grounds and back after the running. Thank you, David, for your help. Roger Dvorak picked up the birds, planted birds, brought horses for people to scout off of, assisted in road guard duties, and filled in wherever help was needed. Thank you, Roger, for all the help in making

this a successful trial. Dean Avillion picked up lunches both days and offered a helping hand where needed. Thank you, Dean, for your assistance. Last but not least, a big thank you to Jameson Crandall. He is the secretary/treasurer for U. S. Complete and is responsible for keeping up with the points throughout the season, sending invites for this trial, and countless other tasks. Thank you, Jameson, for all your contributions to the U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association.

Day one started off windy and with high anticipation. Braeval Rory and Huckleberry's Lucky Penny each scored a find, then a divided find, before getting hung up in a corner. Unfortunately for Rory, he did not show back up, and the tracker was called for before time, ending his bid.

Brace 2—Chippokes Cracker Jack and Lincoln County Jack. Jack tallied three finds and a back. Cracker Jack put on a clinic—five evenly spaced finds and a back. You couldn't paint a dog any prettier on point than Jack. High head, straight tail, and rock solid on every piece of birdwork, coupled with a fancy forward race, made it clear to all who had watched that he set the bar very high.

Brace 3—Treasure Chest and Buck of Piney Woods. Treasure Chest stretched to the far end of the first field and was found standing. Buck failed to back and pointed this bird with Chest standing solid through the commotion. Buck was put on the leash shortly after ending his bid for the title. Chest reached far and wide with a couple more pretty finds. He was gone at pick up and took some time to get on the leash.

Brace 4 brought Mohawk Mill Big Stuff and Lightning Flash Remington to the line. Both racked up a few solid finds. Big's race became inconsistent as the hour progressed. Remington got stronger and stronger as the brace went on. He took a wrong turn at the road crossing and took some time to get back and going the right way.

Brace 5—Mavis and Henry's Susieq Dot. Mavis went on a bird finding spree. She had eight finds spread throughout her hour, keeping her in contention for day two. Dot is as fancy moving as they come; she required little handling and tallied three nice finds for a solid day one effort.

Brace 6—Chippokes Fancy Lady and Super Storm Liz. Liz scored first with a pretty find to start her hour. She racked up three more with a hard-charging fancy race. Lady put down a solid effort with three finds and a nice finish.

Day two brought better weather and warmer temps. The format for this trial requires dogs that run in the afternoon on day one to be drawn in the morning and vice versa for morning dogs from day one.

Brace 1—Mohawk Mill Big Stuff and Henry's Susieq Dot. Big seemed more

tentative to run on day two, but added a couple of nice pieces of birdwork to his two-day effort. Dot picked up where she left off on day one and had four very nice finds, keeping her in the mix for the title.

Brace 2—Super Storm Liz and Mavis. Liz came out of the gate running hard and was rewarded with a find early. Mavis was picked up at the 10-minute mark leaving the course to Liz. She stretched out in all the fields, tail high and cracking as she took the big edges. At the end of the hour, she was going strong to the front to cap off a solid four-find performance.

Brace 3—Lighting Flash Remington and Chippokes Fancy Lady. Both dogs carded finds early. Remington made big moves and was found standing on a couple. He got bullish towards the halfway mark and eventually got out of pocket, and the tracker was called for. Lady was picked up before the road crossing.

Brace 4—Huckleberry's Lucky Penny and Lincoln County Jack. Penny got wide early, and eventually the tracker was called for. Jack was picked up at the half.

Brace 5—Chippokes Cracker Jack and Treasure Chest. Both dogs had

their running shoes on early. Jack came back and had two finds. Chest was eventually found standing way to the front. He had another find but was picked up before the road crossing. Jack continued what he started on day one. His breathtaking style on four finds and perfect application to the course made all who watched know they were seeing something special. He finished with a big move to the front.

That concluded the running, and everyone headed to the clubhouse for the announcement—Super Storm Liz took runner-up honors, and Chippokes Cracker Jack was named champion of the 2025 U. S. Complete Amateur Invitational Championship.

Thank you to all who supported this trial, and best of luck for the rest of the field trial season.

Felton, Del., March 21

Judges: Bart Hastings and Bo Mamounis

U. S. COMPLETE AMATEUR INVITATIONAL

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 12 Entries

Winner-CHIPPOKES CRACKER JACK, F1691321, setter male, by Skyview New Edition-Grid Iron's Sorrell's Penny. Lee S. Flanders, owner and handler. Runner-Up-SUPER STORM LIZ, F1685356, setter female, by Blast Zone-Bridgewater Mt. Pemi. Thor Kain, owner and handler.

REGION 4 (AFTCA) AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Bryant's Silver Lining Named Champion; Calico's Country Strong, Runner-up

By Mary Sue Schalk | Berea, Kentucky | March 22, 2025

The second of the three Region 4 Amateur Championships took place at the Miller Welch Wildlife Management Area in Berea, Kentucky, the third weekend of March. Jim and Matt Pendergest of Lexington, Kentucky, filled the judicial saddles after the advertised judges had a scheduling conflict. The father-son team is well known throughout the field trial world, owning and handling multiple Purina Dogs of the Year. Region 4 is fortunate to have them both as an asset, both as competitors and contributors to events throughout the season.

The Region 4 (AFTCA) Amateur Shooting Dog Championship drew 16 dogs for the championship and six dogs for the companion Amateur Derby stake. Outside of Kentucky, there were also entries from Pennsylvania and Tennessee. The weather was pleasant,



Region 4 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Aaron Bryant, Tim Hammons, Matt Pendergest (judge), Kenton Bryant (owner/handler), Jim Pendergest (judge), Champion Bryant's Silver Lining with Will Dunn (scout), Brett Eikenberry, Kris Hammons, Mary Sue Schalk, and Terry Boatright. [Not pictured: Runner-up Champion Calico's Country Strong.]

and the grounds were in good shape for the event. Chairman Kenton Bryant

managed bird planting, Donna Boatright took care of feeding everyone during the event, and Charlie Turner drove the dog wagon over the weekend. As is true with all field trials, those participating and those volunteering their time were greatly appreciated.

The Champion and Runner-up Champion

Rising to the top of the field was Bryant's Silver Lining, owned and handled by Kenton Bryant of Bowling Green, Kentucky. He ran the third hour of the championship and was paired with Boatright's Maverick and owner/handler Terry Boatright of Richmond, Kentucky. Maverick was picked up early due to a failure to back. The young pointer male is a son of Haney's Silver Dollar and out of Haney's High Price Penny. He applied himself well throughout the hour and showed to the front. His composure over the course of his hour, with four finds and one find, was solid for a dog of any age. His first find, at 8, set the tone for the hour. Silver Lining was standing after the creek crossing into the Orchard Field. As the judges and gallery approached, his bracemate came through and did not attempt to back. Silver Lining did not blink, Bryant flushed for him with incident, and the young dog took to the course as if nothing had happened. He proceeded to have birds at 20, 26, and 35. He did have an unproductive at 45, but a loop to the front with a smooth forward finish capped off his hour, earning him the title of champion.

Earning the title of runner-up champion was Calico's Country Strong, a black and white pointer female owned by Calico Kennels and handled by Alex Smith of Jetersville, Virginia. Country Strong was braced with Ronnie Rogers and Shepherd's Blackbull of New Market, Tennessee. The tracker was called for around the half-hour mark for Bull. Calico's Country Strong is the daughter of Waybetter Rocky, out of Calico's Touch of Class. She ran well, sweeping through the country in classic shooting dog form. A biddable bird dog, she required little help from her handler. She was found forward standing at 12 and 57. She completed the hour with a strong, showy finish, thus earning her the runner-up spot.

The Running

The trial provided plenty of birdwork and other notable performances. Calico's Over The Top ran in the last



Region 4 Amateur Derby (l-r): Kris Hammons, Tim Hammons, Dialed Again with Matt Pendergest (owner/handler), Kenton Bryant (judge), Pendency's Next Chapter with Jim Pendergest (scout), Brett Eikenberry, Crouse's Grouse Feather with Terry Boatright (scout), Will Dunn (judge) and Mary Sue Schalk (owner/handler).

brace on Saturday. An orange and white pointer male, he was also handled by Alex Smith. He was braced with Shepherd's Blackfoot Jane, owned and handled by Ronnie Rogers. Jane was quick off the breakaway, and the tracker was called for at 20. Over The Top had a smooth forward race, two finds, but the heat of the day did seem to have an impact on him at the end of the hour, as his finish was not as strong as others.

Crouse's Comeback Kid also had a notable hour, running the first brace of the championship. Braced with Silver Creek Wild Again, an Irish setter male, owned and handled by Tim Hammons of Berea, Kentucky, Comeback Kid is a rawboned, liver and white pointer male owned by the father-daughter team, Mike Crouse and Mary Sue Schalk, of Dixon, Kentucky. Schalk handled Comeback Kid, who had a solid race, one find in the bottoms at 47, and a solid finish. Wild Again also carded a find, an unproductive, but had a somewhat erratic race over the course of his hour.

The second brace of the championship pitted a tri-color English setter female, Outcast Duststorm, owned by Jim Kleve of Lakeland, Minnesota, and handled by Schalk, with a female Irish setter, Little More Shine, owned and handled by Tim Hammons. Both bird dogs made it through the first third of the hour, with little visibility. The trackers were called for before time by their handlers.

Hytime Dixie, an English setter female, owned by Ben Weddington of Brentwood, Tennessee, and handled by Schalk, had a decent performance with two finds and an unproductive. The heat was obviously getting to Dixie throughout her hour, and her race was shortened. She did finish her hour. Her bracemate, pointer male Bryant's Cold Rain, was picked up by his owner and handler, Kenton Bryant.

Bryant and Schalk were back at the line in the first brace Sunday morning with two seasoned field trial bird dogs. Bryant handled his champion, Bryant's Give It A Rip, son of the 2024 Quail Championship Invitational Champion Erin's Wild Atlantic Way, with pointer female, Crouse's Tennessee Game Kate, who is no stranger to the winners' circle. Both dogs had strong ground races, with Kate striking first on game with a single located in broom sage after the concrete culvert. She continued to get bigger on the ground and was last seen swinging the front, in the bottoms below the winter wheat field. Schalk requested the tracker at 40. Rip carded his first find on the edge of the winter wheat field after a lengthy absence. All in order, he continued and finished his hour with one more find to his credit.

Berea, Ky., March 22

**Judges: Jim Pendergest and Matt Pendergest
REGION 4 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG**

**CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 7 Pointers,
5 Setters, and 3 Irish Setters**

*Winner-BRYANT'S SILVER LINING, F1710183, pointer male, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Haney's High Price Penny. Kenton Bryant, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-CALICO'S COUNTRY STRONG, F1679850, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Calico's Touch of Class. Calico Kennels, owner; Alex Smith, handler.*

The Derby Stake

Kenton Bryant and Will Dunn judged the six-dog Amateur Derby stake. The judging duo named Dialed Again, Pendency's Next Chapter, and Crouse's Grouse Feather as the top three competitors. Dialed Again is an orange and white pointer male, owned and handled by Matt Pendergest. He is the son of Haney's All In and the grandson of Dialed In. His style and strength on the ground were impressive, making him an easy choice for the judging panel. Pendergest also owns and handles second-place Pendency's Next Chapter, an orange and white female by Imagine and out of Cocklebur Dragon Tattoo. Another classy bird dog, she handled well for Pendergest, and although she did not have the range of the first-place dog, she still had plenty of range on the ground. Crouse's Grouse Feather rounded out the field, taking third place. Grouse Feather was bred by Allen Dunbar of Green Bay, Wisconsin, and is a great-grandson of Shadow Oak Bo and a grandson of Erin's Hidden Shamrock. The English setter male had his nose turned on for 30 minutes. His handler unloaded her pistol during his bird contacts while he was on the ground. The setter covered some ground,

primarily navigating birds during his time on the ground. Mary Sue Schalk owns and handles Crouse's Grouse Feather.

Although the field was small, there were several quality performances for the judges to discuss when naming the champion and runner-up. Many thanks to trial chairman Kenton Bryant for hosting a quality trial. Special thanks to Greg Blair and Purina for their continued support of field trials across the country. Another good weekend was had at the Miller Welch Wildlife Area in Berea,

Kentucky. Best of luck to all as the field trial season continues!

Judges: Kenton Bryant and Will Dunn
AMATEUR DERBY – 4 Pointers and 2 Setters
1st-DIALED AGAIN, unreg., pointer male, by Honey's All In-Dialed Up. Matt Pendergest, owner and handler.
2d-PENDY'S NEXT CHAPTER, F1712004, pointer female, by Imagine-Cocklebur Dragon Tattoo. Matt Pendergest, owner and handler.
3d-CROUSE'S GROUES FEATHER, F1713380, setter male, by Shagtime Max-GF Southern Belle. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Mary Sue Schalk, handler.



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BEAR POND FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Bryant's Give It A Rip Wins Open Shooting Dog Classic

By Mary Sue Schalk | Kevil, Kentucky | March 24, 2025

The renewal of the Bear Pond Shooting Dog Classic took place March 24-25, 2025, in Kevil, Kentucky, at the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area. The National Shooting Dog Championship Qualifier drew a respectable field of 16 dogs from Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Zach and Andy Erne, the brother team of Chippewa Valley Kennels in Rittman, Ohio, filled the judicial saddles for both the Classic and Open Derby stake. Zach and Andy travel the country competing in walking trials in the National Bird Hunters Association, American Bird Hunters Association, and the U. S. Complete circuits. Their dog knowledge extends past that of the bird dog world, having been involved with hunting dogs since childhood and also competing in beagle stakes with their grandfather. They were attentive and diligent, and their time was much appreciated.

As with all field trials, the people who volunteer are always very much appreciated. Alan Benson came to drive the dog wagon for our event. James Kleve and Mike Crouse aided in the acquisition and putting out of birds. Matt Schalk provided a meal for judges and volunteers Monday evening.

The Open Shooting Dog Winners

The Open Shooting Dog stake drew 16 dogs, although the birdwork was minimal and not without flaw, the overall performances were enjoyable. Congratulations to the winners, both owners and handlers.

Besting the field was Bryant's Give It A Rip, an English setter male, owned and



Open Shooting Dog Classic (l-r): Kenton Bryant (owner/handler), Bryant's Give It A Rip with Will Dunn, Alan Benson (dog wagon driver), Zach Erne (judge), High Enchantress with Scott Hadley (handler), Andy Erne (judge), Boatright's Maverick with James Kleve (handler), and Mary Sue Schalk.

handled by Kenton Bryant of Bowling Green, Kentucky. Rip ran the second brace on Tuesday morning and was braced with Warjam's Big Mack Daddy, a black and white pointer male owned by Brad Peterson, handled by James Kleve of Paris, Kentucky. Both dogs were strong off the breakaway, with Mack proving too strong when the tracker was asked for mid-brace. Rip, a consistent competitor in horseback field trials, also won the Region 6 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship this season. Rip is a classy going, powerful English setter. He consistently showed to the front, with a strong ground race, never tiring. His desire and drive to go to the next objective and rim the edges proved to set him above the class.

Earning the second-place spot

was recently named champion of the Jayhawk Open Shooting Dog Championship, High Enchantress, handled by Scott Hadley of Sayre, Oklahoma. She is owned by Matt Griffith, Ron Stearnsm, and Newly Hutchinson of Shawnee, Oklahoma. An orange and white pointer female, she was biddable and forward. She was strong on the ground and easy on the eyes. Her range was not quite that of Rip's but more than suitable for a classic shooting dog. She was braced with Hytime Dixie, owned by Ben Weddington of Franklin, Tennessee, and handled by Mary Sue Schalk. Dixie made a strong move to the front in the bottoms during the first brace on the second day of the event. Unfortunately, a breach of manners during a relocation

on her game put her in the harness early.

Boatright's Maverick rounded out the top three in the field of 16. A strong tri-color English setter male, owned by Terry Boatright of Richmond, Kentucky, "Ricky" was handled by James Kleve. He had a powerful ground race and finished going away for Kleve. He ran the third hour on the first day of running and was braced with the pointer male, Crouse's Woodrow F Call, owned and handled by Mary Sue Schalk of Dixon, Kentucky. "Call" ran a respectable race and finished his hour.

Kevil, Ky., March 24

Judges: Andy Erne and Zach Erne

BEAR POND OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

[One-Hour Heats] – 8 Pointers and 8 Setters

1st-BRYANT'S GIVE IT A RIP, F1701553, setter male, by Erin's Wild Atlantic Way-Cline's Live Oak. Kenton Bryant, owner and handler.

2d-HIGH ENCHANTRESS, F1700180, pointer female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Lester's Snow White. Matt Griffith, Ron Stearns, & Newly Hutchison, owners; Scott Hadley, handler.

3d-BOATRIGHT'S MAVERICK, F1694705, setter male, by Rufus Del Fuego-Outcast Starburst. Terry Boatright, owner; James Kleve, handler.

The Open Derby Winners

The Open Derby stake drew 10 dogs, and the judges were impressed with the overall performance of the group. Enjoying the stake top to bottom, choosing just three was a small challenge with a handful of dogs performing well over the 30-minute competition.

First-time field trialer, David Stover



Open Derby (l-r): Lena, Skylar, Beth and David Stover, Bryant's Have Faith Sam with Kenton Bryant, Alan Benson (dog wagon driver), Zach Erne (judge), Crouse's Grouse Feather with Mary Sue Schalk (owner/handler), Andy Erne (judge), Setter Ridge Power Play with James Kleve (handler), and Scott Hadley.

II of Trafalgar, Indiana, handled the winner of the 10-dog Open Derby stake. Bryant's Have Faith Sam impressed the judges with his consistent presence in the front, connection with his handler, eagerness to find game, and his ability to handle the increasing temperatures. He was braced in the second brace of the Derby stake with Outcast Achilles, an English setter male, owned by Ryan Hough of Saint Bonifacius, Minnesota, and handled by James Kleve. "Leo" proved to be a respectable bracedmate, hunting forward and finishing with a sweeping move across the front at the end of the powerlines.

Crouse's Grouse Feather, an English setter male, owned and handled by Mary Sue Schalk, earned the second-place spot after running in the third brace with Bryant's Silver Surfer and owner/handler Kenton Bryant. Grouse Feather had an obvious connection

with his handler, responding well and covering the ground with style. Surfer needed some encouragement from his handler and finished his 30 minutes.

Earning the third-place spot was Setter Ridge Power Play, a tri-color English setter male, owned by Brad Peterson of Cedar Grove, Wisconsin, and handled by James Kleve. Power Play was paired with Bryant's Silver Lining, who is owned and handled by Kenton Bryant. The third-place dog was powerful on the ground and required a little more guidance from his handler than the top two dogs. However, his enthusiasm was very much enjoyed. Silver Lining handled well for Bryant and finished his 30 minutes.

The renewal of the Bear Pond Classic and Derby stake was enjoyed by all! The volunteers and participants were much appreciated, and you can count on this event being on the calendar for the 2025-26 field trial season. As always, a big thank you to Purina and Greg Blair for their continued support of the horseback field trial game. Best of luck to all as the season continues.

OPEN DERBY – 6 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-BRYANT'S HAVE FAITH SAM, F1718878, pointer male, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Wynona's High Finance Rita. David Stover II, owner and handler.

2d-CROUSE'S GROUSE FEATHER, F1713380, setter male, by Shagtime Max-GF Southern Belle. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Mary Sue Schalk, handler.

3d-SETTER RIDGE POWER PLAY, F1704698, setter male, by Cold Creek Hank-Cold Creek Belle. Brad Peterson, owner; James Kleve, handler.

COCKADE BIRD DOG CLUB

Spring Trial At Cutawhiskie Farm

By Ellen Winall | Ahoskie, North Carolina | March 28, 2025

The Cockade Bird Dog Club finally got to run their trial after being rained out and then snowed out. The weather was finally dry and pretty warm. The grounds were in great shape to see a dog.

The trial was held March 28-29, 2025, at Cutawhiskie Farm in Ahoskie, North Carolina. Friday began with the one-hour All-Age. Third place was awarded to Mohawk Mill Hawkeye, with two good finds and a nice race. Second was awarded to Dry Creek Ares, who also had two good finds and a nice race. First was awarded to Mohawk Mill Dolly's



Amateur Shooting Dog (front row): Ashley Lewis, Worth Lewis with Greypointe Nubarron, Bruce Conover with Bad News Bob, and Sharon Townley with Beechwood's Cowboy Up. (Back row): Kimberly Maguire, Rob Maguire, Phil Townley, Terry McCormick, and Jeff Smith.

Girl, a derby with one really nice find

where her bracedmate went by her on point and she remained steady with an extreme all-age race and a big finish, extremely classy on the ground and did not let the heat bother her, an exciting hour.

Saturday morning, we moved to the Shooting Dog stake. We changed up the course for the shooting dogs, which flowed very well and allowed the shooting dogs to show well. Mohawk Mill Big Stuff was the hard-luck dog of the stake. After several nice finds, he was lost in the warm-season grasses at the end of the course, on point. Third

place was awarded to Beechwoods Cowboy Up for Sharon Townley with nice birdwork and a nice shooting dog performance. Second was awarded to Bad News Bob for Bruce Conover, with nice birdwork and handling the course well. First went to Greypointe Nubarron for Worth Lewis, who had very nice birdwork and a very nice shooting dog race.

The afternoon was very warm on the derbies. The Mohawk Mill derbies showed out with a clean sweep of all three placements. Mohawk Mill Cliffhanger was awarded third with one good find and a good derby race, and second was awarded to Mohawk Mill Jet Stream with three nice finds, a classy, nice race, but showed some immaturity at times, got pressure from his brace mate until finally picked up. He showed great potential as a derby for next year. Mohawk Mill Dolly's Girl came back from winning the All-Age to have a big edge running race and a broke find at time.

A great big thank you goes out to Purina and Greg Blair for their continued support of the trial with dog food for all placements.

We were fortunate to have judges who have all bred dogs, raised dogs, trained their own dogs, and competed in field trials. A great big thank you to each one—Ashby Morgan, Sharon Townley, Jeff Smith, Terry McCormick, and Jameson Crandell, who stepped in at the last minute. The judges rode at a good, steady pace for each brace and were very attentive.

Thank you to Barbel Fetkoter for her preparation of great lunches, breakfasts, and all the additives to the meals. Thank you to Sharon Townley for the quail appetizers and roll-ups, Carolyn McCormick for the peach cobbler, Stevie Graham's wife for the brownies and pound cake, and Jim Jones for the meatballs.

Thank you to Steve Graham for being the official bird planter throughout the entire trial. Birds were plentiful and available to the dogs. To Phil Townley and Jim Jones for running the dog



Amateur All-Age (front row): Gary Winall with Mohawk Mill Dolly's Girl, Jeff Smith with Dry Creek Ares, and Ellen Winall with Mohawk Mill Hawkeye. **(Back row):** Terry McCormick, Phil Townley, Ashley Lewis (hiding), Worth Lewis, Bruce Conover, Barbel Fetkoter, Sharon Townley (judge), Ashby Morgan (judge), Steve Graham, and Jim Jones.

wagon, getting the dogs on the line, and getting them picked up after the braces.

Thank you to the Virginia Amateur Field Trial Association for the use of the grounds. Everyone pitched in in so many ways, and I could not have done it without each one of you. Thank you to all who entered dogs. Finally, to Gary Winall for his support before, during, and after the trial.

Ahoskie, N. C., March 28

Judges: Ashby Morgan and Sharon Townley
AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]
– 10 Pointers

1st-MOHAWK MLL DOLLY'S GIRL, F1706910, pointer female, by Imagine-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Gary & Ellen Winall, owners; Gary Winall, handler.
2d-DRY CREEK ARES, F1696250, pointer male, by Bad News Bob-Dry Creek Ginger Snap. Jeffrey Smith, owner and handler.
3d-MOHAWK MILL HAWKEYE, F1703193, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Knight Hawk-Full Effect. Gary Winall, owner and handler.



Mohawk Mill Dolly's Girl, First in the Open Derby

Judges: Terry McCormick and Jeff Smith
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
– 7 Pointers and 5 Setters

1st-GREYPOINTE NUBARRON, F1674499, pointer male, by S F Bandwagon-Greypointe Gloriosa. Worth Lewis, owner and handler.
2d-BAD NEWS BOB, F1678771, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Pirate-Mohawk Mill Southern Belle. Bruce & Karen Conover, owners; Bruce Conover, handler.
3d-BEECHWOODS COWBOY UP, F1691318, setter male, by Rutter's Lone Ranger-Jim's Bodacious Lady. Sharon Townley & Walter Logan, owners; Sharon Townley, handler.

Judges: Jameson Crandall and Sharon Townley
OPEN DERBY – 6 Pointers, 1 Setter, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-MOHAWK MLL DOLLY'S GIRL, F1706910, pointer female, by Imagine-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Gary & Ellen Winall, owners; Gary Winall, handler.
2d-MOHAWK MILL JET STREAM, F1710281, pointer male, by Cas Slim Speedy Halo-Gigi Broken Halo. Gary & Ellen Winall, owners; Gary Winall, handler.
3d-MOHAWK MILL CLIFFHANGER, F1709792, pointer male, by The Treasure Chest-Twiggy. Gary & Ellen Winall, owners; Gary Winall, handler.



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INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR WOODCOCK CHAMPIONSHIP

Ralphy's Chasehill Rip Named Champion; Grouse Trails Bathilda, Runner-up

By Jeffery Keller | Philipsburg, Pennsylvania | March 28, 2025



International Amateur Woodcock Championship (l-r): Brian Ralph with Ralphy's Chasehill Rip, Bob Kays (judge), Doug Dix (judge), and John McKellop with Grouse Trails Bathilda.

The International Woodcock Championship returned to Pennsylvania again, this time at the Black Moshannon trial grounds. Eight courses awaited 42 dogs, one of the biggest amateur cover dog trials in many years. Handlers traveled from as far away as Maine to the north, North Carolina to the south, and Michigan to the west. Judging the event would be Bob Kays from Pennsylvania and Doug Dix from Vermont. The championship was planned for March 28-30 to take advantage of migrating woodcock through central Pennsylvania before nesting started.

We thank all those who helped make this trial a success; Black Moshannon and Black Ash trial clubs took the lead in putting on this trial. Bruce Mueller did a tremendous job running for lunches and keeping the caravan of cars moving from one course to the next. Brian Ralph helped marshal, move cars, guard roads, and grill lunch on the last day. Dick Brenneman was on hand the first day to help move cars and cover all the road crossings. George Hetrick walked many braces, helping to marshal when the handlers were split up. And our judges, Bob Kays and Doug Dix, for walking and judging seven braces a day.

The Winners

The championship performance came on Course 5 with Ralphy's Chasehill Rip.

Rip had a strong forward race, reaching the aging aspen stand first and pinning a woodcock on the edge. He stayed to the front in the open pines, then dug in once we crossed the road and into the creek bottom and hawthorns. There he had his next stand, which produced both a grouse and a woodcock. His final bird, a woodcock, was found just at the end of the hawthorns before entering the last cut of the course. He finished strong and going away. We knew this would be a performance that would be tough to beat.

The runner-up, Grouse Trails Bathilda, started off strong in the open section of Course 2, dug in, and found a woodcock in the thick section of the first cut, starting the uphill climb. She was strong and to the front, bell in and out of range. Crossing the road and into open cover, she went deep to the front. Nearing the end, both bells stopped in a thick laurel stand where grouse have been seen before. This time, a woodcock was produced on a divided find. She was released, headed to the front until time was called.

The Running

The first brace of the championship started with Grouse Trails Black Knight (McKellop) and Bang Bang's Longshot (Luther). Both dogs started strong, hunting hard through the open cover in the beginning, and digging into the

laurel, which dominates the beginning of the course. Knight found a woodcock at 30 as the course transitioned to a more open cover. Unfortunately, Knight bumped a grouse at 40 and was picked up. Longshot continued strong but went birdless for his brace.

The second brace featured Hifive's Northern Gold (Miotto) and Tupelo Honey (Wheelock). Both dogs dug in hard early in the tight cover. Gold struggled with the tighter cover in the beginning, opened up at the road crossing, but had no birdwork. Tupelo Honey had UPs at 9 and again at 26.

The third brace was released at 10:35 after a short coffee break with Bell Stop Boomer (Hetrick) and Ash Creek Tug (Burke). Both dogs handled easily during the first half of the course. Tug went big and wide at 35 in the open timber, and the tracker was requested. Boomer, with the course to himself, was hunting the cut edge and was rewarded with a double woodcock find at 59.

Brace 4 was run by Double Deuce Jack (McMillen) and Wild Apple Siri (Rizza). Jack ran well to the front, but was wide at times, no bird contact during his 60-minute run. Siri had a woodcock find at 20 in the bottom cover. Siri started to get wider as time went on, without any more bird contacts during her run.

After a lunch break of pizza, Brace 5, with championship winner Rip, was released along the Airport cover. Grouse Trail Little Bud (McKellop) and Ralphy's Chasehill Bud were drawn for this favorite course. Rip struck first with a woodcock in the old aspen cut. Rip followed up with a grouse and woodcock under his nose in the hawthorn bottom at 40. His final woodcock was pointed at 50, climbing the hill towards the end of the course. Bud had a UP just past the aspen cover and suffered a mishandle on a grouse at 40 in the hawthorn bottom.

Brace 6 had Resin (Lahoda) and Snuff Mill Magnum Force (Dellinger) drawing the opposite of the airport for their run. Both dogs handled easily through the beginning of their run. Resin bumped a woodcock just after the road crossing and was picked up. Force now had the course to herself, but was unable to

come up with a bird during her run.

Brace 7, the last brace of Day 1, had Doodle Ridge Elroy (Mueller) and Double Deuce Zeke (McMillen) on the ground. Zeke had a woodcock at 9 in the thick cut after multiple relocations on the running bird. Roy went wide in the open cover, and the tracker was called for at 40 minutes, ending his run.

Day 2: Brace 8 will finish the first rotation through the eight courses we currently have. Rowling's Star (Rowling) and One Acre Wood Flash (Rectory) get the honors of running this course for the first time. Star was big and fancy, but also difficult to control at times. She finished her hour without any birds. Flash was putting together a nice moderate run, with a stop at 45 just before the second road crossing, but suffered a UP as no bird was flushed.

Brace 9, back to Course 1 with Aspen Hill Bandit (Cullen) having the course to herself, and Dean Avillion had to scratch his dog, Huckleberry's Lucky Penny. Bandit ran well to the front, digging deep into the thick laurel, and had a UP on the hill where a grouse was moved the previous day. There were also three grouse moved on the first half of the course in the pine and laurel thickets.

Brace 10 would show the runner-up of the championship. Sump's Murphy's Law and Grouse Trails Bathilda drew this course. Murphy's Law struck first at 6 when the gallery called a grouse flush, but it went unheard by the judges. She pushed forward during the middle of the course, and had a divided woodcock find at 55. A few minutes later, she had a UP just before the final road crossing. Bathilda had her first woodcock find at the seven-minute mark in the thick cut at the beginning of the course. She had her second find, a divided find at 55, and completed her hour going strong.

Back to Course 3 for the 11th brace of the championship. Sudden Silence (Hetrick) and Angel's Envy (Wheelock) were drawn for this course, with Hetrick being familiar, having run Boomer here the previous day. Moving from the open timber into the cut, Sid went to the left and stopped on a woodcock at the six-minute mark. She laid easily to the front for the rest of the hour but had no more bird contacts. Angel's Envy had a back on Sid's woodcock, but the tracker was requested at 25 shortly after the road crossing as they transitioned into more open cover.

After a lunch break of pulled pork sandwiches, Brace 12 was released at 1:39 with Mulberry Fields Molly (Meeder) and G J F Jax (Fried) called to run as the temps started warming up. Molly was handling easily to the front; her only stop was at 43, but no bird was flushed. Jax started off strong, but started to slow from the heat and was picked up at 33 at the second road crossing of Course 4.

Brace 13 was back on Course 5, where the championship was eventually named. Grouse Hill Pepper (Capocci) and Seldom Rest Jack (Ralph) were given the chance to run this course on Day 2. Both dogs handled easily and showed to the front to start this brace. As the brace wore on, Pepper started to reach more forward after the old aspen cut. Jack stopped in the young aspen cut along the airport fence, was sent on for a relocation, but no birds were seen. Both dogs were picked up at 45 after moving through the best part of the course from the previous day, starting to slow from the heat.

Brace 14, the last brace of the day, had Mountain Top Ryn (Keller) and Double Deuce Sage (McMillen) for their chance on Course 6. Ryn stopped at 4 with a woodcock find, suffered a UP at 8, and was ordered up. Sage had a woodcock find at 5, 100 yards from Ryn, but went with a woodcock two minutes later, ending his run for the day.

Day 3: Brace 15 was released at 7:52 to start the last day of the championship. Kelly's Rainbow Roy (Shepard) and Coal Creek Annie (Luther) were first up for the day. Roy ran a strong race, showing well to the front, but coming from behind several times. Roy had an unproductive at 50, then finished his hour strong. Annie was digging in deep just past the turn on the first cut on Course 7 when she finally stopped at the 26-minute mark, and the flushing attempt produced a pair of woodcock. Heading into the open cover, she was well in front when she stopped in the cut aside of a creek at 50; unfortunately, no bird was produced and was picked up.

Grouse Trails Warrior Cat (McKellop) and Caliber Peak Storm Warning (Gomes) were drawn for Brace 16 on the hilly Course No. 8. Storm Warning stopped at 32 in a bottom along the road but was moved on. She handled easily to the front the rest of the brace with no birds. Warrior Cat had a back at

32, then dug up a woodcock in the same creek bottom. Crossing the road, she slowed because of the heat.

Back to Course 1 and Brace 17 with One Acre Wood Bandit (Rector) and Hifive's Sweet Basil (Rizza) getting the nod. Bandit worked easily to the front but was slowed by the heat and picked up at 33. Basil reached the halfway point and was climbing the hill when Rizza put her on the leash to walk her out.

Brace 18 was back on Course 2, which showed three woodcock and a grouse the day before. Grouse Hill Rambo (Capocci) and Blue Ridge Kobe (Smith) were tasked with finding birds, and the day was warming up. Rambo was strong in the young cut but started to slow near the road crossing and was picked up at 34. Kobe was digging hard into the young cut, but soon tired and also picked up at the road crossing.

After a lunch of grilled hot dogs and burgers, Brace 19 had Boxwoods Wildfire Blaze (Mason) running alone as Lanny Dellinger was a scratch with Snuff Mill High Caliber. Blaze had his first woodcock find at 11 in a rocky section of the course. He stopped again at 23 and 45, but Justin elected to move him on and not attempt a flush. Blaze moved well to the front and handled easy in the open section of the course. His final stop was at 56, but no bird was produced.

Brace 20 featured Blue Ribbon River (Festa) and newly qualified County Line Rain (Chelednik) running on Course 4. River was running strong to the front, but occasionally hard to keep in contact. She had a woodcock at 22, with no further birdwork. Rain was running and an easy-going race, but tiring in the heat, and eventually picked up at 50.

The last brace of the trial had Double Deuce Miles (McMillen) and Hoppy's War Bird Farmgirl (Hopkins) running on Course 5. Both dogs went birdless on the first part of the course and were picked up just past the bottomland hawthorn thicket, thus concluding the trial.

Philipsburg, Pa., March 28

**Judges: Douglas Dix and Bob Kays
INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR WOODCOCK
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**

- 32 Pointers and 19 Setters

*Winner-RALPHY'S CHASEHILL RIP, F1697746,
pointer male, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy.
Brian Ralph, owner and handler.*

*Runner-Up-GROUSE TRAILS BATHILDA, F1701059,
pointer female, by Toth's Tornado Reloaded-Grouse
Trails Warrior Cat. Patricia McKellop, owner; John
McKellop, handler.*

GRAND VALLEY BIRD DOG CLUB

Spring Trial

By Jim Cipponeri | Ionia, Michigan | March 29, 2025

Michigan field trialers kicked off the spring season with a combined Horseback/Walking event at Ionia Recreation Area, which has been the home of the Michigan Shooting Dog Championship since 1977. This event is a testament to the hardcore trialers that we attract year after year. The trial was well-attended, considering the predictable adverse weather conditions that frequently greet us in mid-to-late March. Ionia is primarily a horseback venue, but portions of the three courses are available for year-round training and hunting. Many of our Cover Dog enthusiasts can be seen utilizing these grounds, especially in the early spring when the woodcock are prevalent on their way northward or even nesting in the area.

Many thanks to the judges who stepped up when needed and to Mike Brown for picking up and delivering our birds on short notice.

Ionia, Mich., March 29

Judges: Bill Branham and Rich Hollister

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 8 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-HANEY'S HAMMERIN HANK, F1706891, pointer male, by Haney's All In-Haney Two Dozen Roses. Jim & Connie Cipponeri, owners; Jim Cipponeri, handler.
2d-JACK'S ROCKIN ROCCO, F1669276, setter male, by Thornapple Hawk-Boondocks Karens Annie Girl. Jim & Connie Cipponeri, owners; Jim Cipponeri, handler.

3d-DARRS MURPHY BROWN, F1702398, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Springpond's Autumn Adeline. Bill Darr, owner and handler.

Judges: Bill Darr and Tom Vanecek

OPEN PUPPY – 3 Pointers, 2 Setters, and 1 Setter

1st-JUNI JONES, F1714645, pointer female, by Hifives Rolling Stone-Speed Dialing Kaia. John Paul Jones, owner and handler.

2d-DUNROVEN HIPPIE GIRL, F1713542, setter female, by Dun Rovens Drifter-Dunrovens Midnight Eve. Richard Hollister, owner and handler.

3d-ERIN'S GREEN RIVER, F1713040, pointer male, by Erin's Grey Justice-Erin's Red Smoke. Mike Francus, owner and handler.

Judges: Bill Branham and Jeff Haggis

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 15 Pointers, 2 Setters, and 1 Brittany

1st-BACKWOODS WILD FIRE BLAZE, F1691395, pointer male, by Erin's Wild Justice-Hollywood Hot'N'Tot. Justin Mason, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

2d-MILLER'S SPECIAL UPGRADE, F1695107, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Carlos Escalante, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

3d-MILLERS DUSTY VERSION, F1706290, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Mike Husenits, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

Judges: Bill Darr and Tom Vanecek

OPEN DERBY – 7 Pointers, 2 Setters, and 1 Brittany

1st-WILDLAND WAR AND PEACH, F1705671, pointer female, by Miller's Heat Seeker-Wildland Warrior. Eric & Krysta Munden, owners; Eric Munden, handler.

2d-WILDLAND CHURCH ON THE HILL, F1705672, pointer male, by Miller's Heat Seeker-Wildland Warrior. Eric & Krysta Munden, owners; Eric Munden, handler.

3d-BACKWOODS DINE & DASH, F1718950, pointer male, by Springflow's Backcountry P-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Mark Hughes, owner and handler.

Judges: Rich Hollister and Mike Zack

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 6 Pointers, 4 Setters, and 4 Brittanys

1st-WILDLAND HIDE THE WINE, F1697105, pointer male, by Double Deuce Zeke-Beaver Meadow Rose. Eric Munden, owner and handler.

2d-OVER UNDER REIGN THE FIELD, F1712881, Brittany female, breeding not given. Samantha Gauthier, owner and handler.

3d-WILDLAND SWEET CAROLINE, F1692066, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Beaver Meadow Rose. Eric Munden, owner and handler.



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UNITED STATES AMATEUR ALL-AGE DERBY INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Southern Margarita Lane Named Champion; Haney's Double Down, Runner-up

By Jim Atchison | Dancyville, Tennessee | March 28, 2025



United States Amateur All-Age Derby Invitational Championship (l-r): Brian Peterson with Southern Shadows T-Bone, David Russell with Como Moonrider, Ann Forrester with Southern Margarita Lane, Lance Servais with Southern Shadows Copper, Mike Lemons with Arkansas Headliner, Holly Rester with Rester's Fair Play, John Mathys with Notorious Propane Jane, Jay Lewis with High Line Drive, Alex Rickert with Serano's Ramblin' Man, Chris Cagle with Haney's Double Down, Cecil Rester with Rester's Cash'n In, and Mike Small with Phillips River Line. (Rear, l-r): Keith St. John and Mark Haynes (judges).

The United States Amateur Derby Invitational Club and the West Tennessee Field Trial Club hosted the sixth renewal of their United States Amateur Derby Invitational stake on the grounds of the West Tennessee Club at Dancyville, Tennessee, March 28-30, with the drawing held on March 27. Four dogs were initially invited from each of the nation's Eastern, Central, and Western regions. There were fewer than four entries from the West, so the 12-dog quota was filled with the next highest point-earning dogs from the other regions.

Southern Margarita Lane, owned and handled by Brian Peterson from Cecil, Alabama, won the stake. The win was a repeat for Peterson, who handled Southern Shadows T-Bird, owned by Lance Servais, to win the 2024 stake. Servais scouted for Peterson during this 2025 win. Ann Forrester from South Fulton, Tennessee, attended the Invitational and was recognized as the breeder of the winner. Haney's Double Down, co-owned by Chris Cagle and Chris Cagle Jr., was runner-up. Cagle Sr. handled Double Down while Cagle Jr. scouted.

Mark Haynes from Brownsville, Tennessee, and Keith St. John from South Fulton, Tennessee, judged. On the first and second days, the judges watched each dog run 45-minute braces and then called back the four best performers to run a third time on the last morning. Many years of field trial experience made Haynes and St. John well-qualified to judge, and their services were appreciated.

Weather patterns have changed so much that the term "seasonally appropriate" seems to no longer apply. The last weekend in March proved to be exceptionally warm while this Invitational was being run.

Quintin Wiseman and Tasha Wiseman initiated the concept for this Invitational. They were joined by Todd Babbel, Rich Heaton, Jay Lewis, and Whitley Stephenson, who have served on the Board of the United States Amateur Derby Invitational Club since its inception. The Wisemans, Babbel, and Lewis attended this year. The Invitational Club has joined the West Tennessee Field Trial Club as co-sponsor for the last several years. Bill Currie, Allen Currie, Chris Mullin, Gary Brown, and Jim Atchison of the West Tennessee Club were on hand throughout the three days, putting out birds, cooking, marshaling on the courses, hauling horses, and doing all the things needed from the home course hosts.

Purina was again the primary sponsor of this Invitational. Many other donors joined Purina to make numerous nice prizes, awards, and gifts available to those who participated. A rather lengthy list of those generous donors and sponsors will appear later in this report.

The West Tennessee Club is blessed to be surrounded by a community of property owners who generously permit its three field trial courses to traverse their farms. Those landowners were invited to each evening meal, and those who could attend were recognized and thanked.

Winner and Runner-up

Southern Margarita Lane aggressively ran three strong and stylish races, found birds in every brace, and had no unproductives for her owner, Brian Peterson, as he returned to win this Invitational for a second consecutive year. Drawn as the top dog to run in the first brace on Friday morning, the stylish pointer found birds once, at 30, near the back of the horseshoe on the Taylor/McCloud land, which Peterson easily flushed. She was flawlessly stylish every time she stood pointed, with those additional stands occurring in the fifth brace on Saturday afternoon when she found birds at 24 along Dr. Spiotta's pines, and again on Sunday morning at 25, when going onto Gordy Jones' tract. She then cinched her win with a powerful cast around the south, then east, and finally the north edges of the huge bottom field owned by Ike and Marty Todd.

Haney's Double Down, handled by Chris Cagle and scouted by co-owner Chris Cagle Jr., easily won the runner-up placement. He brought the end of his excellent Derby season with his excellent performance at Dancyville. Double Down was braced with the winner in the first brace on the first morning. During that 45-minute period, he backed his bracemate at 30 and looked strong and stylish throughout the brace. In his second appearance, on Saturday afternoon, he had an unproductive at 23 while hunting along Dr. Spiotta's pines and then had an excellent find at 42 at a narrow tree line that separated the wheat field and large barren corn field owned by the Todds. Double Down



Winners (front, l-r): Lance Servais and Ann Forrester with Southern Margarita Lane and Chris Cagle Jr. with Haney's Double Down. (Rear, l-r): Jonah Clement, Dr. Gene Spiotta, Cammi St. John, Michaela Clement, Keith St. John (judge), Ike Todd, Marty Todd, Todd Babbel, Tasha Wiseman, Lynn Peterson, Harper Wiseman, Quintin Wiseman, Brian Peterson, Mark Haynes (judge), Isaiah Todd, Chris Cagle, Jay Lewis, Jayce Lewis, Dale Pool, Allen Currie, Julia Currie, Cindy Currie, Gene Spiotta III, Bill Currie, Josie Martin, Michelle Mullin, and Chris Mullin.

found no birds on Sunday morning but demonstrated his strength, speed, and style throughout the brace.

A Callback

Seranoa's Ramblin' Man, owned by Alex and Bryana Rickert, and Phillips River Line, handled by Mike Small for owners Orrin Ingram and Nathan Phillips, were the other two highest performers in the field of 12 entries. They were called back for a third run, the second brace of the final morning.

Seranoa's Ramblin' Man was handled by Alex Rickert and ran in the second brace on Friday morning and the sixth brace on Saturday afternoon. On Friday morning, at 22, he pointed, and Rickert easily flushed a big covey along the double row of pine trees on the Spiotta property. His bracemate had an unproductive at 45, and Ramblin' Man backed that effort perfectly. On Saturday afternoon, he ran well but did not find any birds. Neither did he find any birds during the callback on Sunday morning.

Phillips River Line, handled by Mike Small, found no birds during the fifth brace on Monday afternoon, but ran a strong and forward race. During the first brace on Saturday morning, River Line had a find at 19, and Small flushed a single from under dense cedar trees. During the callback on Sunday morning, River Line pointed and Small flushed at 5, along the north edge of the first long field on the third hour course.

The Other Eight

The information about the remaining eight dogs follows, reported in the order in which the dogs were drawn to run on

Friday. The first three dogs drawn to run on Friday were among the four called and reported above. Thus, the following information starts with the bottom dog in the second brace.

Arkansas' Headliner, owned and handled by Mike Lemons, came to the Invitational as the High Point Dog from the Central Region. Headliner's record earned recognition for Lemons, as he was awarded the Henry Rifle for his region. The excellent pointer found no birds during his efforts on Friday or Saturday. He handled well for his owner and did have an unproductive at 45, on the first morning.

Southern Shadows T-Bone, owned and handled by Brian Peterson, found no birds in the third brace on Friday and was eliminated when he knocked a bird on Tuesday afternoon.

Rester's Cash'n In, owned and handled by Cecil Rester, competed in the third brace, paired with Southern Shadows T-Bone. The morning had turned extremely hot, and Cash'n In found no birds. He then became lost early during his effort on Saturday, when he failed to cross Tripp Road at its intersection with Blalock Road.

Rester's Fair Play, owned and handled by Cecil, was the top dog in the fourth brace. He had an unproductive stand and 5 and backed his bracemate at 45 but found no birds. He ran again, in the second brace Saturday morning, but found no birds.

Southern Shadows Copper, owned by Lance Servais and handled by Brian Peterson, competed on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Copper backed his bracemate at 5 and found birds at 42

Friday afternoon, but no birds Saturday morning. Some impressive casts along lengthy edges were enjoyed.

Como Moonrider, owned and handled by David Russell, ran nice races in the fifth brace Friday and the third brace Saturday, but found no birds.

High Line Drive, owned and handled by Jay Lewis, found no birds on either of his 45-minute efforts on Friday or Saturday.

Notorious Propane Jane, owned and handled by John Mathys, found no birds in her sixth brace appearance Friday or first brace appearance Saturday.

Sponsors, Donors, Prizes, Gifts, and Recipients

Saying this Invitational is the most generously sponsored and the winners are the most generously rewarded of any amateur field trial, anywhere, is probably a safe and accurate statement. The ability to make that statement is made possible because of the dedication of Quintin and Tasha Wiseman and members of their sponsoring board, who have created a network of generous donors willing to support an event that has earned the reputation of being the best. The above is then complemented by the co-sponsorship and hospitality of the West Tennessee Field Trial Club and that community of landowners. Following is a list of those sponsors, donors, and recipients of the many prizes and awards.

Purina was again the primary sponsor of the Invitational. Significant parts of their sponsorship were providing the Saturday night awards dinner, the contents of swag bags given to each owner, and awarding eight bags of dog food to the owner of the winning dog, four bags to the owner of the runner-up, and one bag to each of the owners of all 12 competing dogs.

Phil and Melissa Town, owners of Rule One Investing, and Quintin's shoeing clients, again made a generous financial contribution. Garmin gave a 550 Plus tracking collar to the winner's owner. Chris and Mary Jo Cagle, Chris Cagle Jr., and John Mathys donated one of the saddles purchased from Haggis and awarded to one of the winners, the jackets and caps given to each owner, judge, and reporter, and the swag bag contents. Scott Griffin purchased a Haggis saddle, with the saddles awarded to the winner and runner-up owners.

Brian and Brooke Sanchez commissioned a painting by Leah Brigham of the winning dog. Engraved Henry Rifles were given by Alex and Bryana Rickert to each of the High Point winners. Ike Todd and Chris Peak donated training camps for dogs. Those training camps were auctioned. Jay Lewis provided a saddle from B and B Tack to the West Super Qualifier winner. Patty's Custom Chaps gave a pair of custom-made briar chaps to the scout of the winner. Mike Kearney of Trophy Bone Artistry agreed to paint a picture of the runner-up on a turkey feather. Kevin White donated custom-made roading harnesses to the

owners of both the winner and runner-up. The Jim Crouse Memorial Award winner for the National High Point Dog received a silver platter. A drawing was held for a \$500.00 gift card given to an owner who attended at least two Super Qualifiers. Nathan Phillips again donated the Gary Phillips Memorial Breeders Trophy to the breeder of the winner. Whitley Stephenson helped provide lunches and the pork loin entrée for the Friday evening meal. Vera Courtney photographed much of the activity and provided each owner a complimentary copy of the group picture. The West Tennessee Club members received

hoodies from the United States Club.

Finally, this writer wishes to apologize for any errors or omissions in the above information. The list is long and detailed, and the reporter is aged!

Dancyville, Tenn., March 28

Judges: Mark Haynes and Keith St. John

UNITED STATES AMATEUR ALL-AGE DERBY

INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP – 12 Pointers

Winner-SOUTHERN MARGARITA LANE, F1716939, pointer female, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Bandit's Hill Lady. Brian Peterson, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-HANEY'S DOUBLE DOWN, F1715340, pointer male, by Valiant-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle & Chris Cagle Jr., owners; Chris Cagle, handler.

UTAH FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Spring Trial

By Rich Burgi, President | Howell, Utah | March 29, 2025

The Utah Field Trial Association held its annual Spring trial at Howell Valley, Utah, on March 29, 2025. This trial has been held at this venue for over 50 years, and we are grateful to the landowner, Jered Anderson, for the use of the grounds and for supporting our club. The trial was well attended and competitive, drawing 10 shooting dogs and 14 derbies. As is usually the case at Howell, we were fortunate to have wild birds on course, sharptails and huns, which were supplemented with released chukar. The weather for the trial was windy and overcast, but only a few sprinkles throughout the day. We want to thank all judges—Scott Evans, Kyle Oxborrow, Jeremy King, and Ray Larrondo—for being attentive to each brace and their decisions. Special thanks to Scott Evans for securing and raising chukar for the event and always helping where needed.

The Open Shooting Dog stake drew 10 entries this year. The first and second place dogs are German Shorthair pointers owned by Kyle Oxborrow of Utah. Kyle placed K O's Brown Sugar Showtime ("Hersh") first, with a huge run from the breakaway, having him clear a far hill and out of sight. Once seen, he was found standing on a pair of wild huns. He had two more finds on chukar, one point at a distance of over 30 yards. He finished strong with big moves until time. K O's Pistol Packin Pete ("Pete"), also a German Shorthair pointer male, placed second for Kyle



Open Shooting Dog (standing, l-r): Steve Swanson, Scott Evans, Ronnie Brody, Chris Perkins, Brandi Perkins, Kyle Oxborrow, Brett Burgi, Jeremy King, Barratt Gorshe, Ray Larrondo, Rich Burgi, Mike Robbins, Robbie Thompson, Mat Blockovich, Tanner Blockovich, and Gordy Jones. (Kneeling, l-r): Tami Larrondo with K O's Brown Sugar Showtime, Mike Van Zomeren with K O's Pistol Packin Pete, and Art Cox with Remi Running Rogue.

and was in the first brace of the trial. There were many wild birds on course in the morning, and Pete quickly had a stop to flush at 4 on a sharptail. He had a very nice, forward race, with two more finds on chukar. Pete finished his brace strong and going away at time. Third place in the Shooting Dog was won by Remi Running Rogue ("Remi"), a German Shorthair pointer female owned by Taylor Phillips and handled by Ronnie Brody.

The Open Derby stake drew 14 dogs and was very competitive as well. The first and third placements were won by Chris Perkins of American Falls, Idaho.

Chris handled Black Rocks Snow Goose ("Goose"), a pointer male, to first place for owner Nick Cummins. Perkins Live Stream ("Kate"), a pointer female owned and handled by Chris Perkins, had multiple bird contacts and a good forward, well-directed race, and placed third. Canyon Creek Statin' The Facts ("Statler"), a German Shorthair pointer male, placed second for Ray Larrondo of Nampa, Idaho, with a big forward race that had him finishing through a fence.

It was nice to see everyone and experience some good dog work. Thanks to all participants, and well-deserved congratulations to the

Howell, Utah., March 29
Judges: Jeremy King and Ray Larrondo
OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 1 Pointer, 1 Setter,
and 8 German Shorthairs
1st-K O'S BROWN SUGAR SHOWTIME, F1675907, German Shorthair male, by Sliderock's Showtime Stopper-PPK's Sugar. Kyle Oxborrow, owner and handler.
2d-K O'S PISTOL PACKIN PETE, F1693904, German Shorthair male, by Quailpoint Blackriver Legend-W S K's Voodoo Queen. Kyle Oxborrow, owner and handler.
3d-REMI RUNNING ROUGE, F1720814, German Shorthair female, by The Sauvie Island Rock-No-Mars Sage Vom Tinman. Taylor Phillips, owner; Ronnie Brody, handler.



Open Derby (standing, l-r): Scott Evans, Chris Perkins, Brett Burgi, Ray Larrondo, Rich Burgi, Jeremy King, and Kyle Oxborrow. (Kneeling, l-r): Robbie Thompson with Black Rocks Snow Goose, Tami Larrondo with Canyon Creek Statin' The Facts, and Brandi Perkins with Perkins Live Stream.

1st-BLACK ROCKS SNOW GOOSE, F1706706, pointer male, by Miller's Speed Dial-Yale's Sunny Hill Dot. Nick Cummins, owner; Chris Perkins, handler.

2d-CANYON CREEK STATIN' THE FACTS, F1720815, German Shorthair male, by Canyon Creek Aces Peacemaker-Remi Running Rogue. Ray Larrondo, owner and handler.

3d-PERKINS LIVE STREAM, F1714278, pointer female, by Perkins Sawyer's Warrior-Empire On Line. Chris Perkins, owner and handler.

By David A. Fletcher | Philipsburg, Pennsylvania | March 31, 2025



Mohawk Mill Good Advice, a 7-year-old pointer male, was named Ontario Grouse Champion, and Chasehill Poison Ivy, a 5-year-old pointer female, was named runner-up. Remarkably, both are owned by William and Karen McFadden of Angola, New York, and were handled by John Stolgitis of Ashaway, Rhode Island.

The Ontario Grouse Championship held its 33rd renewal over the Black Moshannon State Forest Area near Phillipsburg, Pennsylvania, from March 31 to April 3, with an entry of 48 dogs—30 pointers and 18 setters. The weather was a bit chilly at times, mornings in the 30s and afternoons into the 40s. Light rain and a thunderstorm with high winds made an appearance, but were

not enough to stop the running of the Championship event. Native grouse and woodcock were in good supply, giving adequate opportunity for the dogs.

Why is an Ontario Grouse Championship conducted over Pennsylvania courses? It's a three-decade story. The event was started in Canada's Ontario Province by veteran field trialers who wanted to compete on wild grouse and woodcock rather than the released quail and pheasant of Ontario's one-course trials. Canadians Dan Mansell, Jack Clark, Bill McClure, and Tim Tufts got the ball rolling with a couple of events at Norwood, Ontario, then the move was made to the Copeland Forest near Barrie, Ontario. Your scribe, born and raised in Ontario, joined the sponsoring group at

this juncture, which by then I had helped achieve Championship status. Copeland was a very adequate site for several years, but the ranks of the trial sponsors thinned, public hunting on the grounds took the bird population down to some degree, and there was no cutting program to provide regrowth areas needed for feeding, nesting, and suitable cover for the welfare of brood chicks. New York and Pennsylvania offered their trial venues, and the Championship flourished. For many years, Tim Tufts managed the trial himself, with American help, and he worked diligently and kept it alive.

With the recent death of Tim Tufts, a reorganization was in order. The Venango Club program took over sponsorship of the Ontario Championship, and the Club officers' list emerged as: Dave Fletcher, President; Dr. Tim Perschke, Vice President; Joe Cammisa, Secretary; and Chip Chiappini as Treasurer. Eric Munden was asked to join the group as a director, and his addition has been a great move for this Club and the Championship.

More about the Black Moshannon State Forest grounds. They are spacious, a little hilly in places and there is a cutting program in place, necessitated several years ago by an infestation of Gypsy Moths which prompted cutting away of much of their tree habitat and this process was continued by blocks of acreage being cut, mainly on an annual basis. There are some openings in the forest, giving the dogs birdy edges to explore.

Who were the bodies that physically

put the trial on? Joe Cammisa looked after the drawing, securing the judges, and was the Club secretary and trial chairman. The judges walk as the event does not use horses. Judges were Bruce Minard of Beulah, Michigan, who has been embraced as a professional trainer and handler, both in the walking grouse dog world and horseback trials. His partner was John Cullen, a Maine resident, and John is also very experienced in the world of pointing dog trials.

Marshaling the courses was done mainly by Jeff Keller with help from Brian Ralph, and Dick Brenneman on the road crossings, and others. Lunches were exceptional, perhaps one of the main functions of the day. Joe Cammisa prevailed in great form, abetted by Lion Country Supply stalwarts Eric Munden and Steve Stiner. The trial management crew was lodged in Phillipsburg at a Bed and Breakfast where more great meals were on the grill for the group. Helen Brenneman and Susie Cammisa, as they always do, provided lots of cookies and other delicious dessert items.

Our thanks go out to Purina and Greg Blair for their product donations, and they have been a faithful contributor for many years. Lion Country Supply, among other items, provided judges' gifts. Fletcher Printing provided the winners' plaques.

The Winners and Others

As I mentioned earlier, it is somewhat unusual for an owner and a handler to capture both championship and runner-up placements in a major field trial. It happened this time around. Billie McFadden, as I called him 40 or so years ago when I met him, won the Championship and runner-up. Forty years ago, Billie or Bill or William, as he is now probably called, came to the Lake States Club at Gladwin, Michigan, to run dogs, won placements, and literally was a vibrant figure in grouse events. I was president of the Lake States Club at the time and heavily involved. I remained heavily involved with reporting and attending a range of grouse events over the following decades, and it became evident that Billie was not campaigning grouse dogs to the extent he was earlier.

The present seems to be a resurgence with his rather recent acquisition of new competitive field trial prospects and with a huge contribution to the field trial sport in purchasing a sizeable tract of land near Ellensburg, New York, for the sole purpose of providing the sport with a wonderful set of grounds on which to stage grouse and woodcock trials.

As mentioned in the running section of this report, the two McFadden contenders had great hunting efforts, handled and worked the cover beautifully, and had stylish and mannerly birdwork. Handler John Stolgitis has more than his astute handling of both winning dogs on the course to be credited for. His Chasehill Kennel is in the background bloodlines and training of the winning dogs. Good Advice is the grandson of 19x Champion Chase Hill Little Bud, with multiple placements in open and amateur horseback competition. He also helped Billy McFadden acquire both dogs and went on with their training routines. Poison Ivy previously won the runner-up title at the Grand National Grouse Invitational Championship and has also won additional wild bird championships. Both winning dogs have multiple placements in field trials on their win record. Judges spoke of pointer female Beaver Meadow Bit as the closest to the winners with her wide hunting and excellent pair of woodcock finds. Two unproductives could have been a factor. Mark Hughes is her handler/trainer, and club Secretary Joe Cammisa is her owner.

The Running

The Championship consumed four days, six braces per day. The field of 48 drawn was the largest in recent Club history. There were three scratches during the running. A count of the birds pointed stands at six grouse and 15 woodcock, but there were more birds seen during the running, mostly wild flushes on the course edges, as the gallery came through. A summary of what the judges witnessed is included herein. The initial four braces were birdless, but the dogs hunted well, handled, and finished the hour in goodly form. Braces 5 and 6 featured single woodcock finds and a lone grouse, but despite good hunting activity, did not quite reach spectacular status,

as a championship at times demands. Roy, a setter male in the seventh brace handled by Mark Hughes running as a bye, logged a pair of woodcock finds and was, as the term goes, carried for a possible placement. Beaver Meadow Bit, also handled by Mark Hughes and followed closely by owner, trial manager Joe Cammisa, in the eighth brace scored a grouse find and two woodcock finds but had two unproductives. She also joined the "carried" list. Braces 9, 10, and 11 featured lots of good hunting, but only one woodcock was pointed. Brace 12 brought forth the eventual champion, Mohawk Mill Good Advice, handled by John Stolgitis. This dog was a treat to the eye with his gait and style in motion and on point, along with his attention to hunting the best portions of his course. His grouse find came at the 59-minute mark, with bracemate standing on point there also, and "which dog was there first" was the question answered by the judges in Advice's favor. This was no doubt the best dog down so far in the stake, and he survived the challenge of the rest of the field and took the top honors. In the 13th brace, Double Deuce Zeke, handled by Mark Hughes, had two nice woodcock finds and a hard hunting hour, but misbehaved on a woodcock near time. In Braces 14 through 17, no challenging performances came forth. Brace 18 brought forth the Runner-up Champion Chasehill Poison Ivy, handled by John Stolgitis. This may have been the best hunting effort in the entire stake, always to good cover, charging the course with style, speed, and determination. Her woodcock find and back of bracemate were stylish and mannerly. The final six braces produced two Woodcock finds, several unproductives, and no challenges to the dogs the judges were carrying. Perhaps the closest dog to the winner's circle was Beaver Meadow Bit.

Phillipsburg, Pa., March 31

**Judges: Bruce Minard and John Cullen
ONTARIO GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour
Heats] - 30 Pointers and 18 Setters**

*Winner-MOHAWK MILL GOOD ADVICE, F1685480.
pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Hirollins Fancy
Lady. William & Karen McFadden, owners; John
Stolgitis, handler.*

*Runner-Up-CHASEHILL POISON IVY, F1694453,
pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy.
William & Karen McFadden, owners; John Stolgitis,
handler.*

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CHIPPEWA VALLEY GROUSE DOG ASSOCIATION

Northwoods Cedar Wins Don Didcoct Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

By Roger King | Augusta, Wisconsin | April 3, 2025



Didcoct Amateur Shooting Dog Classic: Larry Davidson (judge), Lindsey Saetre with Northwoods Cedar, Ed Graddy with Northern Slopes Bell, Ben Mergens with Over The Hill Morgan, and Roger King (chairman).

One would never think that a watershed could significantly impact a field trial. It is believed that Woodcock migrate after dark along highways called rivers. We are blessed and cursed to have our trial grounds along the banks of the North and South Fork of the Eau Claire River, converging at the southwest end of the trial grounds. The Eau Claire River provides the backdrop for excellent grouse and woodcock cover. The challenge is gauging the level of the river, as snow melts, the spring showers can make the rivers rise quickly. A high river can easily cause us to lose two entire courses and impact others. After multiple discussions, revised potential course orders, and many trips to check the water level (thank you, Rod Lein), all worked out just fine—"80% of the things you worry about never happen."

Don Didcoct was a proponent of class grouse dogs and the important role that the amateurs play in the success of cover dog trials. Don exemplified what it takes for an amateur handler to compete on the cover dog circuit: Passion, hard work, talent, dedication, and class dogs. Don Didcoct died way too early—July 7, 1988—and will long be remembered as an educator, dog trainer, leader, field trialer, grouse hunter, and friend.

The Open Shooting Dog started promptly at 7:40 a.m. Thursday morning, 33 degrees, a little snow

in the air, and northwest winds 6-10 mph—one might say perfect field trial weather. Judging was Alex Anderson, a young and very active member of CVGDA who has a nice string of pointers and spends an enormous amount of time in the woods. His partner was Ben Mergens, a highly sought-after judge on the entire cover dog circuit. His experience is vast, and his decisions are well-received. Ben stepped in at the last minute for Bill Holtan of CoverDog Message Board. A pending snowstorm in Northern Minnesota (12 inches of snow) prevented Bill from coming. A trip down memory lane, on April 6, 1997, Bill totaled his pickup truck (with dogs) returning from the Didcoct. All ended well, however, we jointly agreed not to push our luck.

Jordan Pharris's Big Big Energy ("Lotto") ran in the very first brace on the Wilson Park course. If there were ever a perfect name for a dog, Big Big Energy is right on. He literally attacked the course with power, speed, and momentum, and hunted the appropriate cover with maturity beyond his two years. Lotto had a perfect woodcock find at 20, and he was exciting to watch the last 40 minutes. As they say, "He made you sit up in your saddle," except we had no horses. Lotto is no fluke; his dam is Clover Valley's Millie (Jerry Furnish), the 2024 Didcoct winner, and sire Northwoods Atlas (Greg Johnson). Atlas

would have been at the 2025 Grand National Grouse Invitational but passed prematurely. Second place went to Rod Lein and Over The Hill Morgan, who also qualified for the Grand National Grouse Invitational. Morgan had two well-spaced woodcock finds running on the Diablo Jake-King course. Judge Alex Anderson's quote: "Beautiful finds—consistently forward race." On one find, there were four grouse flushed walking to where Morgan stood; she handled that with perfect manners! Lake Effect Ali, run by Jordan Pharris and owned by Tim Kaufman, ran on the Crash course. Jordan did an outstanding job of handling her, but it was apparent she was looking for owner Tim. Ali was a tad erratic the first 30 minutes, then settled in to have two woodcock finds worked around a nice grouse find. Needless to say, a well-deserved placement. Ali is also heading to the National Grouse Invitational. To answer the question—Was this a competitive stake? Two of the three placements are qualified for the National Grouse Dog Invitational—Yes, it was!

The Don Didcoct Amateur Shooting Dog started Friday morning, running concurrently with the last braces of the Open Shooting Dog on fresh courses. Larry Davidson and Chris Bye were our judicial team. Larry is a two-time winner of the Didcoct in the earlier years 1990-91 with much experience judging grouse dogs. Chris Bye is the president of the Minnesota Grouse Dog Association and a very experienced judge. He was part of the reporting team for the 80th Grand National Grouse Championship run on these grounds last fall. These two complemented each other very well, and the placements were very well received. Northwoods Cedar, handled by Lindsey Saetre, bested the field of 28 entries. Cedar ran the last brace on Saturday on the Diablo Jake-King course. It is a course steeped in tradition (ask Jim Tande, Legend of the Cover Dog world). It offers multiple opportunities on both grouse and woodcock. Cedar would not disappoint. Early in the brace, Cedar had a stylish woodcock find. At about the halfway point, Cedar's bell went silent along an old oxbow of the Eau Claire River well to the front. Scout Eric Saetre



Open Shooting Dog: Roger King (chairman), Ben Mergens (judge), Jordan Pharris with Big Big Energy, Rod Lein with Over The Hill Morgan, Tim Kaufman with Lake Effect Ali, and Alex Anderson (judge).

went looking and found her standing. Judge Davidson arrived as the grouse exploded in front of Cedar. Shortly later, Linsey arrived; an incredible grouse find in the books! Cedar was off to the front through a stand of gigantic, nearly century-old White Pines and across the Callahan bridge. The judges were impressed with the bond between Cedar and Lindsey. At one point, at the bottom of a small hill, Cedar's head appeared just over the top. She looked as if she were saying, "Hey, Boss, I'm here, heading to the front. See ya." Her last find was between a recent Aspen clear-cut and the river, a perfect spot for a woodcock. Cedar stood with style, all in order. Cedar and Lindsey are now off to the National Grouse Invitational Championship in New York. Good luck! Second went to past winner Northern Slopes Bell, handled by Ed Graddy (a three-time winner of the Didcoct). They ran on the very consistent "H" course. Both Bell's points were classy woodcock finds. The judges remarked that she floated around the course with very little need for handling. Over The Hill Morgan, handled by Ben Mergens, was the third-place dog. The judges noted, "She's a speedy, classy little pointer." Morgan had two woodcock finds. The first was early in the brace and the second at 31—both excellent! Morgan is also headed to the National Grouse Invitational Championship. Good luck! With two of the three placements going to the Grand National Invitational Grouse Championship and the other a past winner of the Didcoct, I guess that says it all for the competitiveness of the 33rd annual Don Didcoct Memorial Classic.

What can you say? We had two excellent derby judges with tons of experience, and to top it off, "Best Friends." Scott Anderson and Brett Edstrom are a joy to have at a trial, in addition to all the work they do. Thank you both from the bottom

of our hearts! The Derby started on Saturday at noon, running concurrently with the Didcoct Amateur Shooting Dog. We were fortunate to have Greg Johnson, a club member and officer, ramrodding the Derby. We strive to have continuous course Derby stakes, which adds tremendously to the logistics, but as always, Greg was up to the task. Nick Sisterman and "Endee" followed up their Derby placement at the North Country Championship by winning the Blue. Endee ran in the very first brace on the H course and led the field the entire way. Endee immediately made big moves to the front, negotiating the Oxbows left by the changing course of the river. These areas are excellent cover (Aspen-Alder mix) for birds. Endee pointed a woodcock in a wet thicket between the course and the river. She stood statuesque while Nick excitedly fumbled a bit to find his blank pistol and shoot. As it turned out, this was certainly enough for her to carry the field. Second place went to Mathew Acker and "Tess," a German Shorthair pointer. Tess ran well and pointed a grouse in a small swamp along the North Fork of the Eau Claire River on the Diablo Jake-King course. Third Place was Greg Johnson with Northwoods Rip Roy, who's one of the leaders for Derby of the Year. Rip ran on the second half of the Gasline Course, breaking away very strongly, which he carried the entire brace. After he crossed the opening for the gas line, he immediately was birdy and pointed at the edge of a small slough. Greg shot, and Rip took to the front, where he stayed the remainder of the brace.

At the winners' announcement on Sunday, special recognition was given to Ben Mergens by CVGDA for Outstanding Effort in preparing for and hosting the 80th running of the Grand National Grouse Championship in the fall of 2024. Ben provided leadership, hard work, talent, and positive energy to supervise a motley crew of CVGDA dog people. A 40+ year old shelter at Wilson Park was renovated with new metal siding, windows, doors, and lights. A new shelter was built at Knights Pool in a stand of Red Pine overlooking Knights Pool, which some call a "million-dollar view." Both shelters were used at the Grand to host coffee, lunches, and evening meals. CVGDA will benefit for years to come, having these two shelters to better host future cover dog trials. Ben was instrumental in all aspects of finishing construction on



Open Derby: Roger King (chairman), Nick Sisterman with Silvershot Snowball Express, Matthew Acker with Cedar Creek's Pointing Upland, Greg Johnson with Northwoods Rip Roy, Brett Edstrom (judge), and Scott Anderson (judge).

these two fine additions to our grounds. In recognition of his efforts, Ben was given a framed original painting of his runner-up champion, "Lucy." This piece of art was painted by club officer Greg Johnson's daughter, Addy. She is a very talented, aspiring young artist. Needless to say, Ben was at a loss for words with emotion—a moment to treasure.

For many years, Purina has supported pointing dog field trials, in fact for some five decades. We are most appreciative of the support Purina gives CVGDA, which makes it possible to host a premier cover dog event. Thank you, Greg Blair and Purina, for your long-standing, wonderful support! We appreciate the excellent products you so carefully develop for our dogs.

It's heartwarming to see the continued success of the Don Didcoct Memorial Amateur Grouse Classic. Judi Didcoct (Don's widow) is happy to see the positive impact that she and Don had on cover dog trials and that it is still healthy and growing today. Many trialers have "winning the Didcoct" on their bucket list. It is truly an honor to have that bronze William Koelpin Grouse casting adorning your mantle for one year.

See you next year!

Augusta, Wis., April 3

**Judges: Alex Anderson and Ben Mergens
OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]
— 5 Pointers and 16 Setters**

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

2d-OVER THE HILL MORGAN, F1699010, pointer female, by J T H Scion-Over The Hill Patty. Robert Zielke, owner; Rod Lein, handler.

3d-LAKE EFFECT ALI, F1688438, setter female, by Northern Lights Sirius-Lake Effect Tilly. Tim Kaufman, owner and handler.



Past winners with Didcott Vest welcoming Linsey Saetre to the fraternity.

Judges: Larry Davidson and Chris Bye
**DON DIDCOCT AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
 CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats] – 8 Pointers,
 18 Setters, and 2 German Shorthairs**

1st-NORTHWOODS CEDAR, F1691883, setter female, by Erin's Prometheus-Northwoods Carly Simon. Eric & Lindsey Saetre, owners.
 2d-NORTHERN SLOPES BELL, F1682006, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Out of the Shadows. Ed Graddy, owner and handler.
 3d-OVER THE HILL MORGAN, F1699010, pointer female, by J T H Scion-Over The Hill Patty. Robert Zielke, owner; Rod Lein, handler.



Ben Mergens receiving an Outstanding Achievement Award from CVGDA.

Judges: Scott Anderson and Brett Edstrom
**OPEN DERBY – 13 Pointers, 12 Setters,
 and 2 German Shorthairs**

1st-SILVERSHOT SNOWBALL EXPRESS, F1704893, pointer female, by Crosswind Jim-Silvershot's Lil Fancy Pants. Nick Sisterman, owner and handler.
 2d-CEDAR CREEK'S POINTING UPLAND, F1711522, German Shorthair female, by Kimber Tactical-Covey Up's Snake River Latte. Matthew Acker, owner and handler.
 3d-NORTHWOODS RIP ROY, F1711135, setter male, by Woodville's Yukon Cornelius-Northwoods Redbreast. Greg Johnson, owner and handler.



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GREENFIELDS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

The Virginia Classics

By Tommy Stargell | Scottsville, Virginia | April 3, 2025



Amateur Shooting Dog Classic (front): Calico's Over The Top posed by Tiffany Smith and Braydon Smith, Bud Adams posed by Tom Brigman, and Sweet Grass Spike posed by Chloe Lewis. (Behind): Grayson Francis (judge), Frank Henderson, Darryl Miller, Tom's friend, Til Hankley, Mary Ann Womack, Al Dahl (judge), and Mr. and Mrs. Worth Lewis.

We were fortunate to again use the beautiful Greenfields Farm for our spring gala, The Virginia Classics. We owe this privilege to our hosts, John and Vivian Milton. Springtime in Mr. Jefferson's country, known as Central Virginia's Albemarle County, is always breathtakingly beautiful and was nonetheless so during all but the last day of this trial. The Club

thanks Mr. John and Miss Vivian for their generosity. Greenfields feels like home.

Purina was, as always, our sponsor. We also thank Greg Blair. It was an honor to hoist the Purina banner.

Julie Richards was a workhorse as she always is. Our full tummies say thanks, and our waistline curses.

Darryl Miller planted birds in his

masterful manner. Mike Winchester and Kirk Regensburg ran the dog wagon. Steve Mills did the thousand things he always does, each perfect. Al Dahl judged, answered thousands of vet questions, and set the tone for always being a gentleman. Al and Grayson judged the Shooting Dog Classic, Til Hankley brought our All-Age Classic judges, Jim and Mary Ann Womack, and he and Kirk Regensburg judged the 30-minute Shooting Dog. Steve Mills and I judged the Derby. It was a happy and well-oiled group.

Pagan Creek Atticus won the 30-minute Shooting Dog for Virginia Field Trial President Gene Hogge. He had three finds and stretched on out there. Second was Bad News Bob for Bruce Conover, which had two birds and a good race. Third went to Murphy's Law, handled by Jim Womack.

The second stake was the Amateur Derby. Al Dahl brought two unrelated kennelmates who made the decision an easy one. Buffalo Junction Grady fairly flew around the course and pointed a bird at 29 to seal first place.

Kennelmate Buffalo Junction Geri also had a find and was just shy of Grady's

race to take second. In third was "Moe," who had birdwork and ran well.

The All-Age Classic ran on Friday. The winner was I Dream of Jeannie for Kyle Whitfield. Jeannie ran a spirited race. Her birds were pointed at 5, 10, 19, 29, 35, and 55. A UP at 45 was carded, but not a problem. She is a fancy dog.

Second was Rocky River Loaded for Grayson Francis. "Gus" had six finds, one unproductive, and a strong finish.

Swampfox Just Bruce was new to Greenfields, and his primary objective was to see all of it; he did. His scout, Al Dahl, was a busy man. Bruce looked beautiful on all four of his finds, and one unproductive.

The Shooting Dog Classic was won by veteran Calico's Over The Top and Alex Smith. She had an unproductive at 10 and then scored successfully at 25, 35, 39, and 47. Her ground game was excellent, and her handle was exceptional. It was a very good performance.

Second was a beautifully bright liver-marked big ole he-man classical looking dog, Bud Adams, owned by popular walking horse trainer Chad Adams and run by Tom Brigman. He was pretty to watch run and point. He had birds at 19, 24, 35, and 52. He put in a good hour.

In third was "Spike" for Worth Lewis. This busy setter backed at 5 and 45, had an unproductive at 18, and had finds at 25, 30, and 39.

Grayson and Al decided to run the



Amateur All-Age Classic: I Dream of Jeannie posed by Worth Lewis, Rocky River Loaded posed by Grayson Francis, Swampfox Just Bruce posed by Al Dahl, Kyle Whitfield, Steve Mills, Jim and Mary Ann Womack (judges), and Til Hankley.

whole Shooting Dog Classic on Saturday. The weather was coming in, and it was a good but tiring decision. Their efforts and the good spirits of the competitors were appreciated.

We adjourned this trial, looking forward to the Region 3 Championship, which would start the next day.

Greenfields Field Trial Club thanks everyone who participates in any way and makes our trials the best they can be.

Y'all come back!

Scottsville, Va., April 3

**Judges: Til Hankley and Kirk Regensburg
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 7 Entries**

1st-PAGAN CREEK ATTICUS, F1692037, pointer male, by Goldberg-Mohawk. Gene Hogge, owner and handler.

2d-BAD NEWS BOB, F1678771, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Pirate-Mohawk Mill Southern Belle. Bruce & Karen Conover, owners; Bruce Conover, handler.

3d-MURPHY'S LAW, F1669023, setter male, by Attitude's Iron Will-Broken Bridges. Jim & Mary Womack, owners; Jim Womack, handler.

Judges: Steve Mills and Tommy Stargell

AMATEUR DERBY – 6 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-BUFFALO JUNCTION GRADY, F1714964, pointer male, by Rocky River Loaded-Sadie Ridge Sally. Al Dahl, owner and handler.

2d-BUFFALO JUNCTION GERI, F1714958, pointer female, by -Crouse's Pond River Gus-Buffalo Junction Holler Point. Al Dahl, owner and handler.

3d-SAWGRASS MOE MONEY, F1713709, setter male, by Luke's Gospel Truth-Mauch's Wyeast Owyhww Ajay. Jim Womack, owners and handler.

Judges: Jim Womack and Mary Anne Womack

AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]

– 7 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-I DREAM OF JEANNIE, F1699099, setter female, by Hot Blooded-Shamrock's Miss Grace. Kyle Whitfield, owner and handler.

2d-ROCKY RIVER LOADED, F1696572, pointer male, by Broken Halo-Morgan's Mountain Maggie. Grayson Francis, owner and handler.

3d-SWAMPFOX JUST BRUCE, F1685141, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Legendary. Johnny Atkinson & Til Hankley, owners; Til Hankley, handler.

Judges: Al Dahl and Grayson Francis

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC


[One-Hour Heats] – 14 Pointers and 2 Setters


1st-CALICO'S OVER THE TOP, F1692315, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Calico's Country Strong. Calico Kennels, Alex & Tiffany Smith, owners; Alex Smith, handler.

2d-BUD ADAMS, F1702121, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Muddy Belle Kate. Chad Adams, owner; Tommy Brigman, handler.

3d-SWEET GRASS SPIKE, F1700670, setter male, by Black Top-Jo Veeta. Worth Lewis, owner and handler.

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REGION 7 (AFTCA) AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Bandit Hill Bess Named Champion; Uptown's West Mountain Boone, Runner-up

By Ken Sauer | Alvord, Texas | April 5, 2025

We want to start by thanking the USFS, Purina, Park Cities Quail Coalition (PCQC), Valley View Field Trial Association, and all who chipped in to help. Thanks to our judges, Shawn Rowan, Eddy Smith, Josh Pool, Tim Thorton, and Matthew Puckett. Jay Stine, executive director for PCQC, brought a delicious brisket for lunch on Saturday to top off the pulled pork and baked beans served by Melissa Sauer, Angie Rowan, and Lisa Warner. Sunday's lunch was Ken Sauer's famous King Ranch Chicken Casserole. Thanks to Larry Seybert Sr. for running the bird planting duties and the buggy. Sheila Uva commissioned the Region 7 Championship trophies, which were very well received by the winners.

We had folks from Illinois, Oklahoma, Kansas, and lots of Texas folks, too. This event was in conjunction with a raffle/fundraiser for PCQC. PCQC was instrumental in funding the cleaning up and revamping of the Valley View trial grounds. VVFTA Unit #29 is in really good shape, and this spring, we will be moving further into Unit #75 to complete two one-hour continuous courses. This could not be accomplished without the help of the USFS, PCQC, Mike Pirtle, Trey Baer, and me. Lots of sweat equity is invested in this progress. The participants had nothing but great compliments on how good shape the grounds are in.

The trial was scheduled to start Friday, April 4, but with rain called for all day, the decision was made to start on Saturday. Well, it didn't rain all day Friday, just all night and well into the morning of Saturday. The course was wet and a little sloppy, but very manageable. The birds didn't seem to get soaked and flew off course. Thanks to C&G Game Birds from Verdon, Oklahoma, for such good birds.

Region 7 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship

In the Championship, very few dogs were picked up. Plenty of great dogs showed off what they're made of. In the first brace, "Hawk," owned and handled by Rob Warner from Illinois, was braced with "Ranger," owned and handled by Paul Ott from Kansas. Both did a



Region 7 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Ken Sauer, Jason Super, Klaus Schmidt with Bandit Hill Bess, Eddy Smith (judge), Josh Pool, Uptown's West Mountain Boone with Jon Smith, Matthew Puckett, Shawn Rowan (judge), and Mike Rogers.

nice job to kick off this Championship. Hawk had three finds and two backs doing a really nice job. Ranger had two finds but suffered two unproductives. In the second brace, "Bess," owned and handled by Klaus Schmidt, was braced with "Dutton," owned by Phillip Webster, handled by Matthew Puckett. Klaus put on a show with his young shooting dog Bess. She ran the course with commitment, carding five finds. She showed classy style on every find. Bess set the benchmark for all to chase. Dutton suffered an unproductive at 7 and never got anything else done. Dutton is a beautiful, big-framed pointer with tons of style. In the third brace, "Maria," owned and handled by Matthew Puckett, was braced with "Mason," owned by Tim Thorton and handled by Jon Smith. Maria carded two finds and finished the hour. On her last find, she was noted to take a few steps at the flush. Mason went birdless and didn't finish the hour. In the fourth brace, "Isla," owned and handled by Jason Super, and "Ben," owned and handled by Ken Sauer, went through almost half the course before carding and birdwork. Both dogs are extremely nice, moving dogs. Isla carded one find and was picked up shortly thereafter. Ben carded two finds. He also had another point on a bird that Isla had pointed. He didn't see the bird, nor was he around the flush, but passed through

and pointed that bird. Late in the brace, Ben had a herd of cows not letting him through, affecting his finish. Sauer picked him up at 59, knowing his finish wouldn't get him a nod. In the fifth brace, "Stone," owned and handled by Klaus Schmidt, and "Boone," owned and handled by Jon Smith, were cut loose. Stone went through the course, only coming up with an unproductive around 43. For Boone, he did a nice job carding six finds at 26, 32, 38, 40, 56, and 58. Jon should be proud of his performance, and it was nice to watch. In the sixth brace, "Oakley," owned and handled by Paul Ott, was braced with "Tye," owned and handled by Ken Sauer, and let them loose. Oakley carded three finds at 11, 20, and 50. Oakley did a nice job and looks good pointing. Tye only carded two finds at 28 and 40. He had some nice moves but just needed more birdwork and a little stronger finish. Sauer picked him up at 58.

Alvord, Tex., April 5

Judges: Shawn Rowan and Eddy Smith

REGION 7 AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

— 11 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner-BANDIT HILL BESS, F1706165, pointer female, by Touch's Smooth Rider-West's Lucky. Klaus Schmidt, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-UPTOWN'S WEST MOUNTAIN BOONE, F1706402, pointer male, by West Mountain Lucky Luke-M H Rockford Peach. Jonathan Smith, owner and handler.



Bandit Hill Bess with a find.

Valley View Field Trial Association

The NBHA Gun Dog stakes were run over on Unit #75 at the same time as the Championship was being run on #29, so we could get all the stakes done in two days. No. 75 is a great place for working dogs, with even more improvements coming this spring/summer. It took another set of judges (thank you, Josh Pool and Tim Thorton) and another bird planter/field marshal (thank you, Trey Baer). Everyone should come out and check out this unit.

NBHA Amateur Shooting Dog

In the first brace, "Pixie," owned and handled by Chuck Maxson, and "Jett," owned and handled by Jon Smith, were off around 9 a.m. (had to wait a while for the rain to officially stop). Pixie had a nice ground race/application with one find, one back, and two unproductives. The judges were impressed by her manners and ground speed. Jett scored three finds, but his ground application separated the two dogs. In the second brace, "Roque," owned and handled by Jacob Zackery, tore a pad and was limited on the ground. Izzy, owned and handled by Jon Smith, scored two finds and had a point on another bird. Izzy's ground application could have been a little more forward. In the third brace, "Alice," owned and handled by David Wysch, ran with "Poncho," owned by Chip Brosseau, handled by Jason Gallagher. Chip was in a leg cast, and Jason stepped in to help. Alice had one



Handlers Jason Super and Ken Sauer off to the races.



Klaus Schmidt on his fine steed.

nice find with a really nice ground race. Poncho did score three finds but was really loose on his game, also coming in from the rear a few too many times. In the fourth brace, "Sage," owned and handled by Chris Daniels, was paired with "Julie," owned and handled by Chuck Maxson. Freeway chalked up a find and pointed game on another stand. Julie's manners were a little too much, interfering with her bracemate.

NBHA Open Shooting Dog

"Segar," owned and handled by Phillip Webster, and "Hawk," owned and handled by Rob Warner, started Sunday's first brace. Segar had scored a find. He is really a nice young dog. He'll be a contender in events to come. However, on his back, he moved quite a bit and was picked up. Hawk tallied up three nice finds and a back on Segar's first find. In the second brace were "Mason," owned and handled by Tim Thorton, and "Alta," owned and handled by Mark Wagner. Both dogs didn't score and game and were picked up early. In the third brace, we had "Robert" (2x NBHA National Open Champion), owned and handled by Klaus Schmidt, and "Boone" (2025 NBHA Free-For-All Runner-up Champion). This brace was exciting, with both dogs doing a nice job. Robert started with an unproductive then backed his bracemate before scoring birdwork two times. Boone started with a stop to flush, then had



The Thortons: Dad Tim, Hazel, and last year's NBHA Youth Handler of the Year, Meadow Thorton.



Matthew Puckett's "Maria" with a find.

two more finds. In the fourth brace were "Jane," owned and handled by Josh Pool, and "Maria" (2024 NBHA Free-For-All Runner-up Champion), off to the races. Jane scored three nice forward finds. Her ground application was really nice. Maria scored a find but may have moved a little too much and was picked up. In the fifth brace, "Dutton," owned and handled by Phillip Webster, had the course to themselves. On his first piece of birdwork, he moved too much and was picked up.

NBHA Open Derby

In the first brace was "Sport," owned and handled by Jason Gallagher, with "Sage," who moved up due to Jacob Zackery's dog blowing a pad the day before. Sport had three bird contacts for his handler. His race needed to be a bit more forward and a little more solid on his birdwork. Sage carded three finds and had a nice front race. She, too, needed a little more work on her bird manners for this time of year, but it was a nice performance. In the second brace, "Codigo," owned and handled by Jason Gallagher, was paired with "Jetty," owned by Jon Summy and handled by Trey Baer. Codigo had a really nice race but didn't come up with any birdwork. Jetty had one really nice find; however, her bracemate had some breach of manners. Jetty really showed nicely on her ground application. In the third brace were "Vista," owned and handled by Mark Wagner, and "Buffer," owned and handled by Mike Pirtle. Vista



Shawn Rowan, Championship and Open Shooting Dog Judge



Amateur Shooting Dog: Uptown's Elhewed Black Iced with Jon Smith, Tim Thorton, Phillip Webster, Ken Sauer (in background), Cazador's Red Sage with Chris Daniels, and Jason Super. [Not pictured: Firebug].



Open Shooting Dog: Josh Pool, Jane's Atlantic Way with Rillie Pool, Jason Super, Matthew Puckett, Sky Hawk's Little Rascal with Rob Warner, Chris Daniels, Jon Smith, Southern Shadow's Bootlegger with Klaus Schmidt, Penny Case, Jason Gallager, and Ken Sauer.



Open Derby: Melissa Sauer, Lindsey Daniels, Cazador's Red Sage with Chris Daniels, Josh Pool, Matthew Puckett, Rob Warner, Jetty Lynn with Trey Baer, Tim Thorton, Jason Gallager, and Ken Sauer. [Not pictured: Flatrock Who's Your Daddy].

scored two finds but needed a little more forward race. Vista did a nice job. Buffer had two finds and a really nice ground application. That is, until the cows once again got in the way of his finish. In the fourth brace were "Alta," owned and handled by Mark Wagner, and "Honey," owned and handled by Meadow Thorton (youth handler). Alta had no birdwork and had a little too much bounce back. Honey scored on game on one find and had a really nice ground race. Honey stayed in the pocket but needed a little more handle. In the fifth brace were "Pete," owned by Jon Summy and handled by Trey Baer, and "Blue," owned and handled by Tim Thorton. Pete had a really nice forward race without birdwork, and the handler picked up early. Blue didn't seem to have his running shoes on, and the handler picked up early.

In conclusion, we feel this was a successful trial and would have loved to see more entries. We think the weather had a part in some of this. The raffle was extended another two weeks to recoup some of the personal investments that were donated and to get a better outpouring of income to PCQC, which they deserve. They are committed to the LBJ Grasslands, and we all need to show them we are committed to them also.

Judges: Josh Pool and Tim Thorton
NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 1 Pointer,
6 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-UPTOWN'S ELHEWED BLACK ICED, F1685711, pointer female, by Flashpan-Hackberry's Lightfoot Ice. Jon Smith, owner and handler.
2d-FIREBUG, F1686749, setter female, by Bugs N Dirt-Iron Afire. Chuck Maxson III, owner and handler.
3d-CAZADOR'S RED SAGE, F1710019, setter female, by Red Oak Island Cazadors-Cazador's La Freeway. Chris Daniel, owner and handler.

Judges: Shawn Rowan and Jason Super
NBHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG
– 7 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-JANE'S ATLANTIC WAY, F1703426, setter female, by Erin's Wild Atlantic Way-Erin's Princess Rene. Josh Pool, owner and handler.
2d-SKY HAWK'S LITTLE RASCAL, F1670670, setter male, by Hytest Palladin-Sky Hawk's Blues Traveler. Rob Warner III, owner and handler.
3d-SOUTHERN SHADOW'S BOOTLEGGER, F1700852, pointer male, by Lester's Prime Poison Lane-Southern Ritz Lane. Klaus Schmidt, owner and handler.

Judges: Josh Pool and Matthew Puckett
NBHA OPEN DERBY – 11 Entries

1st-JETTY LYNN, F1709301, setter female, by Mohawk Mill Lucky Charm-Money Moves. Jon Summy, owner and handler.
2d-FLATROCK WHO IS YOUR DADDY, F1717819, Brittany male, by Rammer Jammer Jax-Highpoint Spike's Southern Gal. Bonnie Pirtle, owner and handler.
3d-CAZADOR'S RED SAGE, F1710019, setter female, by Red Oak Island Cazadors-Cazador's La Freeway. Chris Daniel, owner and handler.

REGION 3 (AFTCA) AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Erin's Young Offender Named Champion; Calico's Country Strong, Runner-up

By Tommy Stargell | Scottsville, Virginia | April 6, 2025

The Region 3 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship ran on April 6 and 7 using the spectacular grounds of John and Vivian Milton in Scottsville, Virginia. Their Greenfields Farm is loaded with edges for a good dog to utilize and look good doing it. A dog can be seen as an advantage and also as a disadvantage. The winners in this Championship were always far to the front in those beautiful field edges. The Greenfields venue was a wedding gift from the father of Virginia Delegate Buck Langhorne to his son and was held in that famous Virginia for many years. The family was also famous for Buck's sisters, who were world-renowned beauties and patterns for The Gilmore

Girls. The most famous was Lady Nancy Astor, the first woman to be seated in Parliament. The sisters were indeed beautiful, just as Greenfields is a place of outstanding beauty. Thank you to John and Vivian for sharing with us for a while.

Purina and Greg Blair sponsored the Championship, and we are endeared to them for their products and generosity.

Grayson Francis chaired the event.

Julie Richards fed us terrific meals. Darryl Miller was in charge of the birds, and Mike Winchester ran the dog wagon. Both know and perform their jobs flawlessly.

The judges were both seasoned veterans. Steve Mills and Tommy Stargell have judged championship stakes in both Shooting Dog and All-Age events all over this country. They enjoy each other's company and see dogs the same way. They share a knowledge of what they are looking for.

The runner-up champion was Calico's Country Strong, running in the first brace. Everyone who saw the performance knew something special had just gone forth. His ground race was beautiful for the entire hour. He pointed the planted birds out on the course, looking like he had a checklist. He was stacked up at 5, 16, 24, 29, 35, 48, and

50. His brace mate was up after 35, so he ran a great deal without company.

It was a performance that couldn't be topped - ALMOST.

Erin's Young Offender ran immediately following the Calico dog and beat the pressure put on him, not by a lot, but enough. The bird count was equal plus one. There was a divided find at 3, then finds at 5, 11, 16, 30, 38, 42, and 49. All these garnered by his super nose as he

several times winded birds, not putting off much scent. What won it, though, was his finish in the airport field. We watched him go as far as you can see, which is a very long way. The bar for victory was set high by both dogs, one just a little higher.

Lastly, we had a wonderful group of congenial participants. It was fun to be around all who came, and the Greenfields Club enjoyed helping Region

3 by putting on the Championship. Come back to see us!

Scottsville, Va., April 6

Judges: Steve Mills and Tommy Stargell
REGION 3 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

— 13 Pointers and 9 Setters

Winner-ERIN'S YOUNG OFFENDER, F1692325, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Erin's Irresistible Bess. Alan Atkins, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-CALICO'S COUNTRY STRONG, F1679850, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Calico's Touch of Class. Calico Kennels, owner; Alex Smith, handler.

RUFFED GROUSE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial

By Tammy Chaffee | Gladwin, Michigan | April 11, 2025



Jack Secor Open Shooting Dog: Tammy Chaffee with Meridith Grade Corky, Scott Chaffee (with red ribbon), Brandon Short (judge), Lonnie Rademacher with Springpond Rockin Gibby, Jeff Secor (holding trophy), and Jimmy Johnson (judge) joined by field trial participants. [Not pictured: Snyder's Big Nose Kate].



John R. Stuart Derby Classic: Jeff Sweet (judge), Ken Moss with Moss Meadow Searcher, Rich Hollister, Scott Chaffee, Mike Singleton with Singletons Gracie May, Tom Fruchey (judge), and Chuck Rowling with Rowling's Donna.



Bernie Bauman Memorial Open Puppy: Jeff Secor, Rich Hollister, Mike Francus with Erin's Green River, Steve McKalko (judge), Thomas Butler with Northern Sundance, Mike Brown (judge), Tammy Chaffee with Heartbreaker Bud Light, and Scott Chaffee.

The Michigan spring has been late in hatching this year, with little rain, making conditions somewhat challenging for this year's spring trial. Nevertheless, the Club ran a quality trial, with numerous finds on wild birds for the contenders.

Chris Wasserman acted as field trial chairman for the absent Bryan Wood and managed a full weekend well. The club drew 91 dogs to run over three days, a very daunting task! We had plenty of help of course, with Rich and Jenny Hollister handling the horse wrangling duties, director Marc Dozeman and his wife Betsy treating us to their delicious breakfast burritos every morning and club directors Lonnie Rademacher and Rob Ellis, along with many non-members pitching in to marshal, move cars and anything else that needed to be done. We truly have a close-knit community working together to make the trials go smoothly. The club would also like to thank sponsor Purina, which provided the winners with coupons for bags of Pro Plan.

The Jack Secor Memorial Open Shooting Dog began first thing Friday morning on Course 4. With a 48-dog entry, everything had to move efficiently. Judges Jimmy Johnson and Brandon Short finished two days of judging with eight dogs finishing with broke birdwork. They awarded Springpond Rockin Gibby, owned and handled by Lonnie Rademacher, the blue ribbon. Gibby's placement was driven by a beautiful grouse find coupled with a strong, forward race. Second went to Snyder's Big Nose Kate, owned by Steve Snyder and handled by Tammy Chaffee. Kate had a powerful race along with a very nice woodcock find. Third was Meridith Grade Corky, owned by Dennis Keysor and handled by Tammy Chaffee. Releasing on Course 9, Corky ran a far-reaching race coupled with a staunch and challenging grouse find near the end of the brace.

The John R. Stuart Derby Classic began on Course 13 on Saturday at the conclusion of the Open Shooting Dog stake. According to judges Tom Fruchey

and Jeff Sweet, first-place dog Moss Meadow Searcher, owned and handled by Ken Moss, lived up to his name by searching all the birdy places. He was rewarded with a well-located grouse find. Second was Singletons Gracie May, owned and handled by Mike Singleton. May showed tremendous foot speed. Her woodcock find made her the easy choice for a close second. In third was Rowling's Donna, owned and handled by Chuck Rowling. Donna is a very classy setter with good range. She impressed the judges with a nice grouse find during her heat.

The Bernie Bauman Memorial Open Puppy was moved to the spring, when the club decided to drop the fall puppy stake. Judges Mike Brown and Steve McKalko looked at 10 potential future stars and chose the following slate: first—Heartbreaker Bud Light, owned by Tom Butts and handled by Tammy Chaffee; second—Northern Sundance, owned by Nicholas Buggia and handled by Thomas Butler; third—Erin's Green River, owned and handled by Mike

Francus. In the judges' opinion, these three showed a promising future as cover dog contenders.

Gladwin, Mich., April 11

Judges: Jimmy Johnson and Brandon Short
JACK SECOR MEMORIAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG
– 16 Pointers, 30 Setters, and 2 Brittanys

1st-SPRINGPOND ROCKIN GIBBY, F1685618, setter male, by Springpond Rockin Autumn-Tailsup Olive. Lonnie Rademacher, owner and handler.

2d-SNYDER'S BIG NOSE KATE, F1702168, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Eldridge's Beauty and Beast. Steve Snyder, owner; Tammy Chaffee, handler.

3d-MERIDITH GRADE CORKY, F1681353, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Call Me Maggie. Dennis Keysor, owner; Tammy Chaffee, handler.

Judges: Tom Fruchey and Jeff Sweet

JOHN R. STUART DERBY CLASSIC

– 12 Pointers, 18 Setters, and 2 Brittanys

1st-MOSS MEADOW SEARCHER, F1709320, setter male, by Moss Meadow Seeker-Tupelo Honey. Ken Moss, owner and handler.

2d-SINGLETONS GRACIE MAY, F1711859, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-I'm Blue Who. Mike Singleton, owner and handler.

3d-ROWLING'S DONNA, F1710740, setter female, by Moss Meadow Seeker-Rowling's Star. Chuck Rowling, owner and handler.

Judges: Mike Brown and Steve McKalko

BERNIE BAUMAN MEMORIAL OPEN PUPPY

– 8 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-HEARTBREAKER BUD LIGHT, F1710620, pointer male, by Toth's Tornado Reloaded-Grouse Trails Warrior Cat. Tom Butts, owner; Tammy Chaffee, handler.

2d-NORTHERN SUNDANCE, F1709515, pointer female, by Northern Confidence-Red Sunshine. Nicholas Buggia, owner; Thomas Butler, handler.

3d-ERIN'S GREEN RIVER, F1713040, pointer male, by Erin's Grey Justice-Erin's Red Smoke. Mike Francus, owner and handler.

NATIONAL RED SETTER SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIPS

Quantonas Reloaded Named Open Shooting Dog Champion; Red Bird's The Fifth Element, Runner-up

By Bonnie Hidalgo | Pinckneyville, Illinois | April 12, 2025

Quantonas Reloaded came to this trial loaded for bear, besting a field of 18 to take the title of National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog Champion with a pleasing performance. She came back in the Amateur Shooting Dog Championship for another victory, out of 13 entries. In this stake, she delivered a jaw-dropping presentation, one that will remain in the minds of the beholders for years to come. It would be difficult for any dog to cover that course more perfectly than she did.

Quantonas Reloaded was handled by Clayton Thompson to both of these wins. "Neo" is owned by Clayton Thompson and Kelli Aitken-Thompson; she was scouted by Kelli, who is also her breeder. The 4-year-old female was sired by Heiligsepp's Blick and is out of the winning producer, Quantonas Reciprocal.

Red Bird's The Fifth Element captured the runner-up titles in both the Open Shooting Dog and Amateur Shooting Dog Championships, handing a sweep of all championship placements to Kelli and Clayton Thompson. Red Bird's The Fifth Element is owned by Kristi Gallino and Kelli Aitken-Thompson. He was handled to both placements by Kelli. This two-time champion displayed amazing consistency in his performances. Griffin covered the courses thoroughly and wisely; he handled his game with the excellence of a veteran.

The National Red Setter Futurity

winner was Firefly's Quantonas, owned by Bonnie and Dennis Hidalgo of Brighton, Colorado. "Quint" was handled by Kelli Aitken-Thompson, who is also his breeder. In second place was Slingblade, owned, bred, and handled by Roger Boser of Seven Valleys, Pennsylvania. Third place went to Big Red Machine, handled by Tom Waite. He is owned and bred by Mike Fox of Patriot, Indiana. Fourth place in the Futurity went to Quantonas Reckless Abandon, owned by Kelli Aitken-Thompson and Clayton Thompson. Kelli is both the breeder and handler of this young female.

Aside from these three major stakes, the National Red Setter Club offers an Open Puppy (horseback handled), and Walking stakes for shooting dogs, derbies, and puppies. The puppy entry was light, but the Walking Shooting Dog had eight starters, and the Walking Derby attracted 11 starters. The winners of those stakes are announced in the order in which they were conducted.

This was the second year that the NRSFTC held its spring trial at Illinois' Pyramid State Park Captain Unit Field Trial grounds. Each time the club has held a trial here, it's been apparent that the grounds have improved. There has been a great deal of clearing, making the courses more open and allowing the courses to have a better flow. Some of the ditch crossings have been improved with grading and the addition of rock, making them safer. Meal prep and clean

up were made so much easier with the addition of hot and cold running water in the clubhouse. The local Illinois Department of Natural Resources personnel are extremely helpful and welcoming to field trial groups. They work with the local trial community to make changes that will positively impact our events. Local trialers, Jim Lawless and Jon Lam, work on this relationship, help keep the grounds clean, and meet with the DNR to discuss improvements that would be advantageous to field trials. These grounds have become quite popular. The closest towns with services and amenities are Pinckneyville and Du Quoin.

Judges for all seven stakes at this trial were Bruce Bryant of Silver City, Iowa, and Todd Manns of River Falls, Wisconsin. They worked hard, watched closely, and made popular decisions. They were friendly and helpful to all. Bruce runs German Shorthaired pointers with great success; his Keg Creek Kennel is well-known. Todd runs pointers on the amateur circuit. Both gentlemen have been in the sport for over 30 years and have judged many trials. The NRSFTC was grateful to have their services. The judges were gifted with shirts and vests, courtesy of Purina, through the AFTCA store.

Purina and, in particular, the Purina Pro Plan Sporting Dog group with Greg Blair as our area manager, supported us in a huge way! Purina Rep, Terry Trzcinski, was on hand to offer

information on product and to help us disperse bags of Purina Pro Plan to the winners. We enjoyed his company. After the conclusion of each stake, we made sure that those who placed took their dog food immediately, so as to avoid confusion. The members of the NRSFTC cannot say enough good about the Purina products, the generosity, and the helpfulness of their staff. Thank you, Purina, for all you do for the sport of pointing breed field trials!

Garmin is also very supportive of the National Red Setter Club and provides our winners with excellent training products. Garmin representative Dean Reinke attended the trial and offered good information on their product line. We are very grateful for Garmin's support! Thank you, Garmin, for your support, and Dean for your help!

The NRSFTC is also fortunate to have support from SportDOG! They provide some of their products for our fundraisers. Thank you, SportDOG, and thank you to Jim Morehouse for your many years of support.

This spring, we welcomed some new members to their first National Red Setter trial; we thank Deb and John Dlobik and Chris Fields for coming and running your nice red dogs! We hope to see you back next fall, in Missouri!

Our weather was a big improvement over last year's high temperatures. We had sunny skies and moderate temperatures; jackets were needed in the mornings. The only negative in the weather department was the presence of moderate to strong winds on a couple of afternoons.

Trial Chairman Ed Liermann took entries and conducted the drawing on Wednesday evening, April 9; the entries had closed the evening before. Wendy Schafer created the running orders, and Kelli Aitken-Thompson posted them to Facebook.

Kelli, being among the first to arrive, made a few trips to buy hay for judges and competitors. She also set out hoses and water tubs, which made it nice for those arriving after a long drive. Wendy Schafer and Linda Beauchamp did a lot of kitchen prep work at home, which made meals at the clubhouse less labor-intensive. Wendy prepared soups, pulled pork sandwiches, and roasts. Linda brought many delicious desserts. There was a meal served on the grounds every night. Club members who



Cake & Scroll: Bonnie & Dennis Hidalgo.

supplied a meal were Dennis Hidalgo, Mike Fox, Andy Weik, and Wendy with a Thanksgiving turkey dinner for Sunday night. Monday night was the Purina banquet; a local restaurant catered a great meal with the choice of fried chicken or ham, plus all the sides. We were joined by our favorite Purina Rep, Terry Trzcinski. Tuesday night's Taco Tuesday meal by Kelli was canceled because we had too many leftovers to eat. No one lost weight at this trial. We all owe a huge thank you to Wendy and Linda for all the work they put in in order to keep us all fed and the clubhouse clean.

The club's annual meeting followed the Purina-sponsored banquet. The two main items of business were recognizing our recent Hall of Fame inductees and the election of officers and directors. A brief tribute was made in honor of our inductees before Linda Beauchamp presented a beautiful cake for dessert that had photos of Bob Gove and Ch. Kindle on it. Ed Liermann, as head of the nomination committee, submitted the following panel of officers for re-election: Dennis Hidalgo as President, Ed Liermann as 1st VP, Milt Schafer as 2nd VP, Amy Gauthier as Secretary, and Linda Beauchamp as Treasurer. Two board members with expiring terms and eligibility for a second term were Don Beauchamp and Roger Boser. Both were on the slate for another three-year term to expire in 2028. The members present voted unanimously to elect the slate as presented.

Trial Chairman Ed Liermann had a hard-working crew that kept the event rolling on schedule. Clayton Thompson salted the walking courses with birds and then planted more behind each brace of the walking stakes, which ran all day on Saturday. Since it was an out-and-back course, Milt Schafer attended the dog wagon and helped transfer the even braces to the UTV to make them available for the return brace. Dennis Hidalgo drove the UTV, ferrying dogs

and handlers from one end of the course to the other. Ed Liermann served as marshal for these stakes.

During the horseback stakes, Ed was the head marshal and was assisted by other members when the need arose. Pitching in on this duty were Tim Hammons, Kelli Thompson, and your scribe. Milt Schafer and Dennis Hidalgo were catching birds before 6 a.m. in order to plant all three one-hour courses and return before starting time. During the morning, running, the two followed behind the gallery to plant birds for the afternoon braces. When possible, they would haul early pick-up dogs back to the dog wagon. In the afternoon, Milt was accompanied by various people who took turns watching the action or assisting with the dog wagon. Don Beauchamp, Andy Weik, Tom Norton, Dennis Hidalgo, and Sam Nutting drove or assisted with the dog wagon duties at various times. Kelli and Clayton, the first to arrive, were the last to leave; the club thanks Kelli for sweeping the clubhouse before they departed.

Open Walking Derby

The walking stakes were run on the ridge known as "The Mountain"; it was the driest place on the grounds to run a foot-handled stake. The torrential rains that hit the area the week before determined the course. This was the first stake to run; 10 of its 11 entries came to the line. The scratch was unavoidable, due to the illness of the dog. Judges Bruce Bryant and Todd Manns presided.

Foxy Abragaelic impressed the judges to win this stake; she is owned, bred, and handled by Mike Fox, Patriot, Indiana. Abragaelic put down a great race with three good finds, standing steady on the third one. She hunted the entire time.

Dale Creek Simply Next, a male Irish setter owned and handled by Deb Dlobik, took second place. "Torin" ran a consistently forward race at ideal range. He scored a good "derby broke" find, pointing with high head and tail until his bracemate flushed the bird. He responded well to his handler's direction.

I'm Just Rosie, owned by Tim and Kristine Hammons and handled by Kristine, placed third in this competitive stake. Rosie ran a strong, forward race while hunting the cover. She scored two high-style finds.



Red Setter Open Walking Derby: Ed Liermann, Terry Trzcinski, Don Beauchamp, Kristine Hammons, Tim Hammons with I'm Just Rosie, Tom Norton, Bruce Ludwig, Deb Dlobik with Dale Creek Simply Next, Todd Manns (judge), Mike Fox with Foxy Abragaelic, and Bruce Bryant (judge).



Red Setter Open Walking Shooting Dog: Terry Trzcinski, Ed Liermann, Don Beauchamp, Wendy Schafer, Milt Schafer with Cedar Creek MacArthur Ruby, Tom Norton, Bruce Bryant (judge), Andrea Ward, Todd Manns (judge), Tom Waite with Brook's White Hot Blaze, and Dean Reinke.



Red Setter Open Walking Puppy: Dennis Hidalgo, Tom Norton, Linda Beauchamp, Tim and Kris Hammons with Red Rambling Ranger, Bruce Bryant (judge), Todd Mann (judge), Bruce Ludwig with Pocket Rocket, Don Beauchamp, Ed Liermann, and Kelli Aitken-Thompson.

Open Walking Shooting Dog

Brook's White Hot Blaze, owned by Luke Tewes and handled by Tom Waite, was named the winner of his stake. Blaze scored one nice find in a big, forward race. He covered a lot of real estate and finished nicely.

Cedar Creek MacArthur Ruby, owned by Milt and Wendy Schafer, put it all together to take second place. She ran a big, independent race with one very stylish find. Her manners were perfect. She also had an unproductive.

The judges stated that they saw some other nice dogs, but none of those came through with clean birdwork.

Open Walking Puppy

This was the final walking stake and the last stake to run on Saturday. There were only three entries, so only one placement would be recognized by the registry. The judges felt that all three dogs showed good merit and placed them all in order, so as to reward and encourage their owners.

Red Rambling Ranger, in the words of the judges, "was a joy to watch." The young male was handled to the win by Kris Hammons; Ranger is owned by Tim and Kristine Hammons of Berea, Kentucky. Ranger ran a forward race with a happy, eye-appealing gait. He hit all the likely objectives.

Dale Creek Busy Bee ran a snappy race at good range but exhibited less independence than that of the winner. She placed second for owner and handler Andrea Ward of Burlington, Wisconsin.

The judges named Dale Creek Firecracker Josie to third place. They commented that she is a nice dog and that she ran a good race. Josie is owned and handled by Chris Fields of Deforest,

Wisconsin.

Pinckneyville, Ill., April 12

Judges: Bruce Bryant and Todd Manns

RED SETTER OPEN DERBY- 11 Irish Setters

1st-FOXY ABRAGAEIC, F1709164, Irish setter female, by Silver Creek Wild Again-Foxy Lady Sadie. Mike Fox, owner and handler.

2d-DALE CREEK SIMPLY NEXT, F1708709, Irish setter male, by Raintree Blue Moon-Jamison. Debra Dlobik, owner and handler.

3d-I'M JUST ROSIE, F1716546, Irish setter female, by S C Hotrod Mack-Roses Are Red. Tim & Kristine Hammons, owners; Kristine Hammons, handler.

RED SETTER OPEN SHOOTING DOG

- 8 Irish Setters

1st-BROOKS WHITE HOT BLAZE, F1686462, Irish setter male, by Zansett Simply Red-Lincoln's Steady Brook. Luke Tewes, owner; Tom Waite, handler.

2d-CEDAR CREEK MACARTHUR RUBY, F1687470, Irish setter female, by Cedar Creek Sixgun-Cedar Creek Ciara. Milton Schafer & Ed Liermann, owners; Milt Schafer, handler.

RED SETTER OPEN PUPPY - 3 Irish Setters

1st-RED RAMBLING RANGER, F1716556, Irish setter male, by S C Simply Irresistable-S C Miss Behaving. Tim & Kristine Hammons, owners; Tim Hammons, handler.

National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog Championship

This stake commenced at 8 a.m. on Sunday, April 13, under the watchful eyes of judges Todd Manns and Bruce Bryant. It was jacket weather with the temperature near 50 degrees, warming to the mid-70s by afternoon. Monday morning brought the conclusion of the 18-dog stake and was comfortably cool at the start.

The Winners

Quantonas Reloaded annexed the title of 2025 National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog Champion. She is co-owned by Clayton Thompson and Kelli Aitken-Thompson. This 5-year-old female was capably handled by Clayton and scouted by Kelli, who is also her breeder.

Reloaded or "Neo" as she is called, appeared in the eighth brace of the stake, the second on Monday morning. When the seventh brace ended early, her brace was released into the last quarter of course one. She ran a beautiful race, running the edges and staying predominantly forward. Neo scored her first find at 22, deep in the corner; she showed class and manners as her handler dug through briars and brush to flush her quarry. Her second find was perfectly conducted at 55. Neo went on to finish forward.

The runner-up champion, Red Bird's The Fifth Element, put down a worthy performance for handler Kelli Aitken-Thompson. The 6-year-old male is co-owned by Kelli and his breeder, Kristi Gallino. He appeared in the first brace.

Red Bird's The Fifth Element ("Griffin") was mostly forward with some great moves. At 12, he pointed, but only feathers were found. He caught the front quickly. Later, he was absent for a few minutes when he was discovered on point in the trees at 26; the work was first rate. Regaining the front, he backed his bracemate politely at 30. Griffin appeared to get stronger as the hour progressed, making some beautiful casts and running the lines nicely. He handled like a dream; the rapport between handler and canine was obvious. At 54, he pointed on the right edge of the cornfield, his birds were flushed with everything well in order. Red Bird's The Fifth Element finished to the front, going away.

The Running

Firefly's Beeline (B. Hidalgo) and Red Bird's The Fifth Element (K. Aitken-Thompson) drew the opening hour on Sunday. Griffin was named to runner-up honors, and his performance is given above. Beeline suffered nonproductive

stands at 18 and 30 to end her run.

Brook's White Hot Blaze (T. Waite) and Hotrod Ricky Joe (T. Hammons) turned loose at the normal course two breakaway, at the third road crossing. Blaze stopped to the flush of a covey at 1, all in order. He pointed at 20 with fine style, but no game could be located. At 47, Blaze hit paydirt with a pretty find on which he displayed good manners. Joe liked the heavy cover and disappeared in it more than his handler liked. In between his trips into the cover, Joe ran the edges with high style and speed. His tracker was out at 42.

Firefly's Lucky Penny (B. Hidalgo) and Shotgun (R. Boser) were the morning's final brace. Lucky made some big moves and wasn't always quick to respond to her handler. She looked good on the edges and was predominantly forward for the hour, but found no birds. Shotgun was always forward with a kind handle. She also went without game contact.

Raintree Simply Singular (T. Waite) and Cedar Creek Sixgun (E. Liermann) broke away at 1:30 p.m. Bachelor ran a good race despite being misdirected by the other handler on two occasions. These instances caused him to get behind with lengthy rides to catch the front. Bachelor scored a very nice find after the third road crossing, at 59. He showed excellent style and manners. Sixgun ran a big race but without bird contact.

Little More Shine (T. Hammons) and Gratitude (R. Boser) were released at the road crossing. Both dogs got hung up in the far corner briefly before coming on to take the edge. Shine ("Kate") ran a beautiful race with plenty of drive. She ran the edges at good speed with a lofty style. Kate did not contact game, or she may have given the judges cause for deliberation. Gratitude was forward when he encountered deer and was not recovered under judgment.

Cedar Creek Titan (E. Liermann) and Ruff Country Simply Ginger (A. Weik) turned loose from the normal course three starting point. They were fast and forward from the word "go." At 10, they pointed side by side on the south edge. When the birds were spotted under the bushes by the handlers, the dogs went in for the flush. The afternoon ended prematurely.

Cedar Creek Anthem (E. Liermann) and Full Red Afterburn (T. Waite)



National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog Championship (front): Clayton Thompson with Quantonas Reloaded and Kelli Aitken-Thompson with Red Bird's The Fifth Element. (Back): Roger Boser, Terry Trzcinski, Don Beauchamp, Bruce Bryant (judge), Bruce Ludwig, Dennis Hidalgo, Tim Hammons, Todd Manns (judge), Dean Reinke, Ed Liermann, Tom Norton, and Kristine Hammons.

turned loose on course one at 8 a.m. on Monday. Anthem was a handful and bore into the heavy cover on several occasions. He was lost with the tracker out at 45. Red was under a bird at 7.

Quantonas Reloaded (C. Thompson) and Silver Creek Wild Again (T. Hammons). Reloaded ("Neo") won the title, and her hour is related under "The Winners." Wild Again ran a big, attractive race but failed to back at 55.

Firefly's Power Play (B. Hidalgo) and Raintree Blue Moon (T. Waite) were the final brace of the Open Championship. They were positioned near the orange gate to start west on the south edge. Upon release, Power Play made a hard right for the perpendicular line; Blue Moon decided to join him, and the race was on. Neither was recovered under judgment.

**NATIONAL RED SETTER OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
— 18 Irish Setters**

*Winner-QUANTONAS RELOADED, F1709803, Irish setter female, by Heligsepp's Blick-Quantonas Reciprocal. Kelli Aitken & Clayton Thompson, owners; Clayton Thompson, handler.
Runner-Up-RED BIRD'S THE FIFTH ELEMENT, F1687076, Irish setter male, by Eshod's Barn Burner-Redbird's River Wild. Kelli Aitken, owner and handler.*

The 53rd National Red Setter Futurity

Ten dogs came to vie for the honor of being the 53rd National Futurity winner. This stake ran in its entirety on Monday afternoon. Four of the 10 dogs successfully pointed quail on course. The running was followed by a one-dog callback; judges Bryant and Manns had liked the dog's race enough to want to

see it point game, in hopes of placing it. According to NRSFTC's Futurity rules, no dog may be placed without having pointed. They need not be steady to wing and shot. A callback on horseback is required, with any called back dogs running individually along an edge that has been seeded with quail in more than one location.

The Winners and Others

Firefly's Quantonas, owned by Bonnie and Dennis Hidalgo, won the 53rd National Red Setter Futurity in a quality field of derby dogs. "Quint," as he is called, was handled by his breeder, Kelli Aitken-Thompson, and was scouted by Bonnie Hidalgo. Appearing on course one, Quint ran a consistently forward race. He pointed quail at 6, on the right edge; he pushed them out before Kelli could flush. Quint hunted the cover while ranging nicely. At 20, he was seen to the front, pointing stylishly, then flushing them as his handler approached. Firefly's Quantonas fit all of the requirements for a Futurity winner. He is a product of the mating of Ch. Red Bird's The Fifth Element to Come Back Delta Dawn and was whelped May 20, 2023.

Slingblade placed second in this prestigious stake. He is owned, bred, and handled by Roger Boser. He was in the third brace, which released at the far west end of the grounds. He ran the long edges and was forward in application. On Dead Horse Hill, Slingblade pointed stylishly with his bracemate by his side. The birds were flushed, the bracemate sped by him, and

after a second's hesitation, he joined her in pursuit. Slingblade continued forward until time was called. Slingblade was sired by Wayward and is out of Slingshot. He was whelped February 24, 2023

Big Red Machine placed third for handler Tom Waite and owner-breeder Mike Fox. "Pete" scored three high-tailed finds in a big race. His pattern and handling were ragged at times, particularly after his birdwork. By failing to come back quickly from chasing, he put himself behind each time. There is no denying that he has good potential. He was sired by Silver Creek Wild Again out of Foxy Lady Sadie.

Quantonas Reckless Abandon, owned, bred, and handled by Kelli Aitken-Thompson, placed fourth. She showed immaturity in her race during the first third of the brace. This separated her from the winners and the callback dog. Late in the brace, she pointed quail alongside her brace mate. "Melody," as she is called, displayed high style until the flush when she took off with reckless abandon. Melody finished to the front. Quantonas Reckless Abandon is a littermate to the winner of this stake.

Dale Creek Simply Next, handled by Tom Waite, is owned by Deb and John Dlobik, who were on hand to see him run. "Torin" put in a nice, big race and was predominantly forward; he went without game contact. The quality of his half-hour performance earned him a callback in order to show his pointing ability. Unfortunately, he was unable to locate a bird in the callback and could not be placed. Dale Creek Simply Next was sired by Raintree Blue Moon and is out of Jamison. She was bred by Joe Campion.

The Running

Firefly's Quantonas (K. Aitken-Thompson) and Raintree Moonlit Journey (T. Waite) were in the first brace, which ran immediately following Monday's lunch break. Quint's winning performance is listed above. Journey's owner, Cathy Lewis, was mounted to watch him. Journey started well with fast and forward moves, but was eventually lost.

Dale Creek Simply Next (T. Waite) and Cedar Creek Skyline Lady (E. Liermann) were next up on this breezy afternoon. Simply Next's performance is described above, under "The Winners and Others." Lady ran with a lot of snap and pop but found no birds.



Red Setter Open Puppy: Ed Liermann, Don Beauchamp, Tom Norton, Chris Fields with Dale Creek Firecracker Josie, Dean Reinke, Andrea Ward with Dale Creek Busy Bee, Bruce Bryant (judge), Tim Hammons with Red Rambling Ranger, and Todd Manns (judge).

Slingblade (R. Boser) and Quantonas Reckless Abandon (K. Aitken-Thompson) were placed second and fourth, respectively. Their performances are described above.

Cedar Creek Prospector (S. Nutting) and Big Red Machine (T. Waite) were released from the two-track road, headed southeast. Big Red Machine placed third, and his performance is related under "The Winners and Others." Prospector showed a nicely animated gait, but was distracted by new scents, and that affected his race. He had no bird contact.

Dale Creek Simply Sweet (T. Waite) and Switchblade (R. Boser) had no bird contact. They were forward from the start. "Pie" got into heavy cover late in the brace and was difficult to recover. Switchblade finished forward but was prone to hunt the heavy cover rather than the edges.

NATIONAL RED SETTER FUTURITY – 10 Irish Setters

1st-FIREFLY'S QUANTONAS, F1711524, Irish setter male, by Red Bird's The Fifth Element-Come Back Delta Dawn. Bonnie & Dennis Hidalgo, owners; Kelli Aitken, handler.

2d-SLINGBLADE, F1706612, Irish setter male, by Wayward-Slingshot. Roger Boser, owner and handler.

3d-BIG RED MACHINE, F1709165, Irish setter male, by Silver Creek Wild Again-Foxy Lady Sadie. Mike Fox, owner; Tom Waite, handler.

4th-QUANTONAS RECKLESS ABANDON, F1717095, Irish setter female, by Red Bird's The Fifth Element-Come Back Delta Dawn. Kellie Aitken, owner and handler.

Open Puppy Stake

This stake ran late on Monday afternoon; it was run on multiple courses. It followed the running of the Futurity, using the usual hour courses. Four puppies were drawn.

Red Rambling Ranger won this stake with a huge race; he ran the edges like a mature dog. He had great eye appeal in his gait and tail carriage. Ranger is owned by Tim and Kristine Hammons

and was handled by Tim.

Pocket Rocket, owned and handled by Bruce Ludwig, was second. This is a happy young dog who runs a forward pattern with plenty of snap.

RED SETTER OPEN PUPPY – 4 Irish Setters

1st-RED RAMBLING RANGER, F1716556, Irish setter male, by Simply Irresistable-S C Miss Behaving. Tim Hammons, owner and handler.

2d-POCKET ROCKET, unreg., Irish setter female, by Great Oaks Casey-Great Oaks Rolling Flame. Bruce Ludwig, owner and handler.

National Red Setter Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

The Winners

Quantonas Reloaded, owned and handled by Clayton Thompson, decisively captured the title of champion for the second time in two days! She turned in what Clayton declared was "The best performance of her life," besting her performance in the Open Championship by a country mile! Her brace was released on course one. She ran hard to the front but was ever mindful of her handler's location and direction. Quantonas Reloaded took the right edge, along the hill through the cornfield, and she had her first find there at 10. Her style and manners were excellent. She crossed the road and was soon rimming all of the forward edges. Neo stopped to look for her handler. Upon seeing he was headed her way, she turned and took another edge. In the far-left front corner of the big bean field, Neo pointed near the trees at 36. Her intensity, style, and manners were everything you could ask for, through flush and shot. She was eager to get going and voiced her opinion; once released, she resumed her forward, hunting quest. She hunted the left side all the way to the dam. Quantonas Reloaded raced up Dead Horse Hill and was found standing on top, at the bushes on the left at 50. She remained mannerly through the long flush that ensued, her birds eventually flushed from under the bushes, she was exactly the way she looked when first discovered, high and tight. Upon release, Neo headed down the hill on the right line, swinging forward on the edge of the heavy cover, crossing the road, and entering the field beyond the lake. She handled those maneuvers with ease and went on to a forward finish. Nicely done!

Red Bird's The Fifth Element, co-owned by Kristi Gallino and Kelli Aitken-

Thompson, was named runner-up, his second one this week. He was capably handled by Kelli. Griffin holds the 2023 and 2024 titles of this Amateur Shooting Dog Championship; now, that is the definition of consistent. Griffin ran in the fifth brace of the stake, the second one on Tuesday afternoon. Due to an early pick-up in Brace 4, he started into the last quarter of course one. He was forward into the cornfield where he hugged the right edge; he pointed there at 9, showing nice style and intensity. His manners were flawless at flush and shot. Released, he continued down the line where he pointed again at 16. He handled the birdwork like the pro he is. He crossed the road and continued forward to and through the bean field. Griffin hunted his way to the dam and worked his way up the hill on the left side. Judge Manns spied him on point on the back edge of the bushes at 54. Griffin had his quail located for an easy flush; he never moved a muscle. Sent on to head down the right edge, he stopped to flush on a hen pheasant at 57, all in perfect order. Red Bird's The Fifth Element was then directed down the course, to finish forward. He put in a fine hour, unmatched by all but his kennel mate and her scintillating performance.

The Running

Firefly's Beeline (B. Hidalgo) and Silver Creek Wild Again (T. Hammons) were the start of this stake on Tuesday morning. Beeline pointed at 6, it was not productive. She left while relocating and was not returned in judgment. Wild Again was fast and forward at the start but suffered a few absences. At 26, his



National Red Setter Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (front): Clayton Thompson with Quantonas Reloaded and Kelli Aitken-Thompson with Red Bird's The Fifth Element. (Back): Ed Liermann, Todd Manns (judge), Dennis Hidalgo, Bruce Bryant (judge), Tim Hammons, Tom Norton, Kristine Hammons, and Bonnie Hidalgo.

scout, Kris, found him pointing along the ditch to the left. His bird was produced while he held steady. He got out of pocket a couple more times; Tim opted to pick him up.

Cedar Creek Titan (E. Liermann) and Quantonas Reloaded (C. Thompson) were released on course one, where the driveway comes in from course three. Cedar Creek Titan disappeared into the woods on the left and was not found under judgment. Quantonas Reloaded is the new champion, and as such, her performance was previously described.

Gratitude (R. Boser) and Firefly's Power Play (B. Hidalgo) turned loose near the orange gate. They were forward up the hill and on to the road crossing. They took the left line to the corner, where they started west. They both hunted the bushes before settling back on the edge. They were forward at the road crossing. Puck took a slight detour at the first pond but was brought on by the scout. Grady got into the timber just before course three met course one and disappeared. His tracker was taken. Puck was also picked up late

in the hour; neither dog had birdwork.

Cedar Creek Anthem (E. Liermann) and Hotrod Ricky Joe (T. Hammons). Anthem had a brief absence early, and then was forward. He pointed nicely at 19, Ricky Joe ripped them out, and Anthem went with him to end the brace.

Firefly's Lucky Penny (B. Hidalgo) and Red Bird's The Fifth Element (K. Aitken-Thompson). The latter was named runner-up champion, and his hour is described above. Lucky made some edge running moves, but also spent time in the heavy cover, which put her behind. At 33, she pointed on the edge of the woods but self-released while her handler attempted to flush.

Little More Shine (T. Hammons) and Cedar Creek Sixgun (E. Liermann) were the sixth and final brace of the stake. Shotput was originally drawn in this brace, but she was scratched. Sixgun, the bye-dog in the seventh brace, was moved up. Both dogs started strong, making big, bold moves. Shine took a brief detour into the trees on the left. At 18, point was called for Sixgun; he was standing high and tight on the forward line. As his handler stepped into the trees in front of him, Shine caught the front, blowing past Sixgun, and both dogs went on. The trial was over.

NATIONAL RED SETTER AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

— 13 Irish Setters

Winner-QUANTONAS RELOADED, F1709803, Irish setter female, by Heligsepp's Blick-Quantonas Reciprocal. Kelli Aitken & Clayton Thompson, owners; Clayton Thompson, handler.
Runner-Up-RED BIRD'S THE FIFTH ELEMENT, F1687076, Irish setter male, by Eshod's Barn Burner-Red Bird's River Wild. Kelli Aitken, owner and handler.

U. S. COMPLETE MID-ATLANTIC SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Miller's Special Upgrade Repeats As Champion; Backcountry Bruiser, Runner-up

By Mike Husenits | Houtzdale, Pennsylvania | April 14, 2025

The 2025 running of the U. S. Complete Mid-Atlantic Open Walking Shooting Dog Championship was conducted April 14-16 at the Warriors Mark Hunting Preserve grounds near Gintner, Pennsylvania. The Greensburg Pointer & Setter Club hosted the event for the eighth consecutive year. The 28-dog entry came from the strings of three professional handlers plus four amateur owner/handlers.

Warriors Mark offers a beautiful course arrangement with ample open fields that invite dogs to reach far, areas with some cover to hunt, long pine tree edges, and a mix of birch and aspen wooded areas, pine tree groves. This is high country, located in the central Pennsylvania Allegheny Mountains. Early April can bring about surprises in the weather, and this year did not disappoint as temperatures were well below normal.

Rain and snow, driven by up to 40 mph winds, resulted in a feel-like range of 12 to 20 degrees. On Tuesday, only three braces were run due to the miserable conditions. The entire property was once surface mined and reclaimed. The soil is being fertilized and improved by an ongoing process using paper pulp from a nearby paper mill. With moisture added by the rain, this white powder becomes a bit sticky and slippery, reminiscent of



U. S. Complete Mid-Atlantic Championship (front, l-r): Miller's Special Upgrade with Eric Munden and Backcountry Bruiser with Chris Catanzarite. (Standing): Dave Hughes (Hall of Fame trainer).

South Alabama mud, but supposedly adds nutrients to the soil.

The participants and club members are grateful for the continued sponsorship by Greg Blair and Purina in the form of Pro Plan product and banners. Purina's continued support of field trials and bird dogs in general has made the difference between success and failure for many clubs. Garmin Company is also a major sponsor and contributed a training collar plus a bark suppression collar for the winners. Eric Munden and Lion Country Supply donated gifts for the judges.

Chris Catanzarite, a past president of the U. S. Complete organization, served as field trial chairman and performed pre-trial necessities, and the work required to conduct a first-class event. Chris handled the advertising, took entries, conducted the drawing, obtained judges, and was on hand to assist with marshaling duties. Dave and Mark Hughes donated their side-by-side and four-wheeler for use as the dog wagon, reporter transport, and bird planting. It was this reporter's pleasure to meet and ride with participant and owner J. D. Waters, who assisted with bird planting and many other necessary tasks. Thank you, J. D.

Others who made generous contributions of their time included Krysta Munden, Tyler Bowser, and Norm Meeder. Their efforts make field trials successful and enjoyable.

The club was fortunate to obtain the services of experienced judges in Russ Richardson of Meadville, Pennsylvania, and Carl Bishop of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, Carl was injured in a horse mishap on Tuesday

morning and had to be transported to a hospital. All are praying for Carl's speedy and full recovery. Since Norm Meeder had witnessed all the running up to that point and his dog had already run and was not a contender, Norm stepped up to carry on the judging duties with Russ. They gave their undivided attention to all participants and noted, upon conclusion, they had witnessed five performances worthy of championship recognition, which gave them cause for careful analyses and a certain amount of hair-splitting.

The Champion and Runner-up

Miller's Special Upgrade ("Penny"), a 4-year-old orange-marked pointer female owned by Carlos Escalante of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and handled by professional Mark Hughes from Grampian, Pennsylvania, topped the 28-dog field with an outstanding performance in the sixth and final brace on Monday. Penny's titular win here adds to her outstanding career and successfully defends her title, two years in a row. Dave and Mark Hughes acquired Penny as a weaned pup from Fran and Jack Miller of Barwick, Georgia, and are responsible for her development and success to date, which includes a National Futurity win, several derby wins, and multiple shooting dog placements, plus twice named champion in this trial. Carlos Escalante acquired Penny and a litter sister as started pups and has campaigned both on the walking and horseback shooting dog circuit. Penny and bracemate My Way Coal Train, handled by Tony Bingham, were released in Brace 6 at 2:46, both starting with plenty of range and drive in the open fields with a hardwood edge

on the right side and pines to the left. At 12, Penny stood high and tight near the right side thicket with Coal Train backing nicely, all in order. Sent forward through the open bottom fields, Penny was found ahead on the upper edge at 18 with Coal Train adding another back, polished manners displayed. Both sent forward with Penny found at 21 standing high and tight on the left pine edge, once again displaying polished manners as the handler flushed and fired. Coal Train stood stylishly at 23 along the right line; this proved unproductive, with the handler shortly opting to pick him up. Penny continued to pour it on, reaching far ahead into the bottom country, found standing with admirable style at 40 with birds located precisely, Penny mannerly for the proceedings. Sent forward, Penny quickly extended her reach through the open bottom country and soon disappeared, last seen streaking up the steep hill far to the front with scout dispatched and handler searching the left side hill where he last saw her. Judge Bishop stayed on course with the call of point ringing out at 53, Penny found high and tight just at the top of the hill, again showing precise location, immaculate style, and polished manners. Sent forward and down grade, Penny drove hard into the next bottom, made the left turn on course, and finished in a big way, well forward at the call of pick up. A memorable performance for sure.

Runner-up Backcountry Bruiser, a coming 9-year-old orange marked pointer male owned and handled by Chris Catanzarite of Scenery Hill, Pennsylvania, rendered his performance in the 12th brace starting at 10:55 on Wednesday morning. This veteran stylist is no stranger to winning in championship competition. Bruiser has a distinguished winning record in both horseback and walking trials, shooting dog and all-age competition. He is a rare field trial phenom to say the least, and added to his accolades here, Bruiser and bracemate Mohawk Mill Shake Up handled by Cliff Monroe, started fast and wide, maintaining their pace consistently. Shake Up scored a solid find at 6 along the right wooded edge, stylish and mannerly at flush. Bruiser was out of sight until found at 14 in the thicket at the side hill left turn, standing tall and handsome, steady as can be for the shot. Shake Up was found by the scout along the top edge near the dirt road at 12, where he displayed style and polished manners. After far-reaching casts along the left edge, Bruiser

was found by the scout at 23 near a pile of white paper pulp, remaining steady as the bird exited on foot over the pile. Sent ahead toward the bottom country, Bruiser was found standing tall at the right side thicket at 38 with Shake Up backing nicely. Again, Bruiser perfect for the flush and shot. Shake Up continued hunting hard to the front, adding solid finds at 42 in the bottom and 55 at the hilltop, thus providing the judges with material that warranted discussion, a very notable performance. Meanwhile, Bruiser tore through the big bottom with ease, making the left loop up the hill then disappearing to the right side where he was found at 50 by scout buried in thick young pine grove, standing solidly during an extended flush attempt with birds seen running about in the heavy cover, finally flushed with Bruiser steadfast throughout. Sent forward, Bruiser took the pine tree line to the far hilltop where he pointed solidly at 59, again displaying polished manners to wing and shot, bringing an exciting brace to conclusion.

Other worthy performances that gave the judges cause for discussion and were considered in order of appearance included: Wildland Wild Man, Backcountry Pure Gold, and Mohawk Mill Shake Up. Readers can refer to the running for more details.

The Running

Millers Dusty Version (Hughes) with Emert's Grouse Ringer T (Bingham). Cold and windy conditions with rain prevailed. These two provided plenty of early action with Dusty racking up six well-handled finds to go along with a classy hard hunting ground effort, plus a pair of backs until coming undone at 50 minutes when a bird lifted, and the young Dusty followed in its wake. T hunted hard to likely objectives and scored mannerly on several finds until lifted at 51 for an infraction.

Wildland Wild Man (K. Munden) with Erin's Battle Cry (Bingham). Cry scored quickly at 3 with Man ("Wayne") backing nicely. He then went on a bird finding spree with well-handled finds at 12, 14, 19, 22, 34, 39, 45, 50, and 57, plus added another mannerly back along the way. His front-running, hard-hunting effort kept him under consideration for placement to the very end. A noteworthy performance indeed. Cry caulked up well-handled finds at 20, 36, 55, and 57, plus four backs coupled with a medium to wide-ranging ground race.



The Judges (l-r): Russ Richardson and Norman Meeder.

Backwoods Wild Fire Blaze (Hughes) with Backcountry Pure Gold (Catanzarite). Blaze scored at 5 along the left side line and hunted forward until a find at 15 when he was picked up by the handler. Gold hunted fast and wide to the front with solid finds at 5 along the right woods line, 15 at the edge of the cover area, 18 along the hillside, 22 at the pine tree line, 34 and 45 on a covey, and 52 in the pine grove, finishing going away to put herself in contention.

Miller's Hopped Up Version (Hughes) with Suemac's Wicked Sister (Bingham). The afternoon running started at 1 p.m. with cold, wet, and windy conditions still dominant. Version was picked up at 15 for an infraction on birds. Sister went wide to the front and was long gone, found on point later with the tracker.

River City Free Agent (Erne) with Wildland Sweet Caroline (E Munden). Agent started with a huge forward cast, found pointing at hillside cover on a divided find at 19, then settled into a forward pattern with mannerly finds at 42 and 50, finishing ahead. Caroline notched a solid find at 7 along the wooded edge, a divided find at 19, 22 in the bottom, 35 near the paper pulp mound, 40 and 52, plus added a back at 42 and finished ahead with a pleasing effort.

The sixth brace had winner Miller's Special Upgrade (Hughes) with My Way Coal Train (Bingham), which has been described above.

Mohawk Mill Knight Hawk (Bingham) with Mulberry Fields Molly (Hughes). Hawk started out fast and forward, backed at 12, then disappeared for the count. Molly hunted stylishly and looked good on finds at 5, 25, and 35, but unfortunately suffered a pair of unproductive stands and up at 38.

Cates Rocket Girl (Erne) with Smoke Rise Doc (Bingham). Girl hunted forward and in earnest, sailing through the open country with plenty of eye appeal. She scored finds at 24, 30, and 45 before erring on a bird at 50. Doc went

wide, then wider until the tracker was requested.

Double Deuce Zeke (Hughes) with Smoke Rise Hanna (Bingham). Zeke hunted to the front, notched a well-mannered find at 10 but was up at 45 after no further bird contacts. Hanna started fast and was soon out of sight and contention with the tracker requested at 30.

Smoke Rise Jake (Bingham) with River City Hit Man (Erne). Wednesday morning brought slightly improved weather with less wind at start time of 8:25. Jake rendered a solid forward hunting effort, mostly at medium range while scoring stylish well-mannered finds at 5, 11, 15, 20, 44, 49, and 56 with a lone unproductive at 25. Man vacated the area early, with the tracker requested at 20.

The Treasure Chest (Monroe) with Wildland Hide The Wine (E Munden). Chest scored a mannerly find at 7 directly in front, then erred on game and 30 and picked up. Wine ran with power ranged far ahead, gone early but back in front at 15, scoring an unproductive at 19, then adding solid finds at 22 in the grassy area, 48 at pine grove, 52 along bottom ditch edge, and 59 at hilltop.

Backcountry Bruiser (Catanzarite) with Mohawk Mill Shake Up (Monroe). This winning brace is described earlier.

Blue Water Red (Bingham) with Chippewa's Dog of War (Erne). Red started fast with a stylish find on the left side hill at 6 and added a find at 20, but picked up at 25. War suffered a breach of manners and was on the dog wagon early.

Sycamore Creek Cody (Erne) with Mohawk Mill War Hawk (Bingham). Cody stood stylishly at 7 alongside the hill tree line with no results, then scored a well-handled find at 12, a second barren stand at 14, followed by a mannerly find at 25 that ended his bid. Hawk looked good with a find on side hill at 6, then suffered an unproductive at 14, followed by a long absence with the handler requesting the tracker at 40, with all returning to the starting camp for the announcement.

Houtzdale, Pa., April 14

Judges: Norman Meeder and Russ Richardson
U. S. COMPLETE MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 23 Pointers and 5 Setters

Winner-MILLER'S SPECIAL UPGRADE, F1695107, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Addition. Charles Escalante, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

Runner-Up-BACKCOUNTRY BRUISER, F1672645, pointer male, by Erin's War Creek-Backcountry Tornado. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.

BEAVERTON GROUSE DOG CLUB

Spring Classics

By Tom Fruchey | Meredith, Michigan | April 18, 2025



Wayne Fruchey Open Shooting Dog Classic (back row, l-r): Christy Helmes (judge), Tom Fruchey, Roger Johnson, and Dave Heavlin (judge). (Front row): Ken Moss with Moss Meadow Seeker, Chuck Rowling with Rowling's Star, and Bert Benshoof with Moss Meadow Distant Belle.

The Beaverton Grouse Dog Club held its annual spring trial April 18-19. While this year's event coincided with the running of the Grand National Invitational in upstate New York, the thought was that it would be a very small trial. That speculation proved wrong as we had a very good turnout of new and older amateurs attending this year's running to compete with their dogs, making for a very successful trial!

The Beaverton Club would like to offer many thanks to our panel of judges who volunteered their time to carefully watch over the field of contestants and give their unbiased opinions for the outcome of each event, and all their decisions were well-received. The Club also would like to thank all who helped marshal, moved cars, and assisted in many ways

to make for a most enjoyable two days in the field. A special thanks to Jenny Hollister for providing and wrangling the horses for our judges, making for smooth transitions between courses and events.

The second running of the Wayne Fruchey Open Shooting Dog Classic drew 34 entries. It was capably judged by Dave Heavlin and Christy Helmes. While the warm and dry conditions made birdwork tough to come by, Moss Meadow Seeker, owned and handled by Ken Moss, rose to the occasion to collect the blue followed close by Rowling's Star, owned and handled by Chuck Rowling, to capture the red and Moss Meadow Distant Belle, owned and handled by Bert Benshoof, brought home the yellow ribbon!



Eaton Spring Derby Classic (l-r): Nick Mellon, Bruce Minard with Wilhites Michigan Honey, Bert Benshoof (judge), Jerry Furnish with Clover Valley's Evans, Travis Whitfield (judge), and Chuck Rowling with Rowling's Donna.



Michigan Grouse Dog Puppy Classic (front row, l-r): Racheal Butler with Ahoy Captain Boomer, Thom Butler with White Indian Outlaw, and Mike Francus with Erin's Green River. (Back row): Tom Fruchey and Roger Johnson.

The Michigan Grouse Dog Puppy Classic was judged by Club President Shane Haskin and Director Jeff Sweet. First place went to Ahoy Captain Boomer, owned by Danial Gehring and handled by Thom Butler. Second place was awarded to White Indian Outlaw, owned and handled by Thom Butler. Erin's Green River, owned and handled by Mike Francus, rounded out the placements by taking home the yellow ribbon, all showing the potential of becoming supreme class grouse dogs!

The Eaton Spring Derby Classic ran on Saturday and drew 20 youngsters to the starting line. This stake was very capably judged by Bert Benshoof and Travis Whitfield. First place was awarded to "Honey," a pointer female handled by Bruce Minard. Taking second place was a female setter owned and handled by Jerry Furnish named Clover Valley's Donna. Third place went to Rowling's Donna, a setter female owned and handled by Chuck Rowling. Once again, the youngsters proved there is a lot of good potential talent coming up from the farm club to make for a strong all-age league in the near future!

Meredith, Mich., April 18

Judges: Dave Heavlin and Christy Helmes
WAYNE FRUCHEY OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
– 10 Pointers, 22 Setters, and 2 Brittanys

1st-MOSS MEADOW SEEKER, F1676726, setter male, by Moss Meadow Rambler-Moss Meadow Maggie. Ken Moss, owner and handler.
2d-ROWLING'S STAR, F1675772, setter female, by Long Gone Studly-Rowling's Nike. Chuck Rowling, owner and handler.
3d-MOSS MEADOW DISTANT BELLE, F1697793, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Moss Meadow Kate. Bert Benshoof, owner and handler.

Judges: Bert Benshoof and Travis Whitfield
EATON SPRING DERBY CLASSIC – 4 Pointers, 15 Setters, and 3 Brittanys

1st-WILHITES MICHIGAN HONEY, F1706758, pointer female, by Titanium's Hammer-B K Rolling Dice. Nathan Wilhite, owner; Bruce Minard, handler.
2d-CLOVER VALLEY'S EVANS, F1705659, setter female, by Northwoods Atlas-Clover Valley's Millie. Jerry Furnish, owner and handler.
3d-ROWLING'S DONNA, F1710740, setter female, by Moss Meadow Seeker-Rowling's Star. Chuck Rowling, owner and handler.

Judges: Shane Haskin and Jeff Sweet
MICHIGAN GROUSE DOG PUPPY CLASSIC
– 6 Pointers

1st-AHOY CAPTAIN BOOMER, F1714641, pointer male, by Hives Rolling Stone-Speed Dialing Kaia. Daniel Gehring, owner; Thom Butler, handler.
2d-WHITE INDIAN OUTLAW, F1709779, pointer male, by Light of Day-Perkins Beautiful Disaster. Thom Butler, owner and handler.
3d-ERIN'S GREEN RIVER, F1713040, pointer male, by Erin's Grey Justice-Erin's Red Smoke. Mike Francus, owner and handler.



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General Meeting: 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. (speaker to be announced)

DOTY Banquet: Doors open at 5:00 p.m.; Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

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— Brad Hargis, FTCI President —



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(No trials scheduled)

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(No trials scheduled)

USCSDA TRIALS

(No trials scheduled)

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 21 Purina Bird Dog Awards Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City, OK
July 12 Field Trial Clubs of Illinois General Meeting Hamilton's, Jacksonville, IL
July 12 Field Trial Clubs of Illinois DOTY Banquet Hamilton's, Jacksonville, IL
July 13 Field Trial Clubs of Illinois Board Meeting Hamilton's, Jacksonville, IL

UPCOMING PRINT DEADLINES

July Issue	June 5	October Issue	September 5
August Issue	July 5	November Issue	October 5
September Issue	August 5	December Issue	November 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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