

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



By the time this issue reaches you, it will have been just a few weeks since the Purina Awards in Oklahoma City. I enjoyed seeing so many familiar faces and meeting some new ones. Thanks to Greg Blair and his crew for what they put into the event and for helping to pay respect to those top dogs from this past year in the Purina Award trials. Congratulations to the dogs and handlers for their hard work and dedication throughout this past field trial season. I would like to recognize those winners.

TOP FIELD TRIAL BIRD DOG

Haney's All In



Whelped 3/25/2021

Ransom x Haney's North Star

Owner of Record: Steve Croy
Breeder of Record: Chris Cagle

HANDLER OF THE YEAR

All-Age

Luke Eisenhart



HANDLER OF THE YEAR

Shooting Dog

Shawn Kinkelaar



TOP SHOOTING DOG

Upfront's Southern Star

Whelped 5/24/2015

Ransom x Double Wild

Owner of Record: Lance Schulz

Breeders of Record: Chelsea Plantation, Brad Sadler
& Adam Hart

TOP AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

Calico's Over The Top

Whelped 1/2/2020

Dominator's Rebel Heir x Calico's Country Strong

Owners of Record: Calico Kennels, Alex & Tiffani Smith
Breeder of Record: Calico Kennels

TOP SHOOTING DOG DERBY

Deena Jet Boyer

Whelped 1/19/2023

Touch's Fire Away-World Class Dialing Out

Owner of Record: Stephen Boyer
Breeder of Record: Unavailable

TOP ALL-AGE DERBY

Erins War Eagle

Whelped 2/2/2023

Erin's Redrum x Erin's Pearl

Owners of Record: William Bruchey & Claudia McNamee
Breeder of Record: Sean Derrig

TOP AMATEUR ALL-AGE

Game Heir

Whelped 4/22/2019

Dominator's Rebel Heir x Game Snow

Owner of Record: Dr. Fred Corder
Breeder of Record: Dr. Fred Corder

— Domenick Muoio

Field Trial & Hunt Test Program Manager

National Champion



ERIN'S PERFECT STORM

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

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ON THE
COVER

CH. BRAEVAL RORY

#F1700621 • Sire: Braeval Ghillie • Dam: Braeval Skye

Gregor McCluskey, Owner & Handler

ANNOUNCEMENT

For more than a century, the Field Dog Stud Book and the American Field events have chronicled a rich legacy of exceptional performances, preserving the traditions and achievements of the sporting dog community. For over 70 years, the Field Trial Hall of Fame has stood as a proud tribute to the dogs and individuals whose contributions have shaped our sport's excellence.

As we reflect on this enduring history, we recognize the importance of ensuring that the Hall of Fame continues to reflect the evolving values and standards of our field. With that in mind and with the utmost respect for those honored and those who support this tradition, we will be undertaking a thoughtful review of the Hall of Fame's criteria and methods.

To allow time for this important work, we are suspending this year's Hall of Fame nomination and election cycle. This pause will provide the opportunity to reaffirm the integrity, relevance, and prestige of this enduring institution.

We appreciate the community's understanding and support as we work to honor the past while preparing for a stronger future.



AN UPDATE FROM THE NATIONAL FIELD TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP ASSOCIATION

Dr. Stan Wint, President | Grand Junction, Tennessee | June 5, 2025

The National Field Trial Championship Association develops all policies and procedures relevant to the running of the National Championship. Our goal is to continually evaluate and make improvements to the National Championship to maintain its rich tradition and history. We deeply appreciate the input and support of the field trial community and wish to keep you up to date on happenings that pertain to the National Championship.

The board is made up of 11 respected individuals from within the sport of field trialing. The directors are Dr. Fred Corder, Larry Garner, John Ivester, Matt Rhea, Tom Shenker, Dr. Terry Terlep, David Williams, and Keith Wright. Ames Plantation Manager Matt Backus serves as Secretary, Joey McAlexander is the Vice President and Dr. Stan Wint serves as President. Our Association would like to share with you some answers to questions we have been receiving about the 2026 National Championship.

• What are the qualifications for the 2026 National Championship?

A maximum of 42 dogs will be accepted for the running of the 2026 National Championship. Past National Champions are qualified for life and will receive the highest priority for entry into the event. Priority will also be given to dogs with a first-place win in a qualifying event in their lifetime and those appearing on the current Joe Hurdle Award List. If more than 42 dogs meet this criterion, they will be chosen in descending order of points. If fewer than 42 meet this criterion, the NFTCA



will invite additional dogs from the Joe Hurdle Award List in descending order of points until the field is full.

• Will the courses be the same as last year?

The goal of the Ames Plantation and the National Championship Association is to return the Ames Plantation to a successful and sustainable wild bird venue. Tall Timbers Plantation has graciously agreed to help with this restoration. Because of the extensive habitat work that must be done, we will only have one course available to us for the next few years. In 2026, the course previously referred to as the "morning course" will be the course on which all dogs will run.

• What effect do you think these changes will have?

These changes should result in 1) the most highly qualified field of dogs and 2) those most currently active in field trialing. This should also increase the number of dogs in qualifying trials by encouraging those who wish to qualify to remain active in trialing.

The habitat work on courses should help us reach our goal of returning to a wild bird venue with a more than adequate number of birds. Plentiful bird work will give all dogs an equal chance to shine and will be much appreciated by owners, handlers, and judges.

• Have Judges been announced for 2026?

The judicial team of Greg Bain, Bill Mason, and Richie Robertson will be returning for duty in 2026.

• Are there other areas of focus for the upcoming year?

Some of the things to look forward to in the coming year include the completion of our 501(c)(3) status, the enhancement of our electronic and social media footprint (to help attract sponsorship), and improvements to our social functions and event calendar.

• What changes might be on the horizon?

One of our goals is to eliminate the certificate fee and dog tax to reduce the financial burden on those putting on qualifying trials. We also hope to be able to increase the purses, which should also attract more dogs and handlers to open all-age trials.

There are many other options also being discussed. But for now, we remain committed to consistently putting on the highest quality event for owners, trainers, handlers, and the bird dog world. It is what they expect and deserve in the running of our National Championship.

UKC® HUNTING OPS PODCAST

The UKC® Hunting Ops Podcast is produced by United Kennel Club®, the world's leading dog sports organization since 1898. UKC® Hunting Ops covers Coonhounds, Beagles, Cur and Feist Squirrel Dogs, Pointing Dogs, Retrievers, and more.

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

Listen on:



SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP

Miller's King Poast Named Champion; Como Thunder, Runner-up

By Jeremy Taylor | Blue Mountain, Mississippi | March 3, 2025



Southern Championship (l-r): Kyle Graves (judge), Korry Rinehart with Miller's King Poast, Jack Griffin, Gary Lester, Mike Lemons with Como Thunder, David Russell, and Brad Kennedy (judge).

The Southern Championship began on March 3, 2025, on the spacious grounds of the Hell Creek Wildlife Management Area near Blue Mountain, Mississippi. The trial was originally scheduled to run from January 9 to 12, but a winter weather warning of extreme cold and snow gave us no choice but to postpone. We would like to thank Mr. Justin Hughes with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks for allowing us to obtain this rescheduled date. Also, a big thanks to Mr. Jack Griffin for pitching in when needed and driving the dog wagon. Advertised judges

Jonathan Burch and Daniel Bolden had to withdraw due to work commitments, but we were able to obtain Brad Kennedy and Kyle Graves to fill the judicial saddles. We appreciate their filling in and the time and attention given to each competitor. Seventeen dogs were drawn and came to the line for their shot at the title. Competing handlers were Gary Lester, Pat Siebels, Mike Lemons, David Russell, and Korry Rinehart.

We thank each of them, as well as the owners, for supporting this trial. In the qualifying series, birds were plentiful, with all dogs having game contacts.

Fifteen coveys were pointed in the qualifying series.

Judges Kennedy and Graves called back six dogs: Miller's King Poast, handled by Gary Lester; Como Thunder, handled by David Russell; Valor's Lace and Grace, handled by Korry Rinehart; Mayfield Storm Messenger, handled by Pat Siebels; Mr. Arkansas, handled by Mike Lemons; and Lester's War Bird, handled by Gary Lester. Taking the champion title was Miller's King Poast for handler Gary Lester, and runner-up honors went to Como Thunder for handler David Russell. Both the champion and the runner-up were braced together. Both dogs ran huge front-running races with multiple finds to claim their respective titles. The judges also wanted to make mention of the sportsmanship displayed during the running, with all handlers helping each other scout and working together in every way, true sportsmanship. Thanks again to everyone who supported this trial.

Blue Mountain, Miss., March 3
Judges: Kyle Graves and Brad Kennedy
SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Qualifying Series; One-and-a-Half-Hour Callbacks]

– 16 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner-MILLER'S KING POAST, F1702090, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-R W Suzie Q. Al Bryson, owner; Gary Lester, handler.

Runner-Up-COMO THUNDER, F1687714, pointer male, by Skyfall-Catch Me Dot. B. K. & Rachel Blackwell, owners; David Russell, handler.

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NORTH CAROLINA FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Haney's All In Wins Open All-Age; Southern Pioneer, Open Derby

By John Ivester | Hoffman, North Carolina | March 15, 2025

March 15 was the start date of the North Carolina Field Trial Open All-Age and Open Derby. The trial is a long-standing event at the Hoffman venue. Twenty-five entries were drawn to be run on the six one-hour courses.

Our first-place winner was Haney's All In, handled by Mark McLean for owners Steve and Stacy Croy from Georgia. Placing second was Touch's Shadow Rider, also handled by Mark McLean for owners Bruce and Karen Norton from Doerun, Georgia. In third was Southern Pioneer, handled by Lefty Henry for owner John Ivester from North Carolina.

Haney's All In ran on Course #3. He put down a big forward race and was found pointed on four coveys. Touch's Shadow Rider ran on Course #4 and put down a good ground race with six covey finds. Southern Pioneer was braced with the winner and ran on Course #3. He had three covey finds and one back with a good ground race.

Birds were plentiful in the All-Age stake with 15 coveys on day one and 21 coveys on day two, not counting birds ridden up. The weather was cool but unpredictable, as adjustments were made to avoid fog and thunderstorms.

The Open Derby stake followed the All-Age with 13 entries. The first-place derby was won by Southern Pioneer, handled by Lefty Henry for owner John Ivester of North Carolina. Second place went to Haney's Top Shelf, handled by Mark McLean for owners Andy and David Freiburger from Georgia. In the third spot was Nickajack Pale Rider, also handled by Mark McLean and owned by Andy and David Freiburger.

The weather became sunny and warm, so the bird finding slowed down. The three derby winners each had a find and good race to earn their placements.

Our judges this year were Tony Bingham from Shelby, North Carolina, and Cliff Monroe from Mooresboro, North Carolina. Tony has judged



Open All-Age (front, l-r): Mark McLean, Jerry Raynor with Haney's All In, Karen Norton with Touch's Shadow Rider, Stephanie Ivester with Southern Pioneer, and Robert Henry. (Second row): Brett Croy, Bruce Norton, and John Ivester. (Third row): Alex Rickert and Cliff Monroe. (Fourth row): Tony Bingham and Greg Robinson. (Top row): Carl Owens.

numerous trials at Hoffman with years of experience. Cliff Monroe owns and trials his own dogs and pairs up with Tony at numerous events. Their decisions were well received.

To help the trial stay on schedule, the team of Gary and Ellen Winall, Gary Miller, Lefty Henry, and Stephanie Ivester was much appreciated.

On Saturday night, the club hosted the "Handlers' Dinner" at the well-known Beefeaters Restaurant in Southern



Open Derby (front): Robert Henry, Stephanie Ivester with Southern Pioneer, Alex Rickert with Haney's Top Shelf, and Jerry Raynor with Nickajack Pale Rider. (Second row): John Ivester, Brett Croy, Bruce Norton, and Mark McLean. (Third row): Tony Bingham and Karen Norton. (Fourth row): Greg Robinson and Cliff Monroe. (Top row): Carl Owens.

Pines, North Carolina. In attendance were Mark McLean, Jerry Raynor, Phill Stephenson, Lefty Henry, and Mike Hester. Most owners attended, a group of 18, and all had a good time.

It was a successful trial, and we all look forward to the 2026 event.

Hoffman, N. C., March 15

Judges: Tony Bingham and Cliff Monroe

OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]

— 22 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-HANEY'S ALL IN, F1698756, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Steve Croy, owner; Mark McLean, handler.

2d-TOUCH'S SHADOW RIDER, F1697543, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Touch's Gold Dance. Bruce & Karen Norton & Dr. Reuben Richardson, owners; Mark McLean, handler.

3d-SOUTHERN PIONEER, F1718759, pointer male, by Bonner's Hot Rize-Orton's High Cotton. John Ivester, owner; Robert Henry, handler.

OPEN DERBY — 11 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-SOUTHERN PIONEER, F1718759, pointer male, by Bonner's Hot Rize-Orton's High Cotton. John Ivester, owner; Robert Henry, handler.

2d-HANEY'S TOP SHELF, F1716492, pointer male, by Haney's All In-Haney's Two Dozen Roses. Andrew Freiburger, owner; Mark McLean, handler.

3d-NICKAJACK PALE RIDER, F1706953, pointer male, by Touch's Malcolm Story-Wildfair Joy. Andrew Freiburger, owner; Mark McLean, handler.

AMERICAN DERBY INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Shagtime Bill Named Champion; Erin's Three Amigos, Runner-up

By Steve Auxier | Grovespring, Missouri | March 17, 2025



American Derby Invitational Championship (front row, l-r): Chris Cagle Jr. with Shagtime Bill and Luke Eisenhart with Erin's Three Amigos. (Behind): Tony King, Bruce Sooter, Ike Todd, Rich Robertson (judge), Judd Carlton, Steve Auxier, and Dan DiMambro (judge).

The National Qualifier American Derby Invitational Championship was conducted over the premier grounds of the Field Trial Sportsmen Association at Grovespring, Missouri. The trial started on March 26th and 27th and has been held on these grounds since 2018! This year marks the 32nd running of the American Derby Invitational Championship! This Derby Invitational Championship is the ultimate test of the top 12 open all-age derbies in the nation, showcasing one day of running for 60 minutes, followed by a callback series of qualifying dogs determined by the judges for 90 minutes. This is a true test of endurance, stamina, grit, and strong bird-finding ability to determine the overall champions!

Each season, the competing dogs are ranked by points received for placements in All-Age Derby stakes throughout the nation. The top 12-ranked derbies are invited to compete in this prestigious invitational championship! It is quite an honor to be invited among the top derbies in the nation! There are four Derby Championships that automatically qualify a dog for the American Derby Invitational Championship: The Continental, Georgia, the National Derby, and the All-American Derby Championship.

We would like to thank all the

breeders, owners, handlers, and everyone involved in the development of these youngsters throughout the season.

Here are your top 12 derbies who accepted their invitation, ranked in order from their point winnings. These derbies represent a great lineup of young dogs that will be the future winning open all-age dogs and breed prospects!

- Erin's War Eagle, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Erin's Pearl. Claudia McNamee & Dr. Bill Bruchey, owners; Sean Derrig, breeder; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

- Erin's Three Amigos, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Erin's Pearl. John Mathys, Mike Sweet, Jerry Moisson, owners; Sean Derrig, breeder; Judd Carlton, handler.

- Shagtime Bill, setter male, by Shagtime Bobo-Shagtime May. Chris Cagle Sr. & Chris Cagle Jr., owners and breeders; Ike Todd, handler.

- Erin's Bold Ruler, pointer male, by Erin's Grey Justice-Erin's Miss Sam Houston. Claudia McNamee & Dr. Bill Bruchey, Sean Derrig, breeder; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

- Sunset Sam Houston, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-Purpleline Sally. Matt & Stacy Brown, owners; Rob Englert, breeder; Ike Todd, handler.

- Bonner's Lynn Grove, pointer female, by Miller's King Poast-Bryson's Dialing On Line. Scott Griffin & Derek Bonner, owners; Al Bryson, breeder; Ike Todd, handler.

- Beeler's Master Design, pointer male, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Bandit's Hill Lady. Gordy Jones, owner; Shannon St. John & Ann Forrester, breeders; Ike Todd, handler.

- Miller's Triple Crown, pointer male, by Lester's Front Porch-Bryson's Dialing Jo. Gary Lester, owner; Al Bryson, breeder; Korry Rinehart, handler.

- Intensive Aint She Purty, pointer female, by Texas Cool-Hey Suga Suga. Steve Auxier, owner; Dr. Buck Neil, breeder; Larry Huffman, handler.

- Erin's Copper Colt, pointer male, by Erin's Perfect Storm-Erins Redrum Maiden. Allen Linder, owner; Sean Derrig, breeder; Judd Carlton, handler.

- Wynona's Rebel, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-White Smoke's Angel. Bruce Sooter & Dennis Beauford, owners; Clifford Clinton, breeder; Allen Vincent, handler.

- Haney's Double Down, pointer male, by Valiant-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle Sr. & Chris Cagle Jr., owners and breeders, Ike Todd, handler.

As with owners, sponsors are crucial for field trialing. We greatly appreciate Purina and Garmin for their amazing support of our field trials. A special thank you to Matt and Stacy Brown of Sunset Ranch Bird Dogs and Piedmontese Beef for their sponsorship of this wonderful trial.

The judges for the Invitational Championship were a great pair! This year, we had Mr. Rich Robertson of Payette, Idaho, who recently judged the National Championship in Grand Junction, Tennessee, and Mr. Dan DiMambro from Big Rapids, Michigan, a very successful open German shorthair pro! Thank you for your time in the saddle!

A special thank you to Mrs. Sharleen Daugherty for her organization and help with setting up our lunches, appetizers, and cocktail hours each night. A big

thank you to Mr. Kirk Loftin for grilling the sponsored NY Strip steaks from Piedmontese Beef and to Ms. Sherri Tangsrud for helping with setting up and organizing supper for all. We had a large crowd in attendance, with owners and handlers. The steaks turned out great! Thank you to Mrs. Bonnie Hildago and Mr. Tony King for doing the drawing; also, to Tony for bird planting and driving the dog wagon. Thank you to Mr. Andy Daugherty for his help with organizing the trial.

First Series, Day One

Brace 1: Sunset Sam Houston (Todd) and Wynona's Rebel (Vincent). These two had a special season, garnering many placements across the country with an exciting breakaway showing their speed along the edges. Both dogs headed south, with Sunset Sam Houston scoring a nice find for Ike, all in order, and a great piece of birdwork in Davis Bottoms at 19. "Rebel" for Allen took the left side of the course and dipped up high into the cover. Approaching the road crossing, Allen requested his tracker for Rebel, as he had been out of pocket and had no contact with Allen for some time, ending his debut. "Sam" for Ike went on to score two more finds in his opening brace to finish the hour.

Brace 2: Haney's Double Down (Todd) and Erin's Copper Colt (Carlton). Both dogs turned loose, heading up the hill to the far north, heading into the hill loop, showing great speed and style. Double Down (Todd) was on the board first at 9, showing style and good manners. All in order, as both dogs showing a forward race. Copper Colt (Carlton) was found standing at 19 with great style and intensity. Both dogs headed north with a strong, fast, and forward pattern. Double Down scored two more finds at 24 and 43 with beautiful style and composure on game to finish the hour.

Brace 3: Erin's Three Amigos (Carlton) and Beeler's Master Design (Todd). The pairing of these two dogs was an exciting group to watch, showcasing their forward race, showing style, and speed with their ground performance. Three Amigos (Carlton) was found at 11 with impeccable style and composure for his handler. Three Amigos was found again two more times, showing great intensity on his birds with a fast and forward race. Master Design (Todd) had not been in contact with Ike as his brace ended at 43, with Ike requesting his tracker.

Brace 4: Erins War Eagle (Eisenhart) and Miller's Triple Crown (Rhinehart). Turned loose on course one, they showed forward on the way to the first creek crossing. Triple Crown (Rhinehart) scored his first find with impeccable style at 13. War Eagle continued to show his strong and bold forward race. Triple Crown (Rhinehart) was found on the south line of the double gates field at 19 with style and intensity. War Eagle was pushing the front going into Davis Bottoms, hugging the lines, pushing the front. Triple Crown scored another find just before Horse Killer Hill. War Eagle had not been in contact with Luke as the hour concluded, requesting his tracker. Triple Crown finished the hour with speed and range.

Brace 5: Shagtime Bill (Todd) and Erin's Bold Ruler (Eisenhart). The afternoon showed to be a bit warmer with no cloud cover. Shagtime Bill, the orange and white setter, and Erin's Bold Ruler, a big, strong, all white pointer, were turned loose heading up the hill loop. Chris Cagle Jr., owner of Shagtime Bill, was in attendance to watch his stylish setter. Both dogs headed north, showing speed and a forward-reaching race. Bill (Todd) was found standing at 23 with a beautiful style, his head high, and a twelve o'clock tail! Moving through the course below the barns at 31, Bold Ruler (Eisenhart) was found on the right edge with impeccable style and intensity. Luke was unable to produce a bird in the briar patch. Luke relocated Bold Ruler and reestablished point, but was unable to produce a bird in the patch again. Bill (Todd) was found on point, heading west at 32 with manners and style. Both dogs turned loose with Bill (Todd) found on point at 49 with manners and style for Ike. Both dogs finished the hour with extreme stamina and range to the front.

Brace 6: Bonner's Lynn Grove (Todd) and Intensive Aint She Purty (Huffman). For the final brace of the afternoon, both dogs started prior to the Clubhouse gate and showed promise early. Lynn Grove was found standing with style and intensity on the far west fence line in climber pasture at 16. As they headed down behind the barns, they were forward through the alley and across the road. Aint She Purty made a nice cast and was found standing at 38 on the far east line with Lynn Grove backing her bracemate. A single bird was sitting in the green grass and popped over Aint She Purty, causing a breach of manners for her. Lynn Grove took a step

on her back. Lynn Grove started heading north and scored another find at 39. She was turned loose heading down the line. At this time, the judges made a decision that she was not changing any of the dogs they were using, and this concluded her brace at 45.

The Callback Series

The judges called back four dogs, with two dogs on standby. The 90-minute callback is a true test of overall stamina and endurance for these future champions. This format is what makes the American Derby Invitational Championship very unique!

The four dogs were Haney's Double Down (Todd), Erin's Three Amigos (Carlton), Shagtime Bill (Todd), and Miller's Triple Crown (Rhinehart). The two standby dogs were Sunset Sam Houston (Todd) and Erin's Copper Colt (Carlton).

Brace 1: Haney's Double Down and Erin's Three Amigos. Breakaway at 7:56 on course one for the final. A lot of excitement in the air to watch the final dogs. Double Down scored at 6 with Three Amigos backing. Everything all in order as Three Amigos, standing at 13 with style and intensity, with Double Down backing with style. Double Down kept left and was seen coming off the ridge, making a large cast. Three Amigos came down the right edge, making his way south, then heading on the left edge, where he scored a flawless find at 25. Next, Double Down was found styled up at 33. Todd attempted to flush but was unable to produce a bird. Double Down was relocated by locking down the pair of birds, looking great on game. Three Amigos was found on Fox Hill, standing with style and intensity at 43 with perfect birdwork. Double Down was then found on Apple Tree Hill at 48 with Three Amigos honoring. Three Amigos continued to push the front, showing extreme style, and was found one more time at the 83-minute mark. Both dogs finished the 90 minutes pushing the front and showing heart and grit.

Brace 2: Shagtime Bill and Miller's Triple Crown. Breakaway at 9:45. Shagtime Bill scored first at 11 with the young setter standing proud with great style on his game with Triple Crown backing. Shagtime Bill was released with the pursuit of finding game on his mind. He was found at 23 with all in order. Triple Crown was found standing

on the backside of the camp gates with amazing style for the stylish young dog. The day prior was tough on dogs as the ground conditions were tough on their feet. Triple Crown had blown on all four pads even after taping prior to running and was starting to shorten up a bit, but still had the desire to search for game, showing heart and desire. Korry elected to pick him up at 48, concluding his brace. Miller's Triple Crown did a nice job overall with a successful season. Bill continued in pursuit of game and staying on the front, he was found on game 36 and 51. He showcased picture-perfect style on his game. Handler Todd from the day prior was struggling with

laryngitis and found calling on the dog to be a struggle. Ike's scout Luke Eisenhart stepped in to handle Bill to finish an amazing brace. Bill continued to show extreme range and scored two more finds with style and intensity. Luke did an amazing job handling and showing the young dog as he stayed on his lines. Luke pointed him out to the judges as Bill continued to gain more strength and stamina as the brace continued. Bill concluded his brace with an extreme all-age performance showing stamina, grit, and endurance for his championship performance! This brace was exciting to watch, and the overall sportsmanship and teamwork with Ike and Luke!

A great team effort to win this championship as the first setter in American Derby Invitational Championship history. Congratulations to all!

Grovespring, Mo., March 17

Judges: Dan DiMambro and Rich Robertson

AMERICAN DERBY INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 11 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner-SHAGTIME BILL, F1716536, setter male, by Shag Time Bobo-Shagtime May. Chris Cagle Sr. & Chris Cagle Jr., owners; Ike Todd, handler.

Runner-Up-ERIN'S THREE AMIGOS, F1714259, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Erin's Pearl. John Mathys, Mike Sweet & Jerry Moisson, owners; Judd Carlton, handler.

NEW ENGLAND AMATEUR WOODCOCK CLASSIC & SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND WOODCOCK CHAMPIONSHIP

By John Stolgitis | Exeter, Rhode Island | March 17, 2025



Southern New England Woodcock Championship: John Olfson (judge), Trey Rector with One Acre Wood Bandit, John Stolgitis with Mohawk Mill Miss You, and Brian Dix (judge).

After a long, cold, and snowy winter, March 15, the Ides of March, started the spring wild bird season. As always, we are dependent on the weather and the migration of the woodcock. Snow left the grounds the previous week, and all were apprehensive as to whether the birds had arrived yet. By the end of the first brace, there was no doubt our timing was on spot. The New England Amateur Woodcock Classic was first up on the docket. Judges for this year's Classic were Tim Cavanaugh and Russell Ogilvie. Both men are highly respected and accomplished field trialers. Day one featured big galleries and nice

weather. Multiple birds were moved on every brace and every course, once again showcasing Arcadia as the premier Spring wild bird grounds. Trey Rector's One Acre Wood Lucky, last year's winner, sponsored this year's Saturday evening dinner. It was extremely well attended, with many saying it was the best meal they had ever had at a trial. Smoked meats and fish, cheeses, several hot dips, oysters on the half shell, scallops wrapped in bacon, mussels steamed in garlic and wine, steamer clams, Caesar salad, Lighthouse potatoes, and prime rib with red wine portobello gravy and apple pie for dessert. No one left hungry.

Day two once again featured large galleries and once again moved birds on every brace. The judges gave their undivided, helpful attention to every amateur entered. Kudos to both. Third place went to Sunkhaze Vera Masardis, owned and handled by Mike Flewelling, with a strong race and one find. Second place went to Chasehill Snoop Dog, owned and handled by Bill McFadden. Snoop had three finds and a stop to flush for Bill's return to handling a dog in a trial after a 20+ year hiatus. Dave Theroux's Henry's Suzieq Dot bested the field with a strong ground performance and three exceptional finds. Congratulations to all and thanks to our sponsor, Purina and Greg Blair, and to all who make this a great weekend for New England Amateurs.

Championship

The Southern New England Woodcock Championship began on St. Patrick's Day. Monday morning, we were met with heavy rains. Judges John Olfson and Brian Dix took advantage of modern technology and watched the weather radar closely, dodging the downpours to give every dog a fair opportunity to perform. Despite the weather, birds were once again moved on every brace. Monday night's St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner, sponsored by Bob Little and last year's winner, Cairds Cracklin Rosie, was also extremely well attended. Thanks to Jill Stolgitis for opening her home and hosting dinners

SIX nights in a row.

On day two, the weather was much improved, and a new batch of birds moved in on the weather. The judges named Trey Rector's One Acre Wood Bandit champion. Bandit had a powerful race with two finds. Bill and Karen McFadden's Mohawk Mill Miss You was named runner-up with three finds for handler John Stolgitis. Thanks again to Greg Blair and Purina for their continued support.

Exeter, R. I., March 17

Judges: Brian Dix and John Olsson
**SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND WOODCOCK
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**
– 10 Pointers and 10 Setters

Winner-ONE ACRE WOOD BANDIT, F1694021, setter female, by Sunrise Star-Lucy Two Star. William Rector III, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-MOHAWK MILL MISS YOU, F1703199, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Big Stuff-Mohawk Mill Dolly. William & Karen McFadden, owners; John Stolgitis, handler.



New England Amateur Woodcock Classic: Maggie Maier, Tim Cavanaugh (judge), Dave Theroux with Henry's Suzieq Dot, Russell Ogilvie (judge), Bill McFadden with Chasehill Snoop Dog, John Stolgitis (stake manager), and Mike Flewelling.

South County Field Trial Club

Judges: Tim Cavanaugh and Russell Ogilvie
**NEW ENGLAND AMATEUR WOODCOCK CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 13 Pointers and 11 Setters**
1st-HENRY'S SUZIEQ DOT, F1680901, setter female, by Henry of Ferguson-Blossom's Pale Face Suzieq. Dave Theroux, owner and handler.
2d-CHASEHILL SNOOP DOG, F1703110, pointer male, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Erin Stolgitis, owner and handler.
3d-SUNKHAZE VERA MASARDIS, F1699121, pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Mike Flewelling, owner and handler.

Judges: Mike Flewelling and John Stolgitis

JOEL COLLIER OPEN DERBY CLASSIC – 9 Entries
1st-ISLAND ATTRACTION, F1712335, Irish setter female, by Wynona's Nickleback George-Wynona's Davinci Abby. Pedja Kazic, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.
2d-SNUFF MILL MAGNUM FORCE, F1705117, setter female, by Mohawk Mill Lucky Charm-Richfield Oakley. Lanny Dellinger, owner and handler.

Judges: Jon Cullen and Lanny Dellinger

COVER DOG PUPPY CLASSIC
– 7 Pointers and 4 Setters
1st-LIZARD CREEK'S ALL ZOOM, F1710164, pointer female, by Grouse Hill Rambo-All On. Marissa Everett, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.
2d-CHASEHILL BETTY BOOP, F1713924, pointer female, by Daddy's Little Boy Butch-Mohawk Mill Double E. Erin Stolgitis, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.
3d-AUSABLE JUNCTION ODIN, F1711112, setter male, by Cash Van Pioneer Scouts Man-Anna Van Frutchey Ranch. Steve McKalko, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

ENGLISH SETTER CLUB OF AMERICA

Calico's Over The Top Wins Garden State Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

By Joe Lordi | Lacey Township, New Jersey | March 28, 2025

The Garden State Amateur Shooting Dog Classic was held at Greenwood Wildlife Management Area on March 28-29. The grounds were a bit of a challenge, as the state had done some burning prior to the trial. The club decided to run one course so all the dogs would have an equal chance running on the same course.

The club would like to thank the following people for their help: Matt and Norman Basilone for laying out the course, feeding and planting birds, and bringing dogs to break away; Joe Cincotta for ordering trophies, providing snacks for the morning break and everything else he does to make the trials in New Jersey a success; and our judges, Joe Amatulli and Allen Welch, for riding hard and giving every dog their undivided attention. Their decisions were well received.

The club would like to thank Eukanuba and the Southern Bird Hunters Association for all their support. They are working hard to promote field trials, and we certainly appreciate all their efforts.



Garden State Amateur Shooting Dog Classic: Alex Smith and Brayden Smith with Calico's Over The Top, Joe Amatulli (judge), Chris Catanzarite and Mark Janiec with Backcountry Pure Gold, Allen Welch (judge), and Tiffani Smith with Calico's Country Strong.

The Winners

Calico's Over The Top was named the winner. He was expertly handled by Alex Smith and scouted by Tiffani Smith. "Blaze" was in an exciting brace with Great River Yellowstone for 35 minutes, with each of them trading off stylish finds. As we came across the breakaway, both dogs were watered and sent on. Yellowstone did not want to move, but

was under the whistle and then a bird. This was just one of those unfortunate situations. Blaze scored one more find and finished to the front for the win.

Second was Backcountry Pure Gold, handled by Chris Catanzarite. Pure Gold earned three well-mannered finds and a strong race in the heat, finishing the hour strong and going away.

Calico's Country Strong was handled

by Alex Smith with four stylish finds and a strong race, also running the afternoon heat. Her strong effort continued her winning ways, earning a third-place finish for team Calico.

Lacey Township, N. J., March 28 – One Course
Judges: Joseph Amatulli and Allen Welch
GARDEN STATE AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats] – 23 Pointers, 1 Setter,
and 4 German Shorthairs

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

2d-BACKCOUNTRY PURE GOLD, F1694791, pointer female, by Springflow's Backcountry P-Backcountry Tornado. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.

3d-CALICO'S COUNTRY STRONG, F1679850, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Calico's Touch of Class. Calico Kennels, owner; Alex Smith, handler.

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MINNESOTA GROUSE DOG ASSOCIATION

First Spring Trial

By Eric Saetre & Ben Brettingen | Mora, Minnesota | March 28, 2025

March in Minnesota can certainly be unpredictable, but after a fairly mild winter, the Minnesota Grouse Dog Association was able to host our first trial of the season. The MGDA would like to thank Purina and OnX, our sponsors. We would also like to thank the club members who helped get a new course laid out, flagged, and cut just in time for the trial, as we lost some courses over the winter. Just over 60 dogs were drawn across three stakes. First up, the 28-dog Shooting Dog stake.

Open Shooting Dog

First-place Lake Effect Ali, owned and handled by Tim Kaufman, hit the ground for the third brace Friday morning on Course 2. Ali's run was consistently forward and stylish, while hitting prime cover out of the gate. At the 21-minute mark, she had a non-productive. At 42, Ali went on point 75 yards off the trail, and Kaufman went in to flush two woodcock. After releasing her, the orange and white female setter's bell fell silent again at 46, and Kaufman found her standing a woodcock. As Ali approached the hour mark, she pushed forward to the end of a wooded peninsula, surrounded by a lowland marsh. Two grouse were produced, as Ali stood staunch to flush and shot. A few tense minutes followed as the setter finished out the hour.

Second-place Planet Queen ("Rhonda") was handled by Scott Anderson in the 13th brace, on the south course, Saturday. Rhonda laid down a forward and fluid race that pushed the course with confidence and



Open Shooting Dog (l-r): Ben Brettingen (judge), Tim Kaufman with Lake Effect Ali, and Kyle Peterson (judge).

style. She handled kindly for Anderson, showing a natural connection and responsiveness throughout her bid. Her birdwork came at the 12 mark, where she stopped with intensity. Anderson approached and produced a grouse with crisp flush, while Rhonda stood tall and composed through the entire sequence, demonstrating both grit and manners on game. Her finish was forward and determined, showing no signs of let-up as time was called.

Third-place Freyja Kendra, a quick and stylish orange and white setter handled by Ryan Bjerke, delivered a forward and energetic race on Course 6 in the fifth brace. From breakaway, she hit likely cover with purpose, putting herself in all the right places and hunting with intelligence. Her ground effort was fluid and determined, marked by great speed and a sharp pattern that consistently pressed the front. At the 23-minute mark, Freyja was found standing with

intensity. Bjerke approached, and a grouse was produced cleanly, with Freyja showing poise and polished manners throughout the sequence. She finished her hour with drive still in the tank, never fading in application or focus. It was a strong and mature performance that made a lasting impression.

Open Derby

Determining the winners in any coverdog trial takes into consideration many factors. This year's Minnesota Grouse Dog Association spring trial was no exception. The Derby faced its own set of challenges, including intermittent waves of inclement weather. Throughout the day, braces faced mixed rain, sleet, and snow, all of which was made more difficult by a crusty layer of ice left on the forest floor from the previous night. The combination proved to be an arduous test for both dogs and participants alike. The field consisted of 28 entries, and it might have been reasonable to expect that the weather conditions alone would cause many to scratch. However, the resilience of the stake managers and their team, along with a hearty gallery, handlers, and, most importantly, the dogs, resulted in 26 of the 28 starting the trial. Due to the circumstances, the stake was run on a single course, giving spectators the opportunity to observe the young dogs showcasing their race, style, and application.

To win within a large draw, the dog has to set themselves apart from the rest. That was the case in this stake, as a number of the dogs, both placed and otherwise, stood out to both judges. Such parity at scale with derby-aged



Open Derby (l-r): Josh Matel with Northwoods Tyler, Jeremy Moore (judge), Jerry Kolter (judge), and Chad Hines with Willow Creek's Northwoods Nugget.

dogs speaks volumes for the future. The results of many pairings resembled the look and feel of a shooting dog's performance. Brace #3 exemplified this dynamic, featuring both the first and third place winners.

Northwoods Tyler, owned and handled by Josh Matel, earned every bit of his first-place finish. Tyler is a striking young pointer, mostly white with a liver mask and a unique diamond-shaped marking on his forehead. He was braced with Clover Valley's Evans ("Evy"), a female English setter owned and handled by Jerry Furnish. She finished the brace strong, earning her a third-place ribbon. The two were paired in the third brace, and despite light falling snowflakes, they put together a run that was as stylish and graceful as it was powerful and bold. Their performance kept the gallery warm, pushing the limits of their bells at a manageable pace, showcasing a combination of range, purpose, and class.

Tyler moved effortlessly throughout the course, staying well ahead of the gallery and only checking in with his handler on occasion, when needed. They demonstrated a strong connection throughout the entire 30-minute run, and he hunted with purpose in every likely cover. Evy also displayed strength in her performance, consistently returning to the course and moving forward with determination. While there were times when she veered laterally to the course, she often found

herself clinging to a nearby large swamp made up of prime bird cover. Both dogs and handlers made the challenging conditions appear almost easy.

Second-place Willow Creek's Northwoods Nugget ("Nuggy"), a white male pointer with orange markings, in the sixth brace, displayed a forward-running, smooth, and powerful gait under the handling of owner Chad Hines. Nuggy's bell was heard faintly and frequently ahead of his handler, and when spotted, he was comfortably crossing the trail at a considerable distance. He ran with purpose and maturity, putting together the type of performance one would hope to see from a shooting dog. Interestingly, Tyler and Nuggy are littermates, and he, too, displays the same unique diamond mark on his forehead. The consistency in their outstanding performances is certainly not coincidental.

First Spring Puppy Stake

The MGDA Puppy stake is always a fun stake that we look forward to each spring. While this was a smaller draw, all these puppies have a bright future in trialing, and we look forward to seeing them progress into derbies soon! The weather for this stake was challenging even for the more experienced dogs. Wind, snow, and ice made for tough conditions for dogs and handlers alike.

Claiming the blue ribbon was Kenzie's Cookies & Cream ("CC"), owned and handled by Brian Vander Maazen. CC really stretched out the last half of the brace and hit all the right covers along the course, especially working a long swamp edge. Combine that with her strong race, and CC stood out as a dog with a bright future.

In second place was Rueger's Maekin' Easy Money, owned by Joseph Maciej and handled by Kyle Peterson. Rueger ran hard and fast through the course while also showing a desire to hunt and search out game in likely covers.

Third place went to Majestic's Chasin' Harley Quinn, owned and handled by



Open Puppy (l-r): Hannah Peterson (judge), Brian Vander Maazen with Kenzie's Cookies & Cream, Kyle Peterson with Rueger's Maekin' Easy Money, and Mason Modjeski with Majestic's Chasin' Harley Quinn.

Mason Modjeski. Quinn showed a strong connection with her handler and had a confident run while hitting appropriate spots.

Mora, Minn., March 28

**Judges: Ben Brettingen and Kyle Peterson
OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]
– 7 Pointers and 21 Setters**

1st-LAKE EFFECT ALI, F1688438, setter female, by Northern Lights Sirius-Lake Effect Tilly. Tim Kaufman, owner and handler.

2d-PLANET QUEEN, F1702708, setter female, by Rufus Del Fuego-Stumbo's Scarlet. Scott Anderson, owner and handler.

3d-FREYJA KENDRA, F1701728, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Centerfold Sioux. Ryan Bjerke, owner and handler.

**Judges: Jerry Kolter and Jeremy Moore
OPEN DERBY – 8 Pointers, 17 Setters,
and 1 German Shorthair**

1st-NORTHWOODS TYLER, unreg., pointer male, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Northwoods Comet. Josh Matel, owner and handler.

2d-WILLOW CREEK'S NORTHWOODS NUGGET, F1712154, pointer male, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Northwoods Comet. Chad & Tracy Hines, owners; Chad Hines, handler.

3d-CLOVER VALLEY'S EVANS, F1705659, setter female, by Northwoods Atlas-Clover Valley's Millie. Jerry Furnish, owner and handler.

**Judges: Tim Callahan and Hannah Peterson
OPEN PUPPY – 2 Pointers, 3 Setters,
and 1 Brittany**

1st-Northwoods Tyler, F1712151, pointer male, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Northwoods Comet. Josh Matel, owner and handler.

2d-RUEGER'S MAEKIN' EASY MONEY, F1714651, setter male, by I'm Easy Money-Berg's Mae Belle. Joe Maciej, owner and handler.

3d-MAJESTIC'S CHASIN' HARLEY QUINN, F1720033, setter female, by Northwoods Big G Firestorm-Majestics Summer Breeze. Mason Modjeski, owner and handler.



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NGSPA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

72nd Running

By Anthony Rusciano | Grovespring, Missouri | March 29, 2025



NGSPA National Championship (front): April DiMambro with Chicoree's Riden High Trixie and Hank Lewis with B M B's Freeloader. (Standing): Dan DiMambro, Dr. Bob Rankin (judge), Mark Wasserman, Dave Chapstick (judge), and Brandon Blum.

The 72nd Running of the National German Shorthaired Pointer Association (NGSPA) National Championships commenced on March 29, 2025, at the beautiful Sportsmen's Field Trial Association Grounds in Grovespring, Missouri. With over 200 entries, this year's event was the largest and most competitive in the country, showcasing the finest pointing dogs and handlers in the sport. Despite a few weather delays and last-minute judge changes due to the weather delays, the event ran smoothly under the leadership of the National Field Trial Co-Chairmen, Committee members, and the hard work of our stake managers. The grounds were in outstanding condition, and the quail flew strong and fast, offering fair and challenging conditions for all, and provided a true test of the best in our sport.

This premier event would not be possible without the incredible support from our sponsors. We extend sincere thanks to Purina Pro Plan, SportDOG, Garmin, and Dogs Unlimited for their generous backing of our National Championships. Their continued commitment to field trials is a vital part of our success. In addition, we are grateful to our many dog wagon, social hour, and dinner sponsors, whose contributions added to the spirit of camaraderie and celebration throughout

the event.

Hospitality was once again a highlight of the event. We are deeply thankful to Sheila Davis for providing wonderful catering throughout the event, and to Mark Verdoorn and Rich Robertson for grilling up the delicious steak dinner. Each evening, the field trial community came together at the clubhouse for delicious dinners sponsored by some of last year's winners.

A heartfelt thank you goes to NGSPA President Keith Richardson for his steadfast leadership and vision. Under the NGSPA Board of Trustees' guidance, the Nationals continue to grow in prestige and professionalism. We are always striving to step up and improve this event every year, and that effort is only possible because of

the incredible team behind the scenes. It takes a true team effort—from planning and logistics to hospitality and judging—to make the National Championships a success.

Special thanks go out to our stake managers for their tireless work before, during, and after the event. Their commitment ensures that each stake runs smoothly and fairly. We also thank our National Field Trial Committee for their dedication to excellence in our sport, and we are especially grateful to field trial secretary Lori Rezzardi, whose

organization and attention to detail were critical to our success.

Andy and Becky Dynkiewicz, we are grateful for your volunteering your time throughout the entire National Championship to step in and lend a hand wherever necessary.

Most importantly, we offer a special thank you to our judges, who generously gave their time and expertise to evaluate the performances of our incredible dogs. Their careful observation and commitment to fairness are the foundation of our sport.

Finally, we encourage members of our community to step up and volunteer for next year's Nationals. Whether you can help in the field, around the clubhouse, or with behind-the-scenes coordination, every contribution matters. It's through the combined effort of our dedicated members and volunteers that we continue to raise the bar year after year.

On behalf of Co-Chairman Mark Wasserman and myself, thank you to all who participated, supported, and made the journey to Grovespring to make the 72nd NGSPA National Championships the biggest and best yet. We look forward to building on this momentum in 2026!

49th National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

The Running

Brace 1: Roux (Jason Brooks, owner; Hank Lewis, handler) and Dakota (Kirk Loftin, owner/handler). The 2025 National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship kicked off with Roux, who notched two finds and one on a rabbit, and backed her brace mate. Her race was moderate, staying mostly forward, though she didn't fully stretch the country and show independence. Dakota showed his youth at times and backed its brace mate twice, along with one find. While neither dog showed a dominating range, both exhibited good birdwork, offering a good start to the stake.

Brace 2: Bonnie (David O'Brien, owner/handler) and Pie (Mark Wasserman, owner/handler). This

brace saw an early shake-up as Bonnie, a stylish female, was lost shortly after the breakaway and did not return to judgment. Left to run alone, Pie tallied three finds during her time on the ground. While her birdwork was productive, her pattern lacked consistency and her range fluctuated, occasionally drifting out of pocket before reengaging. Despite her efforts on game, the uneven application held her back from making a stronger impression on the judges.

Brace 3: Rip (Keith Bryant, owner/handler) and Stella (Hank Lewis, owner/handler). This brace featured two contenders who were unable to complete the full hour. Rip, a male, recorded a back at the 10-minute mark, but was picked up by his handler at 20, his race not developing as hoped. Stella stayed in the hunt a bit longer but was ultimately picked up at 25. With no birdwork recorded for her and neither dog completing the hour, this brace concluded early with limited impact on the stake.

Brace 4: Skye (Scott Bodestab, owner/handler) and Trip (Mark Verdoorn, owner/handler). Skye, a classy female, delivered one of the stronger efforts of the day. She notched five finds spread steadily across the hour and moved with a forward, purposeful race that showed both range and rapport. Her bracemate, Trip, supported the action with three stylish backs and capped his hour with a clean find of his own. Together, the pair put down a well-mannered brace that demonstrated solid ground application and good birdwork.

Brace 5: Rommel (Andy Dynkiewicz, owner/handler) and Rio (Peter Coppens, owner/handler). Rommel, a male, was lost shortly after the breakaway and did not return to judgment—his tracker was ultimately pulled. That left Rio to carry the rest of the hour. He broke away with purpose and energy, but as the heat of the day set in, it clearly took a toll on his performance. Despite fading midway, he managed to card one find, though his race lacked the consistency needed to push into contention.

Brace 6: Lucy (Mark Wasserman, owner/handler) and Kuiper (Aaron Benz, owner/handler). This brace was short-lived for both contenders. Lucy, a female, was picked up at the 10-minute mark, her effort not shaping up as hoped. Kuiper logged a “find” at 10 that



NGSPA National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (front): Sherri Tangersrud with Uodibar's Robbi Jo and Abe Macke with Sunny Fields Warchief. (Behind): Jack Marchese, Kirk Loftin, Steve Auxier (judge), Chris Young, Luke Eisenhart (judge), David O'Brien, Art Terstage, and Mark Wasserman.

turned out to be a snake encounter—not the kind of game the judges were looking for. He continued briefly but was picked up at 20. With neither dog completing the half-hour mark, this brace concluded early and without impact on the standings.

Brace 7: Ace (Kirk Loftin, owner/handler) and Lady (Bryant/Patrick, owners/handlers). Day 2 of the running began with Ace, a male, who came out with energy and promise. He tallied two finds early on but began to fade in connection and application. At the 35-minute mark, Loftin elected to request the tracker, ending Ace's bid. His bracemate, Lady, had one clean find and a stylish back. Unfortunately, her run was cut short by an infraction with game at 27, resulting in her being picked up. Despite some early productivity, the brace ultimately ended in disappointment for both contenders.

Brace 8: Punch (Mark Verdoorn, owner/handler) and Stick (David O'Brien, owner/handler). Punch, a male, had a mixed hour, showing moments of promise but struggling with consistency. He recorded one back and two finds, but was also marked with two unproductive, leaving his performance somewhat incomplete. His bracemate, Stick, had a far more composed outing. Stick carded five solid finds and showed a good race throughout the hour, although he did have one unproductive. Despite that, his overall application and energy put him in the mix as a standout for this brace.

Brace 9: Badger (Hank Lewis, owner/handler) and May (Harvey Franco, owner/handler). This brace was short-lived for both dogs. Badger, a female, was picked up at just 10 minutes due to a bird infraction, cutting her bid short. Her bracemate, May, had a find early on but struggled to maintain momentum.

At the 18-minute mark, Franco elected to pick up, bringing an early end to their run. Neither dog was able to complete the hour, and this brace left little impact on the overall standings.

Brace 10: Janie (Chris Young and Robert Reynolds, owners; Chris Young, handler) and Sam (David O'Brien, owner/handler). Kicking off the first brace of the afternoon on Day 2 began with an early standout in Janie, a female. After a strong breakaway, Janie made a stylish cast to the front and was found standing at just 6. Her bracemate, Sam, failed to back and was picked up shortly after. Janie, on the other hand, maintained good style and composure throughout. She made a beautiful move through Davis Bottom and was again found standing at 26, confidently displaying her shooting dog qualities. As the hour wore on, Janie continued to impress but was last seen at 46. The handler pulled the tracker at 56, leaving the judges with a lasting image of her performance despite not finishing the full hour.

Brace 11: Lily (James Messer, owner/handler) and Lucky (Alan Sailors, owner/handler). Lily turned in a steady hour with three finds at 6, 49, and 55, along with an unproductive at 34. Her race was medium in range, staying within reach but lacking the forward drive to separate her from the field. Lucky showing consistent effort without commanding the course. He recorded a clean find at 10 and supported his bracemate with two backs during the hour. Both dogs experienced some flat spots in their races, and while birdwork was present, neither performance rose to the level of the more dynamic contenders.

Brace 12: Harper (Susan Bohlmer, owner; Aaron Benz, handler) and Cruz (James Messer, owner/handler). Harper turned in a productive effort early, carding finds at 11, 30, and 37. Despite the promising birdwork, Harper was picked up before completing the full hour. Cruz stayed in the game through the full duration, notching four finds and one unproductive. While his run was clean and steady, it lacked the range and flair needed to rise above the stronger performances in the stake.

Brace 13: Rose (James Messer, owner/handler) and JR (Jack Marchese, owner/handler). Rose delivered a consistent performance over the hour. She recorded three finds in the first 30 minutes and a back at 16, showing

good manners and composure on game. Her bracedmate, JR, also had a back at 6 and added a find of his own at 16. Jack requested the tracker at 44. Rose completed the hour, though neither dog made a push to challenge the front-runners in the stake.

Brace 14: Janis (David O'Brien, owner/handler) and Dee (Kirk Loftin, owner/handler). This brace was over almost as quickly as it began. Dee had a find at 5 but was picked up at 12. Janis was picked up at 7.

Brace 15: Jinx (Chris Young, owner/handler) and Thrall (Art Terstage, owner/handler). This was one of the more exciting and consequential braces of the trial. Jinx ran an energetic and forward race, consistently working the cover with style and purpose. She recorded well-spaced finds at 11, 32, and 47, along with a composed back at 28. Judges took note of her birdwork and consistent forward drive. However, at 56, while standing in cover, her bid for a placement unraveled. As the handler flushed birds, additional birds lifted and flew past her, proving too much for the young dog. It was an unfortunate turn that likely altered the final placements. Thrall also delivered a strong performance and capitalized on the opportunity. He carded his first find at 16 at the end of Sycamore Bottom near the road, handling his birds with clean manners. He was next found standing at the crossroads by Twin Barns with everything in order, and later backed Jinx at 47. Thrall's third and final find came at 56 at the start of Course 3. Thrall was forward throughout and held his ground with consistency and strong forward race, earning him the well-deserved title of Runner-Up Champion.

Brace 16: Tank (Mike Patrick, owner/handler) and Gin (Mark Wasserman, owner/handler). Tank recorded a find at 22 with all manners in order. Mike broke Tank away, and that was the last he was seen. The handler elected to pull the tracker at the 40-minute mark. Gin put down a composed effort, logging finds at 13 and 22. While her application was steady, the performance lacked the drive or scope to challenge the leaders.

Brace 17: Ollie (Caroline Yancy, owner; Aaron Benz, handler) and Sophie (Terry Bomer, owner/handler). Both dogs recorded a find at the 6-minute mark, showing early promise. However, the rest of the hour passed without additional birdwork or standout moves,

and neither contender made a push to impact the placements.

Brace 18: LJ (Keith Bryant, owner/handler) and Jazz (Chris Young, owner/handler). This was a fun and memorable brace on Course 3, with both LJ and Jazz delivering polished, forward races that showcased a good shooting dog performance. LJ impressed with five well-spaced finds at 14, 17, 23, 45, and 52, along with clean backs at 7 and 40. Jazz was equally composed, carding four finds at 7, 17, 40, and 49, and backing LJ at 14 and 52. These two dogs complemented each other beautifully, maintaining a strong front-running race throughout the hour. Their style was eye-catching, and their manners on birds were impeccable. However, it didn't move any of the placements.

Brace 19: Robbi (Sherri Tangsrud, owner; Kirk Loftin, handler) and Jax (Katelyn Macke, owner; Abe Macke, handler). The first brace on the final day of the stake delivered the kind of thrilling performance that defines a national champion. Robbi and Jax were turned loose on Course 1 and immediately got to work. Jax was first found standing at 5, but despite a thorough flush, no bird was produced. Robbi had not been seen since the breakaway and was located on point by the scout at 13, everything in order. Jax followed with a clean find at 15. Once Kirk gathered Robbi, he caught the front, driving forward through the course. She was found standing at 22 in Davis Bottom, with Jax arriving promptly for the back. Both dogs showed strong style and excellent bird manners. Robbi continued to stretch the course, heading toward Horse Killer Hill. At 45, after the handlers and gallery had passed, the scout again located her on point, another clean find with exemplary composure. Jax added a final find at 51, and time was called shortly after. While Jax was promptly gathered up, Robbi was still driving forward, requiring the full allotted time for Kirk to retrieve her at the end of the hour. Robbi's hard-charging, forward-moving race, coupled with her consistent and stylish birdwork, earned her the title of National Amateur Shooting Dog Champion, a well-deserved finish to a strong field.

Brace 20: Blue (Sherri Tangsrud, owner; Kirk Loftin, handler) and Chloe (Fred Ryan, owner/handler). Blue carded three finds over the course of the hour but showed some inconsistency in application, with moments of strong

work offset by lulls in productivity. Chloe had a clean find at 23 but followed with an unproductive stand at 30 and a back at 44. Despite honest efforts from both dogs, this brace didn't yield the consistency or race needed to challenge the day's top contenders.

Brace 21: Luna (Ronald Badua, owner; Mark Verdoorn, handler) and Jim (Abe Macke, owner/handler). Luna and Jim took to the field under intensifying midday heat, which appeared to weigh on both performances. Luna recorded four finds at 5, 10, 23, and 57, with a composed back at 13. Jim encountered feather piles at 13 and 35, managed a back at 23, and capped his effort with a find at 58. Though both dogs showed moments of promise, the heat seemed to sap some of their drive and finish, preventing either from mounting a serious challenge to the leaders.

Brace 22: Coco (Jack Marchese, owner/handler) and Arrow (Larry Metter, owner/handler). The final brace of the 2025 NGSPA National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship featured Coco and Arrow. Coco was picked up at 21. Arrow delivered a solid, consistent effort over the full hour. He carded an impressive seven finds at 2, 5, 12, 21, 26, 29, and 43, showcasing a composed shooting dog ground race and steady birdwork throughout. While it was a commendable performance, it ultimately did not factor into the placements. Still, Arrow's effort was a fine way to conclude a competitive stake.

Grovespring, Mo., March 29
Judges: Steve Auxier and Luke Eisenhart
NGSPA NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
— 44 German Shorthairs

Winner-UODIBAR'S ROBBI JO, F1662507, German Shorthair female, by Uodibar's Against All Odds-B D K's Sin City Casino. Sherri Tangsrud, owner; Kirk Loftin, handler.

Runner-Up-SUNNY FIELDS WARCHIEF, F1687084, German Shorthair male, by Joke's On You-Sunny Fields Vegas Rumor. Art Terstage, owner and handler.

5th National Amateur Championship
By Robin Lambourn

The fifth running of the NGSPA National Amateur Championship was a competitive stake once again, with 33 entries. Unfortunately, inclement weather rolled in on the second day. Thunderstorms and flash flooding turned this three-day event into a seven-day event. Judges Mike Patrick and Rich Robertson Jr. donated a few extra days



NGSPA National Amateur Championship (front): Mark Wasserman with A O Tripps To Win and Brandon Blum with B M B's Freeloader. (Behind): Robin Lambourn, Mike Patrick (judge), Alan Davison, Josh Nieman, and Rich Robertson (judge).

of their time and found two deserving winners.

The judges named A O Tripps To Win, owned and handled by Alan Davison, the 2025 NGSPA National Amateur Champion. Tripp ran on Course 2, scoring three well-spaced finds. Tripp's first find came five minutes after the breakaway, divided with his bracemate along the fence line on top of the hill. Tripp was next found standing on his second find at the beginning of Sycamore Bottom. Tripp then made a very nice move up Sycamore Bottom and was seen headed up the hill towards the twin barns. After a long absence, Tripp carded the find of the stake past the twin barns buried in the trees to the right, with his bracemate backing. Tripp continued to make nice moves through the end of his hour. He was absent at time, but his handler and scout produced him to the front eight minutes later.

B M B's Freeloader, owned and handled by Brandon Blum, earned runner-up, running on the second half of Course 2 and the first half of Course 3. Freeloader had a very clean run with some extended absences that were acceptable for an all-age stake. He scored three well-spaced finds with style throughout. Although Freeloader's run made the judges' decision difficult, the primary difference between the champion and runner-up was the all-age quality of their finds and their proximity to the horse path.

Three other dogs that the judges mentioned were pushing the winners: Twin Creeks Running Rocky, Monkeyshine's Callme The Breeze, and Chicoree's Glitter and Gold.

Judges: Michael Patrick and Rich Robertson Jr. NGSPA NATIONAL AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 33 German Shorthairs

Winner-A O TRIPPS TO WIN, F1671013, German Shorthair male, by Kimber Tactical-Sixxem's A Cut Above. Alan O. Davison, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-B M B'S FREELOADER, F1678664, German Shorthair male, by B M B's Free Ride-Hightailing Saddle's Mandolin. Brandon & Jennifer Blum, owners; Brandon Blum, handler.

68th National Futurity

By Harvey Franco,

NGSPA Futurity Manager

The 68th NGSPA National Futurity, judged by Brandon Blum and Ray Larrondo, proved to be a strong success, with all futurity entries making bird contact on prereleased quail throughout the courses. The field was full of promise, and the future looks exceptionally bright for our sport as these young German shorthaired pointers showcased style, drive, and early maturity in their performances. The following scribed performances are in placement order.

1st Place: LPK's To Hot To Handle (Joe Burch, owner; Keith Gullede, handler). "Mazie" broke away on Course 1 at 8 a.m. sharp in the first brace of the day. She made an immediate impression with a flashy breakaway, running the edges with an easy and pleasing gait. At the five-minute mark, her bracemate was found standing ahead, with Mazie honoring respectfully, a commendable display of manners. Ten minutes in, Mazie was found standing with a stylish and broke find, producing her first game. She continued to run the edges beautifully, showing well across the open fields of Course 1. At the 15-minute mark, she stood staunchly once again but was unable to produce game. Upon release, she continued forward with a graceful, composed run, maintaining her edge-running style.

At the 29-minute mark, Mazie was once again found standing, stylish and broke, producing her second bird. This young female delivered a strong, mature performance reminiscent of a seasoned dog. Her style on point was particularly noteworthy. As this year's 68th NGSPA Futurity Champion, Mazie showcased a

combination of bird sense, style, and potential. A bright future certainly lies ahead for this talented young dog.

2nd Place: MSR's Worth It (James and Sarah Messer, owners/handlers). "Keeper" ran in the fourth brace of the day, breaking away with a fast, snappy



NGSPA National Futurity (top row): Keith Gullede, Brandon Blum (judge), Ray Larrondo (judge), James Messer, Harvey Franco, and Sara Messer. (Bottom row): Robbi Gullede with LPK's To Hot to Handle, Terry Bomer with MSR's Worth It, and "Kid" Sailors with MSR's Cool Joe.

cast to the front. Her first find came at the five-minute mark, where she stood with confidence and stylishly handled her bird. After being released by her scout, she continued forward through the course with smooth agility. At the 14-minute mark, Keeper was found standing again, demonstrating a broke-like find with impressive composure, producing game. She worked the course with hunting determination and was again found standing at the 29-minute mark, successfully producing a covey of quail. This young female put down a very commendable performance, showing excellent style on her birds and poise well beyond her years. Keeper is certainly one to watch as she continues to develop.

Third Place: MSR's Cool Joe (James and Sarah Messer, owners; James Messer, handler). "Joe," a stout young male, ran in the third brace of the day. He broke away with power, making a strong cast to the front and gliding smoothly through the course. His first find came at the 8-minute mark, where he displayed a stylish point and produced game.

Released by his scout, Joe pushed forward confidently and was found again on point at the 12-minute mark with another productive bird contact. He finished strong, found standing at the 29-minute mark, producing a nice covey of fast-flying quail.

Joe exhibited solid hunting instincts, athleticism, and bird sense, all excellent qualities in a young prospect. He's another example of the depth of quality in this year's futurity.

Final Thoughts

The 68th running of the NGSPA National Futurity was a testament to

the strength and promise of our breed's future. With every entry making contact with birds and delivering commendable performances, it's clear we are raising a generation of strong competitors and classy performers. Thank you to all the handlers, owners, and participants for making this event a memorable success.

Judges: Brandon Blum and Ray Larrondo
NGSPA NATIONAL FUTURITY
– 22 German Shorthairs

1st-LPK'S TO HOT TO HANDLE, F1718970, German Shorthair female, by Texas Hot Potato-Texas Sophisticated Tomboy. Joe Burch, owner; Keith Gullledge, handler.

2d-MSR'S WORTH IT, F1715720, German Shorthair female, by G K's Nuke It-MSR's Scarlet's Witch. James & Sarah Messer, owners; James Messer, handler.

3d-MSR'S COOL JOE, F1715718, German Shorthair male, by G K's Nuke It-MSR's Scarlet's Witch. James & Sarah Messer, owners; James Messer, handler.

72nd National Championship

By Ray Larrondo

This year's running of the National Championship drew 42 dogs, with a couple of entries scratching after the drawing. We dealt with a last-minute judge change due to weather delays earlier in the trial. The two gentlemen filling the judges' saddles were Dr. Bob Rankin from Oklahoma and Dave Capstick from Missouri. Both of these gentlemen have decades of experience in the game, and they granted each entry put before them their watchful eye. The soggy courses from the torrential rains in the days leading up to the stake created challenging bird-finding conditions early on in the running. The second day of the stake, the temperature climbed, a favorable breeze let on, and the bird finding ramped up. It was on this day that a couple of performances made the judges sit higher in their saddles to watch great, powerful ground races, capped off with flawless birdwork.

The Champion

Chicoree's Riden High Trixie (Jeff Alexander, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler). Starting the second morning with a bang was the defending national champion, Chicoree's Riden High Trixie. "Trixie" began the hour boldly, taking the higher right edge of Course 1, to be found pointed, scoring her first find at 12. She carded another find shortly after the road crossing, with all in order. Casting off from this second find, her superb ground game was clearly visible on the big, long edges. Trixie's consistent all-age range, her ground speed and power, and her incredible bird sense



NGSPA National Open Shooting Dog Championship (front): Charles Gonzalez with B D K's Sam I Am and David O'Brien with In Country's Hurricane Jane. (Behind): Chris Goeagan, T. J. Hidalgo, Tim Hidalgo, and Josh Nieman.

were unmatched in this very competitive stake. This was demonstrated throughout the hour, along with several more good finds, which provided the judges the opportunity to lay eyes on her impeccable style and intensity. Trixie consistently stayed to the front, and when not seen for a bit, would be found pointed, capping off those nice forward moves. Putting together performances like this is why she is now a two-time National Champion.

The Runner-Up

B M B's Freeloader (Brandon Blum, owner/handler). The afternoon braces on the second day of the stake proved much more of the same great bird finding opportunities. In Brace 2 of the afternoon, B M B's Freeloader, handled by his owner Brandon Blum, earned this duo their second title of these championships. "Hewey" handled the climbing afternoon temperatures well, maintaining a bold, forward race. Several of his nice reaching casts were capped off with good finds, which allowed the judges to get a glimpse of his picturesque style and great manners on game. After making the loop to the west of the twin barns, where he had a couple of finds, Hewey was pointed out by his handler, making the big climb headed towards the Clubhouse Loop. Several minutes of riding and gaining elevation allowed the judges and gallery to spot him making one more big move on the far north ridge, where he was seen going up the course. This big finish near the hour mark was wrapped up with point being called on the west fence line, which totaled five finds for this great performance.

Many thanks need to go out to the chairs of this event, Mark Wasserman and Anthony Rusciano, as well as the great committee and stake managers. These include Keith Richardson for all of his early organizing, as well as Joe

Orndorff for stepping up at the last minute to lend a hand. To the dog wagon drivers, bird planters, and most notably judges, of the stake, thanks again.

Judges: Dave Capstick and Bob Rankin
NGSPA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 42 German Shorthairs

Winner-CHICOREE'S RIDEN HIGH TRIxie, F1685125, German Shorthair female, by Riden High Rudy-Chicoree's Sparkle In Her Eye. Rondal J. Alexander, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.

Runner-Up-B M B'S FREELOADER, F1678664, German Shorthair male, by B M B's Free Ride-Hightailing Saddle's Mandolin. Brandon & Jennifer Blum, owners; Brandon Blum, handler.

55th National Open Shooting Dog Championship

By T. J. Hidalgo, judge

What an impressive national event. We started with a total of 28 braces of some very high-caliber dogs. The two dogs we chose for our champion and runner-up were well above the rest of some very impressive dogs, and they sure met the qualifications for this championship. Both dogs had very forward-moving braces with excellent runs; we were impressed with how each dog would hit a line and take it to the end, and did not move on until it had a chance to finish the line that it was on. These dogs were consistently moving forward on the right side of the wind and hunting where the birds would be. The direct result of this would be both dogs having multiple steady finds with no movement on all of these finds, this coming down to a very fine margin between them; both were of championship quality. We watched so many good dogs that could have won just about any stake out there, which made it very difficult to make sure we were getting the best of the best. We felt Sam in the fourth brace and Janie in the eighth brace well exceeded the competition in this event. The details that separated our champion and runner-up champion were a thin line. Sam had six flawless finds, and Janie had five, with the last being a limb find at time. Sam caught our attention early on in the brace, and it was that dog that made us sit up in our saddles and ride a little harder so as to not want to miss any of the action. Saying this, it made it very difficult for the other braces, due to us having two high-quality dogs so early on. We enjoyed watching all the dogs entered and thought it was an extreme pleasure to judge a national event with so many nice bird dogs to watch. It was quite impressive to see the quality

of bird dogs the breed has produced and presented to us to judge. Both the winner and runner-up proved that they were bird dogs—forward running and finished their lines when we didn't see them. We found them on point in a field of dogs that could've won any trial. These two stood above.

**Judges: Tim Hidalgo and T. J. Hidalgo
NGSPA NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**

— 56 German Shorthairs

Winner-B D K'S SAM I AM, F1675197, German Shorthair male, by Slicks Cuttin Wild-C L K's Point Me The Way. David O'Brien, owner; Keith Gullledge, handler.

Runner-Up-IN COUNTRY'S HURRICANE JANE, F1672744, German Shorthair female, by Hi N's Bodacious-Slaterock Mattie Clark. Robert Reynolds, owner; Chris Goegan, handler.

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PENINSULA BIRD HUNTERS CLUB

Spring Trial

By Ashby Morgan | Ahoskie, North Carolina | March 30, 2025



Amateur Puppy (front): Steve Graham with Back Creek Blue. (Standing): A curious spectator, Barbel Fetkoter, John Outlaw (judge) with daughter, and Jim Jones (judge).



Open Derby (front): Lee Flanders with Walnut Tree Allie and Morgan with Pinekone Taylor Made. (Standing): A curious spectator, Barbel Fetkoter, John Outlaw (judge) with daughter, and Jim Jones (judge).



Amateur Shooting Dog (front): Mohawk Mill Big Stuff with Ashby Morgan, Chippokes Cracker Jack with Lee Flanders, and Mohawk Mill Big Enough with Michael McIntyre. (Standing): Barbel Fetkoter (judge), Jim Jones (judge), John Outlaw, and Dennis Kivikko.

The Peninsula Bird Hunters Field Trial Club held its field trial at Dr. Aubrey Morgan's Cutawhiskey Farm in Ahoskie, North Carolina, on Sunday, March 30. The grounds are the best anywhere around. The weather was very warm for this time of the year. The dogs under consideration had to be in the best condition. A full day was on the books with three Puppy braces, three Open Derby braces, and seven Shooting Dog braces.

Many thanks go out to all who helped. This club is blessed with folks who step up when things need to get done. Special thanks to Arnold Ripley, who brought his side-by-side to keep all the dogs on the line; Steve Graham, who kept the grounds loaded with birds; and J. R. Hasty, Frankie Barnes, and Gary and Ellen Winall. Special thanks to Lee Flanders for another wonderful fried fish lunch, and to the grounds committee with Barbel Fetkoter as the head honcho. Thank you to all the handlers who came and supported the trial. A big

thank you to Purina for their continued support.

The Amateur Puppy was judged by the very capable Gary and Ellen Winall. First was Bob's Elhew Pat, a pointer female, handled by Bobby Phillips, who has the class and style to go on and be a winning competitor. A close second was her littermate, pointer female Bob's Elhew Coco, also handled by Bobby Phillips. Third was Back Creek Blue, a setter male owned and handled by Steven Graham. Blue is a strong and classy dog and will be a winner in the future.

The Open Derby and the Amateur Shooting Dog were both judged by Jim Jones and John Outlaw. These two men have been running dogs and field trialing for a very long time. We were very fortunate to have such experience judging this trial.

First in the Open Derby was Bob's Elhew June, a pointer female owned and handled by Bobby Phillips. June showed good manners on her birds and had a

nice running style.

Second was Walnut Tree Allie, a pointer female owned and handled by Lee Flanders. She showed good on her birds and on the ground.

Third was Pinekone Taylor Made, a setter male, owned and handled by Ashby Morgan.

The Amateur Shooting Dog was won by Mohawk Mill Big Stuff, a pointer male, owned by Gary Winall and handled by Ashby Morgan. Big Stuff had a powerful ground race, coupled with a back and three finds to win the blue. A close second was Chippokes Cracker Jack, a setter male owned and handled by Lee Flanders. Jack had a forward race and four stylish finds. Third was Mohawk Mill Big Enough, a pointer male owned by Gary Winall and handled by Michael McIntyre. Big Enough had four nice finds and a more moderate ground race.

Ahoskie, N. C., March 30 – One Course

Judges: Ellen Winall and Gary Winall

AMATEUR PUPPY – 4 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-BOB'S ELHEW PAT, F1708918, pointer male, by Tenacee Cooper-Bob's Elhew Smokie. Bobby Phillips, owner and handler.

2d-BOB'S ELHEW COCO, F1708921, pointer female, by Tenacee Cooper-Bob's Elhew Smokie. Bobby Phillips, owner and handler.

3d-BACK CREEK BLUE, unreg., setter male, by Tarheel Hunter-Tarheel Attitude. Steve Graham, owner and handler.

Judges: Jim Jones and John Outlaw

OPEN DERBY – 6 Entries

1st-BOB'S ELHEW JUNE, F1706401, pointer female, by Triple E Elhew White Lighting-Triple E Go Girl Kate. Bobby Phillips, owner and handler.

2d-WALNUT TREE ALLIE, unreg., pointer female, breeding not given. Lee Flanders, owner and handler.

3d-PINEKONE TAYLOR MADE, F1710243, setter male, by Chippokes Cracker Jack-Mohawk Mill Charmer. Ashby Morgan, owner and handler.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 9 Pointers and 4 Setters

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

2d-CHIPPOKES CRACKER JACK, F1691321, setter male, by Skyview New Edition-Grid Iron's Sorrell's Penny. Lee Flanders, owner and handler.

3d-MOHAWK MILL BIG ENOUGH, F1698763, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Hirollins Fantasy Girl. Gary Winall, owner and handler.

NORTHEAST KANSAS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Worsham's Spitfire Wins Midwest Amateur All-Age Classic

By Stan Wint | Onaga, Kansas | April 4, 2025

Bud Daugherty, The Kansas Wind, they are the ghosts of field trials past, but just a few of the great ones that have run on these historic grounds. The Club was started in 1955 by a group of field trialers who wanted to expand and emphasize prairie all-age field trials in Kansas. Joe Worsham agrees with Andy Daugherty both of whom have competed here many times, when he stated, "These were once one for the premier wild bird field trial grounds in Kansas with an abundance of quail, pheasants, and prairie chickens." Eddie Berendzen is from Higbee, Missouri, and is the current president of the Northeast Kansas Field Trial Club. He presided over the latest edition of the club's spring trial, which featured five stakes. Along with his son, Nathan, brother Robert, Jay Lewis, and Dr. Laura Miller, they put on a great trial starting April 4. Birds were plentiful, and despite concerns about challenging weather, things flowed smoothly. A good time was had by all. On Saturday night, a landowner's appreciation banquet was held with over 40 in attendance.

The Midwest All-Age Classic was a one-hour stake judged by Kirk Swanson of Red Oak, Iowa, and Scott Henning of Augusta, Kansas. Worsham's Spitfire, owned and handled by Joe Worsham, was the winner. A son of Ch. Touch's Grey Street, he claimed first place with a nice all-age race. Nickajack Doc Holliday, owned and handled by Mike Rost of Malcom, Nebraska, was named runner-up.

The Dr. Boucher Amateur All-Age Derby was a 30-minute stake that drew 13 dogs. The judges were Kirk Swanson and Scott Henning, who rode to evaluate a nice field of derbies. Garnering first

place with a great race was HP Top Gun. "Maverick" is owned and handled by Rodney Shoemaker of Grain Valley, Missouri. Placing second was Indy Speedway, a pretty pointer female who was bred and trained by Scott Beeler for owner-handler Eddie Berendzen. Placing third was HP Bad Behavior, another of Rodney Shoemaker's fine young dogs. These three dogs had stiff competition, and all have a bright future.

In the Northeast Kansas Amateur All-Age Classic, eight pointers were drawn for the one-hour stake. Jay Lewis's fine young dog, Bocomo Dutchman, carded two finds and a huge race to earn first place. This young dog is out of Ch. Westfall's Black Cloud. H P Social Distancing earned second place with one find and a big race for owner Rodney Shoemaker and is sired by Wiggins Elhew River. Joe Worsham returned to the winners' circle this time with Worsham's Samson, who had a nice forward race to finish third. Samson is sired by the stylish Ch. Haney's Silver Dollar.

The Northeast Kansas Shooting Dog Classic drew eight entries: four pointers, two setters, and two vizslas for the one-hour competition. Again, Kirk Swanson and Scott Henning were the judges as they were for most of the trial. Moonshines Mustang Sally, owned and handled by Mike Rost, is a stylish daughter of Ch. Touch's Malcolm Story and did a nice job to gain first-place recognition. Millstar's Lion Rampant is a Visala male sired by last year's Kansas Hall of Fame inductee, Lundy's Red Bull. He placed second for proud owner Dr. Laura Miller, who is also the current Region 17 President. T B's Hawaiian Breeze, a daughter of National Ch.

Miller's Speed Dial, owned and handled by Tyler Buche of Burlingame, Kansas, impressed to gain third place honors.

The Northeast Kansas Open Shooting Dog Derby was judged by Dr. Laura Miller and Joe Worsham. In the 30-minute stake, Bocomo Iceman, a nice pointer male owned by Jay Lewis, placed first. Indy Speedway, a snappy pointer female, returned to her second derby stake; this time again finishing second. Chairman Berendzen has worked hard, hosting and judging his share of field trials in the last few years. It was good to see him back competing with a nice young dog.

Special thanks go to Kirk Swanson and Scott Henning, whose decisions were well-received and who worked hard to attentively judge every dog. The Northeast Kansas Field Trial Club wishes to thank everyone who attended and worked to make this trial a success. We value your future participation and look forward to hosting what is traditionally the last stop in the Kansas field trial season again next year.

Onaga, Kan., April 4

Judges: Scott Henning and Kirk Swanson

MIDWEST AMATEUR ALL-AGE CLASSIC

[One-Hour Heats] – 6 Pointers

1st-WORSHAM'S SPITFIRE, F1701266, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Erin's Miss Daisy. Joe Worsham, owner and handler.

2d-NICKAJACK DOC HOLLIDAY, F1693508, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Cocklebur Stripper Candie. Mike Rost, owner and handler.

DR. BOUCHER AMATEUR DERBY CLASSIC

– 11 Pointers and 2 German Drahthaars

1st-HP TOP GUN, F1708970, pointer male, by Wiggins Mister Ronnie-Wiggins Trace of Swami. Rodney Shoemaker, owner and handler.

2d-INDY SPEEDWAY, F1719185, pointer female, by Beeler's Texas Jig-Western's Whistlin Dixie. Eddie Berendzen, owner and handler.

3d-HP BAD BEHAVIOR, F1708967, pointer male, by Wiggins Mister Ronnie-Wiggins Trace of Swami. Rodney Shoemaker, owner and handler.

AMATEUR ALL-AGE CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats]

– 8 Pointers

1st-BOCOMO DUTCHMAN, F1691795, pointer male, by Westfall's Black Cloud-Bocomo Miss Molly. Jay Lewis, owner and handler.

2d-H P SOCIAL DISTANCING, F1692832, pointer male, by Wiggins Elhew River-Wiggins Miss Elhew Rebel. Rodney Shoemaker, owner and handler.

3d-WORSHAM'S SAMSON, F1717675, pointer male, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Haney's Black Widow. Joe Worsham, owner and handler.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

[One-Hour Heats] – 8 Entries

1st-MOONSHINES MUSTANG SALLY, F1708474, pointer female, by Touch's Malcolm Story-Wildfair Joy. Mike Rost, owner and handler.

2d-MILLSTAR'S LION RAMPANT, F1675351, Vizsla male, by Lundy's Red Bull-C K Millstar's Wee Dram. Laura C. Miller, owner and handler.

3d-T B'S HAWIANN BREEZE, F1678966, pointer female, by Miller's Speed Dial-Jackson's Silver Arrow. Tyler Buche, owner and handler.

Judges: Laura Miller and Joe Worsham

OPEN DERBY – 4 Pointers

1st-BOCOMO ICEMAN, F1720084, pointer male, by Bocomo Dutchman-Bocomo Resters Karen. Jase Lewis, owner and handler.

2d-INDY SPEEDWAY, F1719185, pointer female, by Beeler's Texas Jig-Western's Whistlin Dixie. Eddie Berendzen, owner and handler.

FIELD TRIAL REMINDER

Trial dates that have been scheduled and confirmed for the season may be submitted for inclusion in the Kennel Fixtures column to provide an early notice of the club's trial before the formal announcement appears.

To comply with minimum requirements, ads must appear on the website Calendar at least two weeks prior to the start of the event.

To be included in a print edition, please see deadlines on page 66.

MICHIGAN AMATEUR FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial

By Bob Wheelock | Meredith, Michigan | April 5, 2025

Our annual spring Memorial trial saw wonderful weather and a solid entry in all stakes. Saturday morning started early with the Judd Kinne Memorial Shooting Dog Classic under the eyes of Christy Helmes and Matt Mates. The winner is Springpond Rockin Gibby, owned and handled by Lonnie Rademacher. Gibby is a tall and lean tri-color setter who moves smoothly and looks like a picture on point. Shortly after the breakaway, Gibby was standing left of course, Lonnie put a woodcock to flight. Ten minutes later, Gibby was found standing deep in an aspen cut, a grouse 30 feet off his nose. Lonnie shot; all was in order. The brace continued into pole timber, where Gibby reached out to a cedar swamp deep on the left of course. His bell stopped. Five minutes later, the handler and judge found Gibby standing tall, another grouse find with perfect manners. With the win in this stake and two additional wins over the 24/25 season, Springpond Rockin Gibby was named Michigan Coverdog of the Year.

Second place was awarded to Tupelo Honey ("Bertie"), handled by Bob Wheelock. Bertie ran straight through the first 90-degree turn in course and stopped hard 100 yards deep in an aspen cut. As the handler and judge walked in, a grouse ran from the front of Bertie and lifted about 10 yards later. Bob shot; all was in order. Bertie moved forward, ran



Judd Kinney Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog Classic: Lonnie Rademacher with Springpond Rockin Gibby, Matt Mates, Bob Wheelock with Tupelo Honey, Christy Helmes, and Ken Moss with Moss Meadow Able.

to the front, and hunted hard and wide for the balance of the brace. Third place was awarded to Moss Meadow Able, a tri-colored setter owned and handled by Ken Moss. Able had a solid race, and with two woodcock finds spaced over the brace.

Breaking away following the start of the shooting dog, we ran the Chuck Pagano Memorial Puppy Classic under the eyes of Jurij Fedorak and Rob King. Dan Gehring travelled from South Carolina for our Michigan springtime training and field trial opportunities. He ran pointer male White Moby's Essex to

a first-place finish. Jeff Clyma entered the trial for the first time with his pointer female, Clyma's Pied Piper, and took a second-place finish. Rounding out the placements was Erin's Green River, a pointer male owned and handled by Mike Francus.

Sunday morning, we ran the Chester Halley Memorial Derby Classic under the eyes of Marc Dozeman and Travis Whitfield, all placements produced birds with good manners for spring derbies. Shane Haskins took the blue rosette with setter female Hattan Hills Luci. This win helped Luci to our Michigan Coverdog

Runner-up Derby of the Year. Rounding out the placements was, again, Dan Gehring's pointer male, White Moby's Essex. Third went to Rob Ellis' setter female, Ingomars Delta Force.

At the same time as the Derby, we ran the Michigan Hunting Dog Classic on the other side of the Gladwin Field Trial Area. Frank Illijanac and Mike Brown looked over a field of 14 entries. First place went to Nick Brown, running in the last brace with his male GSP, Bear. Bear had a grouse find and a solid hunting dog race. Second place was awarded to Liz Dekryger with her female GSP, Ellie. Liz shot four times over this charge in her 30 minutes. Liz also ran River, another female GSP, and earned an Honorable Mention by shooting over River twice. Third place was awarded to Arlo, a pointer male owned and handled by Sawyer Plume. The final Honorable Mention went to Thersa Butler and her Pudelpointer, Fritz. There wasn't a happier handler on this weekend than Thersa when her name was called.

A big thank you to Purina for their support of our field trial game, and again to all the contestants, club officials, and the Gladwin community for the help and support all the clubs receive at each and every event.



Chester Halley Memorial Amateur Derby Classic (l-r): Shane Haskins with Hattan Hills Luci, Marc Dozeman, Dan Gehring with White Moby's Essex, Travis Whitfield, and Rob Ellis with Ingomars Delta Force.

Meredith, Mich., April 5

Judges: Chester Helms and Matt Mates
**JUDD KINNE MEMORIAL AMATEUR SHOOTING
DOG CLASSIC – 10 Pointers, 16 Setters,
and 2 Brittany**

1st-SPRINGPOND ROCKIN GIBBY, F1685618, setter male, by Springpond Rockin Autumn-Tailsup Olive. Lonnie Rademacher, owner and handler.

2d-TUPELO HONEY, F1681583, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Out of the Shadows. Bob Wheelock, owner and handler.

3d-MOSS MEADOW ABLE, F1703648, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Moss Meadow Lil. Ken Moss, owner and handler.



Chuck Pagan Memorial Amateur Puppy Classic: Mike Francus with Erin's Green River, Rob King, Jeff Clyma with Clyma's Pied Piper, Jurij Fedorak, and Dan Gehring with White Moby's Essex.

Judges: Marc Dozeman and Travis Whitfield

**CHESTER HALLEY MEMORIAL AMATEUR DERBY
CLASSIC – 4 Pointers, 9 Setters, and 1 Brittany**

1st-HATTAN HILLS LUCI, unreg., setter female, by Swift Rock Lawbreaker-Swift Rock Julie. Shane Haskins, owner and handler.

2d-WHITE MOBY'S ESSEX, F1709780, pointer male, by Light of Day-Perkins Beautiful Disaster. Dan Gehring, owner and handler.

3d-INGOMARS DELTA FORCE, F1709005, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Pine Straw's Cover Queen. Robert Ellis, owner and handler.

Judges: Jurij Fedorak and Rob King

**CHUCK PAGAN MEMORIAL AMATEUR PUPPY
CLASSIC – 9 Pointers, 3 Setters, and 2 German
Shorthairs**

1st-WHITE MOBY'S ESSEX, F1709780, pointer male, by Light of Day-Perkins Beautiful Disaster. Dan Gehring, owner and handler.

2d-CLYMA'S PIED PIPER, F1717795, pointer female, by Kate's Crossroads Slideshow-Trinity Drama. Jeff Clyma, owner and handler.

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

SETTER CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND

Annual Spring Trial

By Jim Hathaway | Falmouth, Massachusetts | April 5, 2025

Last year, the Setter Club of New England (1924-2024) celebrated our 100th anniversary, though our first spring field trial wasn't held until 1929. That first trial was held on Memorial Day weekend in Concord, Massachusetts. The course ran through birch, pine, and alder thickets on wild birds. The course finished in a stone wall-edged field of knee-high dead grass, in which guinea fowl were released. It wasn't until two years later that quail were released.

Through these 96 years, the Setter Club's spring field trial has moved dates and locations multiple times, now being held on Cape Cod, as it has for decades. For some reason, the Memorial Day weekend date was moved a couple of times. First, it was moved back to the

last weekend in March, then to where it is now, the first weekend in April. It seems, however, that no matter where the date stands, the weather is the greatest concern. One spring, we had to cancel because of multiple snowstorms in March that left the trial area entrance inaccessible with at least a foot of snow on the rest of the grounds. Another time, we canceled because of too much rain for weeks before the trial. The entrance road was a swamp, as were the courses.

This year's trial was no different. The weather forecasts were for rain on both days. But as any New Englander knows, wait a minute or five; it will change. Though the weekend wasn't sunny, the rain that was predicted wasn't half as bad as we thought it might be. Even

though it rained over Saturday night, we didn't really have a dead bird problem for the derbies on Sunday morning.

Despite the weather predictions, a total of 73 dogs were drawn for our eight stakes. The toughest day can be Saturday. We have two courses we can run, but with handler conflicts, only one course can be run for all three stakes.

First to the start line Saturday morning at 7 a.m. sharp were the puppies. It musta been a spare litter season in 2024. Only four puppies were entered for our judges, Cate Jewett and Eric Rizza, with two braces drawn. It will be interesting to see if more 2024 dogs show up for their derby season. Of the four, Deb Kennedy's pup, Deb's Brio, took the top spot.

The first of this old club's named stakes was next to run. Under the judgment of Setter Club members, Jim Levesque and Thom Richardson, the Florence Harwarth Open Derby went off without a hitch. Deb Kennedy picked up her second blue ribbon of the day with her Setter, Deb's Jane.

The last stakes of Saturday is usually one of the largest weekend trial Walking Shooting Dog stakes in New England. Several times in the past, the Phil Fogg Shooting Dog Classic has taken two days to complete. This year's judges, Jim Curtin and Bill Bonnetti, watched a respectable field of 21 dogs vie for the trophy. When the last dog was run and only then could the placements be made. Rich Warters's Pointer, Buck of Piney Woods, running in the last brace, was named the winner.

Sunday was to be the better of this two-day trial, weather-wise. We kept waiting on sunshine that never came. Fortunately, the rain that was there wasn't all that bad. To keep the amateur puppies on a separate course without any of yesterday's liberated quail, we ran them on the west course that we always use for the gun dogs later in the day. Judges Lanny Dellinger and Cate Jewett awarded the blue ribbon to a Setter Club of New England newcomer, Eric Beauregard, and his Setter pup, Northwoods Suki.

Running two courses at the same time has its advantages and one big drawback: running order conflicts. Once the first conflict shows up, they seemingly never stop. You know how it goes, a judge on the west course is supposed to run his dog on the east course. So, everyone on the west course has to wait while their judge runs on the east course. Then the hurry-up-and-wait goes on for at least three more braces during the day. So, here we are,



Open Puppy (front): Deb Kennedy with Deb's Brio and Robert Ecker with Lizard Creek's All Zoom. (Back): Cate Jewett (judge) and Eric Rizza (judge).



Phil Fogg Open Shooting Dog Classic (front): Marty Festa with Buck of Piney Woods, Robert Ecker with Fire Marshall Bill, and David Theroux with Henry's Susieq Dot. (Back) Jim Curtin (judge) and Bill Bonnetti (judge).

puppies and gundogs on the west and derbies and shooting dogs to the east. The deciding factor in who runs and who waits will always go to the course that has the greater or lesser number of braces, respectively.

As the East course has the greater number of braces, we'll get them done first. The Amateur Derby drew enough entries to place three dogs. Judges David Theroux and Jim Levesque found a standout performance from Eric Rizza's pointer, Highfive's Sweet Basil, the first-placing dog.

I have to believe the rain predictions kept the Amateur Shooting Dog entries down by six or more entries. However, of the 14 dogs drawn, it was a really tight field, not a slacker in the bunch. The top of the bunch that day, as named by judges Eric Rizza and Jamie Nee to win the Frankie McLaughlin Amateur Shooting Dog, was Bill Bonnetti's pointer, Cape Point Hidden Jewel.

After stopping and going since after lunch, the Tom Foley and Ed Flanagan



Florence Harwarth Open Derby (front): Deb Kennedy with Deb's Jane, Island Attraction with Robert Ecker, and Lanny Dellinger with Snuff Mill Magnum Force. (Back): Jim Levesque (judge).

Amateur Gun Dog Classic finished around the same time as the Shooting Dog. Twelve dogs were drawn this year for judges Jmy Losi and David Theroux to follow through a course that is the most typical of natural Cape Cod woodlands. In the end, Mike Rosano's setter, Lightning Flash Moose, got his Blue ribbon.

This was an outstanding event despite the weather forecasts. Outstanding events don't just happen; it takes a team. I kinda picked up this trial and ran with it since Chairman Nick Hamel resigned after last year's trial due to other and new obligations. This year's Setter Club Spring trial team was B. J. Cassio, dog wagon wrangler and bird planter par excellence, and Tom Jay, Setter Club and trial treasurer, lunch, drinks, and donuts boss. Beyond these duties, Tom Jay has also taken on creating and donating new rotating trophies for all named Setter Club of New England Spring trial stakes. You can see a couple of the new trophies in the photos. And all those who stood



Amateur Puppy: (front): Eric Beauregard with Northwoods Suki, Deb Kennedy with Deb's Brio, and J. Foley with "Cash." (Back): Lanny Dellinger (judge) and Cate Jewett (judge).



Amateur Derby (front): Eric Rizza with Hifive's Sweet Basil, Kelly Hays with Still Meadows Little Sunray, and Deb Kennedy with Deb's Jane. (Back): Jim Levesque (judge) and David Theroux (judge).



Frankie McLaughlin Amateur Shooting Dog Classic (front): Bill Bonnetti with Cape Point Hidden Jewel, Lanny Dellinger with Snuff Mill High Caliber, and Marty Festa with Blue Ribbon River. (Back): Eric Rizza (judge) and Jamie Nee (judge).



Tom Foley & Ed Flanagan Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog Classic (front): Mike Rosano with Lightning Flash Moose, Jim Levesque with Ledge Hill Mia, and Brian Foley with White Lightning Lucy. (Back): Jmy Losi (judge) and David Theroux (judge).

up and volunteered to judge.

As ever, a special thank you to Purina for their sponsorship of all our trials is greatly appreciated.

Finally, boys and girls, next spring's Setter Club trial will be on April 4 and 5. To all Setter Club of New England Members, both new and old, we are in need of a chairman. The team is in place. All that is needed is a chairman to step into the role. This is why we have members. Think about it and call me, President Mitch Nee, or Treasurer Tom Jay.

So, until next spring, remember to keep your head down, squeeze the trigger, and follow through.

See y'all next April.

Falmouth, Mass., April 5 – One Course

Judges: Cate Jewett and Eric Rizza

OPEN PUPPY – 1 Pointer and 3 Setters

1st-DEB'S BRIO, F1713597, setter female, by Long Gone Dequan-Deb's McKeachie Road. Deborah Kennedy, owner and handler.

2d-LIZARD CREEK'S ALL ZOOM, F1710164, pointer female, by Grouse Hill Rambo-All On. Marissa Everett, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

Judges: James Levesque and Thom Richardson

FLORENCE HARWARTH OPEN DERBY – 9 Entries

1st-DEB'S JANE, F1706487, setter female, by Sterlingworth Jack-Long Gone Hatfield. Deborah Kennedy, owner and handler.

2d-ISLAND ATTRACTION, F1712335, setter female, by Wynona's Nickleback George-Wynona's Davinci Abby. Pedja Kazic, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

3d-SNUFF MILL MAGNUM FORCE, F1705117, setter female, by Mohawk Mill Lucky Charm-Richfield Oakley. Lanny Dellinger, owner and handler.

Judges: William Bonnetti and James Curtin

PHIL FOG OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC – 5 Pointers and 16 Setters

1st-BUCK OF PINEY WOODS, F1696648, pointer male, by Bo of Piney Woods-Grouse Hill Prima. Richard Warters, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

2d-FIRE MARSHALL BILL, F1702783, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Moonshine Sage. Elias Richardson, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

3d-HENRY'S SUSIE Q DOT, F1680901, setter female, by Henry of Ferguson-Blossom's Pale Face Susieq. David Theroux, owner and handler.

Judges: Catherine Jewett and Larry Dellinger

AMATEUR PUPPY – 5 Setters

1st-NORTHWOODS SUKI, F1711857, setter female, by Mays Pond Hank-Northwoods Stardust. Eric Beauregard, owner and handler.

2d-DEB'S BRIO, F1713597, setter female, by Long Gone Dequan-Deb's McKeachie Road. Deborah Kennedy, owner and handler.

Judges: David Theroux and James Levesque

AMATEUR DERBY – 6 Entries

1st-HIFIVE'S SWEET BASIL, F1705357, pointer female, by Hifive's Ruff Runner-Wild Apple Siri. Eric Rizza, owner and handler.

2d-STILL MEADOWS LITTLE SUNRAY, F1704573, setter female, by Long Gone Wallace-Chase's I'm Miss Smith. Brian & Kelly Hays, owners; Kelly Hays, handler.

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

Judges: Jamie Nee and Eric Rizza

FRANKIE MCLAUGHLIN AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC – 13 Entries

1st-CAPE POINT HIDDEN JEWEL, F1679987, pointer female, by Daddy's Little Boy Butch-Porter Meadow Bette. Bill Bonnetti & Brad Bonnetti, owners; Bill Bonnetti, handler.

2d-SNUFF HILL HIGH CALIBER, F1697973, setter female, by Mohawk Mill Lucky Charm-Richfield Oakley. Lanny Dellinger, owner and handler.

3d-BLUE RIBBON RIVER, F1701966, pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Huckleberry's Lucky Penny. Martin Festa, owner and handler.

Judges: Jmy Losi and David Theroux

TOM FOLEY & ED FLANAGAN MEMORIAL

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC – 10 Entries

1st-LIGHTNING FLASH MOOSE, F1681259, setter male, by Long Gone Buckwheat-Cream Polk Dizzie. Michael J. Rosano, owner and handler.

2d-LEDGE HILL MIA, unreg., setter female, breeding not given. James Levesque, owner and handler.

3d-WHITE LIGHTNING LUCY, F1677818, setter female, by Long Gone Studly-Deadwater Annie. Brian Foley, owner and handler.



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INDIAN TERRITORY BIRD HUNTERS CLUB

Annual Spring Trial

By Jessica Hardy | Lenapah, Oklahoma | April 11, 2025

It was a great weekend for the Indian Territory Bird Hunters Club annual spring trial hosted by NBHA Hall of Fame trainer, Tom Woods. This year's trial had 98 dogs entered that ran over the course of three days in nine different stakes—a lot of great dog work and some tough competition made for a great weekend. We also held a youth stake that was action-packed with great handling and enthusiasm.

A special thank you to Mickey Myers for allowing the use of his land and ranch and for keeping the tradition going. The first Jerry Myers Memorial Shooting Dog Stake was run in his father's honor. Jerry was instrumental in establishing walking field trials in Oklahoma. We also held the third annual Kurt Ochsner Memorial Shooting Dog stake, always thinking of Kurt and the part he played in field trials.

No trial is complete without the hard work and dedication of volunteers and judges.

A big thank you and acknowledgements to: Judges Allen Vincent, Kevin Guess, Josh Pool, Matthew Pucket, Kevin White, David Paine, Ray Roberts, Eddie Smith, Tom Lovett, Bruce Sooter, and Jessica Hardy; Scott Rexwinkle for providing tasty BBQ on his custom smoker on Saturday and Sunday; Bill Osborne for handcrafting all the winner plaques; Mark Dunlap for donating custom belt buckles to the winners of the Open and Amateur Shooting Dog stakes; James "Peanut" Shorter for bird planting, fixing side by side, watering dog barrels, and pretty much everything in between; and to NBHA sponsors Purina Pro Plan and Gun Dog Supply for their support—also, Garmin, Mule Hunting Clothing, and Okie Dog Supply.

See you next spring!

Lenapah, Okla., April 11

Judges: Kevin Guess and Allen Vincent
NBHA KURT OCHSNER MEMORIAL OPEN

SHOOTING DOG – 21 Entries

1st-JANE'S ATLANTIC WAY, F1703426, setter female, by Erin's Wild Atlantic Way-Erin's Princess Rene. Josh Pool, owner and handler.

2d-SOUTHERN SHADOW'S BOOTLEGGER, F1700852, pointer male, by Lester's Prime Poison Lane-Southern Ritz Lane. Klaus Schmidt, owner and handler.

3d-T S BLINDSIDE RANSOM, F1697449, pointer male, by Texas Cool-Wiggins Super Sin. Mark Dunlap, owner and handler.



Kurt Ochsner Memorial Open Shooting Dog (front row): Riley Pool with Jane's Atlantic Way, Klaus Schmidt with Southern Shadow's Bootlegger, and Mark Dunlap with T S Blindside Ransom. (Back row): Josh Pool, Matthew Pucket, Kevin Guess (judge), Jason Stewart, Allen Vincent (judge), Bruce Sooter, and Bob Barker.

Judges: Josh Pool and Matthew Pucket

NBHA OPEN DERBY – 5 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-PRINCE'S FALLEN ANGEL, F1706914, pointer female, by Erin's Perfect Storm-Showtime Mocking Jay. John Prince, owner and handler.

2d-HACKBERRY'S BRIGHT ROSE, F1706529, pointer female, by Hackberry's Elhew Chief-Hackberry Stormy Night. Brian Kennedy, owner and handler.

3d-GRIFFS HACKBERRY'S ZACK, F1714352, pointer male, by Hackberry's Elhew Chief-Hackberry's Mia Blackhawk. Mike Griffin, owner and handler.

Judges: David Paine and Kevin White

NBHA OPEN PUPPY – 17 Entries

1st-LIL ELHEW CHIEF SNAKEFEATHER, F1709748, pointer male, by Hackberry's Elhew Chief-Hackberry's Elhew Ashlee. Michael Taylor, owner and handler.

2d-PRINCES BIG, unreg., pointer male, breeding not given. John Paine, owner; Justin Crook, handler.

3d-HACKBERRY'S BOONE, F1708403, pointer male, by Hackberry's Elhew Chief-Deep Creek Katydid. Brian Kennedy, owner; Justin Crook, handler.



Jack Myers Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog (front row): Scott Hadley with Bandit Hill Bess, Duane Langley with Sulphur Bend Shamrock, and Klaus Schmidt with Southern Shadow's Bootlegger. (Back row): John Ware, Bruce Sooter, Lana Woods, Eddie Smith (judge), and Bud Moore.

Judges: Justin Crook and Tom Woods

NBHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 4 Entries

1st-HORSE WITH NO NAME, F1695970, pointer male, by Django-Road Rage. T. C. Barbel, owner; Ryan Eichelberger, handler.

Judges: Ray Roberts and Eddie Smith

NBHA JACK MYERS MEMORIAL AMATEUR
SHOOTING DOG – 15 Entries

1st-BANDIT HILL BESS, F1706165, pointer female, by Touch's Smooth Rider-West's Lucy. Klaus Schmidt, owner and handler.

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

3d-SOUTHERN SHADOW'S BOOTLEGGER, F1700852, pointer male, by Lester's Prime Poison Lane-Southern Ritz Lane. Klaus Schmidt, owner and handler.

Judges: Tom Lovett and Bruce Sooter

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 11 Entries

1st-FIREBUG, F1686749, setter female, by Bugs N Dirt-Iron Afire. H. Charles Maxson III, owner and handler.

2d-ARLO LUCKY AS A SEVEN, PL022642, setter male, breeding not given. Jessica Hardy, owner and handler.

3d-WILD AFIRE, F1685638, setter female, by Bugs N Dirt-Iron Afire. H. Charles Maxson III, owner and handler.

Judges: Jessica Hardy and Bruce Sooter

NBHA AMATEUR DERBY – 6 Entries

1st-GRIFFS HACKBERRY'S ZACK, F1714352, pointer male, by Hackberry's Elhew Chief-Hackberry's Mia Blackhawk. Mike Griffin, owner and handler.

2d-WILD DIAL ROSE, F1706745, pointer female, by Texas Cool-Baby's On Speed Dial. Tom Lovett, owner and handler.

3d-OKLAHOMA BUSHWACKER, R334-611, Brittany male, by Piute De la Savane Rouge-Karen's Lola. William Osborne, owner and handler.

NBHA AMATEUR PUPPY – 9 Entries

1st-HICKSON'S RIVER, F1720837, German Shorthair male, breeding not given. Darren Hickson, owner and handler.

2d- HACKBERRY'S BOONE, F1708403, pointer male, by Hackberry's Elhew Chief-Deep Creek Katydid. Brian Kennedy, owner; Justin Crook, handler.

3d-WINDYPOINT'S BLACK STORM, F1712564, setter female, by Windypoint's Handsome Mann-Eleven Oaks Bitte. Robert Jones, owner and handler.



Amateur Shooting Dog (front row): Chuck Maxon with Firebug, Jessica Hardy with Arlo Lucky As A Seven, and S. Butler with Wild Afire. (Back row): Mickey Meyers, Tom Lovett (judge), Bruce Sooter (judge), Tom Woods, Dr. Phil McKinney, and Bill Osborne.



Youth Stake: Faith Goetzinger, Hattie Whitaker, Austin Hampshire, Cooper Whitaker, Ellie Crook, and Lyla Crook.

MINNESOTA GROUSE DOG ASSOCIATION

Second Spring Trial

By Ryan Hough | Mora, Minnesota | April 11, 2025



Open Shooting Dog (back row, l-r): Ryan Hough, Neil Anderson, Duncan Bukovich (judge), Paul Bukovich (judge), Mike Rosario, Ben Mergens, Hannah Peterson, and August and Norah Peterson. (Front): Scott Anderson with Planet Queen, Jordan Pharris with Birdogn True Confidence, and Kyle Peterson with I'm Easy Money.

The Minnesota Grouse Dog Association's second spring trial, on the second weekend of April 2025, offered fantastic conditions and plentiful bird opportunities for handlers and dogs. This spring, due to logging operations on the trial grounds, a new course had to be made in short order. With their typical enthusiasm and hard work, MGDA club members came together and completed a new course on very short notice. The MN club is fortunate to have a strong and growing roster of members to overcome hurdles that come with hosting wild bird field trials on public lands.

The Shooting Dog stake kicked off Friday at 8 a.m. on the south course, under the watchful and discerning eyes of judges Paul and Duncan Bukovich.

These judges spend a lot of time in the grouse woods each year and understand the intricacies of handling wild grouse and woodcock. From the first brace, it was evident that it was going to be a good bird weekend.

With 24 very capable dogs competing in the stake, and nearly half finishing with acceptable birdwork, it was a pleasure to watch three dogs set themselves apart.

Finishing first with an unforgettable performance on the new course, nearly 5-year-old male setter I'm Easy Money put on quite a show. Owned and handled by Kyle Peterson, "Easy" was Open and Amateur Derby of the Year for MN/WI during his derby season and finished second in national points for

the Flanagan Award.

Less than one minute off the breakaway, Easy was found standing tall about 60 yards to the right of the course in a likely thicket. As the handler approached, a woodcock was moved with all in order. About 15 minutes later, Easy stood on the top of a hill behind a blowdown, where another find was recorded on a grouse in full view of the gallery. Less than five minutes later, Easy again stood a woodcock along a low-lying alder edge and was led back to the course with three finds to his credit.

Upon releasing I'm Easy Money to continue down the course after his third find, his bell again fell silent deep to the right side of the course. Kyle dispatched his scout to go directly into the thicket to find the swamp edge and push it down. Kyle continued down the course with the judge, cutting into the woods farther forward. As it worked out, the handler and judge converged on the dog at the same time the scout approached from the other side. As the scout pointed and called out "bird on the ground," it was clear the bird had nowhere to run and was forced into the air. With four finds to his credit, Easy opened up and showed off his race in a much more open part of the course. It wasn't long before the setter made a forward move and stopped in a prime piece of cover along a swamp edge. Although he was a good distance from the handler and gallery, the open woods allowed a great view of the dog standing high on both ends, and a perfect view of a grouse blowing out as judge and handler began their flushing attempt.

The final 15 minutes allowed the dog to show off his easy flowing gait, ability to find and search likely covers, as well as his near effortless handle. When time was called, everyone who was fortunate enough to walk this brace knew that they had just witnessed a rare hour in the grouse woods.

Coming in second place was a female pointer, Birdogn True Confidence, owned by Ben Fleischacker and handled by Jordan Pharris. "Sadie" had a nice forward race on the south course and smooth handle for the entire hour, paired with three crafty finds. Her first find came on a nice double relocation, that ended with her pinning a running grouse on the swamp edge after the turn to the north. A few hundred yards later, she stuck a woodcock with all in order. Her final find came later in the brace, with another grouse pinned against the swamp edge.

Planet Queen, a female setter owned and handled by Scott Anderson, was drawn to run on the recently rerouted Course 6. Rhonda maintained a hard-driving race throughout her run, with a nice grouse find around the



Open Derby (l-r): Ben Mergens with Full Throttled Rumbling Reba, Mathew Aker with Cedar Creek's Pointing Upland, Ryan Bjerke (judge), Neil Anderson (judge), and Josh Matel with Northwoods Tyler.

20-minute mark. "Rhonda" continued her extraordinary search for the remainder of her brace until she was found standing at time. After a thorough flushing attempt, the handler returned to the dog and was deciding whether to relocate her or go ahead and leash her up, when a grouse exploded off the forest floor just a few yards away from her. This grouse was flattened out and hiding out in the open, near the dog. It was an exciting end to a very entertaining hour.

The Derby was judged by MGDA veterans Neil Anderson and Ryan Bjerke, and with 23 entries, they had their work

cut out for them. Overall, there were bird contacts in almost every brace, with multiple dogs showing mature finished birdwork.

Mora, Minn., April 11

**Judges: Duncan Bukovich and Paul Bukovich
OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]
– 6 Pointers, 16 Setters, 1 Brittany,
and 1 German Shorthair**

1st-I'M EASY MONEY, F1693862, setter male, by Jetwood-I'm Blue Who. Kyle Peterson, owner and handler.

2d-BIRDDOGN TRUE CONFIDENCE, F1693417, pointer female, by True Confidence-Elli Elhew Birdogn. Ben Fleischacker, owner; Jordan Pharris, handler.

3d-PLANET QUEEN, F1702708, setter female, by Rufus Del Fuego-Stumbo's Scarlet. Scott Anderson, owner and handler.

**Judges: Neil Anderson and Ryan Bjerke
OPEN DERBY – 8 Pointers, 11 Setters,
and 3 German Shorthairs**

1st-NORTHWOODS TYLER, F612151, pointer male, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Northwoods Comet. Josh Matel, owner and handler.

2d-CEDAR CREEK'S POINTING UPLAND, F1711522, German Shorthair female, by Kimber Tactical-Covey Up's Snake River Latte. Matthew Aker, owner and handler.

3d-FULL THROTTLED RUMBLING REBA, unreg., German Shorthair female, by Willow Creek's Northwater Grouser-Full Throttles Royal Megan. Ben Mergens, owner and handler.

WEST KENTUCKY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring NBHA Trial

By Mary Sue Schalk | Dixon, Kentucky | April 11, 2025



Open Shooting Dog (l-r): A curious participant, Gary Vitali (owner/handler), Vitalis Grouse Ringer Pappy with Josh Griggs, Holly Linde, Andy Erne, Snyder's Hank with Mary Sue Schalk, Zach Erne, James Kleve (handler), Donnie Duckworth (judge), Tyler Vincent (judge), and Ryan Winka.



Open Derby (standing): Holly Linde, Alan Benson, Ryan Winka, a curious participant, Gary Vitali, Donnie Duckworth (judge), and Ty Vincent (judge). (Front): Haney's Live Wire with Mary Sue Schalk, Outcast Achilles with James Kleve (handler), and Boatright's Audubon Outcast with Josh Griggs.



Open Puppy: Crouse's Grouse Feather with James Kleve, Mike Crouse (judge), Crouse's Outcast with Mary Sue Schalk (owner/handler), Whiskey with Ryan Winka (owner/handler), and Ty Vincent (judge).

The West Kentucky Field Trial Club hosted a National Bird Hunters Association event the second weekend of April at Crouse Kennel in Dixon, Kentucky. The father-daughter team of Mike Crouse and Mary Sue Schalk is becoming regular hosts for walking events on their family farm. The venue serves as a great place for events for the seasoned competitors

and those new to the sport of field trials. Drawing close to 50 dogs, there were six stakes run over the two days in Western Kentucky.

The Open stakes ran on Friday, April 11, in overcast conditions. Beginning with the Open Shooting Dog stake, eight dogs went to the line for the event. Besting the field was Vitali Grouseringer

Pappy, owned and handled by Gary Vitali of Versailles, Kentucky. Pappy, a tri-color English Setter, had a nice ground race and a couple of pieces of birdwork in his half hour. James Kleve of Paris, Kentucky, handled Snyder's Hank to the second-place spot for Steve Snyder of Ellendale, Minnesota. An almost white English Setter, Hank was snappy on the ground and biddable for Kleve during



Amateur Shooting Dog (front row): Tenacee Franklin with Mary Sue Schalk, Tenacee Shelby with Greg Isenberg (owner/handler), K Del's Eagle Magnum Hotshot with Kenny Delong (owner/handler), Anna Katherine Schalk, Ruby Grissom, and Tammie Delong. (Standing): Kenny Haynes, Alan Benson, James Kleve (judge), Mike Crouse, Cindy and Chuck Leonard, Gary Vitali, Bryan Stockram, Donnie Duckworth (judge), Matt, Julie, and Grant Grissom, Jesse and Ann Montgomery, and Ty Vincent.



Amateur Derby (front row): Haneys Live Wire with Anna Katherine and Mary Sue Schalk, Miss Grace with Alan Benson (scout), and Erin's Pancho Villa with Chuck Leonard (owner/handler). (Standing): Dan Crunk, Kenny Haynes, James Kleve, Mike Crouse, Kenny and Tammy Delong, Donnie Duckworth (judge), Cindy Leonard, and Ty Vincent (judge).



Amateur Puppy: PB John The Baptist with Marla and John Stockram, James Kleve (judge), Crouse's Outcast with Anna Katherine and Mary Sue Schalk, Ty Vincent (judge), and Erin's Mich Ultra with Chuck and Cindy Leonard.

his half hour. Unfortunately, the other competitors were not at their best on this day, and third place was withheld.

Seven dogs were drawn in the Open Derby stake that ran immediately following the Open Shooting Dog stake. James Kleve swept the stake, handling the top three dogs. First place went to the recently hot, Haneys Live Wire, owned by Ben Weddington of Brentwood, Tennessee. Live Wire, an orange and white Pointer male, covered the ground aggressively to the front. He also had a classy find to top off his performance. Earning second place was Outcast Achilles, a fancy tri-color English Setter male, owned by Ryan Hough of Saint Bonifacius, Minnesota. Achilles ran a strong, forward race and was biddable for Kleve. Rounding out the top three was tri-color English Setter female, Boatright's Audubon Outcast, owned by Terry Boatright of Richmond, Kentucky. The young female had the closest race of the three; however, her class and style were quite impressive. The Open Derby stake had a solid group of contenders for the judges to sort.

To conclude the day on Friday, six puppies ran in the Open Puppy stake. Besting the field was English Setter male Crouse's Grouse Feather, owned and handled by Mary Sue Schalk of Dixon, Kentucky. Schalk also handled the second-place puppy, Crouse's Outcast, an English Setter female. Both young Setters were forward and handled well for Schalk. A newcomer to the sport handled Whiskey, a Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, to third. Ryan Winka of Corydon, Kentucky, brought his young dog to his first field trial and scored a spot in the winners' photo. A positive way to end the day for all involved.

Saturday morning was bright and

sunny, but due to the flooding in the area, there was a slight delay to the start of the Amateur Shooting Dog stake. The stake drew 11 dogs from several states and was quite competitive, with more than half of the field having bird work. Tenacee Franklin, a liver and white Pointer male, topped the field. He is owned and handled by Greg Isenberg of Kingsport, Tennessee. A well-built dog, Franklin, handled well, hunted with intent, and forward. He demonstrated his bird-finding ability by pointing where birds had been flushed prior, with the handler producing a hawk kill. He also backed his bracemate over 100 yards away. He is a well-mannered, solid bird dog. Isenberg also owns Tenacee Shelby, a liver and white Pointer female, who earned second place in the Amateur Shooting Dog stake. She, too, had a solid ground race and clean birdwork. Her range was tighter than that of the first-place dog; however, she still hunted aggressively during her 30 minutes on the ground. Taking the third-place spot was Brittany male, K Del's Eagle Magnum Hotshot, owned and handled by Kenny DeLong of Greenville, Michigan. Hotshot hunted enthusiastically for 30 minutes and had significant birdwork to display his bird-finding skills. The 11-dog stake proved to be enjoyable for all.

The Amateur Derby stake drew seven dogs, with Haneys Live Wire topping the podium for the second time in two days. Owned by Ben Weddington, Mary Sue Schalk handled the white and orange Pointer male. Live Wire ran a solid race and was more than eager to point birds. He had more than one bird contact in his 30 minutes. Dan Crunk of Walnut Hill, Illinois, handled his white and orange Pointer female Miss Grace to second place in the Amateur Derby stake. She is fancy and showed to the front, working

well for her handler. Erin's Pancho Villa rounded out the field for owner/handler Chuck Leonard of Pinckneyville, Illinois. Pancho Villa is an orange and white Pointer male and has had a solid year in field trial competitions. His performance in Dixon, Kentucky, did not disappoint. He was easy on the eyes and biddable for the half hour.

To wrap up the weekend, eight puppies came to the line for the Amateur Puppy stake. Brian Stockram of Linton, Indiana, owns and handles the winner of the stake, PB John The Baptist. The white Pointer male ran the race of an all-age dog, showed to the front, and worked with his handler during his time on the ground. John the Baptist has had a great season; the reason for his success was evident in his performance in Dixon. Well done to Stockram and John for a great season. Earning second in the Amateur Puppy stake was Crouse's Outcast, an orange and white English Setter female. Outcast is owned and handled by Mary Sue Schalk of Dixon, Kentucky. She still exhibits the traits of a puppy, pointing all the butterflies, but she is strong on the ground, making some impressive moves to the front. Erin's Mich Ultra earned the third-place tie for owner/handler Chuck Leonard. The liver and white Pointer male handled well for Leonard and hunted diligently. He is a strong young dog with a bright future.

This event will be a staple in Western Kentucky for years to come. The father-daughter team of Mike Crouse and Mary Sue Schalk is honored to host events that grow the sport of field trials and that spread the knowledge of bird dogs. Special thanks to all who judged over the weekend: Donnie Duckworth, Ty Vincent, James Kleve, and Mike Crouse. The support of Purina and the National

Bird Hunters Association is invaluable to clubs like the West Kentucky Field Trial Club hosting weekend trials. Also, thanks to Garmin, Gun Dog Supply, Gun Dog Central, OnX Hunts, and Mule Brand Clothing. With 47 entries, the West Kentucky Field Trial Club would like to thank all participants and congratulate the winners! And last but not least, thank you to all volunteers who help keep field trial events running smoothly. Best of luck to all as the field trial season continues.

Dixon, Ky., April 11

Judges: Donnie Duckworth and Ty Vincent
NBHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG
– 4 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-VITALI GROUSERINGER PAPPY, F1683688, setter male, by Vitali's Grouseringer Stogey-Vitali Grouseringer Purdy. Gary Vitali, owner and handler.
 2d-SNYDER'S HANK, F1703517, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Shamrock's Tomoka Sally. Steven C. Snyder, owner; James C. Kleve, handler.

NBHA OPEN DERBY – 3 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-HANEYS LIVE WIRE, F1718923, pointer male, by Sam Houston's Image-Miss Turner Loose. Ben Weddington, owner; James C. Kleve, handler.
 2d-OUTCAST ACHILLES, F1709727, setter male, by Outcast Houston's Vision-Outcast Starburst. Ryan Hough, owner; James C. Kleve, handler.
 3d-BOATRIGHT'S AUDUBON OUTCAST, F1705038, setter female, by Audubon Americus-Circle B Burning Stardust. Terry Boatright, owner; James C. Kleve, handler.

Judges: Mike Crouse and Ty Vincent

NBHA OPEN PUPPY – 6 Entries

1st-CROUSE'S GROUSE FEATHER, F1713380, setter male, by Shagtime Max-GF Southern Belle. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Mary Sue Schalk, handler.
 2d-CROUSE'S OUTCAST, F1710488, setter female, by Boatright's Maverick-Stardust Outcast Coco. Mary Sue Schalk, owner and handler.
 3d-WHISKEY, unreg., Wirehaired Pointing Griffon male, breeding not given. Ryan Winka, owner and handler.

Judges: Donnie Duckworth and James Kleve

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 6 Pointers, 3 Setters, and 2 Brittany's

1st-TENACEE FRANKLIN, F1686506, pointer male, by Elhew Moneymaker-Class Act Pretty Penny. Greg Isenberg, owner and handler.
 2d-TENACEE SHELBY, F1683044, pointer female, by Elhew Moneymaker-Cantor's Coco. Greg Isenberg, owner and handler.
 3d-K DEL'S EABLE MAGNUM HOTSHOT, F1685770, Brittany male, by Magnum High Velocity-K Del's Eagle's Chance To Soar. Kenric J. DeLong, owner and handler.

Judges: Donnie Duckworth and Ty Vincent

NBHA AMATEUR DERBY – 5 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-HANEYS LIVE WIRE, F1718923, pointer male, by Sam Houston's Image-Miss Turner Loose. Ben Weddington, owner; James C. Kleve, handler.
 2d-MISS GRACE, F1704743, pointer female, by Small's White Charger-Blue Mounds Mainstreet. Dan Crunk, owner and handler.
 3d-ERIN'S PANCHO VILLA, F1705859, pointer male, by Erin's Grey Justice-Erin's Miss Daisy. Chuck Leonard, owner and handler.

Judges: James Kleve and Ty Vincent

NBHA AMATEUR PUPPY – 8 Entries

1st-PB JOHN THE BAPTIST, F1708723, pointer male, by Small's White Charger-Blue Mound's Mainstreet. Brian Stockrahm, owner and handler.
 2d-CROUSE'S OUTCAST, F1710488, setter female, by Boatright's Maverick-Stardust Outcast Coco. Mary Sue Schalk, owner and handler.
 3d-ERIN'S MICH ULTRA, F1718064, pointer male, by Erin's Perfect Storm-Erin's Sweet Sugar. Chuck Leonard, owner and handler.

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BLACK MOSHANNON FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial

By Jeffery Keller | Philipsburg, Pennsylvania | April 12, 2025



Open Shooting Dog: Bruce Mueller with Doodle Ridge Elroy, Jeff Keller (judge), Scott Forman with Grouse Hill Mac, Marissa Everett (judge), and John Capocci with Grouse Hill Princess.



Amateur Shooting Dog: Tom Blessing with Town Creek Rambler, Matt Null (judge), John Capocci with Grouse Hill Rambo, Tom Kieffer (judge), and Kevin Lahoda with Resin.



Open Derby: Pat Cooke with River's Edge Gus, Jarrod Specht (judge), Marc Forman with Twilight's Problem Child, Bruce Mueller (judge), and Rob Matson with Anna Lake Kali.

The spring running of the Black Moshannon trial was held the weekend of April 12-13, with 56 dogs competing in four different stakes, including the popular Amateur Shooting dog stake. This was the last trial of the busy season at the Black Moshannon trial grounds, which included two different championships running prior to

this trial.

In the Open Shooting Dog stake with judges Jeff Keller and Marissa Everett, Doodle Ridge Elroy, handled by Bruce Mueller, won the blue ribbon with a strong up front race with an excellent grouse find buried deep in the laurel on Course 2, the same course the winner was named with a grouse at the

Ontario Championship. Grouse Hill Mac, handled by Scott Forman, took home the red ribbon with a nice woodcock find. Grouse Hill Princess took home the yellow ribbon with a big fancy race.

Judges Tom Kieffer and Matt Null took on the task of watching over 14 amateur shooting dogs. Named the winner was Town Creek Rambler, handled by Tom

Blessing, whose sire Doodle Ridge Elroy won the Open Shooting Dog. Shuster put down a big run to earn his ribbon. Grouse Hill Rambo, handled by owner John Capocci, was named in second place with a fancy forward run. Named third was Resin with Kevin Lahoda, with a nice forward, easy handling run.

Bruce Mueller and Jarrod Specht were tasked with judging the highly competitive Open Derby. Earning the blue ribbon with a fast and forward race and a high cracking tail was River's Edge Gus, handled by Pat Cooke. Mark Forman handled Twilight's Problem Child for owner Mark Deneka. Placing third was Anna Lake Kali, also handled by Marc Forman, for owner Rob Matson. Kali had an easy, pleasing run with a nice cracking tail.

Finally, the inaugural running of the Ryan Frame Memorial Puppy Classic was watched over by judges Eric Locher and Joe Szcwczak. With a front and fancy race, Grouse Hill Patch, owned by John Capocci and handled by Marc Forman, took home the blue ribbon and will have the first name on the rotating plaque. Close behind Patch was Gretna Crest Lampoon's Margo, owned and handled by Tom Blessing. Margo was running to the edge at times and handled well



Ryan Frame Open Puppy Classic. Marc Forman with Grouse Hill Patch, Eric Locher (judge), Rob Frame, Tom Blessing with Gretna Crest Lampoon's Margo, John Capocci (with traveling plaque), Joe Szcwczak (judge), and Scott Forman with Grouse Hill Dixie.

through the different turns. Finally, taking home the yellow ribbon was Grouse Hill Dixie, handled by Scott Forman and owned by John Capocci. Dixie, sister to winner Patch, was moving easily through the cover and staying forward with her run.

Philipsburg, Pa., April 12

Judges: Tom Kieffer and Matt Nul

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 14 Entries

1st-TOWN CREEK RAMBLER, F1702962, setter male, by Doodle Ridge Elroy-Gretna Crest Flashback. R. L. Frame, owner; Thomas Blessing, handler.

2d-GROUSE HILL RAMBO, F1696375, pointer male, by Bo of Piney Woods-Grouse Hill Prima. John Capocci, owner and handler.

3d-RESIN, F1696519, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Hunter's Flight Risk. Kevin Lahoda, owner and handler.

Judges: Marissa Everett and Jeff Keller

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 15 Entries

1st-DOODLE RIDGE ELROY, F1679540, setter male, by Grouse Ridge Reroy-Doodle Ridge Mia. Bruce Mueller, owner and handler.

2d-GROUSE HILL MAC, F1702136, pointer male, by Grouse Hill Bullet Proof-Spata Setters Sally. Giovanni Capocci, owner; Scott Forman, handler.

3d-GROUSE HILL PRINCESS, F1702135, setter female, by Grouse Hill Bullet Proof-Spata Setters Sally. Giovanni Capocci, owner; Scott Forman, handler.

Judges: Bruce Mueller and Jarrod Specht

OPEN DERBY – 15 Entries

1st-RIVER'S EDGE GUS, F1706923, setter male, by Keystone's Red Rage-War Paint. Patrick Cooke, owner and handler.

2d-TWILIGHT'S PROBLEM CHILD, F1706124, setter female, by Wayward Flyin Tomato-Twilight's Echoed Promise. Mark Deneka, owner; Marc Forman, handler.

3d-ANNA LAKE KALI, F1706129, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Winter's Black Betty. Robert Matson, owner; Marc Forman, handler.

Judges: Eric Locher and Joe Szcwczak

RYAN FRAME OPEN PUPPY CLASSIC – 12 Entries

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

2d-GRETNA CREST LAMPOON'S MARGO, F1717624, setter female, by Super Storm-Sandland Magic Maggie. Thomas Blessing, owner and handler.

3d-GROUSE HILL DIXIE, F1710163, pointer female, by Grouse Hill Rambo-All On. John Capocci, owner; Scott Forman, handler.

MICHIGAN OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Faithful Named Champion; Miller's Extreme Heat, Runner-up

By Jim Cipponeri | Ionia, Michigan | April 15, 2025

The 2025 Michigan Open Shooting Dog Championship was once again contested over the rolling hills and farm fields of the Ionia Recreation Areas designated field trial courses. This year's assembly of handlers consisted of participants from the Deep South to Ontario, Canada. It was encouraging and rewarding to see so many familiar faces in attendance who were not noticeable in recent years. Mike Hester entered dogs in both the Derby and Championship along with Matt Basilone, Mike Tracy, and Shawn Kinkelaar. Jeff Haggis, Jim Cipponeri, Brooke Landing, Kelsey Hajek, and Marian Brown were the amateurs who had dogs entered in the six-day event.

Judges Leroy Long and Robert Ecker have a long list of accomplishments and credits in the field trial world. Leroy has judged numerous championships

and competes at a high level with his Shorthairs and has now incorporated English pointers into his string. He is a real gentleman and very attentive and personable while in and out of the saddle. Both of these men are highly sought-after as arbiters, and the club was fortunate to secure their services.

Robert is well known for his success on the Cover Dog and walking dog circuit, where his accomplishments are too numerous to detail in this limited composition. He has branched out into the "Blog" world with his "Midnight Kennels Podcast," which is followed by hunters and trialers, and is rumored to be in negotiations with Chef Gordon Ramsey for a restaurant review endeavor as well! Speaking of food, we thank Dr. Tom Jackson for providing a wonderful winners' dinner in honor of the 2024 Champion Thunder

Bolt's Storm, and also for the continued support of Purina Dog Food.

Ron Williams did his usual outstanding job to perfection, manning the dog wagon and providing food for the trialers. Tom Winters helped out with the dinners and cleanup, as did Bill Darr, Kelsey Hajek, Ashley Tilley, and Blake Rizzo. Mike Brown picked up and delivered the birds and bird planting was in the hands of Dick and Kathryn Lipski. Without these volunteers, the trial could not be run.

Unfortunately, this will be the last year for our secretary/treasurer, Joe Guzman. Joe has been instrumental in providing strong leadership for the last 15 years. He was hand-picked by our previous president, Oliver DeLuca, to carry on a tradition and legacy that Oliver strongly adhered to. Joe will not be quitting field

trials but taking a somewhat different direction. Since his retirement and subsequent move to Northern Michigan, logistics and other factors have resulted in this difficult decision. Thank you, Joe, and we sure hope you will remain involved.

The 2025 Michigan Open Shooting Dog Champion is English pointer female Faithful, owned by Roger and Susan Duerksen and handled by Mike Tracy.

She ran in perfect bird-hunting conditions, with a slight breeze, overcast skies, and temperatures hovering around 45 degrees. Her ground race was superior to all challengers, with a fast and stylish approach. She took in the whole country, including the Big Bottoms and large farm fields, but still handled the part of the course that meanders through woods and creek bottoms. She tallied seven perfect finds that kept the judges high in their saddles. Numerous times, we found her standing with a majestic and lofty style after subsequent casts. Toward the end of the brace, Mike whistled her on in a move to show how much he trusted the sprightly female. She kept rolling and rolling until out of sight. As time was called, Mike called on her, and her response was immediate and decisive as the handler awaited with open arms for the new champion to arrive.

The runner-up is no stranger to the winners' circle. Joe McHugh's pointer female, Miller's Extreme Heat, ran in the first brace with harsh conditions. A northerly wind and a slight drizzle made the going tough, but she maneuvered through the course with ease and communication guided by her handler. Her first find came near the Hires



Michigan Open Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Robert Ecker, Jim Cipponeri, Jeff Haggis, Hailey Moreland with Faithful, Ron Williams, Mike Tracy, Kelsey Hajek with Miller's Extreme Heat, Joe Guzman, and Leroy Long.

Property, in which her brace mate failed to honor. Heat withstood the temptation and continued on to assemble five productive finds. She pointed all of her birds with intensity and extreme style, and the birds were located well off her nose. Her rapport with handler Tracy was perfect, and the need to be scouted was nil to none.

The judges knew they had set a standard with Extreme Heat in the first brace. Also, Jeff Haggis's Glenmere's Cruiser, which is a young first-year dog, accounted for himself well with eight finds and was mentioned as a dog to be reckoned with in the future.

Unfortunately, no placements were awarded in the Michigan Derby Classic. The field consisted of numerous high-quality dogs, but the standard for which the judges were looking was not met. Several dogs had commendable races,

but adequate bird work was missing from the dogs that were around at pick-up time. (Handlers elected to pick their charges up because of a flaw in their bird work.) Judges theorized that the dogs with acceptable races had the opportunity to find birds but went birdless.

Ionia, Mich., April 15

Judges: Robert Ecker and Leroy Long
MICHIGAN OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
— 43 Pointers and 5 Setters

Winner-FAITHFUL, F1684597, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Steel City Karen. Susan & Roger Duerksen, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

Runner-Up-MILLER'S EXTREME HEAT, F1685698, pointer female, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Joe McHugh, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

Judges: Joe Guzman and Jeff Haggis
OPEN DERBY CLASSIC — 11 Pointers and 3 Setters
[Placements Withheld]



Gallery Wagon: Connie Cipponeri, grandson Killian Husinka, Jim Cipponeri, Ivan Husinka, Tom Winters, and Brent Masengale.



Brent Masengale, Robert Ecker (judge), and Ron Williams.



Joe Guzman, retiring secretary

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REGION 2 (AFTCA) AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Backcountry Bruiser Named Champion; Wildland Wild Man, Runner-up

By Joe Cammisa | Houtzdale, Pennsylvania | April 17, 2025



Region 2 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Chris Catanzarite with Backcountry Bruiser and Krysta Munden with Wildland Wild Man. (Second row): Andy Erne (judge), Zach Erne (judge), and Eric Munden.

The backdrop and venue for this year's 2025 Region 2 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship was Warriors Mark Shooting Preserve in the Altoona, Pennsylvania area.

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

The Running

Brace 1: Wildland Wild Man (PM/Munden) and Mohawk Mill Knight Hawk (PM/Monroe) were the first two off and running in this year's Championship. Wildland Wild Man ("Wayne") was found standing by scout at 10, a beautiful find on a large covey. He was surrounded by feeding birds, all in order, and was turned loose and drove to regain the front. He was found on point again at 21, and with all in order, he went on to a back at 37. Wayne is a classy forward dog that handled very well. He finished his hour strong with finds also at 42, 49, 54, and 58. He displayed good manners around his game, and he hit the objectives he should have in order to find birds.

Wildland Wild Man is a 4-year-old white and liver pointer male handled by

Krysta Munden and owned by her and her husband, Eric Munden. His most notable wins leading up to his runner-up finish include first place in the 2023 U. S. Complete Futurity and second place in the one-hour Pennsylvania Amateur All-Age stake. Wayne was bred by Mark and Dave Hughes, with the litter whelped by owners Krysta and Eric. He is from a breeding of Ch. Double Deuce Zeke by Beaver Meadow Rose.

Hawk went on a bird finding spree of his own, digging up and having multiple finds. Unfortunately, a couple of unproductives got in his way.

Brace 2: Backcountry Pure Gold (PF/Catanzarite) and Hoppy's War Bird Farmgirl (PF/Hopkins). Hoppy's War Bird Farmgirl was scratched. Backcountry Pure Gold broke away in this second brace and started to put the world on fire. She had multiple finds but was picked up before the hour ended.

Brace 3: Smoke Rise Jake (PM) and Wildland Hide the Wine (PM/Munden). Smoke Rise Jake broke away and ran big. Having not been seen since the breakaway, his bid ended when the handler asked for the tracker. Wildland Hide the Wine started out fine with

three nicely handled contacts. His demise was his inability to stay in contact with the handler after the first 30 minutes.

Brace 4: Lincoln County Jack (PM/Grantham) and Backcountry Buddy (PM/Catanzarite). Lincoln County Jack was picked up early at the handler's discretion. Backcountry Buddy broke away and went right to work. His efforts were enough to garner him multiple clean finds, but not enough to move the winners aside.

Brace 5: Mohawk Mill Shake Up (PM/Monroe) and Doodle Ridge Elroy (ESM/Munden). Mohawk Mill Shake Up was also one to go right to work. After a great breakaway, Shake delivered multiple finds for his handler. He went deep for his last find and was lost on point.

Brace 6: Backcountry Champagnesupernova (PF/Catanzarite) and Emert's Grouse Ringer T (ESM/Grantham). Backcountry Champagnesupernova was not one to take a back seat and put together several contacts, all handled nicely, but was not able to keep the pace set by the winners. Grouse Ringer T ran well but had a transgression with a bird to end his bid.

Brace 7: Millers Dusty Version (PF/Munden) and The Treasure Chest (PM/Monroe). Millers Dusty Version started strong and hard, fast. Dusty was not quite on the same page as the handler and was picked up before the hour ended. The Treasure Chest finished well with multiple finds. Chest ran a far forward reaching race.

Brace 8: Backcountry Bruiser (PM/Catanzarite) and Wildland Sweet Caroline (PF/Munden). In this last and final brace, "it's not over until the fat lady sings" was true. Strong off the breakaway, Bruiser was found standing at 12, which would result in an unproductive, gathered by the handler, and sent on. Again, strong cast to the front and found standing at 19 by the scout, birds produced, and all in order. Bruiser continued to hunt big to the front, hitting desired objectives. After a brief absence, he was found standing

at 39. Again, all in order for this stylish pointer. A find occurred at 40 with a very well-handled relocation. His fourth and final find took place at 57 with good manners. He was turned loose and ended his hour driving hard to the front.

Wildland Sweet Caroline finished her bid with two well-mannered and strong contacts and a very adequate race. Bruiser is certainly no stranger to the winners' circle, as he currently holds nine championship titles and six runner-up championship titles. He has won the U. S. Complete Amateur Invitational Championship, the Region 2 All-Age Championship three times, the Region 4 Walking Shooting Dog Championship, the Mid-Atlantic Open Walking Shooting Dog Championship, the Region 16 Horseback Championship, and now the Region 2 Walking Championship.

Reporter's Note: Backcountry Bruiser may be the only dog ever to have won

all three of the different Region 2 Championship titles.

Other Notables

Brace 3: Wildland Hide the Wine. Strong running to the front, but a bit over independent at times. Well-mannered finds at 12, 15, 23, and a back at 41.

Brace 5: Mohawk Mill Shake Up. Full of class, quick, snappy, and constantly drives to the front. Perfectly mannered finds at 11, 16, 23, but as stated above, was unfortunately left behind on point for a 20-minute absence to end his bid.

Doodle Ridge Elroy was a classy running setter and was also just shy of the winners that had backs at 11 and 18. He was well-mannered on his finds at 20, 40, 58, and 60. Additionally, he had an excellent relocation at the 40-minute find.

Brace 7: The Treasure Chest. Big

running with well-spaced finds at 13, 21, 31, 36, and 49. Exceptionally good style with a race that was consistently to the front.

A special thanks goes to Greg Blair and Purina for their unwavering support over the years. An additional thank you goes to Bernadette Gilliland and The Warriors Mark Shooting Preserve. We would like to thank this year's judicial panel, Rittman, Ohio natives Andy and Zack Erne. Both are fine sportsmen, owners, handlers, and trainers of championship dogs.

**Houtzdale, Pa., April 17 – One Course
Judges: Andrew Erne and Zach Erne
REGION 2 AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
– 14 Pointers and 2 Setters**
*Winner-BACKCOUNTRY BRUISER, F1672645, pointer male, by Erin's War Creek-Backcountry Tornado. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-WILDLAND WILD MAN, F1695981, pointer male, by Double Deuce Zeke-Beaver Meadow Rose. Eric Munden, owner; Krysta Munden, handler.*

GRAND NATIONAL GROUSE PUPPY CLASSIC

Grouse Hill Buddy Wins 76th Running

By Thor Kain | Ellenburg, New York | April 18, 2025

The 76th Grand National Grouse Puppy Classic commenced on Friday, April 18, following the conclusion of the Grand National Grouse and Woodcock Invitational Championship. This year's running was held on the Panther Forest Wildlife Reserve owned by Bill McFadden. These grounds and their purpose deserve some space in this report. Bill McFadden set out to purchase grounds that held grouse and woodcock habitat, with a vision of promoting coverdog field trials in the present and the future. In his quest to find grounds, he came into contact with Bruce Bennett. Bruce has spent many years and countless hours managing his land to provide exceptional wild bird habitat. In the fall of 2024, Bill purchased the land from Bruce and held true to his ultimate vision for the future of grouse and woodcock field trials. In a day and age where we often lament about the loss of wild game bird habitat and field trial grounds, it is invigorating to see someone with a passion for the future of grouse and woodcock field trials. On behalf of the coverdog community, thank you, Bill McFadden, for your generosity and commitment to



Grand National Grouse Puppy Classic (l-r): Bruce Mueller, Scott Forman with Grouse Hill Buddy, Thor Kain, Greg Johnson with Northwoods Rip Roy, Deb Sloan, Adam Dubriske with Highfive's Balvenie, Eric Rizza, and John Capocci with Grouse Hill Patch.

the sport of field trialing.

The Grouse Futurity is driven by the breeders who carry on a long-standing tradition and goal of bettering the breed(s) of grouse and woodcock dogs. We are thankful to all who continue to support the Grand National Grouse Futurity. Judicial duties for this

prestigious event were handled by two upstanding men, Bruce Mueller and Eric Rizza. Both are successful in field trials and have judged many big trials. They had a hard task as I walked every brace and sorted through that many puppies on race, with most having the potential to go on and win in their future; it isn't

easy. Their decisions were well received, and we thank them for judging this event.

Eighteen puppies from litters nominated for the Grand National Grouse Futurity were drawn for this stake. Grouse Hill Buddy won the event with a huge forward race. He was bred and is owned by John Capocci. Buddy is out of champion male Grouse Hill Rambo and runner-up champion female, All On. Scott Forman handled Buddy to his big win. When I think of Scott, I immediately remember all the big running dogs he's had on his string over the years. He likes them to really roll, and Buddy fit that bill, having the running style and application that set him above the rest.

Second place went to Northwoods Rip Roy. Roy was bred by the Kolters of Minnesota. The Northwoods kennel name has been attached to many

champions and great grouse dogs. He is owned and handled by Greg Johnson of Wisconsin. Greg handled him perfectly around the course. Roy hits the cover hard with speed and style. All who watched his performance knew he'd probably be in the mix.

Third-place honors went to Highfive's Balvenie. She was bred by Bruce Minard, and as with the other breeders, Bruce has a long history of producing winning grouse and woodcock dogs. Her owner, Deb Sloan, was on hand to watch Adam Dubriske handle Balvenie. She ran to the limits but showed herself when Adam wanted her to do so. As with the Futurity, the Puppy Classic gives out a fourth place. That went to Grouse Hill Patch. She is a littermate to Buddy and is owned by Michael Capocci. Scott Forman was also the handler of Patch. She is fast and fancy and applied herself to the cover. Although she didn't push

the limits of the course as much as Buddy, her range was plenty big enough, and her future looks bright.

Thank you to Purina for their continued support and to Garmin International for their sponsorship. Also, thanks to all who came out and made it a memorable event. Look forward to seeing everyone this fall at the Futurity.

**Ellenburg, N. Y., April 18 – One Course
Judges: Bruce Mueller and Eric Rizza
GRAND NATIONAL GROUSE PUPPY CLASSIC
– 13 Pointers and 5 Setters**

1st-GROUSE HILL BUDDY, F1710157, pointer male, by Grouse Hill Rambo-All On. John Capocci, owner; Scott Forman, handler.

2d-NORTHWOODS RIP ROY, F1711135, setter male, by Woodville's Yukon Cornelius-Northwoods Redbreast. Greg Johnson, owner and handler.

3d-HIGHFIVE'S BALVENIE, F1709068, pointer female, by Little Traverse Django-Hifive's Top Shelf. Deb Sloan, owner; Adam Dubriske, handler.

4th-GROUSE HILL PATCH, F1710162, pointer female, by Grouse Hill Rambo-All On. Michael Capocci, owner; Scott Forman, handler.

96th NEW ENGLAND OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP & REGION 1 (AFTCA) AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

By John Olfson | East Windsor, Connecticut | April 21, 2025

The 96th New England Open Championship commenced Monday, April 21, at 8 a.m. in cool overcast conditions. The Championship is hosted by the New Britain Field Trial Club and the Association of New England Field Trial Clubs. It is the first leg of three consecutive events that we promote as "New England's Spring Fling Triple Header."

In 1927, the Massachusetts Fish and Game Association conceived the idea of having the New England Bird Dog Championship. After attempts in 1927 and 1928 to produce a champion (no champion declared), our present-day association, the Association of New England Field Trial Clubs, was formed to conduct the championship in 1929. However, no champion was declared, primarily due to the first heavy snow and plummeting temperature. Finally, the 1930 running produced an outstanding winner when Miss Magpie of Ware, a white and black pointer female, owned by Augustus B. Field, handled by L. B. Chapman, delivered a flawless one-and-a-half-hour race, with six stylish grouse finds to become the first New England Bird Dog Champion.



Miller's Special Cinderella, Winner of the 96th New England Open Shooting Dog Championship.

Beginning in 1934 and through 1949, the New England Bird Dog Championship was held on Hall of Famer (1959), W. Lee White's farm, also known as "Championship Game Preserve." The Whites' Pinch Street homestead in Scotland, Connecticut, held grouse and woodcock, as well as wild quail and pheasant.

In the early years, there seemed to have been a division between the traditional close-hunting New England grouse dogs and the more wide-ranging



Erin's Envy, Runner-Up in the 96th New England Open Shooting Dog Championship

Southern type of dog. Initially, qualifying stakes were held for the respective different types of dogs. Eventually, a compromise was reached, stabilizing standards. Stabilizing resulted in the field trial dog we know today, which proved to be a better bird finder than the traditional dog.

In 1967, the event settled in at Hall of Famer (1987), Harry Townshend's Ragged Hill Farm in Pomfret, Connecticut, where it thrived for 47 years. In 1972, for the first time in

the history of the event, the Directors conceded to allow the limited use of horses by the handlers, and this move brought in a record entry at that time of 51 dogs. Hall of Famer Harold Ray (2006) won with the Hall of Fame setter Tomoka (1974). After Harry's passing, the event moved to its present location, the Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial Area in East Windsor, Connecticut.

Judges Grace Ann Lawson, Powhatan, Virginia, and Dave Park, Uniontown, Pennsylvania, named pointer female Miller's Special Cinderella champion and pointer male Erin's Envy runner-up champion. Both dogs were handled by Mike Tracy. Cinderella ran a big forward race with four finds and a back. Always classy on point, exhibiting snappy moves while taking edges, and always hunting. Erin's Envy ran an extreme forward race while still handling nicely for Mike, producing three finds. Muriel and Bill Primm are the owners of Miller's Special Cinderella, and Joe McHugh is the owner of Erin's Envy.

Many thanks to 2024 Champion Waybetter Rebel owners Muriel and Bill Primm and Allen Linder for hosting the handlers' dinner.

We thank Greg Blair and Purina for their continued support. We are proud to award Pro Plan Sport to the winners. We all appreciate Purina's effort and support of all sporting breeds; they are far from second to none.

[The source of the event history mentioned came from a publication Gene Casale provided, the 50th Golden Anniversary New England Bird Dog Championship, which was written by Frank E. Foss.]

East Windsor, Conn., April 21

**Judges: Grace Ann Lawson and Dave Park
96th NEW ENGLAND OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**

– 44 Pointers and 7 Setters

Winner-MILLER'S SPECIAL CINDERELLA, F1696287, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. William & Muriel Primm, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

Runner-Up-ERIN'S ENVY, F1705275, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Erin's Miss Maggie. Joe McHugh, owner and handler.

Region 1 Amateur All-Age Championship

The Region 1 Amateur All-Age Championship commenced Saturday,



Region 1 Amateur All-Age Championship: Grace Ann Lawson (judge), Bill Bonnetti, John Olsson, Marcus Ramseur with Mohawk Mill Gangster, Ed McCay, Joyce Taylor, Megan McCay with Mohawk Mill Patriot, Matt Basilone, and John Stolgitis (judge).

April 26, in East Windsor, Connecticut, at the Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial Area with judges John Stolgitis and Grace Ann Lawson mounted and ready for action. John and Grace Ann are experienced pointing dog handlers and judges with a great deal of championship experience. We are most appreciative that they accepted the assignment.

Under the joint effort of the Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial Clubs Association, and its president, Rich Murph, as well as the State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Eastern District Wildlife Biologist Ann Kilpatrick, the grounds were in as good condition as could be expected. We are thankful and appreciate this continued joint effort.

Pointer male Mohawk Mill Gangster was named champion. He was handled by Ed McCay and is owned by Ed and his wife, Megan. Gangster ran an exceptional all-age race. When entering the Dearborn section, most dogs take the inside edge; Gangster made a bold move along the outer edge, hunted his way to the top to be found on point with his brace mate backing. Turned loose after this spectacular birdwork, he took the back edge and continued to rim the outer edge on his way out of Dearborn to be found on point in the Pines.

Pointer male Mohawk Mill Patriot

was named runner-up champion. He is also owned by Ed and Megan and was handled by Ed. He ran a true all-age race, making snappy moves, hunting, taking edges, and was very classy on point.

Greg Blair and Purina provided Pro Plan Sport to the winners as well. Thank you again, and we appreciate your ongoing support.

Many thanks to Jane Fogerty for taking care of the clubhouse and putting on all the delicious meals throughout the entire Spring Fling Triple Header.

Many thanks to our association President and Region 1 Trustee Eli Richardson for providing his three fine walking horses— Mosses, Smokie, and Shadow—for the entire time. They were very helpful.

Thank you to all participants. We look forward to seeing everyone next year.

**Judges: Grace Ann Lawson and John Stolgitis
REGION 1 AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 17 Pointers and 2 Setters**

Winner-MOHAWK MILL GANGSTER, F1685479, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Pirate's Legacy-Katie Lee's Wild Side. Ed & Megan McCay, owners; Ed McCay, handler.

Runner-Up-MOHAWK MILL PATRIOT, F1703194, pointer male, by Indian Creek Spur-Hirollins Fantasy Girl. Ed & Megan McCay, owners; Ed McCay, handler.

NGSPA OF OHIO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Championship Series Held At Tri-Valley Grounds

By Robert Reynolds, D.V.M. | Dresden, Ohio | April 21, 2025



NGSPA of Ohio Open Shooting Dog Championship (standing, l-r): Jimmy Johnson (judge), Dan DiMambro with Macke's Jim Bob, Al Cropek (judge), April DiMambro with Monkeyshines Callme the Breeze, Chris Young, and Robert Reynolds, DVM. (Front): Isaiyah and Arayah.

The 2025 running of the Ohio Championship began on April 21 at the Tri-Valley Wildlife Area near Dresden, Ohio, and concluded on April 25.

The Ohio Division of Wildlife had the clubhouse, kennels, corrals, and field trial grounds in excellent condition. Recent cattle grazing and mowing increased the visibility to a perfect level to watch big-running dogs compete in this venue. Several out-of-state competitors remarked that they felt that Ohio's field trial area offered a great championship trial ground.

Our judges for the Open Shooting Dog were Al Cropek from Pennsylvania and Jim Johnson from Ohio, and both men are long-time field trialers. Al Cropek and Chris Young, both from Pennsylvania, judged the All-Age Championship. The Amateur Shooting Dog Championship was judged by Jack Alexander from Ohio and Aaron McAfee from Illinois. The weather for our Championships was good, with storms passing around us and only causing a few hours' delay during the week of running dogs. The Derby Classic had to be cancelled due to the constraints of time.

Our judges gave all entries their full attention, and many competitors expressed their appreciation of our judiciary.

Our successful trial was made possible by the members of the German Shorthair Pointer Club of Ohio, who contributed their time and talent for our event. I would especially like to thank our secretary, Jen Goodall, Chris Young, Bob Reynolds, Scott and Ann Weslow, Charlie and Laurie Brown, Fred Ryan, as well as our bird planters, Chris Young and Russ Roth. They did a terrific job of planting birds and keeping the trial moving on schedule.

Once again, Purina is to be thanked for their continued support of our field trial events, and SportDOG for also providing training collars for our amateur champions.

We want to thank our pros who support our trial—Joe Orndorff, Dan DiMambro, and Chris Goegan. And amateurs Chris Young, Chuck Gonzalez, Jesse Conroy, Abe Macke, Hank Lewis, Fred Ryan, Kirk Loftin, Sheri Tangsrud, all who help out to make these trials possible.

NGSPA of Ohio Open Shooting Dog Championship

The NGSPA of Ohio Open Shooting Dog Championship had 31 entries.

The Open Shooting Dog champion was Jim Bob, owned by Abraham and Katelyn Macke, handled by Dan DiMambro. The judges reported that Jim had five well-placed, stylish finds and an exciting big shooting dog race, staying to the front for the entire brace.

The Open Shooting Dog runner-up was Breezy, owned by Helmut Schoen and also handled by Dan DiMambro. Breezy had a big shooting dog race with three finds and one back.

Honorable mentions went to Janie, who had five finds and one back, and a good race handled by Chris Goegan and Chloe with three finds and a back owned by Fred Ryan and handled by Dan DiMambro.

Dresden, Ohio, April 21

Judges: Al Cropek and Jimmy Johnson
NGSPA OF OHIO OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

– 31 German Shorthairs

Winner-MACKE'S JIM BOB, F1703274, German Shorthair male, by Riden High Rudy-Cuttin Wilds Space Cowgirl. Abe Macke, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.

Runner-Up-MONKEYSHINES CALLME THE BREEZE, F1699127, German Shorthair female, by Riden High Rudy-Cuttin Wilds Space Cowgirl. Helmut Schoen, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.

NGSPA of Ohio Open All-Age Championship

Ten dogs started in the Open All-Age Championship.

When the dust settled, the judges named Trixie, owned by Jeff Alexander and handled by Dan DiMambro, as the champion. Trixie had three well-spaced finds with the biggest race and handled kindly.

The All-Age runner-up was Jed, owned by Jeff Alexander and handled by Dan DiMambro. Jed had two evenly spaced finds and a strong all-age finish.

Judges mentioned that it was a very competitive stake.

Judges: Al Cropek and Chris Young
NGSPA OF OHIO OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 10 German Shorthairs
 Winner-CHICOREE'S RIDEN HIGH TRIXIE, F1685125, German Shorthair female, by Riden High Rudy-Chicoree's Sparkle In Her Eye. Rondal Alexander, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.
 Runner-Up-EVERGREEN'S JED, F1676169, German Shorthair male, by Trublu's B D K Ace Inthe Hole-Chicoree's What A Hoodlum. Lance Olsen, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.

NGSPA of Ohio Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

Sixteen dogs were entered in the Amateur Shooting Dog Championship.

The champion was Uodibar's Robbi Jo, owned by Sheri Tangsrud and handled by Dr. Kirk Loftin. Robbie Jo had two finds and an extreme forward race that



NGSPA of Ohio Open All-Age Championship (l-r): Robert Reynolds, DVM, Dan DiMambro with Chicoree's Riden High Trixie, Al Cropek (judge), April DiMambro with Evergreen's Jed, and Chris Young (judge).

gave Robbie Jo the win.

The runner-up was In Country's

Hurricane Jane, owned by Dr. Robert Reynolds and handled by Chris Young. Janie had eight classy finds with a medium shooting dog race.

Judges: Jack Alexander and Aaron McAfee NGSPA OF OHIO AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 16 German Shorthairs

Winner-UODIBAR'S ROBBI JO, F1662507, German Shorthair female, by Uodibar's Against All Odds-B D K's Sin City Casino. Sherri Tangsrud, owner; Kirk Loftin, handler.
 Runner-Up-IN COUNTRY'S HURRICANE JANE, F1672744, German Shorthair female, by Hi N's Bodacious-Slaterock Mattie Clark. Dr. Robert Reynolds & Chris Young, owners; Chris Young, handler.

The 2025 NGSPA of Ohio Open Derby Classic was not run due to time constraints.

MARITIME BIRD DOG CLUB

Annual Spring Trial

By Donald Henderson | Andersonville, New Brunswick | April 25, 2025



Open Shooting Dog (l-r): Leonard Sinclair with Kinwshkly's Velocity Wyot, Trevor London with Paucek's Up For Adventure, and Ian Corbett with Ponhook's Sassy Pants.



Open Derby (front): Trevor London with Bonasa's Iron Lady and Robert Little with Cairds Co-Defendant. (Standing): Dale Hackett (judge) and Dusty Babin (judge).

On Saturday, April 26, the Maritime Birddog Club held its annual spring trial. The trial was a success with 22 dogs total competing in Open Shooting Dog, Open Derby, and Gun Dog. The trial was held on the property of Robert Little in

Andersonville, New Brunswick. Despite less-than-ideal weather

conditions, the trial went great and was enjoyed by all. Leonard Sinclair's Brittany, Wyot, came out on top in a field of 12 shooting dogs with Trevor London's English setter, Magie, winning the Open Derby, and Russell Ogilvie's pointer, Henry, winning the Gun Dog stake. Despite heavy rain, the dogs put on a great show, and the judges, Dale Hackett and Dusty Babin, also had their

hands full in those conditions but did a great job. The Club would like to thank everyone for the trial's success and looks forward to next year.

Andersonville, N.B., April 25 Judges: Dusty Babin and Dale Hackett OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 7 Pointers, 4 Setters, and 1 Brittany

1st-KINWSHKLY'S VELOCITY WYOT, F1701885, Brittany male, by Magnum High Velocity-Kinwshkly French Blaze. Leonard Sinclair, owner and handler.

2d-PAUCEK'S UP FOR ADVENTURE, F1693887, setter female, by Long Gone Studly-Paucek's Black Pearl. Trevor London, owner and handler.

3d-PONHOOK'S SASSY PANTS, F1684902, pointer female, by Vanidestine's Mickette-D C's Sadie. Ian Corbett, owner and handler.

OPEN DERBY – 2 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-BONASA'S IRON LADY, F1709007, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Pine Straw's Cover Queen. Trevor London, owner and handler.

2d-CAIRDS CO-DEFENDANT, F1704798, pointer male, by B K Armoured Tank-Valkyrie Widowmaker. Robert Little, owner and handler.



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MOOSE RIVER GROUSE DOG CLUB

Northern Slopes Bell Wins Open Shooting Dog Classic

By Jerry Furnish | Moose Junction, Wisconsin | April 25, 2025



Open Shooting Dog (front row): Ed Graddy with Northern Slopes Bell, Eric Saetre with Northwoods Cedar, and A. J. Kalupa with Kona's Blue Sky. (Back row): Jeff Marek (judge) and Steve Snyder (judge).

Starting Friday, April 25, we were treated to one last spring trial in the woods before Wisconsin's quiet time, and it didn't disappoint. We had great weather throughout, wonderful sportsmanship, and a team of members willing to help in any way necessary to have a successful venue. The birds were cooperative, and the numbers were more than adequate. Spectators were witnesses to fine grouse dogs running on one of the most unique trial grounds. Congratulations to all placed winners. Both the Shooting Dog and Derby stakes featured some of the top-ranked dogs in the country, and we had more than a few pleasurable braces.

The Moose River Grouse Dog Club would like to thank the following for another successful event:

To all club members who helped clear courses, helped with prep work leading up to the trial, and those who helped during the trial, including Tim Kaufman, Ed Graddy, Bill Frahm, Sig Degitz, Jerry Furnish, Lindsey Saetre, Eric Saetre, Ben Mergens, Tucker Johnson, Colin Peterson, Jeff Marek, and Greg Johnson; Judges Steve Snyder, Jeff Marek, Kyle Peterson, and Hannah Peterson; Douglas County Forestry Department for their cooperation in allowing us to hold our event on county forest land; Trent Sprague at Moose Junction Lounge for the wonderful lunches, fantastic campground facilities, and a great place

to serve as our trial headquarters; to everyone who participated and entered dogs, the Moose Club is extremely grateful.

Notables

Brace 5 – Bear Bait Course – At the conclusion of another great meal provided by Moose Junction Lounge, we made our way to Bear Bait Course for the fifth brace. Often in a competitive stake, one brace stands out, and the dogs and handlers provide a balance of excitement and birdwork, producing two placers in the process; Setters Northern Slopes Bell, orange and white, along with darkly marked Kona's Blue Skye, provided. Handlers Graddy and Kalupa broke the dogs away shortly after 1 p.m. on a partly cloudy backdrop with 56-degree, mostly calm conditions.

At the breakaway, both dogs immediately found likely cover to the right and showed maturity in handling scent over excitement during the run out. At 2, both bells went silent, and handlers and judges entered to find both staunch some 25 yards off the trail in a deadfall tangle. Graddy approached first, and a grouse started somewhere between the dogs. After a brief discussion, Graddy was asked to fire, and judges decided on a divided find, all in order for both. Bell continued on in a very controlled manner, always forward and at times at the edge of her bell but

always in tune with Graddy. She had a well-behaved woodcock at 15, followed by a grouse at 36, a solid back at 39, all in order. At 50, her bell was lost, and after a brief search, Bell was found in the middle of a nearly impossible to navigate tangle surrounded by standing water. After a brief attempt to flush, Graddy asked to collar out, which was granted, and she finished her brace out front, much the way she began. Overall, it was an effortless handle by Graddy and a well-run and connected hour by Bell. According to judge Snyder, Bell displayed the quality expected of a grouse dog and was worthy of first place.

Following the aforementioned divided find at 2, Kona had a forward run and dissected cover well. At 15, she crossed from right to left on high ground and turned back into the breeze, and her bell stopped abruptly. She was observed some 30 yards from her bracemate, honoring with perfect manners. At 32, Kona was working through a maze of fallen logs when the distinct sound of a seasoned grouse exploded from the vicinity and carried over her and beyond. The bell stop was immediate, Kalupa's gun didn't faze, and an in order stop to flush was noted. At 39, Kona delivered her own grouse find and finished out her brace without incident. Though not quite reaching the range or intensity in run as her bracemate, all questions about birdwork were asked and answered. Kona stayed forward and in control with an easy handle credited to Kapula, earning her a third-place finish.

Brace 4 (Spruce Course) began shortly before 11 a.m. with the sun showing briefly with a 49/54-degree start/finish. This brace featured our newly crowned Grand National Invitational runner-up, Northwoods Cedar, handled by Eric Saetre, and a well-built, darkly marked setter, Berg Brothers Hatchet, handled by Colin Peterson.

At 15, the course turned abruptly right, and Cedar was left over a hill and became briefly disconnected, leaving distance between handlers, but Cedar soon made a huge move turning the clock from 9 to 12 to make the front. Before Saetre could catch up, Cedar's

bell was lost at her handler's 11 o'clock, and the decision was made to move in, followed by judge Marek. As the gallery made its way forward with Peterson and judge Snyder, we made a left-hand turn and ran into Cedar, pointed just off trail. As Saetre made his way, followed by Marek, a grouse was flushed behind Cedar, but as he got closer, a woodcock screamed its way up and out of sight in front of her, leaving little doubt the grouse was incidental and the woodcock was recorded. A well-spaced woodcock was found and handled in order at 37, and Cedar continued her big run throughout and looked as impressively athletic near the end as in the beginning. At 59, she was again found on point, but no bird was found. Saetre made the decision not to relocate, and Cedar's strong run, coupled with solid bird manners, made for a well-deserved second.

Moose Junction, Wis., April 25

Judges: Steve Snyder and Jeff Marek

OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats]

– 8 Pointers and 18 Setters

1st-NORTHERN SLOPES BELL, F1682006, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Out of the Shadows. Ed Graddy, owner and handler.

2d-NORTHWOODS CEDAR, F1691883, setter female, by Erin's Prometheus-Northwoods Carly Simon. Eric & Lindsey Saetre, owners; Eric Saetre, handler.

3d-KONA'S BLUE SKY, F1688883, setter female, by Northwoods Sir Gordon-I'm Blue Who. A. J. Kalupa, owner and handler.



Open Derby (front row): Hannah Peterson (judge), Matthew Acker with Cedar Creek's Pointing Upland, Josh Matel with Tyler Northwoods, Keenan Foley with Dirty Waters Chiltepin, and Kyle Peterson (judge).

Open Derby

We had another great derby turnout, which has been the case all spring. The future of our club holds great promise behind this group of solid young dogs and their handlers.

Cedar Creek's Pointing Upland ("Tess") ran a very mature race. She was greatly connected to her handler and showed whenever Acker asked her to. At 12, she had a deep find on a woodcock, coupled with an always forward and active run. Tess was awarded first.

Tyler Northwoods ("Tyler") showed outstanding manners on a grouse at 3 and was found in the most likely cover throughout his run. Tyler had a powerful race, finishing the 30 minutes as strong or stronger than at the breakaway. Tyler was awarded second.

Dirty Waters Chiltepin ("Chili") had a woodcock contact at 9, and a forward pushing race. Chili was at the edge of her bell at times, but always showed forward and powerful. She took several great edges in likely cover and always seemed to be where she should be. Chili was awarded third.

Judges: Hannah and Kyle Peterson

OPEN DERBY – 14 Pointers, 15 Setters, 1 Irish Setter, and 2 German Shorthairs

1st-CEDAR CREEK'S POINTING UPLAND, F1711522, German Shorthair female, by Kimber Tactical-Covey Up's Sanke River Latte. Matthew Acker, owner and handler.

3d-TYLER NORTHWOODS, F612151, pointer male, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Northwoods Comet. Josh Matel, owner and handler.

3d-DIRTY WATERS CHILTEPIN, F1706190, pointer female, by Elhew Sinbad-Silver W Free Spirit. Keenan Foley, owner and handler.

SUBMITTING A WRITE-UP & FORMS?

Please submit all information to:
dwellmann@ukcdogs.com

[Please note that results received well after the trial (60-90 days) cannot be assured that the trial will receive coverage in a printed issue.]

NATIONAL BRITTANY OPEN GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP ASSOCIATION

Spring Trial

By Kenny DeLong | Meredith, Michigan | April 25, 2025



The trial begins.

The last weekend in April saw a big entry of 97 bird dogs compete at the fabled Gladwin grounds over a three-day stretch, with dozens of fine four-leggeds of all ages showing their stuff.

While not super abundant due to very dry conditions and a month of trialing

preceding our event (the last of the season), birds were flown everywhere: 15 grouse and an equal number of woodcock over the long weekend. A woodcock was even pointed staunchly on the Puppy course!

Thank you to everyone who entered dogs, watched dogs, moved vehicles, provided food, snacks, and walked braces, and shared stories! Thanks to the Hollister wranglers. Thanks to Steve McKalko for preparing our sumptuous tailgate lunches. Thank you to Purina and Greg Blair for supporting the sport we all love so much. Nice to have dog food for the winners! It was a great weekend! Fun and fellowship with old friends and welcome new faces.

Judges Shane Haskin and Joe Wohlfort



First brace.

trained their eyes on a formidable field of 42 Open Shooting Dogs Friday and Saturday, with plenty of fine ground races and some very nice birdwork. Named to the top spot was the seasoned setter Sid, a frequent visitor to the winners' circle, owned by LeeAnne Parnell/Roger Johnson, and expertly handled by Coverdog Queen,



Open Shooting Dog (First place): Tammy Chaffee (handler) and Roger Johnson (co-owner) of Springpond Rockin Sidney.



Open Shooting Dog (Second Place): Lonnie Rademacher with Springpond's Addy's Boy.



Open Shooting Dog (Third Place): Kenny DeLong with Faith's Maximum Justice.

Tammy Chaffee. Sid ran a fancy race and scored a picturesque grouse find. The red ribbon fell to the animated young setter Otto, owned and aptly handled by Lonnie Rademacher, to a super stuck find on woodcock. Third place was awarded to Ole "Little Man" Justice, the liver and white veteran pointer owned and handled by Kenny DeLong. Justice ran a very forward race with a nice grouse find (keenly observed sneaking out the side door by Judge Haskin) and then late in the brace, a tightly holding mudbat that was hunkered down just off the dog's front paw. While no nest was observed, the stubborn Doodle refused to fly until it almost stepped on, at which point it shot straight up in the air, grazing the motionless pointer's cheek.

Saturday's Open Puppy was hotly contested, with a small but uber-competitive field of eight making Judges Kenny DeLong and David Miotto's job difficult, but very enjoyable! Pointer Power prevailed throughout, with Tom Butler's strong, forward-running Wyatt, snagging the Blue! Close behind was the lively liver pointer Bud, handled by, yeah, Tammy Chaffee, taking second place honors. The yellow ribbon went to Dan Gehring and his charging pointer, Boomer. Any one of these three dogs could have been in the top spot on a

different day. This was a strong stake — any of the eight could have placed on any given day.

Some 30 Open Derby Classic dogs competed Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning in the Jack Plyler Memorial stake. This event was very competitive and tough to judge, but John Paul Jones and Craig Merlington had little trouble coming to an agreement on the most outstanding



Lunch.

ground race, application, and handling. This stake yielded "All-Pro" results. Christy Helmes's liver Brittany, Kaylee, topped the field with an impressive performance and strong finish. Marc Forman handled the hard-running white and orange setter Kali to second place. Rounding out the placements was another almost all-white setter female,

Sadie, who was forward and easy handling for Scott Chaffee.

We were so very pleased to have a substantial field of nine braces for our Restricted Breed Open Shooting Dog stake run on Sunday. Brittany's, Shorthairs, and Irish Setters competed as Denise and Brent Peters scrutinized. Both judges later commented that this was the strongest restricted field they had witnessed in some time. Shane Baxter's veteran GSP "Doc" bested the rest with a strong race and a super impressive limb find on woodcock. Doc had to dig deep on Course 14 to the find and then stand staunchly and patiently for several minutes until handler, judges, and gallery heard the scout shout the million-dollar word, "POINT!" Not a twitch at the flush, all in order. So cool! A well-deserved Blue for a seasoned team. Kenny DeLong's 10-year-old multiple champion Brittany "Chancey" snapped up the red ribbon on the strength of her race, application, and handling, that, according to the judge, "had virtually no holes." Grousewoods newcomer, but veteran trialer, Thom Christnagel, was able to show his liver Britt's cover dog savvy, getting the third-place nod. Judges liked the way "Deke" applied himself and covered a lot of ground, staying forward at moderate range.



Open Puppy (l-r): White Indian Outlaw with Tom Butler, Heartbreaker Bud Light with Tammy Chaffee, and Ahoy Captain Boomer with Dan Gehring.



Jack Plyler Memorial Open Derby Classic (l-r): Christys Kaylee Girl with Christy Helmes, John Paul Jones (judge), Anna Lake Kali with Mark Forman, Bill Yant, and Meadowink Rae of Sunshine with Scott Chaffee.



Open Restricted Breed Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Bax Star's Doc Holiday with Shane Baxter, K Del's Eagle's Chance to Soar with Kenny DeLong, Waypoint Deacon of the Hunt with Thom Christnagel. (Behind): Denise and Brent Peters (judges).

We had a great lunch on Saturday — oh my, what a crowd for a tailgate event! Shooting Dog and Puppy announcements were featured, while McKalko's preparations and the potluck contributions made for a very enjoyable hour of food and fellowship at midday. We closed out Sunday with a nice meal at Alibi, followed by Derby and Restricted Open Shooting Dog announcements.

Once again, we praise the Lord for His Grace, and we thank everyone for their entries, and all the help and fellowship/friendship that make field trialing possible and enjoyable. We look forward to seeing everyone at our summer trial in late August. Our featured Junior Handler stake is a highlight! In the words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us, every one!"

Meredith, Mich., April 25
Judges: Shane Haskin and Joe Wohlfort
OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 17 Pointers, 23 Setters, 1
Brittany, and 1 Irish Setter

1st-SPRINGPOND ROCKIN SIDNEY, F1689212, setter female, by Springpond Rockin Autumn-Tailsup Olive. Leeann Parnell & Roger Johnson, owners; Tammy Chaffee, handler.

2d-SPRINGPOND'S ADDY'S BOY, F1699904, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Springpond's Autumn Adeline. Lonnie Rademacher, owner and handler.

3d-FAITH'S MAXIMUM JUSTICE, F1660276, pointer male, by Nelson's Van Max-Wild Apple Faith. Kenric DeLong, owner and handler.

Judges: Kenny DeLong and David Miotto
OPEN PUPPY – 8 Pointers and 1 Brittany

1st-WHITE INDIAN OUTLAW, F1709779, pointer male, by Light of Day-Perkins Beautiful Disaster. Thomas Butler, owner and handler.

2d-HEARTBREAKER BUD LIGHT, F1710620, pointer male, by Toth's Tornado Reloaded-Grouse Trails Warrior Cat. Torn Butts, owner; Tammy Chaffee, handler.

3d-AHOY CAPTAIN BOOMER, F1714641, pointer male, by Hifives Rolling Stone-Speed Dialing Kaia. Dan Gehring, owner and handler.

Judges: John Paul Jones and Craig Merlington
JACK PLYLER OPEN DERBY CLASSIC
– 6 Pointers, 20 Setters and 3 Brittanys

1st-CHRISTYS KAYLEE GIRL, R331-522, Brittany female, by Bailey's Ramblin Rusty-Bailey's Lil Cady Wink. Christina Helmes, owner and handler.

2d-ANNA LAKE KALI, F1706129, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Winterset Black Betty. Robert Matson, owner; Marc Forman, handler.

3d-MEADOWINK RAE OF SUNSHINE, F1705287, setter female, by Dun Ravens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. William P. Yant III, owner; Scott Chaffee, handler.

Judges: Brent Peters and Denise Peters
OPEN RESTRICTED SHOOTING DOG – 13 Brittanys,
1 Irish Setter, and 3 German Shorthairs

1st-BAX STAR'S DOC HOLIDAY, F1688064, German Shorthair male, by Friedelsheim Freight Train-Star's Stolen Heart. Shane & Christine Baxter, owners; Shane Baxter, handler.

2d-K DEL'S EAGLE'S CHANCE TO SOAR, F1659339, Brittany female, by K Del's Eagle Flyboy Roy-Chance's Hope. Ken DeLong, owner and handler.

3d-WAYPOINT DEACON OF THE HUNT, F1669312, Brittany male, by Waypoint Chancey Diamond Riker-Ammo's Arms Deal. Thom Christnagel, owner and handler.

NEW ENGLAND SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY

Deena Jet Boyer Wins 89th Running & Purina Top Derby of the Year

By Margaret C. Drew | East Windsor, Connecticut | April 25, 2025

When the New England Shooting Dog Futurity was first proposed as a regional futurity in the 1930s, the proposal was not well received. Herbert G. Silver pushed forward and headed a group that proposed a regional futurity despite recognizing the need for more breeders. He and the group found defining eligibility and other rules proved to be a challenge. Despite these roadblocks, they still moved forward, and in April 1937, the first futurity was held, although in name only, as no set rules could be agreed upon for the entry of 17 derbies. However, breeders and other dog people acknowledged that a regional futurity was necessary to move the bird dog community forward, so a regional set of guidelines was established, and 21 dogs were entered. These rules and whelping dates were adhered to until 1939, when a June whelping date helped to change the venue to run in October, beginning in 1941. The futurity nominations and entries remained a regional entry base for several years, expanding in the late '70s. In the '80s, a few litters from outside of New England increased the futurity. By the early '90s, litters and entries were once again declining, luckily



89th New England Shooting Dog Futurity (l-r): Darren Boyer, Grace Lawson, Erin Stolgitis, John Stolgitis, Steve Boyer (seated), Mike Tracy with Deena Jet Boyer, Peter Labella, Tim Cavanaugh with Hog Hill Fafo, John Oljson, Hailey Moreland with Cool Hand Luke, Doug Ray, Matt Basilone, and Ed McCay with Mohawk Mill Lady Justice. (Seated on right): Parker McCay, Mia Basilone, Melissa Basilone, Emma McCay, Earl Drew, Miranda Basilone, George Tracy, and Mark Janiec.

followed by a surge to 50 to 60 entries from 35 litters into the early 2000s. During that time, a guaranteed purse of \$2,000.00 encouraged participation. However, with the litter nominations declining, which means entries as well, this policy could not continue. The association would like to return to that position; however, litter nominations and entries are the key.

The Flaherty Field Trial Area is a perfect location and facility for field trials. The clubhouse displays a wall of Life Patron plaques, taxidermy of upland game, various regional historic plaques, and engraved retired trophies. In an adjacent room is a pictorial history of the construction and progress of the present clubhouse. In a second framed plaque, there are historic photos from

trials with identified patrons, dogs, and the trial that is portrayed. This is a very nice historic piece of work. Most of the elderly participants are much younger in those photographs, and many in the photographs are no longer with us. We now need to gather photos of today's events to create another pictorial of "now." Many of the photos displayed are thanks to Truman Crowles' family and Dick Bembenek's gathering and compiling. Dick is also responsible for the making and donating of a wooden memory board of all the New England open winners from its origin in 1929 with spaces through 2028. The New England Open is most noted for its many years at the Ragged Hill Farm in Pomfret, Connecticut; however, about ten years ago, the land was lost to field trials, and it is now run at Flaherty just prior to the futurity. The futurity now runs in late April so as to remain in conjunction with the New England Open Championship at Flaherty and the Region 1 Amateur All-Age Championship. The original sterling silver tray is full and is now well displayed at the Bird Dog Hall of Fame in Grand Junction, Tennessee. A trip to the museum is a must for all bird dog followers, including the walk of memory bricks as you enter the building. Plan on a few hours there as it is an impressive display of all types of bird dog events.

The grounds at Flaherty were in excellent condition this spring. The grounds are still easily accessible for horseback and walking as a result of the road improvements made a few years back. Gravel-filled walkways and culverts over wet areas are all still functioning well. The beavers had tried to dam an area below the clubhouse by the lowest culvert; however, the state was dismantling the dam on both Thursday and Friday, so that walking was not as wet. The next project will be relocating the beavers. As noted earlier, the Flaherty area has ample parking for all types of vehicles, running water, fenced areas for several horses, as well as ample room for staking horses and dogs out. The clubhouse has bathroom facilities, heat for colder weekends, a full kitchen, and a modern bird room. There is also a gallery wagon which was in use during the futurity thanks to trucks provided by Chairman Bill Bonnetti and Smooth Carter. Drivers were Bill Bonetti, Tom Smith, and Darren Boyer. Maybe even someone I missed. The advantage of having a gallery wagon for at least part of the course encourages more

participation; everyone wants to watch a bird dog work, especially if you are the owner or breeder.

The 89th New England Futurity once again used a single course for 30-minute heats, breaking away down a slight hill on the northeast side of the grounds near the wooden rails approaching the horse corrals. We then moved forward toward the open area leading to the pond with plenty of choices for a dog to venture. After passing the traditional tree stop area, dogs are encouraged to search the wooded quail habitat to the left of the pond before reaching to the front and through the tree island. Following the tree island area, the course swings westerly where dogs can make three choices: Up the center road, or to the left through an open field toward Fox Hill, or right down a wooded edge where birds were often located. At the end of this area, we are about 15 minutes to the first large culvert crossing and up the long tobacco hill. After frequent bird contact at the top of Tobacco Hill, the course makes a long cast down a hill with full cover to the culvert where the beavers were trying to impede our fun. After crossing the culvert, the course winds through cover and trees and below the clubhouse, where folks can get to view at least a few minutes of bird dog excitement before the course finishes in the area below the starting hill and on toward the long "deerborn" area under the power lines. These final five minutes often make or break a dog, and a scout is often required. Did the derby have the desire and energy left in him to finish still hunting?!

Birds for the futurity were planted faithfully by Chairman Bill Bonnetti and assisted by Gene Casale and a few others. Once again, John Stolgitis stepped up and made the futurity a great success. When assigned judge Brian Sanchez was unable to judge due to an injury, John stepped up to fill in. He and Doug Ray were two of the best judges a club could have serving in the judging position. Thanks guys. When it came to the evening meal in honor of the 88th winner, Miller's Upgraded Patent (PM) owned by Dr. Bob Canada and Harold Ray, John prepared and served a complete prime rib feast. Last year's winning handler was Doug Ray, and he commented on the great job of appetizers and a meal by John Stolgitis. The Bonnettis had helped prepare and serve lunches daily for the New

England Open Championship and the Futurity. Announcements were made before dinner thanking owners and handlers, and a reminder that DNA would be required within the year for the win to be recognized. Judges were thanked, Purina recognized for their continued support, and a thank you to the committee and handlers for their assistance.

The Placements

Deena Jet Boyer (PF) from the Touch's Fire Away x World Class Dialing Out litter, owned by Darren and Steve Boyer, although handled by Mike Tracy. This winner was hands down the top of the class with owners present to watch. Her race was wide and powerful, always catching your eye with a glimpse of white gliding across the fields. At 5, by the pond, she stood patiently for handler Mike to produce and flush her first quail. By 16, we thought she might have left us; however, she was tucked beneath the trees for additional quail to be flushed once we reached the top of Tobacco Hill. As time ticked to a close, time was called as the handler once again put his hat in the air, signing her third find. She stood proudly as quail were flushed with all in perfect order. Both owners were present to observe this sterling performance.

Second was Hog Hill Fafo, who ran a medium-to-long-range race with good style. He had a consistent pattern from beginning to end, with one good find at 12.

Third place was awarded to Cool Hand Luke, running a medium race, showing good style on the ground as well as on point. He had a find in the island tree area, making his way forward to score a find at the top of Tobacco Hill. He finished his time without further birdwork.

Fourth went to Mohawk Mill Lady Justice, who ran a short-to-medium race, consistent from start to finish. Lady is from a litter bred by Ellen and Gary Winall from Imagine x Mohawk Mill Dolly, belonging to Ed McCay, who was present with his whole family to participate as Matt Basilone handled. She ran with good style and scored well, located and handled finds at 15 on Tobacco Hill and a second at 20 before reaching the powerlines.

The Running

The opening brace called for Bluebar

Maggie (PF/Mike Tracy) and Deerfield Pure Royal (PF/Matt Basilone). Bluebar Maggie from a litter by Miller's Heat Seeker x War Creek Daizie, with owners Primm/Hood. Deerfield Pure Royal from Confident Nation x Wiggins Pree Dawn Reward, with owners Lordi/Gillis. This pair responding quickly with a prompt cast taking them to the bottom of the short hill and out into the clearing. Both dogs made their way to the front and past the pond. Both dogs were seen nearing the island tree area and then briefly out of sight. Bluebar Maggie cast down the right edge of the field, making forward progress, with Deerfield Pure Royal checking the island area before attempting to catch the front. At the top of Tobacco Hill, Pure Royal suffered an infraction and was leashed, while Bluebar Maggie continued marching forward and was soon out of sight, requiring a locating device for return to the trailer.

Brace 2 featured Mike Tracy and Heat Seeker's Pearl (PF), bred with the same breeding as Bluebar Maggie, and bracemate Hog Hill Fafo (PM), bred, owned, and handled by Tim Cavanaugh from his litter Tattle Tailer x Ms. Antebellum. Once again, their breakaways were sufficient, taking them around and beyond the pond. In the tree island area at 11, Pearl had a stop to flush, although by 25, she was missing. (Hog Hill Fafo is covered above with placements.)

Brace 3 had Deena Jet Boyer (PF), owned by Darren and Steve Boyer, although handled by Mike Tracy. (This winner is covered above with placements.)

Bracemate for Denna Jet Boyer was Ride N Dirty (PM), also from the Miller's Heat Seeker x War Creek Daizie litter. He is owned by Marcus Ramseur, who was present to scout and assist as Matt Basilone handled. As bracemate was having her first find flushed scout for Ride N Dirty was coaxing him toward the quail habitat area. He continued forward and made it to the tree island, where he stopped at 12 with much activity after the flush.

Brace 4 had JL Sparkle Express (PF) from the Miller's Heat Seeker x Rock Hill Marie Laveau litter with George Tracy. Bracemate was Birdpatch General Lee (ESM) from the litter of Bozeann's Rex x Knitone Pearl Too, owned by Smoot Carter under the whistle of Matt Basilone. JL Sparkle ran a medium race

with a sprinkle of shorter casts. She had plenty of body motion, moving, and a great pointing style. She had perfect quail finds at 13 and again at 17. She left Tobacco Hill and crossed up the hillside beyond the culvert before making it to the end of Deerborn as time was called. Her owners are now Linder/McDonald/ Primm/Drew, with George Tracy in charge for the past three weeks. Birdpatch General Lee ran with short casts, stopping near the pond for a nonproductive. At 10, he was catching the front, and as he crossed the culvert and turned right, a bird flushed from the left wooded area for his bracemate, but glided right over his head. I guess bad luck is the term for this.

Brace 5 called upon Mike Tracy with Cour's Open Fire (PM) from Touch's Fire Away x Rawhide Primal, although owned by Mike Cour. His pattern was a little short, although his pointing style was good and solid. He had a find at 5 and a stop to flush at 14, albeit he did not complete his 30 minutes. Bracemate was Deerfield Warrior Prince (PM), also from the Confident Nation x Wiggins Pree Dawn Reward litter. He is owned by Lordi/Gillis under the training of Mike Tracy. He was very stylish when standing for his nonproductive at 8 and located more quail at 17 with much enthusiasm. His race a short to medium range.

Brace 6 called Millers Customized Upgrade (PM) from Miller's Upgraded Nation x Hackberry Hustler, belonging to Linder with George Tracy to the line as bracemate for Erins Simple Man (PM), Erin's Perfect Storm x Erin's Country Nell, owned and handled by Kevin Stuart. Both dogs were eagerly off the line, maybe even considering a little footrace until they reached the open territory where each chose an individual course. Customized Upgrade checked with the handler often, scoring a find at 5, although strangely disappearing before 30 minutes. Erins Simple Man cautiously toured the course, hitting the right spots until he finally found success at 15; however, he was startled by a big pheasant popping up instead of a quail. He did not handle the surprise appropriately.

Brace 7 had Cool Hand Luke (PM), Southpoint's Speedy G x Lone Tree Last Snow, owned by Robert Bergen with Mike Tracy, and bracemate was BK Real McCoy (PM), Bittersweet War Cry x Bittersweet Recovery, bred, owned, and handled by Brook Lanning. (Cool

Hand Luke covered above with the placements).

BK Real McCoy was seen only briefly for the first six minutes on the back side of the pond. With the scout checking frequent places and the handler moving forward, it was thought we would find him; however, as we approached the top of Tobacco Hill, the judge gave Brook her locating device.

Brace 8 called upon Thunder Road (PM), Rentz's Hijacked x Dominator's Heir Kate, belonging to Primm/Linder/McDonald with Mike Tracy. Bracemate was Mohawk Mill Lady Justice. (Mohawk Mill Lady Justice is covered with the placements above.)

Thunder Road has heavy, dark body spots, so he was easily seen as he proudly cast down the opening hillside and made a sharp turn to the right and was out of sight. A location device was requested at 12.

Brace 9 found both George and Mike Tracy as the handlers. George had Speck of Gold (PF), another from the Miller's Heat Seeker x War Creek Daize litter, belonging to Primm/Linder/McDonald. Mike had One Day Wayne (PM), One Day Lucky Strike x Panda Express, belonging to Frank Scarpinato from New York. Frank had been present to observe his derby and his shooting dog the day before; however, a call from home caused an early departure, and he did not get to see Wayne. Speck of Gold started on a promising cast; however, by 6, she was seen under a quail in the pond's quail habitat area. One Day Wayne had a nice find at 7 near the pond and then hunted closely to the top of Tobacco Hill. He did not finish his time.

The final brace was a bye-dog from the Cour family with Mike Tracy. Cour's Angel Fire (PF), Touch's Fire Away x Rawhide's Primal Shockwave. Without bracemate or competition, Angel Fire cast wildly off the start line as if to find every quail left out on course. After reaching the bottom of the opening area, Angel was not seen. A scout was sent, and the handler rode to the other side of the course, where he caught a glimpse of her well out off the course toward Deerborn. A location device was taken, and the trial was over.

East Windsor, Conn., April 25
Judges: Doug Ray and Brian Sanchez
89TH NEW ENGLAND SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY
– 18 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-DEENA JET BOYER, F1718103, pointer female, by Touch's Fire Away-World Class Dialing Out. Steve & Darren Boyer, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

2d-HOG HILL FAFO, F1711945, pointer male, by Tattle Tailer-Ms. Antebellum. Tim Cavanaugh, owner and handler.

3d-COOL HANK LUKE, F1714223, pointer male, by Southpoint's Speedy G-Lone Tree Last Snow. Robert Bergen, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

4th-MOHAWK MILL LADY JUSTICE, F1706908, pointer female, by Imagine-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Ed McCay, owner; Matt Basilone, handler.

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BRAEVAL COVER DOG CLASSIC

Lightning Flash Frank Wins 2025 Running

By Gregor McCluskey | Ellenburg, Wyoming | April 28, 2025



Braeval Cover Dog Classic: Lightning Flash Frank with Kelly Hays (owner/handler), Greenhaven's Sophia Belle with Brad Green (owner/handler), and Henry's Susieq Dot with David Theroux (owner/handler), joined by participants.

With the hopes of developing renewed interest and bringing new people to field trials, Gregor McCluskey's tireless work attracting numerous sponsors for the Braeval Cover Dog Classic led to a fantastic renewal of this trial. The 2024 edition of the trial was hosted by Bruce Bennett, a longtime friend of McCluskey's, on his meticulously maintained "On The Wing Grouse Camp." The trial produced a deserving winner, Remington (setter male) owned and handled by Brian Dix, with Rory, a strong running Irish red setter male, earning second for owner and handler Gregor McCluskey. A strong start to the trial season for both dogs, who would exchange places in the fall as the 2024 U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association's National Amateur

champion and runner-up champion. Word spread quickly of the quality of the grounds and the volume of birds. The American Red Setter Club hosted another open trial in the late fall of 2024, attracting pros from New York, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire as well as amateurs from across the Northeast. At the close of 2024, Bill McFadden (a long-time field trialer) acquired the Bennett property with the aim of cementing it as a competitive cover dog field trial venue. The Grand National Invitational was brought to the grounds in the spring of 2025, where the finest cover dogs of the preceding season competed under tough conditions and demonstrated their class and merit.

Bennett's vision for his property and connections with Gregor McCluskey

planted the seed that has grown the venue as a feature in the cover dog world for amateurs and professionals alike. On the heels of the Grand National Invitational Grouse Championship, the 2025 Braeval Amateur Cover Dog Classic welcomed a strong entry with dogs and amateur handlers from across the Northeast. Handlers and dogs traveled from Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York to put their dogs to the test amidst the tough conditions. By the trial's conclusion, three dogs from New Hampshire earned placements. Since the inaugural trial, refinements to courses have been made, with new courses laid out with the help of many volunteers and dedicated enthusiasts. As trials continue to be a fixture on these grounds, refinement will certainly continue.

Judges Kris Nordby, from Connecticut, and Pat Cooke, from New York, traveled to the grounds to judge for their second round of judging responsibilities for the Braeval Cover Dog Classic. Logging nearly 25 miles of walking over the course of the two days, they proved up to the stern task of evaluating a competitive group of dogs under challenging conditions with gentle soaking rain on Day One and 2-3 inches of wet snow on Day Two. Birds proved elusive, with scenting conditions challenging. While the number of birds worked by the dogs was limited, wild flushes and gallery flushes proved the birds were there each day. Judges and handlers were also treated to a handlers' dinner sponsored by Inukshuk on Saturday, April 26,



Breakaway, Inukshuk Course: Lightning Flash Frank with Kelly Hays.

where the 2024 winner was recognized and received their trophy. The evening featured generous raffles from the event sponsors: Stone Creek Gear, Upland Almanac, Inukshuk, Warner Sporting Dog, Bertucci Watches, Muller Chokes, Jonas Brothers/Pepi Family Studio, Connecticut Shotgun, MPE LLC, and trialers stepping up donating trips/items for a fabulous fun evening: Kacey Neville Canadien wild bird hunt.; Bob Arkley: NEK Guide Service, Tim Cavanaugh: Bird Dog Training, Cal Robinson: Striper fishing for two; Connor McCluskey Guided Hunt; Dix & Stephens Sugar House; Pro Trainer Robert Ecker; and Upland Bell.

The Winners

In theory and in concept, the object of wild bird field trials is simple. Find and point with the expected manners of a shooting dog while exhibiting the right combination of range, application, and partnership with the handler. Accomplishing the task in reality is a reflection of the owners' and handlers' commitment to training, patience, exposure, and relentless dedication to their dogs in combination with the cooperation of grouse and woodcock, the weather, and last but certainly not least, luck. Without doubt, the three dogs placed by the judges demonstrate the commitment of their owners to the sport of field trialing and to their dogs. Kelly Hays's setter male Frank's performance on the Inukshuk course proved to have the right combination of range, application, and partnership, with the luck of producing a bird in the final minute of the brace. Hays strode confidently to her dog, putting him under command as she moved in front of him, bolstering his confidence and flushing a woodcock promptly while Frank displayed exemplary manners, leading to the Classic win. Brad Green's 10-year-old female pointer Belle ran a nicely balanced race on the Bertucci Field Watch Course, showing her desire

and connection with little handle needed as she ranged comfortably to bell range, working ardently through the appropriate cover. Again, in the final minutes of her brace, luck was on her side as she came upwind of a woodcock, stopping to a flush and standing to her handler's command through shot and release, demonstrative of the time and effort put into training, earning Green and Belle a second-place shooting dog placement. Running on the Stone Creek Course on Day 2, David Theroux's Dot, a sprightly and cautious setter that points with a beautifully high head and tail, was rewarded for her meticulous work of tight cover early in her brace, pointing a woodcock with beautiful style and manners at minute 3 of the second day. One of only three pointed woodcock in the challenging conditions of the second day, the second being pointed by Gregor McCluskey's Irish red setter, Rory, found after time, and the third just after time by Bob Arkley's setter, Dude. Congratulations to the deserving handlers and their fine dogs.

The Running, Day One

Brace 1: Callie (ESF/Dellinger) and Skye (ISM/C. McCluskey). The second annual Braeval Wild Bird Classic began promptly at 7:35 on the Stone Creek Course, with dogs on the line, a generous sponsor's gift from Stone Creek was raffled off, and the dogs were released. The course started in tight hardwood young growth with heavy stem density. Winding through the cover, the large gallery followed the handlers and judges. Both dogs began with strong moves to the front. The course exited through an overgrown pasture before heading into a mature hardwood edge with a few conifers mixed in. With their bells sitting on the edge of range, where they would for the majority of the brace, each dog exhibited a strong forward race working around the first 20 minutes of the course. At 20, the handlers got separated, with Connor McCluskey navigating Skye forward while Lanny Dellinger sent scout Eric Rizza into heavy cover to attempt to produce Callie. Callie had slipped out of the pocket, and at 24, Dellinger requested the tracker, locating the dog 500 yards to the front. Three birds were walked up in pursuit of the strong-running setter. Skye continued her race, coming to the final stretch of the course with limited bell contact. McCluskey requested the tracker at 41, producing the dog 155 yards to the front



Breakaway, Bertucci Field Watches Course (l-r): Tucker with Brian Dix (owner/handler) and Belle with Brad Green (owner/handler).

on point. The dog was located standing a woodcock, a stroke of bad luck.

Brace 2: Lucy's Pride (ESF/Jay) and Frank (ESM/Hays). As rain continued to fall, the second brace on the Inukshuk Course got underway at 8:51 a.m. This course also began in a pocket of high stem density young hardwood growth existing between two fields, to a more mature mixed cover of hardwoods and softwoods adorned with rock walls and pockets of young growth throughout. Frank made a nice quick strike to the front and stayed to the front, applying himself nicely to the cover throughout the brace while remaining in bell range. Lucy, similarly, ran with nice application, working likely cover thoroughly. At 18 point was called, and Lucy was found standing 25 yards off the trail, providing the gallery a nice vantage point for the action. Handler Tom Jay made an extended flushing attempt, increasing the radius of his circle to attempt to produce a bird. At 20, Jay decided to move his dog on. She continued her race, seemingly hampered by something, and at 30 was inspected by her handler before sending her on. Hays and Frank continued to work methodically around the course, and as time neared, Hays called point with Frank found 45 yards in the cover. Hays worked into flush, producing a woodcock, shooting, and collaring her dog as time expired. For the second year in a row, the winning dog was to come from the Inukshuk course.

Brace 3: Ledge Hill Chippewa (ESM/Levesque) and Rocky (ESM/Dix). Chippewa (Chip) and Rocky, two stylish and classy running male setters, were cut loose powerfully on the Upland Almanac Course just before 10 a.m. Both dogs pushed to outpace the other before diving into the cover. As the gallery turned into the course, a wild flushed grouse came flying over their heads. The Upland Almanac Course enters into a mix of young hardwood growth and alders, immediately

bordered by a mature edge on the handlers' and gallery's left. Approaching the 10-minute mark of the brace, the course crosses an alder thicket before returning to more neatly maintained walking paths. The dogs pushed to the front with their handlers working to navigate them through the tight cover and across a small section of alder swamp leading back to the more manicured path. At 15, Levesque called point, producing his dog 35 yards to the left of the path, staunchly and stylishly on point. With the dog still standing through a three-minute flushing attempt, Levesque noted a significant amount of splash and worked back to his dog, opting to allow the dog an attempt to relocate. Chip moved forward cautiously with respect for the situation. No bird was produced, and the dog was moved on. The course wound through mixed cover. At 24, Doug Dix requested his tracker, concluding Rocky's work for the day. The dog was found 400 yards to the front, having been mildly quilled by a porcupine. Chip produced two more unproductives, tantalizing the gallery with his style and the anticipation of a find. His race was strong and consistent. Levesque opted to pick him up after his final unproductive at 35.

Brace 4: Tucker (ESM/Dix) and Belle (PF/Green). The Bertucci Field Watch Course enters a young cut immediately on the breakaway and winds its way through the cut until crossing the road to find an old orchard and more mature mixed cover with several significant conifer stands mixed in. Tucker, a nicely mannered and snappy male setter, started off powerfully with Belle, a 10-year-old pointer female, showing no trouble keeping up with her younger brace mate. Each dog worked independently during the opening stretch of the course as a grouse drummed in the distance. At 11, Tucker was found on point prior to the road crossing. After a flushing attempt, Brian Dix elected to relocate the dog, and no bird was produced. As the course crossed the road into an old orchard, both dogs showed themselves nicely to the gallery working likely objectives before casting off to the front. Tucker came to a stop again at 22 on a rock wall and under conifer trees, a flushing attempt was made, and no bird was produced. Tucker was moved on, making a hard move to the front. At 25, Tucker was found, again on point, a flushing attempt was made, and Brian Dix

elected to pick the dog up at 27. Leaving Belle solo for the final 18 minutes of the brace, at 34, Belle's bell came to a stop, and before she was under command, she moved on, making a large cast down into thick cover, and Brad Green worked hard to bring her back around. At 39, Belle came into a woodcock, stopping to flush and remaining standing as her handler fired and worked to the dog. The dog was collared and brought back to the course, continuing with strong application within bell range for the remainder of the brace.

Brace 5: Wild Apple Siri (PF/Rizza) and Little Tommy Tucker (ESM/Short). The fifth brace broke away shortly before noon during a welcome break in the rain. The GALAZAN/Muller Field Choke Course starts down a long camp road before working into the cover, providing the dogs a nice chance to show their legs and make a strong opening cast. Siri, an 8-year-old pointer female under the whistle of handler and owner Eric Rizza, began with several nice, wide-ranging casts working to the cover's edge and staying there before handling back around. Off the line, Tucker worked a bit of a tighter pattern before opening up his race and dragging his handler, Kellie Short, far off the course. At 15, the handlers separated with Rizza and Siri working uphill on the course while Short and Tucker remained on the low side of the course. Siri made a big move to the edge before coming back around to work the opposite edge of a young cut. Each dog showed a desire to move deep into the cover. At 21, Siri's bell came to a hard stop. Her handler put her under command, yelling "whoa," and requesting to work with his scout. Judge, handler, and scout ventured into the thick 15-year growth in search of the standing dog. At 25, with the dog standing resolutely and never quivering, the search continued. At 27, 75 yards in, the dog was found standing with high tail and head. A significant flushing attempt was made through 30, at which point the handler elected to relocate the dog, noting a significant pile of grouse droppings during the flushing attempt. Siri worked nicely back through the cover but was unable to produce. At 32, the handler elected to move her on. As Siri was released, Short's dog, Tucker, came through the front and went on hunting off to the right of the gallery. Siri continued with nice application and range until time was called. At time, Tucker needed to be located with the

help of Kris Nordby and the reporter.

Brace 6: Neo (ESM/Theroux) and Murphy (ESM/Murphy). Brace 6 began the afternoon braces, starting on the MPE/Warner Sporting Dog Course. Breaking away at 2:15, the dogs were turned loose down a lengthy camp road with alders transitioning to more mature growth to the course's left, and alders transitioned to a field edge and a young cut on the course's right. Neo, a strong running male setter, opened up with a big cast to the right while Sumple's graceful female setter, Murphy, settled in more conservatively and worked both sides of the cover, applying herself nicely to the front and through likely objectives. The handlers were quickly separated as they would remain for the majority of the brace with Theroux, utilizing scout Jimmy Levesque to search for Neo on several occasions. The course exits the camp road and turns left into a conifer thicket. Murphy's bell fell silent under a series of conifers, and a flushing attempt was made at 15. The reporter noted a grouse flush well away from the dog after the relocation attempt was made. Neo came charging to the front with Theroux and the gallery coming up behind. The two dogs entered a very wet alder swamp and exited into more mature softwood cover. Neo continued to open up while Murphy continued to run a nice race, showing herself stylishly whenever she crossed the judges' and gallery's view. Neo emerged again at 26, showing a powerful and stylish gait and moving hard to the front. As the course moved through a mix of young hardwoods and more mature softwoods at 32, Theroux sent his scout to the left as the course entered a nice patch of young cover. Murphy continued to exhibit a nice pattern on the ground as time neared, both dogs ended up in a nice-looking patch of young growth with a divided find, with Theroux's scout calling point, a flushing attempt began shortly before time and continued through 46:20. No bird was produced, and after a relocation attempt, the dogs were called to heel and collared, concluding the brace.

Brace 7: Ivy (PF/Marquis) and Sea Ducks Cool Breeze (ESF/Nee). The final brace of the first day ended on the Jonas Brothers/Pepi Family Taxidermy Course. Another large gallery assembled despite the persistent rain to watch Ivy, a well-built white and liver female pointer under the whistle of Jameson Marquis, and Breeze, a diminutive setter female

under the whistle of Mitch Nee. The two dogs of contrasting style broke away at 3:20 p.m., with Ivy showing her reach early while Breeze settled in, applying herself to the cover and checking in often. The final course moved between mature softwood stands and young cuts, almost in a checkerboard pattern and nicely flowing, allowing the dogs the opportunity to work a variety of cover while also pushing to edges and maintaining their range on those edges. Breeze elected a more conservative path, choosing to work in and out of the cover in contrast to Ivy's efforts to work through the cover to reach the edges. At 15, Breeze came to a point and worked gently to relocate before wavering a bit with her tail lightly flagging, self-relocating before her handler moved her on. Ivy worked into a dense young cut on the courses right and established nicely with no production. The dog was released and bumped a woodcock and did not fully stop to flush, ending her race at 22. Breeze continued on with two unproductives and a stop to flush on the edge of the trail in thick conifers at 32. She continued in similar fashion, working nicely with her handler but not pushing into the cover.

The Running, Day Two

Brace 8: The opening brace of the second day returned to the Stone Creek Course. Promptly starting shortly after 8 a.m. Cal Robinson and Dave Theroux released their dogs into the thick cover. Theroux's Dot, working methodically and meticulously through the thick cover, was countered by Robinson's Elwood, who worked with wider and more reaching casts to start. Dot's application was rewarded as her bell stopped at 3. Theroux sent Brian Dix in as a scout to help locate the dog, which was found standing 50 yards from the gallery. Dot's manners and style were strong, and Theroux was able to produce a woodcock. Dot was collared and brought back to the course, releasing forward with strong application. As the course exited the thick opening cover, two grouse flushed over the gallery from the stonewall. At 13, both bells stopped with Elwood and Dot standing 50 yards off the course. Both handlers made efforts to produce a bird, but no bird was produced. Handlers elected to move their dogs on, and their race continued. At 22, Dot established again, and Elwood failed to back before establishing in front of her. Robinson elected to pick



Stone Creek Course, Brace 8: Dot being released by Dave Theroux (owner/handler).

her up, leaving Dot on the ground solo. At 32, Dot stopped again and was moved on as a porcupine was in the vicinity. Dot continued and completed the 45 minutes.

Brace 9: Basil (PF/Rizza) and Jax (PM/Fried). With snow picking up in intensity, two contrasting pointers were released onto the Inukshuk course shortly after 9 a.m. Rizza's hard-charging and big-running young female Basil began making big, wide casts, applying herself while working to the edge of the cover and checking in. Fried's Jax moved nicely off the line, working a tighter and more compact race. As the course progressed, Basil's bell hung faintly on the edge between 9 and 25. At 19, Jax came to a stop on a rock wall, no bird was produced, and the handlers separated, with Rizza working hard to drive Basil back around. As Basil worked back into the pocket, Jax's bell stopped again at 25. A flushing attempt was made, shot fired, and a breach of manners ended Jax's day on a grouse find. Basil continued and was found standing on the edge of a rock wall at 30 after an extended flushing attempt; no bird was produced, and Rizza opted to continue her on. Her bell came to a stop again at 37 in likely cover, once again, after a strong effort to flush; no bird was produced, and Rizza elected to pick her up.

Brace 10: Maggie (ESF/Delinger) and Rory (ISM/McCluskey) broke away at 10:20 a.m. as snow continued to fall on the Upland Almanac Course. Delinger's young female opened up with exuberance, undeterred by the tough conditions, and dove into the cover. McCluskey's powerfully gaited male showed a strong start as well. Both dogs were quickly on the edge of bell range, challenging their handlers and forcing them to sing them back in. The brace was dominated by big, powerful casts with both dogs working a ranging pattern and showing themselves as their handlers sang them around. As

the course veered through the mud, Delinger's young female was impressive on the ground and not at all hindered by the mud. She showed great heart and desire. Rory, last year's U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association's National Amateur champion, demonstrated why he is such a class shooting dog with his range and power. Unfortunately, no birds were produced for these two powerful dogs. Rory was pushed back to the front toward the close of the brace. At 41, McCluskey, his scout, and the judge began working toward a stopped bell. After circling the dog and finally locating him after time, a woodcock was produced.

Brace 11: Remington (ESM/Dix) and Sweet Baby Ray (ESF/Arkley). Brace 11 broke away shortly after 11:20 a.m. Remington, the runner-up at last year's U. S. Complete Shooting Dog National Amateur Championship, broke away hard and was soon out of bell range. Ray, working closer through the tight cover at the start of the Bertucci Field Watch Course, methodically worked the cover nicely, seeking likely objectives. Coming to the road crossing at 13, Dix requested the tracker, ending Remington's brace. Arkley continued with Ray working likely cover throughout the Bertucci Field Watch Course. Ray's bell came to a stop at 17 with no bird produced; Arkley moved the dog on. As time neared, Ray worked into a woodcock and failed to stop to flush at 44. Arkley called his dog in and picked her up, concluding her brace.

Brace 12: Blue Ribbon River (PF/Festa) and Trace (PM/Dipperio). The return to the MPE/Warner Sporting Dog Course brought two strong running pointers to the line. Dipperio's young male, Trace, broke away, hard digging into the cover as Festa's powerful female, River, made a big move to outpace the young male. The handlers again separated early, with Festa moving to the front with River as Dipperio sent his scout, Kacey Neville, into the cover to listen for Trace's bell. Entering the conifer, Festa continued to keep River on the edge of range, traveling with while Dipperio's young male emerged to the front, followed by his handler, scout, and a small gallery. At 17, Trace's bell stopped in a well-covered conifer thicket, establishing firmly that Trace looked stylish and confident on point, but no bird was produced. Trace exhibited good manners and was moved on by his handler. Both pointers continued their wide-ranging

efforts seeking the birds that proved to be elusive due to the conditions. At 33, both bells stopped, with both dogs standing in thick conifer. The judges, already soaked, headed in with the handlers in an attempt to produce a bird. No bird was produced, and the dogs were moved on. Both exhibited strength and power, pushing ahead to finish out the brace. At time, both dogs were collared and returned to their trucks.

Brace 13: Finley (ESM/Hathaway) and Dude (ESM/Arkley). The Jonas Brothers/ Pepi Family Taxidermy Course Broke away shortly after 1:20 p.m. on the second day. Finley, a strongly built male setter, moved out to the front as Dude began to dig in the cover, demonstrating a desire to work to the edge and apply himself nicely to cover, a tendency he would demonstrate throughout the brace. Finley opened up, making some

larger casts through more mature growth. A grouse was flushed around the 25-minute mark while both dogs came off the more mature edge and into a younger stand. Dude continued to seek while Finley stayed more in the gallery's view. Time was called at 45, and as Dude worked in, he went on point, and a woodcock was produced. Unfortunately, the dog established after time.

The combination of the strength of the entry and the generosity of the sponsors, who have gone above and beyond in their support for this trial, demonstrates the value and importance of committed sponsors in making memorable events. The McFadden Trust grounds, Stone Creek Outfitters, MPE LLC, The Upland Almanac, Inukshuk Professional Dog Food, The Pepi Family, Bertucci Watches, Muller Chokes, The Stephens/Dix Family Sugarhouse and Braeval have all contributed generously

to the handlers and the community to cement this event as a fixture for amateur field trailers. Thank you for the support and the commitment to field trialing. It is with special thanks to the sponsors, judges Pat Cooke and Kris Nordby, and the McCluskey family for their commitment to this trial. The sentiment of the community was that this trial is one of the most enjoyable of the year. Congratulations to the deserving winners.

Ellensburg, Wyo., April 28

Judges: Kris Nordby and Pat Cooke

BRAEVAL COVER DOG CLASSIC – 28 Entries

1st-LIGHTNING FLASH FRANK, F1686626, setter male, by Lightning Flash Butch-Grouse Ridge Berry. Brian & Kelly Hays, owners; Kelly Hays, handler.
2d-GREENHAVEN'S SOPHIA BELLE, F1657014, pointer female, by Elhew Prophet-Nitro Elhew Isabella. Bradley Green, owner and handler.
3d-HENRY'S SUSIEQ DOT, F1680901, setter female, by Henry of Ferguson-Blossom's Pale Face Susieq. David Theroux, owner and handler.

GREENSBURG POINTER & SETTER CLUB

Annual Spring Trial

By Mike Husenits | Burgettstown, Pennsylvania | May 2, 2025



Open Shooting Dog (l-r): Mac's Slim Jim with Tim McClurg, Miller's Special Upgrade with Mark Hughes, and Iron Will's Raging Bull with Matt Basilone. (Standing, l-r): Brian Riggie (judge) and Tyler Bowser (judge).

The Greensburg Pointer and Setter Club held its annual spring trial on May 2-4 over vast acreage known as Hidden Meadows Game Preserve near Burgettstown, Pennsylvania. The Greensburg club members and all participants were welcomed with open arms by owners Art and Kim McDermitt. The grounds consist of over 500 acres of typical scenic rolling hill country, mostly open

grassland with native autumn olive patches starting to infest several areas. The land was previously surface mined and reclaimed, now manicured and maintained by the McDermitts as a game and hunting preserve.

Credit for this event's success goes to Justin Mason and Nick Lasica for organizing and implementing their plan, which resulted in another successful

Greensburg trial. These gentlemen handled the pre-trial arrangements, the advertising, drawing, judges' books, event planning, and ensured the large entry was managed and proceeded in an orderly fashion. Justin donated the use of his side-by-side vehicle for bird planting and a dog wagon.

Lunches, liquid refreshments, and snacks were provided daily, compliments of the club, and enjoyed under Nick Lasica's pop-up canopy.

Weather conditions were mostly deplorable for the entire three days, with constant light rain and occasional downpours, causing extremely wet and muddy grounds, with streams of water appearing where none existed under normal conditions.

Judging duties were handled by a staff of well-known, experienced arbiters. Brian Riggie of Claysville, Pennsylvania, teamed with Tim McClurg of Fowler, Ohio, for the Open Horseback Derby. Brian partnered with Tyler Bowser of Pennsylvania for the Open Horseback Shooting Dog. Paul Tipping of Washington, Pennsylvania, and professional Matt Basilone of Pittstown, New Jersey, teamed for the



Open Walking Shooting Dog (l-r): Backwoods Wild Fire Blaze with Justin Mason, Double Deuce Zeke with Mark Hughes, and Double Deuce Miles with Doug McMillen Jr. (Standing, l-r): Dave Park and Nick Lasica.



Open Walking Derby (l-r): Backcountry Fearless with Chris Catanzarite and Reese Carroll, Hitail Roxy Afield with Russ Fazio, and Christys Kaylee Girl with Christy Helmes. (Standing, l-r): Dave Park, Nick Lasica, and Paul Tipping (judge).



Amateur Derby (l-r): Hypointe Monarch Express with Nick Mellon, Wildland Heart Breaker with Krysta Munden, and Hitail Roxy Afield with Russ Fazio. (Standing, l-r): Ron Guidas and Chris Catanzarite.

Open Walking stakes. Nick Lasica of Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, and Dave Park of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, placed the Amateur stakes and Gun Dog. Their decisions were all met with a round of applause.

Purina and Greg Blair are to be commended for sponsoring the event and providing dog food coupons for the winners in every stake. Purina has been on board for the past 50 years, sponsoring bird dog field trials in one way or another, generously providing quality products and financial aid in many cases.

All in attendance expressed gratitude to landowners Art and Kim McDermitt.

The Open Horseback Derby winner was Birdpatch General Lee, an orange-marked setter owned by W. Smoot Carter Jr. of Winchester, Virginia, and handled by Matt Basilone to a far-reaching ground race and a pair of maturely handled finds with immaculate style of both.

Second went to Backcountry Fearless, an orange-marked pointer female owned and handled by Chris Catanzarite, to a forward, hard-driving ground race coupled with a pair of excellent finds.

Mojo's Winston Joy, an English setter male owned by Nick Moelders and handled by Mark Hughes, placed third with a hard hunting medium ranging forward race and five well-earned finds, all handled with style and advanced manners.

The Open Horseback Shooting Dog proved to be a quality stake won by Mac's Slim Jim, an orange-marked pointer male owned and handled by Tim McClurg of Fowler, Ohio. Jim appeared in the first brace, hunting far to the front while maintaining contact with his handler. Jimmy scored on quail three times and handled each with sky-kissing style with manners above reproach.

Second-placed Miller's Special Upgrade, a pointer female owned by Carlos Escalante of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and handled by Mark Hughes, proved a strong contender with a far-reaching front-running ground race, found on point twice well ahead after a short absence. Her first find near the far turn, followed by a second find along the autumn olive edge, sent her ahead to finish strong.

Iron Will's Raging Bull, a liver-marked pointer male owned by Robert and Lisa Brooks of Hammonton, New Jersey, and handled by Matt Basilone, took third with a well-directed race, not quite as wide as the other winners. He scored twice on birds with high pointing style and perfect manners. finishing going away. Others considered for placement included Luke, Lady, Zeke, and Dee.

The Open Walking Puppy stake was loaded with youngsters that most likely will be seen in more winning circles in the future. The winners all demonstrated the running appeal and drive necessary to compete. A slight difference in overall range and application was the only separating factor.

In the Open Walking Derby, Backcountry Fearless topped her earlier performance in the Horseback Derby to capture the blue ribbon for young handler Reese Carroll, who earned his first ever placement beyond puppy stakes by directing Les to a strong front-running ground race with three well-handled finds plus a back. A great achievement for Reese.

Second was Hitail Roxy Afield, a stylish setter female owned and handled by Russ Fazio. Roxy is no stranger to winning and posed a strong challenge here with a fast forward ground race, three finds and a back, showing plenty of drive from start to finish.

Christys Kaylee Girl, a Brittany female owned and handled by Christy Helmes,

placed third on the merits of a medium-range effort and a single find handled with derby manners.

A strong challenge came from Winston, a setter male with a hard hunting effort and five well-handled finds.

First in the Open Walking Shooting Dog was Backwoods Wild Fire Blaze, a black marked pointer male owned and handled by Justin Mason, to a classy forward reaching ground race coupled with five perfectly handled finds. Blaze demonstrated polished composure and exemplary manners on every find, plus a strong finish.

Second was Double Deuce Zeke, multiple time champion owned by Doug McMillen Jr. and handled by Mark Hughes, to a wide-ranging ground effort with Zeke found pointing well off the beaten trail on at least two occasions and adding four other well-handled finds that presented the judges with an exemplary performance.

Third was Double Deuce Miles, a pointer male owned and handled by Doug McMillen, who made his appearance in the first brace. Miles hunted at medium range and hit the likely-looking cover with reckless abandon and was rewarded with four finds, standing statuesque and mannerly for the flush and shot on each. Not just a three-dog stake, others that could have easily been in the money on another day were Dusty, Spec, Jack, and Warrior Zeke.

The Amateur Walking Derby winner was Hypointe Monarch Express on the merits of a far-flung ground race, plenty of eye-appeal, and advanced manners on birds for owner Nick Mellon and handler Russ Fazio.

Second was Wildland Heart Breaker, a pointer female owned by Eric and Krysta Munden and handled by Krysta

to a medium range front running ground race and birdwork, where Cece demonstrated rock solid intensity and promising manners.

Hitail Roxy Afield followed up on her earlier placement by taking third for owner/handler Russ Fazio. Her effort was rewarded with solid work on birds, but just slightly less range than the other winners.

Double Deuce Sage won first in the Amateur Walking Shooting Dog with a solid far-reaching ground race coupled with proficient bird work, with Sage demonstrating exquisite style and polished manners.

Wildland Warrior added another ribbon to her large collection by nailing down second with a mature forward ground race and multiple finds with Lola showing exemplary manners.

Backcountry Buddy rounded out the placements for owner Chris Catanzarite and handler Tyler Bowser with a ground effort not quite as wide or aggressive as the other winners but solid bird work for a well-earned placement.

The Open Gun Dog stake is offered to recognize superior bird dogs doing what they do best in bird field gunning situations, although blank guns only apply. Handler Ron Guidas took first with Granger, with Caliber Peak Hundred Proof and Doug McMillen a close second, and Christy Helmes rounding out the placements with Franz Von Weib. All three are very worthy of their placements.

Burgettstown, Pa., May 2

Judges: Tim McClurg and Brian Riggie

OPEN DERBY – 7 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-BIRDPATCH GENERAL LEE, F1705914, setter male, by Bozeann's Rex-Knitone Pearl Too. W. Snoot Carter Jr., owner; Matt Basilone, handler.

2d-BACKCOUNTRY FEARLESS, F1705245, pointer female, by Springflow's Backcountry P-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.

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

Judges: Tyler Bowser and Brian Riggie

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 16 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-MAC'S SLIM JIM, F1700897, pointer male, by Mac's Silver Chief-Mac's Silver Shadow. Tim McClurg, owner and handler.

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

3d-IRON WILL'S RAGING BULL, F1697738, pointer male, by Hyhope Chipper-Iron Will Suzie. Robert & Lisa Brooks, owners; Matt Basilone, handler.

Judges: Matt Basilone and Paul Tipping

OPEN PUPPY – 10 Pointers

1st-CASH, unreg., pointer male, by Double Deuce Zeke-Bragabull. Nick Lasica, owner and handler.

2d-HITAIL ROLLING DIXIE, F1714644, pointer female, by Hifives Rolling Stone-Speed Dialing Kaia. Russell Fazio, owner and handler.

3d-EVAN'S FULL THROTTLE, unreg., pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Bragabull. Evan Smith, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

OPEN DERBY- 5 Pointers, 3 Setters and 1 Brittany

1st-BACKCOUNTRY FEARLESS, F1705245, pointer female, by Springflow's Backcountry P-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Chris Catanzarite, owner; Reese Carroll, handler.

2d-HITAIL ROXIE AFIELD, F1705101, setter female, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. Russell Fazio, owner and handler.

3d-CHRISTYS KAYLEE GIRL, R331-522, Brittany female, by Bailey's Ramblin Rusty-Bailey's Lil Cody Wink. Christy Helmes, owner and handler.

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 10 Pointers, 1 Setter, and 1 Brittany

1st-BACKWOODS WILD FIRE BLAZE, F1691395, pointer male, by Erin's Wild Justice-Hollywood Hot'n'tot. Justin Mason, owner and handler.

2d-DOUBLE DEUCE ZEKE, F1673940, pointer male, by Double Deuce Peter-Funseeker's Holiday. Douglas E. McMillen Jr., owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

3d-DOUBLE DEUCE MILES, F1691405, pointer male, by Double Deuce Zeke-Bucket List Bella. Douglas E. McMillen Jr., owner and handler.

Judges: Nick Lasica and Dave Park

AMATEUR DERBY – 6 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-HYPOINTE MONARCH EXPRESS, F1704239, pointer female, by Springflow's Backcountry P-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Nicholas Mellon Jr., owner; Russ Fazio, handler.

2d-WILDLAND HEART BREAKER, F1705669, pointer female, by Miller's Heat Seeker-Wildland Warrior. Eric & Krysta Munden, owners; Krysta Munden, handler.

3d-HITAIL ROXY AFIELD, F1705101, setter female, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. Russell M. Fazio, owner and handler.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 10 Pointers and 3 Irish Setters

1st-DOUBLE DEUCE SAGE, F1673986, pointer female, by Double Deuce Peter-Funseeker's Holiday. Douglas McMillen Jr., owner and handler.

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

3d-BACKCOUNTRY BUDDY, F1682654, pointer male, by Waybetter Rocky-Backcountry Polly. Chris Catanzarite, owner; Tyler Bower, handler.

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 8 Entries

1st-GUIDE US IS GRANGER, F1696855, pointer male, by Double Deuce Zeke-Warmarks Fredseeking Ella. Ronald A. Guidas, owner and handler.

2d-CALIBER PEAK HUNDRED PROOF, F1696649, pointer male, by Caliber Peak Hundredth Meridian-Double Deuce Molly. Sarah D. Gomes, owner; Doug McMillen, handler.

3d-FRANZ VOM WEIB HOF, F1700988, German Drahthaar male, by Wulf v Dornenberg-Mist V Dornenberg. Premanand Jaikaran, owner; Christy Helmes, handler.

NORTHWEST FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Spring Trial

By Katherine Gove | Hankinson, North Dakota | May 3, 2025

The Northwest Field Association has run a spring trial since its inception in 1954, and I am happy to report that we kept up the tradition by successfully running one more. Although not a huge entry, there were enough participants with very competitive dogs to make it a fun, relaxed weekend. It is always great to see some of the old guard, but even better to see some new young faces in the mix. We missed our fearless leader and trial chairman, Ian MacTavish. Ian

has been the backbone of the club, and we are so grateful for all his hard work and hope he can continue making progress in his recovery.

The weather ranged from blustery and cold to sunny and warm, which challenged some of the afternoon dogs trying to run the prairies in the heat. The birds were excellent this year, which is always a plus. The bourbon was flowing rather freely for the traditional viewing of the Kentucky Derby.

Frank LaNasa masterfully handled his young male, Warbird, to win the Open All-Age. "Joe" had two finds and a ground covering forward race, found pointed after time to the front. Second place, Stone Church Nation, owned by Dean Renneke, was handled by Scott Jordan. "Rooster" had an impressive limb find with a more impressive relocation, finishing strong to the front. Third place went to Due Respect, handled by Jim Tande. The Setter tallied two well-handled finds, an unproductive

and a strong race.

In the Open Derby, Scott Jordan returned to the winner's circle, placing two puppies in first and third place. His young male, "Joe," took first with a big forward enthusiast race. Scott's other dog, "Trip," took third, pointing two quail, assisting with the flush, and enjoyed a good race with less maturity than Joe. Jim Tande took second with Total Confidence, who floated around the edges of the prairie, scoring a divided find.

The Open Walking Shooting Dog was won by Big Big Energy, handled by Jordan Pharris, with a forward-pleasing race and more than respectable bird work. Second place honors went to Blind Faith, handled by Ben Fleischacker, rewarded for her easy handling, good race, and flawless birdwork.

Nik Zewers handled Southern Breeze to first place in the Open Walking Derby with a powerful race. Clover Valley's Evans, handled by Jordan Pharris, took second with a find and decent race that showed signs of the heat near the end.

First place in the Open Shooting Dog was Heart Like A Truck, handled by Dave Moore. This female could easily have won on just her consistent front-running race. From start to finish, she reached out to all the forward edges with a strong ground-covering stride. As an extra bonus, she was rewarded with a nice find remaining staunch long after the shot. Once again, Scott Jordan was rewarded with two placements in a stake, this time second and third in the Open Shooting Dog. Second-place dog Rip Nation was braced with his littermate, the first-place dog. They could have been a matched set, both strong and forward hunting. The heat made birds a scarce commodity, but Rip stood tall and proud at 27 on a well-handled quail. Dean Renneke's Rooster took third place, handled by



Open All-Age (front, l-r): Frank LaNasa with Warbird, Scott Jordan with Stone Church Nation, and Jim Tande with Due Respect. (Rear, l-r): Sue Tande, Dean Renneke, Katherine Gove, and Jean LaNasa.

Scott Jordan. Rooster is a consistent big running dog that is always a pleasure to watch. Although he made several big moves, handled nicely, scored on a quail at 28, running in the heat without a brace mate took enough of a toll to drop him to third.

Trials cannot happen without a lot of hard work and dedication. Once again, thanks to Ian MacTavish, Frank LaNasa, all our judges, Mark Pfiefer for delivering water, Ben Fleischacker and Nik Zewers for helping with the dog wagon, and Bruce Mueller for all his assistance picking up, caring for birds, and tirelessly planting birds. Thanks also to our loyal sponsor, Purina.

Hankinson, N. D., May 3

Judges: Todd Manns and Bob Saari

OPEN ALL-AGE – 6 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-WARBIRD, F1705326, pointer male, by True Confidence-Red Sunshine. Frank LaNasa, owner and handler.

2d-STONE CHURCH NATION, F1697101, pointer male, by Strut Nation-Cheyenne Nation. Dean Renneke, owner; Scott Jordan, handler.

3d-DUE RESPECT, F1684605, pointer male, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-Hawthorn Patty. Jim Tande & Wyndell Hines, owners; Jim Tande, handler.

Judges: Keith Anderson and Frank LaNasa

OPEN DERBY – 12 Pointers

1st-IRON CLOUD NATION, unreg., pointer male, breeding not given. Scott Jordan, owner and handler.

2d-TOTAL CONFIDENCE, F1717099, pointer male, by Confident Nation-Oday Nation. Jim Tande, owner and handler.

3d-HANEY'S REDHILL NATION, unreg., pointer male, breeding not given. Scott Jordan, owner and handler.

Judges: Scott Jordan and Dean Renneke

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 3 Pointers and 2 Setters

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

2d-BLIND FAITH, F1706568, pointer female, by Miller's Blindsider-Nine To Five Nation. Ben Fleischacker, owner and handler.

OPEN DERBY – 2 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-SOUTHERN BREEZE, F1705539, pointer male, by Southern Confidence-Northwoods Comet. Nik Zewers, owner and handler.

2d-CLOVER VALLEY'S EVANS, F1705659, setter female, by Northwoods Atlas-Clover Valley's Millie. Jerry Furnish, owner; Jordan Pharris, handler.



Open Derby (front, l-r): Scott Jordan with Iron Cloud Nation, Jim Tande with Total Confidence, and Dean Renneke with Haney's Redhill Nation. (Rear, l-r): Sue Tande and Jean LaNasa.



Open Walking Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Ben Fleischacker with Blind Faith and Jordan Pharris with Big Big Energy. (Rear): Jack, Melissa Gage, and Sue.



Open Walking Derby (front, l-r): Nik Zewers with Southern Breeze and Jordan Pharris with Clover Valley's Evans. (Rear): Dean Renneke (judge), Jim Tande, Sue Tande, Jean LaNasa, and Andy Miller.

Judges: Jim Tande and Sue Tande

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 9 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-HEART LIKE A TRUCK, F1707010, pointer female, by Miller's Blindsider-Nine To Five Nation. Davie Moore, owner and handler.

2d-RIP NATION, F1712324, pointer male, by Miller's Blindsider-Nine To Five Nation. Dean Renneke, owner; Scott Jordan, handler.

3d-STONE CHURCH NATION, F1697101, pointer male, by Strut Nation-Cheyenne Nation. Dean Renneke, owner; Scott Jordan, handler.



Open Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Dave Moore with Heart Like A Truck, Scott Jordan with Rip Nation, and Dean Renneke with Stone Church Nation. (Rear): Jim Tande (judge), Sue Tande (judge), Jean LaNasa, Keith Anderson, Nik Zewers, Bruce Mueller, and Frank LaNasa.

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SUMMERHILL FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial

By Ernie Saniga | Greenville, Pennsylvania | May 3, 2025



Amateur Shooting Dog: Joe Lordi with Fluid Drive, Mark Janiec with Southpoint's Hog Wild, and Bob Verderosa with Waybetter Bobby. (Standing): Danielle Lordi, an unidentified participant, Raina Palazzolo, Blake Palazzolo, Bill Bruchey, Lou Palazzolo, Ben Dillard, Karen Janiec, Sheila Cassidy, Joyce Taylor, Larry King, Wendy Tracy, and George Tracy.



Amateur Derby (front): Alex Smith with Southbound Hotdog Homer, Ernie Saniga with Bully Budd, and Roger Boser with Slingblade. (Behind): Sheila Cassidy, Mark Janiec, and Larry King.



Youth Stake (front): Nikki Lawrence and Liam with Waybetter Rebel, Dillon Shaffer and Brooklyn and Amelia with Jolene Jolene, and Charlie with Steel Valley Raven. (Behind): Alex Smith, Briquette T., Joe Lordi, Wendy Tracy, and Casey Tracy.

The Summerhill Club ran its spring trial at the George Tracy training grounds near Glenville, Pennsylvania, on May 3 and 4. Karen Saniga does all of the work involved in planning and organizing the trial. She also has coffee and sweets available for breakfast, and sandwiches and soup for lunch as well. Mary Tracy and Casey Tracy put together a dinner on Saturday at Mike Tracy's home across the way.

A public drawing was held on Friday evening on the grounds, following a cocktail party and pizza dinner. The SBHA supported the trial and also provided bags of Eukanuba dog food to all winning handlers. Darren Boyer brought the birds and also made a chicken corn soup, a local delicacy, to add to the lunch menu. Eric Munden of Lion Country Supply donated collars to the first-place winners. SBHA and the Youth Alliance provided prizes for the youth participants.

George Tracy, Mike Tracy, Jeanette Tracy, and Dillon Shaffer were busy saddling horses, planting birds, carrying water, and doing all of the other things necessary to run a good trial. Large galleries were evident throughout the running.

Our judges were Ben Dillard and Lou Palazzolo, both from Maryland. Lou was a last-minute substitute for Hailey Moreland, who was called home to be with her ailing father, Bubba Moreland, who passed away. There were many sad faces here. The Derby judges were Larry King from Maryland and Mark Janiec from New Jersey. Their decisions were popular.

Winning the Amateur Shooting Dog stake was Waybetter Bobby, a pointer male owned and handled by Bob Verderosa. Bob was here earlier to work his dogs with George Tracy's help, and the help helped as Bobby ran a smooth,

forward race and had five perfectly handled finds. Southpoint's Hog Wild, owned and handled by Mark Janiec, was second. The classy pointer had three finds and a back handled with finished manners to go with a good effort on the ground. Joe Lordi placed third with his pointer, Fluid Drive, who would be retired after this competition. Drive had a good race and three nicely handled finds.

Alex Smith won the Amateur Derby with pointer Southbound Hotdog Homer. Homer had a good race, always to the front, and stylishly scored three divided finds, a back and three finds on his own. Second was Bully Budd, a coming derby pointer, which also had a classy race, three nice finds, and a nonproductive. Roger Boser's Red setter Slingblade was third. He had a good race to the front with three finished finds.

We had a very small but mighty

Youth stake with three entries but four handlers. Joe Lordi and Alex Smith judged. Liam handled Waybetter Rebel to a fine race and five good finds, all finished with Liam knowing exactly what to do as a handler. First-time contestant Charlie got on a horse before the running to test his nerve on one of Tracy's big horses. He didn't like it. But he watched his friend Liam and then said, "I'll ride," and ride he did, handling Steel Valley Raven like a pro, and the dog showed running and on game nicely.

We had two handlers, albeit very young, handling pointer Jolene Jolene. They were Amelia and Brooklyn, both riding with assistance. Jolene Jolene didn't mind, performing admirably on the ground and on her multiple finds as

the young pair snuck through the cover, flushing quail and shooting their cap guns. We counted 29 riders and four side-by-sides filled with people during the running.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the trial.

Greenville, Pa., May 3
Judges: Ben Dillard and Lou Palazzola
SBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
– 11 Pointers and 1 Irish Setter

1st-WAYBETTER BOBBY, F1682880, pointer male, by Waybetter Rocky-Nehawka Amazin Sue. Robert Verderosa, owner and handler.
2d-SOUTHPOINT'S HOG WILD, F1686800, pointer male, by Broken Halo-Backwoods Tennessee Honey. Mark Janiec, owner and handler.
3d-FLUID DRIVE, F1659984, pointer male, by Great River Ice-Blaze's Isis. Saverio Morelli, owner; Joe Lordi Jr., handler.

Judges: Larry King and Mark Janiec
SBHA AMATEUR DERBY
– 4 Pointers and 2 Irish Setters

1st-SOUTHBOUND HOTDOG HOMER, F1714695, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Calico's Country Strong. Linda White Casey, owner and handler.
2d-BULLY BUDD, F1712603, pointer male, by Bully Rock-Sandspur Belle. Ernie & Karen Saniga, owners; Ernie Saniga, handler.
3d-SLINGBLADE, F1706612, Irish setter male, by Wayward-Slingshot. Roger Boser, owner and handler.

AUGUST PRINT DEADLINE

July 5

NGSPA REGION 4 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Series Held At Ionia Recreation Area

By Anthony Rusciano | Ionia, Michigan | May 5, 2025

The NGSPA Region 4 event took place from May 6-10 at the Ionia Recreation Area in Ionia, Michigan. This year's weather was nearly perfect for running bird dogs! The grounds were in excellent condition, and we extend our gratitude to all the clubs and individual volunteers who contributed their time to make this event successful. We would also like to acknowledge the support of the amateur and professional trial participants: Dan DiMambro, April Raber, Fred Ryan, Hank Lewis, Kirk Loftin, Sherri Tangsrud, Andy and Becky Dynkiewicz, and Marc McKinley. Also, a big thanks to Dick Lipski for bird planting the entire event. Becky was also a tremendous help in the kitchen and dog wagon support.

Judging this year's events were David Russell, who judged the Open and Amateur Shooting Dog categories; Aaron McAfee, who judged the Open Shooting Dog and Open All-Age stakes; and Justin Hess, who judged the Open All-Age and Amateur Shooting Dog stakes. Thank you all for your time and dedication. Lastly, we would like to thank our generous sponsor, Purina, whose support enhances our shared passion. Scott Johnson was in attendance from Purina.

Open Shooting Dog Championship

The champion of the competition was



Open Shooting Dog Championship (front): Monkeyshines Callme the Breeze with April DiMambro and Uodibar's Lover Boy with Sherri Tangsrud. (Behind): David Russell, Dan DiMambro, Kirk Loftin, Aaron McAfee, and Scott Johnson.

Monkeyshines Callme the Breeze, owned by Helmut Schoen and expertly handled by Dan DiMambro. "Breezy" delivered an outstanding performance, with several impressive finds and a forward-running style that captivated the judges. Her remarkable grace and impeccable manners on all her birds were evident, as she consistently powered to the front and was found standing strong each time she was released.

Claiming the runner-up spot was Uodibar's Lover Boy ("Blue"), owned by Sherri Tangsrud and skillfully handled by Kirk Loftin. Blue impressed with

four well-spaced finds during the hour, showcasing his strong racing abilities. He smoothly rimmed the fields with undeniable class, earning him the well-deserved runner-up title in the championship.

There were also three other dogs the judges highlighted: "Ziggy," owned and handled by Jessie Conroy; "Lettie," handled by Jessica Hann; and "Roux," handled by Hank Lewis.



Open All-Age Championship (front): Hi N's Allison Miranda with Sherri Tangsrud and Slate Rock's Mountain Heart with April DiMambro. **(Behind):** Kirk Loftin, Justin Hess, Dan DiMambro, Andy Dynkiewicz, Becky Dynkiewicz, Scott Johnson, and Marc McKinley.

lonia, Mich., May 5

Judges: Aaron McAfee and David Russell
NGSPA REGION 4 OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
– 20 German Shorthairs

Winner-MONKEYSHINES CALLME THE BREEZE, F1699127, German Shorthair female, by Riden High Rudy-Cuttin Wilds Space Cowgirl. Helmut Schoen, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.
Runner-Up-UODIBAR'S LOVER BOY, F1689423, German Shorthair male, by Diamonds R S Texas Express-Uodibar's Bet Your Booty. Sherri Tangsrud, owner; Kirk Loftin, handler.

Open All-Age Championship

This year's champion was Hi N's Allison Miranda, owned and handled by Kirk Loftin. During her hour-long brace, "Allie" displayed multiple impressive finds, running a consistent race that was easy to manage. Her style and behavior around birds were impeccable, earning her the top spot!

The runner-up was Slaterock's Mountain Heart, owned by Andy and James Dynkiewicz and handled by Dan DiMambro, also performed very well, finishing strong. "Rommel" had three finds throughout the hour but had one shortcoming that kept him from claiming victory.



Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (front): Sherri Tangsrud with Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee. **(Behind):** David Russell, Kirk Loftin, and Justin Hess. **[Not pictured]:** Hank Lewis and Hi N's Secret Society.

Judges: Justin Hess and Aaron McAfee
NGSPA REGION 4 OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 10 German Shorthairs
Winner-HI N'S ALLISON MIRANDA, F1676665, German Shorthair female, by Hi N's Feed Jack-Chicoree's Sparkle In Her Eye. Kirk Loftin, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-SLATEROCK'S MOUNTAIN HEART, F1675343, German Shorthair male, by Hi N's Bodacious-Slaterock Mattie Clark. Andy & James Dynkiewicz, owners; Dan DiMambro, handler.

Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

The Amateur Shooting Dog Championship featured 18 dogs competing for the title. The winner received a \$500 gift card, while the runner-up took home a \$250 gift card—great prizes for the amateurs who dedicate so much to this sport.

This year's champion was Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee, owned and handled by Kirk Loftin. Dee showcased her style and manners during four impressive finds, gliding through the course and demonstrating maturity and intelligence with some outstanding maneuvers.

The runner-up was Hi N's Secret Society, owned and handled by Hank Lewis. "Stella" performed a mature race, boasting several nice finds. Judges noted that the power and application of the dogs ultimately distinguished the two competitors from each other.



Open Derby Classic (front): Sherri Tangsrud with Uodibar's Lonestar Heat Seeker, Dan DiMambro with Weideland's Slate Rock Bronco, and April DiMambro with MSK Chicoree's Easy Money. **(Behind):** David Russell, Kirk Loftin, Justin Hess, and Marc McKinley.

Judges: Justin Hess and David Russell
NGSPA REGION 4 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
– 18 German Shorthairs

Winner-STONEY HILL'S PINNACLE DEE, F1694168, German Shorthair female, by Simon's Gunner-Shadowcreek's Mighty Mouse. Kirk Loftin, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-HI N'S SECRET SOCIETY, F1688000, German Shorthair female, by Hi N's Bodacious-Hi N's Hasty Matilda. Hank Lewis, owner and handler.

Derby Classic

This year's Derby featured an impressive field of 12 dogs. The judges noted that on any given day, any dog could have emerged as the winner. The top three participants were: Uodibar's Lonestar Heat Seeker ("Artemis"), Weideland's Slate Rock Bronco, and MSK's Chicoree's Easy Money ("Cash").

Keep an eye on these young dogs; they have a bright future ahead!

NGSPA REGION 4 OPEN DERBY
– 12 German Shorthairs

1st-UODIBAR'S LONESTAR HEAT SEEKER, unreg., German Shorthair female, by Uodibar's Loser Boy-Stoney Hill's Light It Up. Kirk & Larry Loftin, owners; Kirk Loftin, handler.
2d-WEIDELAND'S SLATE ROCK'S BRONCO, F1720228, German Shorthair male, by Slaterock's Mountain Heart-Weideland's Ray of Sunshine. Rebecca Dynkiewicz, owner; DiMambro, handler.
3d-MSK CHICOREE'S EASY MONEY, unreg., German Shorthair male, breeding not given. Dan DiMambro, owner and handler.

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For more information, please email gsmith@ukcdogs.com

NORTHWEST FIELD ASSOCIATION

Dakota Shooting Dog Classics & Derby

By Lance Schulz | Hankinson, North Dakota | May 9, 2025

The Northwest Field Trial Association and the North Dakota Pointing Dog Club proudly hosted the inaugural Dakota Shooting Dog Classics from May 9-11 on the picturesque Dakota Prairie National Grasslands near Hankinson, North Dakota. This event featured both Amateur and Open Shooting Dog stakes and marked the ninth consecutive year the NDPDC has held its spring trial on these grounds.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our sponsors, whose generous support made this event possible. Purina supplied dog food for all placements, SportDOG contributed training collars for the winners, and Gun Dog House Door, Inc. sponsored a judges' dinner, staying true to their motto: "QUALITY ... INSIDE AND OUT!"

The Hankinson Hills offer an exceptional setting for field trials. Originally shaped by an ancient river that once emptied into glacial Lake Agassiz, the landscape has been sculpted over time by wind and rain into a diverse and challenging course. Handlers and dogs navigated open prairie adjacent to rolling sand dunes, followed by shaded groves of oak, poplar, and cottonwood. Ferns softened the scenery as the course opened again into an expansive prairie, framed by distinct tree-lined edges. This terrain provides a unique and rewarding experience, allowing dogs to stretch out and search for objectives while handlers work the natural boundaries of the course.

We would also like to recognize the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and judges. Field trials would not be possible without their time and commitment. Special thanks go to Keith Anderson, Justin Crook, Brian Gingrich, Scott Hadley, L. J. Lundstrom, Todd Manns, Bruce Mueller, Mark Pfeifer, Mike Rost, Lance Schulz, Doug Swingley, Bill Stapleton, Billy Stewart, Jim Tande, John Zeman, and Nik Zewers for their contributions.

Despite unseasonably hot temperatures reaching the mid-90s, the event proceeded smoothly. On Friday, the Amateur Shooting Dog stake was



Dakota Amateur Shooting Dog Classic (front row): Ramblin Rivers Natural with Bill Stapleton, BK Marshall with John Zeman, and Moonshines Mustang Sally with Keith Anderson. (Back row): Todd Manns, Billy Stewart (judge), Bruce Mueller, Nik Zewers, Jim Tande, Mike Rost, and Scott Hadley (judge).

completed. Ramblin Rivers Natural, handled by Bill Stapleton, claimed first place with a powerful forward ground race that included five well-earned finds. BK Marshall, handled by John Zeman, also finished with five finds and an impressive race, earning second place. Rounding out the placements, Moonshines Mustang Sally, handled by Mike Rost, took third place. That evening, participants gathered for a judge recognition dinner at Doc's, a well-known local bar located in the basement of a church. This dinner was graciously sponsored by Gun Dog House Door, Inc.

Saturday began with the Open Derby stake, where Total Confidence, handled by Jim Tande, secured first place. Ramblin Rivers Double Dot, with Bill Stapleton handling, earned second, and Mike Rost's Moonshines Bodacious finished in third. Following the Derby, we proceeded into the Open Shooting Dog money stake.

Sunday brought another early start to beat the heat, allowing us to complete the Open Shooting Dog stake by early afternoon. S T's Locked N Loaded, handled by Brian Gingrich, took first place honors. Brian also handled the second-place finisher, Erin's Ikon. Third place was awarded to Upfront's County Seat, handled by Lance Schulz. This stake was a National Open Shooting Dog qualifier and an Amateur Shooting Dog

Invitational Points Trial. Congratulations to Erin's Ikon and Upfront's County Seat for qualifying for the 2026 National Open Shooting Dog Championship.

In closing, congratulations to all participants and winners. The success of this event reflects the hard work of the handlers, volunteers, judges, and sponsors who make it all possible. We look forward to many more successful events on these outstanding grounds.

Hankinson, N. D., May 9 – One Course

Judges: Scott Hadley and Billy Stewart

DAKOTA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

[One-Hour Heats] – 16 Entries

1st-RAMBLIN RIVERS NATURAL, F1688693, pointer male, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Upfront's Southern Star. William Stapleton, owner and handler.

2d-BK MARSHALL, F1699760, pointer male, by B K Bonafide Stallion-B K Hirollins Wild. John Zeman, owner and handler.

3d-MOONSHINES MUSTANG SALLY, F1708474, pointer female, by Touch's Malcolm Story-Wildfair Joy. Mike Rost, owner and handler.

Judges: Keith Anderson and John Zeman

OPEN DERBY – 16 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-TOTAL CONFIDENCE, F1717099, pointer male, by Confident Nation-Oday Nation. James Tande, owner and handler.

2d-RAMBLIN RIVERS DOUBLE DOT, F1709252, pointer female, by Miller's Blindsider-True Grace. Bill Stapleton, owner and handler.

3d-MOONSHINES BODACIOUS, F1718111, pointer male, by Confident Nation-Wiggins Pree Dawn Reward. Mike Post, owner and handler.



Open Derby (front row): Total Confidence with Jim Tande, Ramblin Rivers Double Dot with Brian Gingrich, and Moonshines Bodacious with Mike Rost. **(Back row):** L. J. Lundstrom, Bruce Mueller, Bill Stapleton, John Zeman (judge), Nik Zewers, and Keith Anderson (judge).



Dakota Open Shooting Dog Classic (front row): S T's Locked N Loaded with Bill Stapleton, Erin's Ikon with Brian Gingrich, and Upfront's County Seat with Lance Schulz. **(Back row):** Billy Stewart (judge), Doug Swingley, and L. J. Lundstrom (judge).

Judges: L. J. Lundstrom and Billy Stewart
DAKOTA OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 16 Entries

1st-S T'S LOCKED N LOADED, F1686059, Vizsla female, by C K Touchdown Guy-Midnight Run's Probable Cause. Jeff Zenas, owner; Brian Gingrich, handler.

2d-ERIN'S IKON, F1703948, setter male, by Erin's Wild Atlantic Way-Wildcat Creek Athena. Jerrold & Kristen Moisson, owners; Brian Gingrich, handler.

3d-UPFRONT'S COUNTY SEAT, F1705554, pointer female, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Upfront's Southern Star. Lance & Marcie Schulz, owners; Lance Schulz, handler.

WOLVERINE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Ponderosa's Copper Penny Wins Dave Fletcher Open Classic

By David A. Fletcher | Highland, Michigan | May 9, 2025



Dave Fletcher Open Walking Shooting Dog Classic (l-r): Brian Wood, Dave Fletcher, Robert Ellis with Ponderosa's Copper Penny, Ken DeLong with K Del's Magnum Hotshot, Tammi Savage with Faith's Maximum Justice, and Jim Cipponeri.

The Wolverine Field Trial Club held its Spring event, Mother's Day weekend, May 9-11, over fine courses at the Highland Recreation Area near Milford, Michigan. Forty-two dogs were entered in four stakes, three walking stakes, Open Puppy and Open Derby, featuring the Dave Fletcher Open Walking Shooting Dog Classic, and an Open Horseback Shooting Dog stake. The trial was completed in two sunny, warmish days, leaving Sunday, Mother's Day, to attend to family matters. Although the bright skies and sunny weather were a springtime treat, it got a bit warm for the dogs, and there had to be water tubs available on most of the course route, thanks to the efforts of Paul Tutro. Quality was plentiful on the course, and most flushed easily and flew well Friday. Grounds were in fine shape. The winter snow and the annual maintenance of the DNR Prairie Grass project keep the grassy cover low in the spring for good bird finding, and the

brushy edges are there for the dogs to fringe.

Judges for the Dave Fletcher Classic were Mike Brown of Linden, Michigan, with wide experience judging pointing bird dogs from the judge's saddle, and Bruce Barlow a DNR official from the Gladwin office with duties on the Gladwin Field Trial Area where some of the nation's most important Grouse and Woodcock Championships trials are held annually. Bruce has competed his dogs over the Gladwin Refuge wild bird events for over a decade. Also judging were Ken DeLong, Blake Rizzo, Mark Hughes, and Tom Vanecek, a very experienced crew.

Who accomplishes the myriad of things necessary to make this trial happen? Let's start with club president and trial manager Jim Cipponeri. He does the drawing, with help from his wife Connie, arranges for the quail, horses, and judges, and is on hand every

minute as the trial unfolds, making sure that the necessary things do happen. Paul Tutro does a host of things, brings his horses to ride and plant birds every brace, and as mentioned earlier, puts out his water containers on the course and keeps them full of water for dogs on warm days. He also brings the quail from Emmet, Michigan, and acts as trial photographer. Bryan Wood announces the braces from the starting line as he has for many years. Club Secretary Dave Fletcher furnishes and writes the judges' books, takes the entry money at his little silver car office, calculates and writes checks for club expenses, and purses. Dave also donates the three winners' plaques for the Fletcher Classic.

Saturday lunch was donated, prepared, and served at the pavilion by Steve McKalko, with help from John Paul Jones; the luncheon fare was great. Paul Tutro furnished the morning donuts, as he always does. Many of the purses were donated back to club funds by winners, a much-appreciated move on their part. Thanks must also go to Purina for their continuing support.

Open Walking Puppy

The field of seven showed maturity, ready to move into the Derby ranks with desire, the ability to recognize and search the good-looking places, and finish well. The most accomplished took the placements.



Open Walking Puppy (l-r): Dave Fletcher, John Paul Jones with Hifive's Rolling Star, Steve McKalko with Ausable Junction Odine, and Mike Cook with Bobo.



Hall of Famers (l-r): Dave Hughes and Dave Fletcher.



Open Walking Derby (l-r): Brian Wood with Backwoods Dine & Dash, Mark Hughes with Mojo's Winston Joy, and Rich Hollister with Dunroven Hippy Girl.

Highland, Mich., May 9

Judges: Mike Brown and Bruce Barlow

OPEN WALKING PUPPY – 4 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-BOBO, unreg., pointer male, breeding not given.

Mike Cook, owner and handler.

2d-AUSABLE JUNCTION ODIN, F1711112, setter

male, by Cash Van Pioneer Scouts Man-Anna Van

Frutchey Ranch. Steve McKalko, owner and handler.

3d-HIFIVE'S ROLLING STAR, unreg., pointer female,

by Rolling Stone-Speed Dialing Kaia. John Paul Jones, owner and handler.

Dave Fletcher Open Walking

Shooting Dog Classic

With an entry of 15 starters, this Classic stake had plenty of talent and good performances to fill the placements. Ponderosa's Copper Penny, owned and handled by Robert Ellis of Clarkston, Michigan, was the winner with a bellringer find and perhaps the most impressive hunting in the stake. Second was K Del's Eagle Magnum Hotshot, owned and handled by Ken DeLong of Greenville, Michigan. "Shooter" notched two stylish and solid finds and a back. Third was Faith's Maximum Justice, also from the DeLong kennel, and his score was also two nice finds and a back. Close to the winners were Zeke, a pointer male handled by Mark Hughes in the first brace, and Stone, a pointer male owned and handled by John Paul Jones in the seventh brace.

The Running

Juni (Jones)-Zeke (Hughes). Juni put down a good hunting effort, out of touch a few moments, but finished well without birds. Zeke hunted diligently, finished the heat still charging, and added a mannerly and stylish find late in the heat.

Justice (DeLong)-Larry (Hollister). Justice hunted powerfully the entire time, had a nice back, and two stylish finds. A very good performance and was placed third. Larry hunted well, logged a find and a back, and was still digging for the front at time.

Penny (Hughes)-Soozee (Hollister).

Penny had an attractive and fluid motion, logged a back and a mannerly find, a very solid 30 minutes. Soozee, hunting hard, hit the far places this time down, and was lost to judgment.

Sandy (Hollister)-Cricket (Hughes). Sandy had all the things judges look for except birds...hunted forwardly, searched the right cover, finished well, but no birds. Big cast after big cast, Cricket stayed out on the rim hunting and had a nice find deep in the course.

Penny (Ellis)-Kaia (Jones). Attractive in motion, swift of foot, and with a very stylish and solid quail find, Penny was creating the impression she was the best dog so far in this stake. She was the stake winner. Kaia, not to be outdone, was also reaching to the course edges, had a nice find out there, but went with her quail at flush.

Cash (Hollister)-Spec (Hughes). Cash was very strong afoot, wide, and the tracking collar was called for. Searched for, and found on point, unfortunately, the work was out of judgment. Spec was also hunting hard, probing the good places, added a good find, and finished well.

Stone (Jones)-Shooter (DeLong). This pair was making a great bid for a place in this stake. Stone had a great effort with a find and a back. Shooter was fast forward and hit all the good places, racking up two nice finds and a back. Shooter was placed second, and Stone was very close to the winners.

Dusty (Hughes)-Lucy(Hollister). Dusty made a succession of nice casts to good places, had a nice find, but could not quite reach the winners' circle. Lucy was very strong afoot, very forward, but had an absence where the tracking collar was used, ... out of judgment.

Judges: Mike Brown and Bruce Barlow
DAVE FLETCHER OPEN WALKING SHOOTING DOG

CLASSIC – 10 Pointers, 4 Setters, and 1 Brittany

1st-PONDEROSA'S COPPER PENNY, F1690593,

setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Eldridge's Beauty

and Beast. Robert A. Ellis, owner and handler.

2d-K DEL'S EAGLE MAGNUM HOTSHOT, F1685770,

Brittany male, by Magnum High Velocity-K Del's

Eagle's Chance To Soar. Ken DeLong, owner and handler.

3d-FAITH'S MAXIMUM JUSTICE, F1660276, pointer

male, by Nelson's Van Max-Wild Apple Faith. Ken DeLong, owner and handler.

Open Walking Derby

Dash was the winner, owned and handled by Mark Hughes. Dash put down a very powerful, forward-reaching pattern of hunting and had a very nice find well out on the edge near time. Second was Winston, a setter male owned by Renee and Nick Moelders of Franklin, Massachusetts, handled by Mark Hughes, hunted every minute down, and logged two nice finds. Third was Hippy Girl, owned by Chal Curtis, handled by Rich Hollister. Girl scored two nice finds, solid and attractive on point and in motion.

Judges: Ken DeLong and Blake Rizzo
OPEN WALKING DERBY – 4 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-BACKWOODS DINE & DASH, F1718950, pointer

male, by Springflow's Backcountry P-Apple Annie's

Sweet Delight, Mark Hughes, owner and handler.

2d-MOJO'S WINSTON JOY, F1705340, setter male,

by Wayward Flyin Tomato-Doodle Ridge Fern.

Renee & Nick Moelders, owners; Mark Hughes, handler.

3d-DUNROVEN HIPPIY GIRL, F1713542, setter

female, by Dun Rovens Drifter-Dunrovens Midnight Eve. Chal Curtis, owner; Richard Hollister, handler.

Open Horseback Shooting Dog

Despite good scenting on Friday, Saturday eventuated as a scenting disaster...not a bird pointed. Placements came on class of the dogs hunting. First was Wicked Quick, a pointer female handled by owner Kelsey Hajek. Quick had great style in motion, a beautiful gait, and hunted the terrain relentlessly. A close second was Arias, a pointer female owned and handled by Blake Rizzo. Aria was attractive moving and

hunted widely on the course. Third was Windfall Last Stand, a pointer male owned and handled by Joe Guzman. The dog hunted moderately at times. It was a hot time of the day, but finished going strongly on the far course edges.

**Judges: Mark Hughes and Tom Vanecek
OPEN HORSEBACK SHOOTING DOG**

– 8 Pointers, 3 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair
1st-WICKED QUICK, F1674810, pointer female, by Dunn's Tried'n True-Dunn's Get Out Sue. Kelsey & Sandy Hajek, owners; Kelsey Hajek, handler.
2d-ARIAS, unreg., particulars not given.
3d-WINDFALL LAST STAND, F1705328, pointer male, by Knight's Last Chipster-Windfall Queen of Soul. Joe Guzman, owner and handler.

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CENTRAL CONNECTICUT BIRD DOG CLUB

Fort River's Lucky Charm Wins Milo Milkenson Amateur Classic

By Tom Gates | East Windsor, Connecticut | May 17, 2025



Milo Wilkinson Amateur Shooting Dog (l-r): Gary Tavares with Fort River's Lucky Charm, Brayden and Tiffani Smith with Calico's Country Strong, and Alex Smith with Calico's Over The Top.

The Central Connecticut Bird Dog Club staged its annual spring event May 17-19, 2025, at the popular Dr. John Flaherty Field Trial Area in East Windsor, Connecticut. Established in 1961, the Central Connecticut club has run class bird dog field trials for 64 consecutive years. The five-stake event was again chaired by Gene Casale Jr., with dogs from up and down the Eastern United States competing.

As usual, Gene Casale managed the trial with perfection. Every detail was meticulously executed in true professional "Casale" style. I guarantee that everyone has a great time at a trial run by Gene! He will be hosting the Northeastern Championship in October on these grounds.

Pam Casale, Gene's wife, managed the kitchen, offering several lunch choices, and again put on the club's famous Saturday night Handlers' Dinner—fried chicken and all the fixins. Thank you, Pam!

Having seasoned judges always makes a great trial, and we had some of the best! The club sincerely thanks Kevin Stuart, John Olfson, Kevin Joyce, and John Stolgitis for their fine judicial work. Their decisions were applauded by all attending. John Olfson and Amilcar Pereira were true warriors, planting birds and helping with the trial! Thank you all!

The Running

The Open Shooting Dog started

the trial with an exceptional field of competitors. The weather was still cool, and the grass was very wet, making for great scenting conditions. Mike Tracy took the blue with Cool Hand Luke. This pointer male was outstanding! He ran the limits of the course, finding quail at four locations. Luke runs with a very animated, happy gait. A high-cracking tail and very fast attack on the ground were certainly unbeatable. A very intense stance was rewarded with multiple birds lifting over the motionless dog at each find. Very nice dog!

Matt Basilone was a close second with Birdpatch General Lee. This setter ran the limits and looked good doing it! Two picture-perfect covey finds made him a sure bet! Very nice dog!

The Scotty Creel Open Derby remembers a club member who was a true-life hero. A Waterbury, Connecticut, fireman, Scotty, was honored several times for heroic acts that left him injured while saving people from burning buildings. First one in and the last one out, Scotty put others ahead of his own safety.

Cour's Open Fire took the blue for Mike Tracy. This is a dog to ride! He is an eyecatcher on the ground; fast, forward, and deliberate. Trading ends twice and being found standing once, his manners are perfect. Expect big things from this dog!

Mike carded second with a thrilling half hour for Geronimo Joe. This pointer is a true bird dog, exciting and

completely in tune with the handler. Joe locked up twice on the right edge with birds well located. He scored an off-course find on a big covey and finished like a rocket. Great job!

Mike also carded third with Bryant's Silver Surfer. Another powerful Tracy charge, "Jay," was a fun dog to watch. He is extremely stylish going with a great tail and powerful gait. This pointer also scored three times on quail. Watch this one, as you will see him many times in the future!

The Guard Rail Open Shooting Dog stake honors Eugene Casale's Hall of Fame pointer, who competed on these grounds many times. This stake is a coveted placement for anyone's dog! This year, 20 top dogs from up and down the East Coast competed for the chance to add a "Guard Rail" placement to their resumé.

Trumped won this stake last year and was back to take the blue again this year! The Allen Linder pointer male was handled by Mike Tracy. This dog is a thrill to watch. He ran the limits of the grounds. A hard-driving effort was rewarded on three occasions, with covey birds being flown over a picturesque stance. "Tom" had plenty of bottom, finishing strong on the left edge. A thrill to watch!

Matt Basilone was a very close second with Mohawk Mill Lady Justice. Owners Ed and Megan McKay rode the brace to see her score twice on singles with admirable style, pointing. Justice was then found standing a large covey of birds perfectly located. This ground race was a true hunting effort that could not be beaten. A great driving finish made her a sure bet.

John Stolgitis carded third with Chasehill Snoop Dog. This first-year shooting dog won the Open Derby stake at this trial last year and placed in the Open Derby the year before as a puppy! He ran a championship-caliber race with a lofty pointing style on two big covey finds this day. Ride this dog if you get the chance. Wow, real nice dog!

Megan McKay took the blue in the Amateur Derby with Mohawk Mill Lady

Justice. She was unbeatable. After taking second in the Guard Rail stake, Lady was fast and powerful. Megan flushed covey birds on two occasions over a statue-like stance and logged a single near the end. Great job by a young derby!

Kevin Joyce piloted Hightailing Cindy to second. Impressive on the ground, Cindy was a bird finder. This female pointer scored three quail finds and had a very strong finish. Expect big things from this dog in the future. She certainly has all the class to become a champion.

Ruby gained third for handler Ed McKay. Big going and classy to watch, this Rail Dancer offspring is going places in the future! She traded ends three times with perfect manners and has an abundance of style.

The Milo Wilkenson Amateur Shooting Dog stake is named for one of the club's founding members. Milo was instrumental in acquiring grounds, establishing clubs, and helping the New England Association. Gary Tavares took first with Fort River's Lucky Charm. This was Gary's first time handling Charm, but they looked like they had run together for several years! Charm is an exciting setter to watch and was a handful at times for Gary. He carded three evenly spaced finds in perfect form. The style of pointing can only be described as intense. A statue at flush; he was untouchable.

In my 55+ years of bird dog field trialing, I have never been so impressed as I was watching Brayden Smith handle Calico's Country Strong to second and Calico's Over The Top to third! At 9 years old, Brayden handled like a 20-year veteran! Country Strong was fast, deliberate, and focused. Brayden flushed covey birds twice over a high and tight stance. He added a single to the tally near the end. Nice job by the dog and handler!

Over the Top swapped ends before the pond with a single, taking wing. He added two very stylish finds with multiple birds lifting on each. A strong driving finish was very impressive! He certainly made Brayden's parents, Alex and Tiffani Smith, proud this day. Great job, Brayden!

East Windsor, Conn., May 17 – One Course

Judges: Kevin Joyce and John Stolgitis

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 5 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-COOL HAND LUKE, F1714223, pointer male, by Southpoint's Speedy G-Lone Tree Last Snow. Robert Bergen, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

2d-BIRDPATCH GENERAL LEE, F1705914, setter male, by Bozeann's Rex-Knitone Pearl Too. W. Snoot Carter Jr., owner; Matt Basilone, handler.

SCOTTY CREEL OPEN DERBY

– 9 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-COUR'S OPEN FIRE, F1715844, pointer male, by Touch's Fire Away-Rawhide's Primal Shockwave. Mike Cour, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

2d-GERONIMO JOE, F1714946, pointer male, by Cheyenne Jack-Hightailing Maggie. Adrian Gubbay, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

3d-BRYANT'S SILVER SURFER, F1708719, pointer male, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Bluemound's Charged Up. Kenton Bryant, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

Judges: John Olsson and Kevin Stuart

GUARD RAIL OPEN SHOOTING DOG

– 17 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-TRUMPED, F1690083, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Image-Bevy's Cadillac Jukebox. Allen Linder, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

2d-MOHAWK MILL LADY JUSTICE, F1706908, pointer female, by Imagine-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Megan & Ed McCay, owners; Matt Basilone, handler.

3d-CHASEHILL SNOOP DOG, F1703110, pointer male, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. John Stolgitis, owner and handler.

AMATEUR DERBY – 7 Pointers

1st-MOHAWK MILL LADY JUSTICE, F1706908, pointer female, by Imagine-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Megan & Ed McCay, owners; Matt Basilone, handler.

2d-HIGHTAILING CINDY, F1714947, pointer female, by Cheyenne Jack-Hightailing Maggie. Kevin Joyce, owner and handler.

3d-GEMMED RUBY WOO, F1705996, pointer female, by Rail Dancer-Stolen Gem. Megan & Ed McCay, owners; Ed McCay, handler.

Judges: Kevin Joyce and Kevin Stuart

MILO MILKENSON AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 8 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-FORT RIVER'S LUCKY CHARM, F1681132, setter male, by Mohawk Mill Lucky Charm-Fort River Jackie. Gary Tavares, owner and handler.

2d-CALICO'S COUNTRY STRONG, F1679850, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Calico's Touch of Class. Calico Kennels & Alex & Tiffani Smith, owners; Brayden Smith, handler.

3d-CALICO'S OVER THE TOP, F1692315, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Calico's Country Strong. Calico Kennels & Alex & Tiffani Smith, owners; Brayden Smith, handler.



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SPRUCE BROOK BIRD DOG CLUB

Smoke'N'Mirrors Wins One-Hour Amateur Shooting Dog

By Gary Tavares | East Windsor, Connecticut | May 24, 2025



Open All-Age (l-r): High Drive Drinkaby with Kevin Joyce, Little Miss Margaret with Tim Cavanaugh, and Hog Hill Fafo with Rose Bonnetti, joined by participants.

This year's running of the spring field trial was sponsored by the Southern Bird Hunters Association. We would like to thank them for all the good things they do for field trials.

The Spruce Brook spring field trial was held May 24-26 at the Dr. John Flaherty Field Trial grounds in East Windsor, Connecticut. On Thursday, the area received three inches of rain with a little more on Friday morning. The trial started Saturday morning with temperatures in the 50s under cloudy skies with occasional light showers. The temperature was cooler this year than normal, which was great for the dogs and handlers. There were a lot of families on hand, and the kids were having fun. It was great to see our future field trialers. We would like to thank Kaitlyn Nichole Adventure K9 Photography for all the pictures taken during the field trial, especially of the future field trialers and their involvement.

At this time, I would like to thank our judges: John Stolgitis and Gene Casale Jr. (Open All-Age); Dave Obrien and Gary Tavares (Open Derby); Bill Bonnetti and Tim Cavanaugh (Open Shooting Dog); and Matt Basilone and John Stolgitis (Amateur Derby and one-hour Amateur Shooting Dog). The placements were well received by all.

On Friday night, for the arrival of all the competitors and attendees, John Stolgitis prepared a dinner of mussels, grilled chicken, and corn on the cob. Jayne and Bill Bonnetti provided breakfast, lunch, and dinner for Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, consisting of muffins, pastries, and coffee. Lunch was soup, sandwiches, burgers, and hot dogs. Dinners were pasta and meatballs, salads, chicken, green beans, rice, rolls, and desserts. We cannot thank you enough for all your hard work. The meals were delicious.

On Saturday night, we celebrated Matt and Mandy Basilone's birthdays. Their field trial family and friends were in attendance.

The Open All-Age stake started Saturday morning under cool and cloudy skies. High Drive Drinkaby, owned by Allen Linder and Madison McDonald, was first handled by George Tracy. She ran a strong forward race with three finds. Tim Cavanaugh placed second with Little Miss Margaret with a similar race and three finds. Tim also handled the third-place dog Hog Hill Fafo. All dogs ran a good race and looked good on their birds.

The next stake was the Open Derby with 10 competitors. First place was Nation's Split Second, handled by Matt Basilone. She ran a strong forward race with two finds. Second was Thats Ike

All Right handled by Tim Cavanaugh, also with a strong forward race and two finds. Third was Birdpatch General Lee handled by Marcus Ramseur with a competitive race and two finds.

The Open Shooting Dog was next. Fort River's Lucky Charm, owned by Gary Tavares, topped the field with the honor of first place, handled by Matt Basilone. John Stolgitis handled the second and third-place dogs; Chasehill Poison Ivy was second, and Chasehill Snoop Dog was third. It was a very competitive stake; all dogs placed ran well and were exceptional on their birds.

The Amateur Derby ran on Sunday morning. First place was Sonic Chance. He ran a youthful race with two finds handled by Alene Levasseur. Second was Windems Front Runner Purdy Girl, running a closer race with two finds. The third-place dog, Fort River Iron Man, a littermate to the first-place dog, ran a closer race with some bird contacts. Their sire was the winner of the Open Shooting Dog stake.

The one-hour Amateur Shooting Dog stake was very competitive. Smoke'N'Mirrors, handled by Marcus Ramseur, topped the field of competitors with a strong forward race and seven finds. Second was Mohawk Mill Patriot, handled by Ed McCay; his race was similar to the winner's, with seven finds also. Ed McCay also



Open Derby (l-r): Nation's Split Second with Melissa Basilone, Thats Ike All Right with Tim Cavanaugh, and Birdpatch General Lee with Marcus Ramseur, joined by participants.

handled the third-place dog, Red Alert Lane, which was very close to the other winners with multiple finds.

East Windsor, Conn., May 24 – One Course

Judges: Gene Casales and John Stolgitis

SBHA OPEN ALL-AGE – 8 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-HIGH DRIVE DRINKABY, F1705283, pointer female, by Miller's High Heat Index-Osceola's Seminole Wind. Allen Linder & Madison McDonald, owners; George Tracy, handler.

2d-LITTLE MISS MARGARET, F1693526, pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Tim Cavanaugh, owner and handler.

3d-HOG HILL FAFO, F1711945, pointer male, by Tattle Tailer-Ms. Antebellum. Tim Cavanaugh, owner and handler.

Judges: Dave O'Brien and Gary Tavares

SBHA OPEN DERBY – 7 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-NATION'S SPLIT SECOND, F1716294, pointer female, by Confident Nation-Wiggins Pree Dawn Reward. Karen Lordi, owner; Matt Basilone, handler.

2d-THATS IKE ALL RIGHT, F1708258, pointer male, by Tattle Tailer-Ms. Antebellum. Rod Champion, owner; Tim Cavanaugh, handler.

3d-BIRDPATCH GENERAL LEE, F1705914, setter male, by Bozeann's Rex-Knitone Pearl Too. Smoot Carter Jr., owner; Marcus Ramseur, handler.



Open Shooting Dog (l-r): Fort River's Lucky Charm with Marcus Ramseur, Chasehill Poison Ivy with Ed McCay, and Chasehill Snoop Dog with John Stolgitis, joined by participants

Judges: Bill Bonnetti and Tim Cavanaugh

SBHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG

– 13 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-FORT RIVER'S LUCKY CHARM, F1681132, setter male, by Mohawk Mill Lucky Charm-Fort River Jackie. Gary Tavares, owner; Matt Basilone, handler.

2d-CHASEHILL POISON IVY, F1694453, pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. William & Karen McFadden, owners; John Stolgitis, handler.

3d-CHASEHILL SNOOP DOG, F1703110, pointer male, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. John Stolgitis, owner handler.



Amateur Shooting Dog (l-r): Smoke'N'Mirrors with Marcus Ramseur, Mohawk Mill Patriot with Ed McCay, Red Alert Lane with Matt Basilone.



Amateur Derby (l-r): Sonic Chance with Alene LeVasseur, Windems Front Runner Purdy Girl with Melissa Basilone, and Fort River Iron Man with Gary Tavares, joined by participants.

Judges: Matt Basilone and John Stolgitis

SBHA AMATEUR DERBY – 6 Setters

1st-SONIC CHANCE, F1714555, setter male, by Fort River's Lucky Charm-Shine Down. Alene LeVasseur, owner and handler.

2d-WINDEMS FRONT RUNNER PURDY GIRL, F1706369, setter female, by Tin Man's Heart-Pocas Blue Tornado. Jessica Carito, owner and handler.

3d-FORT RIVER IRON MAN, F1714551, setter male, by Fort River's Lucky Charm-Shine Down. Gary Tavares, owner and handler.

SBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

[One-Hour Heats] – 8 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-SMOKE'N'MIRRORS, F1679185, pointer female, by Just Irresistible-A Whiskey Lullaby. Stacey Goodie & Richard Gillis, owners; Marcus Ramseur, handler.

2d-MOHAWK MILL PATRIOT, F1703194, pointer male, by Indian Creek Spur-Hirollins Fantasy Girl. Ed & Megan McCay, owners; Ed McCay, handler.

3d-RED ALERT LANE, F1700854, pointer male, by Lester's Prime Poison Lane-Southern Ritz Lane. Megan McCay & Edward Hunter III, owners; Ed McCay, handler.

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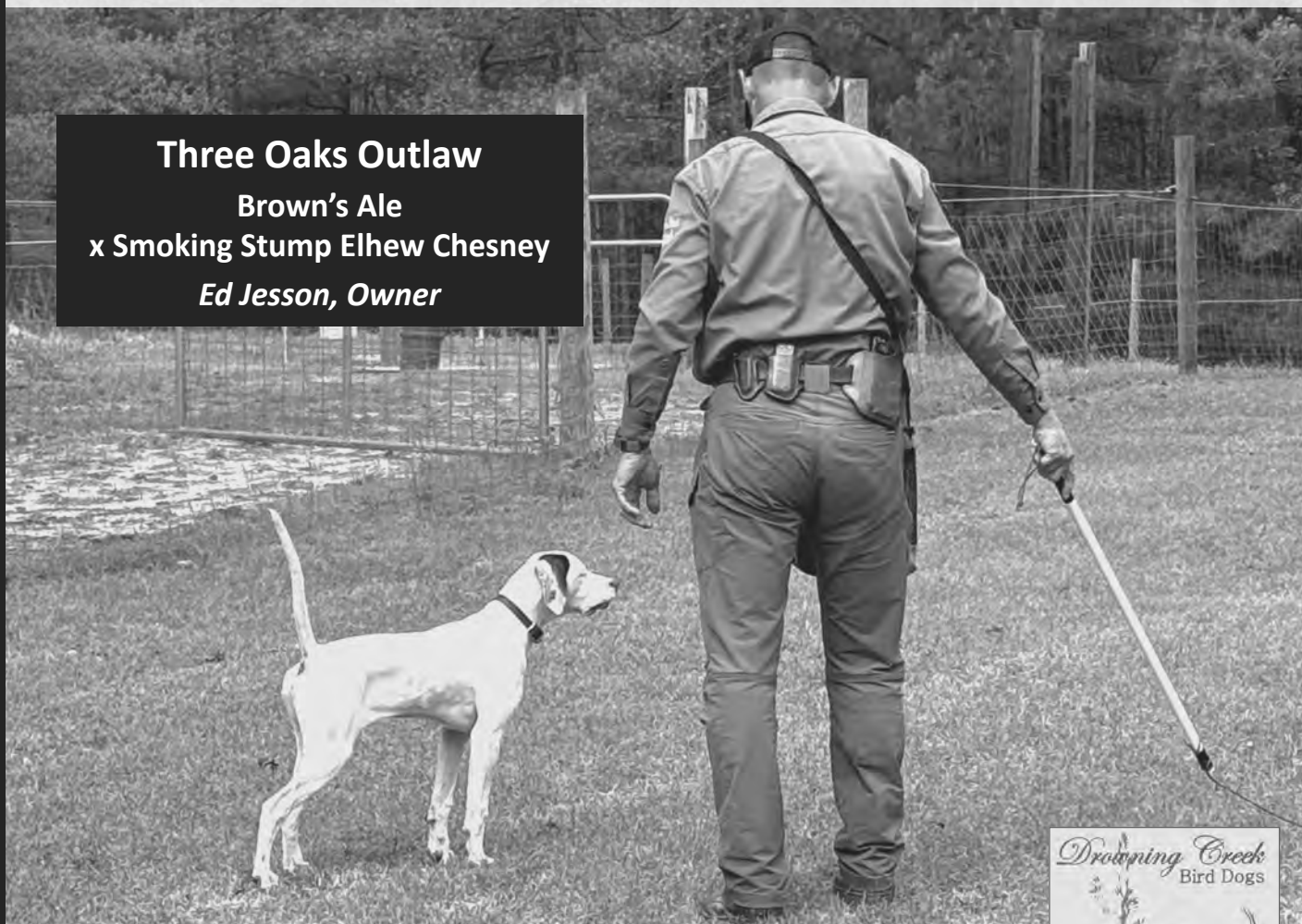
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September 29 / Ontario, OR
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October 2 / Ontario, OR
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July 12..... Field Trial Clubs of Illinois General Meeting Hamilton's, Jacksonville, IL
July 12..... Field Trial Clubs of Illinois DOTY Banquet Hamilton's, Jacksonville, IL
July 13..... Field Trial Clubs of Illinois Board Meeting Hamilton's, Jacksonville, IL

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October Issue	September 5	January Issue	December 5

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