

UKC®

# FIELD

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*A Newsletter by United Kennel Club*

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**UKC's MISSION STATEMENT**

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

# UKC TEAM IN THE FIELD

— An update from *Domenick Muoio*



**W**e have once again found ourselves at the dawn of a new month! We have survived the April showers and now get to enjoy the May flowers. I always enjoy the parallels between spring and bird dogs.

Spring brings about new broods of gamebirds, from the classic Bobwhites to the Woodcock. While we celebrate the next generation of birds, we also welcome countless new litters of bird dogs. Those spring pups carry on the genetics of the great dogs of the past while finding ways to improve on them for the future. As the birds and many bird dogs make their entrance to the sport of field trialing, we also start to see the emergence of our first few Hall of Fame nominations.

The Field is now accepting nominations for the next Hall of Fame class. It is an honor to be recognized for a lifetime of achievement and impact by your peers, so congratulations to all those who receive nominations this year. If you have a dog or individual in mind that you think is deserving of the honor of being immortalized in the Hall of Fame, be sure to submit your nominations and ads!

Good luck to all those competing this month, and safe travels!

— *Domenick Muoio*  
Field Trial & Hunt Test Program Manager

# National Champion



## **TOUCH'S GALLATIN FIRE**

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

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## GEORGIAN

#F1695040 • Sire: Ch. Erin's Wild Atlantic Way • Dam: Quickmarksman's Silky  
John P. Fort, Owner • Photo by Chris Mathan

# NATIONAL FIELD TRIAL CHAMPION ASSOCIATION (NFTCA), INC

## Standards of Qualifications for the 126th Running of the National Championship beginning February 10, 2025

— Check #5 to make sure the event you attend is listed as a “Qualifying Trial” —

1. All entries must have at least two first place wins in Qualifying Trials as specified in this notice to initially qualify, except for 6 trials which are deemed “One Time Qualifiers”. Those “One Time Qualifier” trials are: 1.) Continental All-Age Championship; 2.) Georgia Derby Championship; 3.) Missouri Open Championship; 4.) Quail Championship Invitational; 5.) Masters Open Championship; and 6.) Tar Heel Open Championship. **The second-place winner in qualifying trials with a minimum of 80 entries, will count as a win towards qualifying status as well.** Dogs which were eligible for the 2024 or earlier National Championships must have a placement (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) since February 10, 2024, to compete in the 2025 National Championship. All entries made with the understanding that **all participants must either be at the drawing and/or have a representative at the drawing to represent that dog’s interest in the 2025 National Championship, and all participants must use a solid barrel gun when flushing during the competition.**

2. The 2024 winner will be eligible for the 2025 National Championship, but must re-qualify for subsequent years.

3. All entries qualified as of December 31, 2024, must be submitted in writing with full particulars, accompanied by the nominating fee, DNA & Registration Certificate, and **must be in the Ames office by February 1, 2025.** Dogs qualifying after the December 31, 2024 deadline must have their entries in before the drawing, February 8, 2025. There is no provision for a dog that is qualified by the December 31, 2024 deadline to “re-qualify” for the 2025 National between January 1, 2025, and February 8, 2025.

4. All entries must be registered in the *UKC/American Field Dog Stud Book* and all wins entered in the permanent files of *UKC/American Field*. Entries may be made only in the name of the owner(s) of record in the *UKC/American Field Dog Stud Book* and a copy of the **Registration Certificate** must be submitted with all entries, as well as an approved and accepted **DNA Certificate** on file with *UKC/American Field* and a photocopy of the same **DNA Certificate and Registration Certificate** must be submitted with the official nomination form. **Starting fees must be paid before the dog competes.**

5. The following trials, when conducted on a minimum of three individual one-hour courses for a minimum scheduled period of one hour per brace in either first or second series, are designated as Qualifying Trials for the 2025 National Championship:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alabama Open All-Age Championship</li><li>• Alberta Classic</li><li>• All-America Derby Championship</li><li>• All-America Prairie Championship</li><li>• All-America Quail Championship</li><li>• American Derby Invitational Championship</li><li>• American Quail Classic Open All-Age</li><li>• Benton County (MS) Open All-Age</li><li>• Bill Andrews Open All-Age (Central Carolina FTC)</li><li>• Black Belt (AL) Open All-Age Classic</li><li>• Broomhill Open All-Age Classic</li><li>• Buck-Tuck Open All-Age Classic</li><li>• Cajun Classic</li><li>• California Bird Dog Championship</li><li>• California Chukar Championship</li><li>• California Open Championship</li><li>• California Pheasant Championship</li><li>• California Quail Championship</li><li>• Cascade Open All-Age Championship</li><li>• Cecil Proctor Open All-Age</li><li>• Continental Derby Championship</li><li>• Continental Open All-Age Championship*</li><li>• D. E. Hawthorne Open All-Age Border Classic</li><li>• Dixie Open All-Age</li><li>• Georgia Derby Championship*</li><li>• Georgia Quail Championship</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Larry Smith Heartland Open All-Age</li><li>• Hell Creek (MS) Open All-Age</li><li>• Hobart Ames Memorial Open All-Age Classic</li><li>• International Pheasant Championship</li><li>• Kansas Prairie Open All-Age Classic (Jayhawk OA-A)</li><li>• Kentucky Lake Open All-Age</li><li>• Kentucky Open All-Age Classic</li><li>• Kentucky Quail Classic</li><li>• Lee County (GA) FTA Open All-Age</li><li>• Lynn Taylor Open All-Age (Carroll County FTC [TN])</li><li>• Manitoba Open All-Age Classic</li><li>• Masters Open Quail Championship*</li><li>• Mid-America Open All-Age Championship</li><li>• Mississippi Open All-Age Championship</li><li>• Missouri Open All-Age</li><li>• Missouri Open Championship*</li><li>• National Chukar All-Age Championship</li><li>• National Derby Championship</li><li>• National Free-For-All Championship</li><li>• National Pheasant Championship</li><li>• North Carolina FTA Open All-Age</li><li>• North Carolina Open Quail Championship</li><li>• North Dakota Open All-Age Classic</li><li>• Northwest Chukar Open All-Age Championship</li><li>• Oklahoma Open Championship</li><li>• Pacific Coast Derby Championship</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pacific Coast Open Championship</li><li>• Pelican State Open All-Age</li><li>• Prairie Open All-Age</li><li>• Quail Championship Invitational*</li><li>• Region 8 Preston Trimble Memorial Open All-Age Championship</li><li>• Rend Lake Open All-Age</li><li>• Robin Gates Quail Classic (formerly Bluegrass Quail Classic)</li><li>• Southeastern Quail Championship</li><li>• Southern Field Trial Championship</li><li>• Southland Open All-Age Championship</li><li>• Southwestern Championship (Central Arkansas FTA)</li><li>• Stillwater Open All-Age</li><li>• Sunflower (KS) Open All-Age Classic</li><li>• Sunshine (FL) FTC Open All-Age Classic</li><li>• Tar Heel Open Championship*</li><li>• United States Chicken Championship (Northern States)</li><li>• United States Open Championship</li><li>• West Tennessee Open All-Age</li><li>• Western Open All-Age Championship</li><li>• Win Ingersoll Memorial Inola Open All-Age</li></ul> |
|--|--|---|

\*One-Time Qualifier

Entries in open events must not be restricted due to time limitations. All Qualifying Trials **MUST** include the names of the judges in their initial advertisement. **REPLACEMENT OF ANNOUNCED JUDGES MUST BE EXPLAINED IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY, NFTCA, Inc. Failure to comply with this requirement will IMMEDIATELY DISQUALIFY the event as a Qualifying Stake for the National Championship.** It is **recommended** that all Qualifying Stakes have a minimum of 15 entries.

6. Qualifying Trials will be reviewed annually in February for eligibility.

7. **Qualifying Trials as designated above that are NOT conducted, for whatever reason, during the time February 10, 2024 to February 8, 2025, must send written notification to the Secretary, NFTCA, to retain “Qualifying Status.” A copy of the Form For Essential Data recognizing the official winners and judges submitted to the UKC/American Field must also be submitted to the Secretary, NFTCA.**

8. **Clubs sponsoring Qualifying Trials as designated above and desire to RELOCATE their running grounds OR experience a substantial change in officers and directors must formally petition the NFTCA for continuation of their qualification status prior to actual relocation or running of their event.** Forms to expedite this process are available from the secretary, NFTCA.

9. Clubs which are not included in the above and approved list of Qualifying Trials and desire to conduct a qualifying event for the 2026 National Championship may request an Application Form from the Secretary, NFTCA, Inc., P.O. Box 389, Grand Junction, TN 38039 or call (901) 878-1067. The NFTCA will receive applications until February 1, 2025, and will announce changes, if any, in the Qualifying Trials and/or standards prior to March 31, 2025.

10. **“Qualifying Certificates” must be purchased before a Qualifying Trial conducts their event for the 2025 National Championship. Cost for the 2025 “Qualifying Certificate” is \$200.00 and may be purchased from the Secretary, NFTCA, Inc., P.O. Box 389, Grand Junction, TN 38039. Clubs not purchasing “Qualifying Certificates” may be dropped from the list of qualifying events for the 2026 National Championship.**

11. To facilitate an increase in the Purse of the National Championship and to fund the many activities that makes **THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP** the premier bird dog event in North America, all Clubs hosting National Championship qualifying events will be required to collect a “Participation Fee” of \$20/dog starting in the 2013/2014 Field Trial Year (beginning August, 2013 and forward). This “Participation Fee” is “over and above” each Club’s “normal” entry fee and is not to be included in the club’s purse. Each club will then forward a check to the Secretary of the NFTCA. Example: a 40-dog stake x \$20/dog = \$800 sent to the Secretary, NFTCA. Clubs NOT submitting their surcharge funds will immediately be disqualified.

12. Any dog qualified for the 2025 National Championship as a result of placements only in Derby competition may, at the discretion of the owner(s) and with proper notification to the Secretary, NFTCA, can compete in either the 2025 or 2026 National Championships. All Standards for the year elected for competition are applicable.

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— KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE —

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## CONTINENTAL DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP

*Rampage Named Champion; T S Coal Train, Runner-Up*

By Jason Williams | Greenville, Florida | January 15, 2024

The 2024 edition of the time-honored Continental Derby Championship was competed at Livingston Place on January 15-16. Nineteen young Pointers and Setters competed. This is a shorter entry than some years, but the quality of the entrants was wonderful. All dogs entered were capable and ready to compete at this high level.

These grounds, near Greenville, Florida, provide the very best wild Bobwhite quail country available to bird dog field trials today. Over 9,000 acres of carefully groomed grounds with copious numbers of birds are available. Multiple finds by the contesting dogs and many more coveys ridden up by the gallery and scouts are a testament to the plantation and the crew. Manager Randy Floyd has worked here for 32 years and knows every inch of the place. He has done a remarkable job here, and it's easy to see. But sometimes "easy to see" gets confused with "easy to do," and managing this place can be challenging, but Randy makes it all good. John McCormick is the assistant manager. John's been here 10 years, and everyday management of the woods is his job. He and his crew of Ben Melvin and Vince Little start in September with chopping, and they're done by hunting season, which is a monumental job. They will begin next year's preparation before the hunting season is over.

When Tall Timbers took over Dixie Plantation 10 years ago, Clay Sisson, the head of The Albany Quail Project, began his work with Randy and his crew, and the results were amazing. The cover is more conducive for the quail; half-day hunts now move over 25 coveys of birds. God made a few places on earth so people could enjoy wild quail, and this is one of them. Thanks to Tall Timbers and Randy and his crew, the best bird dogs in America get to compete on the best grounds available.

With all that being said, this is not an easy place to win. The country is big with a lot of briars and sticks, and the whole place is roller-chopped. Every time a dog's foot hits the ground, something is there to stick in it, and the briars are gonna beat him up, too. If a dog can win here in the Derby or the All-Age, he's a dog that should breed on and improve the breed. The trials here have helped improve field trials and hunting dogs for several generations. We should never forget that field trials began to improve the dogs, both



Continental Derby Championship (l-r): Luke Eisenhart and Judd Carlton with Rampage and Lee Phillips and James Daniels with T S Coal Train, joined by participants.

trial dogs and hunting dogs. A person can have great grounds with lots of birds, but without great bird dogs, the entire hunting experience suffers greatly.

Lunches are available each day in the commissary, and Gloria Hagen is the ramrod here. Gloria's family has been here for several generations; she's a permanent fixture. Ronnie and Theresa Kunkle helped out in the kitchen and everywhere else they were needed, a true asset to the crew. Carol Whitney is a newcomer to the place, and she was there every day as well to help in a very courteous way.

A good dog wagon commander is needed for this place, and Til Hankley is the best. Til is always cheerful, prompt, and in the right place. Good job, buddy.

There is always a good gallery and visitors to the Continental trials; this year was no exception. Everybody likes Florida weather, horses, and dogs. Alex Mauck, Jim Michaletz, L. J. Lundstrom, Patty Ewer, and friends Mike Sweet, Rita Corder, John Mathys, Jason Sanders, and many more were riding for their dogs or just riding to enjoy the trial.

Larron Copeland of Bronwood, Georgia, and Jeff Gibbons of Deatsville, Alabama, filled the judicial saddles this year, and they set a good pace, did not chase the handlers, and let the handlers show their dogs. Both of these men are players of the game, not fans. There is a huge difference.

This Championship was sponsored by Purina Pro Plan and Ag-Pro Equipment.

We thank them for their generous contributions.

Of the 19 dogs, there were 11 handlers. The professional dog trainer has had a tough time the last few years, but he will make it. When I looked up at the handlers' parking lot, I thought of the motto J. Brady Porter used in the field, "Only the strong survive."

I read something a while back, and this lady said she would like to be good enough in her field and that when she showed up to compete, she wouldn't have to introduce herself. There is a certain sense of accomplishment when you win major field trial championships, and your peers and admirers of the game will give you due respect. Those who make a living in this field are to be commended for their efforts.

### The Winners and Others

Rampage, a pointer male owned by S. Tucker Johnson of Hobe Sound, Florida, and handled by Luke Eisenhart, was named champion. Rampage was turned loose in the first brace of the second morning, and he put on a show. His first find was near Cindy's Oak on scattered singles. Sandhill Ike, a pointer male owned by Bob Lanier and handled by Jerry Raynor, was standing out in the field backing on his own. Rampage had a second find a couple of minutes later near beehives, another single. It had rained all night, and birds were likely scattered by the rain. Ike had an unproductive nearby and caught up with Eisenhart's dog before creek crossing. Ike

had his first find behind the office, broke. He had another find after Cadillac Pond just to the right of the course. While Ike was pointing birds, Rampage was running a good race and showed up way in the front before Cadillac Pond. Both dogs were running good, independent races. In the Chimney woods before the Main House, Ike and Rampage had a covey apiece; real nice work for both. With just a few minutes to go, they went to the front and had to be ridden for at pickup.

T S Coal Train, a pointer male owned by Dr. Ron Deal of Macon, Georgia, and handled by Lee Phillips, was awarded runner-up. Turned loose in the second brace after lunch, he made a couple of nice casts and was found by scout Mark Henly south of Gene Field, a good covey produced by Phillips. Coal Train caught up to the front and had its second find at the far end of the Y-field, another good one. He was going pretty deep to the front and then was found by the handler by the ditch in front of the Main House hay field, birds right in front of his nose. He made a good cast here up to the Main Road, jumped the road here, and was out of pocket for a few minutes. Dog, handler, and scout caught up by the Flat Pond. He jumped in the water trough and went out to the end of the field here. When pickup was called, he was seen going over the big hill to the river.

These three dogs were the top dogs, in my opinion, and the dogs, handlers, scouts, and judges did a fantastic job. There could have been 60 dogs, which probably wouldn't have been beaten, in this high-class stake.

Nonami's Smokin Joe and CKC Gun Runner were in the first brace, with Cody McLean and Judd Carlton handling. Both dogs had credible races, with three finds



Livingston Place employees (l-r): Ben Melvin, Vince Little, and John McCormick.

and two finds, respectively. Both dogs finished strong.

Stens Hurricane Murphy, a setter male, and Jamie Daniels were in the second brace with T S Jet Airliner and Mark Henley. They both had several pieces of birdwork, though some were not always clearly defined. Both were busy and pretty running, too.

Erin's Happy Hour (Carlton) and Game Star (Corder) were next, and they put on a pretty good show. Happy Hour had a really nice limb find but two unproductives had him on the rope. Game Star was pretty on the ground and busy, too. Her second find after pickup was one of the best finds of the stake.

Haney's Easy Money (Mark McLean) was in the first brace after lunch and was lost early. Erin's Bright Lights (Carlton) had a good find, but his race shortened, and he was on the wagon at 39.

Woodville's Long Hard Ride (McLean) pointed birds just past Esquire's Hill; all

was orderly. He finished the hour braced with Coal Train and was strong throughout.

Lester's War Bird (Daniels) had a mannerly back but ran out of gas. Haney's Southern Angel (Carlton) had a find with a really pretty relocation. Judd flushed, and he sent her to relocate. She just went right to the birds and made it look easy, very nice.

Rampage and Sandhill Ike's run in the in the seventh brace has been described.

Blackhawk Lucky Charm (Allen Vincent) had a find and an unproductive but did not finish. Mayhaw's Georgia Time (Trey Mills) had an unproductive and good race. These are very nice females that should have a good future.

Comanche (Eisenhart) had an unproductive and was up early, not beating the winners. Haney's Last Call (Cagle) was lost to the front, as were handler and scout.

Lester's Front Porch (Daniels) was pretty and busy but had no bracedmate to help him run. He was withdrawn at 20.

Overall, this was a high-quality stake. I didn't see one dog that shouldn't have entered. They were all classy and pretty, and all the hard work had been done. They were forward and broke on their game. It was a testament to their trainers.

Greenville, Fla., January 15

Judges: Larron Copeland and Jeff Gibbons  
CONTINENTAL DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP  
[One-Hour Heats] – 18 Pointers and 1 Setter

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

Runner-Up-T S COAL TRAIN, 1704657, pointer male, by Touch's Mega Mike-T S Dial Again. Dr. Ron Deal, owner; Lee Phillips, handler.

## ROUND POND FIELD TRIAL CLUB

*Calico's Country Strong Wins Amateur Shooting Dog Classic*

By Cayla Key | Leslie, Georgia | January 17, 2024

The Round Pond Amateur Shooting Dog Classic was held in its usual time frame, the third weekend in January.

The judicial saddles were ridden by two well-known and very successful people in the bird dog world, Dan DiMambro and Hank Lewis. This great duo judiciously watched all the contenders during the whole trial. Their time and effort to come out and judge were greatly appreciated. Also, we would like to thank Cayla Key for riding and reporting this trial.

Round Pond was in wonderful condition.

There were plenty of Bobwhite quail throughout the entire plantation. Tracy Swearingen and Neil Walker did a great job getting the grounds ready for this trial. Many thanks go to Tracy Swearingen and Joe Rentz for marshaling every brace and Clayton Cook for driving the bird buggy and keeping the coolers stocked with fresh beverages. We would also like to thank Purina and Greg Blair for all they do for our sport; Christy Swearingen and Debbie Hofer helped prepare all the meals; Kuntry Mathis for coming out and putting on a great performance Saturday night; and

the Walkers for allowing us to keep this trial going on their beautiful grounds. If it weren't for them, we wouldn't be able to put on this wonderful trial.

Calico's Country Strong, owned and handled by Alex Smith, was declared the winner with two outstanding finds. He had a find at 10 and 36. His performance kept you high up in the saddle as he impressed everyone with each step he took. The judges never wanted to take their eyes off him. Each step displayed strength, high style, and lots of class. He hunted

diligently and pointed birds with a strong style and perfect manners. He also had a strong forward race and always stayed to the front of the gallery. The bar had been set at the end of his performance, and a true winner was on top.

Great River Yellowstone, owned and handled by Brian Sanchez, was declared second with three finds. He stood with great class and manners. He chalked up finds at 7 and 30. He also had a divided find at 13 with his bracemate Springflow's Backcountry P (Catanzarite). He had a solid drive hunting with each step he took. He was all class with an overall nice performance throughout the hour. He had impeccable manners and stood beautifully. He also had a strong forward stance and never disappointed.

Tee's Sweet Emotion, owned and handled by Brian Sanchez, was declared third with six finds. He gave an outstanding performance on the ground. He put on an excellent race with finds at 5, 30, 32, 50, and 58. He also had a divided find at 24 with his bracemate Pearl (York). He displayed excellent manners. He had a good forward and strong ground race with amazing birdwork.

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported this trial, including all the

handlers and scouts who participated. We couldn't have done it without you.

Leslie, Ga., January 17

Judges: Daniel DiMambro and Hank Lewis

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

[One-Hour Heats] – 37 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-CALICO'S COUNTRY STRONG, 1679850, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Calico's Touch of Class. Calico Kennels, owner; Alex Smith, handler.

2d-GREAT RIVER YELLOWSTONE, 1688796, pointer male, by Fastforward's B K Gunner-Wiggins Miss Stella. Great River Kennel, owner; Brian Sanchez, handler.

3d-TEE'S SWEET EMOTION, 1699148, pointer male, by Touch's Red Rider-Tee's Funseekin Belle. Great River Kennel, owner; Brian Sanchez, handler.

### **2024 Round Pond Youth Trial**

This year's first annual Round Pond Youth Field Trial ran on Sunday, January 21. The trial is run over three beautiful courses that meander over the beautiful grounds of Round Pond Plantation.

A special thanks to everyone who put time, dedication, and energy into making this youth trial possible. We would also like to thank everyone who sponsored this trial. The Youth Field Trial Alliance (YFTA) provided the ribbons and drink holders for the winners. RK Livestock and Auto provided additional prizes for the winners. Gift certificates were given to each placement, provided by Lion Country

Supply, along with an 8x10 photo mailed to each winner. Purina supplied the dog food. YFTA paid for lunch. Christy Swearingen and Debbie Hofer prepared a hot lunch that was served before the trial began. Luke Eisenhart generously paid the entry fees. Dan DiMambro and Hank Lewis handled the difficult task of judging this highly contested trial.

The first brace broke away at 1:30 p.m. under blue skies and a cool breeze. Each handler showed excitement and determination. The judges expressed how this was a hard trial because all the handlers and dogs did a wonderful job.

### ***The Winners***

First place was awarded to Twin Willow Troubadour, handled by Addison McDuffie. Twin Willow Troubadour laid down an impressive ground race highlighted by one find at 18 and a back at 5. At the end of his performance, the bar had been set, and a true winner was on top. Second place was awarded to Jake, handled by Harper Wiseman. Jake displayed high class with a strong forward ground race. Third place was awarded to Great River Yellowstone, handled by Matthew Sanchez. Great River Yellowstone handled nicely with finds at 6 and 12.

## **ATLANTIC COAST OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP**

### ***CS Four Season's Gunner Wins 2024 Running***

**By David Huffine | Hoffman, North Carolina | January 24, 2024**

**C**S Four Season's Gunner, a 2-year-old orange and white pointer male owned by Tony Gibson and Harold Ray, bested a field of 64 dogs to win the 2024 Atlantic Coast Open Shooting Dog Championship held at the Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds in Hoffman, North Carolina. The champion is out of Dominator's Ghost Rider and Piney Woods Gal. He was expertly handled by Doug Ray and scouted by Matt Basilone.

The runner-up champion was Bittersweet War Cry, a 6-year-old white and black pointer male out of Sugarknoll War Paint and Mohawk. He is owned by Joe Lordi and Ralph Gillota and was handled by Mike Tracy. Chris Lisenby scouted Mike's dog.

Judges for the Championship were Whitley Stephenson of Smithfield, North Carolina, and Tim McClurg of Fowler, Ohio and Hoffman, North Carolina. Both judges have significant experience judging championship trials. Whitley campaigns

on the all-age circuit and is also active in NSTRA. Tim is very successful in training and trialing his dogs, primarily in amateur all-age trials. Their expertise and attention to detail were evident throughout the trial.

Bird numbers continued to be good at Hoffman for the season. Several competitors commented that there were more birds at Hoffman than they had seen. The efforts of the North Carolina Field Trial Association and the impact of additional bird releases for the Jamboree in October are likely due the credit.

### ***Champions' Summary***

The champion was drawn in the 10th brace, which was primarily on Course 3. Breakaway was at 10:19 in beautiful weather. His bracemate was Miller's Automatic Upgrade, a handsome pointer male handled by Mike Tracy. Doug's charge ran a big Hoffman race, showing to the front consistently and stylishly. Doug's dog had a find at 17 with all in order. He had another find at 22 on a hillside near

the left of the course. It was a particularly scenic find, which impressed the judges. Mike's dog had a nice race but didn't match his bracemate. He had no birdwork.

The runner-up champion ran in Brace 19 and was matched with Hatteras Rip Tide, a setter male handled by Doug Ray. Mike's dog ran a big shooting dog race with two finds, all in order. He had exceptional style standing and moving. Doug's dog had a shorter race. He produced one find, but it was after time was called.

### ***The Running***

The Championship began Wednesday morning with dogs breaking away on Course 1 shortly after 8 in a comfortable 62 degrees. A moment of silence for Bill Faust, who died in 2023 after decades of commitment to the Atlantic Coast, preceded the breakaway.

The first brace matched Calico's Sky's The Limit (PF/M. Tracy) with Tug O'War, a pointer male handled by Shawn



Atlantic Open Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Doug Ray with CS Four Season's Gunner, Chris Lisenby with Bittersweet War Cry, G. B. Hatcher, Whitley Stephenson (judge), Tim McClurg (judge), Carolyn Quinn, Mike Tracy, Bob Youngs, Barbara Youngs, Ginny Emerson, Maggie Maier, Crissy Joyal, Jim Emerson, and Greg Robinson.

Kinkelaar. Both dogs showed nice forward races and looked classy on the ground. No birds were produced through the Mile Long Field and the next road crossing. Shawn had a find at 42 near the Beaver Pond with Mike's dog backing. There was no further birdwork in the brace.

The second brace was filled by Hatteras Sand Storm (ESM/Ray) and Waybetter Rebel (PM/M. Tracy). Doug's setter had an early find off the breakaway but followed it with two unproductives at 10 and 15 to end his day. Mike's Rebel dog had a good, solid race with two particularly stylish finds at 15 and 30. He had an unproductive shortly after his find at 30. Thereafter, he finished his hour with a good race with pace, style, and finish.

I'm Spartacus (PM/Ray) and Mohawk Mill Jacked Up, a pointer male handled by Matt Basilone, broke away at 10:26 for the third brace. Both dogs had moderate, forward races but produced no birds for their efforts.

Wednesday afternoon brought Mo's Curtain Call (PF/M. Tracy) and Smoke'N'Mirrors (PF/Basilone) to the breakaway for Course 4. Both dogs were still "hot" when they hit birds at 9 and went with the birds on the flush.

The fifth brace was off at 1:25, with Doug Ray's Smooth Talkin (PM) and Mike Hester's Quickmarksman's Dan (PM) breaking away at the 10-minute mark of Course 4. Doug's dog had a find at 10 after a nice relocation. He had another divided find at 35 but followed with a pair of unproductives to end his brace at 46. Mike's dog began with a modest race but

strengthened and lengthened throughout his brace. He looked good on a find at 35 and a back at 46 and finished his hour.

Hoffman heat and humidity showed itself as Quickmarksman's Excalibur (PM/Hester) and Miller's High Heat Index (PM/Tracy) broke away a little before 3 p.m. Hester's dog had a find at 12 but was impacted by the heat and was picked up at 41. Tracy's dog was suffering in the heat and was also collared early.

The pickups allowed for a seventh brace to be run on Wednesday afternoon, with Red Alert Lane (PM/Basilone) and Hard Truth (PM/Ray) completing the first day. Matt's dog had a nice find at 4 and another find before he was up at 36 with unproductives. Doug's dog also had unproductives and was up at 19.

Brace 8 broke away on Thursday morning, with Absolute Tornado (PM/Ray) filling the top spot and Hauser's Rollin Thunder (PM/M. Tracy) filling the bottom slot on the draw. Doug had a find at 46 in the Green Swamp after a long relocation. He was knee-deep in water when a single bird flushed. Mike's dog had a nice relocation at 57 with Doug's dog backing. Mike's dog previously had an unproductive on Doug's find and relocation. Both dogs finished well.

Ravenwood Throwing Smoke (PM/Basilone) and Miller's Strolling For Gold (PF/M. Tracy) were on Course 2 for Brace 9. Both dogs hooked up at the breakaway and were not seen much, if at all, thereafter. Mike called for the tracker at 10, and Matt followed suit at 32.

The champion's brace (No. 10) has been described.

Thursday afternoon brought Two Spot Tommy (PM/Ray) and Lester's Another Shockwave (PM/Kinkelaar) to the line for Brace 11. Tommy had a nice forward race but produced only a back at 37. Shawn's dog had a strong forward race and produced a find at 37. Both dogs finished their hour.

Jeanette Tracy loosed The Secret (PM) with Thunder's Wild Agin (PF/Kinkelaar) on Course 5 for Brace 12. Jeanette did an admirable job handling her dog with bookend finds at 4 and 56. Secret ran a moderate race, always in contact with the handler, and finished the hour. Shawn opted to collar his dog at 32.

Brace 13 matched Cape Point Lucky Strike (ESM/Ray) and Miller's Heat Seeker (PM/M. Tracy) on Course 6 for a late afternoon run. Doug's dog had a divided find shortly after breakaway. He had no additional birdwork but unproductives at 39 and 40 ended his trial. Mike's dog shared the divided find and finished with a find at time, as Course 6 was running out of dirt. An unproductive in a food plot was sandwiched between the finds. He had a bold race but was not seen much on the new loop.

Friday morning saw Mohawk Mill Gangster (PM/Basilone) and R Q's Saddle (PM/J. Tracy) in front of the clubhouse for Brace 14. Gangster showed his all-age background and his knowledge of Hoffman. He was rarely seen, and Matt called for the tracker at 38, finding his dog long and to the front. Jeanette's dog had some difficulty finding the front and was picked up at 42. Neither dog had birdwork.

Brace 15 featured a Tracy match-up. Mike had Miller's Special Cinderella (PF), with Jeanette handling Hillhavyn's Wild Child (PF). Mike's dog was last seen at the breakaway, and he called for the tracker when she did not appear. Jeanette's dog was behind early and she picked up at 15.

The third brace of the morning was ready to go at 9:26. Miller's Potential Upgrade (PM/Ray) was not pleasing his handler and was up at 20. Upfront's McQuade (PM/Kinkelaar) was also up at 20 as Shawn called for the tracker.

The shortened morning braces allowed for time and course, so Brace 17 was on the wagon and ready to go. Hale's Smooth Touch (PF/Kinkelaar) had a nice race but produced no birds with unproductives at 20 and 49. Jeanette Tracy ran Pine Straw Hot Chocolate (ESF). She had a back at 20 followed by an unproductive at 41. Jeanette picked her up after an unsuccessful relocation.

Due to funeral obligations, the reporter was unable to be present for Braces 18 through 26 and has relied upon third-party reports for those braces.

Brace 18 matched Southpoint's Hog Wild (PM/M. Tracy) and A Buccaneer (PM/Ray) to begin the afternoon braces. Mike's dog was lost from judgment, and he called for the tracker. Doug's dog was not pleasing him and was leashed prior to the completion of his hour.

Brace 19 is described under the Champions' section.

Miller's Extreme Heat (PF/M. Tracy) and Thunder Bolt's Storm (PF/Kinkelaar) made up Brace 20. Mike's dog had an early find but was picked up before completion of the hour. Shawn's dog had no bird contacts and was likewise leashed by her handler.

Limbsmoke Urban Lullaby (PF/Basilone) and Pine Straw Sweet Tea (ESF/J. Tracy) began the Sunday morning braces. Matt's dog was lost and he called for the tracker. In similar fashion, Jeanette's dog disappeared, and she called for the tracker.

Brace 22 included Miller's Lock and Loaded (PM/M. Tracy) and The Gray Ghost (ESM/Basilone). Mike's charge did not show very often and moved on his only find, ending his day. Matt's dog had a back but no other bird contact.

Southern Shadows Rick (PM/Basilone) and Steel Valley Raven (PF/J. Tracy) finished the morning. Matt's dog ran a moderate race but finished without birds. Raven had one unproductive, and Jeanette opted to pick her up before the end of her hour.

Erin's Thunder Backus (PM/Kinkelaar) and Miller's Record Heat (PF/M Tracy) were in Brace 24. Shawn's dog was not pleasing him and was picked up before the hour elapsed. Mike determined that his dog was not beating the dogs before him and collared his dog.

Brace 25 paired Chelsea's Mae West (PF/Kinkelaar) and Erin's Big Casino (ESM/M. Tracy). Shawn's female had a big race but did not produce birds. She was picked up by her handler. Mike's big setter had one find but was then lost. Mike called for the tracker, ending his day.

The last brace of the day was Due

Respect (ESM/Kinkelaar) and Absolute Dominator (PM/Ray). Doug's dog had an early find and was backed by Shawn's dog. However, both handlers chose to pick up near the 30-minute mark.

The final day of running began with Fort River's Lucky Charm (ESM/Basilone) and Heisman (PM/Hester) on Course 1 in 64-degree weather. Matt's dog finished with a strong, medium race but produced no birds. Mike's dog had a big race with a good finish but also found no birds.

Faithful (PF/Mike Tracy) ran a great race in Brace 28 but found no birds. Silver W Jill Z (PF/Kinkelaar) ran an equally fine race but produced no birdwork. This brace was possibly the best-combined race of the trial.

The 29th brace had Hausers Unhinged (PM/M. Tracy) and Harbor City Sure Shot (PF/Basilone) on Course 3. Mike's dog was lost early, and he called for the tracker at 19. Matt's dog had a big covey find at 8 but failed to carry her good start over, and Matt leashed her at 40.

The final afternoon's braces began shortly after 1 on Course 4. Hirollins Bad Boy (PM/Basilone) had a nice relocation at 4 with all in order. Matt called for the tracker after the road crossing only to find him on point about 600 yards behind the gallery. His bracemate, Miller's Southern Gossip (PF/M. Tracy), had a solid race but produced no birds.

The 31st brace was Big Man On Campus (PM/Kinkelaar) and Trumped (PM/M. Tracy). Both dogs were gone early, and both handlers called for the trackers at 20 minutes or so.

The final brace of the Championship paired Suemac's Wicked Sister (PF/M. Tracy) and Upfront's Southern Star (PF/Kinkelaar). Mike's dog had a moderate race with a divided find at 34. Star shared the find at 34 and produced another at 59 with a moderate race.

**Hoffman, N. C., January 24**

**Judges: Tim McClurg and Whitley Stephenson**

**ATLANTIC COAST OPEN SHOOTING DOG**

**CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**

**- 56 Pointers and 8 Setters**

*Winner-CS FOUR SEASON'S GUNNER, 1701374, pointer male, by Dominator's Ghost Rider-Piney Woods Gal. Tony Gibson & Harold Ray, owners; Doug Ray, handler.*

*Runner-Up-BITTERSWEET WAR CRY, 1674743, pointer male, by Sugarknoll War Paint-Mohawk. Joe Lordi & Ralph Gillota, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.*

## **The Atlantic Coast Open Derby**

The Derby stake was canceled due to the wonderful number of entries for the Championship and the harsh weather in the forecast.

## **Acknowledgments**

The Duplin County Field Trial Club has sponsored this trial for several decades. Bill Faust has been the heart and soul of the Club and this Championship. Bill physically left us this past year, but we all felt his presence throughout the trial. We certainly missed him.

Carolyn Quinn makes everything work for the Duplin County Club. She helps with the drawing, keeps notes on all braces, cooks and serves meals, and fills in as secretary/treasurer for the Club as the elected official is often absent and unreliable.

John Outlaw helped marshal and helped Carolyn and others with trial chores. The Club commends John for his help.

G. B. Hatcher reluctantly took Bill's place as President of the Duplin County Club and did a wonderful job in the first of many years of service. G.B. is a steady hand and does whatever is necessary to make the trial operate smoothly. He is also quick with derogatory remarks about setters.

We love Greg Robinson, who drives the gallery/dog wagon and provides coffee, soft drinks, water, and snacks at the morning and afternoon breaks. He also tells unpublshable jokes. Greg seems to thoroughly enjoy his duties, and it is rare that he doesn't predict the winners correctly.

The Duplin County Club commends the North Carolina Field Trial Association for its diligent work in implementing and continually improving the bird program at Hoffman.

Finally, this Championship would not survive without the support of Purina, and the Club expresses its full gratitude for the sponsorship.

Visit [www.americanfield.com](http://www.americanfield.com) for updates!

## WOLF RIVER FIELD TRIAL CLUB

### Como Thunder Wins Cajun Open All-Age Classic

By Amy Snider | Hickory Valley, Tennessee | January 30, 2024

This year's running of the Cajun Classic was held on January 30-February 2 at the Powers and Weaver Farms in Hickory Valley, Tennessee.

The weather this year was very favorable for the 34 entries. Every brace, except two, had birdwork in the four days' of running.

Bubba Spencer and Greg Tapp were the judges for the Cajun Classic stake and placed Como Thunder first. He had an extreme forward ground race, and three finds for handler Brody Byrd. Dunn's True Reign, handled by Allen Vincent, was second with two finds and a smooth, controlled ground race. Third was Ascension, handled by Korry Rinehart, with one find and a stop to flush.

Brody Byrd and Lowry Strickland were the judges for the Evangeline Open Derby and named Miss Arkansas first. "Sue" had a big upfront race and a very nice limb

find for handler Mike Lemons. Blackhawk Lucky Charm, handled by Allen Vincent, was second with a back and a nice forward ground race. Third was Bandit's Hill Avenger by Ike Todd, with a smooth ground race.

A special thank you is extended to Ric Peterson and adjacent landowners Conrad Powers and the Weaver family for allowing us to use their property.

Hickory Valley, Tenn., January 30  
Judges: Bubba Spencer and Greg Tapp  
CAJUN OPEN ALL-AGE CLASSIC

[One-Hour Heats] – 31 Entries

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

2d-DUNN'S TRUE REIGN, 1680537, pointer male, by Dunn's Tried'n True-Dunn's Get Out Sue. Norris Sims, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.

3d-ASCENSION, 1664823, pointer male, by Reloaded-Dialed In. Ted Roach, owner; Korry Rinehart, handler.

Judges: Brody Byrd and Lowry Strickland

EVANGELINE OPEN DERBY  
– 11 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-MISS ARKANSAS, 1705667, pointer female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Snow. Mike Lemons, owner and handler.

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

3d-BANDIT'S HILLAVENGER, 1702642, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Bandit's Hill Daisy. Ann Forrester, owner; Ike Todd, handler.

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## NGSPA REGION 7 CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Championship Series Held At Lake Murray Grounds

By Terry Bomer | Ardmore, Oklahoma | February 10, 2024



NGSPA Region 7 Open All-Age Championship (front, l-r): Brandon Blum with B M B's Free Ride and Robbi Gullede with Texas Tuff. (Behind): Tom Milam (judge), James Messer (judge), and Terry Bomer.

The NGSPA Region 7 trial was held at Lake Murray Field Trial Grounds in Ardmore, Oklahoma. A big thank you to all the sponsors of Region 7, Purina, and SportDOG. Thank you, everyone, for attending and making this trial a great event. We had some bad weather and spent

one day on hold, but other than that, this was a great trial.

The Amateur Shooting Dog stake started on Saturday, February 10, and concluded on Monday, February 12. The stake was judged by Sean Anderson of Alvord, Texas,

and Bob Thompson of Hartville, Missouri. We had 17 dogs drawn, and 17 dogs broke away. The stake was on pause for Sunday as it rained all Saturday night and into Sunday afternoon, making the grounds a muddy mess on Monday.

The Amateur Shooting Dog stake was very competitive, and the champion was B M B's Madison Ave ("Maddie"), owned by Brandon and Jennifer Blum and handled by Brandon Blum. The runner-up was M S R's Pretty Little Psycho ("Harley"), owned by James and Sarah Messer and handled by James Messer.

The NGSPA Region 7 Derby Classic was held on Monday, February 12. The judges were Tom Milam of Elm Mott, Texas, and Bob Thompson of Hartville, Missouri. As always, all derby dogs had bird contact and were fun to watch. First was M S R's The Dominator ("Cruz"), owned by James and Sarah Messer, and handled by James Messer; second was Uodibar BDK's Code of Honor ("Cody"), owned by Brooks Carmichael, and handled by Keith Gullede; and third was Texas Jax's Frozen Express ("Ellie"), owned by Kirk and Terry



NGSPA Region 7 Open Shooting Dog Championship (front, l-r): Robbi Gullede with O B's Stick In The Mud, David O'Brien (owner of champion and runner-up), and Keith Gullede with B D K's Sam I Am. (Behind): Tom Milam (judge) and Rusty Robinson (judge).

Bomer, and handled by Keith Gullede.

The NGSPA Region 7 All-Age started at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, February 13. The course was still muddy, but a nice southern wind was working on drying things out. The judges were James Messer of Needville, Texas, and Tom Milam of Elm Mott, Texas. Running all-age dogs on such muddy ground made for an interesting stake for handlers and scouts. Eight dogs competed, and the champion was B M B's Free Ride ("Lewey"), owned by Brandon and Jennifer Blum and handled by Brandon Blum. The runner-up was Texas Tuff, owned by Terry Bomer and handled by Keith Gullede.

The NGSPA Region 7 Open Shooting Dog was judged by Rusty Robinson of McKinney, Texas, and Tom Milam of Elm Mott, Texas. Sixteen dogs were drawn, and 16 dogs competed. The champion was O B's Stick In The Mud, owned by David



NGSPA Region 7 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Bob Thompson (judge), Sean Anderson (judge), Mark Wasserman with B M B's Madison Ave, James Messer with M S R's Pretty Little Psycho, and Brandon Blum.

and Peggy O'Brien and handled by Keith Gullede. The runner-up was B D K's Sam I Am, owned by David and Peggy O'Brien and handled by Keith Gullede.

**Ardmore, Okla., February 10**

**Judges: Sean Anderson and Bob Thompson**

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

**- 17 German Shorthairs**

*Winner-B M B'S MADISON AVE, 1670283, female, by Trueblu's B D K Ace Inthe Hole-Time To Pay The Piper. Jennifer & Brandon Blum, owners; Brandon Blum, handler.*  
*Runner-Up-M S R'S PRETTY LITTLE PSYCHO, 1675068, female, by Pine Acres Rusty Saddle-M S R's Opalescence. James & Sarah Messer, owners; James Messer, handler.*

**Judges: Tom Milam and Bob Thompson**

**NGSPA REGION 7 OPEN DERBY**

**- 4 German Shorthairs**

*1st-M S R'S THE DOMINATOR, 1703070, male, by B M B's Freeloader-M S R's Rowdy Rhonda. James & Sarah Messer, owners; James Messer, handler.*  
*2d-UODIBAR B D K'S CODE OF HONOR, 1705286, male, by Chisholm Creeks Jax Orbetter-Uodibar's La T Da. Brooks Carmichael, owner; Keith Gullede, handler.*



NGSPA Region 7 Open Derby (front, l-r): Robbi Gullede with Texas Jax's Frozen Express, Keith Gullede with Uodibar B D K's Code of Honor, and James Messer with M S R's The Dominator. (Behind): Bob Thompson (judge), and Tom Milam (judge).

**Judges: James Messer and Tom Milam**

**NGSPA REGION 7 OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**

**- 8 German Shorthairs**

*Winner-B M B'S FREE RIDE, 1660979, male, by Kimber Tactical-Time To Pay The Piper. Brandon & Jennifer Blum, owners; Brandon Blum, handler.*

*Runner-Up-TEXAS TUFF, 1662633, male, by Texas Bushwacking Bud-Cuttin Wilds Space Cowgirl. Terry Bomer, owner and handler.*

**Judges: Tom Milam and Rusty Robinson**

**NGSPA REGION 7 OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**

**- 16 German Shorthairs**

*Winner-O B'S STICK IN THE MUD, 1687879, male, by B D K's Sam I Am-B D K's Allie's Little Miss Sassy Pants. David O'Brien, owner and handler.*

*Runner-Up-B D K'S SAM I AM, 1675197, male, by Slicks Cuttin Wild-C L K's Point Me The Way. David O'Brien, owner and handler.*

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## PENINSULA BIRD HUNTERS CLUB

*Trial Held At Cutawhiskie Farm*

**By Steve Moore | Ahoskie, North Carolina | February 11, 2024**

Once again, the Peninsula Bird Hunters Club held their field trial at Dr. Aubrey Morgan's Cutawhiskie Farm in Ahoskie, North Carolina, on Saturday, February 17. The grounds were in great shape; the weather was cold and windy. Conditions weren't ideal, but this turned out to be another day with great dogs, familiar competitors, and newcomers. There was a nice turnout for the field trials with a schedule that included three Amateur Puppy braces, two Open Derby braces, and 10 Amateur Shooting Dog braces.

It was an all-setter field for the Amateur Puppy, with three setters and one pointer in the Open Derby and 13 pointers and seven setters in the Amateur Shooting Dog.

We want to thank the following for their participation in making this another successful field trial: Purina for their sponsorship and for providing valuable coupons for their quality dog food; The Virginia Amateur Field Trial Association, the late Dr. Aubrey Morgan, Barbel Fetkoter, and everyone who helps keep this place in great shape for the bird program and field trials; Mr. Jim Jones of Gloucester, Virginia, and Mr. John Outlaw of Florence, South Carolina, for their experience in judging and for spending hours mounted on their horses in strong, cold winds while taking a good look at all the four-legged contestants; Lee Flanders, Matthew Flanders, Barbel, and all who contributed to the wonderful lunch; and dog wagon drivers JR Hasty and Frankie

Barnes.

### Amateur Puppy

For his first time entering a pointing dog trial, newcomer Worth Lewis brought his family out and put on a great show for everyone. After a nice, long breakaway, his puppy Scout (Cold Creek Kennel, Minnesota) had a nice covey find with nearly 20 quail. Scout displayed a nice style on point and good groundwork overall, proving that Barbel Fetkoter's bird program is taking hold on the grounds.

Longtime trial man, field trial judge, and bird dog enthusiast Ben Dillard's puppy Wendy, sired by the late Bozeann's Rex, had some really nice groundwork. She can cover some ground and handles well. Look



Amateur Puppy (front, l-r): "Scout" with Worth Lewis and daughter, "Wendy" with Ben Dillard, and Wayside Jack with Steve Moore. (Standing): John Outlaw (judge) and Ashby Morgan.

for this puppy to mature into a nice derby dog.

Steve Moore's puppy Jack, similar top side breeding to Dillard's pup Wendy, covered the ground well and also had a find near the end of the brace.

### **Open Derby**

Worth Lewis's puppy Scout was on double duty as an Amateur Puppy and Open Derby participant. Again, displaying solid groundwork, Scout showed his ability at finding birds and displayed good handling skills. Worth's puppy, Spot, also ran well in the Derby stake. When asked about the Puppy and Derby dogs, judge John Outlaw said he saw a lot of potential.

It was a successful day for Worth Lewis's family's introductory field trial outing. Worth's young daughter had a genuine interest in the event and even walked the derby brace beside her father as he was handling Scout. Congratulations,

Worth. It was a pleasure to meet you and your family, and we hope to see you again at future pointing dog trials.

### **Amateur Shooting Dog**

In the first brace, Mavis, handled by Jameson Crandall, had two finds and one back. Despite strong, constant winds, the dogs were finding birds, and watching their performance was a lot of fun.

After four braces, we broke for lunch. Lee and Matthew Flanders, along with others, prepared a delicious meal that included fried fish, BBQ ribs, and all the sides. The group enjoyed lots of conversation, including some stories from Gary Winall and Ellen Clements Winall (both were on the premises, welcoming all to the beautiful grounds managed by the Virginia Amateur Field Trial Association). After lunch, the placements for Amateur Puppy and Open Derby were announced.

After lunch, we headed back to the field. The sixth brace was exciting to watch as Jimmy Crandall's dog, Jake, and Ashby Morgan's dog, Big Stuff, put on the afternoon show. Jake handled and worked the cover well with two shared finds and one UP and finished strong. Big had one find and two shared finds. He stayed forward and also had a very nice finish.

Judge Jim Jones said there were a number of good dogs to select from, so they considered the more aggressive dogs that attacked the course to be the placement dogs for the shooting dog trial.

Thanks again to Purina, Barbel Fetkoter,



Amateur Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Gary Winall, Ashby Morgan, Ellen Winall with Mohawk Mill Big Stuff, Jimmy Crandall with Jake The Joker, and Jameson Crandall with Sorrows of Satan. (Top row): Worth Lewis and family, Barbel Fetkoter, Lee Flanders, Gene Hogge, Jim Jones (judge), Matthew Flanders, John Outlaw (judge), Dennis Kivikko, Frankie Barnes and son, and Steve Moore.

and all who supported this event.

#### **Ahoskie, N. C., February 11 – One Course**

**Judges: Jim Jones and John Outlaw**

#### **AMATEUR PUPPY – 6 Setters**

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

2d-WENDY, unreg., female, by Bozeann's Rex-Bozeann's Tailwind. Ben Dillard, owner and handler.

3d-WAYSIDE JACK, unreg., male, breeding not given. Steve Moore, owner and handler.

#### **OPEN DERBY – 3 Setters and 1 Pointer**

1st-SCOUT, unreg., setter male, breeding not given. Worth Lewis, owner and handler.

2d-SPOT, unreg., setter male, breeding not given. Worth Lewis, owner and handler.

#### **AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG**

**– 12 Pointers and 9 Setters**

1st-MOHAWK MILL BIG STUFF, 1691821, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Hirollins Fantasy Girl. Gary Winall, owner; Ashby Morgan, handler.

2d-JAKE THE JOKER, 1693052, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Legacy's Pride-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Mitch Forrester, owner; Jimmy Crandall, handler.

3d-SORROWS OF SATAN, 1681535, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Pirate-Mohawk Mill Honey. James Crandall, owner and handler.

## **NBHA NATIONAL INVITATIONAL BREEDERS' CHAMPIONSHIP**

***Pure Confidence Named Champion; Unfinished Business, Runner-Up***

**By Christian Ogle | Grovespring, Missouri | February 13, 2024**

This year's Breeders' Invitational Championship drew 47 dogs and was again held at the Sportsman Association grounds near Grovespring, Missouri. With a few obstacles to overcome, the Missouri Bird Hunters accepted the challenge and knocked it out of the park again. These fine gentlemen are like family and work so well together. Please shake their hands and pat them on the back. Kevin Western, Jack Glover, Joe Zimmer, Randy Zimmer, Jack Glover, and Tim Penn, thank you so much for everything you do.

This year's judges, Greg Gibson and Frank Schoenborn, both from Kansas, did an outstanding job. We started with beautiful weather but finished with rain, ice, and snow. They rode for two and a half

days watching these dogs. They had plenty of dogs who did great jobs and finished. They were both on the same page and told me before we announced the winners that this was tough, and they had to split hairs with many great dogs. The two dogs we placed needed no scouting—perfect birdwork and were always hunting forward with a great race.

This year's champion is Pure Confidence. "Tango" is out of True Confidence x Richfield Rose. This is Tango's 16th championship; he is now 10 years old. Tango is owned by Black Meadow Kennels of New Jersey, handled by Garry Malzone, and scouted by Jillian Stuhr. This is one heck of a team. Congrats to all involved.

This year's runner-up champion is Unfinished Business. "Ace" is owned by John Gaines from Oklahoma and was handled by Justin Crook of Jasper, Missouri. No scout was needed for Ace as he ran the country, always to the front. This is his second championship. Ace's breeding is from Unabridged x Momo's Rock Solid. Congrats to everyone involved in his win.

### **The Running**

Brace No. 1 started Wednesday at 8 a.m., sunny and frosty in Breakaway bottoms. Georgia Born Braveheart (PM/Margie Ridings) was braced with Snow's Rhiannon (PF/Kenny Snow). Both dogs were found standing at 8:10 across from Andy's house in a small feeder strip. This

was called a split find by the judges, and both handlers flushed. Braveheart would be found standing along the creek before leaving the bottoms. Ann was backing. At 8:44, Braveheart would be picked up. At 8:50, Ann was standing in a small field by Little Vine Loop, birds in the air with all in order. Ann finished the hour.

Brace No. 2 saw Snow's Sea Dollar (PM/Kenny Snow) braced with Kevin Western and his pointer female, Western's Whistlin Dixie. Kenny would pick up at 9:23. Dixie was found standing at 9:30. A pair of birds were put in the air. Dixie looked great. At 9:50, she would be picked up.

Brace No. 3 saw Indian Creek Courageous Cat (PF/Garry Malzone) and brace mate Glover's Flintstone (ESM/Jack Glover) released at 10:09. Both dogs were found standing on divided finds at 10:17. With extensive fishing by both handlers, no bird could be produced from the cedar thicket. At 10:25, Cat was pointed again. Needing a relocation, she pinned the bird with great manners. At 10:40, Cat had a pair pointed by the big hill feeder strip. At 10:50, Cat was again pointed, this time in Sycamore bottoms. Garry chose to go on. Coming off the side of the South Hill, Flint would come in and point behind Cat. Jack flushed for Flint and produced a pair of birds. At 10:56, Flint slammed point near one of the many Creek crossings. At 10:57, Cat would be pointed again. With a relocation needed, a bird was never produced as time ran out. Flint would finish the hour strong, going away.

In Brace No. 4, Georgia Born Apache Wind (PM/Sam Ridings) was braced with Indian Creek Sprout (PF/Garry Malzone). They were released at 11:29. They would be found at 11:47 standing together for a divided find along Little Vine Loop. Both dogs were watered before releasing, with the temperatures rising. At 11:45, Sam would kick up a single-foot Apache Wind. At 12:00, near the road crossing feed strip, he had another nice find. At 12:05, Sprout would have a single near the crossing. Sam was handed the tracker. At 12:14, Sprout was standing in the feeder strip by Andy's. Garry had to relocate twice before Sprout pointed down a single. Sprout relocated like a seasoned pro. At 12:25, Sprout would have her final find near the cemetery. She finished her hour strong.

Brace No. 5 would run after lunch. The temperature was getting up there, hitting 62 at the breakaway at 1:32 p.m. Handler Garry Malzone and pointer male Indian Creek Spur were braced with Kenny Snow and his pointer male, Hey Mr. Tin Man. At 1:38, Spur was pointed near the cemetery. Manners were great, and they were off. At 1:49, Tin Man had his birds pointed



NBHA National Invitational Breeders' Championship (front): Jillian Stuhr with Pure Confidence and Garry Malzone. (Behind): Terry Trzcinski, Don Heisner, Joe Zimmer, Klaus Schmidt, Travis Patterson, Tim Penn, J. D. Logue, Bob England, Randy Zimmer, Frank Schoenborn (judge), Mike Fox, and Greg Gibson (judge).

across from Andy's; Spur had a great back. Spur had another single at 1:52 with Tin Man backing. Tin Man had a find at 2:13 in Sycamore bottoms. His relocation was good. He was picked up at 2:18; Spur was picked up at 220.

At 2:51, setter male Gun's Pistol Pete and handler Justin Crook were braced with Ken Sauer and his pointer male, K C's Guitar Man for Brace No. 6. Pete didn't look right to Justin, so he picked him up. Guitar Man had a find at 3:05, but Ken was unable to produce a bird. At 3:24, he had a find in Sycamore bottoms with a pair of quail being put in the air by Ken. At 3:40, he was picked up.

At 4:01, we had a slight breeze from the south. Handler Ken Sauer and pointer male K C's Tye Oneon were braced with Cairds Lefty (PM/Dam Ridings) for Brace No. 7. Lefty was picked up early for manners. Tye had an unproductive at 4:18. At 4:22, he had a single along the east feeder strip in Breakaway bottoms. At 4:29, he had a single near the road crossing. Tye was picked up at 4:45.

Day two would bring us Brace No. 8 at 7:54; we would break away early. I like starting early! K C's Next Gen (PM/Ken Sauer) was braced with Tim Penn and his pointer male, Chief Deception. Chief was first on the board with finds at the cemetery at 8:00. Ken was given his tracker at 8:05. He would have his second find at 8:15 along a feeder strip near the road. At 8:35, he was on point again, with Tim flushing two birds for him. At 8:40, Chief had a stop to flush. He finished the hour.

Brace No. 9 was released at 9:05. Indian Creek Pineapple (PF/Garry Malzone) was braced with Beaucoup Creek Buck and Don Heisner. At 9:15, Buck would have a

stop to flush. At 9:52, Buck was standing in the feeder strip by Andy's; Don put the bird in the air. Pineapple would be picked up at 9:52. At 9:59, Buck had another find by the cemetery. Buck would finish the hour.

Indian Creek Bocephus (PM/Garry Malzone) and brace mate Brook's White Hot Blaze (ISM) and Luke Tewes were in Brace No. 10. They were released at 10:15. Neither were standing at the last strip in breakaway bottoms at 10:35. Both dogs would be picked up.

Brace No. 11 broke away at 11:10. Foxy Lady Sadie (ISF) and handler Mike Fox were braced with Georgia Born Windstorm (PM/Margie Ridings). Sadie was picked up at 11:15. Windstorm would be picked up at 11:25.

After lunch, we would release the dogs at 1:11 for Brace No. 12. We were heating up, with temperatures reaching the high 60s. Foxy Abralena (ISF/Mike Fox) was braced with Justin Crook and pointer male Unfinished Business. At 1:20, Lena was pointed across from Andy's. At 1:27, she was standing in a ditch in the timber. Two hundred yards in front of her at 1:27, Ace was standing tall in the timber in breakaway bottoms. At 1:40, near the road crossing, Justin would flush for Ace, putting a pair of birds in the air. At 1:48, Lena would have a single pointed in Sycamore bottoms. Ace was hunting all the likely spots and was pointed to the front again at 2:07. After a short relocation, birds were pointed down and put in the air by his handler. Ace would finish the hour strong, going to the front; no scout was needed. Lena also finished the hour running with class and style.

Penrosa Hidncash (ESM/Tim Penn) broke away at 2:28 for Brace No. 13. This

stylish setter would have a stop to flush at 2:52. At 3:06, he pointed a pair near the road crossing. All was in order with Cash, but Mr. Penn decided to pick him up.

Brace No. 14 broke away at 3:43. Erin's Deja Vu (ESF/Garry Malzone) was braced with Klaus Schmidt and his pointer male, Touch's Mac Daddy. At 4:04, Deja Vu had a find in the south edge on Sycamore bottoms. Mac was on the north side with his find. At 4:13, along a dry branch, Deja Vu had another find. Mac backed, and all was good for both dogs. At 4:20, Mac had a single along the road crossing. At 4:29, Deja Vu had a find across from Andy's with Mac backing. Deja Vu had her last find at the cemetery. Both dogs finished the hour strong.

Friday morning, Brace No. 15 would be released at 7:49; yes, early again! Conditions had changed overnight. It was freezing, and temperatures were still dropping. Kenny Snow and English setter male Wynona's Nickleback Mickey were braced with Justin Crook and pointer female Fast Money. Both dogs were picked up at 8:04.

Brace No. 16 started at 8:12 a.m.

Meghan's Special Edition (PM/Sam Ridings) was braced with Pure Confidence (PM/Garry Malzone). Tango had his first find at the road crossing. At 8:40, Sam would flush for his pointer. At 8:40, Tango would have a UP. At 8:48, Tango would be standing tall in the feeder strip in Sycamore bottoms. Sam was handed his tracker. At 8:54, Tango would be found on point again in the small field going into the Little Vine Loop. At 9:00, Tango showing all the class and style you could ask for, would have his last find. Tango would finish strong going away. He was always forward and did not need to be scouted.

After waiting 30 minutes for rain, hail, sleet, and snow, we would gather for our final brace. Brace No. 17 would start at 9:51. Full Red Afterburn (ISM/Mike Fox) was braced with Klaus Schmidt and pointer male Southern Shadow's Bootlegger. Red would be picked up at 9:58. Bootlegger would pin a single in Little Vine Loop, found on point again at 10:07. Only feathers could be found at 10:23 on the north side of Sycamore bottoms. No bird could be produced. At 10:27, he found a single near the road crossing. At 10:40, across from Andy's, he would go on point

again. Klaus would relocate his dog. During relocation, the bird popped.

Thank you all for your patience in dealing with our medical emergency. We had a lot of great dogs, handlers, and scouts. Thank you for your courtesy and professionalism toward each other and our staff.

Thank you to our great and generous sponsors. Purina goes above and beyond for us. Garmin, thank you for all the collars. OnX, our newest sponsor, is a huge backer with all the memberships. Mule Brand Clothing and Gun Dog Supply, thank you for the gift certificates, and Gundog Central for all our data.

Grovespring, Mo., February 13

**Judges: Greg Gibson and Frank Schoenborn**  
**NBHA NATIONAL INVITATIONAL BREEDERS'**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**  
**- 23 Pointers and 11 Setters**

*Winner-PURE CONFIDENCE, 1660531, pointer male, by True Confidence-Richfield Rose. Black Meadow Kennels, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.*

*Runner-Up-UNFINISHED BUSINESS, 1665852, pointer male, by Unabridged-Momo's Rock Solid. John Gaines, owner; Justin Crook, handler.*

## PINEHURST FIELD TRIAL CLUB

### *Amateur Trial*

**By Paul Gadd | Hoffman, North Carolina | February 16, 2024**

The Pinehurst Field Trial Club ran on the famed Hoffman grounds from February 16-18. This 108th running was permitted after the regular scheduled date was canceled due to inclement weather.

Twenty-seven all-age and six derbies were contested for this three-day event. Weather conditions were ideal, blending for a quality trial with several good performances and covey finds.

Again, commenting on these prestigious grounds, we are fortunate to have a state facility ground developed for field trialing. Our trialing use typically is 80 days per year. Hoffman grounds were developed in 1953, and the first trial ran in 1955. These are expansive running grounds of approximately 9,000+ acres. There is a 56-stall barn with attached kennels, free-standing kennels, recently constructed corrals, and a clubhouse. This is a dream place and ideal for a running dog. All of this is further enhanced with the NCFITA and bird program that is in place.

The six one-hour courses extend approximately 38 miles for a day of running. No training is allowed on these

trial grounds. We only have praise and appreciation for the NC Wildlife Resource Commission. Yes, we are very fortunate that these grounds were developed for bird dog field trialing. There is no better place. Many grand champions have run on these grounds, and great ones are still competing by both amateurs and professional trainers.

The Pinehurst trial, the oldest amateur trial in North Carolina, began with the late James Walker Tuft, the sole owner and developer of Pinehurst Village, which was noted worldwide for its grand golf courses and hotel. Originally, this trial was held in Pinehurst. In 1972, Jimmy Tuft moved the trial to the Hoffman grounds. The inaugural trial was won by King Kong for the late Bill Andrews, who was then the secretary and later the president, followed by Dr. Aubrey Morgan and now myself. Thus, there were only four presidents during this span of time. The Tufts and Bill Andrews laid a tradition for the Pinehurst trial, and the spirit continues. Hopefully, others will continue to reflect and comment on the history of Hoffman, as so much would be of interest.

This trial was capably judged by Larry Cox and Dennis Snyder. Their standards and decisions rendered were all well regarded.

First place in the Derby stake was awarded to I'm The Lone Ranger, handled by Sammy Giddens. Ranger was credited with one find with style and manners through flush and shot.

In second place was Mac's Slim Jim for Ohio sportsman Tim McClurg. Jim ran a forward-reaching race with hunt and an attractive gait.

Third place went to Buffalo Junction Calico for Dr. Allen Dahl. Calico had a pleasant forward race and was attentive to its owner in handling.

Rocky River Loaded won first place in the All-Age for now-owner Grayson Francis. "Gus" was previously owned and competed by the late Ray Joye. Gus ran on the No. 3 morning course, credited with three finds, one of which was a divided find and two backs, all in order with a strong race.

Second place went to Dialed In, capably

handled by Jim Pendergest. “Grace” ran with the winner, showing plenty of run and style, being credited with a find, divided find, back, and unproductive. This brace had plenty of action with two good performances.

Third place was I Dream of Jeannie for owner Kyle Whitfield. “Jen” ran on course 2, credited with a good covey find at 30 and 40, and then an unproductive. Jen showed forward-reaching with hunt and style.

Hoffman, N. C., February 16

Judges: Larry Cox and Dennis Snyder  
**AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]**  
 – 24 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-ROCKY RIVER LOADED, 1696572, pointer male, by Broken Halo-Morgan’s Mountain Maggie. Grayson Francis, owner and handler.

2d-DIALED IN, 1655274, pointer female, by Miller’s Dialing In-Rester’s Zumba Girl. Jim Pendergest, owner and handler.

3d-I DREAM OF JEANNIE, 1699099, setter female, by Hot Blooded-Shamrock’s Miss Grace. Kyle Whitfield, owner and handler.

**AMATEUR DERBY – 5 Pointers and 1 Setter**

1st-I’M THE LONE RANGER, 1703796, pointer male, by Mohawk mill Trail Warrior-B K Deighton’s Jewel. Sammy & Nida Giddens, owners; Sammy Giddens, handler.

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

3d-BUFFALO JUNCTION CALICO, 1707590, pointer female, by Erin’s Redrum-Calico’s Country Strong. Allen Dahl, owner and handler.

## REGION 7 (AFTCA) AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

*Southern Twist Named Champion; Texas Cool, Runner-Up*

By Dr. Buck Neil | Roby, Texas | February 16, 2024

The 2024 Region 7 Amateur All-Age Championship and M. G. Perkins Amateur All-Age Derby were held at the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch in Roby, Texas, on February 16-17. The Research Ranch is a non-profit that focuses on managing and understanding Bobwhite and Blue Quail in their native habitat in West Texas. Region 7 worked closely with Dr. Ryan O’Shaughnessy, Executive Director, and Jack Bonnell, Land Manager of the Research Ranch, to put on the championship. Both are dedicated bird dog men who helped ensure the Region 7 Amateur All-Age Championship went off without a hitch. Region 7 would like to thank these men and the RPQRR board of directors for enabling this trial.

Region 7 would also like to thank our judges for this year’s running, Dr. Alex Jacocks of Edmond, Oklahoma, and Sean Anderson of Alvord, Texas. Both men were focused and attentive to their judicial responsibilities. Thanks also to the many people who assisted in making this trial run smoothly and successfully. Chip Martin and John Benoit drove the dog wagon and helped with anything that needed doing. Tyson Traw, who served as field marshal and occasional scout, produced maps of the grounds for the participants, judges, and



Region 7 Amateur All-Age Championship (front, l-r): Buck Neil with Southern Twist and Tyson Traw with Texas Cool. (Behind): Jon Humphrey, Austin Bryant, Chris Cornman, Chip Martin, Alex Jacocks (judge), and Sean Anderson (judge).

dog wagon driver, which kept everyone on the same page. Jason Super was always finding something that was getting ready to fall through the cracks and saving the day. Mary Ann Gustafson, Region 7 secretary/treasurer, worked remotely with trial chairman Buck Neil to assist with the pre- and post-trial paperwork. And to Karen Neil for providing delicious warm lunches and lasagna for Friday night’s supper, which was enjoyed by all.

We also want to thank Purina for its continued support of our bird dog events. All placements received bags of Purina Pro Plan dog food.

The weather was in the low 50s, with 25 mph winds and gusts of up to 35 mph, which did not inhibit the dogs from finding birds. The covey count on Friday was 35+; obviously, the RPQRR is doing something right.

Thirteen dogs competed in the championship. Southern Twist, a 2-and-a-half-year-old white and orange

pointer female, was named the winner. “Stormy” had two finds and a nice forward race. Runner-up was Texas Cool, a 5-year-old white and liver pointer male. “Bud” had eight finds in his hour, putting on quite the bird-finding display. Both dogs are owned and handled by Dr. Buck Neil.

Roby, Tex., February 16

Judges: Sean Anderson and Alex Jacocks  
**REGION 7 AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**[One-Hour Heats] – 13 Pointers**

Winner-SOUTHERN TWIST, 1701619, female, by Lester’s Storm Surge-Lester’s Mayfield Maid. Buck Neil, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-TEXAS COOL, 1690192, male, by Ransom-Good Times Girl. Buck Neil, owner and handler.

### **M. G. Perkins Amateur All-Age Derby Classic**

Six dogs competed in the M. G. Perkins Amateur All-Age Derby. First place went to Ain’t Easy Being Me, owned and handled by Dr. Buck Neil. Second was Texas Sunnyhill Hank, owned and handled by Mike Rogers. Cool Customer took third,



M. G. Perkins Amateur All-Age Derby Classic (front, l-r): Tyson Traw with Ain’t Easy Being Me, Mike Rogers with Texas Sunnyhill Hank, and Buck Neil with Cool Customer. (Behind): Jon Humphrey, Austin Bryant, Chip Martin, Alex Jacocks (judge), and Sean Anderson (judge).

also owned and handled by Dr. Buck Neil.

**M. G. PERKINS AMATEUR ALL-AGE  
DERBY CLASSIC – 6 Pointers**

*1st-AIN'T EASY BEING ME, unreg., male, by Texas Cool-Baby's On Speed Dial. Buck Neil, owner and handler.*  
*2d-TEXAS SUNNYHILL HANK, 1703116, male, by Lester's Sunny Hill Jo-Phantom's Firefly. Mike Rogers, owner and handler.*  
*3d-COOL CUSTOMER, unreg., male, by Texas Cool-Hey Suga Suga. Buck Neil, owner and handler.*

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[www.americanfield.com](http://www.americanfield.com) under the "Results" tab.

## WOLF RIVER FIELD TRIAL CLUB

### Amateur Trial

By Amy Snider | Blue Mountain, Mississippi | February 16, 2024

This year's running of the Wolf River amateur trial was held February 16-17 at Hell Creek Wildlife Management Area in Blue Mountain, Mississippi.

The weather this year was very favorable for the two days of entries. Amy and Bubba Spencer were the judges for the Shooting Dog stake and placed J Maple Jester first. She had one stylish find with a nice forward ground race hanging the edges for handler Joe Hughes. River City Jett, handled by Kent Walker, was second with one find and a nice ground race. Third was Lester's Top Recruit, handled by Lance Servais, with one find.

Scott Little and Bryce Cooper were the judges for the Derby and named Haney's Last Call first. He had a big, strong race for handler Chris Cagle. Armed, handled by

Matt Pendergest, was second with a nice smooth forward ground race. Third was River City Rebel, handled by Kent Walker, with a good biddable ground race.

Due to a lack of entries, the club did not host an All-Age stake this year.

Special thanks to Sportsman's Pride for their generous sponsorship.

**Blue Mountain, Miss., February 16 – One Course  
Judges: Amy Spencer and Bubba Spencer  
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]  
– 13 Pointers and 4 Setters**

*1st-J MAPLE JESTER, 1675700, pointer female, by J Maple Jake-Coldwater Queen Kate. Joe & Tessa Hughes, owners; Joe Hughes, handler.*  
*2d-RIVER CITY JETT, 1689676, pointer female, by Game On-River City Dancer. Kent Walker, owner and handler.*  
*3d-LESTER'S TOP RECRUIT, 1681841, pointer male, by Lester's Sunny Hill Jo-Rivertons Funseeker Riley. Lance Servais, owner and handler.*

**Judges: Bryce Cooper and Scott Little  
AMATEUR DERBY – 12 Pointers and 2 Setters**  
*1st-HANEY'S LAST CALL, 1702601, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle, owner and handler.*  
*2d-ARMED, 1706136, pointer male, by Imagine-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Jim Pendergest, owner and handler.*  
*3d-RIVER CITY REBEL, 1704138, pointer male, by River City Survivor-Reb's Rambling Rose. Kent Walker, owner and handler.*

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## NBHA FUTURITY & JERRY D. KILGORE PUPPY CLASSIC

*Western's Second Chance Wins Futurity; Pike's Autumn Peak Wins Kilgore Puppy Classic*

By Christian Ogle | Grovespring, Missouri | February 17, 2024

This year's Futurity and Jerry D. Kilgore Puppy Classic were held on the beautiful grounds of the Sportsman Association near Grovespring, Missouri. The weather was perfect for February.

Our Futurity numbers were down, and only 15 dogs were entered. This was expected with last year's Jerry Kilgore numbers down. On the other hand, the Jerry Kilgore Puppy Classic was one of the best I can remember; we had 27 dogs entered.

Our judges were Bob Burchett of Grovespring, Missouri, and Mike Poehler from Buffalo, Missouri. These two gentlemen rode two and a half days for us. They didn't have it easy picking through these dogs. They followed our standards

on these two classes to a T. I would like to thank them for stepping in and filling these spots because of issues with our original guys.

This year's help was above and beyond again. These Missouri guys are focused on their job and very good at it. We had breakfast every morning of biscuits, gravy, and eggs. Dogs were waiting on us at the starting line, and coffee and a snack were always within a holler. Lunch was always ready. Thank you, Kevin Western, Jack Glover, Joe Zimmer, Randy Zimmer, and Tim Penn. Terri and Company catered our handlers' dinner, paid for by last year's winner, Jack Glover, and the NBHA; Kristi Ogle delivered. Thank you again, Team Missouri.

Sponsors keep these trials going. Purina Pro Plan donated dog food we were able to auction off and gave all our winners food; Garmin gave our winners collars; Gun Dog Supply, Gundog Central, and Mule Brand Clothing gave gift certificates; and OnX sent winners a yearly membership.

Last year's Futurity judges, Greg Gibson and Jim Corpening, donated the judges' coats. Please contact me if you are interested in sponsoring or donating to this trial.

Although we drew 15 dogs, we only had 12 starters. These dogs ran on Friday afternoon, and with only six 30-minute braces, they finished easily. We called six dogs back for the hour final, which would be run on Sunday.

This year's callback dogs were Western's Second Chance, Miller Creek's Wild Spirit, Indian Creek 9" Nails, Miller Creek's Misbehavin', Penrosa Forbidden Eve, and Snow's High Voltage.

This year's Futurity winner was Kevin Western's male setter Western's Second Chance. "Nash" had a nice forward race. He handled great and was very easy on the eyes. He had three spaced-out broke finds. This dog has a ton of style and class.

Placing second would be Indian Creek 9" Nails, owned by Garry Malzone and Jillian Stuhr and handled by Garry. This male setter also was super classy and very stylish. Jack had a nice forward race with two broke finds. He will be one to watch on the Malzone team in the future.

Third place went to a German Shorthaired female owned and handled by Matt Miller. Miller Creek's Misbehavin' had two broke finds and a back. This girl is energetic and fun to watch—great job on the ground and on her birds.

Grovespring, Mo., February 17

Judges: Bob Burchett and Mike Poehler

NBHA FUTURITY [Thirty-Minute Qualifying Heats; One-Hour Finals] – 12 Entries

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

2d-INDIAN CREEK 9" NAILS, 1703032, setter male, by Indian Creek Wingman-Erin's Deja Vu. Garry Malzone & Jillian Stuhr, owners; Garry Malzone, handler.

3d-MILLER CREEK'S MISBEHAVIN', 1706146, German Shorthair female, by Miller Creek's Wild Isth Wind-Miller Creek's On The Horizon. Matt Miller, owner and handler.

### **Jerry D. Kilgore Puppy Classic**

This year's Jerry Kilgore Puppy Classic had a super draw, with 24 of the 27 entered running. These puppies ran on Saturday



Futurity Winners joined by participants.

and were fun to watch. Per our by-laws, no birds are liberated for this class. The judges really had to work at this one, constantly splitting hairs to get our top four placed dogs. This year's top dog was Ralph Niemeyer's English setter male, Pike's Autumn Peak, handled by William Wright.

Second place was awarded to Bandit Hill Bess, a pointer female owned and handled by Klaus Schmidt. Third place went to Indian Creek Tom Boy, a pointer female owned by Timothy and Amy Cauley and handled by Garry Malzone. Fourth place went to Woodsway's Stingin' Rain, a setter male owned and handled by Erin Pearson.

In closing, I have to thank you all again for all the teamwork involved. It is tough putting on three trials together, so we need a great team, of which I have the best. Thank you to all the breeders and individual dog owners who nominated these litters. The success of this trial is obvious. This is the first year I was able to pay back 100% to the owners, handlers, and breeders. Maybe this will entice a few more litter nominations and entries. Also, for future reference, if your dog competes in our Futurity, it will be eligible for the bonus money if it wins the Breeders' Invitational Championship.

### **NBHA JERRY D. KILGORE PUPPY CLASSIC – 14 Pointers and 14 Setters**

1st-PIKE'S AUTUMN PEAK, 1706388, setter male, by LMD's Can't Touch This-Barado's First Lady. Ralph Niemeyer, owner; William Wright, handler.

2d-BANDIT HILL BESS, 1706165, pointer female, by Touch's Smooth Rider-West's Lucy. Klaus Schmidt, owner and handler.

3d-INDIAN CREEK TOM BOY, 1706075, pointer female, by Erin's Hollywood-Indian Creek Blackeyed Pea. Timoty & Amy Cauley, owners; Garry Malzone, handler.

4th-WOODSWAY'S STINGIN' RAIN, 1706022, setter male, by Woodsway's Dark Knight-Toccoa River Sugarfoot. Eryn Pearson, owner and handler.



Jerry D. Kilgore Puppy Classic Winners joined by participants.

## **FIELD TRIAL HALL OF FAME**

The major circuit stakes—all-age and shooting dog—have been completed, the current 2023-2024 field trial season winding down, signaling what might be termed the “summer phase” for the field trial community, in short, Field Trial Hall of Fame nominations and elections.

The Field Trial Hall of Fame is entering its 70th year, having been announced in 1953, with the first elections held in the summer of 1954. As is well known, there are two categories of honorees—*Dogs* and *Persons*.

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

For *Dogs*, the win record of a canine candidate should be impressive, not just the number of wins, but the significance of the wins. Performances by a deserving nominee should be such that they elevated the quality of a stake in which he or she competed. Likewise, emphasis is also placed on production—i.e., the number of winners produced and the quality of the wins these dogs earned. In some rare instances, a Dog may be elected to the Hall of Fame on the merits of one of these criteria alone, based on the overall excellence of a win record or as the sire or dam of an array of outstanding field trial performers.

Insofar as *Persons* to be considered for Hall of Fame honors, contributions

to the sport is paramount—club official, breeder, owner, handler, correspondent, patron of the sport, and usually a combination of these facets and over a goodly span of time.

In short, the question: Is the field trial pastime better for having this *Person* involved?

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

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

# UNITED STATES SHOOTING DOG INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

## *Absolute Dominator Named 2024 Champion*

By Joyce Taylor | Conway, Arkansas | February 19, 2024



United States Shooting Dog Invitational Championship (front, l-r): Upront's Southern Star with Shawn Kinkelaar (handler), Chelsea's Mae West with Lance Schulz, Wind Ridge Sugar Plum with Eddy Taylor (handler), Absolute Dominator with Doug Ray (handler), Lester's Another Shockwave with Jerry Moisson (co-owner), and Thunder's Wild Agin with Doug Swingley (owner). (Behind): Hale's High Flyer with Lydia Hale, Silver W Jill Z with Dr. Debbie Ozner (owner), Erin's Three Leaf Shamrock with Tracy Swearingen (handler), Game Sport with Harold Gearhart (handler), Touch's Big Whiskey with Chuck Stretz (handler and co-owner), and Thunder Bolt's Storm with Tom Jackson (owner).

The 36th proud annual running of the United States Shooting Dog Invitational Championship was held February 19-21 at the Camp Robinson Wildlife Management Area near Conway, Arkansas. This premier event was established to honor the top 12 shooting dogs in the nation, perhaps in the world, and pit them against each other in a three-day competitive format. Each dog runs for 60 minutes on the first two days of the Invitational, and then finalists, chosen at the discretion of the judges, come back for a rigorous third-day 90-minute stand-off. This is a true endurance trial, the absolute proven best-against-the-best, determined by the Purina Top Shooting Dog Awards points system from the previous season. All luck is removed when contestants compete three days in a row, are drawn out in the afternoon if in the morning the day before, on a different course, and with a different bracemate each time at the line. It's the trial to qualify for and certainly to win!

After years of running the trial, founder John Seawright, then of Little Rock, Arkansas, handed the leadership reins over to Robby Robinson of Dardanelle, Arkansas. Robinson later moved trial management to Joyce and Johnny Taylor of Little Rock. The Taylors, along with important help from local Arkansas field trialers' and friends' essential support and assistance, have run the Invitational Championship for 28 years. This ultimate championship test and generous sponsor and benefactor support make the Invitational Championship a true inspirational win!

### **The 2024 Winner**

Earning the coveted 2024 Invitational Championship title this year went to Absolute Dominator, handled by Doug Ray of Waynesboro, Georgia, scouted by Kayleigh Ann Lee of Greensboro, Alabama, and owned by Johnny and Joyce Taylor. Though the Taylors have hosted the Invitational Championship for the last 28 years, this is their first time having a dog qualified to compete. Joyce and Johnny have run in amateur stakes for years, qualifying for the Amateur Shooting Dog Invitational Championship twice. But they have wisely handed training and handling duties over to Doug Ray in recent years.

Doug found "Rex" for Johnny as a started youngster and cut a deal for Rex and littermate Hard Truth, "Sy," for Dr. Bob Canada with owner and breeder Jamie Daniels. Doug recognized the potential of the young, started dogs, and made the magic work with many payoffs for his owners. He has been responsible for Rex's training since that early age, taking his dogs north each summer for essential training, plus the invaluable education of his and his father's Smith Plantation in Waynesboro, Georgia. Rex has additionally benefited greatly from advanced instruction from Doug's legendary Hall-of-Famer father, Harold Ray. He had all the makings of a winner, and Johnny and Doug could see the progress Rex was exhibiting as he moved through his derby season and set a goal of winning the celebrated Shooting Dog Derby Futurity. Low-and-behold, that goal was achieved, and with that accomplishment came the Purina Top Shooting Dog Derby Award, earning the

bucket-list realization of Green Jacket ownership for Johnny, Joyce, and Doug.

Rex's Invitational performance was exactly what the judges were looking for—a big, powerful three-day, consistent forward race acknowledging the handler's direction, impeccable covey location, and faultless style and manners. Rex and Doug delivered it all, with one covey each of his three days.

### **The VIPs – Judges, Owners, Sponsors**

The judges for the Invitational Championship were well-known field trial individuals Jim Mills, DVM, accompanied by wife Marion of Searcy, Arkansas, and professional all-age trainer Matt Cochran of Rayden, Oklahoma. Both were making return visits to the Invitational, Mills from the 2017 judicial saddle and Cochran from 2023, when he competed with his own qualified contestant. We were most grateful for their kind and able willingness to arbitrate the 2024 Championship.

The Invitational begins the Friday night before the running with a welcoming reception and dinner, followed by a program of introductions of handlers and owners, and each of the dogs' wins warranting their invitation to compete, a Calcutta, and the trial drawing for order of running.

We are always honored and delighted to have owners present for the trial. And what better trial to attend than when you have a top performing dog invited, only two and a half days in length, and you get to see your dog compete two and maybe three consecutive days. We likely wouldn't have field trials, or not as we know them, if we did not have owners who campaign and support the sport of field trialing. To all the wonderful and generous owners who have the passion and appreciation of the well-trained, thrilling, hard-driving bird dog and are willing to help support the handlers and their string of dogs to keep this exciting sport possible, we salute you! Owners traveling to be with us this year were Lance Schultz, with wife Marcie of Bismarck, North Dakota; Dr. Tom Jackson of Columbus, with friend Tiffany and son Gavin; Jerry Moisson and wife Kristen of Milton, Wisconsin; Joyce and Johnny Taylor; Todd Mann and fiancé Fran, of Minnesota; and Doug Swingley and friend Nicole of Montana. Also attending were Dr. Jeffery and Melanie Hale and

his beautiful daughters, Lydia and Diana of Russellville, Arkansas; Dr. Debbie Ozner and George Hickox of Ochlocknee, Georgia; and Bart Hicklin of Grimes, Illinois, with Luke Topp and son Zeke.

As with owners, sponsors are crucial for field trialing to endure and certainly at a standard the top shooting dogs, owners, and handlers in the nation deserve. Kind and generous sponsors make the Invitational Championship what it is. Purina is a generous event sponsor and event hat sponsor. They sponsor the beautiful and treasured Ross B. Young painting that goes to the winning owner and provide dog food to the winning handler. Additionally, Purina provides each handler with one bag per entry of Purina Dog Food and one bag per entry of Purina Healthy Edge Horse Feed. Garmin provides an Advanced Training System with Tracking to the handler; Tri-Tronics also provides a Pro Combo Electronic Training Collar. A beautiful commemorative Montana Silversmiths belt buckle is sponsored by Dr. Debbie Ozner and George Hickox and goes to the winning owner. Leather Brothers provide trophy leather collars with nametags for each entry to the handlers and multiple prizes that are distributed throughout the evening programs. Circle Y also generously provides prizes for handlers and owners, as does Collar Clinic and Jack Haggis Saddlery. World Class Bird Dogs generously sponsors the bar all three evenings. Melanie and Dr. Jeff Hale sponsored the Friday evening dinner. Carol and Witt Stephens sponsored the Saturday evening meal, and Sunday night's steak dinner was kindly sponsored by Marcie and Lance Schulz, owners of the 2023 champion, Upfront's Southern Star.

The \$8,000 purse is made possible by Invitational benefactors Lee Cruise, Charlie and Linda Jackson, Randy and Lynn Potter, Ron Prewitt, Jack, Audrey and Brian Sanchez, and Johnny and Joyce Taylor. Our most sincere gratitude goes out to each of the Invitational sponsors.

### **The 2024 Participants**

#### **• Upfront's Southern Star**

*Returning champion*

("Roo" / W & lv / PF)

Lance Schulz, Owner

Shawn Kinkelaar, Handler

#### **• Chelsea's Mae West**

("Mae" / W & o / PF)

Ron Prewitt, Owner

Shawn Kinkelaar, Handler

#### **• Wind Ridge Sugar Plum**

("Sugar" / W & o / PF)

Eugene J. Spiotta, Owner

Eddy Taylor, Handler

(accompanied by grandson Eli Taylor)

#### **• Absolute Dominator**

("Rex" / W & o / PM)

Johnny & Joyce Taylor, Owner

Doug Ray, Handler

#### **• Lester's Another Shockwave**

("Luke" / W & o / PM)

Dr. Tom Jackson, Jerry Moisson,

Lance Schulz, Bjorn Peterson,

and Todd Mann, Owners

Shawn Kinkelaar, Handler

#### **• Thunder's Wild Agin**

("Boots" / W & l / PF)

Owner: Doug Swingley, Owner

Shawn Kinkelaar, Handler

#### **• Hale's High Flyer**

("Betty" / W & l / PF)

Dr. Jeffery Hale, Owner

Eddy Taylor, Handler

#### **• Silver W Jill Z**

("Jill" / W & o / PF)

Dr. Debbie Ozner, Owner

Shawn Kinkelaar, Handler

#### **• Game Sport**

("Dan" / W & o / PM)

Bart Hicklin, Owner

Harold Gearhart, Handler

#### **• Erin's Three Leaf Shamrock**

("Jake" / W, b & t / SM)

Tucker Johnson, Owner

Tracy Swearingen, Handler

#### **• Touch's Big Whiskey**

("Big" / W & o / PM)

Chuck Stretz, Handler

Dr. Richard Steckley

& Chuck Stretz, Owners

#### **• Thunder Bolt's Storm**

("Storm" / W & o / PM)

Shawn Kinkelaar, Handler

Dr. Tom Jackson, Owner

### **The Championship Running**

#### ***Day One, Saturday Morning***

After the customary group photo of dogs, handlers, owners, and judges, we rode for the Saturday morning breakaway on a beautiful, cool field trial day! The sun was glorious, and the temperature was a nice 31 degrees. A cold front had blown in the night before with high concerning winds and upgraded temperatures from warm to perfect bird dog weather. So, a bundled-up, jovial, 27-rider gallery gathered at the line for the first day with all handlers and several owners present. Hoodies were pulled tight over heads and ears, and caps were pulled low to shield the sunshine. The brisk cold burned away to the mid-30s as we rode into the morning. The first brace was turned loose. Erin's Three Leaf Shamrock (T. Swearingen), the only setter of the 12 dogs, and Upfront's Southern Star (S. Kinkelaar) put on a thrilling race with three covey finds.

Southern Star had a UP at 6, then her first find at 12 before the steel covert crossing in the big field on the right. She had her second good find at 15, just past the covert crossing in the field to the left. She put down a good race and was gone the last 10 minutes. Shamrock pointed at 23 in the big horseshoe before the mountain crossing with birds being ridden up by scout, 75 yards out. He checked back with his handler some throughout his race and exhibited great manners on his find.

Absolute Dominator (D. Ray) had one find at 36 past Dead Horse Curve in the swampy woods on the left with perfect manners. The dog had no problem on the soft ground, but Judge Mills's horse went to his knees, struggling to return to the gallery path. No casualty there, but our field marshal's horse bogged down so that he threw Jim Martin into the mud as the horse fought to free himself. No one was hurt, just good and muddy and perhaps a small bit humbled. Dominator finished strong to the front hunting. Thunder Bolt's Storm (S. Kinkelaar) gave a good effort but could not show the judges no birds. He had a short absence just before Dead Horse Curve but caught the front as Dominator was released from his find. He, too, finished to the front.

Lester's Another Shockwave (S. Kinkelaar) put on a strong ground race, but he, too, could not show birds. Hale's High Flyer (E. Taylor) went to work, also with a nice race and nice finds at 3 and 58.

#### ***Saturday Afternoon***

Thunder's Wild Agin (S. Kinkelaar) had a decent race with no birdwork, slowing a tad toward the end of his hour. Wind Ridge Sugar Plum (E. Taylor) was a little too much dog today and was out and away for about 30 minutes. She did reward with a find at 58, perhaps a stop to flush on relocation.

Chelsea's Mae West (S. Kinkelaar) had a good race, but without a bird under every bush on the Camp Robinson grounds, and far less, no birds were located. Touch's Big Whiskey (C. Stretz) had a UP at 50, diverted toward the clubhouse, and then finished driving forward hunting.

Silver W Jill Z (S. Kinkelaar) had a good, strong race. No birds. Game Sport (H. Gearhart) had a nice find at 10. Judge Mills kidded Gearhart after that it was the world's longest two-acre flush. But as the handler was coming back to Sport, almost bending to his dog, birds boiled out. Sport stood with regal manners throughout. Later, at 25, Sport carded himself a UP.

#### ***Day Two, Sunday Morning***

The second day of the running was again

cold, this time with no wind. We delayed the start for 15 minutes to allow a frost to burn off. Maybe the lack of any breeze was to blame, as Chelsea's Mae West (S. Kinkelaar) had a wreck on a bird at 28, and she was picked up. Touch's Big Whiskey (C. Stretz) had a nice find at 30 and put down a nice race.

Thunder's Wild Agin (S. Kinkelaar) didn't have it right this morning and suffered two UPs. Game Sport (H. Gearhart) locked into a pointing stance at 26. An extended flush resulted in no birds. Sport was released for a relocation attempt, but a bird was put in the air. He stopped abruptly and mannerly, but the handler picked up.

Wind Ridge Sugar Plum (E. Taylor) spent time lost some, was sighted twice, but not again. Silver W Jill Z (S. Kinkelaar) was also gone a bit and a little erratic. No birds.

**Sunday Afternoon**

Thunder Bolt's Storm (S. Kinkelaar) took up a proper pointing stance at 17, just before the covert ditch. Birds left Storm before the handler and gallery could arrive, but the dog stood firm for a good find. Hale's High Flyer (E. Taylor) had a nice race to the front the whole time. She had no birds under judgment, but moments after her hour ended, she had a nice find for all to see. But as judging ceased at the end of 60 minutes, the judges could not count the find.

Erin's Three Leaf Shamrock (T. Swearingen) ran shorter today. He had a UP, looking like a million dollars on his stance. Lester's Another Shockwave (S. Kinkelaar) backed mannerly on Shamrock's UP. He was a bit erratic in his race, hunting the edge and lake and not regaining the front in time as his hour ended.

Upfront's Southern Star (S. Kinkelaar)



United States Shooting Dog Invitational Champion: Dr. Jim Mills (judge), Matt Cochran (judge), Absolute Dominator with Doug Ray (handler), Kayleigh Ann Lee (scout), and Joyce and Johnny Taylor (owners).

and Absolute Dominator (D. Ray) had a divided find at 50 and excellent races.

**The 90-Minuted Finals (Monday)**

Sunday evening, after the always highly anticipated steak dinner, sponsored by last year's champion, Upfront's Southern Star, and owners Lance and Marcie Schulz, the judges announced who they wanted to see back in the 90-minute finals at the 9 a.m. start time: Absolute Dominator, Thunder Bolt's Storm, Hale's High Flyer, and Upfront's Southern Star.

Absolute Dominator (D. Ray) and Thunder Bolt's Storm (S. Kinkelaar) had strong races for their endurance finals run. Dominator had a good find at 87 minutes, again with impeccable manners. Bolt suffered a UP.

Hale's High Flyer (E. Taylor) and Upfront's Southern Star (S. Kinkelaar) had strong races throughout their 90-minute run, but no birds could be produced.

Absolute Dominator was named the 2024 Invitational Championship winner to the delight of owners Johnny and Joyce Taylor, handler Doug Ray, and scout Kayleigh Ann Lee!

**Special Notes**

A record was broken this year as to

the most dogs qualified and handled in the Invitational by one of the professional handlers. Shawn Kinkelaar, a many-time winner of the Invitational, had six dogs entered in the trial. He ran in every brace of the trial, including the finals. Congratulations, Shawn; that speaks highly of you and your ability.

Erin's Thunder Backus was entered and promoted as a contestant but had to be scratched.

Again, thank you to the owners of all the Invitational dogs and to all owners who promote and support dogs on the open circuit. You keep our sport going and all our beloved pros on the road honing the most advanced bird dog skills possible. To you, we thank you!

And, thanks to all who helped with the trial. Melanie Hale was invaluable in helping provide the best possible dining experience for all attendees, lunch and dinner. We could not have done it without her. Tina Taylor and Noah Grady were master helpers, setting up the bar each night and assisting in every possible hospitable manner. This goes for Suzanne Hicks, too, for pitching in on Sunday evening. Jim Martin, Steve Messick, Robby Robinson, and John Van Horn served as field marshals. Roger Martin is our expert dog wagon driver. The Invitational is fortunate to have the help of so many during the trial, and it is certainly the important benefit of all the tireless local field trialers who work so hard to fund and put in the hours to maintain the bird program. Thank you to all who care enough to make a difference.

Conway, Ark., February 19  
 Judges: Matt Cochran and Dr. Jim Mills  
**UNITED STATES SHOOTING DOG INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats on Consecutive days; Ninety-Minute Finals] – 12 Pointers**  
 Winner-ABSOLUTE DOMINATOR, 1686566, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Pearl Again. Johnny & Joyce Taylor, owners; Doug Ray, handler.

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## SOUTHEASTERN OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

*Bittersweet War Cry Named Champion; Panther Creek Rosie, Runner-Up*

By Joel Norman | Lake City, Florida | February 22, 2024

The 2024 Southeastern Open Shooting Dog Championship is in the books. This was the second renewal of the championship since being relocated to Mr. Chester Stokes's farm near Lake City, Florida. The trial drew 51 entries. The weather was good, and birds were plentiful. A special thanks goes to Mr. Stokes and his crew at The Farm. Mr. Stokes appreciates a good bird dog as he is an avid hunter and allows his team to compete locally. The field trial fraternity is very fortunate that Mr. Stokes would make this fabulous property available for us to enjoy. Leroy Griffis is the manager/dog trainer here and keeps things running smoothly. Leroy and Dakota (Doc) Hall shared marshaling duties, and Rylan (Stick) King handled the dog wagon. Everybody ate well, as my better half, Tina, prepared and served the lunches.

Judges this year were Keith St. John of South Fulton, Tennessee, and myself (Joel Norman). The other advertised judge, Chris Sellers, had to bow out due to a shoulder injury. It was a pleasure to judge with Mr. St. John, for he has been around this game for a long time and has had plenty



Southeastern Open Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Joel Norman (judge), Leroy Griffis, Dakota Hall, Keith St. John (judge), Mr. Chester Stokes, and Mike Tracy (handler) with Bittersweet War Cry.

of experience. The winners were mutually agreed upon.

### *The Winners and others*

The 2024 Champion emerged in the 11th

brace on Friday afternoon. Bittersweet War Cry, owned by Joe Lordi and Ralph Gillota and handled by Mike Tracy, won the stake with stylish finds at 2, 19, 10, and 24. The black and white pointer displayed excellent manners around game and had a good forward race, hustling every step.

Panther Creek Rosie, owned by Frank Rutland and handled by Tommy Rice III, garnered runner-up. Rosie ran on the first afternoon, and she, too, had well-mannered finds at 30, 34, 40, and 45. She ran a good forward race. Two other notables, Waybetter Rebel (Tracy) and Nonami's Johnny Come Lately (Pearce), also had commendable performances and challenged the winners.

Lake City, Fla., February 22

Judges: Joel Norman and Keith St. John  
SOUTHEASTERN OPEN SHOOTING DOG  
CHAMPIONSHIP (One-Hour Heats)

– 33 Pointers and 7 Setters

Winner-BITTERSWEET WAR CRY, 1674743, pointer male, by Sugarknoll War Paint-Mohawk. Joe Lordi & Ralph Gillota, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

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

## ILLINOIS OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

*Lawless Georgie Girl Named Champion; Creative Lady Wins Max Eldred Memorial Derby*

By Jeff Wagoner | Chandlerville, Illinois | February 26, 2024

The Illinois Open Shooting Dog Championship finished on Wednesday, February 28. Thank you, judges Jim Corpening and Steve Auxier, for looking at dogs in Florida temperatures one day and Alaska the next. I want to thank Purina for all their support and for working with AFTCA to provide a program that supplies judges with gifts and awards for the owners. Plus, as always, dog food.

SportDOG is a big supporter, providing gifts to handlers. Thank you, Greg Blair and Terry Trzcinski (Terry drove the dog wagon), for helping me work out details with Purina. Thank you, Pat Sheehan, for bird planting, and Mark Johnson, for filling in for my absent chairman and offering help with other tasks; Steve Fuess drove the dog wagon on Monday.

This year's champion was Jim Lawless with Lawless Georgie Girl, a pointer female. Runner-up was Adam DeLude with



Illinois Open Shooting Dog Winner (front): Mark Johnson (scout) with Lawless Georgie Girl. (Behind, l-r): Jim Corpening (judge), Steve Auxier (judge), Jim Lawless (owner), and Terry Trzcinski (Purina rep).

Alliwood's Never Say Never, a pointer female. Mark Johnson scouted both of these dogs.

Lawless Georgie Girl ran in the ninth brace and was braced with Dominator's Mae Belle and handler Hadley. The temperatures were warm, with 78 degrees at breakaway. Both dogs punched strong forward. Mae Belle had an early breach of manners and left the brace all to Georgie.

Georgie had five finds, all to the front. Her style was high and tight on all five finds. She was reaching and running stronger as the hour went on, and the heat did not seem to affect her performance. On her last find, the judges called time, and the scout found her on point to end the hour perfectly.

The runner-up ran in the second brace against Touch's Leducky (Stretz). Alliwood's Never Say Never had four



Illinois Open Shooting Dog Runner-up: Mark Johnson (scout) with Alliwood's Never Say Never and Adam DeLude (owner).

high and tight finds. She was pleasing on the ground, and points all had no letdown through the whole flushing attempt and shot. She made nice moves forward and might have been a bit short at times. She had a slight absence, with the handler riding off to get her.

First place in the Open Derby brace was Creative Lady (PF/Stretz); second was

High Enchantress (PF/Hadley); and third was Nemaha Lima Bean (PM/McInteer).

**Chandlerville, Ill., February 26**  
**Judges: Steve Auxier and Jim Corpening**  
**ILLINOIS OPEN SHOOTING DOG**

**CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 25 Pointers**  
*Winner-LAWLESS GEORGIE GIRL, 1676697, female, by Oak Grove Pacemaker-Homestead Georgia. Jim Lawless, owner and handler.*  
*Runner-Up-ALLIWOOD'S NEVER SAY NEVER, 1695564, female, by Touch's Grey Street-Alliwood's Shady Shay. Adam DeLude, owner and handler.*

**MAX ELDRED MEMORIAL OPEN DERBY**  
**– 6 Pointers**

*1st-CREATIVE LADY, 1701680, female, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Buche's Elhew Rebel. Bob & Catherine Reynolds, owners; Chuck Stretz, handler.*  
*2d-HIGH ENCHANTRESS, 1700180, female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Lester's Snow White. Matt Griffith, Ron Stearns & Newley Hutchison, owners; Scott Hadley, handler.*  
*3d-NEMAHA LIMA BEAN, 1700804, male, by Touch's Grey Street-Jackson's Teardrop. Dr. Pat McInteer, owner and handler.*



Max Eldred Open Derby (front, l-r): Creative Lady with Harold Gearhart (scout), High Enchantress with Scott Hadley (handler), and Nemaha Lima Bean with Dr. Pat McInteer (owner/handler). (Behind): Steve Auxier (judge), Chuck Stretz, Mark Johnson, Jeff Wagoner, and Jim Corpening (judge).

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## NATIONAL AMATEUR QUAIL & DERBY CHAMPIONSHIPS

*Imagine Named Amateur Quail Champion; Coldwater Crackerjack, Amateur Derby Champion*  
**By Piper Huffman | Greenville, Florida | February 26, 2024**



National Amateur Quail Championship (front, l-r): Matt Pendergest with Imagine and Woody Watson with Rester's Cajun Justice. (Behind): Dr. Fred Corder, Til Hankley, Maria Bassham, Piper Huffman, Gary McKibben, Kent Cantrell, Jim Pendergest, Julie Kimbrell, George Kimbrell, David Williams, Megan Henry, Buck Neil, Cecil Rester, Paul Daniel, Mike Lemons, Holly Rester, John McCormick, Ben Melvin, Shannon Nygard, and Randy Floyd.

The National Amateur Quail Championship was held on February 26, at the beautiful Livingston Place, also known as Dixie Plantation, in Greenville, Florida.

Imagine, owned and handled by Jim Pendergest, set the bar early, putting on a performance that kept you high in the saddle for the entire 90-minute brace. He impressed with plenty of reach, style, and purpose to be named champion. He scored on four high-styled finds, displaying perfect manners at 5, 53, 1.10,

and 1.32. This was a true all-age champion performance.

Rester's Cajun Justice, owned and handled by Cecil Rester, was named runner-up for a solid performance that was impressive to watch. He also showed true all-age abilities, moving with ease and class and plenty of strength the whole 90 minutes. He chalked up four handsome, high-styled finds throughout the brace with impeccable manners. A perfect stop to flush was displayed as well.

**Greenville, Fla., February 26**  
**Judges: George Kimbrell and Buck Neil**  
**NATIONAL AMATEUR QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**[Ninety-Minute Heats] – 31 Pointers**  
*Winner-IMAGINE, 1693699, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Dialed In. Jim Pendergest, owner and handler.*  
*Runner-Up-RESTER'S CAJUN JUSTICE, 1691667, pointer male, by Whipoorwill Justified-Rester's Katie Lee. Cecil Rester, owner and handler.*

**National Amateur Derby Championship**

The National Amateur Derby Championship immediately followed, with Coldwater Crackerjack earning the championship title for owner and handler Gary McKibben. He put down a strong performance complemented by two nicely styled finds showing excellent manners for wing and shot.

Game Nation was named runner-up for owner and handler Dr. Fred Corder. He put on a solid performance in his bid, with four well-executed pieces of birdwork and a handsome high style.

**Judges: Mike Moses and Woody Watson**  
**NATIONAL AMATEUR DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**[One-Hour Heats] – 14 Pointers**  
*Winner-COLDWATER CRACKERJACK, 1702009, pointer male, by Coldwater Odyssey-Coldwater Fancy Like. Gary McKibben, owner and handler.*  
*Runner-Up-GAME NATION, 1704928, pointer female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Belle. Dr. Fred Corder, owner and handler.*

A big thank you to the four well-known dog gentlemen who rode

the judicial saddles throughout the Quail Championship and Derby Championship. Dr. Buck Neil made the long drive from Fort Worth, Texas, and George Kimbrell from Fort Mill, South Carolina, to judge the Quail participants. Mike Moses of Florida and Woody Watson of Georgia judged the Derby participants. Their time and effort were appreciated, and these events could not have happened without them.

Til Hankley took charge of the dog wagon, helped me with all aspects of the event, and finished the Derby stake for me. All of your help is much appreciated.

The AFTCA appreciates the support and sponsorship of Purina and Garmin. Again, we could not have held these two prestigious events without them. All the winners received Purina dog food and



National Amateur Derby Championship (front, l-r): Bill Mason with Game Nation, Jennifer McKee, Rita Corder, and Maria Bassham. (Behind): Mike Moses, Randy Floyd, Til Hankley, Woody Watson, Ben Melvin, Dr. Fred Corder, Kent Cantrell, Paul Daniel, and John McCormick.

Garmin collars. The AFTCA also provided Bruce Fox plaques to the winners.

A big shout out to Jason Hough of Red Hill Catering, who does an amazing job with any food he prepares. On Thursday

evening, a Purina dinner was held, and Jason put on an awesome catfish dinner.

Thank you to John McCormick and Ben Melvin of Livingston Place for marshaling all week, along with AFTCA 2nd Vice President and Region 16 trustee Larron Copeland. He also marshaled all week and helped make sure the event was successful.

Randy Floyd of Livingston Place oversees the event, and his presence was much appreciated.

I want to personally thank Gloria Hagan, who was born on Dixie Plantation and still lives there today, for all her help with lunches, the Purina dinner, and the appetizers that were held throughout the week.

Thank you to every participant, and look forward to next year's events.

## OIL CAPITAL FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

### *Preston Trimble Region 8 Open All-Age & Cecil Proctor Open All-Age Classic*

By Mike Griffin | Inola, Oklahoma | February 26, 2024

We drew 25 for the Open All-Age and 10 for the Open Derby, fair numbers, and had good weather for all of it. There was lots of birdwork; just about every dog was seen on birds. We had a good time throughout. I want to thank Chris Leeson for coming up and planting the birds; he did a great job throughout. And thanks to all who helped in this trial.

The winners were chosen based on their performance. We saw some very good runs, and overall, I think it was a good trial.

#### **Region 8 Preston Trimble Open All-Age**

The Open All-Age winner, Westfall's Power Trip (Daugherty), ran a very good all-age race coupled with two nice finds and a good rapport with his handler. Westfall's Mandalay (Daugherty) took second place. He also ran a good all-age race, handling very nicely with a couple of good finds, all in order. World Class Instigator (Cochran) took third and did a very good job on the ground, with a very good find, all in order, and finishing to the front.

Inola, Okla., February 26

Judges: Bruce Ludwig and Jim Michaletz

**REGION 8 PRESTON TRIMBLE OPEN ALL-AGE**  
[One-Hour Heats] – 22 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-WESTFALL'S POWER TRIP, 1693198, pointer male, by Westfall's Black Ice-Westfall's Cutter. Ryan Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

2d-WESTFALL'S MANDALAY, 1682881, pointer male, by Strut Nation-Erin's Amazing Grace. Bill Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

3d-WORLD CLASS INSTIGATOR, 1702345, pointer male,



Region 8 Open All-Age (l-r): Bill Westfall, Ryan Westfall with Westfall's Power Trip, Kevin Dixon, Andy Daugherty, Garvin Collins with Westfall's Mandalay, and Allen Vincent with World Class Instigator, joined by two participants.

by Miller's Speed Dial-Grand River Mayday. Michael Marietta, owner; Matt Cochran, handler.

#### **Open Derby**

In the Open Derby, first place was awarded to Wynona's Rebel (Vincent), with a very nice run and a good all-age derby race. A nice-looking pointer that handles good and appears to be a good prospect. Second place was Full Ride (Anderson), a very good-looking pointer male with a very nice race. It looks like he is going far. Watch for him next year. Third place was Shaws Money Mabel (Cochran), a nice little setter with a very good, consistent race. She looks good going and

handles great; another one to watch.

#### **OPEN DERBY – 10 Entries**

1st-WYNONA'S REBEL, unreg., pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-White Smoke's Angel. Bruce Sooter & Dennis Beauford, owners; Allen Vincent, handler.

2d-FULL RIDE, 1702143, pointer male, by Dixon's Rolling Stone-Dixon's Girl Got Rhythm. Kevin Dixon, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.

3d-SHAW'S MONEY MABEL, 1701750, setter female, by Shamrock's Hidden Cash-Shamrock's Hidden Bristol. Gary Shaw, owner; Matt Cochran, handler.

#### **Cecil Proctor Open All-Age**

The Cecil Proctor Open All-Age started on the heels of Region 8. We drew the same dogs. The weather cooled off some



Region 8 Open Derby (l-r): Donnie Jeffrey, Allen Vincent with Wynona's Rebel, Jay McKenzie, Kevin Dixon, Bridget Ledington with Full Ride, Randy Anderson, Matt Cochran with Shaws Money Mabel, and Dennis Sneed (judge).



Lee West Open Derby (l-r): Garvin Collins, Ryan Westfall, Andy Daugherty, Allen Vincent with Blackhawk Lucky Charm, Kevin Dixon, Bridget Ledington with Full Ride, Jim Michaeletz (judge), Matt Cochran with Shaws Money, and Bob Barker.



Cecil Proctor Open All-Age Classic (l-r): Dennis Sneed, Bridget Ledington with I'm Gallant, Kevin Dixon, Jay McKenzie, Randy Anderson with Bonner's Bulletproof, Allen Vincent, Matt Cochran with Blackhawk Lucky Charm, Mick Marietta, Barry Moore, and Donnie Jeffrey.

but was still good for running dogs. Once again, we had lots of birdwork, good races, and a good trial. I wish to thank all those who helped.

First place went to I'm Gallant (Vincent). He ran a nice all-age race with a couple of beautiful finds, handled to the front, and had a very nice run. In second was Bonner's Bulletproof (Anderson). He ran a good race, staying to the front with a good rapport with his handler, and had a very nice find. Third place was Blackhawk's Lucky Charm (Vincent), a very nice young pointer female with a bright future. She ran a good all-age race and had a great rapport with her handler. She looked good on point and had a very

nice find.

**Judges: Donnie Jeffrey and Dennis Sneed  
CECIL PROCTOR OPEN ALL-AGE CLASSIC  
[One-Hour Heats] – 22 Pointers and 3 Setters**

*1st-I'M GALLANT, 1696254, pointer male, by Valiant-Double Swami Dixie. Jay McKenzie, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.*

*2d-BONNER'S BULLETPROOF, 1683585, pointer male, by Miller's Speed Dial-Miller's Martha White. Chris Cornman, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.*

*3d-BLACKHAWK LUCKY CHARM, 1703965, pointer female, by Blackhawk Jet-Hard Rock Archer City. Dr. Jim Mills, Natalie McDonald & Steve Lightle, owners; Allen Vincent, handler.*

**Lee West Open Derby**

First in the Lee West Open Derby was Blackhawk Lucky Charm (Vincent). She did a great job as a derby and had a good

all-age race with nice birdwork. Second was Full Ride (Anderson), a very nice derby that runs with great style and poise. He had a nice find and great style. This dog will be one to look for. Third was Shaws Money Mabel (Cochran). This little setter had very consistent runs and looks good all the time.

**LEE WEST OPEN DERBY – 7 Pointers and 3 Setters**

*1st-BLACKHAWK LUCKY CHARM, 1703965, pointer female, by Blackhawk Jet-Hard Rock Archer City. Dr. Jim Mills, Natalie McDonald & Steve Lightle, owners; Allen Vincent, handler.*

*2d-FULL RIDE, 1702143, pointer male, by Dixon's Rolling Stone-Dixon's Girl Got Rhythm. Kevin Dixon, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.*

*3d-SHAW'S MONEY MABEL, 1701750, setter female, by Shamrock's Hidden Cash-Shamrock's Hidden Bristol. Gary Shaw, owner; Matt Cochran, handler.*

## SOUTHEASTERN QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP

*Miller's Blindsider Named Champion; Erin's Wild Atlantic Way, Runner-Up*

**By Claudia McNamee | Sasser, Georgia | March 1, 2024**

The 34th edition of the Southeastern Quail Championship began on March 1 and concluded on March 2. After two full days of running, Miller's Blindsider, a 7-year-old pointer male owned by Nick Berrong from Maryville, Tennessee, and handled by Jamie Daniels, was named champion. Erin's Wild Atlantic Way took runner-up honors. The 5-year-old setter is owned by Sean Derrig and was handled by Luke Eisenhart. A total of 25 dogs vied for top honors. Although this number was less than in many previous years, there was no shortage of talent. In fact, it seems that with fewer contenders came a much more competitive field—with every dog a potential champion.

The task of judging this championship was in the capable hands of Mike Jackson of Battle Ground, Indiana, and Kirk Law of nearby Dawson, Georgia. Both are dog

men with broad experience in field trialing and bird hunting and were well qualified to judge the 2024 renewal. They were quite impressed with the field of talent competing for top honors.

This event was run on three continuous courses charted across three different properties—Chickasaw, Ecila, and Abigail Plantations. The combined grounds consist of open piney woods interspersed with scattered fallow fields with edges of ground cover. This year, more than ample rainfall had the numerous wet weather ponds full. Recent tornado activity significantly affected this area, and much cleanup is underway. But despite nature's wrath, the quail population remains strong, albeit a bit more elusive in the afternoons. Both days produced multiple and similar numbers of bird scores. Every dog that completed the hour had birdwork, and most had multiple finds. Weather conditions were similar

on both days—overcast with light rain at times. Temperatures ranged between the low 50s and mid-60s, with a one-hour fog delay on the second morning.

The Southeastern Field Trial Club wants to give heartfelt thanks to the three landowners who so generously allow the running of this trial on their beautiful lands: the Deal Family (Chickasaw), Frank Foley (Ecila), and Richard Burke (Abigail). Without their combined support, this event could not take place, and we are so very grateful. Also deserving of special thanks for their hard work and longtime commitment is the Chickasaw team: Dr. Ron Deal (event aficionado and director), Lamar Childers (entry/drawing oversight and marshaling), Wilson Napier (dog wagon and snacks), and Michael Jackson (barn duties and cooking lunches with his wife Alexa serving daily lunches). Others who assisted with marshaling duties were

Willis Wright (Abigail) and Tom Shenker, who jumped in when needed as well. And, of course, a big thank you goes out to Greg Blair and Purina for all they continue to do for our field trial sport.

### **The Winners and Honorable Mentions**

Miller's Blindsider, a 7-year-old white and orange pointer male, was named champion. This well-known contender was handled by Jamie Daniels, scouted by Judd Carlton, and is owned by Nick Berrong of Maryville, Tennessee. Sam ran Saturday morning on Course 2 and had four finds evenly spaced in the latter 30 minutes of the hour. His race and hunting style were consistently bold and courageous, pushing the course limits and securing his place as top dog with his final and fourth find at pickup time.

Earning runner-up was Erin's Wild Atlantic Way, a 5-year-old white and black setter male. "Cap" was handled by Luke Eisenhart, scouted by Judd Carlton, and is owned by Sean Derrig of Chicago, Illinois. He also ran on Course 2 but on Friday morning, the first day of the trial, and hunted up four coveys in the latter part of the hour. He was always forward, effortlessly casting long and wide the entire hour and finishing with style.

In addition to the named winners, five other dogs had memorable performances worthy of mention. In order of brace running, these notables were: Touch's Shadow Rider (McLean), Rester's Johnny Ringo (Eisenhart), Woodville's Yukon Cornelius (McLean), Erin's High Note (Carlton), and Rester's Cajun Justice (Eisenhart).

### **The Championship Running**

A total of 25 dogs were entered, and 25 competed in this year's championship (23 pointers and two setters). Nine handlers participated, including Mark McLean (7 dogs), Cody McLean (1), Luke Eisenhart (8), Jamie Daniels (2), Judd Carlton (3), Tom Shenker (1), Lee Philips (1), Larron Copeland (1), and Cliff Flowers (1). Owners present included Mike Sweet from Sebring, Florida, for Erin's High Note; Gene Brown from Florida for Aucilla Jim; Cecil and Holly Rester from Louisiana for Rester's Johnny Ringo and Rester's Cajun Justice; Dr. Ron Deal from Sasser, Georgia, for Coal Train; and Steve Croy from Savannah, Georgia, for Haney's Easy Money and Haney's All In.

Weather conditions were actually ideal for running bird dogs, with cool temperatures in the 50s and low 60s and just a hint of rain. Saturday morning fog delayed our start in the morning, and the day continued with a foggy mist. But this



Southeastern Quail Championship (l-r): Lamar Childers, Judd Carlton, Dr. Dave Deal, Kirk Law (judge), Colt Copeland, Mike Jackson (judge), Willis Wright, Jamie Daniels with Miller's Blindsider, David Williams, Larron Copeland, Luke Eisenhart with Erin's Wild Atlantic Way, Melody Shenker, Claudia McNamee, Tom Shenker, Dr. Ron Deal, Cheyenne Jackson, and Remi Davis.

didn't seem to affect the morning's contest, as multiple, large coveys were hunted up by contenders on Course 2. The runner-up and champion both came out of morning braces on Course 2 on Friday and Saturday (Brace 2 and Brace 8), respectively.

In previous years, most winners have run on Courses 1 or 3. This year was different because, for the first time, both the champion and runner-up ran on Course 2. The second course is the only one this year that was run exclusively on one plantation—Ecila Plantation. Kudos to Frank Foley for the extensive cleanup on Ecila over the last few years, which has greatly improved both visibility and bird scores!

### **The Champion**

#### ***Miller's Blindsider (aka "Sam")***

A two-time runner-up champion here at the Southeastern, it was finally Sam's turn to be named champion. The second brace (Brace 8) on Saturday morning proved to be Sam's lucky strike! At 10:15 a.m., Miller's Blindsider for Jamie Daniels and Woodville's Yukon Cornelius for Mark McLean broke away with great spirit; they were both ready to make a bid for the title. Neither dog found birds in the first 15 minutes—Blindsider was hunting wide and had to catch the front a couple of times, and Yukon was moving somewhat laterally, but then, at about 20 minutes, their games started to change. Yukon dug up coveys at 18 and 23 minutes, and he then pushed boldly forward with that fancy setter-style and race he's known for. At about the 30-minute mark, Daniels gathered Blindsider up, and he, too, focused on the course's forward edge with his first find at 32 minutes. Daniels flushed a large covey as Sam stood proud

and intense, much to the gallery's delight! At 42 minutes, Daniels' hat was in the air again as he pointed out his charge. Before he could flush, birds were in the air, and with the judge's nod, he shot his gun, and Blindsider's second find was recorded. Three minutes later, at 45, Yukon, on a fierce mission, dug up his third find with McLean loaded and ready...and game on! Blindsider answered at 51 minutes with his third prize, followed by Yukon again at 54 minutes for his final find. Blindsider then finished forward and strong with his fourth and final find at pickup.

### **The Runner-up**

#### ***Erin's Wild Atlantic Way (aka "Cap")***

Friday's second morning brace (Brace 2) also delivered a decisive winner, with Erin's Wild Atlantic Way pulling out all the stops for handler Luke Eisenhart. Bracemate Aucilla Jim didn't fare as well with his handler, Cliff Flowers, asking for the tracker around the 26-minute mark. Cap is no stranger to the winners' circle, and when he makes a strong bid, few setters match his style and finesse in the field. In the first 15 minutes of the hour, Cap struck out far to the front, and then at 27 minutes, his handler spotted him standing with certainty that he'd pinned his game. Unfortunately, Eisenhart's thorough flushing and relocation of Cap didn't produce birds, and this marked an unproductive. As disappointing as this was, the gallery did see birds lift across the dirt field just beyond where Cap was standing, and one might think that these were Cap's birds that had moved across the way...just unlucky. But this team's luck would change over the course of the next 30 minutes! Cap then went on to have four beautiful covey finds at 33, 40, 48, and 58 minutes with a strong all-age

ground race to match. This contender and his handler moved effortlessly through the country with very little, if any, scouting necessary. Cap hunted with intent and ran with purpose, aiming to please his handler and all who looked on!

### **The Other Contenders**

At 8 a.m. on Friday morning, we cut loose the first brace of the Championship. Brace 1 paired Touch's Shadow Rider (McLean) and Rester's Johnny Ringo (Eisenhart). Both dogs broke away with determination and purpose, with Ringo securing the first find of the hour at 10 minutes. Rider then dug up a second covey at 16 minutes, with Ringo honoring him with a back. These two contenders knew there would be more game to find and sprang forth to continue forward on the course. Rider's hunting efforts were rewarded with another covey find at 20 minutes. Ringo continued to cover ground in true all-age fashion, hunting forward and far-reaching with his next success at 50 minutes. This would be the final birdwork of the hour. Both dogs finished strong and to the front—this was a fine way to start the championship!

Brace 2 has been described.

Brace 3 presented derby Nonami's Smokin Joe (C. McLean) and Erin's High Note (Carlton). Both dogs took off from the breakaway with equal enthusiasm, but their high energy and hunting prowess wouldn't be rewarded until 37 minutes with a divided find. Standing intensely and with style, these contenders waited for their handlers to shoot and then were released again. Joe's overall race could've been a bit stronger, but he's young, has great potential, and is still learning his way. At 43 minutes, High Note stood again patiently and stylishly while his handler flushed, but even with relocation, no birds lifted and an unproductive noted. But this certainly didn't deter him from continuing his mission and running a strong ground race. Another 10 minutes passed, and these bracemates were both found standing at 53 minutes but in two locations. High Note stood staunchly while his birds were put into flight by Carlton. Joe, however, was a bit excited and couldn't quite keep his composure as McLean flushed and his title bid ended early. High Note went on to finish the hour in strong fashion.

Brace 4 let loose after lunch at 1:30 p.m. Weather conditions remained cool, and light rain had moved in. Touch's Breakaway Fred (McLean) and Erin's Code of Honor (Eisenhart) came to the line full of promise, but the birds were elusive. Fred took the edge of the first pond looking like the pro that he is. At 14

minutes, both dogs were hunting around the pond to the left and met up in front of their handlers—exactly where they should be! At 28 minutes, McLean called point for Fred, and a single bird found deep in the cover was flushed high. This would be the only bird work of the hour. Code of Honor hadn't been seen since coming around the pond, and at around 30 minutes, Eisenhart asked for his tracker, believing we had left him standing somewhere, which, in fact, we had. Meanwhile, Fred hadn't been consistently up front at the 49-minute mark. At 54 minutes, he once again stood intensely for what we all hoped would be a covey, but even with a relocation, McLean wasn't able to flush out birds, and an unproductive was recorded. McLean opted to pick Fred up before the hour was complete.

Brace 5 matched Touch's Malcolm Story (McLean) and last year's champion, Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton). With high expectations, these two veteran competitors sprang forth to meet the challenge. At 7 minutes, scout Eisenhart called point for Heat Advisory far to the front. As Carlton approached his charge, birds lifted, but the judge didn't see the birds; hence, no find was recorded, and Carlton moved him on. Malcolm Story, around the 14-minute mark, wasn't consistently forward on the course and then wasn't seen again. At 30 minutes, McLean asked for his tracker. Meanwhile, Carlton raised his hat at 15 minutes while Heat Advisory stood tall and proud, but alas, it was a rabbit and not the intended quail. At 24 minutes, Carlton and Eisenhart gathered up their charge to run forward on the course. Found standing again at 35 minutes, Carlton was determined to flush a covey for Heat Advisory, but even with a relocation, birds remained elusive, and Carlton decided to pick up.

The last brace of the first day, Brace 6, paired Rester's Cajun Spirit (Carlton) and Southern Thunder (Shenker). Both dogs ran good races for the time they were on the ground, but neither had any birdwork. Carlton asked for his tracker at 14 minutes, and Shenker did the same for Thunder at 35 minutes.

At the end of Day One, the judges had four dogs to consider with multiple covey finds (in order of appearance): On Course 1, Touch's Shadow Rider (McLean) and Rester's Johnny Ringo (Eisenhart) had two finds each; on Course 2, Erin's Wild Atlantic Way (Eisenhart) had four finds; and on Course 3, Erin's High Note (Carlton) had two finds. A total of 12 coveys were pointed on Day One, along with numerous other scout sightings.

On Day Two, the running was delayed

for about one hour due to foggy conditions. Although the fog did lift enough to start at 9 a.m., it never completely disappeared. Temperatures remained in the high 50s and low 60s with overcast skies through the completion of this event.

Brace 7 presented derby Haney's Easy Money (McLean) and Erin's Perfect Storm (Eisenhart) and let loose in light foggy conditions at 9 a.m. Both contenders sprang forth, and we watched as they ate up the course. A divided find was called at 9 minutes—these two were just about touching one another, side by side—both handlers shot their guns and gathered them up to continue. Perfect Storm stood again at 14 minutes, but Eisenhart wasn't able to flush birds even with a relocation, and an unproductive was noted. Easy Money's fate was the same at 43 minutes—no birds lifted, and after conferring with the judge, McLean picked him up. Eisenhart continued Perfect Storm's bid but lost his whereabouts and asked for his tracker at 54 minutes.

Brace 8 was described earlier.

Brace 9 consisted of Coal Train (Phillips) and Haney's Storm Warning (Eisenhart). Both contenders drove hard and fast off the breakaway, and it was almost immediately clear that Storm Warning had his own course in mind. We didn't see him again, and Eisenhart asked for his tracker early in the hour. Coal Train made a nice cast around the pond to the left but then took some time to show up front for Phillips. Scout Henley called point at 34 minutes deep in the cover, but the handler wasn't able to produce birds even after a relocation. Coal Train then made some nice moves going up towards the house but wasn't beating what was being carried, and Phillips took his tracker from the judges at 43 minutes. This concluded the morning braces on Saturday.

The second and final afternoon of the championship consisted of Braces 10-13, with 13 being a bye-dog. The fog had entirely lifted, but skies were still overcast, and temperatures were slightly warmer in the high 60s.

Brace 10 paired Haney's All In (McLean) and Dominator's Wild Bill (Daniels). Both dogs powered ahead from the breakaway with one thing on their minds...finding birds! Wild Bill fared better than his bracemate with clean finds at 11 and 18 minutes. All In had no luck in his pursuit but ran a strong race. Both dogs ended their bids at 49 minutes—neither contender was beating previous performances, and handlers took their trackers from the judges.

Brace 11 consisted of Showtime Game

Changer (Copeland) and Shadow's Lord Magic (Eisenhart). The dogs got underway, but Game Changer wasn't to be seen after the breakaway and Copeland asked for his tracker at 13 minutes. Lord Magic made some good moves but went birdless in the first half hour, with Eisenhart asking for his tracker at 31 minutes.

Brace 12 matched Touch's Midnight Rider (McLean) and Haney's Silver Dollar (Eisenhart), and this pair of contenders wouldn't have good luck in their quest either. Midnight Rider had an unproductive at 4 minutes and McLean asked for his tracker. Silver Dollar went a bit rogue on the course, and Eisenhart asked for his tracker at 16 minutes.

The last brace of the championship, Brace 13, with bye-dog Rester's Cajun Justice, aka Ike (Eisenhart), broke away around 3:30 p.m. on Course 3. Last braces in any field trial event can often be disappointing because judges have their winners in mind, and there's a bit of "trial fatigue" for all involved. But there are performances that end up breaking this

mold and this last bid did just that despite being on a course difficult for showing a dog well. Ike had three finds at 9, 18, and 46 with a strong all-age race consistently forward and pushing the course limits throughout the hour. Eisenhart gathered him at points on the course where necessary so that the judges had the opportunity to see that this contender was where he should be. Ike's covey finds were well-placed and indicative of his hunting prowess, with the pinned covey at 18 minutes being a true limb find. A hushed excitement was palpable in the gallery as the hour went on, realizing a champion-worthy performance was underway, and perhaps the fat lady had not yet sung. Ike finished his title bid well out front with intensity. With another minute or two, he could have made it to the big fields for a more showy finish. Regardless, this final run was a performance to remember!

At the end of Day Two, the judges had three additional dogs to consider (in order of appearance): on Course 1 with four finds each—Woodville's Yukon Cornelius

(McLean) and Miller's Blindsider (Daniels); and on Course 3—Rester's Cajun Justice (Eisenhart) with three finds. Three other contenders had birdwork but did not complete the hour (in order of appearance): on Course 1 with one find each—Haney's Easy Money (McLean) and Erin's Perfect Storm (Eisenhart); and also on Course 1—Dominator's Wild Bill (Daniels) with two finds. A total of 14 coveys were pointed on the second day, with numerous other scout sightings. In total, the judges had seven dogs to consider after the two days of running were complete. This concluded the 2024 edition of the Southeastern Quail Championship.

Sasser, Ga., March 1

Judges: Mike Jackson and Kirk Law  
**SOUTHEASTERN QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**[One-Hour Heats] – 23 Pointers and 2 Setters**

Winner—MILLER'S BLINDSIDER, 1674983, pointer male, by Just Irresistible—Miller's Bring The Heat. Nick Berrong, owner; Jamie Daniels, handler.  
 Runner-Up—ERIN'S WILD ATLANTIC WAY, 1684809, setter male, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-T T's Southern Miss. Sean Derrig, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

## NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIPS

*Miller's Upgraded Dot Com, Shooting Dog Champion; J Maple Jester, Shooting Dog Derby Champion*

**By Chris Weatherly | Grand Junction, Tennessee | March 6, 2024**

**B**eginning on March 4, the National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship and accompanying Derby were held on the historic grounds of the Ames Plantation in Grand Junction, Tennessee. Yes, you read that correctly. After over a century of hosting all-age field trials and being home to the National Field Trial Championship, the doors were opened, and the six one-hour courses were made available to our friends in the shooting dog community for the first time. There are many people to thank for making this possible. First and foremost is the Ames Amateur Field Trial Club, headed by Kent Walker, for hosting this event. Kent got the ball rolling by asking the question, "Was it a possibility that the Ames Plantation would consider hosting a shooting dog trial?" Dr. Rick Carlisle, director of the plantation, Matt Backus, assistant director, and the trustees of the Hobart Ames Foundation answered with a resounding, "YES!" They are all to be commended for their generosity in making these grounds available.

Many thanks go out to the sponsors of this trial. Garmin and Purina have been very consistent for many years in their support for our sport. Garmin provided



National Amateur Shooting Dog Derby Championship (front, l-r): Madison McDonald with Miller's Upgraded Dot Com and Amy Spencer with Cockerbur Ranger Danger. (Middle): Pat McInteer, Jeremy Taylor, Fran and Jack Miller, Bubba Spencer, Ken Blackman, and Piper Huffman. (Top): Kent Walker, Austin Bryant, and Jon Humphrey.

their top-of-the-line collar systems. Purina once again provided their proven quality dog feed to the winners and sponsored a dinner for participants on Tuesday night at the National Bird Dog Museum. The AFTCA footed the bill for dinner on Thursday evening at the Rube Rhea Memorial Clubhouse.

Accepting the task of judging the stakes were Jon Humphrey of Claremore, Oklahoma, and Austin Bryant of Collinsville, Oklahoma, for the Derby Championship, and Steve Auxier of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Tim Penn of Edina, Missouri, for the Shooting Dog Championship. Your time spent in the saddle doing an often thankless job is

much appreciated.

Piper Huffman, secretary of the Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America, once again did her usual wonderful job organizing the event and making sure everything ran as smoothly as possible. This list included but was not limited to holding the drawing, seeing to the needs of the judges, organizing meals, watching the weather, and making sure all competitors and judges had access to transportation to be in the right places at the right times. Thank you, Piper, for all you do. Many thanks to Tonya Brotherton and her crew at the National Bird Dog Museum for hosting a dinner for all participants sponsored by Purina and catered by the wonderful Gail Haynes and her able assistant/husband, Mark.

With so many new faces unfamiliar with the courses at Ames, much on-course help was also needed. Once again, Kent Walker stepped up and handled most of the back marshaling duties while yours truly, Chris Weatherly, handled the front marshaling task. We were assisted by Greg Tapp, David Williams, and Joey McAlexander, who handled other marshaling duties as needed. Ken Blackman drove the dog wagon and helped to control traffic at the road crossings to keep the competitors safe. Squeaky Powell and Piper Huffman assisted at the road crossings as well.

Last but not least on the list of those to thank are the competitors who came to give the courses at Ames their best shot. Those handlers who showed up to run their dogs were Fran Miller, Brian Peterson, Dr. Marion Brown, Dr. Pat McInteer, Brad Macke, Mike Lemons, Wayne Pope, Bill Mason, Marty Moore, Joe Rentz, Bubba Spencer, Jeremy Taylor, Lance Servais, Adam Delude, John Van Horn, Taylor Henley, Amy Spencer, Tom Curtsinger, Jason Super, Amber Ashburn, David Williams, Buddy Morrison, Bryce Cooper, Bill Stapleton, and Joe Hughes.

The National Amateur Shooting Dog Derby Championship began as advertised on Monday, March 4, at 8 a.m. on Course No. 1. Eight braces were run by 15 competitors. Thirteen dogs successfully completed their braces, with three coveys of quail flushed for the juveniles while under judgment. The weather was unseasonably warm for the two days, with highs reaching the upper 70s in the afternoon after mornings beginning in the lower 60s. The Derby was completed on Tuesday morning under the threat of impending thunderstorms.

Judges Humphrey and Bryant named Miller's Updated Dot Com, a pointer female handled by Fran Miller, their Derby champion. She ran in the first brace of the stake on Course No. 1. After being released

from the breakaway, she hunted to the front and was seen moving up the course with her bracemate, successfully navigating the first tricky turn past Heartbreak hill and across Ellington Road. She then took the right edge through the Morgan field and met with her bracemate again as they headed into the new basin area. After negotiating the turn around the L. B. Avent house, both dogs were successfully across Turner Road. Dot took the left edge of the Turner long neck, hunting well to the front. Past the pond basin and through the Turner pines, she made a beautiful cast to the right side of the course through the birdy-looking areas before being gathered back up by Fran to make the tight Turner ditch crossing. At 0:42, Fran called point for her dog just past the ditch crossing. Dot was seen standing in a food plot just to the left side of the main course track. A large covey lifted as Fran approached and fired her gun. Dot moved slightly marking flight, all in order. She was seen standing again at the north end of the Tom Hurt field but thought better of it and decided to move along on her own. She rejoined her bracemate, making a forward move across Dunn's pond levee. Miller's Updated Dot Com finished her bid to the front after crossing National Championship Road into the Mary Scott basin area.

Cocklebur Ranger Danger, a pointer male handled by Bubba Spencer, was named Derby runner-up as a reward for his run in the seventh brace. Breaking away on Course No. 1, Ranger disappeared to the front after making a cast around the right edge of the breakaway field. After a wide swing around Heartbreak hill, he moved to the front through the Morgan field and into the new basin. Ranger hunted past the L. B. Avent house and then made a brief disappearance when making a wrong turn crossing Turner Road but was back to the front in the Turner long neck field moving well to the front. He made a large cast along the right edge prior to the Turner ditch crossing, hunting the likely areas, and was gathered back up in time to make the crossing along with his bracemate at 0:44. Ranger stayed to the front going forward and disappeared to the front just before the call of pickup on the levee at the Mary Scott basin. While waiting for Bubba to show his dog, the call of point was heard from the front at 1:04. The judges rode forward to find Cocklebur Ranger Danger standing near the crossroads at the west end of No Man's Land. Bubba put a bird to wing, and a large covey lifted as he collared his dog, all in order.

The other dog seen on birds during the Derby was Crossroads Easy Street, a pointer male handled by Wayne Pope on Course No. 4. His find was at 0:10 under

the power line on the right upon entering the irrigation field and was coupled with a nice forward race.

**Grand Junction, Tenn., March 6**  
**Judges: Bryan Austin and Jon Humphrey**  
**NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG DERBY**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**  
**- 14 Pointers and 2 Setters**  
*Winner-MILLER'S UPGRADED DOT COM, 1704330, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Fran Miller & Madison McDonald, owners; Fred Miller, handler.*  
*Runner-Up-COCKLEBUR RANGER DANGER, 1702765, pointer male, by Game Heir-Cocklebur Regent Runaway. Bubba, Amy & Colt Spencer, owners; Bubba Spencer, handler.*

### **National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship**

The National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship began Wednesday, March 6, at 8 a.m. on Course No. 1 after we missed the final four hours of Tuesday due to forecasted heavy rain and thunderstorms. Eighteen braces were run by 34 competitors. Twenty-five dogs successfully completed their braces, with 18 coveys of quail being flushed while under judgment. The weather was a bit milder than it had been for the Derby, with temperatures ranging from mid-50s to mid-60s, with skies mostly overcast and scattered showers getting us wet on the last day. The championship was completed on Friday afternoon.

Judges Auxier and Penn named J Maple Jester, a pointer female handled by Joe Hughes, the champion. She ran in the last brace of the trial as a bye-dog on Course No. 6. Jess was turned loose from the breakaway at the old mounting block and made her way to the horseshoe and then past the apple tree piece hunting to the front and handling well. At 0:13 point was called by Joe at the west end of the chute, and she was pointed out by the handler standing in thick bicolor to the right side of the course near where a covey had been pointed at the end of the previous brace. After some tough flushing and an excellently handled relocation, the running and scattered covey was put to wing toward the bottom of the ditch that runs along the south side of the chute. Jess continued her pleasing ground effort through Jack Harris and across Ceasar's ditch, moving to the front smoothly and requiring minimal scouting. On the top of Cox's ridge near where the new loop enters the woods, Joe was calling point at 0:48. His dog was again standing in heavy 10-foot-tall bicolor where Joe quickly put a covey in the air. Jess was steady to wing and shot; all was in order. At 0:55, she was pointed out hunting ahead through Fason bottom. As the gallery crossed the ditch on the west end of Fason bottom at 0:59,

Jess's handler was again calling point. She was pointed out standing in broomsedge on the left side of the course just as the ditch crossing was exited. Joe again put a covey to wing with Jess displaying perfect manners as time expired.

Levi Express Visa, a setter male handled by John Van Horn, was named runner-up. He ran in the eighth brace on Course No. 2. Levi was released from National Championship Road and swiftly hunted through the pines, heading toward Turner Road. At 0:04, he failed to make the right-hand turn after crossing Turner Road but was quickly returned to the front by his scout and was seen standing in a food plot in the northeast corner of the Tennessee field at 0:07. Although this is a known covey location, John was unable to produce birds and his setter was taken on, charged with an unproductive. Levi rejoined the front at 0:12 as we rounded the L. B. Avent house and headed north. Both dogs then moved forward through the Morgan and Supermarket fields, making the National Championship Road crossing at Kyle's barn at 0:24. As the gallery neared No Man's Land at 0:28, Levi's bracemate's handler came over a ridge to see both dogs standing side by side in the cut milo. Brian Peterson informed John that his pointer was backing John's setter and pointed out birds walking through the milo. John immediately walked in front and put the feeding covey to flight, all in order. At 0:42, both dogs were seen to the front, combing the fields around Keegan's ditch crossing and making their way up the hill towards Ryan's house. At 0:46, John called point for his dog standing just past the gate behind Ryan's house in the thin hardwoods to the left of the course. Again, birds lifted just beyond Levi's nose, all in order. Catching up to his bracemate upon entering the Jim Braddick field, both dogs were sent to the left edge by their handlers, and both dogs took it well. When Levi failed to appear at the other end of the field, his scout was dispatched to investigate. Point was called with Levi standing about three-



National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (front, l-r): Joey McAlexander with J Maple Jester and John Van Horn with Levi Express Visa. (Behind): Chris Weatherly, Greg Tapp, Ken Blackman, Joe Hughes, Tim Penn, Steve Auxier, David Williams, Kent Walker, and Piper Huffman.

quarters of the way around the field at 0:52. Birds lifted as the judges approached; all was in order. Both dogs made the second Keegan's ditch crossing and were seen hunting the Tobe Polk field at 0:57. Levi was seen at pickup moving towards the old bird pens area.

Fourteen other dogs were seen on quail under judgment. In Brace No. 1, Rentz's Tipped Up, handled by Joe Rentz, ran on Course No. 1 and had two finds and a very nice forward ground race. At 0:09, she slammed into point in a feed strip on the left just before the Ellington Road crossing, all in order. At 0:49, she again pinned a covey on the north end of Govan hill, a nice job indeed.

In Brace No. 4, Gentry's Little Jane, handled by Taylor Hendley on Course No. 4, carded a find at 0:27 on the west side of Cedar hill. Also in that brace, Alliwod's Eleventh Hour, handled by Adam DeLude, had a bevy at 0:30 in the approach to the apple tree piece on the right side of the course.

In Brace No. 5, Cocklebur Breaking Bad, handled by Amy Spencer on Course No. 5, had a find at 0:47 in the pines approaching Kerry's seven acres.

In Brace No. 6, Stylish Miss Bell, handled by Tom Curtsinger on Course No. 6, pinned birds at 0:43 going up Cox's ridge on the right side of the course.

In Brace No. 7, Nemaha Magic Marker, handled by Dr. Pat McInteer on Course No. 1, had a big covey at 0:26 on the left side of the Turner long neck field.

In Brace No. 9, High Drive Bandit, handled by Amber Ashburn on Course No. 3, found game at 0:48 on the east side of the L. B. Avent house.

In Brace No. 10, Rebel Gold and Nemaha Tap Water, handled by David Williams and Dr. Pat McInteer, respectively, on Course No. 4, found a bevy at 0:08 under the power line at the east end of the irrigation field for a divided find.

Also carding a divided find were Miller's Upgraded Version for handler Fran Miller and Southern Shadows Wave for handler Lance Servais in Brace No. 11 on Course No. 5 at 0:41 in Kerry's seven acres.

In Brace No. 13, on Course No. 1, Miller's Speed Version, handled by Fran Miller, and Cooper's Rebel Buddy, handled by Bryce Cooper, shared a divided find at 0:44 on the left side of the course approaching Govan hill.

Lastly, in Brace No. 17 on Course No. 5, Touch's Steeley Dan, handled by John Van Horn, carded a covey at 0:53 at the west end of the chute in a food plot after a nice forward race.

Thanks to those who attended and ran their dogs in this first shooting dog trial held at the Ames Plantation. For many handlers, it was their first time running a dog at Ames, and we hope that they enjoyed it and will join us again in the future. We all hope for more birds, less mud, better weather, and smoother horses!

**Judges: Steve Auxier and Tim Penn  
NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG  
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]  
- 40 Pointers and 4 Setters**

Winner-J MAPLE JESTER, 1675700, pointer female, by J Maple Jake-Coldwater Queen Kate. Joe & Tessa Hughes, owners; Joe Hughes, handler.  
Runner-Up-LEVI EXPRESS VISA, 1667037, setter male, by Oklahoma Credit Card-Signature Ridge Cody. John Van Horn, owner and handler.

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## ALL-AMERICA DERBY & QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIPS

*Full Ride Named Derby Champion; Lester's Storm Surge, Quail Champion*

By Jim Atchison | Cutler, Illinois | March 8, 2024



All-America Derby Championship (front, l-r): Bridget Ledington with Full Ride and Korry Rinehart with Bandit's Hill Avenger. (Behind): Nathan Phillips, Mike Jackson, Mike Small, Doug Burgess, Randy Anderson, Dave Capstick (judge), Greg Blair (judge), Ike Todd, and Kay Morrison.

Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States (1923-1929), had begun his second year of presidency when the All-America Derby first became a Championship in 1924. Bert Wimmer (1930-2012) told this reporter in 2008 that the contest had begun in 1909 but, prior to Championship designation, was originally called the Indy \$5,000 as his father, Walter Wimmer, and others funded the earliest stakes. In 1924, President Coolidge was said to be demonstrating determination to preserve the old moral and economic precepts of the frugality of the Great Depression amid the material prosperity that many Americans were beginning to enjoy. Without clarification as to whether bird dog field trials are a sign of material prosperity, the All-America Derby Championship has been run since 1924, and the All-America Quail Championship was added later to include all-age competition.

So, as the Hoosier Field Trial Club hosted the 98th renewal of their championships on the Captain Unit of the Pyramid State Park near Cutler, Illinois, March 8-11, 16 derbies and 24 all-age dogs competed. The 2024 champion of the All-America Derby Championship was Full Ride, a male pointer owned by Kevin Dixon from Sulphur Springs, Texas, and handled by Randy Anderson from Vinita, Oklahoma. The runner-up was Bandit's Hill Avenger, owned by Ann Forrester from South Fulton, Tennessee, and handled by Ike Todd from Dancyville, Tennessee. The

champion of the Quail Championship was Lester's Storm Surge, and the runner-up was Lester's Shockwave. The 7-year-old littermates were handled by Korry Rinehart from Rienzi, Mississippi, for Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton from Springfield, Kentucky, who own both the champion and runner-up.

Purina again sponsored the championships, and the club was fortunate to have Greg Blair from Menomonee, Wisconsin, the popular and respected representative of Purina for this and other areas of field trialing, serve as one of the judges for both championships. The club was equally fortunate to have Dave Capstick from Jonesburg, Missouri, a very long-time and respected field trialer of Brittanys, serve as the other judge.

Thanks to Purina's continuing generosity and the ingenuity of a new program of Purina and the AFTCA, the Hoosier Club was able to use Purina Pro Plan dog food and coupons redeemable at the AFTCA Store (both awarded by Purina) to auction the Pro Plan and raffle high-quality shirts, vests, hoodies, and jackets bought with coupons at the AFTCA Store, raising a significant amount of money to help offset some of the expenses of the championships. The understanding of the Purina/AFTCA partnership was first grasped by the Hoosier Club's astute secretary/treasurer, Kay Morrison, who explained and recommended the concept to the other officers and directors of the club. Then Greg Blair further explained

the rationale of the concept during the club's annual meeting, increasing even more, the appreciation the club's officers and directors hold for Purina and their commitment to support our sport.

Jim Lawless and Kay Morrison worked daily from well before daylight each day until well into the evening, fulfilling most of the tasks associated with the successful field trial. Each day, Jim Lawless caught the birds early and, helped by Jon Lam, started planting the birds by 5:30, while Kay Morrison was cooking breakfast, lunch, and dinner for everyone at the championships. They, too, marshaled, ponied horses for judges and the reporter, and helped everyone in every way needed. Doug Burgess furnished and expertly managed the dog wagon each day, and Jon Lam and Mike Jackson helped with marshaling as needed.

Rain delayed the anticipated start by half a day, but after that first morning, the weather was agreeable, only marred at times by strong gusting winds.

### **Derby Champion and Runner-up**

Full Ride won the Championship with his performance in the first brace of the contest, which started at 1 p.m. on Friday, March 8. He had two finds at 4 and 34 and backed a find of his bracemate at 22. The first find was in trees not far from the clubhouse, while the find at 34 was a true limb find deep in trees north of a large cornfield. Full Ride was always to the front, making large casts and wisely using the direction of the wind to his advantage where possible. He was stylish both running and while standing during each flushing effort and shot. In addition to pleasing his handler, the promising derby, most importantly, impressed the judges early in the contest, as they fulfilled their responsibility of selecting a champion.

The runner-up, Bandit's Hill Avenger, also pleased the judges and his handler, Ike Todd, early in the contest, earning his placement in the second brace. The runner-up had three finds close together, at 26, 31, and 35. He also had one unproductive stand. In addition to scoring three finds, Bandit's Hill Avenger ran a wonderfully strong forward race with outstanding style throughout the hour.

### **Other Derbies**

Rocky Hill Halo, owned by Carl Lefler

and handled by Phil Stevenson, competed in the first brace, running with the champion. He achieved two finds, which he handled well, and finished the hour.

Quail Woods Pine was paired with the runner-up in the second brace. He was handled by Randy Anderson for Dr. Greg Adams, owner, but he did not finish the hour.

Game Star, owned by Dr. Fred Corder and handled by Ike Todd, and Morgan's Cash Bail, owned by Phil Morgan and handled by Phil Stevenson, were loosed for the final brace of the afternoon. Game Star had three finds and one unproductive during the hour, while Morgan's Cash Bail was lost, causing his handler to request his tracker before the hour ended.

Game Nation (Ike Todd for Dr. Corder) and Morgan's Storm Shelter (Stevenson for Phil Morgan) were the first to go in Brace 4 on Saturday morning. Storm Shelter had birds once, at 8, but both dogs were picked up at 38.

Haney's Last Call, handled by Todd for owner Chris Cagle Sr., and Lester's War Bird, handled by Korry Rinehart for Gary Lester, were together in Brace 5. The pair had a divided find at 5 but were both involved in a situation where wild birds were bumped during a relocation effort at 29, and both dogs were picked up.

Small's White Rambler, owned and handled by Mike Small, and Lester's Front Porch, handled by Korry Rinehart for Gary Lester, were loosed together for Brace 6. Rinehart's dog pointed at 13, but Small's dog failed to back and was put into his harness. After Rinehart flushed, Front Porch finished the hour hunting and running impressively while pointing feathers at 38 and having an unproductive at 50.

Jim Dandy, owned by Jeff Phelps and handled by Phil Stevenson, was the final derby to compete. He pointed once, at 15, and Stevenson easily flushed, with the Derby Championship ending at noon on Saturday, March 9.

#### **Cutler, Ill., March 8**

#### **Judges: Greg Blair and Dave Capstick ALL-AMERICA DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 15 Pointers and 1 Setter**

*Winner-FULL RIDE, 1702143, pointer male, by Dixon's Rolling Stone-Dixon's Girl's Got Rhythm. Kevin Dixon, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.  
Runner-Up-BANDIT'S HILL AVENGER, 1702642, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Bandit's Hill Daisy. Ann Forrester, owner; Ike Todd, handler.*

#### **All-Age Champion and Runner-up**

Lester's Storm Surge earned declaration as champion for the huge casts he made during the hour, each time returning to

the front, while Korry Rinehart rode in front of the judges, leaving only to gallop, flush and shot each of the three times Storm Surge found birds. Those finds were at 5 for a divided find shared with his bracemate on relocation and independent finds at 16 and 34. He also stood at 46 for an unproductive. While his production of game and style were impressive, the champion's strong, forward, and, most importantly, independent race earned the win.

Lester's Shockwave stood behind his littermate as runner-up champion on the winners' platform, marking a sweep for the Hamiltons and Korry Rinehart. Shockwave ran a strong race, demonstrating a lot of purpose and savvy as he seemed to know where to go. In his second brace performance, he found birds at 10, 35, and 43, plus one stand at feathers before ending the hour with a strong finish.

#### **Other All-Age**

When the Quail Championship started after lunch on Saturday, the first dogs to compete were Erin's Rebel Attraction, owned by Brian Sheehan and handled by Sean Pat Derrig, and Touch's Cocaine Blues, owned by Matt Griffith and handled by Randy Anderson. Rebel Attraction had two unproductives at 37 and 42 and was picked up after the second. Cocaine Blues failed to back one of the bracemates unproductive and was picked up.

I'm Gallant, handled by Randy Anderson for Jay McKenzie, who was in the gallery, was braced with the runner-up in the second brace. He ran well and finished the hour, locating birds at 24 and 48.

Erin's Southern Comfort and No Strings Attached went next; Southern Comfort, owned and handled by Sean Pat Derrig, and No Strings Attached, owned by Dennis Buford and handled by Randy Anderson. Southern Comfort handled well and found birds at 30, 52, and 56 while demonstrating lots of style. No Strings Attached did not finish the hour.

The ground was covered with frost on Sunday morning, but the day proved to be a beautiful sunny day. Bridget Ledington had Painted Owyhee Breeze, which she co-owns with Jim Ledington, while Nathan Phillips had Phillips Linebacker, which he co-owns with Orrin Ingram, in the first brace of the day, No. 4 of the Championship. Owyhee Breeze advanced a couple of steps while Ledington was attempting to flush during an unproductive at 17 and later flushed a single, but the judges gave her tracker to her at about the middle of the hour as Phillips had asked for his tracker at 29.

Bonner's Bulletproof, owned by Dr.

Chris Cornman and handled by Randy Anderson, was braced with the champion in the fifth brace. He shared a divided find with his bracemate at 5 with relocation, but Anderson asked for his tracker at 28.

Broken Halo, owned and handled by Phil Stevenson, and Touch's Fire Away, owned by Dr. Greg and Carmen Adams, were in the sixth brace. Fire Away pointed, and Anderson flushed at 4, but then Fire Away became lost. Broken Halo pointed at 15, and Stevenson reported the birds flew. He then had additional finds at 26 and 56 to successfully end the hour and the Sunday morning braces.

Miller's Speed Dial, owned by Mick Marietta and handled by Randy Anderson, was braced with Miller's King Poast, owned by Jannie Chapman and handled by Korry Rinehart. The brace ended early at 28, when birds flew, and both dogs followed.

The eighth brace ended early when Haney's Storm Warning and Painted Owyhee Toad competed. Storm Warning found birds for Chris Cagle at 10, and Owyhee Toad backed for Bridget Ledington. Later, Ledington picked up her dog, and Cagle lost Storm Warning but persisted to search and finally, every minute of the 20-minute allowance for an absence was exhausted, and the judges gave him a tracker.

Miller's Wide Out, owned by Don Stroble and handled by Randy Anderson, and Game Surge, owned and handled by Dr. Corder, were the last to run on Sunday afternoon. Wide Out was picked up early. Game Surge was strong and beautifully composed each time he stood with birds, at 25 and 37, and throughout the hour.

Only one of the six dogs drawn to run on Sunday morning finished their hour. Haney's Silver Dollar finished the hour, having a divided unproductive with his bracemate at 5, a find at 14 with multiple relocations, and stood again when Cagle dismounted, took him by the collar, and did not attempt to flush. Dr. Corder's Game Heir shared the unproductive with his bracemate at 5 and later had another unproductive, and the judge gave the owner his tracker.

Ramblin Rivers Unplugged, owned by Bill Stapleton and handled by Brian Gingrich, was drawn with Slick Water Frac, owned by Raymond Marrow and handled by Randy Anderson. Neither dog finished the hour.

Rocky River Halo, owned by Carl Lefler and handled by Phil Stevenson, and Valiant Sunrise, owned by Adam Sprunger and handled by Randy Anderson, were the last two dogs drawn to run. Rocky River Halo

pointed three times but was not completely attentive and moved slightly during a couple of the flushes, so the judges gave the handler his tracker at 40. Valiant Sunrise had no birds for Anderson.

Thus, the 98th renewal of the All-America Championships was concluded, and the Rend Lake Open was to start after lunch.

**ALL-AMERICA QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP  
[One-Hour Heats] – 24 Pointers**

*Winner-LESTER'S STORM SURGE, 1681624, pointer male, by Ransom-Beane's Line Dancer. Tommy & Bonnie Hamilton, owners; Korry Rinehart, handler.*

*Runner-Up-LESTER'S SHOCKWAVE, 1681623, pointer male, by Ransom-Beane's Line Dancer. Tommy & Bonnie Hamilton, owners; Korry Rinehart, handler.*



All-America Quail Championship (front, l-r): Mike Jackson with Lester's Storm Surge and Korry Rinehart with Lester's Shockwave. (Behind): Jim Lawless, Bridget Ledington, Nathan Phillips, Doug Burgess, Randy Anderson, Dave Capstick (judge), Jon Lam, and Greg Blair (judge).

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**JAMES WILLIAM SPENCER  
June 24, 1947–March 16, 2024**

**J**im, the oldest of four siblings, was born in Pensacola, Florida, on June 24, 1947, to Jonnie Evans Spencer and Angeline Mathis Spencer, but Milton was his home. Jim graduated from Milton High School and later obtained his bachelor's degree from Troy State University. Upon graduation from high school, Jim became a proud member of the United States Marine Corps Force Recon. While Jim chose not to re-enlist after his initial three-year period, he was a Marine for life and could be found proudly sporting a Marine Recon hat or shirt daily. Upon return to civilian life, Jim met Jane Lacy; they were married, and Laura, his only daughter, was born.



Jim worked for the Fish and Wildlife Commission and then for the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office, where he remained for 34 years. Jim didn't always make things easy for himself and actively fought for what he believed was right. There was no greater champion for the truth than Jim. Jim's absolute refusal to overlook any perceived injustice cost him his job more than once. He fought for that, too, and was ultimately reinstated on no less than three occasions. Those who loved Jim knew that they had no greater advocate in their corner. Jim had a very strong sense of right and wrong. That "right" might have only been "Jim's right," but there was no other choice with Jim. He was brutally honest and left no room for compromise. Jim was loved and admired by most of those he worked with, and the few who didn't probably needed to change career paths.

and she was fully on board. His passion for all things quail hunting, bird dogs, and field trials fueled him, and upon retirement from the Sheriff's Office, he fully immersed himself in the sport he had fallen in love with 40 years earlier. Jim was a true champion of the sport and worked tirelessly to create a venue on the family property, which allowed many people who might not otherwise have had a chance to participate. He trained and mentored young quail hunters and their dogs and found no greater joy than working with them in the great outdoors. He and Nikki made many wonderful friends within the sport, and his impact will be recognized for years.

Jim met and married Nikki, and they had many wonderful years together. But Jim had another love besides Nikki,

Jim had another love, and it was his four grandchildren. When the girls were younger, they would take turns traveling to plantations throughout the southeast

for various field trials. They often fought over whose turn it was to go camping in Georgia with Big Daddy. At home, they could often be seen riding on a four-wheeler through the property or with him while he fed the horses. As they got older, he could often be seen slipping cash to them for grades, gas, or because they were heading back to school. Big Daddy was so proud of Spencer, and Spencer was always so excited to go to Big Daddy and Nic Nick's house to swim in the pool.

Jim is preceded in death by Johnnie Evans Spencer, Angeline "Angie" Mathis Spencer, and his sister, Sarah Ellen Spencer Hobbs.

Jim is survived by his wife, Nicolette Jon Spencer; his daughter and son-in-law, Laura and Steve Coleman; his four grandchildren, Lauren Alexandra Coleman, Kennedy Layne Coleman, Caroline Reece Coleman, and Spencer Alexander Coleman; his brother-in-law, Donald Hobbs; his sister, Carrie Spencer Nolan; his brother, Lawrence Evans "Bud" Spencer; and nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank all of those who reached out to Jim throughout the years as he bravely battled his cancer diagnosis. Jim fought long and hard for many years and was the beneficiary of many prayers, words of comfort, and well wishes. The family is thankful for those prayers lifted up by friends and family during that time.

Donations may be made in Jim's honor to Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306.

## SOUTHERN PINES FIELD TRIAL CLUB

### *Scott Griffin's Pointer, K H Game Train, Wins All-Age*

By Dwight Smith | Hoffman, North Carolina | March 8, 2024

The last amateur field trial held on the Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds near Hoffman, North Carolina, is usually the Southern Pines Celebration, and it was again this 2024 season.

Serious-minded amateur handlers and owners make an effort to attend the Celebration. Not only is the Celebration a good field trial, one of the best in fact, but it is also “party time.” It is a time when old friends embrace, knowing it might be a long time before they share a special time in a very special place again. The Robert Gordon grounds are indeed a special place.

A good entry of 25 amateur all-age contenders and 12 derbies was drawn. The Amateur Shooting Dog stake wasn't run. Representatives from at least 10 states were present to enjoy the goings-on in Richmond County, North Carolina, from March 7-11.

When John Atkinson, Grayson Francis, and Til Hankley organize an event, one can expect it to be well organized and “party time.” Atkinson serves as president of the organization, Francis takes care of whatever no one else wants to do, and Hankley drives the dog truck and entertains the ladies.

The 2024 Southern Pines Celebration was well organized. One of the original directors, Ray Joye, passed away recently and was sorely missed. We will have more about that a little later. The directors named the All-Age stake in his honor.

If one goes to a bird dog field trial, the subject of the availability of quail will surface just as it did at this trial. It is simply enough to say that enough quail were found for a good trial.

Field trials seem to have a few problems, including getting good, qualified judges. The Celebration hit the jackpot by obtaining two well-qualified gentlemen to serve as judges. Larry Cox and Todd Williams looked like good judges, acted like good judges, and were good judges—couldn't have done better than those two.

A lot of support is needed to put on a field trial. Support for this year and the past five years came from the Richmond County Tourism Authority and Purina. Purina has helped in so many ways that it is hard to name them all. Most trials depend on them for dog food and other important aspects of the trial. The Richmond County Tourism



Ray Joye Amateur All-Age (front, l-r): Rocky River Loaded with Grayson Francis and Betty's Karma with John Atkinson. (Second row): Todd Williams (judge), Larry Cox (judge), Brandon Lynn, and Mac Hilliard. (Third row): Gretchen Adsit, Til Hankley, and John Adsit. (Not pictured): K H Game Train.

Authority Board supports the quail release program at Hoffman; you can't have a quail trial without quail. That's how important Richmond County Tourism Board support is.

Most people agree that the Robert Gordon grounds are among the best field trial courses in the United States. The North Carolina Wildlife Commission owns and maintains the grounds. Lee Crisco is the man on the ground for the Commission at Robert Gordon. He is the right man in the right place at the right time.

If you ever want to feel closer to your maker or to be thankful for what you have instead of worrying about what you don't have, drive to the Hoffman clubhouse just before daybreak, go into the clubhouse kitchen, get a cup of good coffee and walk through the double front doors and stand on the front porch and look to the east. Watch the sun rise and shine on the shining frost or the glistening morning dew as the sun takes the frost or dew away and hear a lonesome Bobwhite call to his covey. That, my friend, might help change your attitude about things I believe. Ray Joye witnessed that scene many times when at Hoffman. That was the setting for a very special thing that happened on Saturday evening of the Celebration.

As already mentioned, Ray passed away earlier this year, and he was cremated. On Saturday night, Faye Joye, Ray's wife, and some of her children and grandchildren drove to Hoffman to spread some of Ray's

ashes near the front porch of the clubhouse. John Atkinson helped Faye spread the ashes. The front porch was filled with people who thought of Ray's contribution to field trials and were thankful for him. After the release of the ashes, everyone returned inside the clubhouse, and a few remarks were made to describe the life of a man who had meant so much to all of us in the North Carolina trials.

There were not many dry eyes by the time thanks were given for Ray Joye, and the food was served. Come and share the experience of the Hoffman clubhouse front porch sometime just before or right after dawn.

After the event, a low country boil dinner, collard greens, and beans were served. Angel Rodgers and Brandon Lynn prepared food for all meals during the three-day event.

### The Running

#### *Open Derby*

The first stake of the Southern Pines trial was the Open Derby. Twelve youthful entries were entered, all carrying the hope of their owner and handlers of becoming outstanding performers in future all-age and shooting dog stakes. Only one covey of quail was pointed during the Derby stake, and that was by I'm The Lone Ranger.

Ranger was released in front of the clubhouse and, within a few minutes, was on point. Sammy and Nida Giddens's pointer showed all-age manners around

game. Beautifully pointed in the early morning sunrise, he was. His groundwork showed that he has the makings of a future field trial contender. Of course, he was placed first.

Carl Owens's young setter, Woodville's John Lee Walker, was placed second based on his ground effort. He was mature in his selection of where to hunt but couldn't come up with game.

Mac's Slim Jim, Tim McClurg's youthful pointer, was also placed on his ground effort. He was a fast-moving, tail-popping contender that bears watching in the future after more developing.

Quail were scarce during the stake. According to riders in the gallery, there wasn't much movement of game. That's just the way it is sometimes.

**Hoffman, N. C., March 8**

**Judges: Larry Cox and Todd Williams**

**OPEN DERBY – 10 Pointers and 2 Setters**

*1st-I'M THE LONE RANGER, 1703796, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-B K Deighton's Jewel. Sammy & Nida Giddens, owners; Sammy Giddens, handler.*

*2d-WOODVILLE'S JOHN LEE WALKER, 1700533, setter male, by Woodville's Yukon Cornelius-Penmark's Lady Oak Bo. Carl Owens, owner and handler.*

*3d-MAC'S SLIM JIM, 1700897, pointer male, by Mac's Silver Chief-Mac's Silver Shadow. Tim McClurg, owner and handler.*

**Ray Joye Amateur All-Age**

The Ray Joye Amateur All-Age drew 25 entries and began at the conclusion of the Open Derby. The first day of the trial was a beautiful afternoon in the Tar Heel state. The second day of the trial would be heavy rain and windy, then clearing for a nice day to finish the trial.

K H Game Train, Scott Griffin's pointer, was awarded first place. This reporter missed Train's performance due to going to Carl Lefler's funeral. Carl owned Rocky River Kennels in Concord, North Carolina, and was a successful breeder of pointers. Carl had bred Rocky River Loaded, which placed in this All-Age stake.

Train drew the sixth brace and placed him on the third course. It was reported that Train ran maybe the best race of all the entries that completed the hour. Riders in the gallery were awed by his strong,



Open Derby (front, l-r): I'm the Lone Ranger with Nida Giddens, Woodville's John Lee Walker with Carl Owens, and Mac's Slim Jim with Tim McClurg. (Behind): Parrish Atkinson, Sammy Giddens, Ellen Clements Winall, Bob Youngs, Todd Williams (judge), and Johnny Atkinson.

forward race and ability to hunt the long edge countryside without much scouting. Judge Cox relayed that Train had a really good finish—way to the front, still hunting with speed and purpose.

Train seems to be an outstanding bird finder—what old field trialers referred to as “he’s a bird dog.” His birdwork consisted of two finds. Both finds were singles, maybe because a quail release was done just a few days before the trial, and some had strayed from the covey. Judge Cox was impressed with how hard the Griffin pointer slammed into point on his first find. Both finds were handled with all-age manners and with style and intensity.

Scott Griffin displayed cool handling abilities. He and his scout, Derek Bonner, relaxed, enjoying what they were doing and fully aware of what was going on.

Second-place honors were awarded to Rocky River Loaded, a strong, well-built, nearly all-white pointer handled by Grayson Francis. It is my understanding that Loaded will soon be in Grayson's ownership.

Loaded drew the first course on the last day of the trial. From the get-go, he adapted to the course's crooks and turns and applied his range, selection of objectives, and hunting the country before him. He was especially attractive on the hillside before the big lake and the long edges of the mile-long field.

The former Ray Joye pointer had two well-deserved finds. One find came before

the big lake on course one and the other in the hill country below the clubhouse. At time, Francis and his scout, John Atkinson, returned Loaded to the waiting judges.

The performances of Rocky River Loaded and Game Train were very similar and probably caused the judges to spend some time analyzing the two performances.

Betty's Karma set the bar in the third brace. The small white and liver pointer female, which belongs to Darrell Miller and John Atkinson and was handled by Atkinson, has been a consistent performer on the Hoffman grounds for the past two years. She drew the sixth course and looked like she was on familiar grounds in the open pines and sage grass countryside. The high cover in some areas did not challenge Karma's as she reached the far edges of pines along the Naked Creek countryside. She is a lot of dog.

Karma had one find, showing all the style, intensity, and manners that could be put into her smallish frame. She has the endurance and range one desires in a field trial performer. She is a first-year all-age and looks like she will be a force to deal with in field trials for a long time.

Several entries had good performances but were not placed. Miller's Last Call, Derek Bonner's pointer male, was under consideration. He had a large race and some birdwork.

In the last brace, the Giddens's setter, I'm A Southern Man, rendered a good effort. Southern Nation was putting it all together until his second find.

**RAY JOYE AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]  
– 21 Pointers and 4 Setters**

*1st-K H GAME TRAIN, 1681832, pointer male, by Cole Train-Tallgrass Bella. Scott Griffin, owner and handler.*

*2d-ROCKY RIVER LOADED, 1696572, pointer male, by Broken Halo-Morgan's Mountain Maggie. Ray Joye, owner; Grayson Francis, handler.*

*3d-BETTY'S KARMA, 1696872, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Steel Valley Wardance. Darrell Miller & Johnny Q. Atkinson, owners; Johnny Atkinson, handler.*

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# MID-SOUTH BIRD HUNTERS CLUB

## Spring Trial

By Brad Hargis | Orchardville, Illinois | March 9, 2024

The Mid-South Bird Hunters Club held its spring trial on March 9 on the Ellis Family Farm, just south of Orchardville, Illinois. As always, Ted Ellis and his nephew Bill had the grounds in great shape. Thank you once again for allowing us to host on your grounds. We had 41 entries throughout the four stakes, and the judges watched some good dog work all day. We thank our judges, Frank Christie, Declan Wheat, Brad Hire, Danny Davis, Brad Hargis, Rick Stanford, and Dan Crunk. Big thank you to Sherry Hargis for preparing an excellent hot lunch and to Brenda Ellis for her delicious no-bake cookies.

Watching the weather leading up to the day of the trial, we all knew we were going to get wet, but our luck changed, and the rain moved out before the running. The Shooting Dog stake featured six champions, and the judges were not disappointed in what they saw. Topping the 15-dog field was Glover's Pepper Shaker, a setter female owned and handled by Jack Glover of Missouri. Pepper moved smoothly over the ground, always to the front, and ended with four finds. Mike DuVall, out of Wisconsin, guided his dog, Stellar's Natural Disaster, through the course with three finds and a nice race. Taking third was Craig Hiatt's pointer female, Craig's Runin Roxie. Roxie had a front-running race with three finds and a back.

Winning the Derby for Steve Fuess was his big running pointer male, Trig. Trig had a nice forward race with three clean, broke finds. Taking second was pointer female Jerzi for her handler Brad Hargis. Jerzi had four nice derby finds, always to the front, and impressed the judges with a strong finish. Third was Jack, a setter male owned and handled by Rob Warner. Jack had three



Amateur Derby (l-r): Elm Hills To The Trigger with Steve Fuess, Harg's Diamond Jerz with Brad Hargis, and Warner's Utah Jack with Rob Warner.

nice finds and a strong race.

The Gun Dog stake winner was won by German Shorthair female Diamond owned by John Landolina. Second was Ripp, owned and handled by newcomer Chris Gandolfo. This was Chris's first trial placement. Sadie, the three-legged pointer of Craig Hiatt's, took third.

The Puppy judges were impressed by the eight pups turned loose, with Brian Stockrahm taking first, Travis Patterson second, and Don Heisner third.

The Mid-South Bird Hunters want to thank everyone who made the long trip and hope to see you all next fall.

Orchardville, Ill., March 9

Judges: Brad Hargis and Rick Stanford

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

- 6 Pointers, 7 Setters, and 2 German Shorthairs

1st-GLOVER'S PEPPER SHAKER, 1695618, setter female, by Erin's Wild Atlantic Way-C C Erin O'Shamrock. Jack Glover, owner and handler.

2d-STELLAR'S NATURAL DISASTER, 1684712, pointer female, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Lacey Underall. Michael & Suanne DuVall, owners; Michael DuVall, handler.

3d-CRAIG'S RUNIN ROXIE, 1665573, pointer female, by Mac's Silver Dollar-Hilo Southern Tea. Craig Hiatt, owner and handler.

Judges: Dan Crunk and Rick Stanford

NBHA AMATEUR DERBY - 7 Pointers and 1 Setter

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

2d-HARG'S DIAMOND JERZ, 1703523, pointer female, by Phillips Linebacker-Blue Mound's White Lilly. Brad Hargis, owner and handler.

3d-WARNER'S UTAH JACK, 1701466, setter male, by T's American Gunfighter-T's Whistling Dixie. Robert Warner III, owner and handler.

Judges: Danny Davis and Brad Hire

NBHA JOHN ELLIS MEMORIAL

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

- 8 Pointers, 1 Irish Setter, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-NO LIMITS LITTLE SLICK, 1702850, German Shorthair female, by Right Stuff's Rock N Roll-Outbak's Attitude. John Landolina, owner and handler.

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

3d-CRAIG'S SASSIE SADIE, 1690033, pointer female, by Greypointe Izquierda-You Never Can Tell. Craig Hiatt, owner and handler.

Judges: Frank Christie and Declan Wheat

NBHA AMATEUR PUPPY - 4 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-PB COPPER STRIKE, 1705727, pointer male, by Erin's Southern Comfort-Three Stripe's Bullseye. Brian Stockrahm, owner and handler.

2d-HUBER'S ICE QUEEN, 1705274, pointer female, by Lester's Shockwave-Bonner's Carolina Belle. Travis Patterson, owner and handler.

3d-BEAUCOUP CREEK ABBY, 1704369, setter female, by Beaucoup Creek Buck-Glover's Pepper Shaker. Donald R. Heisner, owner and handler.

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## BEAVER VALLEY POINTER & SETTER CLUB

### *Club Celebrates 75th Anniversary*

By Allen Fazenbaker | Rochester, Pennsylvania | March 16, 2024

**H**ow many memories can one pack into 75 years? A lifetime, so they say. So, how many memories can one bird dog club pack into 75 years? A thousand? One hundred thousand? A million, dare say? The Beaver Valley Pointer & Setter Club has that many memories, and on the 75th anniversary of this iconic club, there are a million more to be made. We continued that process on the weekend of March 15 and 16 as we held our annual spring gathering at the Beaver grounds in Rochester Twp., Pennsylvania.

In 1949, a group of gentlemen gathered in western Pennsylvania with the intent to form an organization that would offer a venue for local bird dog enthusiasts to compete with their dogs in horseback field trials. Thus, came about the Beaver Valley Pointer & Setter Club. Little did these gentlemen know that the Beaver Valley Pointer & Setter Club would become an icon of American Field bird dog competition for Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, and surrounding states. On this March weekend in 2024, well-wishers and competitors gathered at these well-known grounds to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the club and to continue the tradition of running pointing dogs to determine the “Best of the Day” in the field! We owe a note of gratitude to those founders who had the foresight and initiative to push forward and offer these grounds to the field trial community.

Bill Miller, Ed Honhold, George McCreary, Sam Overholt, Dick Baglan, Dick Hudson, and John Lippscomb raised funds and purchased 368 acres of land in the rolling foothills north of Pittsburgh on Bonzo Road. In the next few years, a clubhouse was erected, a barn refurbished, and the first field trials became a reality. It wasn't long before walking trials were introduced, originally under the auspices of the American Bird Hunters Association, and Beaver Valley never looked back.

Today, the Beaver Valley Pointer & Setter Club is the embodiment of walking field trials in the region. If the walls of the Beaver Valley clubhouse could talk, what stories we would hear! Beaver Valley not only serves as a center of walking trials but also is a stalwart supporter and member of the Pennsylvania Walking Shooting Dog Association, a longtime advocate of American Field-supported walking trials in the region. Beaver Valley is frequently the location of the PWSDA annual meeting

(to be held this year at Beaver Valley on June 22 in conjunction with our Youth Trial Day) and has been a member of the Association since its inception.

William F. Brown, long-time publisher and owner of *The American Field*, said it best. “The object of field trials is the promotion and development of the high-class bird dog. It is a means of enjoying the great out-of-door sport of bird hunting in the most aesthetic fashion. It aims to provide competition of the highest kind among bird dogs, to stimulate enthusiasm among owners, and to act as a practical guide for breeders by setting a high standard of performance. Field trials mold opinions of conformation and perfect the mechanism of the ideal bird dog. There is a particular physical makeup of the well-bred bird dog that is indispensable to the performance of those duties wherefore he is highly valued. Without this equipment he is not so well fitted to perform those duties in a finished fashion. Bird dog trials thus influence physical standards. Although field qualities are all-important in the utility bird dog, is it desirable to have beauty of conformation, with brain power, intelligence, and bird sense.” (fr. *Field Trials: History, Management, and Judging Standards*, William F. Brown, 1982). This is the spirit and the intent of the Beaver Valley Pointer & Setter Club, which carries the club to its present day.

This weekend could not have been a success if not for the many helping hands who pitched in to make for a great weekend. Bob Smith and Reese Carroll were our bird planters, ensuring a good supply of game in the field for our dogs to hunt. The pickup duties were handled by Justin Mason and Nick Lasica. Joe Cammisa handled the kitchen duties, no small task on this busy weekend, and he did so with smiles and good conversation. The food was delicious. Also, a big thank you to the individuals who graciously provided use of their ATVs and side-by-side vehicles for the pick-up group, judges, reporter, and bird planters.

We had a slate of experienced and capable judges. Handling the Open stakes on Saturday were Tim Swonger and Rich Jarosinski, both highly experienced field trialers with a wealth of knowledge. The Amateur stakes on Sunday were handled by Norm and Alex Meeder, long-time Beaver Valley Club members, and experienced field trialers. This crop

of judges is enthusiastic, honest, fair, and has a good eye for a quality bird dog. We couldn't have done better. Thank you.

While it takes people to run a good trial, it also takes support. A stalwart of the bird dog world stepped up to the plate and provided the support needed to keep this sport alive and well. Purina, maker of Pro Plan feeding products, is certainly no stranger to the field trial community. Where would we be without them? If you haven't tried Purina products with your bird dog, your dog is missing out on some high-quality nutrition. Pick up a bag and try it; you won't be disappointed. Thank you to Purina rep Greg Blair and Purina.

Another valuable and essential contributor to our sport is the professional trainers who participate in our events. We are ever thankful to Hall of Famer Dave Hughes, Mark Hughes, Scott Forman, and Nick Mellon, who supported our weekend not only with entries but also by lending a helping hand to the many chores that must be done to keep the trial moving forward. Thanks to each of you!

This reporter would be remiss if he did not make note of the trial chairs who planned, organized, and brought this trial to a successful fruition. Joe Cammisa and Norm Meeder, both longtime club members, deserve a special note of thanks for their efforts. It has been said by some that the sport of field trials is on the downturn, and perhaps it may be. You would not have had such an impression at this event. Joe, Norm, and the Beaver Valley Pointer & Setter Club members deserve special thanks, not simply for organizing and implementing a great weekend trial but also for their extra efforts in assisting the several folks who came and ran their first field trial. It was especially good to see the number of young people at the trial this weekend, including youngsters in strollers and toddlers new to walking! If there is anything that is needed to keep our sport alive, it is young people. Beaver Valley Pointer & Setter Club had no shortage of young people this weekend. Well done!

Beaver Valley Pointer & Setter Club is just a few miles northeast of the junction of the Beaver and Ohio Rivers in western Pennsylvania. Being in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, the terrain is rolling to undulating; the grounds themselves are a mixture of woodlands



Open Puppy (front, l-r): Rich Fazio with Hitail Roxy Afield, Reese Carroll with Backcountry Fearless, and Nick Lasica with Lucky Bee's Outlaw. (Behind): Tim Swonger (judge) and Chris Catanzarite.

and open areas, with the open areas planted to feed strips and crops designed to hold birds. During this weekend, the weather was sunny and pleasant on Saturday but not too warm to impact dogs. Sunday's weather was cooler, with clouds moving in and temperatures dropping as the day progressed. Both days were excellent for running dogs.

### The Running

The Open stakes began on Saturday, albeit a bit late due to a persistent fog that had settled in during the night. The Open Puppy commenced with a very respectable 10 entries.

Brace 1: JJ (BRITM/Johnson) hunted hard and worked the cover well; he was fast and made a couple of nice casts in the open. His bracemate, Rex (PM/Tressita), was picked up early.

Brace 2: Mickey (PM/Bowser) and Jake (PM/Catanzarite) ran hard out of the gate and were lost to judgment.

Brace 3: Roxy (ESF/Fazio) showed a wide and forward race, with a classy and flowing gait, and hunted hard with nice application to take first place. Odis (ESM/Forman) showed a moderate pace but not the maturity of his bracemate.

Brace 4: Dash (PM/Mason) was lost to judgment. Les (PF/Catanzarite) showed a nicely applied forward race and hunted with purpose to earn second place.

Brace 5: Zivah (ESF/Forman) and Odie (PM/Lasica) started the brace tentatively but soon picked up speed, with Odie moving to the front and showing a classy gait and style to take third place.

The Open Derby commenced immediately following the Puppy stake, with eight entries.

Brace 1: Molly (ESF/Drawl) ran the course but had no birds. Lenni (RSM/Fazenbaker) showed a wide and forward race, scoring two finds and a nonproductive; he displayed broke manners on his birds and a very pleasing handle for a wide-ranging race to earn the



Open Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Krysta Munden with Double Deuce Zeke, Joe Cammisia with Saddled Up Sadie, Mark Hughes with Miller's Special Upgrade, and a curious youth. (Behind): Tim Swonger (judge) and Rich Jarosinski (judge).

first-place spot for the stake.

Brace 2: Princess (ESF/Forman) showed a nice race, although lateral at times. She had no birdwork. Dusty (PM/M. Hughes) showed a wide and forward race with one find displaying broke manners. This classy moving dog earned the second-place finish for his efforts.

Brace 3: Zeke (ESM/Mellon) and Mac (ESM/Forman) hunted hard, with Zeke showing a wider reach; no birds were produced from their efforts.

Brace 4: Pepper (ESF/Forman) garnered third place in the stake with one find, showing derby manners and a pleasing medium race. Roxy (ESM/Fazio) handled his first bird with broke manners and then a second find with a brief chase. He showed his retrieving skills, scooping his bracemate's find, and scored a nonproductive at time.

The hotly contested Open Shooting Dog stake brought a wealth of high-quality dogs to the line. Both judges commented on the challenges of choosing three dogs, as they both indicated that numerous dogs showed outstanding performances.

Brace 1 of the stake also produced the eventual winner. Warrior Zeke (PM/D. Hughes) and Parker (PM/M. Hughes) broke away and ran to the bottom, where Parker scored a non-productive with Zeke backing. Back on top, Zeke scored the first find at 15 minutes, with Parker backing. Parker scored a find at 18 near the oil well, with Zeke backing. Parker scored again on the backside at 22 on a relocation, with Zeke backing. Parker suffered his second nonproductive along the bottom. Zeke took over, with a find along the bottom at 26; he finished strong and to the front to win the stake.

Brace 2: Mags (ESF/Forman) scored the first find at 6 along the upper tree line but was on the leash after being seen under a bird at 9. Zeke (PM/M. Hughes) pointed his first find at the end of the breakaway, followed by nicely handled finds at 4, 12, and 15. He finished the brace to the front.



Open Derby (l-r): Al Fazenbaker with CC Lenni Lenape, Mark Hughes with Miller's Dusty Version, and Scott Forman with Wynona's Payday. (Behind): Tim Swonger (judge), Mike Husenits, and Rich Jarosinski (judge).

Brace 3: Remi (ESF/D. Hughes) scored a find early, with a bit of motion on the flush. Ellie Mae (ESF/M. Hughes) showed a wide- and far-ranging race, covering the course with a classy way of going. She scored finds at 6 along the lower tree line, 9 along the topside, 11 on the backside, and 15 in the island, albeit with some ticking on her bird work as the handler approached. She finished strong to the front.

Brace 4: Molly (ESF/M. Hughes) suffered a nonproductive along the breakaway but then picked up the pace to score her first find near the oil well, with Mae (PF/Giancaomo) backing. Molly scored again 11 on the backside; Mae was on the hook after failing to back. Molly scored her third find in the lower woods; she finished strong and to the front.

Brace 5: Bit (PF/D. Hughes) had a nonproductive at the end of the breakaway; Uno (PM/Knight) scored the first find of the brace at 9 on the upper tree line with Bit honoring but was picked up after going with the flush. Bit suffered a second nonproductive near the oil well at 14 but then went on to score three finds at 17, 19, and 20. She finished strong.

Brace 6: Proof (ESM/Forman) and Cricket (PF/Hughes) both showed strong races as they moved through the course. Proof scored the first find at 7 along the lower portion of the course, with Cricket backing. Cricket scored her first bird at 18 in the lower woods and again in the same area at 22. Proof pointed at 24 in the lower woods with Cricket backing but was picked up after moving on the bird. Cricket finished strong.

Brace 7: Penny (PF/M. Hughes) and Shelby (VIZF/Basic) showed a wide application from the start; Penny scored her only find at 11 on the island, and Shelby was up after failing to honor. Penny showed a forward and strong application to earn third place in the stake.

Brace 8: Breaking away hard, Sadie (PF/M. Hughes) scored her first find at the far tree line, with Bubba (ESM/Mellon) backing. Sadie scored again in a feed strip



Amateur Derby (front, l-r): Al Fazenbaker with CC Lenni Lenape, Alex Meeder (judge) with Hypoite Sharpshooter, and Pete Leone with Fleetwood Mac. (Behind): Alex Meeder.

near the backside, showing good manners. Next was Bubba, with a find at 15; he showed a bit of movement on the shot. Sadie scored again at 17 in the woods and then dug up another find at 20 in a feed strip along the bottom. Both dogs finished, with Sadie strong to the front, earning her the second place in the stake.

Brace 9: Spec (PF/M. Hughes) and Renny (PF/Knight) bolted along the breakaway with a strong start; Spec veered downward, scoring a find in the bottom at 6; Renny scored along the topside. Renny scored again at 9 with Spec honoring. She took a sidestep as the handler approached after the shot. Both dams scored finds on the backside, with all in order. Renny scored two additional finds, in the island and along the wood line, with some movement as handler approached. Spec honored. Just before moving into the bowl, the dams scored a divided find, with all in order. Both dogs suffered a nonproductive as they raced across the bowl to the finish.

Sunday brought cooler weather for the Amateur stakes; the temperature dropped throughout the day, but the last stake was finished before the rain and sleet came on. The Amateur Derby started the running.

Brace 1: Both dogs in this brace, Molly (ESF/Drawl) and Mack (ESM/Abraham), were rough on the handle, and patterns were a bit erratic. Molly produced no birds; Mack scored a find at time, with a hearty chase to finish the brace.

Brace 2: Lenni (RSM/Fazenbaker) came out strong, moving up to the top tree line in quick order. He rounded the backside and disappeared in the bottom. His scout found him standing on a nice limb find, showing broke manners on his game. Mac (PM/Bowser) scored a find in the woods and showed a medium race to finish, taking third place for his effort. Lenni finished wide and strong to the front to take the blue in this stake.

Brace 3: Zeke (PM/Leone) showed a strong race out of the box, scoring his first find at 6 along the lower tree line, displaying broke manners. He scored finds

at 10 and 15, with a merry chase ensuing on these flushes. He finished in the bowl, suffering a nonproductive near time. His performance awarded him the second place in the stake. Rex's Unfinished Business (PM/Tressler) was scratched at the line and did not run.

With the temperature dropping, the Amateur Shooting Dog commenced a little before lunch. Eighteen dogs vied for the placements.

Brace 1 of the Amateur Shooting Dog also produced the second-place winner, Wayne (PM/K. Munden). Wayne and his bracemate Butch (PM/Park) both showed a pleasing and forward race, with Wayne scoring the first find on the tree line at the end of the breakaway, with Butch backing. Butch scored shortly after in the same area, with a bird produced after an extensive flushing effort by the handler. Wayne dug up another find on the top tree line, with Butch honoring the effort. At the oil well, both dogs pointed, scoring a divided find. Wayne scored an additional find at 17 on the backside of the course. Both dogs finished forward, with Wayne to the front to earn the No. 2 spot for the stake.

Brace 2 produced the Amateur winner, Blaze (PM/Mason). Blaze was strong out of the gate, scoring his first find at the end of the breakaway, with his bracemate Lucky (BRITM/Jarosinski) honoring. He scored again in the top tree line, with Lucky honoring. Moving to the backside, Blaze scored his third find; Lucky ran out of luck at 12 and was picked up after being observed under a bird. Blaze scored again at 15 in the island; moving forward, he suffered a nonproductive along the top edge of the bowl and finished with class and style, strong and to the front.

Brace 3: Bit (PF/M. Munden) and Uno (ESM/Knight) were fast out of the gate; Uno was soon on the leash after taking out a bird. Bit drove hard down into the bowl with a furious race and was found pointing in a thick blowdown of trees on the far side of the bowl. Shooting her back up the hill, Bit found the course and stabbed a find near the oil well at 16, with all in order. At 21, she scored a nice wing find on the far backside, dug up by her scout. She scored again at 24 along the backside on the bottom. Moving towards the bowl from the backside, Bit suffered a nonproductive at the island but shot into the bottom and slammed hard into a find at time.

Brace 4: Shelby (VIZF/Basic) was found standing in some grassy cover at the end of the breakaway at 3; Stella (GSPF/Ketchel) moved in on her bracemate's point and broke on the bird on the shot. Shelby suffered a nonproductive at the island, then scored a find in the bottom. Shelby showed



Amateur Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Justin Mason with Backwoods Wild Fire Blaze, Krysta Munden with Wildland Wild Man, and Eric Munden with Wildland Warrior. (Behind): Norm Meeder (judge) and Alex Meeder (judge).

a nice finish and hunted hard throughout the brace.

Brace 5: Mae (PF/Giancaomo) and Chuck (PM/K. Munden) both pushed hard out of the gate, with Chuck scoring a find on the upper tree line. Mae failed to honor and was up. Chuck scored an additional find on the backside at 12 and finished strong and to the front.

Brace 6: River (RSM/Fazenbaker) and Sadie (PF/E. Munden) started slow out of the gate but quickly picked up speed. River was found standing on the back of the upper tree line, and a bird was produced after an extensive relocation. He was on the leash on the backside after failing to stop on a stop to flush. Sadie ran and hunted hard but had no birds.

Brace 7: Ellie Mae (ESF/Bressler) showed a hard pace out of the gate and pointed at 6 along the upper tree line, albeit with some ticking as the handler approached. She scored again at 10 near the oil well. Denver (PM/Park) pointed at the same time but produced no bird after self-relocation. Ellie Mae finished hard and to the front; Denver produced no birds.

Brace 8: Renny (PF/Knight) and Lola (PF/E. Munden) show a fast and furious race; Renny scored the first find at 6 along the lower tree line, with Lola honoring. Lola scored at the oil well, with Renny honoring. Lola scored again in the lower woods and, with a hard race forward, scored again in the bowl. Renny was lost, and the tracker was called for. Lola finished strong and to the front to take third place for the brace.

Brace 9: Bryant (PM/Mason) scored his first find on the upper tree line at 6, again at 8 in the upper woods, a third at 9 on the backside, and again at the island. He finished with a nice forward race. Holly (BRITM/Johnson) had no birds.

Thanks to the handlers, owners, and everyone who helped make the Beaver Valley Pointer & Setter Club spring trial a success. Remember to mark your calendar for the 75th Anniversary fall trial! You

won't want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime event. Join us and make some memories.

**Rochester, Pa., March 16**

**Judges: Richard Jarosinski and Tim Swonger**

**OPEN PUPPY – 8 Pointers and 2 Setters**

1st-HITAIL ROXY AFIELD, 1705101, setter male, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. Russell Fazio, owner and handler.

2d-BACKCOUNTRY FEARLESS, 1705245, pointer female, by Springflow's Backcountry P-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Chris Catanzarite, owner; Reese Carrol, handler.

3d-LUCKY BEE'S OUTLAW, 1704448, pointer male, by Springflow's Backcountry P-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Nick Lasica, owner and handler.

**OPEN DERBY**

**– 2 Pointers, 6 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter**

1st-CC LENNI LENAPE, 1705228, Irish setter male, by Silver Creek Wild Again-Roses Are Red. Al Fazenbaker, owner and handler.

2d-MILLERS DUSTY VERSION, 1706290, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Mike Husenits, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

3d-WYNONA'S PAYDAY, 1703554, setter female, by T's Ridge Reaper-Wynona's Nickleback Molly. Kelly Ehde,

owner; Christie Foreman, handler.

**OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 18 Entries**

1st-DOUBLE DEUCE ZEKE, 1673940, pointer male, by Double Deuce Peter-Funseeker's Holiday. Doug McMillen Jr., owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

2d-SADDLED UP SADIE, 1699757, pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Beaver Meadow Rose. Joe Cammisa, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

3d-MILLER'S SPECIAL UPGRADE, 1695107, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Carlos Escalante, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

**Judges: Les Bressler and Alex Meeder**

**AMATEUR DERBY**

**– 3 Pointers, 2 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter**

1st-CC LENNI LENAPE, 1705228, Irish setter male, by Silver Creek Wild Again-Roses Are Red. Al Fazenbaker, owner and handler.

2d-HYPOINTE SHARPSHOOTER, 1706315, setter male, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. Nick Mallon Jr., owner; Pete Leone, handler.

3d-FLEETFOOT MAC, 1702321, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Hunter's Flight Risk. Randy Abraham, owner and handler.

**Judges: Alex Meeder and Norm Meeder**

**AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 18 Entries**

1st-BACKWOODS WILD FIRE BLAZE, 1691395, pointer male, by Erin's Wild Justice-Hollywood Hot'n'tot. Justin Mason, owner and handler.

2d-WILDLAND WILD MAN, 1695981, pointer male, by Double Deuce Zeke-Beaver Meadow Rose. Eric Munden, owner; Krysta Munden, handler.

3d-WILDLAND WARRIOR, 1676947, pointer female, by Erin's War Creek-Suemac's Coventry. Eric Munden, owner; Krysta Munden, handler.

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## HIGHLAND FIELD TRIAL CLUB

### Annual Spring Trial

By David A. Fletcher | Highland, Michigan | March 16, 2024



Open Puppy (l-r): Greg Tereck, Steve Mikalko (judge), Tom Vanecek, Rich Hollister (handler) with Stone, Mark Beniak, Arthur Bruno with Creekside's Sunshine, and Ron Sposita (Club President).



Open Shooting Dog (l-r): Rich Hollister (handler) with Grouse Ridge Larry, Mark Beniak, Chris Jaeger (owner) with Dun Rovens Soozee, Mike Brown (judge), Charlie Fenech (judge), Tom Vanecek, and Robert Ellis (owner and handler) with Ponderosa's Copper Penny.



Amateur Shooting Dog (l-r): Tammi Savage, Ken DeLong with Faith's Maximum Justice, Steve Mikalko (judge), Mike Brown (judge), Judy Balog with Silvershot's Spring Loaded, Tom Vanecek, Mark Beniak, Jenny Herzog with Gracie Ballroom Star, and Dr. George Najor (owner).

The 2024 renewal of the Highland Field Trial Club's annual spring trial was held over fine courses at the Highland Recreation Area near Milford, Michigan, on March 16 and 17. This event opened the trial season for the State of Michigan and, being the first trial of the season, was well attended by 65 entries. Five walking and one horseback stakes were offered, but the Amateur Derby and Open Horseback Shooting Dog had to be canceled for lack of daylight time to run them. It is always an enthusiastic group that gets their dogs ready for the trial opener, and attendees fill that role wonderfully well.

Weather in Michigan in March is not always cooperative, with snow canceling several previous renewals, but besides a stiff wind Saturday, a bit of late snow

Sunday, and the thermometer in the 30s, there was little overheating among the contenders. The Highland grounds were in excellent shape. Thanks must go to all the clubs using the groups, as they are required to stage workdays where mowing, brush clearing, and a bit of tree removal take place. The DNR's prairie grass restoration program provides great ground cover, and it is mowed and burned to keep areas reasonably short, but even after being flattened by winter snows, it is still great cover to hide a quail.

Club members, including founders, were there faithfully tending to trial tasks. President Ron Sposita planted birds, marshaled the courses along with Secretary Tom Vanecek, drew the entries, and both do a lot of work with the pretrial tasks,

arranging the stakes and the courses. Vice President Mark Beniak looked after financial matters, and Club Director Dave Fletcher wrote the judges' books and reported the event.

Judges in the Open Shooting Dog were Mike Brown and Charlie Fenech, and Mike also judged the Amateur Shooting Dog with Mike Mikalko. Mark Beniak and Steve McKalko judged the Open Puppy, and Ken DeLong and Rick Ellis judged the Open Derby. Professionals Robert Ecker and Rich Hollister supported the trial with many fine and winning entries. Thanks to Purina and U. S. Complete for their support. A photo of the Open Walking Derby winners was missed, many hurrying to the breakaway to get the Amateur Shooting Dog stake underway.

## Open Puppy

“Stone” was the winner of the seven-entry stake for handler Rich Hollister. Stone had the courage and the will to hunt hard and widely to top the stake. Flash Gordon was not far behind in his effort and was a promising, eye-appealing prospect handled by Robert Ecker. Taking the third spot was amateur Chris Wasserman’s Sunny with a tail-cracking hunt, visiting good-looking edges every minute down.

Highland, Mich., March 16

Judges: Mark Beniak and Steve Mikalko  
OPEN PUPPY - 5 Setters and 2 Pointers

1st-STONE, unreg., pointer male, breeding not given. Rich Hollister, owner and handler.

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

3d-CREEKSIDE’S SUNSHINE, 1704976, pointer female, by Creekside’s Riptide-Creekside’s April Fools. Chris Wasserman, owner and handler.

## Open Shooting Dog

The entry of 24 used the remainder of the daylight on Saturday. We witnessed many very good dogs and lots of birdwork. “Larry,” handled by Rich Hollister, was the winner with the most outstanding ground effort in the stake. His lone find was on a great cast along a hillside edge, and this find was stylish and very mannerly. Larry added a back and a strong finish. Handler Hollister took second place with “Soozee,” a setter female with two very well-executed finds and a hunting effort to cover edges all the way. “Penny” was third for amateur Robert Ellis. Penny had a very nice gait and a stylish way of going, and the cover she

chose to edge was always a birdy-looking place. She had a flawless quail find to add to her laurels. Dogs that challenged for placement were “Lucy,” handled by Rich Hollister, and a pair of good-performing dogs handled by Bobby Ecker, “Tea” and “Rock Star.”

Judges: Mike Brown and Charlie Fenech  
OPEN SHOOTING DOG - 10 Pointers, 10 Setters,  
2 Irish Setters, and 2 Brittanys

1st-GROUSE RIDGE LARRY, 1673191, setter male, by Long Gone Boston-Grouse Ridge Merri. Paula Giulitto, owner; Rich Hollister, handler.

2d-DUN ROVENS SOOZEE, 1682090, setter female, by Clary’s Tekoa Sky Hawk-Dun Rovens Boofay. Chris Jaeger, owner; Rich Hollister, handler.

3d-PONDEROSA’S COPPER PENNY, 1690593, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Eldridge’s Beauty and Beast. Robert Ellis, owner and handler.

## Open Derby

The Sunday morning start was coolish at 31 degrees. “River,” handled by Robert Ecker, was clearly the top dog in the stake, exhibiting the best, widest, and purposeful search to very good edges. A pair of very stylish and mannerly finds added to her appeal. “Archie” was second, owned and handled by Mike Brown. Archie had three very good finds, style, manners, and location excellent, and he hunted hard every good-looking cover he approached. “Maggie,” a Brittany female, owned and handled by Robert Ackermann, was third. She was spectacular on the breakaway, snappy, stylish, and persistent in her hunting, and added two superbly executed finds. “Rocky” and Iron Stone, setter males handled by Robert Ecker, challenged the placed dogs with good performances.

Judges: Ken DeLong and Rick Ellis  
OPEN DERBY - 9 Setters, 5 Pointers, 2 Brittanys,  
and 1 German Shorthair

1st-BLUE RIBBON RIVER, 1701966, pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Huckleberry’s Lucky Penny. Martin Festa, owner, Robert Ecker, handler.

2d-ROUGE RIVER PIG PEN, 1702926, setter male, by Chip’s Charlie Brown-Rouge River Wing Nut. Michael J. Brown, owner and handler.

3d-ZIP’S LITTLE MAGGIE MAE, 1709904, Brittany female, by Chelsea’s Whole Lot of Spice-Third Time’s A Charm Maggie Mae. Robert Ackermann, owner and handler.

## Amateur Shooting Dog

First was “Justice,” an eye-catching pointer male owned and handled by Ken DeLong. This dog has been winning consistently, and this performance put him in the winners’ circle again. Justice hit all the good far cover edges, came around nicely, and had one perfectly executed quail find. Silvershots, a pointer female owned and handled by Judy Balog, was second. Her two great finds and reaching casts to birdy edges earned her a placement. Third was Dr. George Najor’s “Gracie,” logging three good finds, a forward effort, yet not quite filling the course as much as the dogs placed above her.

Judges: Mike Brown and Steve Mikalko  
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG  
- 7 Pointers, 6 Setters, and 4 Brittanys

1st-FAITH’S MAXIMUM JUSTICE, 1660276, pointer male, by Nelson’s Van Max-Wild Apple Faith. Kenric J. DeLong, owner and handler.

2d-SILVERSHOT’S SPRING LOADED, 1700284, pointer female, by Crosswind Jim-Silvershot’s Lil Fancy Pants. Judy Balog, owner and handler.

3d-GRACIE BALLROOM STAR, 1694839, setter female, by Sunrise Star-Lucy Two Star. Dr. George D. Najor, owner and handler.

## KANSAS RED SETTER CLUB

### Kansas Open Derby & Open Puppy Classics

By Don Beauchamp | Dexter, Kansas | March 22, 2024

The Kansas Red Setter Club’s 2024 Open Derby and Open Puppy Classics began on March 22, on the Radcliff Ranch at Dexter, Kansas, again this year. The beautiful 12,000-acre ranch owned by Paula Radcliff is located on the southern end of the Flint Hills. I want to thank Paula for allowing us the use of her ranch. The Kansas Red Setter Club has been running field trials here since 1976. In addition, I would like to thank the Wichita Bird Dog Club for helping again this year; their members, Frank Schoenborn, Bob Lais, Greg Gibson, Chuck Maxson, and Sonny Clark, were very helpful as usual. Also, I need to thank our judges Bruce Ludwig, Greg Gibson, Eddie Berendzen, Nathan Berendzen, and Frank Schoenborn



Open All-Age (front row, l-r): Rodney Shoemaker with H P Cottonmouth, Nathan Berendzen with B D K’s Dirty Harry, and Justin Crook with H P Dirty Dancing. (Behind): Jace Lewis, Jay Lewis, Greg Gibson (judge), Mark Wasserman, and Don Beauchamp.

for their many hours in the saddle and well-respected winners named. And finally, I thank Nutri-Source for their financial help and bags of dog food for the

winners. The noon lunches and Saturday night banquet were prepared by Linda Beauchamp and Frank Schoenborn, who cooked the meats.

Bruce Ludwig and Greg Gibson judged the All-Age event which began first on Friday, March 22, with a temperature of 51 degrees and a mild wind, scenting conditions were very good, and the 11 dogs drawn had 15 bird contacts, including three wild coveys. First place was won by H P Cottonmouth, a pointer male owned and handled by Rodney Shoemaker. He pointed a wild covey and had a nice forward race. Second place was B D K’s Dirty Harry, a German Shorthair male owned and handled by Mark Wasserman. Harry had a good big race. Rodney



Open Puppy Classic (front row, l-r): Tyler Bowman with BB's Black Mamba, Scott Hadley with Dominator's Sweet High, and Tyler Buche with TB's Locked N Loaded. (Behind): Frank Schoenborn (judge), Don Beauchamp, Kiowa Hadley, Chuck Maxson, Nathan Berendzen (judge), and Ed Berendzen.

Shoemaker won third place with H P Dirty Dancing, a pointer female with two finds. Rodney was all smiles after winning two of the three placements.

Next up was the Open Derby Classic, a 45-minute stake that drew 12 dogs and was judged by Eddie Berendzen and Greg Gibson. The temperature was 34 degrees with strong north winds. First place was won by High Enchantress, a pointer female running in the last brace owned by and handled by Scott Hadley. "Evo" had the best race and one good find. Evo's bramate Wild Dial Rose, a pointer female owned by Tom Lovett and handled by Justin Crook, took second place with a nice race but went birdless. HP Bloody Knuckles, a pointer male owned and handled by Rodney Shoemaker, won third place. "Larry" bumped and caught a bird and had a decent race. Owner and handler Mike Rost had some tough luck; his "Gator" dog, a pointer male, had four finds but needed a bigger all-age race, and his "Sallie" dog, a pointer female, had a very nice race but was gone too long at the end.

The Open Shooting Dog, judged by Ed Berendzen and Nathan Berendzen, began on Saturday afternoon at 47 degrees, and the wind still blowing. Aim High Elhew Hadley, a pointer female in season, owned by Tierra, Scott, and Kiowa Hadley and handled by Scott, won first place. "Koal" had two nice finds and a biddable race on the last brace Saturday evening. Second place went to Nickajack Doc Holliday, a pointer male owned and handled by Mike Rost. "Huck," running Sunday morning on the third course, had one find and one unproductive. Third place was won by Fast Money, a pointer female owned by Bud Moore and handled by Justin Crook. "Molly" ran the third brace Saturday afternoon, had a back, and an OK race.

The last event running Sunday afternoon in the rain on a single course out and back from camp was the 30-minute Open Puppy Classic, judged by Frank Schoenborn and Nathan Berendzen. BB's Black Mamba,



Open Derby Classic (front row, l-r): Tyler Buche with High Enchantress, Nathan Berendzen with Wild Dial Rose, Justin Crook, and Don Beauchamp. (Behind): Chuck Maxson, Kiowa Hadley, Scott Hadley, Tierra Hadley, Greg Gibson (judge), and Ed Berendzen (judge). (Not pictured): HP Bloody Knuckles, owned by Rodney Shoemaker.

a pointer male owned and handled by Tyler Bowman, ran an incredible race and stayed to the front the entire brace to nail down first place. Second place was won by Dominator's Sweet High, a pointer female owned by Tierra Hadley and handled by Scott Hadley. "Kora" had one find. Third place was TB's Locked N Loaded, a pointer female owned and handled by Tyler Buche.

I want to thank all the owners and handlers from five states who entered dogs and participated in supporting our trial. Hope you all had a safe trip home and hope to see you again next year.

Dexter, Kan., March 22

Judges: Greg Gibson and Bruce Ludwig

OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]

- 8 Pointers and 3 German Shorthairs

1st-H P COTTONMOUTH, 1681616, pointer male, by Wiggins Mister Ronnie-Wiggins Miss Swami. Rodney Shoemaker, owner and handler.

2d-B D K'S DIRTY HARRY, 1675196, German Shorthair male, by Slicks Cuttin Wild-C L K's Point Me The Way. Mark Wasserman, owner and handler.

3d-H P DIRTY DANCING, 1692532, pointer female, by Wiggins Grouse Hawk-Wiggins Lady Mack. Rodney Shoemaker, owner and handler.

Judges: Ed Berendzen and Greg Gibson

OPEN DERBY CLASSIC

- 8 Pointers, 3 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter

1st-HIGH ENCHANTRESS, 1700180, pointer female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Lester's Snow White. Matt Griffith, Ron Stearnsm & Newley Hutchison, owners; Scott Hadley, handler.

2d-WILD DIAL ROSE, 1706745, pointer female, by Texas Cool-Baby's On Speed Dial. Tom Lovett, owner; Justin Crook, handler.

3d-HP BLOODY KNUCKLES, 1708971, pointer male, by Wiggins Elhew Snake-Wiggins Miss Swami Time. Rodney Shoemaker, owner and handler.

Judges: Ed Berendzen and Nathan Berendzen

OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]

- 13 Pointers and 2 Vizslas

1st-AIM HIGH ELHEW HADLEY, 1683609, pointer female, by Striking Elhew Zorro-Elhew Epitome. Tierra, Scott & Kiowa Hadley, owners; Scott Hadley, handler.

2d-NICKAJACK DOC HOLLIDAY, 1693508, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Cocklebur Stripper Candie. Michael Rost, owner and handler.

3d-FAST MONEY, 1681232, pointer female, by Stash The Cash-Lester's Speed Queen. C. W. & Patty Moore, owners; Justin Crook, handler.



Open Shooting Dog (front row, l-r): Scott Hadley with Aim High Elhew Hadley and Michael Rost with Nickajack Doc Holliday. (Behind): Bruce Ludwig, Don Beauchamp, Kiowa Hadley, and Nathan Berendzen (judge) and Ed Berendzen (judge). (Not pictured): Fast Money, owned by Bud Moore.

Judges: Nathan Berendzen and Frank Schoenborn

OPEN PUPPY CLASSIC - 10 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-BB'S BLACK MAMBA, 1704745, pointer male, by B B's Street Sense-BB's Last Minute. Tyler Bowman, owner and handler.

2d-DOMINATOR'S SWEET HIGH, 1706114, pointer female, by Miller's Blindsider-Hadley's Honky Tonk Song. Tierra Hadley, owner; Scott Hadley, handler.

3d-TB'S LOCKED N LOADED, 1706946, pointer female, by Warjam's Big Mac Daddy-T B's Hawaiian Breeze. Tyler Buche, owner and handler.

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## NBHA MIDWEST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

*Cates Rocket Girl Named Champion; M V R Earl's Black Diamond, Runner-Up*

By Kevin Western | Williamsburg, Missouri | March 22, 2024

The NBHA Midwest Regional Championship and companion stakes were held at the Whetstone Creek Conservation Area near Williamsburg, Missouri, on March 22-23. This year, we had a smaller-than-normal entry due to some scheduling conflicts, but the field was made up of many champions, and the competition was fierce. Following the conclusion of this Championship, companion Open stakes were held.

This year's trial was hosted by the Missouri Bird Hunters Association. Joe Zimmer, Jack Glover, and Kevin Western carried the bulk of the duties this year. President Jim Ogle was not able to make it due to nursing a bad knee back to health, and Randy Zimmer was celebrating his wedding anniversary. Jim and Randy were sorely missed, but this strong group of dedicated field trialers pulled it off.

The management at the Whetstone Wildlife area was doing some major work on the grounds, in particular on our course. Tim Penn, Jack Glover, and Kevin Western mapped out a course that tested a dog's ability to handle and desire to hunt for their handler. We had a balanced mix of cover and open edges for the dogs to show off their skills at handling any terrain. We are very thankful to the Missouri Department of Conservation and Whetstone Creek CA, for the opportunity to hold trials on these grounds.

The National Bird Hunters Association is blessed to have such generous sponsors. Purina Pro Plan provides dog food to the winners, as well as samples and hats to all the trial participants. Garmin provided a new tracking collar to the winner of the championship. Gun Dog Supply, OnX Hunts, and Mule Brand provided gift certificates to the champion and runner-up. We could not have a successful trial without the support of these great sponsors. Their participation and sponsorship of the NBHA are much appreciated.

Dr. Bill Wright of Bellflower, Missouri, and Tim Penn of Edina, Missouri, were judges for this year's event. These experienced field trial veterans have successfully campaigned dogs in the Midwest for years. I can't emphasize enough how diligent and dedicated these men were to their task. Their knowledge and credentials served them well, and their decisions were well received.



NBHA Midwest Regional Championship (l-r): Joe Zimmer, Andy Erne with Cates Rocket Girl, Tim Penn (judge), Nora Patterson, Rob Alongi, Zach Erne with M V R Earl's Black Diamond, Travis Patterson, and Dr. Bill Wright (judge).

This year's champion was Cates Rocket Girl, a setter female. Rocket Girl is owned by David Cates and was handled by Zach Erne, with Andy Erne scouting. Rocket Girl ran a forward but very controlled race. She had five mannerly finds and a great race responding superbly to her handler.

Runner-up went to M V R Earl's Black Diamond, a Gordon setter male. Earl was handled by Zach Erne, scouted by Andy Erne, and is owned by Sandy Wollschlager of Cannon Falls, Minnesota. Earl ran in the first brace of the trial at a time when the sent conditions were not favorable for the dogs. In his hour, he had one find with excellent manners, and he had a consistent forward race and was still strong in the end. Both dogs put on a good show, and a big congratulations to the Erne brothers for winning both ends of this Championship. Even though the scenting conditions were tough on Friday there were several dogs that had good performances but did not meet the standard that these two dogs set for the trial.

### **The Running**

In Brace 1 was Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior (Malzone) running against M V R's Earl Black Diamond (Erne). Conditions were cool, but there was no breeze, the air was still, and scent conditions were not good. Both dogs were out to the front as Warrior made the turn first at the hedge row with Diamond also making the turn headed to the front. Warrior was reaching far and wide, making him hard to stay in contact with.

Diamond was to the front and was moving forward and staying on course. Diamond struck first at 30 in a stand of native grass, flushing was hard, but Erne produced a bird, and Diamond had excellent manners throughout. At 40, both dogs were standing along the shoreline of a pond; Warrior was credited with the find and Diamond a back. Warrior went on and suffered a nonproductive at 53. Warrior was wide and more than a handful on this day. Diamond finished the hour as he started forward with a purpose, and his efforts were clean and crisp.

Brace 2 had Pure Confidence (Malzone) and Emert's Sho Me Motu (Emert). Motu started early with a find at 5, all in order. Motu then became the victim of two nonproductive, with the first at 11 and the second at 17, ending his day. Confidence made a forward charge throughout the hour, hunting hard, and was pleasing to watch. His efforts came up short as he was not able to find a bird on this day as scenting conditions were very unfavorable.

Brace 3 had Indian Creek Pineapple (Malzone) with Sycamore Creek Cody (Erne). Pineapple started first at 5 with Cody backing. Both dogs cast to the front, hunting forward. As we were making our way to the halfway point of the course, Cody was found pointed at 31. This stand produced a rabbit. Malzone ended Pineapple's day at 31. Cody was sent on to hunt but suffered a nonproductive at 39; he went on to have his only find at 53. Cody finished the hour.

Brace 4 had Indian Creek Sprout (Malzone) running by herself. Sprout had a find at 7, all in order. Sprout then decided to go her own way, and the tracker was called at 15.

Brace 5 was River City Hit Man (Erne) running with Cedar Creek Duke (Nutting). The first brace after a lunch break, and the sun was starting to shine with a light breeze. Duke was easy to handle but not extreme in his efforts. Duke carded three finds at 18, 25, and 41; his birdwork was excellent, with great manners throughout. Duke made some nice casts and finished the hour, but he didn't have the range the winners had. Hit Man had his only find at 37; manners were good. Hit Man and Duke had a divided nonproductive at 59, and this flushing attempt ended their hour.

Brace 6 had Double D's Red Lancelot (Draffen) with Glover's Pepper Shaker (Glover). Conditions started to cloud up, with temperatures dropping. Red started off with the first bird contact of the brace at 7. Red was sent down the hedge row; at this point, Red became hard to communicate with, and the handler picked up at 37. Pepper was not on track in the beginning; she was wide and hard to navigate to the course. Pepper settled in and, at 43, found her first bird, manners were good. She had two more finds at 47 and 56, manners good on both. She finished the hour, but her performance did not measure up to the winners.

Brace 7 saw Chippewa's Dog of War (Erne) with Indian Creek Courageous Cat (Malzone). Dog of War was found south of the hedge row, pointed; his manners were good. He then ranged out of pocket with his handler, and the tracker was called for at 37. Cat had a stand on a bird kill at 5. Cat hunted hard but recorded two nonproductive at 19 and 59, ending her bid.

Brace 8 had Western's Whistlin Dixie (Western) with Indian Creek Bocephus (Malzone). Conditions were deteriorating rapidly as a cold rain would start at the halfway point of the brace. Bocephus was never on track and was out of pocket with his handler early on; he ended his day at 38. Dixie hunted hard and was to the front. Her application was eye-catching. She finished the hour but no birdwork for her efforts.

Brace 9 had Cates Rocket Girl (Erne) with Glover's Flintstone (Glover). The first brace of the second day was cool, with a breeze that would favor the dogs. Rocket Girl started quickly with a find at 4. Rocket Girl was sent on towards the hedge row; there, she swung to the left and was out of view. As the judges and the trial gallery were proceeding forward, Rocket Girl was seen on point at 11. As the party approached, Flintstone was standing on

point at 11 near a plum thicket. Flintstone's bird was flushed first, and manners were good. Rocket Girl bird was put into the air by handler Erne, all was good. Both dogs were now sailing forward on the course with Rocket Girl seen far to the front moving forward. At 17, Flintstone had recorded his second find, all in order. At 26, Rocket Girl was downstream along the timber edge, standing on her third find. This stand is one that no other dog had ventured to; her manners were excellent once again. As both dogs were entering the midway part of the hour, Rocket Girl was straight ahead on point at 32. This stand did not produce any game. Flintstone was 300 yards to our left when point was called for him at 33; his stand also did not produce any game. At 45, both dogs were together, pointing in a thicket. A rabbit was observed, and both dogs were taken on. Flintstone scored next at 52 along a heavy cover strip, birds were put into flight, and manners were once again good. Flintstone was reaching back to the front when he stopped again inside the timber at 57. This stand did not produce any game. His relocation attempt came up empty, ending his effort. Meanwhile, Rocket Girl finished her hour with finds at 50 and 55; manners were again a carbon copy of her previous ones. Her style was always lifting, and she was attractive moving, and always to the front. This was her day, and she set herself apart from the others to win the trial.

Brace 10 had Emert's Sho Me Mo (Emert) and Indian Creek Spur (Malzone). Both dogs were to the front, and Mo struck first with Spur backing. This stand did not produce any game for Mo, and both dogs were sent on. At 13, Spur was pointed, but no game was produced at this stand. At 23, point was called for Spur, and a bird was produced with manners good. At 25, Mo was standing on point where only feathers and a carcass of a bird kill were recognized. Spur had his final find at 26, all good. Spur would be picked up later at 30, ending his day. To navigate the course, Mo was a little challenging, but he did settle down and had finds at 31, 49, and 52. At 60, Mo was found standing. His style was not what his handler desired, and he elected not to flush.

Brace 11 had Erin's Deja Vu (Malzone) with Western's Second Chance (Western). This was the last brace of the Championship, and Second Chance scored first with a nice find at 12 in a briar patch; his manners were good. Deja Vu was not responding, and the handler elected to call for the retrieving device at 20. Second Chance was making some nice forward casts and was hunting the cover throughout. This young dog displays style and intelligence. Today was not to be Second Chance's day as he had stands at 20 and 40

that did not produce a bird, as this ended his bid.

**Williamsburg, Mo., March 22 – One Course**

**Judges: Tim Penn and William Wright**  
**NBHA MIDWEST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**[One-Hour Heats] – 10 Pointers, 9 Setters,**  
**1 Irish Setter, and 1 Gordon Setter**

*Winner-CATES ROCKET GIRL, 1690282, pointer female, by Swift Rock Iced Cash-Swift Rock Splash. David Cates, owner; Zach Erne, handler.*

*Runner-Up-M V R EARL'S BLACK DIAMOND, 1662827, Gordon setter male, by Milomix Earl-Clearcut Crack That Whip. Sandy Wollschlager, owner; Zach Erne, handler.*

### **Companion Stakes**

In the Derby stake, Dr. Bill Wright's Gordon setter female, Milomix Liz, took home the first-place honors with a strong two-find performance, showing good manners for a young derby. Congratulations to Dr. Wright.

Travis Patterson brought his normal, strong string of dogs and took home first place in the Puppy stake with his pointer, Huber's Brazen Noir. "Macho" had a nice forward race, responded well to his handler, and was attractive to watch. This young prospect captured the judge's eye to secure the top-place puppy honors.

Gary Malzone took home second place with his snappy little female pointer, Indian Creek Tom Boy. Her performance was very close to the winner. Tom Boy is owned by Timothy and Amy Cauley and is a very stylish, hard-going puppy that I am sure we have not heard the last of.

Rounding out the puppy class was Huber's Ice Queen, owned and handled by Travis Patterson. "Queenie" had a nice forward race. All of the puppies looked good and should be able to advance to the next level. Congratulations to all.

Again, we thank all our sponsors, judges, helpers, and participants. Special thanks to Joe Zimmer and Ralph Niemeyer for bringing their side-by-sides, which allowed for the convenience of keeping the trial running smoothly. The participation and dedication of the good folks who come to these trials make the future look great for the National Bird Hunters.

**Judges: Jack Glover and Tim Penn**

**NBHA OPEN DERBY**

**– 1 Pointer, 1 Setter, and 1 Gordon Setter**

*1st-MILOMIX LIZ, 1701180, Gordon setter female, by Melrose Prairie Storm-Milomix Rocky. William Wright, owner and handler.*

**NBHA OPEN PUPPY – 4 Pointers and 3 Setters**

*1st-HUBER'S BRAZEN NOIR, 1705297, pointer male, by Rob's Sugar Boo-Aye Aye Matey. Aaron T. Patterson Jr., owner and handler.*

*2d-INDIAN CREEK TOM BOY, 1706075, pointer female, by Erin's Hollywood-Indian Creek Blackeyed Pea. Timothy & Amy Cauley, owners; Gary Malzone, handler.*

*3d-HUBER'S ICE QUEEN, 1705274, pointer female, by Lester's Shockwave-Bonner's Carolina Belle. Aaron T. Patterson Jr., owner and handler.*

# CHICKAHOMINY FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

## *Mohawk Mill Big Stuff Wins Dave Pomfret Amateur Shooting Dog*

By Mert Jones | Jarrett, Virginia | March 23, 2024

The Chickahominy Field Trial Association returned to Hunt's Game Preserve near Jarrett, Virginia, again this year for their spring 2024 field trial. Clint Holloway, the owner and manager of Hunt's, once again had these premier grounds in great shape. The cover was good, and the course offered open areas, wood edges, and piney woods for the dogs to show all their abilities.

The U. S. Complete Walking stakes were filled with eight puppies, four derbies, and 20 shooting dogs for a total of 32 dogs, and our Horseback stakes on Sunday were also full with four pups, four derbies, and 16 shooting dogs for a total of 24 dogs. On Saturday morning, we were greeted with rain, heavy at times, so our field trial chairperson, Sharon Townley, delayed the start of our Puppy stake for an hour until 8:30. The weather began to clear as the Puppy stake started and began to improve as the day went on. The remainder of the day was busy, and the handlers cooperated by getting their dogs to the line in a timely manner. We were able to finish the U. S. Complete stakes well ahead of dark. We thank everyone for all their help moving the trial along.

Purina is a national sponsor of U. S. Complete. In addition to sponsoring the national organization, Purina provides discount coupons for its products to the winners in all U. S. Complete local trials. All the winners in today's trial will receive a discount coupon for Purina products.

Once again, this year, Sharon Townley served as our field trial chairperson. Sharon put together the same committee she had last year, and our thanks go out to Sharon and the committee for seeing that everything was tended to. Danny Gooch saw that the birds were planted where and when they needed to. We say a big thank



Amateur Puppy (front, l-r): Sharon Townley with Beechwood's Fancy Like, Spot with Worth Lewis, and Wayside Jade with Steve Moore. (Behind): Terry McCormick (judge), Mrs. Lewis, Jeff Smith, Bob Phillips, Phil Rutter (judge), and Phil Townley.



Dave Pomfret Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Ashby Morgan with Mohawk Mill Big Stuff and the Dave Pomfret Memorial Trophy, Lee Flanders with Chippokes Cracker Jack, and Greg Isenberg with Tenace Moxie. (Behind): Terry McCormick (judge), Sharon Townley, Jeff Smith (judge), Bob Phillips, Phil Rutter, and Phil Townley.

you to the unsung hero of this trial and so many of our trials, Phil Townley. Phil drove the gallery wagon and the dog truck and was always there to help with the many things that came up at the last minute. Thanks to Sharon Townley and Judy Jones for all the good meals we had at the trial.

So many others helped us, and we thank them! Another task Sharon tends to for this trial every year is she IS the Awards & Gifts Committee, and as you can tell, she does a super job at it!

This year, our judicial panel comprised a group of talented and experienced people. We thank Sharon, Terry McCormick, Phil Rutter, Jeff Smith, Ellen Winall, and Ashby Morgan for their time, well-thought-out decisions, and use of their horses.

Our U. S. Complete stakes started with our Puppy stake, which drew eight entries. These youngsters showed potential for the future, and we hope to see them again in the fall. Sharon Townley's setter, "Walker," came out in first; "Spot," a setter handled by Wolf Lewis was second, while Steve Moore's setter, "Jade," was third.

The Derby only drew four entries, but the quality was high. Jenna Johnson, a new handler and entry, took first place honors with her French Brittany, "Tanzi." Tanzi had several derby finds and a snappy race. Frank Barnes and his pointer, "Lucy," had two derby finds and a fast-forward derby race to take second place.

The Shooting Dog stake brought together 20 dogs to compete. Topping the

day's shooting dog entries was a pointer named Big Stuff. "Big," as he is called, is owned by Gary Winall and handled by Ashby Morgan. Big had a strong, to-the-front shooting dog race and four well-spaced finds. Second place was captured by a setter named "Jack" and handled by his owner, Lee Flanders. Lee guided Jack through a strong shooting dog race with two finds in the piney woods, the second of which required relocation and a third find near the end of the brace. Named third place was Greg Isenberg's pointer, "Moxie," who had a medium race and displayed excellent manners on her three spaced-out finds.

At the completion of the U. S. Complete stakes, Big Stuff was awarded the revolving Dave Pomfret Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog Trophy.

Sunday morning, we began our horseback stakes with the Amateur Puppy.



Amateur Derby (front, l-r): Jenna Johnson with Tanzi De La Source Hannahatchee and Frank Barnes with Miss Lucille. (Behind): Terry McCormick, Sharon Townley (judge), Bob Phillips, Phil Rutter (judge), and Phil Townley.



Amateur Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Jameson Crandall with Pinekone Rappatamac Hawk, George Doyle with Deep Creek Ginger Snap, and Roger Boser with Wayward. (Behind): Sharon Townley, Ellen Clements Winall (judge), Ashby Morgan (judge), Jeff Smith, Jeni Doyle, and Mrs. Smith.

We originally had six puppies entered; however, two were withdrawn before the drawing, leaving us with a four-puppy stake. Gene Hogge won first and second place with two of his pointers. First place went to “Belle” and second to “Spook.” “Belle” ran a little classier than Spook and had a find on a bird left over from Saturday’s running. Gene’s other pointer, “Ben,” rounded out the placements with third.

The Amateur Derby drew four entries, and finishing first was Larry King’s dog, “Nell.” This pointer female ran a strong race to the front and had two broke finds, one in the piney woods and another at the island past the trailers. Second place was Shotput, an Irish setter female owned and handled by Roger Boser. Shot had a broke find with a shooting dog race. In third, Larry’s pointer, “Rip,” had a good race with one broke find with all in order.

The Amateur Shooting dog had 16 entries. Placing first was a setter male called “Hawk,” owned and handled by Jameson Crandall. Hawk had a big breakaway and pointed at the end of the first field after the breakaway with all in order. He hunted big through the piney woods and was found again on point at 20. After a long flushing attempt, the bird was produced, and Hawk remained for flush and shot. He made a big finish with a third shooting dog find at time. The second-place dog was a pointer female



Amateur Derby (front, l-r): Larry King with Sweet Sorrow, Roger Boser with Shotput, and Gary and Ellen Clements Winall with Rip. (Behind): Mert Jones (secretary) and Sharon Townley (field trial chairperson).

called “Snap,” owned by George and Jeni Doyle and handled by Jeff Smith. Snap was braced with the third-place dog, an Irish setter male called “Wayward” and handled by Roger Boser. These two were braced together and went back and forth on finds and backs, with the pointer having a better pattern for the course.

Your reporter thanks Ellen Clements Winall for help with the descriptions of the performances of the horseback shooting dogs.

The Chickahominy Club thanks everyone for their support and invites you to Hunt’s the last weekend in October for our fall trial.

Jarrett, Va., March 23

**Judges: Terry McCormick and Phil Rutter**  
**AMATEUR PUPPY – 7 Pointers and 1 Setter**

1st-BEECHWOOD’S FANCY LIKE, 1708348, setter male, by Hank of Gold Hill-Shelby of Gold Hill. Sharon Townley, owner and handler.

2d-SPOT, unreg., setter male, breeding not given. Worth Lewis, owner and handler.

3d-WAYSIDE JADE, 1706544, setter female, by Blue Ridge Chance-She’s A Jewel. Steven Moore, owner and handler.

**AMATEUR DERBY – 3 Pointers and 1 Brittany**

1st-TANZI DE LA SOURCE HANNAHATCHEE, R323-040, Epagneul Breton female, by Newton De La Source D’Hannahatche-Barbadun Hada I. Jennifer Johnson, owner and handler.

2d-MISS LUCILLE, 1704780, pointer female, by Quickmarksman’s Excalibur-Hirollins Fancy Lady. Gary Miller, owner; Frank Barnes, handler.



Amateur Puppy (front, l-r): Gene Hogge with Dollar’s Belle. (Behind): Sharon Townley, Ashby Morgan (judge), and Ellen Clements Winall.

**Judges: Terry McCormick and Jeff Smith**  
**DAVE POMFRET AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG**  
**– 13 Pointers and 7 Setters**

1st-MOHAWK MILL BIG STUFF, 1691821, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Hirollins Fantasy Girl. Gary S. Winall, owner; Ashby Morgan, handler.

2d-CHIPPOKES CRACKER JACK, 1691321, setter male, by Skyline New Edition-Grid Iron’s Sorrell’s Penny. Lee S. Flanders, owner and handler.

3d-TENACEE MOXIE, 1701535, pointer female, by Elhew Money-maker-Crossroads Elhew Dot. Greg Isenberg, owner and handler.

**Judges: Ashby Morgan and Phil Rutter**  
**AMATEUR PUPPY – 3 Pointers and 1 Setter**

1st-DOLLAR’S BELLE, 1710219, pointer female, by Haney’s Silver Dollar-New Hope May. Gene Hogge, owner and handler.

2d-CUTAWHISKIE GHOST, 1705764, pointer male, by Hillside Hey You-Annie’s Rose’s Halo. Gene Hogge, owner and handler.

**Judges: Ashby Morgan and Sharon Townley**  
**AMATEUR DERBY – 4 Entries**

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

2d-SHOTPUT, 1704405, Irish setter female, by Gratitude-Slingshot. R. W. Boser, owner and handler.

**Judges: Ellen Clements Winall and Ashby Morgan**  
**AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG**

**– 10 Pointers, 4 Setters, and 2 Irish Setters**

1st-PINEKONE RAPPATOMAC HAWK, 1699732, setter male, by Erin’s Big Casino-Mohawk Mill Charmer. Jameson Crandall, owner and handler.

2d-DEEP CREEK GINGER SNAP, 1674790, pointer female, by Black River Hawk-Aries. George & Jeni Doyle, owners; Jeff Smith, handler.

3d-WAYWARD, 1699503, Irish setter male, by Waycross-Stiletto. Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.

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*Field trial ads must be posted on the website calendar a minimum of two weeks prior to the start date in order to be recognized.*

## NBHA NORTHERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

*Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior Named Champion; Indian Creek Bocephus, Runner-Up*

By Greg Blair | Argyle, Wisconsin | March 28, 2024

The 2024 NBHA Northern Regional Championship was held again this year at the Yellowstone Wildlife Management Area near Argyle, Wisconsin. The grounds are very rolling, with plenty of acreage to allow a dog to stretch their legs yet be in touch with their handler. No mowing was done this past summer, which provided thicker, thorny cover. The Twelve O'Clock Field Trial Club hosts a very welcoming, warm event, and this year was no different. The field consisted of American Field/UKC and AKC champions and major Futurity winners. Thank you to each owner and handler who joined this Championship.

Our judges this year were Bob Bakas of Winfield, Illinois, and Jeff Wallace of Knoxville, Iowa. Bob and Jeff have judged all across the country and sat in judicial saddles of previous championships. These two gentlemen are duly qualified, and we appreciated their time with us. They did a great job and were welcomed kindly by all participants. Thank you, Bob and Jeff!

This year drew a reputable entry from across the country. We welcomed entries from professional trainers traveling from New Jersey, Ohio, and throughout Wisconsin. Due to the fact that this Championship fell on Easter weekend, we began the running on Thursday morning to wrap everything up on Saturday afternoon. We experienced cool temperatures that rose throughout the day into the high 50s. Friday dawned with an east wind, which many will tell you not to run a dog in, but we had some very nice performances. Numerous dogs finished the hour, including M V R Earl's Black Diamond (Erne), Raintree Blue Moon (Waite), Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior (Malzone), Miller Creek's Misbehavin' (Miller), Chippewa's Dog of War (Erne), Miller Creek's On the Horizon (Miller), Indian Creek Bocephus (Malzone), and Sycamore Creek Cody (Erne).

The 2024 NBHA Northern Regional Champion is Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior (Malzone), who ran in the third brace of the first day. The runner-up champion this year is Indian Creek Bocephus (Malzone). Bo ran in the first brace on Friday.

Champion Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior is owned by Jillian Stuhr, handled by Garry Malzone, and scouted by Jillian, all from Indian Creek Kennels out of Franklin, New Jersey. "Buddy" started his brace with an



NBHA Northern Regional Championship (l-r): Deb Dlobik, Bob Bakas (judge), Andy Erne, Matt Miller, Jillian Stuhr with Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior, Zach Erne, Garry Malzone with Indian Creek Bocephus, John Dlobik, Rick Torres, and Jeff Wallace (judge).

early find after the breakaway, all in order. He was classy on the ground, handled kindly, and stayed comfortably to the front, finishing the hour with five finds and one back.

Runner-up Champion Indian Creek Bocephus is THE tried-and-true competitor in the NBHA. Anyone who follows us knows of Bo's accomplishments. Mr. Ed Marron of Ho Ho Kus, New Jersey, is a great supporter of the NBHA and is the proud owner of Bo, also handled by Garry Malzone and scouted by Jillian Stuhr. Bo took to the course Friday morning with a purpose and power. He drove forward and stayed to the front the entire hour. His four-find performance was beautiful to watch, and his finish paved the way for securing the Runner-up Championship title. Well-deserved for this 10-year-old liver and white pointer.

After completing the Championship



Open Derby (l-r): Scott Hauer, Nichole Smith, Bob Bakas (judge), Garry Malzone with Indian Creek 9" Nails, Rick Torres, John Dlobik, Andrea Ward with Raintree Simple Singular, Tom Waite, Jillian Stuhr with Indian Creek Pearl Jam, Jeff Wallace (judge), and Deb Dlobik.

Saturday morning, we started the Derby stake, also judged by Bob Bakas and Jeff Wallace. We can't thank them enough for sticking around and watching these youngsters. The Derby stake drew 11 competitive derbies! Derby placements were secured by three very nice males. Indian Creek 9" Nails, a tri-color male English setter, owned by Kevin Griffin of De Queen, Arkansas, and handled by Garry Malzone, took first and showed great range and handling with a forward application. 9" Nails had multiple finds and stood proudly on them all.

Raintree Simply Singular is an exciting male red setter owned by Cathy Lewis and Dean Reinke of Elkhorn, Wisconsin, and handled by Tom Waite of Burlington, Wisconsin. "Batch" ran a race that was always forward, stayed in with the handler, and applied himself well. He had a nice, broke find to start the brace and went on to have two more finds. Batch is a son of HOF/National Champion Zansett Simply Red.

Rounding out the placements was Indian Creek Pearl Jam, another tri-color male English setter, owned by Jillian Stuhr and Garry Malzone and handled by Garry of Franklin, New Jersey. Pearl Jam and 9" Nails are littermates from Indian Creek Wingman and Erin's Deja Vu, bred by Indian Creek Kennels. All three placements showed application and desire for the entire 30 minutes.

The Twelve O'Clock Field Trial Club would like to thank our national sponsors,

Purina, Garmin, Mule Clothing, OnX Hunt, Gun Dog Supply, and Gun Dog Central. We also would like to thank our dedicated dog wagon driver, Ken Millikin, bird planter John Dlobik, and scouts, who helped everyone who needed assistance for their time and hard work. It is appreciated!

Argyle, Wis., March 28 – One Course  
Judges: Bob Bakas and Jeff Wallace

**NBHA NORTHERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**  
[One-Hour Heats] – 33 Entries

Winner-MOHAWK MILL TRAIL WARRIOR, 1676193, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Hirollins Fancy Lady. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.  
Runner-Up-INDIAN CREEK BOCEPHUS, 1656742, pointer male, by Brown's Tom Tom-Indian Creek Riptide. Edward Marron, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.

**NBHA OPEN DERBY – 11 Entries**

1st-INDIAN CREEK 9" NAILS, 1703032, setter male, by Indian Creek Wingman-Erin's Deja Vu. Kevin Griffin, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.  
2d-RAINTREE SIMPLY SINGULAR, 1700318, Irish setter male, by Zansett Simply Red-Come Back Stellar. Cathy Lewis & Dean Reinke, owners; Tom Waite, handler.  
3d-INDIAN CREEK PEARL JAM, 1703034, setter male, by Indian Creek Wingman-Erin's Deja Vu. Jillian Stuhr & Garry Malzone, owners; Garry Malzone, handler.

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**Field Trials**



**GREENSBURG POINTER & SETTER CLUB**

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

**MAY 3-5, 2024 • WALKING TRIAL • STARTS 8:00 A.M.**

**Grounds:** Located on Bonzo Rd., Rochester, PA. **Drawing:** Tuesday, April 30, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Justin Mason—(724) 889-6878.

**STAKES & RUNNING ORDER:**

(Fri.) *OPEN HORSEBACK SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....	\$50.00
*OPEN HORSEBACK DERBY (30 Min.).....	\$45.00
SHOOTING DOG QUALIFIER (30 Min.).....	\$50.00
(Sat.) *OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.).....	\$30.00
*OPEN DERBY (30 Min.).....	\$40.00
*OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....	\$35.00
(Sun.) AMATEUR PUPPY (20 Min.).....	\$25.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....	\$35.00
OPEN GUN DOG (30 Min.).....	\$35.00

\*Purse: 50%, 50-30-20 (exclusive of grounds fees)

Judges: To be announced



**Entries to: JUSTIN MASON • Phone: (724) 889-6878**

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



**MID-COAST MAINE FIELD TRIAL CLUB**

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

**MAY 4-5, 2024**

**STARTS 7:30 A.M.**

**Grounds:** Costigan Farm, Ward Rd., Prospect, ME. Call for directions to grounds. **Accommodations:** Best Western Whitehouse Inn, Hampden, ME—(207) 862-3737. **Drawing:** Tuesday, April 30, 8:00 p.m., at the home of Russ Ogilvie. To be run on liberated birds.

(Sat.) OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.).....	\$25.00
OPEN DERBY (30 Min.).....	\$40.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....	\$40.00
(Sun.) GUN DOG CHALLENGE (20 Min.).....	\$25.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....	\$40.00
OPEN DERBY (30 Min.).....	\$40.00

— Ribbons for all placements —

Judges: To be announced

Entries to:

**RUSS OGILVIE, President**  
Phone: (207) 248-2020

**JON CULLEN, Treasurer**  
Phone: (207) 991-7039

Email: epointer74@gmail.com

Email: Jonathancullen7@gmail.com

— Email entries must be confirmed —

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**Field Trials**



**MOUNTAIN VIEW BIRD DOG CLUB**

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

**May 4, 2024 • Starts 7:00 a.m.**

**Grounds:** Located at 279 Faller Rd., Lake Ariel, PA.

**Drawing:** Thursday, May 2, 7:00 p.m., at home of the trial chairman.

- (Sat.) AMATEUR PUPPY—Ribbons.....\$30.00
- AMATEUR DERBY—Ribbons .....\$40.00
- AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG—Ribbons .....\$45.00

**Judges:** To be announced



**Entries to: THOR KAIN**

348 Upper Powderly St., Carbondale, PA 18407

Phone: (570) 702-6670 • Email: Tkain63@gmail.com

— **MIDWEST FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION** —

**NORTHWEST FIELD ASSOCIATION TRIALS**

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



**MAY 10-12, 2024 • STARTS 8:00 A.M.**

**Grounds:** Sheyenne National Grasslands, Hankinson Unit, Hankinson, ND. From Hankinson, west on ND-11, right on 165th Ave. SE 1.5 miles, left on 91st St. SE 1.2 miles, right 1.6 miles, left on 89 St. SE to camp. Only certified weed-free hay permitted. **Drawing:** Monday, May 6, 7:00 p.m., at the home of the trial chairman.

- OPEN ALL-AGE (30 Min.).....\$55.00
- OPEN DERBY (30 Min.) .....\$55.00
- OPEN WALKING SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.) .....\$55.00
- OPEN WALKING DERBY (30 Min.) .....\$55.00
- OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.) .....\$55.00

**Judges:** To be announced

**Entries to: IAN MacTAVISH, Chairman**

4851 Norcrest Ave. S, Afton, MN 55001

Phone: (651) 302-3797 • Email: ianmactav@gmail.com

The NWFA, its officers, and members are not, in any way, responsible and cannot be held liable for accidents involving anyone participating in the trial.

**YORK POINTER & SETTER CLUB**

Member AFTCA & EPAFTC • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns only!

**MAY 10-11, 2024 • STARTS 8:00 A.M.**



**Grounds:** Club Farm on Rt. 74, 1 mile west of Rossville, PA.

**Drawing:** Thursday, May 9, 8:00 p.m., at the clubhouse.

**STAKES AND ORDER OF RUNNING:**

- (Fri.) MERV EISENHART MEMORIAL
- OPEN SHOOTING DOG—50%, 50-30-20; Rosettes... \$63.00
- OPEN DERBY—50%, 50-30-20; Rosettes .....\$63.00
- (Sat.) GERALD TRACY MEMORIAL
- AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG—Rosettes.....\$53.00
- AMATEUR DERBY—Rosettes .....\$43.00

— \$3.00 grounds fee deducted before purse is paid —

**Judges:** To be announced

**Entries to: GREG STRAUSBAUGH, Trial Chairman**

Cell: (570) 510-2692

Entries are accepted with the understanding that the York Pointer & Setter Club, their officers and members are not responsible and cannot be held liable for any damages to persons, horses and dogs while participating or attending the trial.



**SUMMERHILL FIELD TRIAL CLUB**

Member SBHA, AFTCA & EPFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**May 4-5, 2024 • Starts 8:00 a.m.**

**Grounds:** George Tracy Training Grounds, 7923 Main St., Glenville, PA 17329 (next to Snyder's Grain Mill). **Drawing:** Friday, May 3, 7:00 p.m., at the grounds.

- AMATEUR RESTRICTED DERBY (30 Min.).....\$50.00
- AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....\$50.00
- AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.).....\$50.00
- \*YOUTH STAKE..... FREE

\*Saturday, 2:00 P.M., or later depending on entries; Not recognized

**Judges:** Dave Hughes, Tom Brigman, and others to be announced

**Entries to: KAREN SANIGA, Nottingham, PA**

Cell: (610) 350-7373 • Email: ksaniga@hotmail.com



**WOLVERINE FIELD TRIAL CLUB**

— On behalf of the Association of Michigan Field Trial Clubs —

Member USCSA & AMFTC • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**MAY 10-12, 2024 • STARTS 7:30 A.M.**

*Horseback/Walking Trial • AMFTC & USCSA Points Trial*

**Grounds:** Highland Recreation Area, Highland, MI. **Entries Close:** Tuesday, May 7, 7:00 p.m. **Drawing:** Wednesday, May 8, 4:00 p.m., at the home of Trial Chairman Jim Cipponeri, (248) 789-0758; litigationsspecialist@comcast.net. Call secretary or chairman after the drawing for running order. If a large entry occurs, the club reserves the right to cancel stakes.

- USCSA OPEN WALKING PUPPY (20 Min.).....\$40.00
- DAVE FLETCHER OPEN WALKING SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC (30 Min.).....\$60.00
- USCSA OPEN WALKING DERBY (30 Min.) .....\$50.00
- OPEN HORSEBACK SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.) .....\$55.00
- OPEN HORSEBACK DERBY (30 Min.) .....\$50.00
- OPEN HORSEBACK PUPPY (20 Min.) .....\$40.00
- AMATEUR HORSEBACK SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....\$45.00

**Open Stakes:** 50% of entry fees divided 50-30-20. Rosettes to all placements.

Grounds and associated fees of \$9 per dog are deducted from the purse.

**Judges:** Rich Hollister, Bill Klenner, and others to be announced

**Trial Committee Members:** Paul Tutro, Brian Wood, and Ron Sposita

**DAVE FLETCHER, Secretary/Reporter**

(517) 214-6404



**CENTRAL CONNECTICUT BIRD DOG CLUB**

Member AFTCA, USCSA & ANEFTC • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**MAY 17-19, 2024 • STARTS 7:00 A.M. SHARP**

**Grounds:** Dr. John Flaherty Field Trial Area, East Windsor, CT. Handlers responsible for own horse arrangements. **Drawing:** Tuesday, May 14, 7:00 p.m., at the home of the chairman. Club reserves the right to change judges and starting times.

- OPEN RESTRICTED SHOOTING DOG.....\$55.00
- SCOTTY CREEL OPEN DERBY .....\$55.00
- GUARD RAIL OPEN SHOOTING DOG .....\$70.00
- AMATEUR DERBY .....\$45.00
- MILO WILKINSON AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG.....\$45.00

**Purse:** Open Stakes—50%, less \$10.00 per dog, 50-30-20;

Amateur Stakes—Ribbons and Certificates.

**Judges:** To be announced • **Reporter:** Tom Gates

**For entries & information, contact:**

**GENE CASALE JR., Chairman**

Phone: (860) 202-1143 • Email: gacasale@gmail.com

Central Connecticut Bird Dog Club, its officers and members are not responsible for loss, injury or theft.



# MAINE BIRD DOG CLUB

Member USCSA, AFTCA & ANEFTC • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**MAY 11-12, 2024 • STARTS 7:00 A.M.**

**Grounds:** Brownfield Game Management Area, on Rt. 5, two miles south of Fryeburg, ME. Follow field trial signs. To be run on liberated quail. Handlers walk in all stakes.  
**Drawing:** Thursday, May 9, 6:00 p.m., at the home of the secretary, 50 Rennie Rd., Hanover, NH. Email entries only (see below). Entries close at time of drawing. U.S. funds only. \*NOTE: Both Saturday and Sunday Gun Dog stakes will run immediately following the puppies on a separate course in the a.m. Gun Dog stakes FREE for first time trialers.

(Sat., 7:00 a.m.) \*CLIFTON HALE-GARFIELD WALL OPEN DERBY CLASSIC .....\$45.00  
\*OPEN SHOOTING DOG.....\$45.00  
(Sat., 8:00 a.m.) \*MICHAEL S. ROBINSON OPEN PUPPY .....\$35.00  
\*40%, 50-30-20

AMATEUR GUN DOG.....\$30.00

**Judges:** OD—Kelly Hays, Columbia, NH, and Jimmy Levesque, Salem, MA; OSD—Eric Rizza, Georgetown, MA, and Jamie Leitch, Holland, VT; OP—Roy Hargreaves, Sumner, MA, and Eric Rizza, Georgetown, MA; AGD—Deb Kennedy, Hanover, NH, and Dave Theroux, Manchester, NH.

(Sun., 7:00 a.m.) BERNIE MURRAY AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG .....\$40.00

(Sun., 8:00 a.m.) AMATEUR PUPPY .....\$30.00

AMATEUR GUN DOG.....\$30.00

AMATEUR DERBY .....\$35.00

**Judges:** ASD—Adam Dubriske, Troy, NH, and Victor Forsythe, Kingman, ME; AP—Tom Jay, Falmouth, MA, and Cal Robinson, Biddeford, ME; AGD—Kelly Hays, Columbia, NH, and Dave Theroux, Manchester, NH; AD—Doug Dix, Whitingham, VT, and Brian Dix, Wilmington, VT.

Club reserves the right to substitute judges, if necessary.



Entries to: DEB KENNEDY, Secretary, 50 Rennie Rd., Hanover, NH 03755

Phone: (603) 795-4633 [Landline, no texts] • Cell: (603) 252-9228

Email: debkennedy2000@gmail.com

KELLIE SHORT, Stake Manager • Buxton, ME



# RIDGERUNNERS BIRD DOG CLUB

Member SBHA & EPFTA

Member SBHA & EPFTA

**Saturday, May 18, 2024 • Starts 8:00 a.m.**

**Freeland Kennel Club**

**258 Stagecoach Rd., Weatherly, PA 18255**

— SBHA & EPFTA Points Trial —

**Drawing:** Thursday, May 16, 7:00 p.m.,  
at 1013 Fowlersville Rd., Berwick, PA, 18603.

**Stakes & Order of Running:**

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Horseback..... \$50.00

\*OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Walking..... \$50.00

AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.)—Horseback..... \$50.00

\*No purse • Prizes in all stakes

**Judges:** To be announced

Entries to: ANDY BOGAR • Text/Call: (570) 204-0652

KINETIC

Eukanuba  
Sporting Dog



# NORTHEAST OHIO FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA, PAWSDA & USCSA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**MAY 18\*-19, 2024 • PAWSDA & USCSA POINTS • STARTS 7:30 A.M.**

\*May start May 17, depending on entries.

**Grounds:** Pennsylvania Brittany Club, 256 Kerr Road, Polk, PA. All stakes run on single course. Lunch will be provided each day on the grounds. Dinner will be held on Saturday night in Larry Sutter's honor. **Entries Close: Tuesday, May 14, NOON (EDT).** **Drawing:** Tuesday, May 14, 7:00 p.m. (EDT), at the home of Chris Jaeger. You must be an individual AFTCA member to enter your dog for all AFTCA sanctioned events. Use of tracking collars is allowed in all stakes under strict compliance with AFTCA Guidelines.

(Sat.) \*OPEN PUPPY (25 Min.)—40% (less fees), 50-30-20 & Rosettes.....\$45.00

\*May start Friday, if time and entries warrant

OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—40% (less fees), 50-30-20 & Rosettes.....\$55.00

OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—40% (less fees), 50-30-20 & Rosettes.....\$50.00

(Sun.) 6th ANNUAL LARRY SUTTER MEMORIAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.) ..\$50.00

Rotating Trophy & Custom Bell to Winner • Rosettes & AFTCA Win Certificates

AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.)—Rosettes & AFTCA Win Certificates .....\$45.00

QUALIFIER—May start after Open Derby, depending on time and entries; Rosettes .....\$45.00

**Judges:** To be announced



Entries to: CHRIS JAEGER • Phone or Text: (440) 935-3652

Entries are accepted with the understanding that the Northeast Ohio Field Trial Club, their members, and landowners are not in any way responsible and cannot be held liable for any damages to persons, horses, dogs, or equipment incurred while participating or attending the trial.



# SANDY VALLEY BIRD DOG CLUB

Member AFTCA, USCSA & EPFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

**MAY 19, 2024 • STARTS 8:00 A.M.**

— U.S. Complete Points Trial —

**Grounds:** Freeland Kennel Club, 258 Stagecoach Rd., Weatherly, PA.

Breakfast and lunch served. **Drawing:** Thursday, May 16, 7:00 p.m.

AMATEUR PUPPY..... \$25.00

AMATEUR DERBY ..... \$40.00

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG ..... \$50.00

OPEN DERBY..... \$45.00

— Ribbons and Purina Coupons Awarded —

**Judges:** To be announced



Entries to: DEAN AVILLION • Phone: (570) 956-0744

Entries are accepted with the understanding that the club, its officers, members and landowners are not responsible and cannot be held liable for accidents involving anyone attending the trial, their horses, dogs or equipment.



# KALAMAZOO SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN FIELD TRIAL CLUB

— On behalf of the Association of Michigan Field Trial Clubs, Inc. —

**MAY 25-26, 2024 • STARTS 7:30 A.M.**

Horseback/Walking • Courses 1 & 2 • AMFTC & USCSA Points Trial

**Grounds:** Ionia State Recreation Area, Ionia, MI. Overnight electrical fee \$20.00.

**Drawing:** Wednesday, May 22, 7:00 p.m., at the home of the secretary.

(Course 1) OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.).....\$40.00

OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.) .....\$55.00

OPEN DERBY (30 Min.) .....\$50.00

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).....\$50.00

OPEN WALKING PUPPY (20 Min.).....\$40.00

OPEN WALKING SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.) .....\$55.00

OPEN WALKING DERBY.....\$50.00

AMATEUR WALKING STAKE (30 Min.)—Time permitting.....\$55.00

Purse: 50%, 50-30-20 after deduction of \$12/entry for Association's grounds fees.

Rosettes awarded to each placed dog.

**Judges:** Bill Darr (OP, OWP, OWD & AWS); Mike Czach (OP, ASD, OWP, OWSD);

Charlie Fenech (OSD, OD, OWSD, OWD); and Rich Hollister (OSD, OD, ASD, AWS).



Entries to: TOM WINTERS, Secretary



Phone: (810) 522-8707 • Email: KazooSWMiFTC@gmail.com

Kalamazoo Southwest Michigan Field Trial Club, its officers and members will not be held responsible for loss or damage to property or injury at trial.



Nominating a dog or person  
for the Field Trial Hall of Fame?

To submit a nomination, email:  
dwellmann@ukcdogs.com

To place an ad, email:  
gsmith@ukcdogs.com

# BIG SKY OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

HOSTED BY THE NORTH DAKOTA POINTING DOG CLUB

Starts May 3, 2024

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

- **GROUNDS:** Shyenenne National Grasslands, Hankinson, ND.  
(Coordinates: 46.11797, -96.98606)
- **ENTRIES CLOSE & DRAWING:** Monday, April 29, 6:00 p.m. (CDT); Drawing at 7:00 p.m. (CDT), at 13835 34th St. NW, Bismarck, ND.
- **COURSES:** Single course on released quail. Native birds are possible.
- **ACCOMMODATIONS:** Hankinson Motel—(701) 242-7363.
- **CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGES:** Boyd Sutfin, Waupun, WI, and James Juergens, Lamoni, IA
- **DERBY JUDGES:** Justin Martin, Hutchinson, MN, and Brian Gingrich, Prewitt, NM
- **REPORTER:** Lance Schulz, Bismarck, ND
- **ORDER OF RUNNING:**
  - Big Sky Open Shooting Dog Championship | 60 Min. | \$225 entry\*
  - Big Sky Open Derby (if time permits) | 30 Min. | \$100 entry\*

*\*Entry fees include a \$25 bird charge and MFTA dog tax.*
- **ENTRIES TO:**  
Lance Schulz — Call or Text: (701) 426-0425  
or Email: ndpdcentries@gmail.com  
Bill Stapleton — Call or Text: (414) 294-3503

Big Sky Open Shooting Dog Championship Trophies to the Champion and Runner-up (\$750 to Champion and \$350 to Runner-up)

Championship Winners receive Purina Dog Food and SportDOG Collars

- No training on field trial grounds.
- No smoking is allowed on grounds or in camp.
- Weed-free hay is required on grounds!

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Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

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## MOHEGAN BIRD DOG CLUB

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

THURSDAY, MAY 30 • STARTS 7:30 A.M.

**Grounds:** Freeland Kennel Club, 258 S. Stagecoach Rd., Weatherly, PA 18255. Run on native and liberated birds. **Drawing:** Wednesday, May 29, 5:00 p.m., at Midnight Kennel.

**OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.)**.....\$25.00  
**OPEN DERBY**.....\$45.00  
**AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG** .....\$45.00

**Judges:** Andy Bogar, Berwick, PA, and Pedja Kazic, Greenlawn, NY



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

*Club members and landowners not responsible for accidents.*

**DON'T WAIT ON HOLD, TRY THE ONLINE CHAT!**

Type here to start the chat!

Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM

Initiate a chat and be speaking with a real UKC team member who is trained and ready to help within minutes!

To reach us by phone, please call (312) 663-9797

**VISIT: AMERICANFIELD.COM**

**UNITED KENNEL CLUB**

Don't miss the next ad deadline!

Please submit all material by May 5 to be included in the June edition.

**Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America**

[www.aftca.org](http://www.aftca.org)  
 Piper Huffman, Secretary  
 Phone: (662) 223-0126  
 Email: [piper.huffman@aim.com](mailto:piper.huffman@aim.com)

**American Bird Hunters Association**

[www.facebook.com/trialabha/](http://www.facebook.com/trialabha/)  
 Ronnie Rogers, President  
 Phone: (865) 712-9229  
 Email: [esetter34@yahoo.com](mailto:esetter34@yahoo.com)

**National Bird Hunters Association**

[www.nbhadowg.org](http://www.nbhadowg.org)  
 Ken Sauer, President  
 Phone: (281) 960-2508  
 Email: [kfsauer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kfsauer@sbcglobal.net)  
 Tim Penn, Secretary  
 Phone: (660) 341-1165  
 Email: [tpennhwy6@gmail.com](mailto:tpennhwy6@gmail.com)

**National German Shorthaired Pointer Association**

[www.ngspa.org](http://www.ngspa.org)  
 Natalie Inderman, Secretary  
 Phone: (806) 777-2769  
 Email: [Nataliealicia@ymail.com](mailto:Nataliealicia@ymail.com)

**National Red Setter Field Trial Club**

[www.nrsftc.com](http://www.nrsftc.com)  
 Ed Liermann  
 Phone: (414) 625-0715  
 Email: [eal1886@aol.com](mailto:eal1886@aol.com)

**National Vizsla Association**

[www.thenva.org](http://www.thenva.org)  
 Robert Tomczak  
 Phone: (715) 829-8104  
 Email: [shilohkl@aol.com](mailto:shilohkl@aol.com)

**Southern Bird Hunters Association**

[www.southernbirdhunters.org](http://www.southernbirdhunters.org)  
 Marty Robinson, President  
 Phone: (770) 862-6568  
 Bruce Mercer, Secretary  
 Phone: (470) 345-6369  
 Email: [mercercbruce@hotmail.com](mailto:mercercbruce@hotmail.com)  
 Georgia Casey, Treasurer  
 Phone: (618) 638-2952

**U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Association**

[www.uscomplete.org](http://www.uscomplete.org)  
 Chris Catanzarite, President  
 Phone: (724) 884-7244  
 Email: [Catanzarite@fairpoint.net](mailto:Catanzarite@fairpoint.net)  
 Bill Bonnetti, Vice-President  
 Phone: (508) 648-0598  
 Email: [bonnetti-william@comcast.net](mailto:bonnetti-william@comcast.net)  
 Jameson Crandall, Secretary/Treasurer  
 Phone: (804) 577-3788  
 Email: [jameson.crandall@gmail.com](mailto:jameson.crandall@gmail.com)

**Futurities**

**Grand National Grouse Futurity**

Thor Kain  
 Phone: (570) 702-6670  
 Email: [TKain63@gmail.com](mailto:TKain63@gmail.com)

**Midwest Vizsla Futurity**

Rodney Albin  
 Phone: (636) 366-9746  
 Email: [rodneyalbin@centurytel.net](mailto:rodneyalbin@centurytel.net)

**National Bird Hunters Assn. Futurity**

Jim Ogle  
 Phone: (417) 388-0734  
 Email: [jojoesnglishsetters@gmail.com](mailto:jojoesnglishsetters@gmail.com)

**National German Shorthaired Pointer Assn.**

Jeff Wallace, Futurity Manager  
 Phone: (641) 891-9513  
 Email: [jeffwallace@iowatelecom.net](mailto:jeffwallace@iowatelecom.net)

**National Red Setter Futurity**

James Inbody  
 Phone: (330) 306-8065  
 Email: [BonasaHunter72@aol.com](mailto:BonasaHunter72@aol.com)

**National Shooting Dog Futurity**

Mark Hughes  
 Phone: (814) 591-3540  
 Email: [mdh275@gmail.com](mailto:mdh275@gmail.com)

**National Walking Shooting Dog Futurity**

Krysta Munden  
 Phone: (724) 840-8400  
 Email: [krystamunden@gmail.com](mailto:krystamunden@gmail.com)

**New England Shooting Dog Futurity**

Margaret C. Drew  
 Phone: (910) 206-0079  
 Email: [margaretdrew39@gmail.com](mailto:margaretdrew39@gmail.com)

**North American Woodcock Futurity**

Joe Dahl  
 Phone: (207) 478-3063  
 Email: [JosephDahl@aol.com](mailto:JosephDahl@aol.com)

**Southern Bird Hunters Assn. Futurity**

Bruce Mercer  
 Phone: (470) 345-6369  
 Email: [mercercbruce@hotmail.com](mailto:mercercbruce@hotmail.com)

**U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Assn. Futurity**

Verlene Stephenson  
 Phone: (252) 589-1521  
 Email: [verlene\\_stephenson@ncsu.edu](mailto:verlene_stephenson@ncsu.edu)

**United States Quail Shooting Dog Futurity**

Margaret C. Drew  
 Phone: (910) 206-0079  
 Email: [bmdrew@windstream.net](mailto:bmdrew@windstream.net)

**Recognized Field Trials**

**Big Sky Open Shooting Dog Championship**

May 3 / Hankinson, ND  
 Contact: Lance Schulz  
 Phone: (701) 426-0425  
 Email: [ndpdcentries@gmail.com](mailto:ndpdcentries@gmail.com)

**Mid-Coast Maine Field Trial Club**

May 4 / Prospect, ME  
 Contact: Jon Cullen  
 Phone: (207) 991-7039  
 Email: [Jonathancullen7@gmail.com](mailto:Jonathancullen7@gmail.com)

**Summerhill Field Trial Club**

May 4 / Glenville, PA  
 Contact: Karen Saniga  
 Phone: (610) 350-7373  
 Email: [ksaniga@hotmail.com](mailto:ksaniga@hotmail.com)

**NGSPA Region 4 Championships**

May 6 / Ionia, MI  
 Contact: Dan DiMambro  
 Phone: (231) 301-3290

**Northwest Field Trial Association**

May 10 / Hankinson, ND  
 Contact: Ian MacTavish  
 Phone: (651) 302-3797  
 Email: [ianmactav@gmail.com](mailto:ianmactav@gmail.com)

**York Pointer & Setter Club**

May 10 / Rossville, PA  
 Contact: Greg Strausbaugh  
 Phone: (570) 510-2692

**Central Connecticut Bird Dog Club**

May 17 / East Windsor, CT  
 Contact: Gene Casale Jr.  
 Phone: (860) 202-1143  
 Email: [gacasale@gmail.com](mailto:gacasale@gmail.com)

**Maritime Bird Dog Club**

May 18 / Cross Creek, NB  
 Contact: Donald Henderson  
 Phone: (506) 476-7751  
 Email: [donrobhen@live.com](mailto:donrobhen@live.com)

**Chickahominy Field Trial Association**

October 27 / Jarrett, VA  
 Contact: Meredith Jones  
 Phone: (804) 512-7567 or (804) 512-9637  
 Email: [fewpointers@gmail.com](mailto:fewpointers@gmail.com)

**ABHA TRIALS**

(No trials scheduled)

**NBHA TRIALS**

(No trials scheduled)

**SBHA TRIALS**

**Ridgerunners Bird Dog Club**

May 18 / Weatherly, PA  
 Contact: Andy Bogar  
 Phone: (570) 204-0652

**USCSDA TRIALS**

**Greensburg Pointer & Setter Club**

May 3 / Rochester, PA  
 Contact: Justin Mason  
 Phone: (724) 889-6878

**Arcadia Field Trial Club**

May 4 / Exeter, RI  
 Contact: Richard Giuliano  
 Phone: (401) 225-5281

**Mountain View Bird Dog Club**

May 4 / Lake Ariel, PA  
 Contact: Thor Kain  
 Phone: (570) 702-6670  
 Email: [TKain63@gmail.com](mailto:TKain63@gmail.com)

**Wolverine Field Trial Club**

May 10 / Highland, MI  
 Contact: Dave Fletcher  
 Phone: (517) 214-6404  
**Maine Bird Dog Club**  
 May 11 / Fryeburg, ME  
 Contact: Deb Kennedy  
 Phone: (603) 795-4633 or (603) 252-9228  
 Email: [debkennedy2000@gmail.com](mailto:debkennedy2000@gmail.com)

**Northeast Ohio Field Trial Club**

May 17 / Polk, PA  
 Contact: Chris Jaeger  
 Phone: (440) 935-3652

**Sandy Valley Bird Dog Club**

May 19 / Weatherly, PA  
 Contact: Dean Avillion  
 Phone: (570) 956-0744

**Kalamazoo Southwest Michigan Field Trial Club**

May 25 / Ionia, MI  
 Contact: Tom Winters  
 Phone: (810) 522-8707  
 Email: [KazooSWMiFTC@gmail.com](mailto:KazooSWMiFTC@gmail.com)

**Mohegan Bird Dog Club**

May 30 / Weatherly, PA  
 Contact: Robert Ecker  
 Phone: (570) 778-3009

**Chickahominy Field Trial Association**

October 26 / Jarrett, VA  
 Contact: Meredith Jones  
 Phone: (804) 512-7567 or (804) 512-9637  
 Email: [fewpointers@gmail.com](mailto:fewpointers@gmail.com)



2024



# Bird Dog Awards

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



**PURINA ALL AGE AWARDS**

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

**PURINA SHOOTING DOG AWARDS**

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

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

## THE WESTIN HUNTSVILLE

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

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

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

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

## BANQUET TICKETS

Tickets must be reserved prior to the event.

Contact **GAIL INMAN** at [gail.inman@purina.nestle.com](mailto:gail.inman@purina.nestle.com) or **314-570-5732**.

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