

PURINA AWARDS PROGRAM

Awards Committee Meeting Minutes & Standards and Operating Protocol

By Mark Johnson | Summerville, South Carolina | June 22, 2023

The Purina Awards Committee gathered on Friday, June 22, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Summerville, S. C. Committee members present were: Chairman Sean Derrig, Dwight Smith, Tom Griffin, and the writer Mark Johnson. Rick Stallings, Tim Ruff, and Mike Husenits were not able to attend due to health and/or family matters. Also present were Greg Blair representing Nestlé Purina—the sponsor of this extraordinary awards program, and Dominick Muoio, representing the United Kennel Club.

Chairman Derrig called the meeting to order at approximately 2:50 p.m. (EDT), and the writer distributed program material to each attendee. (Those unable to attend were mailed copies of all materials pertaining to this annual meeting). There were limited opening remarks, so the committee dove right into business.

Detailed review and discussion were held covering the 2022-2023 Purina Awards Program winners touching upon the success of each of the winning dogs, handlers, and owners. Mike Luebke and Dinora Wellmann provided the committee with exact point counts for each category tracked. Of note and reflecting accolades to this highly coveted awards program were the very close races for top dog in several categories. It was down to the wire as to who the winner would be. [Winners were announced in the July issue of UKC® Field.]

The committee reviewed prior year meeting minutes without additional discussion.

The committee then spent a good bit of time reviewing the “Standards and Operating Protocol” for this program, published in the July 2022 issue of the UKC® Field. As it pertains to the specific and comprehensive elements of the “Standards,” the committee fully ratified terminology and protocol as published with very limited verbiage amendments. A good level of time was spent discussing the Professional Handlers list, included with the Standards and Operating Protocol. In general, the committee wants to ensure that individuals applying for inclusion on the Professional Handlers list meet the following criteria:

1.) The applicant has handled and competed with their own string of at least three (3) dogs over the prior three (3) years.

2.) That those individuals apply directly to the Awards Committee in writing. Their application should outline specifics confirming compliance with the preceding point. The intent is to ensure that those listed as “professional handlers” are such and compete proactively on the open trial circuit. Consistent with this area of discussion, the following actions were taken:

- One listed handler was removed from the list by request and with the intent to return to amateur status.

- Two applications were approved and will be added to the 2023-2024 list

- Two applications were denied pending meeting above outlined requirements

- And one handler name change will be reflected in the upcoming season’s list.

Each of the above has been or will be advised directly regarding the above; additionally, the 2023-2024 Professional Handlers list will be adjusted accordingly.

The committee again entertained discussion regarding the purported dilemma involving the lack of sufficient professional handlers at several western U. S. trials and championships. While no obvious solution to this situation was fronted, chairman Derrig aptly reiterated that the Purina Awards Program and the obligations of the Awards Committee were to ensure that the program reflected a NATIONAL perspective. The concept of defining and administering a unique “western U. S.” program would not be acceptable; likewise, redefining amateur points calculations and program administration to include amateur wins in open stakes would be inconsistent with the definition and intent of an amateur status/competition as far as the Purina Awards Program is concerned.

Moving on, the committee evaluated nine (9) applications for points consideration, two of which were reinstatement applications. All of these were approved and will be included on the 2023-2024 rosters published in the UKC® Field. The writer has communicated directly with each of these applicants.

Additionally, four (4) trials/championships which had been listed will be removed from the approved rosters due to apparent inactivity and failure to report for two or more years.

This wrapped up the formal agenda items for the committee.

The floor was turned over to guests Muoio and Blair. Domenick Muoio referenced current UKC ad policies and indicated the potential for an Awards Program link on the UKC website. Greg Blair then discussed some of the ingredients of the new and exciting AFTCA-PURINA sponsorship program, along with the program’s operating philosophy and parameters.

The meeting was then adjourned at approximately 5 p.m.

Standards and Operating Protocol

The Purina Awards Program is sponsored by Nestlé Purina PetCare (Purina) and enjoys a long and extensive history of recognizing superior performances, handlers, and bird dogs in the field trial sport. The Top Field Trial Bird Dog Award (all-age) was established in 1963 and was sponsored by Ralston Purina. From the start, the Purina Awards Program was designed to stimulate interest in all field competition and recognize publicly the dog and handler which had excelled in a given field trial season. Over time, the program has evolved and expanded to include the Open Shooting Dog, Open Derby, Open Handler, Amateur Shooting Dog, and Amateur All-Age categories.

The primary role and responsibility of the Awards Committee is to administer the Purina Awards Program. This includes, but is not limited to, determining the manner in which the program shall be conducted, establishing a points system to determine the leading handlers and dogs, selecting trials where such points may be earned, and making determinations regarding other matters that may be related to the proper conduct of the Purina Awards Program.

The Awards Committee also carefully and consistently investigates written complaints—protest and/or negativity/conduct relative to Purina Awards Program events. Misconduct will not be tolerated and will be addressed decisively. When appropriate action is needed, it may include but is not limited to loss of points, loss of eligibility to be named handler/dog of the year, or both. In all cases, when a handler chooses to compete in a trial awarding Purina points, they agree to compete under the oversight of the awards program. The same applies to clubs and championships

that officiate approved Purina Points events.

Application for Recognition in the Program

In general, we are mindful that Purina Points trial status is not a given or automatically granted position. Purina Points trials must, in all cases, be reflective of premier bird dog competition, held on premier venues, showcasing top-notch handler and dog capabilities in a sportsmanlike and publicly appealing package. Purina Points trials and championships must also reflect baseline respect and appreciation for the MAJOR sponsorship contributions Nestlé Purina and the Awards Committee contribute to this significant and unrivaled bird dog awards program. Pertaining to new program applicants, an official application form must be submitted to the Awards Program recording secretary. New applications will be reviewed and acted upon by the full committee at their annual June committee meeting. Completion of an application does not guarantee approval. Typically, a three (3) year probationary time frame precedes approval.

Advertisement Requirements for Recognized Awards Program Events

- The Purina checkerboard logo must appear prominently in all points trial ads.
- United Kennel Club policy regarding the size of ads will prevail.
- Ads must appear in the UKC® Field/American Field website well ahead of the start of the event.
- Judges' full names must appear in the ad. Judges "TBD" is unacceptable and can be cause for a club to lose points status. Likewise, changes in listed judges must be communicated to UKC and the Awards Committee.
- The starting date, venue, and stake particulars must appear in the ad.
- The Awards Committee must be notified of any and all changes to the running of a recognized and advertised Purina Awards trial via written/email notice to the recording secretary.

Standards and Protocol

- To qualify for annual points consideration, recognized Purina Awards Program points events must run a minimum of 16 dogs (derbies excluded). This standard has been in place for several years and reflects the program's intent to attract a broad event base reflective of the stature and prestige associated with the program.

Those approved events that are run but attract less than the 16-dog minimum must nevertheless report the fact that their trial was run, including submission of a running order (Open Shooting Dog stakes only) and the completed Form for Essential Data.

- All points trials must be reported to appropriate parties and the Awards Committee within 45 days of the event's conclusion. Points WILL NOT BE SCORED for clubs that fail to report results within 45 days of event completion. "Reporting" is defined as the submission of Form for Essential Data to the Open and Amateur Shooting Dog points tabulator—Mr. Mike Luebke—at trialpoints@outlook.com, along with a running order (for Open Shooting Dog stakes only) that indicates the dog's *FDSB* name and the handler's full name. Points WILL NOT BE SCORED for Open Shooting Dog stakes that fail to include a complete running order with their Form for Essential Data.

Note: trialpoints@outlook.com is the only acceptable manner to communicate results to Mr. Luebke and becomes the basis for his paper trail supporting his calculations. Open All-Age and Amateur All-Age stakes must be reported to the United Kennel Club in the traditional manner.

- Any change in venue must be approved by the Awards Committee.
- All dogs, handlers, owners, and club officials participating in approved Purina Awards Program field trials must be in GOOD STANDING with the *FDSB*/United Kennel Club. Additionally, clubs/championships that elect to accept entries from persons/dogs not in good standing with the *FDSB*/United Kennel Club effectively relinquish their status as a Purina Points trial.
- All federal, state, and local ordinances apply to points trials.
- Failure to comply with any of the above points will result in a loss of Purina Points for that trial and may include suspension from the Awards Program.

Professional Handler

- Within the context of the Purina Awards Program, a professional handler will be defined as a person or persons who has actively competed in American Field/United Kennel Club-sanctioned bird dog field trials for at least three consecutive seasons, with his own string of dogs numbering not less than three (3).

- The following is a comprehensive listing of currently approved professional handlers:

Anderson, Randy	Kleve, Thomas
Aukenthaler, Lori	Lein, Rod
Azevedo, Scott	Lester, Gary
Basilone, Norm	Loper, Jason
Basilone, Matt	Lord, Dean
Beeler, Scott	Malzone, Garry
Bennett, Weldon	Martino, Michael
Bingham, Tony	Martino, Anthony
Browder, Steve	McLean, Mark
Carlton, Judd	Melvin, Sean
Casey, Pat	Minard, Bruce
Chaffee, Scott	Minard, Neal
Chaffee, Tammy	Moore, Virgil
Cochran, Mat	Nelson, Dave
Crook, Justin	Neria, Andy
Curnutte, Calvin	Newcomb, George
Daniels, Buck	Norman, Joel
Daniels, Jamie	Pearce, Ray
Daugherty, Andy	Ray, Doug
Davis, Tommy	Ray, Harold
Doiron, Paul	Rayl, Fred
Ecker, Robert	Raynor, Jerry
Eisenhart, Luke	Rice, Tommy
Erne, Andy	Robertson, Rich
Erne, Zach	Sampson, Kim
Forsberg, Karl	Schenker, Tom
Forman, Mark	Schillereff, Tim
Forman, Scott	Smith, Roy
Gearhart, Harold	Snow, Kenny
Gellhaus, Travis	Stephenson, Phil
Gingrich, Brian	Stolgitis, John
Gulick, Jeremy	Stretz, Chuck (Tom)
Hailey, Jerry	Swearingen, Tracy
Hansen, Kim	Tande, Jim
Hazlewood, Gordon	Taylor, Eddy
Henry, Lefty (Robert)	Thomas, Junior
Hester, Mike	Todd, Ike
Hilliard, Mack	Tracy, Jeanette
Hoke, Dan	Tracy, Mike
Huffman, Larry	Tracy, George
Hughes, Dave	Twer, Sheldon
Hughes, Mark	Vader, Diane
Hurdle, Steve	Vincent, Allen
Kinkelaar, Shawn	Waite, Tom
Kleve, James	Zink, Drew

- Handlers indicated in the above-referenced list may be purged from subsequent years' listings due to inactivity in Open Shooting Dog Purina Points trials during the preceding year(s). Listed handlers will be expected to keep the Awards Committee aware of changes that would preclude their being listed.

- Consideration for additions to the approved professional handlers' roster can be made in writing and directed to the Awards Committee Secretary or any committee member. Such applications should indicate name/contact particulars

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and kennel name, a summary of prior 36 months of handling dogs professionally, and a listing of Purina Points trials where dogs were handled as a professional. Consideration for additions will be at the committee's summer meeting.

Approved Points Trial Roster

- Annually, the United Kennel Club will publish a roster of approved Purina Points field trials—open, amateur, shooting dog, all-age, and derby.

- It is the responsibility of each club to confirm they have been listed.

Shooting Dog Points Calculation Particulars

- The 16-dog minimum prevails with a minimum of three (3) active professional handlers.

- For stakes with 17-24 dogs entered, there will be a minimum requirement of four (4) active professional handlers for points to be counted.

- For stakes with 25 or more dogs entered, the requirement is five (5) active professional handlers.

- In cases where the threshold number of professional handlers, as described above, is not met, points will be calculated at the level corresponding to the actual number of professional handlers participating. For example, if an Open stake drew 30 dogs, but there were only three professional handlers, points would be calculated at the 16-dog level.

Once again, these criteria are not intended to be burdensome or bureaucratic. Rather, they are specifically intended to reflect the prestige and stature of recognized Purina Points events by creating a more inclusive and broader base of competition in the shooting dog category. Club officials are most certainly encouraged to reach out to area professional handlers encouraging them to join their field trials with the intent to win but also ensuring that maximum points

thresholds are met for points calculation purposes.

- A three (3) dog bye brace limit will be in effect for awards recognition. Points calculations will be reduced accordingly for excesses. For example, if a stake drew 36 dogs, six (6) of which were drawn as bye dogs' points would be scored for a field of 33 dogs only.

- Awarding of Points: One-course trial venue will receive half points, while three (3) courses will receive full points based on the number of dogs entered.

The following pages carry the Purina Points Trials for the 2023-24 field trial season:

- Amateur All-Age (p. 16)
- Top Field Trial Bird Dog (p. 17)
- Top Shooting Dog (p. 18)
- Top Amateur Shooting Dog (p. 19)
- Handler of the Year (p. 20)
- Top Derby (p. 21)

Purina is pleased to announce the 2023-24 PURINA TOP AMATEUR ALL-AGE AWARD

This program is administered by the Purina Awards Committee, and sponsored by Purina. Committee members are: Sean Derrig, Chicago, IL; Tom Griffin, Watsonville, CA; Mark Johnson, Winnebago, IL; Tim Ruff, Irmo, SC; Dwight Smith, Norwood, NC; and Rick Stallings, Mathews, AL.



The winner will be awarded a generous supply of Purina product, and the owner will be the recipient of an original oil painting of his dog as well as a banner recognizing the dog

as the season's "Amateur All-Age Award Winner".

The Award is based on accomplishments in amateur all-age trials with heats of one hour or longer. Points will be awarded based on the number of dogs officially drawn. First place will receive 10 points for each dog drawn, second place will receive 5 points and third will receive 3 points. Endurance trial points will be based on the length of the endurance trial.

Those who chose to enter and compete in Purina Awards stakes agree to do so under the policies and rules established by the Purina Awards Committee, United Kennel Club and FDSB standards, and those spelled out in the booklet "Standards to Field Trial Procedure, Judicial Practice, Handler and Bird Dog Performance".

— POINTS TRIALS FOR THE 2023-24 PURINA AMATEUR ALL-AGE AWARD —

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alabama Field Trial Club • Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America Regions:
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,
11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 • Amateur All-Age Championships • Ames Amateur • Aurora Field Trial Club • Black Belt Amateur Field Trial Club • Cahaba Bend Field Trial Club • Carolina Amateur Field Trial Club • Carolina Lean Breed Club • Carroll County (Tenn.) Field Trial Club • Catawba Classic • Cedar Hill Field Trial Club • Central Carolina Field Trial Club • Central Kentucky Field Trial Club • Central Kentucky Quail Club • Clarksville Bird Dog Club • Clarksville Pointer & Setter Club • Coalfield Bird Dog Club • Cockade Field Trial Club • Commonwealth Bird Dog Club • Continental Amateur Club • English Setter Club of America • Esmont-Greenfields Field Trial Club • Flint Hills Amateur All-Age Classic • Georgia Amateur Celebration • Gyp Hills Field Trial Club • Heartland Field Trial Club • High Plains Field Trial Club • Hell Creek Field Trial Club • Hoffman Field Trial Club • Kansas Field Trial Clubs Association • Lee County (Ga.) Field Trial Club • Marshall County (Miss.) Field Trial Club • Memphis Amateur Field Trial Club • Mid South Amateur Association • Midwest Field Trial Association • Mingo Sportsman Field Trial Club • Missouri Amateur All-Age • Montgomery County (Tenn.) Field Trial Club • Muckalee Creek Field Trial Club • National Amateur Chicken Championship • National Amateur Chukar Championship • National Amateur Invitational Championship** • National Amateur Pheasant Championship • National Amateur Quail Championship* • Northeast Kansas Field Trial Club • North Carolina Field Trial Association • Oil Capital Field Trial Association • Oklahoma Amateur Field Trial Assn. • Pinehurst Field Trial Club • Rend Lake Field Trial Club • Richmond County (N.C.) Field Trial Club • Southern Field Trial Club • Southern Pines Amateur All-Age • Sunflower Amateur All-Age Classic • Tulsa County (Okla.) Field Trial Club • Virginia Amateur Field Trial Club • Volunteer State Amateur Field Trial Association • West Kentucky Field Trial Club • West Tennessee Field Trial Club • Wolf River Field Trial Club • Woodlawn Field Trial Club |
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*Winner receives 15 points x number of dogs entered; Runner-Up receives 7.5 points x number of dogs entered.

**Winner receives 10 points x number of dogs entered for first day; 10 points for x number dogs for second day and 10 points x number of dogs called back for third day finals. Runner-Up receives 5 points based on the same formula.

For more information, please contact: SEAN DERRIG—(773) 281-3204 -or- MARK JOHNSON—(630) 699-1439

UKC® Field October Print Deadline: September 5

Purina is pleased to announce the
**61st ANNUAL PURINA
TOP FIELD TRIAL BIRD DOG AWARD**

The Purina Award was initiated in 1963. It was an immediate winner in field trial and bird dog circles, as the sporting dog fraternity recognized the significance and importance of performances in Top Award stakes. The Award quickly became a much sought-after honor and Purina is pleased to play a role in helping to promote better trials, better sportsmanship and better bird dogs through such a medium.

In essence, the program is based on dog performance in carefully selected Open All-Age events. Scoring is determined by the number of dogs officially drawn and final placements in each of the events listed on this page. Points are awarded as follows: 10 points for first for each dog drawn; 5 for second for each dog drawn; and 3 for third for each dog drawn. Bonus points are awarded to winners in certain stakes. All dogs earning Purina Points in a given season must be DNA certified.

The Awards Committee which administers and certifies the Top Field Trial Bird Dog procedures is made up of prominent field trial personalities—Sean Derrig, Chicago, IL; Tom Griffin, Watsonville, CA; Mike Husenits, West Lebanon, PA; Mark Johnson, Winnebago, IL; Tim Ruff, Irmoo, SC; Dwight Smith, Norwood, NC; and Rick Stallings, Mathews, AL.



Owner of the dog emerging as the season's Top Field Trial Bird Dog will be awarded an original oil painting of his dog. Handler of the winning dog will receive a cash purse of \$2,500, which will be doubled if the handler is an active Purina Pro Club® member, redeeming within the previous six months.

Those who chose to enter and compete in Purina Awards stakes agree to do so under the policies and rules established by the Awards Committee, United Kennel Club and FDSB standards, and those spelled out in the booklet "Standards to Field Trial Procedure, Judicial Practice, Handler and Bird Dog Performance".

Purina PetCare Company, maker of high-quality dog foods, including Pro Plan® brand Dog and Puppy Food, Purina® Dog Chow brand Dog Food, and Purina® Puppy Chow brand Puppy Food, pays tribute to outstanding bird dog performances each field trial season by means of the Top Field Trial Dog Award, at the same time offering incentive and encouragement to participants

for the betterment of the sport. Participation in this program does not constitute any endorsement of Purina products.

— POINTS TRIALS FOR THE 61st ANNUAL PURINA AWARD —

The Purina Award program for the 2023–24 season consists of the following stakes, each with heats of one hour or longer, and selected by the Award Committee. Each trial is recognized for its prestige, grounds, organization and geographic location.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alabama Open Championship • Alberta All-Age Classic • All-America Prairie Championship • All-America Quail Championship • American Quail Classic (Clarksville P&S Club) • Benton County Field Trial Club Open All-Age • Black Belt Field Trial Association Open All-Age • Buck-Tuck Open All-Age Classic • Cajun Open All-Age Classic • California Bird Dog Championship • California Chukar Championship • California Open All-Age Championship • California Pheasant Championship • California Quail Championship • Carroll County Open All-Age • Cascade Open Championship • Central Arkansas Association / Southwestern Championship • Central Carolina Open All-Age • Continental All-Age Championship* • Doug Sanderson Memorial Open All-Age (Spring Valley Field Trial Club) • Dixie Field Trial Club Open All-Age • Dr. D.E. Hawthorne Border Classic • Florida (Suwannee River) All-Age Championship | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia Quail Championship • Grand National Grouse Championship • Gyp Hills Field Trial Club • Heartland Open All-Age • Hell Creek Open All-Age • Hobart Ames Open All-Age • Inola Open All-Age • International Pheasant Championship • Kentucky Lake Open All-Age • Kentucky Open All-Age Championship • Kentucky Quail Classic • Lee County (Ga.) Open All-Age • Masters Open Quail Championship • Mid-America Open Championship • Mississippi Open Championship • Missouri Open All-Age • Missouri Open Championship • National Championship* • National Chukar Championship • National Free-for-All Championship* • National Pheasant Championship • North Carolina Open All-Age • North Carolina Open Championship • North Dakota Open All-Age Classic • Northern States' U.S. Chicken Championship | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwest Chukar Open All-Age Championship • Oklahoma Cecil Proctor Open All-Age • Oklahoma Open Championship • Pacific Coast Open Championship • Pelican Open All-Age Classic • Prairie Field Trial Club Open All-Age • Quail Championship Invitational* • Region 8 (AFTCA) Open All-Age • Rend Lake Open All-Age (Rend Lake Field Trial Club) • Robin Gates Memorial Classic (Bear Pond Field Trial Club) • Southeastern Open Championship • Southern Field Trial Championship* • Southland Open Championship • Stillwater Open All-Age • Sunflower Open All-Age • Sunshine Open All-Age • Tar Heel Open All-Age Championship • Texas Open Championship • United States Open Championship • Western Open All-Age Championship • West Tennessee Open All-Age |
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* Bonus Points Stake

**For more information, please contact: SEAN DERRIG, Awards Program Chairman—(773) 281-3204
-or- MARK JOHNSON, Awards Program Corresponding Secretary—(630) 699-1439**

PREVIOUS PURINA AWARD WINNERS

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War Storm—1963-64 • Red Water Rex—1964-65; 1968-69 • Safari—1965-66 • Riggins White Knight—1966-67; 1967-68 • Johnny Crockett—1969-70 • Wrapup—1970-71 • The Texas Squire—1971-72 • Miller's Miss Knight—1972-73 • Crossmatch—1973-74 • White Knight's Button—1974-75 • Miller's White Cloud—1975-76 • Buckboard—1976-77 • Rex's Cherokee Jake—1977-78 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allure—1978-79; 1980-81 • Blackbelt—1979-80 • Heritage's Premonition—1981-82 • Whippoorwill's Rebel—1982-83; 1986-87 • Native Tango—1983-84 • Flatwood Hank—1984-85; 1985-86 • Rebel Wrangler—1987-88; 1991-92 • Redemption's Reward—1988-89 • Dunn's Fearless Bud—1989-90 • Quicksilver Pink—1990-91 • Brush Country Spectre—1992-93; 1993-94 • Flatwood Rusty—1994-95 • Miller's Silver Ending—1995-96 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silverwood—1996-97; 2001-02 • Shell Creek Dan—1997-98 • Lehar's Main Tech—1998-99; 1999-00 • Law's High Noon—2000-01 • Texas Trailrider—2002-03 • Quicksilver Gold—2003-04 • Lester's Absolute—2004-05 • Miller's On Line—2005-06 • Funseeker's Rebel—2006-07 • Shell Creek Coin—2007-08 • Lester's Snowwatch—2008-09 • Strut—2009-10 • Touch's White Out—2010-11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connor's E Z Button—2011-12 • Stallion—2012-13 • Touch's Adams County—2013-14 • Miller's Dialing In—2014-15 • Whippoorwill Justified—2015-16 • Touch's Mega Mike—2017-18 • Dunn's Tried 'N True—2016-17; 2018-19 • Valiant—2019-20 • Touch's Malcolm Story—2020-21 • Touch's Fire Away—2021-22 • Miller's Blindsider—2022-23 |
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Purina is pleased to announce the
**2023–24 PURINA
TOP SHOOTING DOG AWARD**

Purina—dedicated to providing performance breeds with the high-quality nutrition they need—is pleased to sponsor the Top Shooting Dog Award, and equally proud to support the field trial sport and has chosen this competition to emphasize the important benefits of high-quality nutrition for canine athletes.

This Award program is administered by the Awards Committee: Sean Derrig, Chicago, IL; Tom Griffin, Watsonville, CA; Mike Husenits, West Lebanon, PA; Mark Johnson, Winnebago, IL; Tim Ruff, Irmo, SC; W. Dwight Smith, Norwood, NC; and Rick Stallings, Mathews, AL.

The program is designed to elevate the level of competition—to make known to the public those contenders which consistently outperform their competition.

The Purina Top Shooting Dog Award is based on a point system for winning dogs of top-flight open shooting dog stakes. Points will be awarded based on the number of dogs officially drawn. In stakes with three or more one-hour courses, 1st place will receive 10 points for each dog drawn, 2nd place will receive 5 for each dog drawn, and 3rd place will receive 3 points for each dog drawn. In stakes with less than three one-hour courses, 1st place will receive 5 points, 2nd place 3 points, and 3rd place 1 point.



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The United States Shooting Dog Invitational Championship will award 400 bonus points, and the International Endurance Open Shooting Dog Championship will award 100 bonus points. If a points trial is held twice in one season, Purina Top Shooting Dog Award points will be credited for the first event only.

Trials have been carefully selected on longevity of the supporting organization; grounds; heats of one hour or longer; expedient, accurate reporting; prestige; and geographic location. Every field trial shooting dog will have an opportunity to earn points

toward this prestigious shooting dog award.

The Awards Committee reviews the point system and trials each year. Only trials which meet the highest standards are included. Points season ends April 30, 2024.

Those who chose to enter and compete in Purina Awards stakes agree to do so under the policies and rules established by the Awards Committee, United Kennel Club and FDSB standards, and those spelled out in the booklet “Standards to Field Trial Procedure, Judicial Practice, Handler and Bird Dog Performance”.

Purina is proud to sponsor both Open and Amateur Top Shooting Dog Awards.

— POINTS TRIALS FOR THE 2023–24 PURINA TOP SHOOTING DOG AWARD —

— “Purina Points” trial must be shown in club’s trial ad —

- All-America Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Arizona Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Arkansas Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Atlantic Coast Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Bama Quail Club
- Big Sky Field Trial Club
- Big Sky Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Brock & Wells Open Shooting Dog Classic
- California Chukar Shooting Dog Classic
- California Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Can/Am Open Shooting Dog Classic
- Colombia County Shooting Dog
- Eastern Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Egyptian Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Farmer Sportsmen’s De Luca Classic
- Fleetwood Open Shooting Dog Classic
- Garden State Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Garden State Open Shooting Dog Classic
- Georgia Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Idaho Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Illinois Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Indiana Open Shooting Dog Championship
- International Endurance Open Shooting Dog Championship*
- Jayhawk Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Kentucky Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Keystone Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Lesser Sandhills Field Trial Club
- Lone Star Open Shooting Dog Classic
- M.F. Ferguson Classic
- Masters Open Shooting Dog Championship
- McMinnville Field Trial Club
- Michigan Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Mid-Atlantic Shooting Dog
- Middle Atlantic Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Midwest Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Mississippi Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Missouri Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Montana Open Shooting Dog Championship
- National Chukar Open Shooting Dog Championship
- National Open Pheasant Shooting Dog Championship
- National Prairie Chicken Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Nevada Bird Dog Club
- New England Open Championship
- North Carolina Open Shooting Dog Championship
- North Carolina Pointing Dog Association / Carolina Celebration Open Shooting Dog
- Northeastern Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Northwest Chukar Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Oklahoma Open Shooting Dog Classic
- Oklahoma Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Oregon Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Ozark Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Pacific Coast Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Pacific Northwest Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Razorback Open Shooting Dog Classic
- Russell County (Ala.) Field Trial Club
- Shadow Oak Field Trial Club
- South Carolina Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Southeastern Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Southern Comfort Field Trial Club
- Southwest Missouri Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Sunflower State Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Swamp Fox Open Shooting Dog Classic
- Tennessee Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Tennessee Valley Field Trial Club
- Texas Open Shooting Dog Championship
- United States Shooting Dog Invitational Championship*
- West Coast Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Western Open Shooting Dog Championship

*Bonus Points Stake

A dog whose breeding is shown by DNA to be misrepresented shall have points earned toward this Award withheld pending resolution of the matter by the *Field Dog Stud Book*. If such misrepresentation is not settled by April 30, the dog shall forfeit all points.

NOTE: Any points earned after April 30, 2024 will accumulate towards the 2024-2025 season.

For more information, please contact: SEAN DERRIG—(773) 281-3204 -or- MARK JOHNSON—(630) 699-1439

Purina is pleased to announce the
**2023–24 PURINA TOP AMATEUR
 SHOOTING DOG AWARD**

The Amateur Shooting Dog Award program is administered by the Purina Awards Committee and designed to elevate the level of competition—to make known to the public those contenders which consistently outperform their competition.

Likewise, this amateur “owned and handled” award is based on a point system for winning dogs of top-flight amateur shooting dog stakes. Points are awarded based on the number of dogs officially drawn: 1st place will receive 10 points for each dog drawn, 2nd place will receive 5 points and 3rd place will receive 3 points.

The National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship winner will receive 250 bonus points; the runner-up 125 bonus points; the National Amateur Shooting Dog Invitational and National Amateur Free-For-All winner will receive 200 bonus points each. The National Amateur Shooting Dog Invitational runner-up will receive 100



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bonus points. If placements are withheld or voided, no points will be awarded. If a point trial is held twice in one season, Purina Top Amateur Shooting Dog Award points will be credited for the first event only.

Trials have been selected on longevity of the supporting organization; grounds; heats of one hour; expedient, accurate reporting; prestige; and geographic location. The Awards Committee reviews the points system and trials each year. Only amateur trials which meet the highest standards will be included. Points season ends April 30, 2024.

Those who chose to enter and compete in Purina Awards stakes agree to do so under the policies and rules established by the Purina Awards Committee, United Kennel Club and FDSB standards, and those spelled out in the booklet “Standards to Field Trial Procedure, Judicial Practice, Handler and Bird Dog Performance”.

— POINTS TRIALS FOR THE 2023–24 PURINA TOP AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG AWARD —

— “Purina Points” trial must be shown in club’s trial ad —

- Alabama Amateur Shooting Dog
- Association of Virginia Field Trial Clubs / Art Hillhouse Amateur Classic
- Bama Quail Club
- Bulls Bay Amateur Classic
- Cahaba Bend Field Trial Club
- Central Alabama SDA / Jimmy Hinton Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog
- Central Kentucky Field Trial Club
- Chesterfield Field Trial Club
- Clarksville Bird Dog Club
- Clarksville Pointer & Setter Club
- Cross Keys Field Trial Club
- Cumberland Valley Field Trial Club
- De Luca Amateur Shooting Dog Classic
- Dry Pond Field Trial Club
- Elwin G. Smith Shooting Dog Classic
- Esmont-Greenfields Field Trial Club
- Everglades ASD Classic
- Flint River “Pat LaBree Memorial” Field Trial Club
- Broad River Field Trial Club (Amateur Shooting Dog)
- Garden State Amateur Classic
- Georgia Amateur Celebration
- Georgia Assn. of Field Trial Clubs
- Hatchchubbee FTC / John O’Neill Jr. Memorial Amateur Classic
- Hell Creek Jimmy Dale Downs Memorial
- Henry Banks Sr. Memorial Field Trial Club (Amateur Shooting Dog)
- Hoffman Amateur
- Jockey Hollow Amateur Shooting Dog
- McMinnville Field Trial Club
- Memphis Amateur Field Trial Association
- Mid-State Field Trial Club
- Middle Georgia Amateur Shooting Dog
- Mingo Sportsman Classic
- Montgomery County Field Trial Club
- National Amateur Chicken Shooting Dog Championship
- National Amateur Chukar Shooting Dog Championship
- National Amateur Pheasant Shooting Dog Championship
- National Amateur Free-For-All Championship*
- National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship*
- National Amateur Shooting Dog Invitational Championship*
- North Carolina Pointing Dog Association
- Old Hickory Field Trial Club
- Quail Run Amateur Classic
- Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America Regions:
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19
- Amateur Shooting Dog Championships
- Rocky Creek Amateur Shooting Dog
- Round Pond Amateur Shooting Dog Classic
- Russell County (Ala.) Mac McClung Classic
- Sandlapper/H. Cooper Black Field Trial Club
- Shadow Oak Amateur Classic
- South Carolina Amateur Celebration
- South Carolina Amateur Classic
- Southern Comfort Horseback Field Trial Club
- Southern Field Trial Club
- Spruce Brook Bird Dog Club
- Tennessee Valley Field Trial Club
- West Tennessee Field Trial Club
- Woodlawn Field Trial Club

**Bonus Points Stake*

NOTE: Any points earned after April 30, 2024 will accumulate towards the 2024–25 Purina Top Amateur Shooting Dog Award.

A dog whose breeding is shown by DNA to be misrepresented shall have points earned toward this award withheld pending resolution of the matter by the *Field Dog Stud Book*. If such misrepresentation is not settled by April 30, the dog shall forfeit all points.

For more information, please contact: SEAN DERRIG—(773) 281-3204 -or- MARK JOHNSON—(630) 699-1439

Purina is pleased to announce the
**36th ANNUAL PURINA
HANDLER OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

Purina is pleased to announce the 36th All-Age and Shooting Dog Handler of the Year Awards.



The program is designed to honor the top All-Age and Shooting Dog handlers competing in leading trials, Futurities and Derby Championships recognized by The AMERICAN FIELD and promote the highest level of sportsmanship! The award will go to the respective All-Age and Shooting Dog handler who earns the highest number of points in the trials listed below. A cash award of \$2,000 will be given, along with other prizes. The cash award of \$2,000 will be doubled to \$4,000 when the winning handlers have been actively feeding Purina pet food products and are redeeming members of Purina Pro Club for a minimum of six months prior to the Awards presentations.

Members of the Awards Committee are: Sean Derrig, Chicago, IL; Tom Griffin, Watsonville, CA; Mike Husenits, West Lebanon, PA; Mark Johnson, Winnebago, IL; Tim Ruff, Irmo, SC; Dwight Smith, Norwood, NC; and Rick Stallings, Mathews, AL.

The Awards Committee oversees the competition to ensure fairness. Any issues or questions should be submitted to the Committee in writing by the host club within thirty (30) days.

All-Age Handler Award points are awarded as follows: 5 points for first for all dogs drawn; 3 points for second for all dogs drawn; and 2 points for third for all dogs drawn.

A two-tier scoring system is used for the Shooting Dog Handler Award. Points are awarded as follows: For three one-hour continuous course trials—1st place earns 5 points per dogs drawn; 2nd place earns 3 points per dogs drawn and 3rd place earns 2 points per dogs drawn. For single course trials—1st place earns 3 points per dogs drawn; 2nd place earns 2 points per dogs drawn; and 3rd place earns 1 point per dogs drawn.

All points-earning dogs must be DNA certified.

The annual points season ends April 30. Trials that start after April 30, 2024 will be counted towards the 2025 Awards.

Those who chose to enter and compete in Purina Awards stakes agree to do so under the policies and rules established by the Awards Committee, United Kennel Club and FDSB standards, and those spelled out in the booklet "Standards to Field Trial Procedure, Judicial Practice, Handler and Bird Dog Performance".

Invitations to host the Purina Awards programs and banquets are always welcomed and may be presented to the committee.

ALL-AGE POINT TRIALS

- Alabama Open All-Age Championship
- Alabama Prairie Field Trial Club
- Alberta All-Age Classic
- All-America Derby Championship
- All-America Prairie Championship
- All-America Quail Championship
- American Derby Invitational Championship
- Bay Area Bird Dog Club / Western Open All-Age Championship
- Benton County (Miss.) Open All-Age
- Black Belt (Ala.) Open All-Age
- Buck-Tuck Qualifier Open All-Age
- California Bird Dog Championship
- California Chukar Championship
- California Open All-Age Championship
- California Pheasant Championship
- Carroll County Field Trial Club Open All-Age
- Cascade Open All-Age Championship
- Central Arkansas Association / Southwestern Championship
- Central Carolina Field Trial Club Open All-Age
- Clarksville P & S American Quail Classic
- Continental All-Age Championship
- Continental Derby Championship
- Dixie Field Trial Club Open All-Age
- Dr. D.E. Hawthorne Border Classic
- Florida Open All-Age Championship
- Georgia Derby Championship
- Georgia Quail Championship
- Gyp Hills Open All-Age
- Heartland Open All-Age
- Hell Creek Open All-Age
- Hobart Ames Memorial Open All-Age
- Inola Open All-Age
- International Pheasant Championship
- Kentucky Lake Field Trial Club Open All-Age
- Kentucky Open All-Age Championship
- Kentucky Quail Classic
- Lee County (Ga.) Field Trial Association Open All-Age
- Mid-America Open All-Age Championship
- Mid-America Open Derby Classic
- Mississippi Open All-Age Championship
- Missouri Open All-Age
- Missouri Open Championship
- National Chukar Championship

- National Derby Championship
- National Free-For-All Championship
- National Pheasant Championship
- North Carolina Field Trial Association Open All-Age
- North Carolina Open Quail Championship
- North Dakota Open All-Age
- Northern States' U.S. Chicken Championship
- Northwest Chukar Open All-Age Championship
- Oakdale Bird Dog Club / California Open Championship
- Oklahoma Field Trial Association Open All-Age
- Oklahoma Open Championship
- Oklahoma Open Derby Classic
- Pacific Coast Championship
- Pacific Coast Derby Championship
- Pacific Coast Field Trial Club / California Quail Championship
- Pacific Coast Field Trial Club / Jim Ingle Derby Classic
- Pelican Open All-Age Classic
- Prairie (Miss.) Field Trial Club Open All-Age
- Quail Championship Invitational
- Region 8 (AFTCA) Open All-Age
- Rend Lake Field Trial Club Open All-Age
- Robin Gates Memorial Classic (Bear Pond FTC)
- Solatex Cajun Open All-Age Classic
- Southeastern Open All-Age Championship
- Southern Field Trial Championship
- Southern Field Trial Club / Masters Open Quail Championship
- Southland Open All-Age Championship
- Southland Arlin Nolen Open Derby Classic
- Spring Valley Field Trial Club / Doug Sanderson Memorial Open All-Age
- Stillwater Open All-Age
- Sullivan Open All-Age
- Sunflower Open All-Age Classic
- Sunshine (Fla.) Field Trial Club Open All-Age Classic
- Tar Heel Open All-Age Championship
- Texas Open Championship
- Texas Open Derby Classic
- United States Open Championship
- Virginia Open Field Trial Association Open All-Age Classic
- West Tennessee Field Trial Club Open All-Age

SHOOTING DOG POINT TRIALS

- All-America Shooting Dog Championship
- Arizona Shooting Dog Championship
- Arkansas Shooting Dog Championship
- Atlantic Coast Shooting Dog Championship
- Bama Quail Club
- Big Sky Field Trial Club
- Big Sky Shooting Dog Championship
- Brock & Wells Open Shooting Dog Classic
- California Chukar Classic
- California Shooting Dog Championship
- Can/Am Open Shooting Dog Classic
- Columbia County Shooting Dog
- Eastern Shooting Dog Championship
- Egyptian Open Shooting Dog Championship
- English Setter Club of America / Garden State Shooting Dog Championship
- Farmer Sportsmen's De Luca Classic
- Fleetwood Shooting Dog Classic
- Flint Hills Field Trial Club / Jayhawk Shooting Dog Championship
- Garden State Open Shooting Dog Classic
- Georgia Shooting Dog Championship
- Georgia Shooting Dog Classic
- Idaho Shooting Dog Championship
- Illinois Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Indiana Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Indiantown Gap Bird Dog Club / Keystone Shooting Dog Championship
- Indiantown Gap Bird Dog Club / Keystone Shooting Dog Classic
- International Endurance Shooting Dog Championship
- Kentucky Shooting Dog Championship
- Lesser Sandhills Field Trial Club
- Lone Star Shooting Dog Classic
- McMinnville Field Trial Club Open Shooting Dog
- M.F. Ferguson Classic
- Michigan Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Mid-Atlantic Shooting Dog
- Midwest Shooting Dog Championship
- Mississippi Shooting Dog Championship
- Missouri Shooting Dog Championship
- Montana Shooting Dog Championship

- National Chukar Shooting Dog Championship
- National Pheasant Open Shooting Dog Championship
- National Prairie Chicken Shooting Dog Championship
- National Shooting Dog Futurity
- Nevada Bird Dog Club
- New England Championship
- New England Futurity
- North Carolina Pointing Dog Association / Carolina Celebration Open Shooting Dog
- North Carolina Shooting Dog Championship
- Northeastern Shooting Dog Championship
- Northwest Chukar Shooting Dog Championship
- Oklahoma Shooting Dog Championship
- Oklahoma Shooting Dog Classic
- Oregon Shooting Dog Championship
- Ozark Shooting Dog Championship
- Pacific Coast Shooting Dog Championship
- Pacific Northwest Shooting Dog Championship
- Razorback Open Shooting Dog Classic
- Russell County (Ala.) Field Trial Club
- San Joaquin Valley English Setter Club / West Coast Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Shadow Oak Classic
- South Carolina Shooting Dog Championship
- Southeastern Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Southern Comfort Field Trial Club
- Southern Field Trial Club / Masters Shooting Dog Championship
- Southwest Missouri Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Sunflower State Shooting Dog Championship
- Swamp Fox Open Shooting Dog Classic
- Tennessee Open Shooting Dog Championship
- Tennessee Valley Field Trial Club
- Texas Shooting Dog Championship
- United States Quail Shooting Dog Futurity
- United States Shooting Dog Invitational Championship
- West Coast Shooting Dog Championship
- Western Shooting Dog Championship

**For more information, please contact:
SEAN DERRIG—(773) 281-3204
-or- MARK JOHNSON—(630) 699-1439**

Purina is pleased to announce the
2023–24 PURINA TOP DERBY AWARD

These Awards, like those for the major All-Age and Shooting Dog circuits, will recognize the season's top Derbies, their owners and handlers.

Similar to the other Top Dog Awards programs, these Derby Awards are based on a points system. Dogs winning a placement in 30-minute Derby stakes will receive: 5 points for first; 3 for second; 2 for third; and 1 for fourth, times the number of dogs drawn in the stake; for 45-minute stakes or longer: 6 points for first; 4 for second; 2 for third; and 1 for fourth.

*Bonus points are added for Futurity and All-Age Championship wins (doubled for Championships and most Futurities except the U.S. Quail



Shooting Dog which will receive bonus points of 150, 100, 75 and 50).

Winning Derbies, owners and handlers will be recognized at the Awards banquet. An original oil painting of the winning Derbies will be presented along with a generous supply of Purina product for the winners.

Those who chose to enter and compete in Purina Awards stakes agree to do so under the policies and rules established by the Awards Committee, United Kennel Club and FDSB standards, and those spelled out in the booklet "*Standards to Field Trial Procedure, Judicial Practice, Handler and Bird Dog Performance*".

OPEN SHOOTING DOG DERBY STAKES

Midwest Region

- All-America Open Shooting Dog Championship Open Derby
- Egypton Open Shooting Dog Championship Open Derby
- Kentucky Open Shooting Dog Championship Open Derby
- Illinois Open Shooting Dog Championship Max Eldred Open Derby
- Indiana Open Shooting Dog
- Michigan Open Derby Classic
- Midwest Shooting Dog Futurity*
- Midwestern States Derby Classic
- National Prairie Chicken Shooting Dog Championship Open Derby

Northeast Region

- Bill McNamee Memorial Open Derby Classic
- Garden State Championship (English Setter Club) Open Derby
- Garden State Classic Open Derby
- Keystone "Yankee" Open Derby Classic
- National Shooting Dog Futurity
- New England Futurity*

Southern Region

- Cedar Valley Classics Ray B. Jeffers Open Derby
- Eastern Open Derby Classic
- Georgia Association Shooting Dog Classics Ray Jeffers Open Derby
- Georgia Open Shooting Dog Championship Open Derby
- Henry Banks Sr. Memorial Open Shooting Dog Derby
- Middle Georgia Open Shooting Dog Derby
- Russell County (Ala.) Open Derby
- South Carolina Open Shooting Dog Championship Open Derby
- Swamp Fox Open Shooting Dog Derby Classic
- Tootsie Hurdle Open Derby
- United States Quail Shooting Dog Futurity*

Western Region

- Arkansas Derby Classic

- Can/Am Open Shooting Dog Derby
- Colorado Open Shooting Dog Championship Open Derby
- Fleetwood Open Shooting Dog Classic Open Derby
- Hidden Valley Club
- Jayhawk Open Shooting Dog Championship Open Derby
- Lone Star Open Shooting Dog Classic Open Derby
- Missouri Open Shooting Dog Championship Open Derby
- Oil Capital Amateur All-Age Derby
- Oklahoma Open Derby Classic
- Oklahoma Open Shooting Dog Championship Open Derby
- Southwest Missouri Open Shooting Dog Championship Open Derby
- Sunflower State Open Shooting Dog Championship Open Derby
- Texas Open Shooting Dog Championship Texas Open Derby

Far West Region

- Arizona Open Shooting Dog Championship Bill West Open Derby Classic
- Montana Shooting Dog Championship Open Derby
- Oregon Open Shooting Dog Championship Open Derby

OPEN ALL-AGE DERBY STAKES

- Alabama Club's Derby
- All-America Derby Championship*
- All-America Prairie Championship Derby
- American Derby Invitational Championship*
- American Quail Classic Derby
- Benton County (Miss.) Open Derby
- "Big" Derby Classic
- Blackbelt Field Trial Club Derby
- Buck-Tuck Open Derby
- Carroll County (Tenn.) Field Trial Club Derby
- Cecil Proctor Open Derby
- Central Carolina Open Derby

- Continental Derby Championship*
- Dr. D.E. Hawthorne Border Classic Derby
- Dr. Douglas Guthrie Open Derby
- Georgia Derby Championship*
- Heartland Open Derby
- Hell Creek Open Derby
- Hobart Ames Open Derby
- Inola Open All-Age Derby
- International Pheasant Championship Derby
- Jim Ingle Open Derby
- Kansas Derby Classic
- Kansas Prairie Open All-Age Derby
- Kentucky Championship Open Derby
- Kentucky Lake Ricky Chism Memorial Open Derby
- Kentucky Quail Classic Derby
- Larry Brech Open Derby
- Lee County (Ga.) Open All-Age Derby
- Mid-America Championship Open Derby Classic
- Mississippi All-Age Championship Derby
- Missouri Don Fox Memorial Derby
- Missouri Open All-Age Derby
- Muckalee Creek Open Derby
- National Derby Championship*
- North Carolina Open Derby
- Pacific Coast Derby Championship*
- Pelican Open All-Age Classic Derby
- Prairie Field Trial Club Derby
- Region 8 Championship Assn. Open Derby
- Rend Lake Open All-Age Derby
- Rulon Everton Open Derby
- Solatex Evangeline Derby
- Southern Pines Open All-Age Derby
- Southland Arlin Nolen Derby
- Southwestern Championship Open Derby
- Stillwater Open All-Age Derby
- Sullivan County Open All-Age Derby
- Sunflower Open All-Age Derby
- Texas Open Championship Derby
- United States Open Championship Derby
- West Tennessee Open All-Age Derby
- Western Open All-Age Derby

**For more information, please contact:
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