

UKC[®]
FIELD

July 2024

A Newsletter by United Kennel Club

Issue No.30





UKC® Field
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We welcome articles on training, breeding, health and care, and other areas of interest. Material for publication shall include breed association columns, association columns, articles from state associations, veterinarians, etc., as well as regular columns of interest to field trialers. All photos should include the name of each person and dog shown, as well as each dog's FDSB number. Address all communications to UKC® Field, 100 E. Kilgore Rd., Kalamazoo, MI 49002-5584.

UKC® Field — ISSN 2995-4134

UKC® Field is published monthly (12 times a year) by the United Kennel Club, and has its editorial, advertising, business, and production offices at 100 E. Kilgore Rd., Kalamazoo, MI 49002-5584. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, Michigan, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to UKC® Field, 100 E. Kilgore Rd., Kalamazoo, MI 49002-5584.

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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



As we move into July, I would like to once again bring attention to the Hall of Fame schedule of events that are coming up fast! We are currently receiving nominations and will do so until August 5, the deadline for our September issue, which will contain the list of this year's nominations and voting information for subscribers to cast their votes. The online public voting process will end on September 30. The vote counts will go to the Hall of Fame voting committee to cast their final ballots to determine the inductees this year. Following the committee voting, your Hall of Fame inductees will be announced in the December issue of UKC® Field.

I greatly enjoyed getting to see many of y'all down in Alabama for the Purina Awards and AFTCA annual meeting. I want to take a moment to recognize and congratulate the 2023-24 Purina Award winners.

**All-Age Handler
Award Winner
Mark McLean**

**Top Dog
Award Winner
Haney's All In
Steve Croy
Owner on record**

**Amateur Shooting Dog
Award Winner
One Day Queen Bee
Lane & Darcy Hodges
Owners on record**

**All-Age Derby
Award Winner
Rampage
S. Tucker Johnson
Owner on record**

**Shooting Dog Handler
Award Winner
Mike Tracy**

**Shooting Dog
Award Winner
Panther Creek Rosie
Frank Rutland
Owner on record**

**Amateur All-Age
Award Winner
Haney's Silver Dollar
Chris Cagle
Owner on record**

**Shooting Dog Derby
Award Winner
Mo's Curtain Call
Tim Moore and
Jim & Theresa Morrell
Owners on record**

Congratulations again to these winning individuals and dogs for an exceptional season. Congratulations also to the owners, trainers, handlers, scouts, and breeders who played a role in highlighting these terrific animals.

— Domenick Muoio
Field Trial & Hunt Test Program Manager

National Champion



TOUCH'S GALLATIN FIRE

Alex Rickert, Owner | Mark McLean, Handler | Keith A. Wright, Breeder

[Photo by Chris Mathan]

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Brian Dix with Rock Solid Motion Picture (#F1700177) and Joe Dahl with Magic Mist Sydney (#F1659946)

RULES, REGULATIONS, AND A WORKING RELATIONSHIP FOR 100 YEARS

The American Field/UKC, *Field Dog Stud Book (FDSB)*, and Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America (AFTCA) have had a working relationship for more than 100 years. Because of that relationship, American Field/UKC field trials, open or amateur, operate under the same rules, regulations, and minimum requirements.

Wise decisions were made long ago to keep rules, regulations, and requirements to a minimum and build standards, traditions, and policies around them. It has long been the policy that each club's events follow the same set of simple rules, regulations, and requirements, regardless of location, so the results from their stakes are meaningful compared to similar stakes in other places. Relativity and relatability are critical components for competition or even when trying to improve the breed, which historically is the primary purpose of trials. When drawings occur in the same way when there is the expectation and reality that the rules, regulations, and standards will be followed, whether judging, handling, or running events, the sport remains familiar to all, and that

encourages fair competition. The sport benefits where there is certainty and consistency and suffers with exceptions and inconsistency.

When putting on an event, finding ways to work around them or make unique and uncommon interpretations of so few rules, regulations, and requirements for personal benefit is not particularly difficult or honorable and certainly not sustainable. Fortunately, the overwhelming majority of participants work positively within the spirit of our few rules because they have long realized that the discipline to remain true to the sport actually benefits the sport. When issues arise, the responsibility to interpret the same rules and regulations for open events rests with the UKC, and amateur events rest with the residing President of the AFTCA. Club officials who translate rules and regulations outside of tradition and long-held interpretation at their events do so at their own risk.

Each summer, trustees of the AFTCA meet to discuss, amongst other things, the rules, regulations, minimum requirements, and standards of our sport.

Trustees bring hands-on experience in all facets of the sport from across the United States and Canada to meet on these issues. At that meeting, an American Field/UKC representative attends to contribute, advise, and discuss with the AFTCA Trustees and ultimately adopt the motions passed by the AFTCA so that the sport, open or amateur, remains one in purpose and function.

The following two resources are indispensable to help provide consistency across our sport for all involved. "*Standards to Field Trial Procedure, Judicial Practice, Handler and Bird Dog Performance*" is available from the AFTCA and is a must-know for anyone investing time and effort in the sport. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of each participant to know and follow the rules and regulations. AFTCA Running Rules and Minimum Requirements are updated yearly and available on the AFTCA website. They can also be easily resourced by club members or trustees. Field trial clubs, event chairs, and participants are encouraged to have both at their disposal during all of their events.

NATIONAL AMATEUR FREE-FOR-ALL CHAMPIONSHIP

One Day Queen Bee Named Champion; Reynolds Party Starter, Runner-Up

By Morgan Brewer | Union Springs, Alabama | February 22, 2024

The National Amateur Free-For-All Championship set in motion its highly acclaimed field trial on February 22 on the magnificent Sedgewilds Plantation in Union Springs, Alabama. Amateurs from around the country anticipate this championship year after year in hopes of capturing the most sought-after title in the history of amateur field trials. Mr. Raymond and Kathryn Harbert offer their grounds annually to host this famed trial, and this event would not take place if it weren't for them. Their continued support, as well as the board of directors, keeps the tradition alive. The board of directors plays a vital role in the success of a field trial, and the Free-For-All board is second to none. It takes a village to host and put on a championship of this magnitude. Jason Howard, Bill Lee, Chance Kelley, and the rest of the crew at Sedgewilds do a phenomenal job manicuring the grounds

to be the best to ever turn a bird dog loose in America.

The running would not go without a hitch if it weren't for an experienced dog wagon driver like Steve Hutto. He and Tommy Hicks kept the running going smoothly, as well as delivered refreshments to the participants. Harrison Lee, Squire Lee, and Chance Kelley served as head marshals, as well as board members Harold Johnson and Hunter McDuffie. They kept the handlers on course, and their efforts were greatly appreciated. Words cannot express the gratitude for Anna Grace Tompkins. She did an excellent job washing the officials' horses. Her smile was a delight at the end of each day.

Brian Spear of Lowndesboro, Alabama, and Jeff Gibbons of Deatsville, Alabama, shared this year's judicial responsibilities. Spear returned for his second consecutive

year while Gibbons made his debut. They rode tirelessly and gave each dog a watchful opportunity; there are not enough thanks for their time and commitment!

Purina donated four bags of dog food to the champion, three bags of dog food to the runner-up champion, and two bags of dog food to the top qualifying dog. Purina and Greg Blair are tremendous assets to this championship and the sport. Garmin donated a tracking collar to the champion and the runner-up champion. Union Springs Home Center donated gifts for the judges and the reporter. There can never be enough thanks for the generosity of these sponsors.

A delicious breakfast was served daily, sponsored by the Tourism Council of Bullock County. A surplus of businesses, field trialers, and well-wishers donate to the Tourism Council for all the food, hiring the

lovely ladies, and contributing the welcome signs and banners in town.

A dinner and cocktail party honoring the legacy of Bootie Smitherman and Ginger Austin was held at the lovely home of Christy and Van Wadsworth on Thursday night, kicking off the nightly festivities. Hosts for this beautiful event were Ginny and David Allen, Colleen and Ken Buce, Charlotte and Lynn Jinks, Leigh and Jay Moorer, David Padgett, Julie and Patrick Roach, Jane Rutland, Elizabeth and Burt Smithart, Wesley Smithart and Justin Nolen, Allison and Ban Stewart, Vickie and Scott Stewart, Leigh and Josh Taylor, Susan Wells, Christy and Van Wadsworth, and Kara Williamson. The hospitality was true to southern fashion, and all patrons had a grand time!

Everyone was invited to the Union Springs Country Club Friday night to participate in the Draw Down and Dance. Raymond and Kathryn Harbert hosted a dinner and dance at the Field House on Saturday night. Sunday night, the Owners' and Handlers' Party was held at the Field House, sponsored by AmeriFirst Bank. The anticipated "Friends' Party" was held on Monday night at the home of Hunter and Addie Smith. Hunter and Addie graciously opened up their beautiful home and hosted the event along with Catherine and Jimmy Bassett, Beverly and Andy Calloway, Linda and Jay Clark, Lisa and Justin Clark, Amy and Stan Connally, Chris and Pete Del Collo, Becky and Tony Gibson, Darlene Hixon, Frank Moorer, Maureen and Kevin Joyce, Heather and Charles Klink, Jane and Jim Klinger, Sue Ellen and Tom Lanier, Renita and Tommy Main, Lynn and Brian Peterson, Colleen and Frank Rutland, Brooke and Brian Sanchez, Sandra and Jim Smith, Shirley and Joe Varner, and Laura and Winston Way. The food was exceptional, and all had a glorious time.



National Amateur Free-for-All Championship (l-r): Roger Key, Frank Rutland, Colleen Rutland, One Day Queen Bee with Lane Hodges, Jeff Gibbons (judge), Darcy Hodges, Morgan Brewer (reporter), Lawton Huggins, Reynolds Party Starter with Hunter McDuffie, Brian Spear (judge), Mindy McDuffie, Darron Hendley, April Sanderson, and Tony Reynolds.

The Callbacks

It was 68 degrees with temperatures steadily increasing when last year's champion, One Day Queen Bee, owned and handled by Lane Hodges, and the top qualifying dog, Reynolds Party Starter, owned by Will Wilson and handled by Hunter McDuffie, came to the line. These exceptional athletes laid it all out on the line and, by far, were the best brace of the championship and one to remember.

One Day Queen Bee was named champion for her outstanding performance; she ran a strong front-running race, recording finds at 18 and 80. This petite Pointer female knocked it out of the park with her husband-and-wife team, Lane and Darcy Hodges.

Reynolds Party Starter ("Rex") was named top qualifying dog and runner-up champion. This accomplishment was especially bittersweet, with Rex's previous owner, Brian Sanderson, passing

on November 6, 2023. Brian, or "B" as most called him, loved the sport of field trials. He always had a smile on his face, always lent a helping hand, and was an amazing friend. Brian's professional handler, Tony Reynolds, rode in support when Rex ran. There wasn't a dry eye when Hunter McDuffie blew his whistle at breakaway. Rex ran a scalding dog race, and when McDuffie threw his hat up at 70, Brian was shining down, smiling his bright smile.

Union Springs, Ala., February 22
Judges: Jeff Gibbons and Brian Spear
NATIONAL AMATEUR FREE-FOR-ALL
CHAMPIONSHIP [Forty-Five Minute Qualifying
Heats; One-and-One Half Hour Finals]
- 51 Pointers and 7 Setters

Winner-ONE DAY QUEEN BEE, 1684579, pointer female, by Heard Hill's Memory Lane-DuBose's Snow White. Lane & Darcy Hodges, owners; Lane Hodges, handler.
Runner-Up-REYNOLDS PARTY STARTER, 1695316, pointer male, by L V's Western Express-L V's Silver Lining. Will Wilson, owner; Hunter McDuffie, handler.

MISSOURI OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP & MIDWESTERN STATES SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY

By Tony King | Grovespring, Missouri | March 4, 2024

Open and amateur handlers and their teams of canine competitors descended upon the Sportsmen's Association grounds near Grovespring, Missouri, the week of March 4 to compete in one of the season's largest field trials. Seventy shooting dogs and 28 derbies were drawn to run in the 44th Missouri Open Shooting Dog Championship and 36th Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity. Although it was a long and demanding

event for the host club members, ample birdwork over the three one-hour courses, friendly camaraderie, and competitive spirit yielded an excellent field trial.

The Missouri Shooting Dog Association and the Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity pride themselves in acquiring impartial, fair, and honest judges. This year's judges met that criterion and much more. Spending six long days in the saddle, in varying weather conditions, and

maintaining a cheerful and impartial focus requires a certain amount of dedication to the sport of field trialing. Quality judges face the physical constraints of judging and the mental challenges of the long days in the saddle. Judging decisions must be firm, understanding, and swift but sometimes delicate. When judging, it's not easy sometimes to manage the cast of characters this sport provides. When livelihood and pride are showcased, and each dog is



44th Missouri Open Shooting Dog Championship (front, l-r): Kirk Loftin with Smoke'N'Mirrors and Tony King with Silver W Jill Z. (Back row): Matt Basilone, Mike Poehler, Mike Vicari (judge), Jarrett Bell, Frank Vicari (judge), Mike Northwood, Shawn Kinkelaar, Jerry Hailey, and Mark Johnson.

turned loose, a keen eye and a levelheaded approach must prevail. In both stakes, this year's judges provided that approach.

The judges for the 44th renewal were Frank and Mike Vicari from Hampshire, Illinois. This father and son duo are well-known amateur competitors in the continental breed world with a highly talented string of German Shorthair Pointers. Their challenge was not easy as they accepted the responsibility of sorting through 70 of the country's top shooting dogs. Their cheerful attitudes and willingness to look at every dog, in the same manner provided a consistent running environment for all the competitors. They paid close attention to every brace and worked equally hard throughout the stake. They maintained a consistent format and rode hard when necessary. You could not ask for a better, more competent pair to run a dog under. Their firmness and understanding of the nature of field trialing yielded a competitive but understood environment in which their decisions were well received.

Although Frank and Mike had originally agreed to judge the Futurity too, club members of the Missouri Shooting Dog Association and Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity decided to acquire a new judicial panel for the running of this year's Futurity and save Mike and Frank from an additional two-and-a-half days in the saddle. Mark Johnson from Winnebago, Illinois, and Mike Poehler from Buffalo, Missouri, graciously accepted the role of judging the 36th renewal of the Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity. As in the Championship, Mark and Mike fell in step and worked well together. This being Mike's first futurity judging assignment and Mark having judged the stake in the spring of 2020, the pair

offered a seasoned but fresh outlook to the ever-challenging task of judging derbies. Their decisions were well received and respected throughout the stake. The Board of Directors and club members from the Missouri Open Shooting Dog Association and Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity would like to thank these four gentlemen for their time spent in the saddle and their efforts and dedication to the sport of field trialing.

Field trials would not survive without the help of their sponsors. The Missouri Shooting Dog Association and Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity are fortunate to have two of the industry's best. For several years now, Purina and SportDOG have graciously provided product and support for these field trial venues. As always, Purina provides Pro Plan Performance to the handlers and/or owners of the champion, runner-up, and winners in the Futurity. SportDOG provides e-collars to the champion and runner-up in the Championship and e-collars and bark limiters in the Futurity. The Missouri Shooting Dog Association and Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity would like to thank its sponsors and their professional representatives, Greg Blair and Jim Morehouse. The Board of Directors and club members look forward to their renewed support and the continued relationship with these sponsors for these time-honored events.

Furthermore, it should be noted that this was the first year the Missouri Shooting Dog Association and the Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity paid for AFTCA membership and utilized the ordering of dog food and acquisition of trophies, apparel, and awards through the Purina Event Sponsorship Program. The program provides a seamless transition

when ordering dog food for field trials, and the apparel, awards, and trophies provided to the winners and participants are first class. The Board of Directors for the Missouri Shooting Dog Association and MWSDF Futurity Club would like to thank both Purina and the AFTCA for providing such an important service to the field trial community.

This year's renewals brought back a tradition that had in years past been relinquished. This year, club members and trial participants celebrated past shooting dog champions and Futurity winners by hosting two evening cookouts on Friday and Sunday of the week's running. The team of Eddy Taylor, Virgil Moore, and Scott Hadley manned the grill while club members and various others, such as Sharleen Daugherty, provided side dishes. The Shooting Dog supper was provided by Doug Ray, honoring the 42nd Missouri Open Shooting Dog Champion, Dominator's Ghost Rider, and Eddy Taylor provided the Futurity supper for last year's Futurity winner, Hale's Country Strong. Other than the great dog performances, these two events might have been the highlights of the trial. It was great to see the handlers, some owners, judges, locals, Vizsla folks, and Sportsmen Association members gather to enjoy each other's contributions to the sport.

A huge heartfelt thank you to Mark Johnson, Adam DeLude, and Jerry Hailey for their help. Mark and Adam traveled considerable distances to help facilitate both events. Mark, Adam, and Jerry were there helping with food, the dog wagon, bird planting, marshaling, judging, and social media management. Without everyone's help, this event would not have run as smoothly as it did. Their help was invaluable and much appreciated. Also, I would like to thank Bruce Ludwig for providing a fabulous homemade enchilada on Thursday for lunch and Mike Northwood for providing use of his Polar Ranger on the last three days of the event. Thanks again, Mark, Adam, and Jerry!

44th Missouri Open Shooting Dog Championship

Two brilliant performances with lots of birdwork, favorable weather conditions early in the week, and great camaraderie set the stage for a pleasurable week of running at this year's Missouri Open Shooting Dog Championship. Professional handlers Doug Ray, Matt Basilone, Shawn Kinkelaar, Chuck Stretz, Harold Gearhart, Virgil Moore, Scott Hadley, Eddy Taylor, and Brian Gingrich, along with amateur competitors Adam DeLude, Mark Johnson, and Kirk Loftin, enjoyed the gentlemanly

competitiveness and fellowship this year's event provided.

The Champion

When Matt Basalone turned Smoke'N'Mirrors loose for owners Richard Gillis and Stacey Goodie in the 21st brace of the trial there had been some good performances but nothing close to the hour that was about to take place. Over the ever-changing topography of Course No. 2 and through the beginning portion of Course No. 3, Smoke'N'Mirrors displayed what could be called the quintessential championship shooting dog performance. Throughout her hour, this liver and white veteran female tallied five impressively located, clean finds while taking every advantage of consuming the county. She went to work early as her approach was forward, smooth, not too big but reaching, and never wavered. Smoke'N'Mirrors seemed to heed Basalone's bending while hunting every birdy objective. On each of Smoke'N'Mirrors's five finds, birds were properly located, and her style immaculate. At 39, she solidified her position by pinning one of the seldom seen September pre-release coveys on the back side of the Bull Pasture. At the call of pick up, Mirrors was seen forward, still pushing the envelope of available country to hunt. After the brace had ended, all those who witnessed it knew that Basalone and Smoke'N'Mirrors's performance was extraordinary and probably was sitting on top.

The Runner-up

In the first brace, on Course No. 1 and the second day's running, Shawn Kinkelaar brought Silver W Jill Z for owner Dr. Debbie Ozner to the line with Ed and Megan McCay's Mohawk Mill Gangster for handler Matt Basalone. This pair went to work early as they traded punches, putting on quite a show, with each having independent pieces of work during a fun brace to watch. I would be remiss if I did not commend both dogs as their performances were impressive throughout, and could have earned champion and runner-up at other field trials. Throughout the brace, Silver W Jill Z was strong and powerful for the hour. Her race, although reaching, was thorough and sensible. As the brace unfolded, both were biddable but hunting independently, each having two independent finds and one divided find. Always to the front and yielding to Kinkelaar's commands, Jill Z's style was faultless, and her birds accurately located. In my mind, the total strength of the race separated these two, with Jill Z having the advantage. At the call of pick up, the pair finished forward and were seen on the front end on top of Lil Vine Hill.



36th Midwest States Shooting Dog Futurity (front, l-r): Kirk Loftin with Wild Covey Derecho, Chris Catanzarite with Backcountry Snake Eyes, Kaley Anne with Miller's Upgraded Patent, and Allison Bell with Erin's Doc Holliday. (Back row): Hyatt Burchette, Tony King, Mike Poehler (judge), Doug Ray, Mark Johnson (judge), and Jarrett Bell.

Others That Impressed

At every field trial, there's always a group of dogs that provide quality performances that, under different circumstances, could be named winners. The following is a list of dogs that had performances worthy of noting: Cape Point Lucky Strike (four finds), Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee (three finds, one back), I'm Spartacus (three finds, one back), Mohawk Mill Gangster (two finds, one DF, and one back), Hatteras Rip Tide (four finds), Upfront's Southern Star (three finds), Ramblin Rivers Natural (two finds and one back), and A Buccaneer (two finds).

Grovespring, Mo., March 4

Judges: Frank Vicari and Mike Vicari

44TH MISSOURI OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 55 Pointers, 6 Setters, 5 German Shorthairs, and 4 Vizslas

Winner-SMOKE'N'MIRRORS, 1679185, pointer female, by Just Irresistible-A Whiskey Lullaby. Richard Gillis & Stacey Goodie, owners; Matt Basalone, handler.

Runner-Up-SILVER W JILL Z, 1682062, pointer female, by Ransom-Double Wild. Debbie Ozner, owner; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.

35th Midwest States Shooting Dog Futurity

As it has been tradition over the last several years, the Midwest States Shooting Dog Futurity is held following the conclusion of the Missouri Open Shooting Dog Championship. A banner entry in the Championship proved fruitful as this year's Futurity drew its largest entry of 28 derbies since the revitalization of the program in 2013. For the 36th running, 15 Pointer litters, three Setter litters, and two Vizsla litters were nominated into the program. Chelsea's Thunder Bolt, Lester's Storm Surge, and Miller's Speed Dial were the leading sires, each with two nominated litters.

As previously stated, Mark Johnson and Mike Poehler were in the saddle to evaluate this strong field of contenders. Mark and Mike proved to be the perfect pair to evaluate this year's crop, as each understood the concept of combining

the total performance of each contender through two series while keeping in mind the overall potential of each dog developing into a future field trial champion. After judging the 30-minute qualifying series and sorting through the derbies in varying stages of development, these gentlemen did a commendable job selecting the final one-hour contestants. The Futurity board can't thank them enough for their time in the saddle and attention to detail while judging the Midwest States Shooting Dog Futurity.

Wild Covey Derecho, for owner and handler Tony King, was this year's winner of the 36th MWSD Futurity. Wild Covey Derecho ("Wendy") is an athletically built, primarily all-white, Pointer female sired by Miller's Speed Dial out of the dam, Wild Covey Jackie (Miller's Happy Jack x Andon's Adams County). Bill Coddington of Paola, Kansas, is the co-breeder of this litter and was an integral part in orchestrating the breeding. Prior to Derecho's derby campaign, Wendy and her littermate brother, Wild Covey Sundial, went north with Andy Daughtery, leading to Sundial being placed in Andy's string. Under Andy's tutelage, this decision proved beneficial as the littermate pair had successful derby seasons. Derecho placed at the North Missouri Field Trial and Missouri State Field Trial, qualifying for the U. S. Derby Invitational and eventually winning the MWSD Futurity.

In the 30-minute qualifying series, Wild Covey Derecho was away with Hale's Cutting Edge near the road at the end of Davis Bottom. Utilizing the open edge country and yielding to her handler's requests, Derecho made full use of the back side of Course No. 1 and the beginning of Course No. 2. Although she was unable to get any birds pointed in this series, she was fast, animated, and smooth but powerful throughout. Her quest was with purpose, never leaving the front end and having a strong finish on top of Lil Vine Hill, thus earning her a spot in the callback series.

In Brace 1 of the one-hour callbacks, Wild Covey Derecho was away on Course No. 1 with Laura Pergolizzi for handler Shawn Kinkelaar and owners Lombardi/Swingley. This hour provided entertainment for the judges as this pair of young contenders went to work. Pergolizzi was busy throughout, having five finds and a back.

Derecho's hour yielded three crisp and clean pieces of birdwork with a back as she traversed the edges and rolling hills on Course No. 1. From the breakaway, you could tell Derecho was on a mission, as her first find was a true "field trial" find. She had previously checked in at the first creek crossing at :02 and then was found standing, dead to the front, on the far edge of the creek at 14. From there, she continued her smooth, reaching but biddable effort, having an unproductive at 18, a find at 21, a back at 26, and her final find at 44. The judges noted that Wendy was always forward in the pocket but strong throughout. She showed experience and poise around game, and all finds were accurately located. Although a young contender, Derecho's application was mature, and finish still searching forward. If early indications are representative, this young, talented contender sure has a bright future ahead of her.

This year's second-place winner was Backcountry Snake Eyes, a primarily all-white Pointer female with black ticked ears, for owner and handler Chris Catanzarite of Scenery Hill, Pennsylvania. As Chris attended several trials in the Midwest, Chris and his string of dogs made the long trip from Pennsylvania to compete in this year's Futurity. Snake Eyes is sired by Jim Hughes's champion, Dragonfly, by the female, Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Micheal Martino is the breeder of record on this litter, as both of Chris's derbies are out of this litter.

Like Wild Covey Derecho, Backcountry Snake Eyes ran a smooth, forward, well-applied race in the 30-minute

qualifier. Although unable to produce birds, the judges felt strongly that her application, biddability, and finish did enough to earn callback honors. This decision proved correct, as Snake Eyes showed everyone she was very capable throughout her hour. Although not from the Midwest, this fleet of foot female applied herself appropriately throughout the ever-changing habitat on Course No. 3. She tallied five mannerly finds at 12, 25, 31, 40, and finally at 55. As she showed in the 30-minute series and when she wasn't pointing birds, Snake Eyes applied herself aptly. Although not extreme, her race was comprehensive but reaching with a suitable finish.

Doug Ray's talented young white and orange Pointer female, Miller's Upgraded Patent, was this year's third-place winner. Patent was whelped in a litter bred and raised by the talented amateur duo, Fran and Jack Miller. The litter was sired by Miller's Upgraded Version out of the dam Miller's Special Edition. Upgraded Patent ran in the last brace of the qualifier series. She did not point birds in the qualifier series but put on a show on the ground. Patent was consistently forward, fast, and animated in her approach. She handled well for Ray and maturely applied herself while hunting every birdy objective. In the final series, she was braced with the fourth place winning dog, Erin's Doc Holliday. Patent demonstrated her bird-finding abilities while maintaining a similar application she had in the qualifier. She tallied three stylishly located finds at 19, 30, and 35, all while exhibiting perfect manners. Throughout the hour, Patent hunted well as she stayed fast and forward while still searching at the call of pick up.

The fourth-place winner, Erin's Doc Holliday, for owner and handler Jarrett Bell of Troy, Missouri, was the lone male derby in this year's winners' circle. Doc is out of a litter by Erin's Lone Star Law and by Erin's Kennel's producing dam, Erin's Little Lullaby. Sean Derrig is the breeder of record and can be linked back to Doc's early development. In the qualifier series,

this athletically built, white and orange Pointer male demonstrated a consistently powerful, wide-ranging, but biddable 30-minute application while handling well for Bell. In the final series, Doc maintained a similar approach, tallying two finds at :30 and :35 while seeming to eat up the country. His race was strong and birdwork crisp. He finished forward just as he started with plenty of gas in the tank.

Many factors go into a successful field trial, and the Missouri Shooting Dog and Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity club members pride themselves on hosting field trials that afford all competitors an equal opportunity to showcase their talents. Such elements include hiring quality judges, lining up the logistics of hosting an event, and providing ample opportunity to find birds. Although each year presents new challenges, the Missouri Shooting Dog Association and Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity team work hard to continuously provide the field trial community with a venue that competitors and their dogs want to attend and represents the historical tradition they have earned. The Missouri Shooting Dog Association and Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity would like to take this opportunity to thank all its club members, dog owners, handlers, supporters, and sponsors and would like to extend best wishes in the upcoming field trial season.

**Judges: Mark Johnson and Mike Poehler
36TH MIDWESTERN STATES SHOOTING DOG
FUTURITY [Thirty-Minute Qualifying Heats;
One-Hour Callback] – 18 Pointers**

1st-WILD COVEY DERECHO, 1701530, pointer female, by Miller's Speed Dial-Wild Covey Jackie. Tony King, owner and handler.

2d-BACKCOUNTRY SNAKE EYES, 1701700, pointer female, by Dragonfly-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.

3d-MILLER'S UPGRADED PATENT, 1704924, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Bob Canada & Harold Ray, owners; Doug Ray, handler.

4th ERIN'S DOC HOLLIDAY, 1704304, pointer male, by Erin's Lone Star Law-Erin's Little Lullaby. Jarrett D. Bell, owner and handler.

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PENNSYLVANIA AMATEUR GROUSE DOG CLUB

Spring Trial Held At Historic Grounds

By Mark Hughes | Marienville, Pennsylvania | March 9, 2024



Amateur All-Age (l-r): Brian Ralph with Ralphy's Chasehill Rip, Robert Boos (judge), Krysta Munden with Wildland Wild Man, John McKellop (judge), and Alex Meeder with Mulberry Fields Molly.



Amateur Derby (l-r): Eric Munden with Millers Dusty Version, Mike Husenits, Matt Null with Huguenot Mad Hatter, Brian Ralph (judge), William Drawl with Grey Eagle Molly, and Robert Matson (judge).



H. Y. Cooper Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog (l-r): Eric Munden with Wildland Hide The Wine, Robert Boos (judge), Krysta Munden with Wildland Wild Man, John McKellop (judge), and Robert Matson with Saddled Up Sadie.

On March 9-10, the Pennsylvania Amateur Grouse Dog Club held its spring trial at the historic Marienville, Pennsylvania field trial grounds in the Allegheny National Forest. The weather made for challenging conditions throughout the weekend, with cold and steady rain on Saturday switching to wind and snowstorms on Sunday, but dogs and handlers powered through. The weekend would not have been a success without the help from the judges who endured the unrelenting weather. A huge thanks go to Brian Ralph, Rob Matson, John McKellop, and Robert Boos. Brian and Rob judged the Edna Morgan Amateur Derby Classic on Saturday; John and Robert judged the Amateur All-Age on Saturday and the H. Y. Cooper Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog on Sunday. The Amateur All-Age and Derby Classic were run as multiple-course stakes, and the H. Y. Cooper Memorial Shooting Dog was run on a single course on liberated birds.

Saturday started with the Amateur All-Age running on the Lamonville courses. First place was awarded to Ralphy's Chasehill Rip, a stylish white and liver male Pointer handled by owner Brian Ralph. Rip hunted hard with an impressive race, hitting all likely spots of cover. Rip's brace mate, Wildland Wild Man ("Wayne"), finished in second for handler Krysta Munden. Wayne, a white and liver Pointer male, flowed through the course with ease, hunting hard. Third place was awarded to Mulberry Fields Molly, a white and orange

female Setter handled by Alex Meeder. Molly ran to the limit, hunting hard and covering the country with ease.

The trial then shifted to the Loletta courses, after a delicious lunch of pulled pork, for the commencement of the Edna Morgan Amateur Derby Classic. Finishing in first was Millers Dusty Version handled by Eric Munden and owned by Mike Husenits. "Dusty," a white and orange Pointer female, hunted hard, finishing the course well to the front. Finishing in second was Huguenot Mad Hatter for owner and handler Matt Null. "Hattie" handled willingly, hitting all likely covers. Rounding out the placements was Grey Eagle Molly for owner and handler William Drawl. Molly, a classy tri-color female Setter, attacked the course with intensity, showing great potential for the future.

Sunday began with the hotly contested H. Y. Cooper Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog stake. Finishing in first was Wildland Hide The Wine for owner and handler Eric Munden. "Chuck" ran to the limit finishing strong and to the front with a limb find. Finishing in second was Wildland Wild Man for owner and handler Krysta Munden. "Wayne" expertly navigated the course, scoring multiple finds and finishing strong. Third place was awarded to Saddled Up Sadie, owned by Joe Cammisa and handled by Eric Munden. Sadie searched all likely spots of cover, scoring a pair of finds, and covered the course with ease.

Thank you to everyone who came out to participate and support the trial. We look forward to seeing you all in the fall!

Marienville, Pa., March 9

Judges: Robert H. Boos and John McKellop

AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]

- 4 Pointers, 2 Setters, 1 Brittany, and 1 Irish Setter

1st-RALPHY'S CHASEHILL RIP, 1697746, pointer male, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Brian Ralph, owner and handler.

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

3d-MULBERRY FIELDS MOLLY, 1698754, setter female, by Stillmeadow's Benjamin-The Eiger. Norman Meeder, owner; Alex Meeder, handler.

Judges: Rob Mason and Brian Ralph

EDNA MORGAN AMATEUR DERBY CLASSIC

- 1 Pointer, 5 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter

1st-MILLERS DUSTY VERSION, 1706290, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Mike Husenits, owner; Eric Munden, handler.

2d-HUGUENOT MAD HATTER, 1700450, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Eldridge's Beauty and Beast. Matt Null, owner and handler.

3d-GREY EAGLE MOLLY, 1700978, setter female, by End Game-Riverside's Honey Howard. William Drawl, owner and handler.

Judges: Robert H. Boos and John McKellop

H. Y. COOPER MEMORIAL

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG - 10 Entries

1st-WILDLAND HIDE THE WINE, 1697105, pointer male, by Double Deuce Zeke-Beaver Meadow Rose. Eric Munden, owner and handler.

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

3d-SADDLED UP SADIE, 1699757, pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Beaver Meadow Rose. Joe Cammisa, owner; Eric Munden, handler.

Hall of Fame nominations close August 5!

Send nominations of 200 words or less to: dwellmann@ukcdogs.com

Send ads to: gsmith@ukcdogs.com

KEVIN STUART HONORED

On May 18, Kevin Stuart of Schenectady, New York, was awarded a Bird Dog Foundation Life Patron Membership. The award was presented at the Central Connecticut Bird Dog Club field trial handlers' dinner in East Windsor, Connecticut. A group of over 40 people gathered to celebrate the occasion.

Mr. Stuart has been a major contributor to our field trial sport for over 50 years! His record as a breeder, dog trainer, handler, field trial judge, and club official is unparalleled. Serving as an officer and director of the Central Connecticut Bird Dog Club, Northeastern Championship Association, and the Durham Pointer and Setter Club, his leadership and structured business approach have elevated the level of competition and brought new competitors into field trials. Kevin was also instrumental in organizing, planning, and co-chairing two successful Top Shooting Dog Awards programs.

A nationally recognized major circuit judge, Kevin's reputation of honesty, focus, and ability has set a standard for over five decades. Having adjudicated



(L-r): John DeGregorio, Lisa (Stuart) DeGregorio, Kevin Stuart, Maria Stuart, and Teresa (Stuart) DeAngelo

hundreds of open and amateur stakes, championships, and futurities, Kevin considered it an honor to be chosen to judge the National Free-For-All Championship twice.

Mr. Stuart has been a consistent front-runner in the development, training, handling, and placement of bird dogs. His classic approach tallied hundreds of placements from Canada to Florida and west to Arkansas. Ch. Erin's Southern Lady, Ch. Erin's Stone Cutter,

Ch. Kraftsman's Pride, Ch. Kraftsman's Fancy and National Amateur Shooting Dog Invitational runner-up champion, Kraftsman's Warrior, to name a few, have all given credit to his ability.

We thank you for your help, dedication, and service for over 50 years!

Side note: This presentation would not have been possible without the fantastic, dedicated efforts of Tonya Brotherton, Executive Director of the Bird Dog Foundation. With the two presentation plaques lost in the Memphis, Tennessee, postal facility for over two weeks, Tonya chased down the lost package and overnighted the third plaque to us for the presentation. Her ability and dedication to make things perfect and follow through are exceptional. If you don't know Tonya, stop by the Bird Dog Museum and meet her. She is the person that keeps this sport alive and flourishing. Thank you, Tonya Brotherton!

Remember, your donations make field trials live; donate!

— Tom Gates

NGSPA REGION 5 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Championship Series Held At Pyramid State Park

By Peter Coppens | Pinckneyville, Illinois | March 16, 2024

The Championship began on March 16 at Pyramid State Park near Pinckneyville, Illinois. We had wonderful weather this year. No rain. We want to thank Purina for their continued support of this trial. Shoutout to Greg Blair, Terry Trzcinski, Karl Gunzer, Alan Davidson, and Jim Morehouse. Jim is also a generous supplier of SportDOG collars for our champions. Thank you, Terry Trzcinski, for making time to stop by.

A trial doesn't happen without volunteers to drive the dog wagon, plant birds, make trips into town, provide food, etc. It was refreshing how well everyone worked together this week. Thank you, Dan and April DiMambro, for donating an Italian dinner; Katelyn and Ab Mache for the pork burger lunch and pies for the steak dinner night; and Kirk Loftin and Shery Tangsrud for the steaks for steak night. Thank you to Ab and Katelyn for the final cleaning of the clubhouse. Thank you, Ab, for cleaning the bird pen. Thank you

to our bird planters, Dan DiMambro, Mike Patrick, and Peter Coppens. Thank you to our judges.

We want to thank Diane Coppens for being secretary and treasurer, handling the drawing, lunches, suppers, and dog wagon duties, and staying on us to get our write-ups turned in. Without her dedication to these championships, we would not have the organization and ease of running them. Thank you to the President of Region 5, Peter Coppens. If it weren't for his love and dedication to this sport, there would not be a Region 5 Championship. Finally, thank you to Brad, the site superintendent, Henry, Mike, and Jason for all you do to make sure our trial runs successfully. We look forward to seeing everyone in February at Showtime Plantation for the 2025 Region 16 and March 2025 Region 5 at Pyramid State Park. The scribe was Peter Coppens, with the help of the judges.

NGSPA Region 5

Open Shooting Dog Championship

The Championship began with the Shooting Dog, capably judged by Mike Kindler and Jack Marchese—a big shoutout for your time in the saddle and dedication to this sport. We appreciate the years of dedication to this trial. The judges were presented with 12 braces of quality dogs to watch. Thank you to the handlers, Mr. & Mrs. Dan DiMambro, Kirk Loftin, Ab Macke, Mike Patrick, and Hank Lewis.

The judges announced Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee, owned/handled by Kirk Loftin, as the champion. Dee was from Brace 3 and had seven finds. She started at the end of the cornfield, powered forward, and was found standing at 6 at the other end. All manners were good. She was kept under thumb through the trail and let loose at the top of the hill in the orchard. Another find at 11 with all in order. Dee was let go to the road where she was gathered up to cross, let go at the gate, and found standing

at 27 at the end of the big field. Again, all manners in order. She was then let loose at the gate and found standing at 35 on the path. All in order. Let loose between the ponds and found standing at 39, all good. She ran up between the ponds and was found standing in the rock bowl with manners in order. She was kept close to the road crossing, cut loose, and found again standing at 47, three-quarters of the way down the fence line. Dee was sent across the field, then found standing at 59, three-quarters of the way across the cornfield on the edge. Dee was strong, and the judges commented that she was a pleasure to watch.

Runner-up went to P J Wildfire's Little Lexi, owned by Kirk Loftin and Larry Loftin and handled by Kirk. Lexi was from the first brace and had finds at 8, 12, 30, 40, and 53. She also handled kindly and had a powerful run. Lexi was straightforward, had no wasted movement, and was very methodical in hunting. Good style on point.

Pinckneyville, Ill., March 16
Judges: Mike Kindler and Jack Marchese
NGSPA REGION 5 OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
- 22 German Shorthairs

Winner-STONEY HILL'S PINNACLE DEE, 1694168, female, by Simons Gunner-Shadowrocks Mighty Mouse. Dr. Kirk A. Loftin, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-P J WILDFIRE'S LITTLE LEXI, 1663717, female, by P J Wildfire's Little Bud-Lone Creek Sweet Anna. Dr. Kirk A. & Larry Loftin, owners; Kirk Loftin, handler.

NGSPA Region 5
Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

The Amateur was judged by Sherwin Van Kooten and Peter Coppens. We thank both of you for your time and expertise. We had 19 dogs and would like to thank all the amateurs who supported us: Ab Mache, Art Terstage, Kirk Loftin, Jack Marchese, Mike Kindler, Mike Patrick, Larry Bradley, and Hank Lewis. Bob Salamone also sent his dogs.

The champion was Sunny Fields Warchief ("Thrall"), owned and handled by Art Terstage. Kirk Loftin scouted for Thrall. He was in the first brace. Thrall had four multiple finds throughout the hour. He handled kindly and needed little scouting. Every time we rode forward, we would find Thrall to the front and standing. This garnished Thrall and Art the Amateur Championship.

The runner-up was Hi N's Curtain Call ("Charlie"), owned and handled by Hank Lewis. Larry Bradley was the scout. Charlie came from Brace 6. He had



NGSPA Region 5 Open Shooting Dog Championship (front, l-r): Ab Mache with Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee and Kirk Loftin with P J Wildfire's Little Lexi. (Behind): Mike Kindler (judge), Katelyn Macke, and Jack Marchese (judge).

multiple bird finds and had great style on all his birdwork.

Judges: Peter Coppens and Sherwin Van Kooten
NGSPA REGION 5 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
- 19 German Shorthairs

Winner-SUNNY FIELDS WARCHIEF, 1687084, male, by Joke's On You-Sunny Fields Vegas Rumor. Art Terstage, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-HI N'S CURTAIN CALL, 1687995, male, by Hi N's Bodacious-Hi N's Hasty Matilda. Hank Lewis, owner and handler.

NGSPA Region 5
Open All-Age Championship

The All-Age followed the Amateur and was capably judged by Sherwin Van Kooten and Peter Coppens. Big thank you to you both for filling these judging spots. Nine braces were drawn.

Evergreen's Jed was named champion. Jed is owned by Lance Olsen and handled by Dan DiMambro. He ran in Brace 4. He impressed the judges with his consistency and forward run. Jed had impeccable style and all manners in order. He worked in conjunction with his handler and had a strong finish. With all these elements, Jed was named our All-Age Champion.

Runner-up went to Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee, owned/handled by Kirk Loftin. Dee was also a great contender in this stake. She came from the first brace. She was strong and forward with multiple finds. Dee listened well to her handler and was stylish on her birdwork. This performance is what earned her Runner-up Champion.

NGSPA REGION 5 OPEN ALL-AGE
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
- 18 German Shorthairs

Winner-EVERGREEN'S JED, 1676169, male, by Trueblu's B D K Ace Inthe Hole-Chicoree's What A Hoodlum. Lance Olsen, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.
Runner-Up- STONEY HILL'S PINNACLE DEE, 1694168, female, by Simons Gunner-Shadowrocks Mighty Mouse. Dr. Kirk A. Loftin, owner and handler.

NGSPA Region 5 Open Derby

The 2024 NGSPA Region 5 Derby was run on Tuesday afternoon, March 19. The 16-dog competition was high in this stake, and many dogs that did not receive nods could have won in other derby stakes. All the young dogs ran well through the wind. Bird finding was tough for the first four braces. The temperature changed, and the derby dogs started picking up coveys. We had three dogs that stood out just a bit above the rest. Thank you to Mike Patrick and Hank Lewis for their capable judging time. It was much appreciated.

In Brace 3, Jay Wade's dog Lainie had a big race with a broke find at 19. She went on to have a power finish, which locked her up as the winner. Beaver's Rude Wildfire Lainie, owned and handled by Jay Wade, was awarded first place.

From Brace 6, Richie Rodgers ran six derby dogs, all showing well. Richie's best dog this day was Rhea, who ran a nice run with manners in order. We came around the corner to find her standing. She had a nice flush, which afforded her a placement. JRS Lady Rhea, owned and handled by Richie Rodgers, was named the second-place derby dog.

Visit www.americanfield.com for updates!



NGSPA Region 5 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (front, l-r): Robyn Van Kotten with Sunny Fields Warchief and Larry Bradley with Hi N's Curtain Call. (Behind): Sherwin Van Kotten (judge), Hank Lewis, and Peter Coppens (judge).



NGSPA Region 5 Open All-Age Championship (front, l-r): April DiMambro with Evergreen's Jed and Abraham Macke with Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dec. (Behind): Dan DiMambro, Peter Coppens (judge), Sherwin Van Kotten (judge), and Kirk Loftin.



NGSPA Region 5 Open Derby (front, l-r): Jay Wade with Beaver's Rude Wildfire Lainie, Richie Rodgers with JRS Lady Rhea, and Mike Kindler with Patriots Revved Up Vom Orama. (Behind): Hank Lewis (judge), Mike Patrick (judge), and Larry Bradley.

Also from Brace 6 was Larry Bradley with his wife's young dog, Revy. Revy ran big and had a find at 17, nice and stylish. Patriots Revved Up Vom Orama is owned by Heidi Bradley, was run by Larry Bradley, and was named third place.

Congratulations to our winners.

Judges: Hank Lewis and Mike Patrick
NGSPA REGION 5 OPEN DERBY
- 16 German Shorthairs

1st-BEAVER'S RUDE WILDFIRE LAINIE, 1710115, female, by Wildfire's Royal Flush-Wildfire's Snowy Mountain. Jay D. Wade, owner and handler.

2d-JRS LADY RHEA, unreg., female, by Keg Creek Royalty-Slicks Wild Child. Richie Rodgers, owner and handler.

3d-PATRIOTS REVVED UP VOM ORAWA, 1709433, female, by Friedelsheim's Freight Train Mason-Ami Vom Orawa. Heidi Bradley, owner; Larry Bradley, handler.

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NORTH COUNTRY BIRD DOG CLUB

Spring Trial

By Roger King, Brent Sittlow & Ryan Hough | Augusta, Wisconsin | March 22, 2024

The phrase "Perfect Storm" echoed in my head as we planned the North Country Bird Dog Club spring trial. Note: The North Country is an affiliate of the Chippewa Valley Grouse Dog Association, which was formed in 1968.

The Open Shooting Dog was to start on Friday, with a winter storm bearing down upon us most of Thursday evening, leaving 4-5 inches of snow. Club officials and judges met and decided to go ahead with the Open Shooting Dog starting at 8 a.m. Friday's running included trudging through the newly fallen snow, negotiating slippery hills, and walking nearly 12 miles for the six braces planned. We were honored to have two relatively young judges from our neighbor to the west, Minnesota Grouse Dog Club. Ryan Hough has successfully trialed and run grouse dogs for years and is wise beyond his age. Chris Bye has a keen sense of bird dogs and performance objectives while maintaining a positive

outlook. Chris is also the president of the Minnesota Grouse Dog Association and has been trialing for many years. Both are a pleasure to be around, exuding positive attitudes, and given the conditions on Friday, it went without a hitch.

The following are excerpts from Ryan Hough, Open Shooting Dog judge:

First place: Cedar (Lindsey Saetre) had a powerful race, scorched the course, and reached for the front. She had three finds, including two in the last 10 minutes and a nice back. At 8, into the Horse Creek course as it turns sharply to the north, Cedar went the wrong way. Instead of standing there yelling, Lindsay took the turn and kept calling for her, essentially "pulled her forward." It worked, and she was back with us in less than a minute or two, reaching for the front. A great handling decision! The speed, intensity around game, and raw power won her the

blue.

Second place: Lily (Jordan Pharris) had a wide-ranging race; very nice to watch moving and snappy on the ground. Manners around game are outstanding, and so are style and finesse. She was composed for her first find, just off the course on the other side of a thick pine tree. Her bracemate stopped on a "whoa" but remained somewhat loose. Three grouse flushed directly over Lily, not all at once, one every 10 seconds, and then a late one 25 seconds later; she didn't flinch. In the last five minutes, Lily's bell fell silent again. Her bracemate's bell then stopped. We decided to check that first, in case both dogs came together. Both dogs were found, and Lily never flinched on another grouse. She had fantastic composure around game with some added pressure from her bracemate. This was the best and cleanest grouse work we saw in the trial.

3rd place: North Slopes Allie (Ed Graddy) had a reaching-forward race for the entire hour, stayed in likely bird cover the entire time, and looked good doing it. She's a peppy, happy-going dog. In the last 10 minutes, we lost her bell. Scout and judges (the brace mate had been picked up early) started to look with the handler.

Allie was found by the other judge and marshal; she had been standing for a long time. We saw fresh grouse tracks in the snow in front of her; the handler and I followed those, trying for a flush. No dice! With about three minutes left, the handler releases Allie for relocation. The dog stops again with about 10 seconds left in the hour, and a strong flushing attempt was made. The time was up by 3-4 minutes, and the handler decided to relocate the dog one last time. As we're walking back to the dog for the relocation, the gallery, another judge, and marshals called "bird." A grouse blasted out from where the dog was standing—an exciting finish!

With a second winter storm bearing down on us (predicted 8-12 inches of snow), the field trial committee determined for the running of the trial and the safety of the participants, it would be best to finish the Derby on Saturday. This would mean limiting the Open Derby to a dual course setup and not the original desired plan of continuous courses.

At the evening judges' dinner, one of the Derby judges had an unfortunate health event that forced him to withdraw. Our prayers go out to him. We were 12 hours from breakaway the following morning; Greg Johnson was our savior. He agreed to judge with Brent Sittlow. Greg is a seasoned grouse hunter and successful handler who recently came off competing in the Invitational, which selects the top 12 grouse dogs in the nation to compete.

Brent Sittlow has been a grouse hunter and successful field trialer for some 30+ years and is a highly sought-after judge in the cover dog circuit.

The Open Derby boasted a considerable entry of 24 dogs. Judges Johnson and Sittlow would have their hands full looking over all the contestants on two courses. Conditions were clear and cold, with crunchy snow, to start the stake. Moving into the afternoon, the snow softened, with some bare patches opening on the forest floor. Consequently, the spring migrating woodcock were more available to the afternoon braces.

First place was awarded to Big Big Energy (Jordan Pharris), a puppy-aged Setter male who tore up the H course's west side like a veteran. His forward race extended to the cover available to him, always hunting and never wasting a step on the path. It was a mature performance for any stake, let alone a puppy-aged derby.

Second place went to Little Rolling Baby Momma (Josh Matel), an attractively proportioned Setter female. She ran the first brace of the day in single digits and crunchy snow. She covered the ground with plenty of pace that extended when needed—easy handling and always forward, requiring very little direction from her handler. With 30 seconds left in the brace, a grouse was escaping from her general location, where she was found staunchly standing. That was a perfect punctuation to her brace.

Third place was Northwoods Cedar Edge (Eric Saetre), a diminutive Setter female with a lot of promise. She was flashy, forward, and sparkled on the ground. She was seeking the right cover and doing it with purpose. She was showing the potential needed to make a high-quality

shooting dog.

Cover dog trials are unique in that they typically run on continuous courses (no bird fields) on wild birds. This requires a huge amount of upfront work, much of which is cutting, maintaining, and rerouting courses through the woods, swamps, over hills, and through thick brush. CVGDA maintains eight full one-hour courses over 16 miles of Eau Claire County Forest. Thank you to Mike Luebke, Colin Peterson, Tim Callahan, Ben Mergens, Bert Benshoof, Rod Lein, Jim Kleve, Denny Baumann, Roger King, and Tom Goltz for many days in the woods preparing courses. Also, thanks to the Eau Claire County Parks and Forestry group led by Josh Peterson, including Jody Gindt and Jake Tumm. They facilitate our usage of the Eau Claire County Forest which is recognized in the top echelon of all cover dog venues in the nation.

Augusta, Wis., March 22

Judges: Chris Bye and Ryan Hough

OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]

– 8 Pointers, 15 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-NORTHWOODS CEDAR, 1691883, setter female, by Erin's Prometheus-Northwoods Carly Simon. Eric & Lindsey Saetre, owners; Lindsey Saetre, handler.

2d-RUFFED COUNTRY SWEET LILY, 1688167, setter female, by Northwoods Rob Roy-Northwoods Minerva. Dani McNeil, owner; Jordan Pharris, handler.

3d-NORTH SLOPES ALLIE, 1683547, setter female, by A Keystone Kid-Signature Ridge Cody. James Graddy, owner and handler.

Judges: Greg Johnson and Brent Sittlow

OPEN DERBY – 5 Pointers and 20 Setters

1st-BIG BIG ENERGY, 1705733, setter male, by Northwoods Atlas-Clover Valley's Millie. Jordan Pharris, owner and handler.

2d-LITTLE ROLLING BABY MOMMA, 1711373, setter female, by T's Sunrise Percy-Lolla's Gunslinger. Josh Matel, owner and handler.

3d-NORTHWOODS CEDAR EDGE, 1703153, setter female, by Snyder's Pioneer Scout-Northwoods Cedar. Eric & Lindsey Saetre, owners; Eric Saetre, handler.

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SOUTH COUNTY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Cairds Cracklin Rosie Wins Southern New England Woodcock Championship

By John Stolgitis | Exeter, Rhode Island | March 22, 2024



New England Amateur Woodcock Classic (l-r): Erin Stolgitis, Kelsey Dellinger, Trey Recto with One Acre Wood Lucky, Joe Dahl, Steve Forrest, Bob Little, Jon Cullen with Asper Hill Bandit, Russell Ogilvie, John Stolgitis, Al Robbins, Allen Raiano, and Mike Flewelling.

The South County Field Trial Club held its annual spring wild bird trial program beginning March 22 with the second running of the New England Amateur Woodcock Classic. Putting on a multi-day wild bird trial takes a lot of work, planning, and help. The Club wishes to thank the State of Rhode Island for their continued support of the wild bird field trials in Arcadia. Club members Lanny Dellinger, Bob Fleury, and I met with the State to coordinate habitat improvement and mowing, mainly on the Cemetery and Pinetop courses. The State did a great job mowing, and I am certain it will pay dividends for nesting woodcock. We also thank Greg Blair and Nestlé Purina for their continued support of wild bird trials. They provided generous judge and reporter gifts and product for the Open Championship. Jill Stolgitis once again opened her home for the Saturday evening dinner, which was very well attended. Last year's winning owners of the Amateur Classic, Bruce and Andi Mueller, hosted the evening, which featured mussels, steamers, oysters on the half shell, smoked Atlantic salmon, and Black Angus prime rib along with Lighthouse potatoes and Caesar salad. It was quite a meal. Thank you, Bruce and Andi!

New England Amateur Woodcock Classic

Southern New England experienced one of the warmest, wettest winters on record, and when relying on migrating birds, you never know what to expect. We enjoyed

ample birds on all the courses and do not believe we had a birdless brace, although not the numbers we have had in other years. The Amateur Classic featured a \$1,000 purse, keeper plaques, and rotating trophies. Judging the 28 hopefuls in the Classic were Russell Ogilvie and Steve Forrest, both from Maine. Both men possess enormous knowledge of wild bird cover dogs. They both compete and are ardent hunters and woodsmen. Thanks to both for their time and commitment to wild bird field trials.

Winning this year's Classic was One Acre Wood Lucky for her owner and handler, Trey Rector. Trey traveled from Virginia, and it was his first time running on the Arcadia wild bird grounds. The



Southern New England Woodcock Championship (l-r): Doug Dix, Bob Little with Cairds Cracklin Rosie, and Kris Nordby.

well-built orange and white Pointer ran in the fifth brace with last year's winner, Doodle Ridge Elroy. Lucky ran a strong race on the often-challenging Cemetery course and had one beautiful find buried in thick briars. Second place went to Asper Hill Bandit. Bandit ran Sunday morning in the 12th brace on the water-logged Bridge course. Saturday afternoon into the evening, we experienced more than 2 inches of rain and didn't know what to expect in regard to the birds and course conditions. We ended up with knee-deep water on much of the course and had to reroute as we went. Bandit and her owner, Jon Cullen, took it all in stride and managed two finds with a very classy, fast hour. Rounding out the placements was derby-age Mohawk Mill Miss You ("Pearl"), handled by Mike Flewelling for her owner, Bill McFadden, who was unable to get to the trial due to weather conditions. Pearl ran in the 8th brace and had a flowing two-find performance on the Cemetery course.

Congratulations to the winners and all the amateurs who made this trial so successful. All three handlers refused the purse monies and asked that it be put towards next year's dinner and banquet...it is sure to be a large time!

Exeter, R. I., March 22

Judges: Steve Forrest and Russell Ogilvie
NEW ENGLAND AMATEUR WOODCOCK
CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats]

– 12 Pointers, 15 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter

1st-ONE ACRE WOOD LUCKY, 1684991, pointer female, by Yellow Rose Nickel-Yellow Rose Sophia. William B. Rector III, owner and handler.

2d-ASPER HILL BANDIT, 1694498, setter female, by Super Storm-Asper Hill Pippi. Jon Cullen, owner and handler.

3d-MOHAWK MILL MISS YOU, 1703199, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Big Stuff-Mohawk Mill Dolly. William & Karen McFadden, owners; Mike Flewelling, handler.

Southern New England Woodcock Championship

Returning judges Kris Nordby and Doug Dix had 24 hopefuls to evaluate. Capturing this year's Southern New England Woodcock Championship title was Cairds Cracklin Rosie for her owner, Bob Little. No stranger to the winners' circle, Rosie already won a championship and a runner-up placement this season in the Northern New England Woodcock Championship and the North American Woodcock Championship, respectively. The powerful white and liver Pointer ran on the Pinetop course. She was powerful



Joel Collier Derby Classic (l-r): John Stolgitis with Mohawk Mill Miss You, Lanny Dellinger, and Owen Comeau with Mohawk Mill Miss Ellie.



State of Rhode Island mowing.



Cover Dog Puppy Classic (l-r): John Stolgitis with Chasehill Little Timmy, Lanny Dellinger with Snuff Mill Magnum Force, and Adam Dubriske with Stillmeadow's Little Sunray.

throughout her hour and had one find on a pair of birds.

Fresh off her second-place performance in the Classic, Asper Hill Bandit captured the runner-up position. Bandit also ran on the Pinetop course and had one find and a flashy forward race. Jon and Bandit had a great week!

Judges: Doug Dix and Kris Nordby
SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND WOODCOCK
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
 – 15 Pointers and 7 Setters

Winner-CAIRDS CRACKLIN ROSIE, 1680683, pointer female, by Daddy's Little Boy Butch-Porter Meadow Bette. Robert Little, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-ASPER HILL BANDIT, 1694498, setter female, by Super Storm-Asper Hill Pippi. Jon Cullen, owner and handler.

Joel Collier Derby Classic

Judges Karen Unsworth and Lanny Dellinger named Mohawk Mill Miss You winner of this year's Derby Classic. "Pearl" is owned by Bill McFadden, who has returned after a 20+ year hiatus from field trialing. Bill bought Pearl from Gary

Winall, and she has shown great potential, having won the Grand National Grouse Futurity last fall and placing third in the New England Amateur Woodcock Classic.

The runner-up also came from Mohawk Mill Kennel and Gary Winall. Mohawk Mill Miss Ellie was named runner-up for her owner, Harley McClung. John Stolgitis handled both the winner and runner-up.

Judges: Lanny Dellinger and Karen Unsworth
JOEL COLLIER DERBY CLASSIC
 – 7 Pointers and 1 Irish Setter

Winner-MOHAWK MILL MISS YOU, 1703199, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Big Stuff-Mohawk Mill Dolly. William & Karen McFadden, owners; John Stolgitis, handler.

Runner-Up-MOHAWK MILL MISS ELLIE, 1703109, pointer female, by Indian Creek Spur-Hirollins Fantasy Girl. Harley McClung, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.

Cover Dog Puppy Classic

Chasehill Little Timmy was named winner of the Puppy Classic by judges Mike Flewelling and Richie Rogers. Timmy ran a very strong race through the changing cover of the Arcadia puppy

course. Dubriske went to Lanny Dellinger's Snuff Mill Magnum Force. "Maggie" is a well-built, classy white and orange Setter who goes across the ground with little effort for a bigger female Setter. Third also went to a female Setter, Still Meadows Little Sunray, owned by Brian and Kelly Hays and handled by Adam Dubriske. "Ray" is also a nice moving, and classy female who I am sure we will see more of in the winners' circle.

Judges: Mike Flewelling and Richie Rogers
COVER DOG PUPPY CLASSIC
 – 4 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-CHASEHILL LITTLE TIMMY, 1711295, pointer male, by Spring Brook Maximus-Chasehill Little Izzy. Erin Stolgitis, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.

2d-SNUFF MILL MAGNUM FORCE, 1705117, setter female, by Mohawk Mill Lucky Charm-Richfield Oakley. Lanny Dellinger, owner and handler.

3d-STILL MEADOWS LITTLE SUNRAY, 1704573, setter female, by Long Gone Wallace-Chase's I'm Miss Smith. Brian & Kelly Hays, owner; Adam Dubriske, handler.

Thank you to all who made this year's week of wild bird trials so successful. Plans are already underway for next year's trials.

BLACK MOSHANNON FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial

By Jeff Keller | Philipsburg, Pennsylvania | March 28, 2024

With no cover dog trials planned for Easter weekend, the Black Moshannon Field Trial Club held its spring trial. With the woodcock migration in full flight and many birds being found in local covers near the trial grounds, it looked to be an exciting trial. Unfortunately, the week leading up to the trial turned seasonally warm and dry. This made it tough for the dogs to find and pin down birds with little scent in the dry air.

The Open Shooting Dog was held on Thursday under judges Bert Benshoof and Jeff Keller, watching over 12 dogs on the six one-hour courses.

First place "Rip" (Brian Ralph) had a

nice forward race handling the thick laurel cover of Course 1, working the edges of likely cover, scoring with a woodcock find at 55.

Second place "Annie" (Brian Ralph) put down a big race in the more open cover on Course 6 in the heat of the afternoon. She worked many times to the edge of bell range. No birds were found on her run, but she was headed to a callback at the end of the day.

Third place "Bubba" (Nick Mellon) was fast and forward, covering ground on a tight course known for holding good numbers of woodcock. But with poor scenting conditions, no birds were handled,

and he was also in the callback with Annie.

Friday saw the running of the Amateur Shooting Dog, with judges Deb Nihart and Christy Helmes watching over 15 dogs running 30-minute braces. Again, warm, dry conditions made it tough on the dogs to find birds.

First place "Reba" (Bert Benshoof) had a woodcock find early on the downhill run of this new course, standing to the flush and shot. Reba stayed to the front, hunting all likely cover to be named winner of this stake.

Second place "Stash" (Eric Locher) ran a nice forward race on Course 1, which is heavy with laurel for the first 10 minutes.



Open Shooting Dog (l-r): Ralphy's Chaschill Rip with Brian Ralph, Jeff Keller (judge), Stokely B Annie with Russ Fazio, Bert Benshoof (judge), and Hypointe Railway Express with Nick Mellon.



Amateur Shooting Dog (l-r): Dauntless Rogue with Bert Benshoof, Deb Nihart (judge), Beech Hill Stash with Eric Locher, Christy Helmes (judge), and Bell Stop Boomer with George Hetrick.



Open Derby (l-r): Rob Frame (owner), Gretna Crest Royalty with Marc Forman, Kevin Lahoda (judge), Meadowink Rae of Sunshine with Bill Yant, Bruce Mueller (judge), and Grouse Hill Princess with Scott Forman.



Open Puppy (l-r): Matt Null (judge), Meadowink Rae of Sunshine with Bill Yant, Hitail Roxy Afield with Russ Fazio, Bill Drawl (judge), and Northwoods Sunny Day with Tom Keiffer.

He was found standing on a woodcock near where Rip had his find the day earlier. He finished strong, hunting all likely areas, expanding his range as the cover opened up.

Third place "Boomer" (George Hetrick) placed with a big forward run, reaching out to the edges of cover at the beginning of this new course, settling in and hunting all likely cover as he reached the middle and ending sections of the course with thicker cover.

Saturday morning started with the Open Derby, judged by Bruce Mueller and Kevin Lahoda. They were tasked with looking over 19 entries.

First place "DG" (Marc Forman) started strong on the open section of the Airport course and was found standing a woodcock in the thick, wet middle section. When she got back to the last open part of the course, she moved strong to the end.

Second place "Sadie" (Bill Yant) was running a big fancy race through the new section of Course 2 through the swamp edge, was going strong after we crossed the road, and found a woodcock on the original uphill section of the end of the original course layout.

Third place "Princess" (Scott Forman) got the draw of the bottom cover course, covering all likely places in the thickest parts and stretching out as the cover opened up during the middle of the course, then again, digging into cover over the last section of the course, staying well to the front.

Saturday also saw the running of the Open Puppy, with 13 dogs competing in front of judge Bill Drawl and first-time judge Matt Null. The puppy course starts on more open maturing cover and progresses into tighter cover where

grouse and woodcock can often be found. There were many good runs, leaving the judges with some tough decisions.

First place was Sadie (Bill Yant), and second place was Roxie (Russ Fazio); Sadie and Roxie are littermates. In third was Sunny (Tom Keiffer); Sunny and Roxie were braced together.

Philipsburg, Pa., March 28

Judges: Bert Benshoof and Jeff Keller

OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]

- 4 Pointers and 8 Setters

1st-RALPHY'S CHASEHILL RIP, 1697746, pointer male, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Brian Ralph, owner and handler.

2d-STOKELY B ANNIE, 1667183, setter female, by Stokely's Frankie B-Fernwood Cove's Bella. Brian Ralph, owner and handler.

3d-HYPOINTE RAILWAY EXPRESS, 1696717, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Grouse River Woodcock Annie. Lucas Poloff, owner; Nick Mellon, handler.

Judges: Christy Helmes and Deb Nihart

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG - 15 Entries

1st-DAUNTLESS ROGUE, 1701391, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Moss Meadow Lil. Bert Benshoof, owner and handler.

2d-BEECH HILL STASH, 1697025, setter male, by Beech Hill Brewster-Hard Hat's Mosley Sue. Eric Locher, owner and handler.

3d-BELL STOP BOOMER, 1688925, pointer male, by Double Deuce Zeke-Bucket List Bella. George M. Hetrick III, owner and handler.

Judges: Kevin Lahoda and Bruce Mueller

OPEN DERBY - 3 Pointers and 14 Setters

1st-GRETNA CREST ROYALTY, 1702963, setter female, by Doodle Ridge Elroy-Gretna Crest Flashback. R. L. Frame, owner; Mark Forman, handler.

2d-MEADOWINK RAE OF SUNSHINE, 1705287, setter female, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. William P. Yant III, owner and handler.

3d-GROUSE HILL PRINCESS, 1702135, setter female, by Grouse Hill Bullet Proof-Sparta Setters Sally. Giovanni Capocci, owner; Scott Forman, handler.

Judges: Bill Drawl and Matt Null

OPEN PUPPY

- 1 Pointer, 11 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-MEADOWINK RAE OF SUNSHINE, 1705287, setter female, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. William P. Yant III, owner and handler.

2d-HITAIL ROXY AFIELD, 1705101, setter female, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. Russell Fazio, owner and handler.

3d-NORTHWOODS SUNNY DAY, 1704706, setter female, by Northwoods Atlas-Northwoods Stardust. Tom Keiffer, owner and handler.

ENGLISH SETTER CLUB OF AMERICA

Garden State Amateur and Open Shooting Dog Classics

By Lloyd Miller | Lacey Township, New Jersey | March 29, 2024

The English Setter Club of America Garden State Shooting Dog Classic program started Friday, March 29, and concluded Friday, April 5. The weather was great throughout the Amateur Classic, which concluded Saturday afternoon. Sunday was a planned day off due to the Easter holiday. Monday was fine for the three Garden State companion stakes. The weather for the rest of the week looked not so good with rain every day, some very heavy, so we did some workarounds for the heavy stuff to get the Open Classic in with minimal impact to all (running only two braces on Tuesday, stopping the running on Wednesday during the real heavy rain and finished running during light rain on Thursday and Friday. It was a good compromise for all.)

The Club would like to thank SBHA again this year for supporting this event. It was most appreciated. Next, I would like to thank Joseph Cincotta, our trial chairman, and Joe Lordi, the trial co-chair and secretary, who did most of the work in putting this event together. Others who did a lot of work during the event were Bob Brooks, Matt and Norman Basilone, and your scribe with the bird planting. A trial is not a success without these very vital tasks. We would also thank those who made the runs to get lunches for the judges daily and others.

Our judges this year were James Thomas, Barneveld, New York; Kevin Stuart, Schenectady, New York; Dan Jolly, Chatsworth, New Jersey; Mark Janiec, Cranbury, New Jersey; John Frank, Medford, New Jersey; Joe Lordi, Atco, New Jersey; and Joseph Cincotta, Stockton, New Jersey. We thank them all for their time in the saddle and attentiveness throughout. Their decisions were well received.

This year, we utilized a revised layout for these grounds due to the State having burned hard on the south side of the Cable road, leaving it not a desirable option for bird planting. We started with a clockwise course for the hour stake, taking in the extreme northern limits of the grounds, switching to the inner south loop, and then finishing on the inner north loop. It provided a nice flow for dogs and handlers and plenty of birdwork. We did not utilize a dog truck this year and started at the normal breakaway for every brace. There was not too much dead time since most braces finished at the Sand road, just a



Garden State Amateur Shooting Dog Classic (front, l-r): Alex Smith with Calico's Over The Top, Tiffany Smith and son with Calico's Country Strong, and Joe Lordi with Cheyenne Jack. (Behind): Joe Cincotta (judge) and John Frank (judge).

short ride back to the breakaway; for the half-hour stakes we just used the outer north course.

In the Amateur Shooting Dog Classic, with a nice field of 19, taking the top spot with an excellent performance this week was Calico's Over The Top, a Pointer male owned by Calico Kennels and Alex and Tiffany Smith. Top had multiple standout finds with a big forward-searching race—a great job by the handler showing off a strong running and fast dog. Second place went to Calico's Country Strong, a white and black Pointer female, also owned by Calico Kennels. Strong scored on numerous stylish stands with an equally great forward race. Alex Smith of Nazareth, Pennsylvania, handled the top two dogs. Third place was Cheyenne Jack, a white and orange Pointer male, owned by Sal Morelli and Muriel and Bill Primm. Handled by Joe Lordi, Jack ran in the sixth brace and scored many times, with great style and class, to get the final spot.

Close to the winners was Red Alert Lane, a Pointer male owned by Ed and Megan McKay and handled by first-time handler Ed McKay. Ed did a great job showing his dog with four nice finds and a back. Bo Mamounis finished all three of his dogs with nice efforts. Little Wing All Inked Up had two stylish stands and a back in the second brace Friday. American Honky Tonk, a Setter male, had five nice stylish quail finds and a good searching forward race in the fourth brace Friday. Finally, Newfield Primus, a Pointer male, had a great race with multiple quail stands

in the ninth overall brace that ran Saturday morning. Finally, with Bob Verderosa handling, Waybetter Bobby, a Pointer male, scored numerous times throughout his hour with a nice searching hunting effort.

The Open Derby ran Monday morning. Taking the first-place spot was Erin's Bad Company, a white and orange Pointer male owned by Kevin Stuart. Bad had some standout quail finds and a big, forward, classy race. Second went to Mohawk Mill Finale, a Pointer female handled by Matt Basilone. Finale also had some nice birdwork pieces and a strong searching race. No third place was named.

The Open All-Age also ran Monday morning. Taking the first-place spot was Fluid Drive, a white and orange Pointer male owned by Sal Morelli of White Plains, New York, and handled by Joe Lordi. Drive ran a good forward race coupled with some nice stands on quail. Second went to Double A's Axel Rhoads, a German Shorthair Pointer male, handled by John Frank. Axel also had some nice pieces of birdwork and a strong searching race. There was also no third place named.

The half-hour Open Shooting Dog ran Monday afternoon. Taking the blue ribbon was Mohawk Mill Jacked Up, a white and liver Pointer male. "Jack" had six standout quail finds on the outer north course and a fast-forward classy race. Seeing him for the first time, he impressed with his speed and swinging side-to-side search of the grounds. Second went to The Gray Ghost, a Setter female owned by W. Smoot Carter

of Winchester, Virginia. “Leo” had three nice finds and a good, classy forward race. Third went to Mohawk Mill Gangster, a white and liver Pointer male. “Spike” had five very good high head-on point finds and a good searching race. All three winners were capably handled by Matt Basilone.

The Garden State Open Shooting Classic had a good entry of 29 top shooting dogs. Emerging as the winner was Miller’s Heat Seeker, a white and orange Pointer male owned by Muriel and Bill Primm of Crean Ridge, New Jersey, Dennis Hood, and Jack and Fran Miller. He ran in the seventh brace overall (the first brace after lunch on Thursday afternoon) and scored on 10 perfectly mannered and stylish quail finds. His race was always forward with good range to best the field this day. Taking the second spot was Miller’s War Bonnet, a 7-year-old Pointer male owned by Joe McHugh of Boston, Georgia. He also did a great job. He had five really good stands in his hour. He ran a good forward-searching race. Third place went to Bittersweet War Cry, a white and black Pointer male owned by Joe Lordi and Ralph Gillota. War Cry ran in the first brace Friday and had seven nice and stylish quail finds coupled with a big searching race. All three winners were ably handled by Mike Tracy of Glenville, Pennsylvania.

Others that finished in order of running were Red Alert Lane for Matt Basilone and Miller’s Lock and Loaded for Mike Tracy, dueling it out Tuesday morning in the second brace. Alert had seven nice finds and a back, while Loaded scored four times coupled with two backs of brace mate. In the fifth brace that ran Thursday morning, Harbor City Sure Shot with Matt had a nice run with five stylish finds and one unproductive. Cheyenne Jack, with Joe Lordi at the helm, ran in the eighth brace on Thursday afternoon. He did a nice



Mohawk Mill Jacked Up, First in the Open Shooting Dog Stake

job of hunting with nine finds. The Gray Ghost, a Setter male with Matt, ran in the 12th brace Friday and had a nice run with six finds and a back.

Lacey Twp, N. J., March 29 – One Course

Judges: Joe Cincotta and John Frank

GARDEN STATE AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats] – 14 Pointers, 3 Setters, 1 Brittany, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-CALICO’S OVER THE TOP, 1692315, pointer male, by Dominator’s Rebel Heir-Calico’s Country Strong. Calico Kennels, Alex & Tiffani Smith, owners; Alex Smith, handler.
2d-CALICO’S COUNTRY STRONG, 1679850, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Calico’s Touch of Class. Calico Kennels, owner; Alex Smith, handler.
3d-CHEYENNE JACK, 1668503, pointer female, by Great River Ice-Blaze’s Isis. Sal Morelli & Muriel & Bill Primm, owners; Joe Lordi, handler.

Judges: John Frank and Joe Lordi

OPEN DERBY – 6 Pointers

1st-ERIN’S BAD COMPANY, 1703998, male, by Erin’s Redrum-Erin’s Bella Braveheart. Kevin Stuart, owner and handler.
2d-MOHAWK MILL FINALE, 1703200, female, by Mohawk Mill Big Stuff-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Gary Winall, owner; Matt Basilone, handler.

Judges: Mark Janiec and Kevin Stuart

OPEN ALL-AGE

– 3 Pointers, 2 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-FLUID DRIVE, 1659984, pointer male, by Great River Ice-Blaze’s Isis. Sal Morelli, owner; Joe Lordi, handler.
2d-DOUBLE A’S AXEL RHOADS, R328-088, German Shorthair male, by Keg Creek Mc’s Big Lick-Monica’s Quail Point Black River. Alexandra Frank & Alex Rhoads, owners; John Frank, handler.

Judges: Mark Janiec and Dan Jolly

OPEN SHOOTING DOG

– 6 Pointers, 3 Setters, and 1 Brittany

1st-MOHAWK MILL JACKED UP, 1689941, pointer male, by Stoney Run’s Buddy-Hirollins Fancy Lady. Ed Megan owners; Matt Basilone, handler.
2d-THE GRAY GHOST, 1696927, setter male, by Caladen’s Davinci-Woodmont Virginia Shelby. W. Smoot Carter, owner; Matt Basilone, handler.
3d-MOHAWK MILL GANGSTER, 1685479, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Pirate’s Legacy-Katie Lee’s Wild Side. Ed & Megan McCay, owners; Matt Basilone, handler.

Judges: Kevin Stuart and James Thomas

GARDEN STATE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

[One-Hour Heats] – 26 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-MILLER’S HEAT SEEKER, 1674886, pointer male, by Just Irresistible-Miller’s Bring The Heat. Muriel & William Primm, Dennis Hood & Jack & Fran Miller, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.
2d-MILLER’S WAR BONNET, 1681100, pointer male, by Sugarknoll War Paint-Nehawka Amazin Sue. Joe McHugh, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.
3d-BITTERSWEET WAR CRY, 1674743, pointer male, by Sugarknoll War Paint-Mohawk. Joe Lordi & Ralph Gillota, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.



Garden State Open Shooting Dog Classic (front, l-r): Casey Tracy with Miller’s Heat Seeker, Mike Tracy with Miller’s War Bonnet, and Joe Lordi with Bittersweet War Cry. (Behind): Kevin Stuart (judge) and Jim Thomas (judge).

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ONTARIO GROUSE DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Ralphy's Chasehill Rip Named Champion; Grouse Hill Bella, Runner-Up

By David A. Fletcher | Philipsburg, Pennsylvania | April 3, 2024

The Ontario Grouse Championship, using wonderful new grounds at Black Moshannon State Forest for the first time after decades of running at the Marienville portion of the Allegheny National Forest, held its 32nd renewal very successfully on April 3-5.

The Championship was graced with 36 entries—24 Pointers and 12 Setters—and the accompanying Open Derby had 10 Pointers, seven Setters, and an Irish Setter entry. The Venango Puppy Classic was the program's third stake, with an entry of nine Setters and four Pointers.

The Venango Club hosted the Ontario Grouse Championship for many years after the late Tim Tufts brought the Championship to New York and then Pennsylvania after the Ontario Club's grounds, member support, and bird numbers waned.

Before the passing of Tim Tufts, of Orono, Ontario, two years ago, he almost singlehandedly kept the Ontario Club alive for the better part of 30 years. The Venango Club helped Tim Tufts add the Ontario Championship to its spring stakes and established a new management slate within its roster. Scribe was involved with the Club formation in the early 1980s, working with Bill Brown of the American Field to secure a Championship. After a five-year residence in Alberta, Canada, scribe established residence in Michigan and became re-involved and physically helped to stage the championships.

The new Venango officers and directors include President Dave Fletcher, Vice President Dr. Tim Perschke, Secretary Joe Cammisa, and Treasurer Steve Chiappini. Eric Munden also joined the Club as a director. Joe Cammisa was perhaps the workhorse of the trial, looking after most of the tasks before, during, and after the running.

The Moshannon grounds were a pleasant surprise. Easily traversed on well-laid-out courses, it was soon evident that logging was taking place, creating essential cover for grouse and woodcock—regrowth. Jeff Keller, with help from Dick Brenneman, laid out some great courses, and Jeff also served three days as trial course marshal. The courses were complete with attractive cover and nice-looking edges for a dog to travel, in the search. Supporters were on hand, helping, and they included the likes of Perschke, Cammisa, Brenneman,



Ontario Grouse Championship (l-r): Mike Brown (judge), Brian Ralph with Ralphy's Chasehill Rip, Joe Cammisa (Venango secretary), Marc Forman with Grouse Hill Bella, and Adam Dubriske (judge).

Munden, Duell, Meeder, and Tickerhoff.

Judges for the Championship were Mike Brown from Linden, Michigan, and Adam Dubriske of Troy, New Hampshire. Mike is a bird dog man through and through, breeding dogs, training, and competing in trials. He also has a wealth of experience judging top-notch trials. Adam is an owner, trainer, breeder, and handler of his own dogs but is also training for the public and guiding bird hunting, fly fishing, and other dog-related activities. One could say with certainty the Ontario Championship was judged by two experienced men who rode attentively and evaluated every dog entered. We want to thank Purina for their continued support of this Championship.

The Winners and Others

The winner was Ralphy's Chasehill Rip, a Pointer male owned and handled by Brian Ralph of Grove City, Pennsylvania. The win was outstanding, with a score of one perfectly executed grouse find, four woodcock finds, and two backs. Rip was lofty, pointing, mannerly at flush, and busy finding birds the whole hour. The brace, third of the first day, Wednesday morning, was the most outstanding hour of the Championship, a wonderful pair of dogs that hunted every inch of the course and all in the rain. Rip, at merely four months over his third birthday, is an up-and-coming young dog with some impressive wins so far. Fourth in the Grouse Futurity in the fall of 2023, has added wins in the Black Moshannon Open Shooting Dog, the Pennsylvania Amateur Shooting Dog, then won the Grand National Grouse Championship that same fall and that huge win put him atop the Purina Dog of the Year Award. That Grand

National Championship had an entry of 48 Setters, 33 Pointers, and a lone Irish Setter. Obtained from John Stolgitis and Chasehill Kennels, Rip is the product of some great breeding from the Chasehill line.

Runner-up was Grouse Hill Bella, a Pointer female handled by Marc Forman for owner John Capocci of Katonah, New York. Bella was the other half of the third brace, paired with Champion Ralphy's Chasehill Rip, a running mate in unquestionably the best hour of grouse hunting in the trial. Bella's placements include an Amateur Puppy and Open Puppy win, a pair of Open Derby wins, and as a first-year Shooting Dog, two wins in the Grouse Woods and now the runner-up title in the Ontario Grouse Championship. An impressive young dog coming up.

There were many notable performances in this Championship. To mention only two from the 12th brace, the final brace Thursday, West Wind Big Jake, handled by Mark Hughes, and Chasehills Wango Tango, handled by John Stolgitis, both had remarkable but birdless hunting. Birds would have undoubtedly put them in contention for a placement.

Philipsburg, Pa., April 3

Judges: Mike Brown and Adam Dubriske
ONTARIO GROUSE DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
[One Hour Heats] - 24 Pointers and 12 Setters

Winner-RALPHY'S CHASEHILL RIP, 1697746, pointer male by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Brian Ralph, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-GROUSE HILL BELLA, 1699351, pointer female by Silver Ko Kane Ty-Smoke'm Up Jill, John Capocci, owner; Marc Forman, handler.

Companion Stakes

The Venango Puppy Classic and Open Derby, companion stakes to the Ontario



Venango Open Derby (l-r): Joe Cammisa (Venango secretary), John Stolgitis with Chasehill Snoop Dog, Nick Lasica (judge), Mike Flewelling with Mohawk Mill Miss You, Marc Forman with Shady Hills Lefty and Rob Matson (judge).

Grouse Championship, were run on Saturday, May 4, at the Black Moshannon State Forest in Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. The Derby was judged by Nick Lasica of Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, and Rob Matson of Brookville. The Venango Puppy Classic was judged by Dick Brenneman of Port Matilda and Dr. Bruce Mueller of Bedford, Pennsylvania. The Puppy Classic saw the cream come to the top with Meadowink Rae of Sunshine, owned and handled by Bill Yant. She ran to the limits, fast and furious. She went to the right places and applied herself well. She was followed by Hitail Roxy Afield, owned and handled by Russell Fazio, and Twilight's Problem Child, owned by Mark Deneka and handled

by Marc Forman, who garnered the yellow.

The Venango Open Derby was won by Chasehill Snoop Dog, a fancy and fast Pointer male owned by Erin Stolgitis and handled by John Stolgitis. Snoop Dog covered the Black Moshannon Course 3, hunting and applying himself outstandingly well. He showed constantly far to the front and exuded style when pointing, never slowing the pace. John Stolgitis struck twice when he drove Mohawk Mill Miss You owned by long-time field trialer and New York outdoorsman Bill McFadden, to the second position on the judges' scorecard. Miss You was fast and fancy, stylishly catching the judges' eyes on point. Third was Shady Hills Lefty owned by Debra Nihart and handled by Marc Forman. Lefty dug hard, showing stylish abilities and front-running application throughout. All three were placed pointing and handling wild birds.

Judges: Nick Lasica and Rob Matson

VENANGO OPEN DERBY – 10 Pointers and 8 Setters
 1st-CHASEHILL SNOOP DOG, 1703110, pointer male, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Erin Stolgitis, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.

2d-MOHAWK MILL MISS YOU, 1703199, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Big Stuff-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Gary Winall, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.

3d-SHADY HILLS LEFTY, 1703772, pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Shady Hills Zeena. Debra Nihart, owner; Marc Forman, handler.



Venango Puppy Classic (l-r): Joe Cammisa (Venango, secretary), Bill Yant with Meadowink Rae of Sunshine, Nick Mellon, Russ Fazio with Hitail Roxy Afield, Dick Brenneman (judge), and Marc Forman with Twilight's Problem Child.

Judges: Dick Brenneman and Bruce Mueller

VENANGO PUPPY CLASSIC

– 4 Pointers and 11 Setters

1st-MEADOWINK RAE OF SUNSHINE, 1705287, setter female, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. William P. Yant III, owner and handler.

2d-HITAIL ROXY AFIELD, 1705101, setter female, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rocks Autumn Breeze. Russel M. Fazio, owner and handler.

3d-TWILIGHT'S PROBLEM CHILD, 1706124, setter female, by Wayward Flyin Tomato-Twilight's Echoed Promise. Mark Deneka, owner; Marc Forman, handler.

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SETTER CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND

Kissamee Grousewoods Tea Wins Phil Fogg Open Shooting Dog Classic

By Nick Hamel | Falmouth, Massachusetts | April 6, 2024

The Setter Club of New England proudly celebrated its 100th birthday this year. Not many things in our lives can make that claim in this hurry-up, throw-away society. For any organization to last 25, 35, or 50 years is unusual, but 100 years is unheard of. It is largely because of the many dedicated club members that the Club has managed to prosper all these years. On hand this year were many club members and officers of the Club. Everyone rolls up their sleeves and pitches in to make this trial a success.

Club Treasurer Tom Jay keeps the money straight and supplies all the food and drinks for the weekend. Secretary Jim Hathaway is always on hand to help ensure all the details of trial management are attended to, as well as tending to the birds. He orders the birds, keeps them at his house, and loads them into bird bags for our bird planter extraordinaire, club member B. J. Cassio, to distribute throughout the grounds. As with any endeavor, there have

to be many people helping out with various tasks. B. J.'s No. 1 assistant is Alessandra Marquis, the teenage granddaughter of Ed Marquis, who placed a dog in the Junior Handlers' event this year. Club President Mitch Nee helped as needed, and Vice President Tony Leone helped and judged several stakes.

The Running

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our stakes manager, Nick Hamel, and his wife, Emily, could not attend this year's renewal; however, club member Jay Marquis stepped up and did an excellent job in their absence.

A healthy entry of 92 dogs was drawn for this two-day event. We were delighted to see Pennsylvanian pro Robert Ecker back for another year. He entered multiple dogs in the open stakes and was accompanied by amateur handler and friend Marty Festa. Robert has a very impressive string of dogs, is always ready to compete, and is a pleasure to have around.

Club Vice President Tony Leone and Ms. Bailey Arkley oversaw the Open Puppy, named in honor of two long-time Setter Club members, William Kearns and Frank Foss. First place was awarded to a very stylish Setter female owned and handled by Kelly Hays of Columbia, New Hampshire. Still Meadows Little Sunray was fast, forward, and handled very well for Kelly and would not be denied on this day.

The red ribbon went to another Setter, Wizard's Paigh Am Piobaire ("Tune"), handled by his owner, Club Secretary Jim Hathaway. His performance was much like Ray's but not as far-reaching and forward.

Third was Clarks Flash Gordon, an English setter male owned by long-time Setter Club member Phil Clark and handled by Robert Ecker.

Jimmy Levesque of Salem, Massachusetts, and John DiPerrio of Barre, Massachusetts, judged the Florence Harwarth Open Derby. The Derby is

named in memory of long-time secretary of the Setter Club, Florence Harwarth. The first-place dog was Blue Ribbon River, a Pointer female owned and handled by Marty Festa. River had two very mature finds, well-spaced in the half hour and was broke on both. Fast and in the front for the half hour and very stylist on her game was the judges' report.

Second was Fire Marshall Bill, a Setter male owned by long-time New England field trialer Elias Richardson and handled by Robert Ecker. Bill had three finds but was not as finished on his birds as the first-place dog.

Third was Mia Star, owned by Dr. George Najor and Steve McKalko and handled by Robert Ecker. Her birdwork was acceptable, and her race was forward but not as mature as the first and second-place dogs.

Vermonters Bob Arkley and Kris Nordby of Connecticut judged the Open Restricted Shooting Dog. Reviewing last year's report, I learned I had misspelled Kris's last name many times. I want to apologize to him for my error.

First place was Long Island Ice, a Setter male owned by Tim and Shelia Runyon of Iowa and handled by Robert Ecker. Ice carded two birds and was described as "breathtaking" on point by the judges. Ice had a very impressive ground race, forward and deep but well in control of his handler.

Second was Cape Point Hidden Jewel, a Pointer female owned and handled by Bill Bonnetti of Cape Cod. Jewel had three finds and a BIG race. The judges commented she was forward, however, a little large for the tight Cape Cod cover, nonetheless finished strong and to the front.

The yellow ribbon went to Rock Solid Motion Picture ("Duke"), an English Setter male owned and handled by Brian Dix of Vermont. He had two finds and a nice race. He was not as powerful as the first and second-place dogs, but he exceeded the style of the shooting dog standard.

The premier open stake is the Phil Fogg Open Shooting Dog Classic. We are fortunate to have Bill Bonnetti and Kris Nordby judging the stake this year. The blue ribbon was secured by Pete La Bella's Kissamee Grousewoods Tea, which Robert Ecker handled in the third brace. Tea had three very stylish finds and a race to go with them. Her performance was very strong and proved she was not to be denied this day.

Second was Henry's Susieq Dot, owned and handled by amateur Dave Theroux of Manchester, New Hampshire. I have been lucky to have watched this Setter female

develop over the years. She is extremely light on her feet, her tail high and cracking all the time, and beautiful on point. Dot was credited with two finds, one at 6 and the other on a relocation at 10. She finished the brace forward and strong.

Third was Grouse Hill Rambo, a Pointer male owned by John Capocci and handled by Robert Ecker. Rambo had three finds and was exciting to watch, but did not have the ground race of the first and second-place dogs.

Sunday morning brought similar weather to Saturday morning: cloudy, misty, and cool. It was great for the dogs but a little chilly for us old-timers.

Up first was the Amateur Puppy, overseen by Tony Leone and club official Brian Foley. First place went to Wizards Paigh Am Piobaire, a Setter male owned and handled by Jim Hathaway. Tune was second in the Open Puppy, and the Ray Setter female who won the Open Puppy was second in the Amateur Puppy. Both puppies have been successful this spring, and I would say they have a bright future. The yellow ribbon went to a German Shorthair puppy, Maple, who was not even a year old. Club member Jmy Losi handled Maple.

Jimmy Levesque and John DiPerrio judged the Amateur Derby. The first-place ribbon went to Marty Festa and Blue Ribbon River, a Pointer female who pointed three birds and had a strong derby race. Second was awarded to Pointer male Tattle Tailer ("Barron") with two finds and a good race. Barron is owned and handled by Tim Cavanaugh. Third was a Pointer male, Monti, owned and handled by Pete La Bella. Monti had three finds but not the race of the first and second-place dogs.

The Amateur Gun Dog was looked after by the father and daughter team of Bailey and Bob Arkley. They were also tasked with judging the Youth Handler stake. The Gun Dog was won by Snuffmill Life of Riley, handled by owner Lanny Dellinger. Riley had multiple finds and a typical gun dog race, very stylish on the ground and on her game. The only difference between the Gun Dog stake and the Shooting Dog stake is range and some discretion at wing and shot.

Youth handler Liam Dix won the red ribbon with his charge, Rock Solid Casey. It is so nice to see young parents and their children at these events. Brian and Paige Dix are raising two outstanding young men, Liam and Lukas. They have enthusiasm and good manners to go with it, and they are both very polite, soft-spoken, and a joy to be around. I hope as they grow older, they will have the love of dogs

and our sport that they have today.

Owner Mike Levesque of Salem, Massachusetts, handled the third-place dog. Mike has many of the same traits as Lukas and Liam Dix, but he is not nearly as mature as the Dix brothers. I want to thank Mike for all his assistance in writing this report; he was a great help. Thanks, Mike.

In the Junior Handler event, Alessandra Marquis won the blue ribbon with her fine English setter, Denali. The Dix men took second and third. Second went to Lukas with English Setter Rock Solid Tucker, and third was awarded to Liam.

The Amateur Shooting Dog is named in honor of long-time club member Frankie McLaughlin. Two veteran field trialers, John Olfson and Eric Rizza, judged this year's stake. The first-place dog was Blue Ribbon Harper, a Pointer female handled by her owner, Marty Festa. Harper had four very stylish finds and a strong shooting dog ground race.

The second-place dog was "Margaret," a Pointer female handled by her owner, Tim Cavanaugh. Margaret had three finds and a very good race; the only thing that kept her from the blue ribbon was one unproductive stand.

The third-place dog was Snuff Mill High Caliber, a Setter female owned and handled by Lanny Dellinger. She had three finds and a mostly forward race; the difference was that her range was not as deep as that of the first and second-place dogs.

Close to the winners was Lightning Flash Frank, handled by her owner, Kelly Hays. Flash had three finds and a strong race and was carried until the seventh brace, where the first two placements came from. Also close to the winners were Bella, a Pointer female, with Tim Cavanaugh, and Jewel, a Pointer female, with Bill Bonnetti.

I was fortunate to be introduced to the Setter Club in the 1980s by a longtime friend, Lloyd Murray. The Club was well represented in those days by the likes of Bill Kearns, Jack and Betty Tattersall, Frank Foss, Fred Wills, Robert Paucek, Truman Cowles, Ray and Pat Flynn, Bernie Murray, George Doyle, and John Bilodeau, to name a few. It was because of these folks the Setter Club was able to prosper and succeed for a century. I believe the Club is in good hands and will continue for many years. I want to thank the Club for inviting me to report on the 100th-year renewal of their trial. We thank the many people who help to advance the sport we love. It is with great gratitude that we thank all the trialers who took the time to attend this special event and enter their dogs; without them, we cannot succeed.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the outstanding job that fill-in Stakes Manager Jay Marquis did. Not only did he pinch hit for Nick, but he stepped up big and, at his own expense, purchased beautiful 100th birthday medals for all the placed dogs and a new rotating trophy for the Frankie McLaughlin Amateur Shooting Dog. It is this type of action that has helped the Setter Club succeed. Thanks again.

Falmouth, Mass., April 6 – One Course

Judges: Bailey Arkley and Tony Leone

OPEN PUPPY – 5 Pointers and 1 German Shorthair

1st-STILL MEADOWS LITTLE SUNRAY, 1704573, setter female, by Long Gone Wallace-Chase's I'm Miss Smith. Brian & Kelly Hays, owners; Dave Theroux, handler.
2d-WIZARD'S PAIGH AM PIOBAIRE, 1704385, setter male, by Long Gone Wallace-Shepherd's Clair. James D. Hathaway, owner and handler.
3d-CLARKS FLASH GORDON, 1704537, setter male, by Sterlingworth Jack-Sarah Star. Phil Clark, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

Judges: John DiPerrio and Jimmy Levesque

FLORENCE HARWARTH OPEN DERBY

– 1 Pointer and 5 Setters

1st-BLUE RIBBON RIVER, 1701966, pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Huckleberry's Lucky Penny. Martin Festa, owner and handler.
2d-FIRE MARSHALL BILL, 1702783, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Moonshine Sage. Eli Richardson, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.
3d-MIA STAR, 1702751, setter female, by Windstar-Hometown Queen. Steve McKalko, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

Judge: Kris Nordby and Bob Arkley

OPEN RESTRICTED SHOOTING DOG

– 4 Pointers, 5 Setters, and 3 Irish Setters

1st-LONG ISLAND ICE, 1690993, setter male, by Islander-Island Girl. Tim Runyan, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.
2d-CAPE POINT HIDDEN JEWEL, 1679987, pointer female, by Daddy's Little Boy Butch-Porter Meadow Bette. Bill Bonnetti, owner and handler.
3d-GROUSE HILL RAMBO, 1696375, pointer male, by Bo of Piney Woods-Grouse Hill Prima. John Capocci, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

Judges: Bill Bonnetti and Kris Nordby

PHIL FOGG OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

– 4 Pointers, 10 Setters, and 1 Brittany

1st-KISSAMEE GROUSEWOODS TEA, 1672676, pointer female, by Daddy's Little Boy Butch-Porter Meadow Bette. Peter La Bella, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.
2d-HENRY'S SUSIEQ DOT, 1680901, setter female, by Henry of Ferguson-Blossom's Pale Face Susieq. David Theroux, owner and handler.
3d-GROUSE HILL RAMBO, 1696375, pointer male, by Bo of Piney Woods-Grouse Hill Prima. John Capocci, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

Judges: Brian Foley and Tony Leone

AMATEUR PUPPY

– 1 Pointer, 6 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-WIZARD'S PAIGH AM PIOBAIRE, 1704385, setter male, by Long Gone Wallace-Shepherds Clair. James D. Hathaway, owner and handler.
2d-STILL MEADOWS LITTLE Sunray, 1704573, setter female, by Long Gone Wallace-Chase's I'm Miss Smith. Kelly Hays, owner and handler.
3d-MAPLE COSI, 1710757, German Shorthair female, by East Ridge Ace of Spades-East Ridge Mabel Mae. Joseph Losi, owner and handler.

Judges: John DiPerrio and Jimmy Levesque

AMATEUR DERBY

– 3 Pointers, 1 Irish Setter, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-BLUE RIBBON RIVER, 1701966, pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Huckleberry's Lucky Penny. Martin Festa, owner and handler.
2d-TATTLE TAILER, 1705140, pointer male by Trumped-Campbell's Hog Hill Remi. Elias Richardson, owner; Tim Cavanaugh, handler.
3d-YELLOWSTONE MONTI, 1710472, pointer male, by Great River Yellowstone-Kissamee Grousewoods Tea. Pete La Bella, owner; John Olfson, handler.

Judges: John Olfson and Eric Rizza

FRANKIE MCLAUGHLIN

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

– 10 Pointers, 13 Setters, and 2 Irish Setters

1st-BLUE RIBBON'S HARPER BELLA, 1682768, pointer female, by Bud of Piney Woods-Blue Ribbon Bella. Martin Festa, owner and handler.
2d-LITTLE MISS MARGARET, 1693526, pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Tim Cavanaugh, owner and handler.
3d-SNUFF MILL HIGH CALIBER, 1697973, setter female, by Mohawk Mill Lucky Charm-Richfield Oakley. Lanny Dellinger, owner and handler.

Judges: Bailey Arkley and Bob Arkley

TOM FOLEY & ED FLANAGAN MEMORIAL

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

– 2 Pointers, 9 Setters, 1 Brittany,

2 German Shorthairs, and 1 Llewellyn Setter

1st-SNUFFMILL LIFE OF RILEY, 1672514, setter female, by Backstep Rudy-Fernwood Cove's Bella. Lanny Dellinger, owner and handler.
2d-ROCK SOLID CASEY, 1672254, setter female, by Grouse Ridge Whitestone-Grouse Ridge Merri. Doug Dix, owner and handler.

NOTES

National Field Trial Champion Association, Inc. President Charles F. Bryan has announced the judges for the 126th Renewal of the National Championship: Jadie Rayfield, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina; Rich Robertson Jr., Payette, Idaho; and David Williams, Beech Bluff, Tennessee.

The trial will begin on Monday, February 10, 2025.

CORRECTION / CLARIFICATION

The Virginia Classics hosted by the Greenfields Field Trial Club were held in Scottsville, Virginia, on April 4. The report's header on page 47 of the June issue lists Augusta, Wisconsin. Our apologies to reporter Tommy Stargell.

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INDIANTOWN GAP BIRD DOG CLUB

The Secret Wins Keystone Open Shooting Dog Championship

By Ernie Saniga | Petersburg, Pennsylvania | April 7, 2024

The Indiantown Gap Bird Dog Club held a five-stake program at the club grounds near Petersburg, Pennsylvania, starting April 7 and ending April 20. Due to trial conflicts, we folded the usual fall schedule into the spring.

Greg Strausbaugh is the chairman and does the brunt of the heavy lifting regarding trial organization and logistics. Art Hower manages the grounds and arranges the lease of the adjoining properties used for the hour stakes. The Club leases almost 400 acres to go with its own 215 acres.

Mary Tracy manages a kitchen that served three meals each day for the almost 13 days the trial was run. The Club, R. B. and Brigit Powell, and Karen Saniga donated dinners. Region 2 provided steaks one night.

Darren Boyer brings the birds, and his dad Steve joined him, bringing along his side-by-side to watch some of the action. The birds were planted by Greg Strausbaugh using the Club's Polaris. Ted Foust helped there and elsewhere where help was needed.

The weather was what we expected at the Gap, ranging from rain and cold to especially hot days.

Keystone Open Shooting Dog Classic

The first stake was the 25-dog Keystone Open Shooting Dog Classic. The stake was judged by Jim Wallace from Ohio and Chris Catanzarite from Pennsylvania. Steel Valley Raven won the stake with a strong forward race on these big edges and 10 perfectly handled finds. The Pointer female was handled by Jeanette Tracy for owners Ted Foust and Bill and Muriel Primm. Ted was here to watch the winning effort.

Second went to Miller's Extreme Heat, Joe McHugh's Pointer female handled by Mike Tracy to a seven-find effort to go with a fine race. Mike also won third with Miller's High Heat Index, Casey Tracy and Allen Linder's Pointer male. Index ran a strong race with six finds.



Keystone Open Shooting Dog Classic (front, l-r): Jeanette Tracy with Steel Valley Raven, Mark Hughes with Miller's Extreme Heat, and Mike Tracy with Miller's High Heat Index. (Standing): Ted Foust, Sheila Cassidy, Jim Wallace, Carl Bishop, Chris Catanzarite, and Greg Strausbaugh.

Petersburg, Pa., April 7 – One Course Judges: Chris Catanzarite and Jim Wallace INDIANTOWN GAP KEYSTONE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats] – 22 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-*STEEL VALLEY RAVEN*, 1696173, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Steel City Karen. Ted Foust & Bill & Muriel Primm, owners; Jeanette Tracy, handler.

2d-*MILLER'S EXTREME HEAT*, 1685698, pointer female, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Joe McHugh, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

3d-*MILLER'S HIGH HEAT INDEX*, 1685674, pointer male, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Casey Hollander & Stanton Harrell, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

Yankee Open Derby Classic

The Yankee Open Derby Classic followed, starting and finishing on April 9. There were 10 entries.

Mo's Curtain Call, this season's winner of the Purina Top Shooting Dog Derby Award, was the winner. Mike Tracy handled the classy Pointer female to a five-find performance, with all finds handled with finished manners. She is owned by Jim and Theresa Morrell, and Tim Moore.

Second went to Deb and Sean Hauser's Pointer male Hausers Unhinged, also handled by Mike Tracy. He had a strong forward race and three finds, all handled high and tight.

Mike Husenits's Pointer female Millers Dusty Version pushed the winners in a fast, smart race featuring four stylish finds. She was handled by Mark Hughes.

Judges: Greg Strausbaugh and Jim Wallace
YANKEE OPEN DERBY CLASSIC – 10 Pointers
1st-*MO'S CURTAIN CALL*, 1705285, female, by Miller's High Heat Index-Osceola's Seminole Wind. Jim & Theresa Morrell & Tim Moore, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.
2d-*HAUSERS UNHINGED*, 1706301, male, by Lester's Storm Surge-Hauser's Cotton Dots. Jean & Deb Hauser, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.
3d-*MILLERS DUSTY VERSION*, 1706290, female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Mike Husenits, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

Region 2 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

The Region 2 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship started Friday, April 11. Jim Wallace joined Luke Eisenhart in evaluating the amateur dogs handled by Chris Catanzarite, Brian Sanchez, Darren Boyer, Dave McKay, Ed McCay, Bo Mamounis, Greg Strausbaugh, Lane Hodges, Joe Lordi, Bob Verderosa, Alex Smith, and Ernie Saniga.

Calico's Over The Top won the stake with a good forward race in this running country. He handled well throughout, scoring four times evenly spaced, and



Yankee Open Derby Classic (front, l-r): Ted Foust with Mo's Curtain Call, Mike Tracy with Hausers Unhinged, and Mark Hughes with Millers Dusty Version. (Standing): George Tracy, Jim Wallace, and Greg Strausbaugh.

added a back on his own. All work was handled with a high, tight style and perfect manners. Alex Smith handled the Pointer male owned by Calico Kennels, Alex and his wife, Tiffani.

Backcountry Bruiser was runner-up for Chris Catanzarite after a second series for that spot. The classy Pointer male scored six finds with style, including one featuring a good relocation with a strong race. Bruiser had an altercation with an electric fence, and the fence won, causing a few minutes of interruption in his performance.

The second series was with Bull Finch, handled by this reporter to a three-find, two-back first series. In the runoff, Bruiser was smooth and forward with four finds, while Bull Finch, wide with a back and two finds, was out of pocket at times.

Judges: Luke Eisenhart and Jim Wallace
REGION 2 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
 – 26 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner-CALICO'S OVER THE TOP, 1692315, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Calico's Country Strong. Calico Kennels, Alex & Tiffani Smith, owners; Alex Smith, handler.

Runner-Up-BACKCOUNTRY BRUISER, 1672645, pointer male, by Erin's War Creek-Backcountry Tornado. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.

Keystone Open Shooting Dog
Championship

The Keystone Open Shooting Dog Championship started on Monday, April 14. Luke Eisenhart joined Dayna Rusciano in judging the 41 entries.

Dayna sent the following report of the stake.

“The champion came from Brace 2. It was The Secret, a Pointer male owned by Lisa Pollock and handled by Jeanette



Region 2 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (front, l-r): Alex Smith with Calico's Over The Top and Chris Catanzarite with Backcountry Bruiser. (Standing): Greg Strausbaugh, Tiffany Hendersen, Luke Eisenhart, George Tracy, Jeanette Tracy, Jim Wallace, Ernie Saniga, and Ted Foust.

Tracy. The Secret handled kindly and ran strong the entire hour, scoring three finds at 20, 28, and 52. He floated around the challenging course, animated with ease and always showing forward. He was steady with a high head and tail on all finds making him very hard to beat. The dog just did about everything right.

The runner-up, Miller's Automatic Upgrade, ran in Brace 4 and was handled by Mike Tracy. Upgrade scored four finds at 8, 23, 30, and 54. He ran a strong forward race, yet he shortened a bit in the middle but finished the hour strong. He had a high head and tail on his birdwork. He was an exciting dog to watch. He complimented the champion.

We had several other dogs in the stake that were knocking on the door of our runner-up. Only small differences determined our placements. Overall, it was a very competitive stake.”



Keystone Open Shooting Dog Championship (front, l-r): Jeanette Tracy with The Secret and Mike Tracy with Miller's Automatic Upgrade. (Standing): Dayna Rusciano, Luke Eisenhart, George Tracy, Sheila Cassidy, Mark Hughes, Greg Strausbaugh, and Ted Foust.



Indiantown Gap Amateur Shooting Dog Classic (front, l-r): Joe Lordi with Cheyenne Jack, Dave McKay with Jolene Jolene, and Bob Verderosa with Waybetter Bobby. (Standing): Sheila Cassidy, George Tracy, Art Hower, Greg Strausbaugh, and Bart Hastings.

Judges: Luke Eisenhart and Dayna Rusciano
KEYSTONE OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
 – 36 Pointers and 5 Setters

Winner-THE SECRET, 1686192, pointer male, by Waybetter Rocky-Ladywood's Keepsake. Lisa Pollock, owner; Jeanette Tracy, handler.

Runner-Up-MILLER'S AUTOMATIC UPGRADE, 1696255, pointer male, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Allen Linder, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

Indiantown Gap
Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

The final stake of the trial was the Indiantown Gap Amateur Shooting Dog Classic, judged by Sheila Cassidy and Bart Hastings. Handlers were Dave McKay, Joe Lordi, Bob Verderosa, Darren Boyer, Greg Strausbaugh, and Chris Catanzarite.

The first and second-place dogs were braced together. They were Cheyenne Jack, a Pointer male handled by Joe Lordi, and Jolene Jolene, a Pointer female handled by Dave McKay. Both ran easy-handling races at the limits of these big lines. Jack ended up with five finds and a divided find, ditto for Jolene Jolene. All the birdwork was sharp and stylish.

Bobby Verderosa won third with his Pointer male Waybetter Bobby, which had a fine race, three pretty finds, and an unproductive.

Judges: Sheila Hart and Bart Hastings
INDIANTOWN GAP AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats] – 16 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-CHEYENNE JACK, 1668503, pointer male, by Great River Ice-Blaze's Isis. Sal Morelli & Muriel & William Primm, owners; Joe Lordi, handler.

2d-JOLENE JOLENE, 1692447, pointer female, by Miller's Heat Seeker-Dominator's Heir Kate. Dave McKay & Joe McHugh, owners; Dave McKay, handler.

3d-WAYBETTER BOBBY, 1682880, pointer male, by Waybetter Rocky-Nehawka Amazin Sue. Robert Verderosa, owner and handler.

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REGION 19 (AFTCA) AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Jewett's Creek Beauty Named Champion; Northwoods Atlas, Runner-Up

By Ryan Hough | Mora, Minnesota | April 14, 2024

It had been over 18 months since the Minnesota Grouse Dog Association (MGDA) had been able to host a wild bird trial on their Rum River State Forest grounds, so when conditions looked prime going into April, excitement was building amongst club members. However, due to a late snowstorm, the first weekend trial was canceled due to nearly 8 inches of snow on the ground.

Luckily, temperatures warmed quickly, and just two weeks later, the Club was able to host the Region 19 Walking Amateur Shooting Dog Championship on their home grounds, along with companion Open Derby and Puppy stakes. The level of participation was flat-out impressive, with many new faces and first-time cover dog handlers. The quality of people and dogs in every stake instills a lot of optimism for the future of our local cover dog events. The Chippewa Valley Grouse Dog Association and the Moose River Grouse Dog Club have realized similar increases in interest and participation over the past couple of years.

As with any wild bird trial, great judges are of the utmost importance to ensuring quality stakes. Having experienced dog men like Frank LaNasa and Chris Bye was a privilege for attendees. The judges were focused, friendly, and knowledgeable. Frank has been successful in field trialing for many years and is the owner of Ch. True Confidence. Chris spends as much time in the grouse woods as anyone, and that passion carries over to cover dog trials, where he has earned many placements on his beloved English Setters over the years.

Throughout the running of the Championship stake, several dogs threw down strong and purposeful ground games, but just a handful of dogs finished cleanly with birdwork.

Northwoods Atlas, bred by Jerry Kolter and owned and handled by Greg Johnson of Superior, Wisconsin, was named runner-up. "Jet" had a strong reaching race, determined search, and a single find 20 minutes into his brace that again earned him the nods of the judges. This was the second time Jet has been named runner-up champion in the grouse woods, as he earned the same honors at the 2022 Wisconsin Cover Dog Championship in a field of 52 entrants.

Greg and Jet have been on a hot streak over the past few years, and this spring



Region 19 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Frank LaNasa (judge), Jeff Sullivan with Jewett's Creek Beauty, Greg Johnson with Northwoods Atlas, and Chris Bye (judge).

was no exception. This was Jet's second championship placement over the last three years, in addition to many other placements at both wild bird and liberated quail trials. Jet has forged himself a reputation as a very reliable bird finder. It is rare for Jet to go birdless at a wild bird trial, and his stature and style on point is nothing short of breathtaking.

At the time of this writing, it should be noted that Northwoods Atlas has recently been named the Purina Pro Plan MN/WI Open and Amateur Cover Dog of the Year for shooting dogs. This award lends credence to the consistency of his performances.

This year's champion title for Region 19 goes to a new handler and dog. In fact, Jewett's Creek Beauty is still derby-aged! Beauty, bred by amateur John McKellop, is owned and handled by Jeff Sullivan. Jeff credits professional trainer Rod Lein for playing a central role in developing Beauty and Jeff's handling skills in the woods. Beauty is a very athletic, easy-moving Pointer with a pedigree littered with cover dog winners. Beauty ran an electric, forward race that caught the judges' attention. At about 55, as Beauty was coming toward the course to check, the snapped-on point. As the handler and judges approached, a grouse was flushed from in front of her, all in order. Overall, Beauty finished this spring with three shooting dog placements even though she is still a derby-aged dog. This is definitely an animal to be excited for in the coming years.

For the Open Derby, MGDA was lucky to have experienced dog man David Moore, who has several championship wins under his belt, paired with Tim Kauffman, who is no stranger to winning cover dog trials. The judges had a lot of fun and expressed to me that they saw many nice dogs, ranging from strong running puppies to fully broke shooting dogs.

Winning first place was Freyja Kendra, a female Setter sired by Ch. Ponderosa Mac, owned and handled by Ryan Bjerke. Freyja is a well-built and powerful animal who handled nicely and had two fully broke finds during her 30 minutes on the ground.

Second place went to Snyder's Bonnie Parker, owned and handled by Steve Snyder. Bonnie is another female setter sired by Ch. Ponderosa Mac. Bonnie pounded the cover and ran a forward race with the application and determination of a mature grouse dog. Bonnie sealed her placement with a limb grouse find, her manners intact throughout.

Third Place went to Northwoods Cedar Edge ("Enni"), owned and handled by Eric Saetre. Enni ran a very purposeful race, stopping to thoroughly hunt likely grouse cover and always staying in "the pocket." Enni comes from cover dog royalty, sired by Ch. Snyder's Pioneer Scout, out of Northwoods Cedar. Enni has been turning heads for the past year and was recently named the Purina Pro Plan MN/WI Amateur Cover Dog Derby of the Year.

Time allowed the Minnesota Club to host a Puppy stake, which is always a

bonus. Judging the Puppy stake were two familiar faces in the local cover dog community: Greg Johnson and Eric Saetre. Ran on a single course, puppies were expected to work with their handler, target likely habitat, and maintain a forward search pattern.

In first place was Silvershot Snowball Express, a female Pointer owned and handled by Nick Sisterman. “Endee” is a very athletic dog, covering ground effortlessly and maintaining a connection with her handler while independently moving from likely cover to likely cover in her thorough search of game.

Second place went to Mud Lake’s Money Maven, a female Setter owned and handled by Hannah Peterson. Maven displayed a keen awareness of where her handler was at all times while hunting with a purpose and strong desire to locate game.

Third place was awarded to High Point’s Snowman Fred, a male Setter owned and handled by Ben Brettingen. Fred is fun to watch on the ground, with a great race and purposeful forward pattern.

The Minnesota Grouse Dog Association is very thankful to all the member volunteers who make it possible to host wild bird trials. It takes an organized effort throughout the year to make these events a success, and the Club is very lucky to have an abundance of quality members.



Open Derby (l-r): Lindsey Saetre with Northwoods Cedar Edge, Dave Moore (judge), Steve Snyder with Snyder’s Bonnie Parker, and Tim Kaufman (judge).

A big thanks to our sponsors; without the support of Purina Pro Plan and OnX Hunt, it would be difficult to cover all of



Open Puppy (l-r): Ben Brettingen with High Point’s Snowman Fred, Greg Johnson (judge), Hannah Peterson with Mud Lake’s Money Maven, Eric Saetre (judge), and Nick Sisterman with Silvershot Snowball Express.

the expenses required throughout the year.

On behalf of the Minnesota Grouse Dog Association, thank you to all who support us!

Mora, Minn., April 14

Judges: Chris Bye and Frank LaNasa

**REGION 19 AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING
DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
– 5 Pointers and 16 Setters**

Winner-JEWETT’S CREEK BEAUTY, 1703337, pointer female, by Toth’s Tornado Reloaded-Grouse Trails Warrior Cat. Jeff Sullivan, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-NORTHWOODS ATLAS, 1674557, setter male, by Northwoods Grits-Northwoods Nickel. Greg Johnson, owner and handler.

Judges: Tim Kaufman and David Moore

OPEN DERBY – 6 Pointers and 16 Setters

1st-FREYJA KENDRA, 1701728, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Centerfold Sioux. Ryan Bjerke, owner and handler.
2d-SNYDER’S BONNIE PARKER, 1702664, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Grouse River Patti Cakes. Steven C. Snyder, owner and handler.
3d-NORTHWOODS CEDAR EDGE, 1703153, setter female, by Snyder’s Pioneer Scout-Northwoods Cedar. Eric & Lindsey Saetre, owners; Lindsey Saetre, handler.

Judges: Greg Johnson and Eric Saetre

OPEN PUPPY – 2 Pointers and 10 Setters

1st-SILVERSHOT SNOWBALL EXPRESS, 1704893, pointer female, by Crosswind Jim-Silvershot’s Lil Fancy Pants. Nick Sisterman, owner and handler.
2d-MUD LAKE’S MONEY MAVEN, 1704637, setter female, by Jackson’s Let Er Rip-Jones’ Big Sky Lanius. Kyle Peterson, owner; Hannah Peterson, handler.
3d-HIGH POINT’S SNOWMAN FRED, 1709644, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-I’m Blue Who. Ben Brettingen, owner and handler.

GRAND NATIONAL GROUSE & WOODCOCK INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Meridith Grade Corky Named Champion; Over The Hill Merry, Runner-Up

By Denise Peters | Gladwin, Michigan | April 17, 2024

The 33rd Annual Grouse and Woodcock Invitational Championship, presented by the Grand National Grouse Championship, Inc. and hosted by the Beaverton Grouse Dog Club, was held on April 17-19 at the renowned Gladwin Field Trial Area in Gladwin, Michigan. This year’s judges were Bob Wheelock of Thompsonville, Michigan, and Brent Peters of Gladwin, Michigan. Brent took the seat when Ben McKean had to bow out. Bob and Brent are both very familiar with the grouse woods. Both have been raising their own dogs, training, trialing, and judging for the past two decades. Both are very capable and experienced in the saddle. Denise Peters of Gladwin, Michigan, was the reporter, and Bryan Wood of Pinckney, Michigan, was our stake manager. The drawing was held at the Alibi Hall on Tuesday at 6 p.m. after a great pulled pork dinner hosted by



The Gallery. Each brace, every day, we were blessed with a huge gallery of onlookers.

the Beaverton Club and provided by the 2023 Invitational runner-up champion, Bill Siemer, in honor of B K Rolling Dice’s win. Lunches were hosted by the Beaverton Club and provided by Harvey McClung, owner of the 2023 Invitational winner Chasehill Poison Ivy. Invitational Secretary Joe Cammisa handled the draw

with all handlers present. After a fun evening of camaraderie, everyone went home to rest before the competition began.

The Champion and Runner-up Braces

Each day, we met at the Alibi Hall and tried to be out of there at 7:30 to get the earliest start possible.

In Brace 1 was Meridith Grade Corky (ESM/Tammy Chaffee). Corky made the final 14 by taking second at the Beaverton Grouse Dog Club fall 30-minute Open Shooting Dog, second at the Lake States Field Trial Club Spring Classic, and runner-up champion at the North Country Shooting Dog Championship. He was braced with Shady Hills Whiskey Bonfire (ESM), owned and handled by Scott Forman. Whiskey took runner-up champion at the Northern Michigan Cover Dog Championship. Both dogs hit the ground on Courses 1 and 2 at 7:45 with the

sun poking through and temperatures in the 40s. At 5, when Tammy couldn't zero in on Corky's bell, she sent in her scout (Scott) to look, with the bell coming into range immediately after. Corky worked forward, getting a little sticky, while Whiskey worked forward as well with a little better handle. At 19, Corky went on point to the right of the course as we paralleled Joy Road. Bob and Tammy went in to take a look. Tammy flushed with Corky, looking a bit loose after having been there for a while. Shot was fired at 20:33, with the find being a flipping woodcock. Whiskey continued to work consistently out front, now with a bit of separation between handlers. As we crossed over to Course 2, both handlers were now back together, with both dogs working the scrub oak cover with effort. We got to the first road crossing, where Corky was upfront, and Whiskey was working the cover hard before the road. After the road crossing, Whiskey stopped, standing tight. Scott flushed to no avail and moved Whiskey on. After we got through the pines, Corky went to the left and stopped. After a flushing attempt, Tammy tapped him on, and he kept going. Whiskey stopped again at time, taking the judge and handler a bit of time to find him. Whiskey carding a woodcock, all in order. As we walked out, we witnessed a wild flush on a grouse.

Brace 4 commenced on Courses 7 and 8. Over The Hill Merry (PF), with owner/handler Rod Lein and Chasehill Poison Ivy (PF/John Stolgitis), came together with an exciting brace. Merry took runner-up at the Grand National Grouse Championship. Ivy won last year's Invitational, was champion of the North American Woodcock Championship, and was runner-up at the spring Southern New England Woodcock Championship. Merry made her first stop at 3:11, where a small tote road makes its way back over to the two-track in the first cut. In likely cover, she stood looking confident. After Rod flushed and no bird was moved, he relocated her at 4:54. She chose to move to the front. At 10, catching up to where we cross the two-track, Ivy was on point down the two-track on the left, past the cross-over. Merry moved into the same spot and stopped to back. After John's flushing attempt, he chose to move Ivy on, and Merry was moved on as well. Both dogs headed back up the course. Both these dogs ran a consistent race, always working forward. After we crossed the road at the end of Course 7, neither bell could be heard. Both judges and handlers went in on the search. Ivy was found first. She was found backing Merry. After a flushing attempt, the shot came at 40, with a grouse taking flight, all in order.

Moving onto Course 8, we lost both



Grand National Grouse and Woodcock Invitational Championship (l-r): Joe Cammisa (Invitational Secretary), Dennis Keysor (owner), Meredith Grade Corky with Tammy Chaffee (handler), Scott Chaffee, Bob Wheelock (judge), Brent Peters (judge), Over The Hill Merry with Rod Lein (owner/handler), Denise Peters (reporter), and Bryan Wood (stake manager).

bells at 50. Again, judges and handlers went in to find the dogs. We found Ivy and Merry standing tall and tight on point, looking like a million bucks by a downed log near a small water spot. Both handlers stood back to assess the situation, agreeing that they did not like what they were seeing and chose to move their dogs on with no flushing attempt. Both dogs were pulled out of there and continued to the end of time, finishing with no further birdwork.

At the end of the second day, the callbacks were announced. The first callback was Over The Hill Merry and Back Creek Lucy on Courses 13 and 14. The second was Meredith Grade Corky and Moss Meadow Seeker on Courses 3 and 4. In reserve was Ralphy's Chasehill Rip and B K Rolling Dice. Getting the nod for Day Dog for day two was Meredith Grade Corky.

The Callbacks

The weather continued to stay cool, and we left the Alibi around 7:30. The first callback on Courses 13 and 14 included Over The Hill Merry (PF/Rod Lein) and Back Creek Lucy (ESF/Richard Hollister). Both dogs took off into the scrub oaks with game on their minds. At 4:35, Merry stopped to the right, right on the edge of the hardwoods, in sight of the path. Brent and Rod went towards Merry to find that Lucy was stopped just over the rise. Brent had to walk much further to see that Lucy was there. With both handlers on hand, Bob knelt to his knees to see what Lucy could see, and Brent looked to see what Merry could see, determining that Lucy was facing in another direction from Merry. Both dogs on point in the same vicinity with the assumption that Lucy had stopped first. A grouse busted out in front of Merry, with Rich taking a shot. Immediately,

another grouse blew out in front of Lucy with Rod taking his shot. It was determined that there were two grouse and two finds (not divided)—a nice piece of birdwork. At 15, Rich didn't have Lucy's bell, and he figured Lucy was stopped again. When Rich went in to look, he called to say that Merry was found on point as well. With judges and handlers assessing, it was determined that Merry was there first, and Lucy was backing. After a flushing attempt, Merry was relocated at 17, to no avail. Rich took Lucy back to the course. Both dogs were moving forward. At around 42, both bells were silent again. These ladies seem to be working in tandem. Lucy was found backing Merry. Rod flushed; a woodcock popped up. Not popping up once but a second time right over Merry's head, Merry making a very legal marking move. She held her ground while the shot was fired, all in order. Both judges were coming out of the woods when Rich released Lucy and went forward. I followed Rich, and just ahead, he called point. The judges hustled up front as fast as they could, Brent going with Rod, as Merry shot forward. Rich fired at 46. When no bird was witnessed, Rich moved Lucy on, and she shot to the front. This creates a bit of distance between Rich and the front. I have never seen Rich run so fast. If the dogs weren't moving fast, these handlers sure were. Both handlers and dogs flew through to the end of course 14. Running out of course, we went right at the road. Rich worked hard to get Lucy back at the end. Time was called as we got almost to where Course 15 crosses the road. Both dogs finished strong, and it was a great brace to watch.

The second callback on Courses 3 and 4 saw Meredith Grade Corky (ESM/Tammy Chaffee) and Moss Meadow Seeker (ESM/



Champion Meridith Grade Corky



The Judges: Brent Peters on "Dusty" and Bob Wheelock on "Boots." Without these great horses, owned and wrangled by Richard and Jennifer Hollister, the job would be much harder to accomplish!



Runner-up Champion Over The Hill Merry

Ken Moss). Corky covered the marsh to the right, showing when he needed to. Seeker spent more time in the pole timber through the first part of Course 3. At 12, Tammy sent in scout Brian Ralph right where we took the left on the old course route. Brent and Tammy also headed in when Corky's bell started up, and we all moved on. We crossed the tubes at 22 with both dogs and their handlers. At 30, Corky stopped up over the ridge on the right. At the same time, they thought Seeker had stopped further forward. When we went in, we found that Seeker was on point backing Corky. We tried to get Ken's attention, but he didn't hear us, so Brent asked me to stand with Seeker. Tammy flushed, but no bird was produced. Both dogs were back, moving forward at 33. Soon after, we thought Corky stopped over the ridge on our left. We heard Seeker come in, and we lost his bell as well. We all went in to look. Bob and Tammy went in first and were further back in the cut over the ridge. Brent and Ken also went in and were ahead of me. A grouse came out of aspen behind and to the right of me. We still had not found Seeker. Bob and Tammy were still looking for Corky further back. They found Seeker at 51 and called to us. They continued to look for Corky. When we found Seeker, Ken attempted a flush with Seeker getting a bit loose. Ken moved him on at 52, and he went back towards the course. We heard a shot, and I was told that Corky scored on a nice grouse find. We were at the end of time, both dogs finishing.

The group then headed back to the

Alibi for the final announcements. Grand National Secretary Joe Cammisa thanked the board of directors and all those who made this happen; the Beaverton Club, who hosted this event and who all know, lost our beloved Wayne Fruchey on April 18. A huge thank you to Purina, who plays a big part in what we do. Stake Manager Bryan Wood thanked all the professional and amateur handlers who helped, along with their wives. Bryan had more to share and said, "You all need to hear this because you all worked hard!" Before thanking the judges and reporter, he wanted to thank some people who helped move cars, marshaled, and always do a lot of things. Thanks to Secretary Joe Cammisa, who does a lot of work; Eric Naus, Bruce Minard, Brian Ralph, Ken Moss, Scott Chaffee, Mike Francus, Scott Forman, John Stolgitis, Mike Flewelling, Rich Hollister, Bob Little, Chris Jaeger, Owen Comeau, Craig Doherty, Rod Lein, and Tom and Mark Fernandez, who all helped tremendously. He thanked Tom and Kelly Fruchey for their help during a personal loss. We had some folks help with food, and they should be noted— Suzie Cammisa, Shane and his wife Susan did the pork dinner; Diane Wheelock, Paula Giulitto, and Dennis Keysor helped deliver and set up breaks with coffee and doughnuts. Bryan quoted, "Something that I have not done before but needs to be addressed," We have a group of ladies who have worked their butt off. These are 'The Ladies of the Grouse Woods'—Anne Naus, Christy Helmes, Paula Giulitto, Denise

Peters, Tammy Chaffee, Jennie Minard, and Jen Hollister. Thank you, 'Ladies of the Grouse Woods!'" Thank you to Richard and Jennifer Hollister, who wrangle the best horses around. Boots, Ed, and Dusty made the three days go without a "hitch." Joe then thanked judges Bob Wheelock and Brent Peters and reporter Denise Peters. He then awarded them with gifts in gratitude for their work.

Bryan Wood then announced the winners with Grand Secretary Brian Ralph awarding pins to the 2024 Invitational Runner-Up Champion, Over The Hill Merry, owned and handled by Rod Lein of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, and the 2024 Invitational Champion, Meridith Grade Corky, owned by Dennis Keysor of Harrison, Michigan and handled by Tammy Chaffee of Clare, Michigan.

Congratulations to the winners and to all who competed. Fourteen of our grouse woods' finest!

Gladwin, Mich., April 17

Judges: Brent Peters and Robert Wheelock
**GRAND NATIONAL GROUSE AND WOODCOCK
INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**
[One-Hour Heats on Consecutive days; One-Hour Finals]
— 8 Pointers and 6 Setters

Winner-MERIDITH GRADE CORKY, 1681353, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Call Me Maggie. Dennis Keysor, owner; Tammy Chaffee, handler.

Runner-Up-OVER THE HILL MERRY, 1678045, pointer female, by Grouse Trails Cracker Jack-Diva Dot. Rod Lein, owner and handler.



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MOOSE RIVER GROUSE DOG CLUB

Northwoods Atlas Wins Spring Open Shooting Dog Classic

By Greg Johnson | Moose Junction, Wisconsin | April 19, 2024

The 2024 Moose River Grouse Classic was held April 19-21 on Douglas County Forest land in far Northwestern Wisconsin near Moose Junction, Wisconsin. These grounds are constantly being worked and changed and consistently hold good numbers of grouse and woodcock, and this spring was no exception. This spring's trial included the annual Moose River Grouse Classic, Open Derby, and a 30-minute Open Shooting Dog. We had 66 dogs entered in the three stakes, so it was a very busy weekend. Special thanks go out to the Moose Junction Lounge and Campground for all they did to help make this a very successful event. We want to thank our club members Bill Frahm, Sig Degitz, Tim Kaufman, Ed Graddy, and Greg Johnson for running a great event. In addition, we would like to thank other local club members who helped last summer in getting our grounds ready for these events, including Bert Benshoof, Ben Mergens, Colin Peterson, and Jeff Marek.

Shooting Dog Classic

We were lucky enough to have two very good judges for our Classic, and we thank them for their hard work and attentiveness during this quality stake. Jerry Kolter from Sandstone, Minnesota, is a legend in the cover dog world, and it was great to see him back in the woods judging. With him was another very seasoned judge, Joe Landowski from Howard Lake, Minnesota, who has run dogs and judged in these events for many years.

Northwoods Atlas ("Jet"), handled by Greg Johnson, was named the winner of this year's Moose River Shooting Dog Classic, and it was the third win of the spring trial season for this Setter male. Jet had a very forward race, almost always at the edge of the bell. He had two evenly spaced finds of both grouse and woodcock and handled them perfectly with great style on point. He finished strong with a run like a true field trial dog.

Second place went to setter female Lake Effect Ali, handled by Tim Kaufman. Ali had two beautiful grouse finds early in her brace and looked fantastic on both points. She had a good mix of working closer in the cover and bigger, bolder moves where appropriate, and she also finished very strong.

The third-place dog was a Pointer female Jewett's Creek Beauty, handled by Jeff Sullivan. Beauty has also had a strong



Moose Classic Open Shooting Dog (l-r): Greg Johnson with Northwoods Atlas, Tim Kaufman with Lake Effect Ali, and Jeff Sullivan with Jewett's Creek Beauty.

spring trial season, and this trial was no exception. She did an excellent job of hitting good cover with a good ground race and managed to dig out a woodcock and a grouse on her brace.

Open Derby

The Open Derby had a strong field of 21 dogs, and our judges were a good pairing with Bill Frahm of Minong, Wisconsin, and Colin Peterson of Colfax, Wisconsin. Bill is a very well-respected judge who has handled multiple champions and has judged multiple championships over the years. Colin is newer to the judging game but has run dogs for many years and was a welcome addition to our trial.

High Point's Snowman Fred, a Setter male handled by Ben Brettingen, was the Open Derby winner. Fred ran very hard for his entire brace and, with that drive, also managed to stay forward very nicely throughout. He hit the known covers and showed very good promise as a young derby dog.

Second place went to Pointer male Northwoods Paco, handled by Josh Matel.



Open Derby (front, l-r): Ben Brettingen with High Point's Snowman Fred, Josh Matel with Northwoods Paco, and Brad Holt with Faith's Texas Tryst. (Behind): Colin Peterson (judge) and Bill Frahm (judge).

Paco also had a nice, hard race and excellent ground speed. This was a very biddable dog that showed well for our two judges.

The third-place dog was Faith's Texas Tryst, handled by Brad Holt. This Pointer female stayed forward with a very nice gait. She had very large casts during her brace, fading in and out of the bell but maintaining contact with her handler.

Moose Junction, Wis., April 19

Judges: Jerry Kolter and Joe Landowski

OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats]
– 4 Pointers and 19 Setters

1st-NORTHWOODS ATLAS, 1674557, setter male, by Northwoods Grits-Northwoods Nickel. Greg Johnson, owner and handler.

2d-LAKE EFFECT ALI, 1688438, setter female, by Northern Lights Sirius-Lake Effect Tilly. Tim Kaufman, owner and handler.

3d-JEWETT'S CREEK BEAUTY, 1703337, pointer female, by Toth's Tornado Reloaded-Grouse Trails Warrior Cat. Jeff Sullivan, owner and handler.

Judges: Bill Frahm and Colin Peterson

OPEN DERBY – 6 Pointers and 15 Setters

1st-HIGH POINT'S SNOWMAN FRED, 1709644, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-I'm Blue Who. Ben Brettingen, owner and handler.

2d-NORTHWOODS PACO, unreg., pointer male, by Southern Confidence-Northwoods Comet. Josh Matel, owner and handler.

3d-FAITH'S TEXAS TRYST, 1705091, pointer female, by Just Win Chester-Chapel Fork Faith. Brad Holt, owner and handler.

Judges: Greg Johnson and Kyle Peterson

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 5 Pointers and 10 Setters

1st-PLANET QUEEN, 1702708, setter female, by Rufus Del Fuego-Stumbo's Scarlet. Scott Anderson, owner and handler.

2d-WOODS R CALLIN APOLLO, 1695053, setter male, by Northern Lights Sirius-Lake Effect Tilly. William Frahm, owner and handler.

3d-KONA'S BLUE SKYE, 1688883, setter female, by Northwoods Sir Gordon-I'm Blue Who. A. J. Kalupa, owner and handler.

OLD HICKORY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Rebel Gold Wins Virgil Beasley Sr. Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

By Jeff Blackwell | LaVergne, Tennessee | April 19, 2024



Virgil Beasley Sr. Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog Classic (l-r): Justin Howard (judge), Will Roberts (judge), Allen Linder, Madison McDonald (handler), Miller's Flowers and Lace with Buddy Morrison (scout), Mike Rost, J Maple Jester with Scott Little (scout), Joe Hughes (handler), and Jeff Blackwell (reporter). (Not pictured): Rebel Gold and David Williams.

Six inches of snow and sub-zero temperatures caused our normal January running of the Virgil Beasley Classic to be delayed until April 19-21. It turns out that wasn't such a bad thing as five of the top six amateur shooting dogs competing for top prize in Region 6 points and five of the top ten in Invitational points were turned loose in hopes of winning one last trial of the season.

Mid-50 to low-60 degrees, cloudy and breezy, made for favorable weather conditions, considering late April in middle Tennessee can produce mid-80 temperatures. The first pairing of derbies was called to the line Friday afternoon to kick off the trial. Twelve derbies entered, one scratched, so 11 competed for three placements and prizes of Purina Pro Plan dog food thanks to our long-time sponsor Purina Feeds and Greg Blair. Judges Justin Howard and Dereck Layne named Millers Authentic Version first place winner. The beautiful Pointer male was handled by Fran Miller and scouted by Madison McDonald. Version had a pleasing ground race and one find at 18 minutes into the 30-minute brace. He also had a steady back of his bracemate, which unfortunately was scored an unproductive. The second-place dog was Pointer male Nickajack Pale Rider, who also had one find 15 minutes into the brace. Rider was handled by Ross Leonard. Pointer female Southern Sweets Lane had her first find at the nine-minute mark but, after a long flush, was too eager to join her handler Brian Peterson in the cover. She had a perfect find at 20 minutes, but the earlier bobble garnered her third place.

The Virgil Beasley Sr. Amateur Shooting Dog Classic kicked off Saturday

morning with 12 of the 21-dog field set to compete. Weather in the mid-50s, cloudy and breezy, welcomed a nice crowd of owners, handlers, scouts, club officials, and gallery. After a sincere welcome, club announcements, which included a huge thank you to our sponsors Purina Feeds and Tennessee Farmers Co-op, and a prayer for safety, the trial was turned over to our judges from Alabama, Justin Howard and Will Roberts. Thank you, Justin and Will!

As stated earlier, the "big dogs" were out for the final Region 6 trial of the season, and they did not disappoint. The sixth brace on Saturday produced the third-place finisher, J Maple Jester, with Joe Hughes handling. Jester scored a find at :38 in the Gas Line Field, at :18 at the Big Oak, and her final find at :08 at the end of the Banana Field. Her bracemate One Day Queen Bee and Lane Hodges shared the find at :38.

With four finds at :40 at the Power Line turn, :30 just before Devil's Garden, :18 in the Banana Field, and :01 before the Zig Zag and one back, Miller's Flowers and Lace and Madison McDonald earned second place honors in the fourth brace of



Amateur Derby (front, l-r): Dereck Layne (judge), Millers Authentic Version, Madison McDonald (scout), Nickajack Pale Rider with Caroline Leonard, and Southern Sweets Lane with Brian Peterson (handler). (Behind): Landon with Taylor Henley, Justin Howard (judge), Allen Linder, Fran and Jack Miller, Mike Rost, Ross Leonard, Lane and Darcy Hodges, and Lance Servais.

the day. Lace and Madison have made a great team this season and are sure to be contenders next year.

The winner of the 2024 Classic was Rebel Gold with handler David Williams. Rebel won over the judges with five impressive finds during the third Saturday brace. The first at :44 before the Zig Zag that required a relocation find two was just before the Pond Dam at :33, another point and relocation in the Knob Field at :25 scored the third, number four came at :17 at the Power Line and the fifth at the Carp Pond field at :11. Rebel laid down a smooth forward race and handled with ease. Congratulations, David and Rebel!

Rebel and David were awarded an Orca cooler donated by TN Farmers Co-op (who also provided our barbeque lunch on Saturday), Lace and Madison earned a 30" Carhartt duffel bag, and Jester and Joe took home a Carhartt vest compliments of the Purina Events Sponsorship Program!

The following participants have earned 2023-24 Region 6 (AFTCA) Amateur Shooting Dog honors: Rebel Gold (High Points Winner), Southern Ritz Lane, Miller's Triple Digit Heat, J Maple Jester, and Miller's Flowers and Lace. One Day Queen Bee is the 2023-24 Purina Top Amateur Shooting Dog of the Year. Congratulations to all these top dogs, handlers, and all who participated in making the 2024 Classic a special one.

LaVergne, Tenn., April 19

Judges: Justin Howard and Will Roberts
VIRGIL BEASLEY SR. MEMORIAL AMATEUR
SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats]
– 20 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-REBEL GOLD, 1701829, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Rebel Maiden. David E. Williams, owner and handler.

2d-MILLER'S FLOWERS AND LACE, 1696283, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Allen R. Linder, owner; Madison McDonald, handler.

3d-J MAPLE JESTER, 1675700, pointer female, by J Maple Jake-Coldwater Queen Kate. Joe & Tessa Hughes, owners; Joe Hughes, handler.

Judges: Justin Howard and Dereck Layne
AMATEUR DERBY – 10 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-MILLERS AUTHENTIC VERSION, 1704331, pointer male, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Allen R. Linder, owner; Madison McDonald, handler.

2d-NICKAJACK PALE RIDER, 1706953, pointer male, by Touch's Malcolm Story-Wildfair Joy. Ross Leonard, owner and handler.

3d-SOUTHERN SWEETS LANE, 1705876, pointer female, by Southern Shadows T Rex-Southern Ritz Lane. Lance Servais & Brian Peterson, owners; Brian Peterson, handler.

BRAEVAL FIELD TRIAL CLUB

First Annual Running of the Braeval Cover Dog Classic Wild Bird Trial

By Kelly Hays | Ellenburg, New York | April 20, 2024

The goal of the Braeval Cover Dog Classic was to create a packaged and branded field trial to showcase dogs on wild birds at the highest level. It was also developed to give the utmost exposure to our sponsors and founded to provide a best-in-class trial for amateurs and give them 45 minutes to showcase their dogs. Another goal was to have everyone leave happy, as usually only one person leaves the event happy. We think almost all went home happy and satisfied with the event. A gift bag full of great items from our sponsors was given to each entrant, and everyone received a full-size bag of Inukshuk and a subscription to Upland Almanac, among other gifts.

Gregor McCluskey, his family, and generous supporting sponsors worked hard this weekend to put on a first-class one-of-a-kind amateur event. The camaraderie between handlers, judges, trial reporter, gallery, volunteers, and sponsors was jovial. Gregor is the founder of Braeval Apparel and the visionary behind this trial. The Braeval Cover Dog Classic was hosted on managed grouse and woodcock habitat at Bruce Bennett's On The Wing Grouse Camp in Ellenburg Center, New York. Both grouse and woodcock were produced on every course. The weather was good for running dogs, cold and blustery on both days and overcast at times.

Our judges were Pat Cooke, organizer of the New York Grouse Championship, and Kris Nordby of Connecticut. We express our appreciation for their duties as they steadfastly gave tremendous concentration and consideration to each dog on the ground for each of the six braces per day; each brace ran on a fresh, well laid out course.

The successful Braeval Cover Dog Classic wild bird trial was made possible



Braeval Cover Dog Classic (front): Lukas Dix. (Behind): Kris Nordby (judge), Connor McCluskey, Lightning Flash Remington with Brian Dix, Braeval Rory with Gregor McCluskey, and Pat Cooke (judge). (Not pictured): Calamy's Soul Man and Cal Robinson.

by our great sponsors and those who contributed their time and talent to our event. We especially want to thank our judges, trial reporter Kelly Hays, and volunteers Bruce Bennett, Amy Dunham, Connor McCluskey, and Hailey Pipher—a special thanks to Hailey, who treated the trial dogs to a paw massage using Bag Balm. Additionally, thank you to the participants who helped when called upon.

Sponsors

Inukshuk Pro Dog Feed, The Upland Almanac, Muller Chokes, Bertucci Field Watches, Warners Sporting Dogs, MPE Tail Guard, Jonas Brothers (Pepi Family) Taxidermy, CSMC, On The Wing Grouse Camp, Charter Arms West Hill Outfitter (Adam Dubriske), and Braeval Sporting Apparel. We even had private donations from Joe Petruzzi.

Sponsors had their own named courses to reflect the great sponsorship support of this trial.

The Winners

A total of 24 dogs were entered—nine English Pointers, 12 English Setters, two Irish Setters, and one Brittany. Winners received Inukshuk Professional Dog Feed.

The top performing dog and winner was English Setter male Lightning Flash Remington under the whistle of handler/owner Brian Dix, coming on the Inukshuk Course on Day One, Brace 1. Not long into this brace, we heard his bell fall silent. Scout Tim Cavanaugh went searching and

called point. Brian, Tim, and judge Pat Cooke saw the grouse standing atop the stone wall where Remi stood proud on his first of three birds, grouse, all in good order. His second bird was another grouse along a mature aspen stand. With seven minutes left on the clock, Brian called for David Theroux to scout as Tim was at the rear. David went in deep along a stand of spruce to find him standing. A woodcock was flushed, all in good order. Assistant trainer Lukas Dix, Brian's son, was there to watch this spectacular race.

The judge's comments, "A totally super job with a very big race. His speed and range were polished by consistent style on the ground and on point. He was independent, although pleasing to the handler and the watchful gallery."

Brian Dix and Remington's names will be engraved on the Braeval Cover Dog Classic trophy, and both first and second winners will receive a custom grouse fan tail mount donated by Jonas Brothers



Dogs were treated to a paw massage with Bag Balm provided by Hailey and Bag Balm.



Gift Bags Sponsors.



Trial gallery on course.

Taxidermy. Michael Pepi was in attendance to make this presentation.

Second-place winner Braeval Rory, an Irish Setter male owned and handled by Gregor McCluskey, was on the Upland Almanac course on Day Two, Brace 8. Rory, a young derby, hit the cover deep, staying just at the end of bell range showing a powerful forward ground race. Drumming was heard just before coming into the first cover, shortly after Rory's bell fell silent in the same direction as the

drummer. Judge Pat Cooke and Gregor looked at one another, hoping to find Rory, and indeed found him standing in that area; however, no grouse was produced after a lengthy search and relocation. Rory was sent forward, and at 20 minutes, Rory was found deep in the cover standing a woodcock and all was in good order with his find. Rory finished his 45 minutes strong. The second-place winner will receive a custom grouse fan tail mount donated by Jonas Brothers Taxidermy.

Third place went to Pointer male Calamy's Soul Man ("Elwood"), owned and handled by Cal Robinson on the Upland Almanac Course, Day One, Brace 2. Elwood laid out the cover nicely on the edge of bell range. He ran a stylish, handy race for Cal 20 minutes in, and he stopped on the right along an immature aspen stand, where no bird was produced. Cal sent him on his way. Elwood was found after a five-minute search, where a woodcock was produced for him with good etiquette. Third-place winner Cal Robinson received a Bertucci Field watch.



Tim Cavanaugh with Little Miss Margaret and Calamy's Soul Man with Cal Robinson on the Upland Course.

Ellensburg, N. Y., April 20

Judges Pat Cooke and Kris Nordby

BRAEVAL COVER DOG CLASSIC - 24 Entries

1st-LIGHTNING FLASH REMINGTON, 1687367, setter male, by Denco's Crockett Again-Arctic Tundra Bird Dog. Brian Dix, owner and handler.

2d-BRAEVAL RORY, 1700621, Irish setter male, by Braeval Ghillie-Braeval Skye. Gregor McCluskey & Braeval Kennels, owners; Gregor McCluskey, handler.

3d-CALAMY'S SOUL MAN, 1678673, pointer male, by Erin's War Creek-Woodcock Haven Stella. Calvin C. Robinson, owner and handler.

NGSPA OF OHIO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Championship Series Held At Tri-Valley Wildlife Area

By Robert Reynolds, D.V.M. | Dresden, Ohio | April 22, 2024

The 2024 running of the Ohio Championships began on April 22 at the Tri-Valley Wildlife Area near Dresden, Ohio, and concluded on April 26.

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 nearly 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 Terry Boatright and Mary Sue Schalk, both from Kentucky. All-Age Championship judges were Mary Sue Schalk and Mark Calder. Brian Riggle and Mark Calder, both from Pennsylvania, judged the Amateur Championship. The first four days were perfect weather for running dogs. The Derby Classic was judged by Fred Ryan and Bob Reynolds, both from Ohio. Our judges gave all entries their full attention, and many competitors expressed their appreciation for our judiciary.

Our successful trial was made possible by the German Shorthair Pointer Club of Ohio members, who contributed their time and

talent to our event. I would especially like to thank our secretary, Jennifer Goodall, as well as Chris Young, Bob Reynolds, Scott and Ann Weslow, Charlie and Laurie Brown, Gayle and Cheryl Graves, and our bird planters, Chris Young, Fred Ryan, Art Terstage, Hank Lewis, and Bob Reynolds. They did a terrific job planting birds and keeping the trial on schedule.

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

We want to thank the pros who support our trial: Joe Orndorff, Dan DiMambro, Barry Bollinger, Chris Goegan, and all the amateurs who make these trials happen with help and participation.

The Winners

Open Shooting Dog Championship

The 2024 Open Shooting Dog Champion was Haskal Run Ella, owned by Tom James and handled by Chris Goegan. The judges reported that Ella had six 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

Hi N's Curtain Call, owned and handled by Hank Lewis. "Charlie" had a big shooting dog race with five finds and two backs.

Dresden, Ohio, April 22 – One Course

Judges: Terry Boatright and Mary Sue Schalk

NGSPA OF OHIO OPEN SHOOTING DOG

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

– 28 German Shorthairs

Winner-HASKAL RUN ELLA, 1693823, female, by Joke's On You-Mc's Snake Eyes Rebel Lacy. Tom James, owner; Chris Goegan, handler.

Runner-Up-HI N'S CURTAIN CALL, 1687995, male, by Hi N's Bodacious-Hi N's Hasty Matilda. Hank Lewis, owner and handler.

Open All-Age Championship

Twelve dogs started in the Open All-Age. When the dust settled, the judges named Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee, owned and handled by Dr. Kirk Loftin, the champion. Dee had three well-spaced finds, with the biggest race and kindly handling for the hour. The All-Age runner-up was Hi N's Dirty Secret, owned and handled by Hank Lewis. Badger had two evenly spaced finds, two backs, and a strong all-age finish.



NGSPA of Ohio Open Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Terry Boatright (judge), Mary Sue Schalk (judge), Chris Goegan with Haskal Run Ella, Robert Reynolds, Tom James (owner), and Larry Verk.

Judges: Mark Calder and Mary Sue Schalk

**NGSPA OF OHIO OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats]**

- 10 German Shorthairs

Winner-STONEY HILL'S PINNACLE DEE, 1694168, female, by Simons Gunner-Shadowrocks Mighty Mouse. Kirk Loftin, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-HI N'S DIRTY SECRET, 1687997, female, by Hi N's Bodacious-Hi N's Hasty Matilda. Hank Lewis, owner and handler.

Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

Twelve dogs were entered in the Amateur Shooting Dog. The champion was Uodibar's Robbi Jo, owned by Sherri Tangsrud and handled by Dr. Kirk Loftin. Robbi had five finds and an exciting forward race that gave her the win. The runner-up was In Country's Hurricane Jane, owned by Dr. Robert Reynolds and Chris Young, handled by Chris Young. Janie had four well-placed finds with a good shooting dog race.



NGSPA of Ohio Open All-Age Championship (l-r): Mary Sue Schalk (judge), Kirk Loftin, Sherri Tangsrud with Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee, Robert Reynolds, Fred Ryan with Hi N's Dirty Secret, and Mark Calder (judge).

Judges: Mark Calder and Brian Riggle

**NGSPA OF OHIO AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**

- 12 German Shorthairs

Winner-UODIBAR'S ROBBI JO, 1662507, female, by Uodibar's Against All Odds-B D K's Sin City Casino. Sherri L. Tangsrud, owner; Kirk Loftin, handler.

Runner-Up-IN COUNTRY'S HURRICANE JANE, 1672744, female, by Hi N's Bodacious-Slaterock Mattie Clark. Dr. Robert Reynolds & Chris Young, owners; Chris Young, handler.

Open Derby Classic

The Derby was run with eight starters coming to the line. The judges were impressed with the quality of the future stars that competed.

The winner of the Derby Classic was In-Country's Aint Misbehavin. "Jazz," owned by Chris Young, had three finds and a solid all-age race. Chris Goegan handled her for this event.

Second was In-Country's Prime Suspect. "Jinx" had two finds and a good shooting dog race. Jinx is owned and handled by



NGSPA of Ohio Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Brian Riggle (judge), Kirk Loftin, Sherri Tangsrud with Uodibar's Robbi Jo, Robert Reynolds, Art Terstage with In Country's Hurricane Jane, Chris Young, and Mark Calder (judge).

Chris Young.

The third-place ribbon went to Hickory Acres Bull Rush. "Bully" had two finds and a good shooting dog race. Bully is owned by Scott and Ann Weslow and handled by Chris Goegan.

Many of the other young dogs showed a lot of promise as future champions!

Judges: Robert Reynolds and Fred Ryan

NGSPA OF OHIO OPEN DERBY

- 8 German Shorthairs

1st-IN-COUNTRY'S AINT MISBEHAVIN, 1705269, female, by Keg Creek's Mc's Big Lick-In Country's Hurricane Jane. Chris Young, owner and handler.

2d-IN-COUNTRY'S PRIME SUSPECT, 1705270, female, by Keg Creek Mc's Big Lick-In Country's Hurricane Jane. Chris Young, owner and handler.

3d-HICKORY ACRES BULL RUSH, 1703072, male, by B M B's Free Ride-M S R's Rowdy Rhonda. Scott Weslow, owner; Chris Goegan, handler.

U. S. COMPLETE MID-ATLANTIC OPEN WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Miller's Special Upgrade Named Champion; Cates Rocket Girl, Runner-Up

By Mike Husenits | Harrisville, Pennsylvania | April 22, 2024

The 2024 rendition of the U. S. Complete Mid-Atlantic Open Walking Shooting Dog Championship was conducted April 22-24 at the Oak Ridge Pointing Dog Club grounds near Harrisville, Pennsylvania. Once again, the Greensburg Pointer & Setter Club hosted the event for the seventh consecutive year, which drew a 32-dog entry from the strings of three professional handlers plus five amateurs.

The participants and club members are grateful for continued sponsorship by Greg Blair and Purina in the form of Pro Plan product, hats, and banners. The cost of participating in field trials would increase dramatically without Purina's help. Garmin is also a major sponsor and contributed a

training collar plus a bark suppression collar for the winners. Eric Munden and Lion Country Supply donated gifts for the judges.

Chris Catanzarite, current President of the U. S. Complete Association, chaired the committee that provided the pre-event preparation and work required to conduct a first-class event. Chris handled the advertising, entries, and drawing and was on hand to assist throughout. Joe and Suzie Cammisa provided delectable cakes, cookies, and apple strudel, plus made arrangements for a home-cooked Monday night dinner sponsored by last year's winner, Chris Catanzarite. Dave and Mark Hughes donated a side-by-side and four-wheeler for use as the dog wagon,

reporter's chariot, and bird planting, which Norm Meeder accomplished.

The Club was fortunate to obtain experienced judges. Roger Dvorak of Elkton, Maryland, teamed with Chris Rider of Smithville, Pennsylvania. They gave their undivided attention to all participants. They noted that they had witnessed seven performances worthy of championship recognition, which made determining the winners a head-scratching round of deep thought and analysis, which these men performed with expertise.

The Oak Ridge grounds are reclaimed strip mine land that the Oak Ridge Pointing Dog Club leases, maintains and manages, and in turn, leases the grounds to other



U. S. Complete Mid-Atlantic Open Shooting Dog Championship (front, l-r): Miller's Special Upgrade with Mark Hughes and Cates Rocket Girl with Zach Erne. (Behind): Chris Catanzarite, Roger Dvorak (judge), Dave Hughes, Chris Rider (judge), and Andy Erne.

field trial clubs. Oak Ridge also sponsors field trials and hunt test events of their own several times annually. Native grasses and food plots have been planted among native undergrowth, which consists of autumn olive bush, briers, locust, and cherry groves. The outer course perimeter is hardwood forest edges embedded with multi-four rose briers. One crossing of a slightly traveled dangerous dirt road requires guards to slow down or stop oncoming vehicles. An observation deck on a high side hill provides spectators with a view of a sizable portion of the course. Occasionally, judging opinions materialize on the observation deck and provide plenty of gossip fodder.

Weather conditions on Monday were very cold; the temperature below freezing at start, later warming into the 40s, and a stiff northwesterly wind made it feel much colder. Tuesday was slightly warmer, with clouds moving in late, bringing rain on Wednesday morning that caused a two-hour delayed start.

The Champion and Runner-Up

Miller's Special Upgrade ("Penny"), a 4-year-old orange-marked Pointer female owned by Carlos Escalante of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and handled by professional Mark Hughes from Grampian, Pennsylvania, topped the 32-dog field with an outstanding performance in the second brace on Monday morning. Penny's titular win here has resulted in yet another champion from the highly successful breeding program of Jack and Fran Miller of Barwick, Georgia. Dave and Mark Hughes acquired Penny as a weaned pup from the Millers and are responsible for her development and outstanding success

to date, which includes a National Futurity win, several derby wins, and multiple shooting dog placements. Carlos Escalante acquired Penny and a litter sister while still puppy age and has campaigned on the walking and horseback shooting dog circuit.

Penny and brace mate Smoke Rise Hanna, handled by Tony Bingham, were released at 9:40, starting with plenty of range and drive in the open fields along the upper wooded edge. At 16, both scored well-handled independent finds near the road crossing. Sent ahead along the bottom woods' edge, Penny stood high and tight at 21, Hanna backing, all in order. Sent forward along dry creek bottom, both stood at 31 on a divided find, polished manners displayed. Both stretched far to the front along the top woods edge, disappearing and found at 43 by scout in the far-off corner, Hanna backing Penny with another perfectly handled stylish find. Penny added another perfect find at 46, Hanna again backing, the fast action followed with Penny backing Hanna at 49 near Hillside Locust Grove. Penny continued to pour it on, reaching far ahead in the bottom, found standing statuesquely at 53; the initial flush attempt futile, Penny with a quick, precise relocation, producing a well-located bird to perfect manners. Meanwhile, Hanna suffered an unproductive at 54. Sent forward, both made extended swings, hunting through likely cover and disappearing. They were found far ahead at 59, Hanna pointing and Penny backing nicely. Unfortunately, Hanna erred on her relocation attempt to end an exciting hour. Penny notched six finds and two backs with a powerful forward, far-reaching

ground effort.

Runner-up Cates Rocket Girl, coming 5-year-old orange marked Setter female owned by David Cates of Evansville, Indiana, and handled by Zach Erne of Rittman, Ohio, rendered her performance in the 14th brace starting at 3:47, the final brace Tuesday, the second day. Girl's pedigree traces to Ch. Ridge Creek Cody on both sire and dam sides, with a cross to Ch. Barbaro on her dam's side. Girl is on a hot winning streak, having recently been named champion at the National Bird Hunters Midwest Regional Championship in Missouri.

Adding to her accolades here, Girl and brace mate Treasure Chest, handled by Cliff Monroe, started fast and wide, maintaining their pace consistently. They scored independently at 11, Girl on the hillside beyond road crossing in autumn olive thicket and Chest along the bottom edge, both mannerly at flush. The pace was a tad faster than normal, with both ranging wide through the long bottom beyond the duck pond. Chest pointed along top wooded edge at 39, Girl backing nicely, both displaying polished manners. After far-reaching casts along the top edge, both swung down the hill into the bottom country and sped forward along woods line, pointing simultaneously near the far corner bend at 42; Chest loosening somewhat during flush attempt by both handlers, this stand unproductive. Both hunted far to the front along ditch line and made the sharp turn toward the observation deck, each pointing independently in tall grass at 54. Girl rock solid, Chest ticking as handler approached, tight for flush, both mannerly for the shot. Girl finished the hour still running strong, reaching well forward to distant objectives. Chest finished with a pair of mannerly finds at 57 and 59 below the observation deck.

Other performances that gave the judges cause for discussion included My Way Bud, Hide The Wine, Crow Creek Redbud, Double Deuce Zeke, and Smoke Rise Jake.

Harrisville, Pa., April 22 – One Course

Judges: Roger Dvorak and Chris Rider

U. S. COMPLETE MID-ATLANTIC OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 22 Pointers, 9 Setters, and 1 Vizsla
Winner-MILLER'S SPECIAL UPGRADE, 1695107, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Carlos Escalante, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

Runner-Up-CATES ROCKET GIRL, 1690282, setter female, by Swift Rock Iced Cash-Swift Rock Splash. David Cates, owner; Zach Erne, handler.

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LAKE STATES FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial

By Denise Peters | Meredith, Michigan | April 23, 2024

On April 23-25, the Lake States Field Trial Club hosted its 2024 spring trial. This event, sponsored by Purina, kicked off Tuesday morning with tolerable weather most of the time, with some rain and cool temperatures. We drew 97 dogs this year, resulting in a very successful event.

Tuesday was tough for us here at Gladwin as our long-time patron of the grouse woods, Wayne Fruchey, was laid to rest. Many of our community were missing from the woods this morning to honor a man who will always be remembered for his great stories and kind friendship.

The John Hadaway Cover Dog Classic was judged by Will Langley and Dave Heavlin, looking at 50 of the grouse woods' best. Conditions were tough this year, as nesting season began a bit early here in the North. First place was awarded to Springpond Rockin Sidney, handled by Tammy Chaffee. Sidney spent her 30 minutes forward and hunting on Course 13. She was rewarded with a well-located woodcock. She remained high and tight until her handler released her.

Second place went to Flambeau River Annie, owned and handled by Joe Colglazier. Annie ran a closer race, hunting the heavy cover on Course 16. She was rewarded with a well-located grouse 15 feet off her side that flew next to her, heading to her front. She stood the pressure.

Third place was awarded to K Del's Eagle Magnum Hotshot. "Shooter" ran a moderate race and was whoa'd on a running grouse about 10 yards off the trail. Congratulations to all on a tough day for birdwork.

Wednesday afternoon, at the conclusion of the Open Shooting Dog, we kicked off the Dell Todd Open Derby Classic. We ran two braces and concluded at the end of the day on Thursday. Joe Wohlfert and Chris Wasserman took pleasure in watching these 32 fine young contenders. Conditions were dry, considering the rain we had on Day One. Springpond's Addy's Boy, with his owner/handler, took first place honors. "Otto" ran in the first brace on Course 6. Otto stood broke on a challenging pair of grouse. He ran a great race and set the bar (and kept it) for the remainder of the stake.

Second place went to Snyder's Big Nose Kate, handled by Tammy Chaffee. Kate



The John Hadaway Cover Dog Classic (top half, l-r): Bryan Wood (stake manager), Dave Heavlin (judge), Leeann Parnell (owner), Springpond Rockin Sidney with Tammy Chaffee (handler), Will Langley (judge), and Norma and Roger Johnson. (Bottom half): Tammy Savage and Brent Peters with Purina sign, Flambeau River Annie with Joe Colglazier (owner/handler), and K Del's Eagle Magnum Hotshot with Ken DeLong (owner/handler).

scored on a nice grouse find at time. It was noted that she stood broke through the flush and shot.

Third place, handled by Richard Hollister, was Grouse Feather Tilly. She also scored on a nice grouse find, not being a stranger to the podium this spring here in Gladwin. It was reported that nine grouse were sighted, and five of those were pointed—a great performance by this great group of derbies.

We had the pleasure to run the inaugural Bryan Wood Open Puppy Classic on Wednesday morning. As we retired the Bob Doran Open Puppy Classic trophy, we felt none other than our own Bryan Wood be honored to take up the gauntlet. Judging this iconic event were Bruce Minard and Lonnie Rademacher. The judges shared



The new Mr. and Mrs. Thomas (and Rachel) Butler with their wedding party—Wyatt, Kelly, Shady, Paint, Cletus, and Fritz—at the Alibi Hall on House Lake in Meredith, Michigan.

with me that they were looking for the pups who ran the biggest forward-running race. With that information, they honored first place to Neff's Catch Me Get Me ("Gabe"), handled by Marc Forman. Second place was awarded to Twilight's Problem Child ("Joey"), also handled by Marc Forman. Third place went to Dunrovens Rolling Stone, handled by Richard Hollister.

As I stood as stake manager for this event and announced the winners, it was with tears that I realized that the first winner of the original Bob Doran Open Puppy Classic was our own Wayne Fruchey.

Thank you to everyone who helped us keep the wheels on this week. All participants helped us marshal, move cars, and get it done. Thanks to Purina for being our sponsor; Leeann Parnell and Mike Brown, who particularly made the trip on Tuesday to make sure I had help; to the Hollisters, who again, wrangled the best horses in the grouse woods; to the Singletons, who make sure we have snacks and food for lunches; and to Bryan Wood who is always our stake manager. We here at Gladwin are truly blessed to have such a great field trial community!

Thursday did not end without something very special. Our field trial community was honored to be part of an event that takes precedence over any event previously held here at the Alibi (that I know of). Thomas Butler and Rachel VanEyck were joined in matrimony with family and many of our field trial community witnessing. Thomas and Rachel were newcomers to us last spring and have continued to participate (and win) and contribute ever since. They are from Traunik, Michigan, on the Upper Peninsula. We wish them the best!

Meredith, Mich., April 23

Judges: Dave Heavlin and William Langley
JOHN HARDAWAY COVER DOG CLASSIC
– 13 Pointers, 34 Setters, 1 Brittany,
and 2 German Shorthairs

1st-SPRINGPOND ROCKIN SIDNEY, 1689212, setter female, by Springpond Rockin Autumn-Tailsup Olive. Leeann Parnell, owner; Tammy Chaffee, handler.

2d-FLAMBEAU RIVER ANNIE, 1670685, setter female, by Grouse Busters Zeke-Cornerwood Mya Storm. Joe Colglazier, owner and handler.

3d-K DEL'S EAGLE MAGNUM HOTSHOT, 1685770, Brittany male, by Magnum High Velocity-K Del's Eagle's Chance To Soar. Kenric J. DeLong, owner and handler.



The Bryan Wood Open Puppy Classic (l-r): Denise Peters (stake manager), Bryan Wood, Bruce Minard (judge), Neff's Catch Me Get Me with Marc Forman (handler), Twilight's Problem Child with Deb Nihart, Dunrovens Rolling Stone with Richard Hollister (handler), and Lonnie Rademacher (judge).

Judges: Bruce Minard and Lonnie Rademacher
BRYAN WOOD OPEN PUPPY CLASSIC
 – 3 Pointers and 12 Setters

1st-NEFF'S CATCH ME GET ME, 1705378, setter male, by Wayward Flyin Tomato-Twilight's Echoed Promise. Virginia S. Neff, owner; Marc L. Forman, handler.
2d-TWILIGHT'S PROBLEM CHILD, 1706124, setter female, by Wayward Flyin Tomato-Twilight's Echoed Promise. Mark Deneka, owner; Marc L. Forman, handler.
3d-DUNROVENS ROLLING STONE, 1705028, pointer male, by Crosswind Jim-Highbank's Down'n'dirty. Mark & Tom Fernandez, owners; Richard Hollister, handler.



The Dell Todd Open Derby Classic (l-r): Bryan Wood (stake manager), Chris Wasserman (judge), Springpond's Addy's Boy with Lonnie Rademacher (owner/handler), Snyder's Big Nose Kate with Tammy Chaffee (handler), Grouse Feather Tilly with Jennifer Hollister, and Joe Wohlfert (judge).

Judges: Chris Wasserman and Joe Wohlfert
DELL TODD OPEN DERBY CLASSIC
 – 11 Pointers, 20 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter

1st-SPRINGPOND'S ADDY'S BOY, 1699904, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Springpond's Autumn Adeline. Lonnie Rademacher, owner and handler.
2d-SNYDER'S BIG NOSE KATE, 1702168, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Eldridge's Beauty And Beast. Steven C. Snyder, owner; Tammy Chaffee, handler.
3d-GROUSE FEATHER TILLY, 1703250, setter female, by Grouse Feather Hawk-GF Southern Belle. Custis Coleman Jr., owner; Richard Hollister, handler.

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NEW ENGLAND SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY

Miller's Upgraded Patent Wins 88th Running

By Margaret C. Drew | East Windsor, Connecticut | April 26, 2024

When the New England Shooting Dog Futurity was first proposed as a regional futurity in the 1930s, the proposal was not well received, or as historian Truman Crowles stated, “proposal did not spread like wildfire.” Herbert G. Silver headed a group first proposing a regional futurity; however, although the need for more breeders was agreed upon, defining eligibility and other rules proved to be a challenge. It was necessary for the first year to sidestep futurity rules so that the first futurity was one in name only, with 17 entries running in April 1937. However, breeders and other dog people acknowledged that a regional futurity was necessary to promote bird dogs, 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 were nominated from outside New England, and entries also increased. In the early '90s, litters and entries declined again, luckily followed by a surge to 50 to 60 entries from 35 litters in the late '90s and early 2000s. During that time, there was a guaranteed purse of

\$2,000; however, with litter nominations declining and 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.

Today, futurities across the country are not as well supported as one would expect. It is a breeders' showcase, but often, breeders are not nominating their litters. It seems to me that \$40 would be a fair investment to show off your breeding program. This 88th running of the New England Futurity had an increase from 12 to 18 litters nominated, with 20 derbies drawn to run. (An additional four were withdrawn just prior to the drawing). Nominations for the 89th are ongoing. Contact Margaret at margaretdrew39@gmail.com or (910) 206-0079.

The Flaherty 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 large pictorial history showing the building of the present clubhouse. In a second framed plaque, there are historic photos from early trials with identified patrons and dogs, and which trial is portrayed. This is a very nice historic piece. Many of the photos are complimentary of the historic keepings of the late Truman

Crowles. Dick Bembenek made and donated a wooden memory board of all early New England Open winners from its origin in 1929 with spaces through 2028. The original silver tray is well displayed at the Bird Dog Hall of Fame in Grand Junction, Tennessee. Earl and I visited there in June of 2023 and were pleased to see the additions and organization. The walk up the memory bricks is a sight to see.

The grounds at Flaherty were in excellent condition. The Flaherty committee has courses well marked with landmarks, and they have improved the courses with culverts and crushed fill, making the course safe and allowing handlers and spectators to concentrate on the dogs. The Flaherty grounds committee has made major improvements to the area, and it is an excellent field trial area. As noted in the past, the area has ample parking, running water, bathroom facilities, a full kitchen, a pavilion, and a modern bird room.

The 88th New England Futurity once again used a single course, which broke away down the slight hill on the northeast side of the grounds beyond the horse corrals. We then moved forward toward the center of the property, where the first quail release area has of recent years been on the left of the island trees; however, this



88 New England Futurity (front, l-r): Doug Ray with Miller's Upgraded Patent, Mike Tracy with Mo's Curtain Call, Kevin Stuart with Erin's Bad Company, and Joe Lordi with High Drive Drinkaby, joined by spectators.

year, it was further on toward the woods and pond area. From there, it is a straight shot through the very wide meadow below Fox Hill, through the wooded area near the pond, and down the backstretch to cross the main culvert before continuing up to the top of Tobacco Barn hill and the apple tree area. Another bird spot is here, although often the birds fly across the freshly plowed field and hidden in the wooded edge. The course is now at 15–20 minutes as we make our way down toward the second culvert, which replaced the wet and muddy crossing. The dogs usually transverse the right wooded edge after leaving the top of Tobacco hill, cross at the bottom, and head for the semi-wooded area below the housing development and into the fields below the clubhouse. The 30-minute finish has dogs hunting the meadow, or usually the edges of it, below the clubhouse and reaching toward the opening cut and toward the powerline and Deerborn. If the brace is brisk, we travel under the powerlines into the area of Deerborn until time is up. Often, dogs cast toward the left and center, requiring scout assistance.

Birds for the futurity were planted faithfully by chairmen Bill Bonnetti and John Stolgitis, assisted by Amilcar Pereira. Once again, John also performed his “magic chef” skills for Friday evening dinner in honor of the 87th winner, Calico's Sugar ‘N’ Spice, owned and handled by Jeff Smith. As usual, job well done, John Stolgitis! When announcements were made, each placement received a zip lock bag with checks for breeders and handlers, pins, and DNA information. It is the owner's responsibility to get their derby DNA certified within the year, or the placement is voided.

Without breeders nominating their litters, owners having their dogs prepared for the

futurity, and handlers traveling to run in the futurity, there would be no futurities. Bill Bonnetti and John Stolgitis once again served as the operating committee, with yours truly, Margaret Drew, taking over the litter recording, other necessary paperwork, and a report. Drowning Creek Bird Dogs (Calvin Curnutte) provided judges' books. The trial received generous donations from Purina through ad coverage, hats, and product. The committee would like to thank the 22 supporters who allowed their derbies to be entered. This year, the entries came from 18 breeders, with seven handlers in charge of the 20 entries. As has become a tradition in New England, five amateur owners handle their own entries—three professional handlers covering the rest of the field. Accepting the judging role were Brian Sanchez and Alex Smith, both experienced with expectations for derby dogs. Both have been winners with futurity dogs here in the New England Futurity. As I was unable to attend, I certainly thank these two for the detailed notes sent to me.

The Winners

Named to the top winning position was Pointer male Miller's Upgraded Patent. As with most Miller-prefixed dogs, this litter was bred by Fran and Jack Miller. Upgraded Patent is owned by Dr. Bob Canada and Harold Ray, under the whistle of handler Doug Ray. The judge's comment on Miller's Upgraded Patent was: “A totally super job with a very big race.” His speed and range were polished by consistent style on the ground and on point. He was credited with finds at 8, 15, and 22. He was independent, although pleasing to the handler and the watchful gallery.

Brace 6 found the second-place derby, again with Mike Tracy. This time, Pointer female Mo's Curtain Call bred by Cassie Hollander Tracy, and now owned by Tim

Moore and Jim and Theresa Morrell. Mo's Curtain Call showed good ground sense with four precise quail locations for which the handler did not need to request any relocations. Little scouting was required as Curtain Call seemed right at home with the course.

Third went to Pointer male Erin's Bad Company, bred by Sean Derrig, although owned and handled by Kevin Stuart. Erin's Bad Company laid out nicely as he paced himself from beginning to end. He hit the cover at medium range. He scored four stylish points with good etiquette. His early find was at 7, followed by ones at 16, 20, and almost time at 29.

The fourth-place dog, ironically, came from Brace 4. Allen Linder and Madison McDonald are names frequently seen in the winners' circle, and this year was no different, as they are the owners of Pointer female High Drive Drinkaby. She was bred by Cassie Hollander Tracy and handled by Mike Tracy. High Drive Drinkaby toured the course at a medium range, although always forward. She was found standing side by side at 8 for a divided find, all in order. She continued her 30 minutes with energy to continue as time was called.

East Windsor, Conn., April 26 – One Course

Judges: Brian Sanchez and Alex Smith

**88TH NEW ENGLAND SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY
– 16 Pointers and 4 Setters**

1st-MILLER'S UPGRADED PATENT, 1704924, pointer male, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Bob Canada & Harold Ray, owners; Doug Ray, handler.

2d-MO'S CURTAIN CALL, 1705285, pointer female, by Miller's High Heat Index-Osceola's Seminole Wind. Tim Moore & Jim Morrell, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

3d-ERIN'S BAD COMPANY, 1703998, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Erin's Bella Braveheart. Kevin Stuart, owner and handler.

4th-HIGH DRIVE DRINKABY, 1705283, pointer female, by Miller's High Heat Index-Osceola's Seminole Wind. Allen Linder & Madison McDonald, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

NORTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE BIRD DOG CLUB

35th Annual Spring Trial

By Lloyd B. Murray Jr. | Stark, New Hampshire | April 27, 2024

The Northern New Hampshire Bird Dog Club ran its 35th annual spring field trial on its spring grounds at Phillips Brook. Sixty-two dogs were drawn for the two-day event, which made for a busy but pleasurable event.

We are grateful to “American Forestry” for allowing us to use their land to hold our spring event (our fall trials run in the Kilkenny section of the White Mountain National Forest).

Thank you also to Purina for their continued support over the 35 years we have hosted the spring event; we greatly appreciate it!

A big thank you to Tony and Marie Bly for handling all their drawing-related chores, from taking entries to the actual draw, filling out the judge book, typing brace sheets, and posting the draw online.

To our dedicated bird planters, old friends Jay Christian from Connecticut and Roy Hargreaves from Maine, you guys did great!

Finally, to all of our judges who walked many miles looking over our various and numerous (nine) stakes, we enthusiastically say a heartfelt “thank you!”

The Open Puppy was the first stake on Saturday. We were away at 6:50 a.m.; Dick Brenneman would be proud! Tony Bly and Steve Sumple especially looked over a small but talented field. Both men have judged many open championships, and we greatly appreciate their efforts.

Winning the blue ribbon was the fast and flashy German Shorthair Pointer, Maier’s Skywalker, owned and handled by old friend Maggie Maier. Second was awarded to Long Gone Pickles, a Setter female owned and handled by Lloyd Murray. Pickles laid forward and hunted hard for her 20 minutes.

Next on the two-day, nine-stake program was the White Mountain Open Derby Classic. This stake has been a good barometer for identifying future winners, with many champions first showing their talents in this event.

Kelly Hays of Columbia, New Hampshire, and Lloyd Murray of Stark, New Hampshire, looked over a small but attractive entry. Winning first was Jamie Leitch’s flashy Pointer male, Can Am Cooper. This white and liver Pointer male ran a big, mature race combined

with finished birdwork to secure his win. Second went to Steve Sumple’s Sumps Murphy’s Law. “Murphy,” a beautifully running and pointing white and orange Setter female, nailed multiple birds with breathtaking style, plus broke work to win her ribbon. Both of these derbies look to have very bright futures.

Jamie Leitch and Steve Sumple judged the Granite State Open Shooting Dog stake. Winning first was Frank Joyal’s Pointer female, Moonlite’s Crown Jewel. Crown ran a large race, coupled with stylish finished work, to win the blue ribbon. Frankie was back in the charmed circle with his white and orange Pointer female, PeeDee. This big going bitch showed heels and put on stylish birdwork. The yellow ribbon was awarded to Lightning Flash Dude, a Setter male owned by Styles Bridges of Canton, New York, but handled today by Bailey Arkley. Dude ran fine and scored three times on birds to win his placement.

Sunday morning dawn was bright and cool for the first stake of the day, the New Hampshire Amateur Puppy Classic. Field trial veterans Thom Richardson of Whitefield, New Hampshire, and David Theroux of Strafford, New Hampshire, judged these juveniles. Winning her second blue ribbon of the weekend was Maier’s Skywalker. Second went to “Tune,” Jim Hathaway’s large tri-colored Setter male. Third went to Fowler, Kellie Short’s tri-colored Setter male. All three pups “tore it up” and showed much potential.

The George Johnson Amateur Derby stake was next. Thank you to judges Jim Hathaway and Kelly Hays. We are proud to honor our old friend George Johnson, who contributed so much to our game. We lost him several years ago, but he is not forgotten.

Winning the blue ribbon was the consistent winner, Leia, a tri-colored Setter female owned and handled by Roy Hargreaves from Summer, Maine. Leia hunted hard and forward, coupled with several broke finds. Second was won by “Roadie,” a tri-colored Setter male owned and handled by veteran Kellie Short of Buxton, Maine. Roadie displayed advanced manners on his birds to go along with an attractive race. The yellow ribbon went to the tri-colored Setter female, Rae, owned by Doug Dix and ably handled by Bailey Arkley.

The Phillips Brook Amateur Shooting Dog Classic was next on the agenda. Professional Adam Dubriske from Troy, New Hampshire, and Connecticut-based Steve “Hank” Sumple judged this Classic. Winning first for the second year was black and white Setter male Long Gone Dequan. “Quan” had three stylish finds with a forward race to win the blue. Second went to Jamie Leitch’s hard-charging Setter male, “Jack.” As always, Jack pushed the limits and coupled this effort with clean birdwork. “Dude” was back in the winners’ circle, with Bailey Arkley handling; her dad Bob had a broken arm! Dude nailed his birds with good style to advance his position.

The Open Derby Qualifier was up next. David Theroux and Deb Kennedy looked over these youngsters.

Winning first was the tri-colored Setter female puppy, Long Gone Pickles. This pup scored two broke finds with a forward race to win the blue for owner and handler Lloyd Murray. Maier’s Skywalker was back in the winners’ circle, getting second in this stake with a snappy forward race and solid birdwork. The Setter female, Rae, also scored her second placement of the trial with good birdwork and nice ground coverage.

It was very late in the afternoon before we got to the final stake of our spring program. Kelly Hays and Maggie Maier judged this Gun Dog stake. We did not have enough entries to recognize this event, but we ran what we drew and had a blast anyway. Bradley Green got the blue and red ribbon with his good gun dogs, Gil and Belle. Tom Jay and his reliable Setter, Max, were awarded third.

Thank you to all who pitched in to make this a relaxing and fun weekend!

Stark, N. H., April 27 – One Course

Judges: Tony Bly and Steve Sumple

OPEN PUPPY

– 3 Pointers, 1 Setter, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-MAIER’S SKYWALKER, 1709089, German Shorthair female, by Goose Creek Jester’s Dead Trenary-Goose Creek Cedar Plank Trenary. Maggie Maier, owner and handler.

2d-LONG GONE PICKLES, 1711405, setter female, by Long Gone Dequan-Paucek’s Jordi. Lloyd Murray Jr., owner and handler.

Judges: Kelly E. Hays and Lloyd B. Murray Jr.

WHITE MOUNTAIN OPEN DERBY CLASSIC

– 3 Pointers, 1 Setter, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-CAN AM COOPER, 1703026, pointer male, by Hirollins Gone And Doneit-Steel Valley Wardance. Jamie Leitch, owner and handler.

2d-SUMP'S MURPHY'S LAW, 1705520, setter female, by Grouse Hill Bullet Proof-Spata Setters Sally. Stephen Sample, owner and handler.

Judges: Jamie Leitch and Steve Sumple

GRANITE STATE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

– 5 Pointers and 9 Setters

1st-MOONLITE'S CROWN JEWEL, 1695573, pointer female, by Miller's Heat Seeker-Moonlite Yellow Jacket. Frank Joyal, owner and handler.

2d-CAROLINA'S GREAT PEE DEE, 1695476, pointer female, by Miller's Heat Seeker-Moonlite Yellow Jacket. Frank Joyal, owner and handler.

3d-LIGHTNING FLASH DUDE, 1677504, setter male, by Lightning Flash Mick-Lightning Flash Charli. Styles Bridges, owner; Bailey Arkley, handler.

Judges: David Theroux and Thom Richardson

AMATEUR PUPPY CLASSIC

– 1 Pointer, 5 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-MAIER'S SKYWALKER, 1709089, German Shorthair female, by Goose Creek Jester's Dead Trenary-Goose Creek Cedar Plank Trenary. Maggie Maier, owner and handler.

2d-WIZARD'S PAIGH AM PIOBAIRE, 1704385, setter male, by Long Gone Wallace-Shepherd's Clair. James Hathaway, owner and handler.

3d-PAUCEK'S FOWLER, 1704853, setter male, by Long Gone Dequan-Paucek's Jordi. Kellie Short, owner and handler.

Judges: Jim Hathaway and Kelly Hays

GEORGE JOHNSON AMATEUR DERBY

– 1 Pointers, 4 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-PAUCEK'S WOODLAND JEDI LEIA, 1703529, setter female, by Paucek's Little Tommy Tucker-Paucek's Andromeda. Roy Hargreaves, owner and handler.

2d-PAUCEK'S ROCKY ROAD, 1704261, setter male, by Long Gone Porky-Paucek's Mandy. Kellie Short, owner and handler.

3d-ROCK SOLID RAE, 1706422, setter female, by Rock Solid Tucker-Rock Solid Casey. Doug Dix, owner; Bailey Arkley, handler.

Judges: Adam Dubriske and Steve Sumple

PHILLIPS BROOK AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

CLASSIC – 2 Pointers and 13 Setters

1st-LONG GONE DEQUAN, 1675616, setter male, by Long Gone Studly-Phillips Half Moon. Lloyd B. Murray Jr., owner and handler.

2d-STOKELY B JACK, 1670962, setter male, by Stokely's Frankie B-Fernwood Cove's Bella. Jamie Leitch, owner and handler.

3d-LIGHTNING FLASH DUDE, 1677504, setter male, by Lightning Flash Mick-Lightning Flash Charli. Styles Bridges, owner; Bailey Arkley, handler.

Judges: Deborah Kennedy and David Theroux

OPEN DERBY

– 2 Pointers, 3 Setters, and German Shorthair

1st-LONG GONE PICKLES, 1711405, setter female, by Long Gone Dequan-Paucek's Jordi. Lloyd B. Murray Jr., owner and handler.

2d-MAIER'S SKYWALKER, 1709089, German Shorthair female, by Goose Creek Jester's Dead Trenary-Goose Creek Cedar Plank Trenary. Maggie Maier, owner and handler.

3d-ROCK SOLID RAE, 1706422, setter female, by Rock Solid Tucker-Rock Solid Casey. Doug Dix, owner; Bailey Arkley, handler.

U. S. COMPLETE GREAT LAKES CHAMPIONSHIP

Wildland Hide The Wine Named Champion; Blue Ribbon Harper's Bella, Runner-Up

By Jim Cipponeri | Highland, Michigan | April 27, 2024

This year's running drew a fine field of 30 championship dogs on the famed Silo Course of the Highland Recreation area 40 miles northwest of downtown Detroit. Participants came from Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Canada, and, of course, Michigan. Severe weather was predicted, but for the most part, it held off during the running. Temperatures did reach the mid-70s on both days, but the conditions did not deter the dogs' performances.

The drawing and judges' books were compiled and printed by Connie Cipponeri with the help of son Jonathan Husinka. Michigan Field Trial Hall of Famer Dave Fletcher, a mainstay at this trial since its inception, was unable to attend while he was home helping his lovely wife Carol recuperate from surgery. We're all praying and hoping for Carol's speedy recovery. Dave will be celebrating his 90th birthday this August and is still a contributor to the field trial community. He continues to provide comprehensive and colorful trial reports and services to numerous clubs with rosettes, plaques, and 65 years of history and colorful knowledge of our sport.

Paul Tutro is a field trialer's answer to a Door Dash driver! On Friday, he delivered water tanks and water to precise locations on the course for horses and dogs. Every morning, he drove 170 miles round trip to pick up birds, fresh donuts and coffee for



U. S. Complete Great Lakes Championship (l-r): Krysta Munden, Ron Sposita, Mark Hughes, Eric Munden with Wildland Hide The Wine, Don Knight, Paul Renius (judge), George Najor, Jim Cipponeri, Robert Ecker with Blue Ribbon Harper's Bella, Will Langley (judge), and Richard Warters.

those in attendance, and breakfast for the judges. Paul is one of our preeminent bird planters, but a recent rib injury has placed him on the disabled list for a few more weeks. He did keep the bird bags full for his substitute liberators, Ron Sposita and Jim Cipponeri. Ron also provided lunches each day with the help of his wife, Maria. Bryan Wood announced each brace on Saturday, and Paul took over for Woody on Sunday.

The newly crowned champion, Wildland Hide The Wine ("Chuck"), is a 3-year-old

white and orange Pointer male handled by Eric Munden. He placed in the National Shooting Dog Futurity, U. S. Complete Futurity, and recently in the National Walking Shooting Dog Futurity. He was bred by Dave and Mark Hughes and owned by Eric and Krysta Munden who raised the litter and contributed to his early development. They helped to instill the dog's natural ability with the tutelage and expertise of the Hughes family footprint. Kudos to all involved in this difficult process.

Wildland Hide The Wine had finds at 7 and again at 39. The first was near the old Mehring property, overlooking a majestic view of Beaumont Valley. Intensity and style were second to none. He reached out to all the right places and showed when needed with minimal encouragement from Eric. His second find was parallel to Pettibone Lake Road, again with excellent manners. He ran in the hottest part of the day, which usually means disaster at the sand hills of Highland. This was Wine's time to shine!

Runner-up honors went to female Pointer and four-time title winner Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella. Harper is owned by Marty Festa and handled by Robert Ecker, both from Pennsylvania. Bob has been a huge supporter of this trial and the U. S. Complete Association for many years.

Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella is the result of Richard Warters's breeding of multiple champion Bud of Piney Woods and Blue

Ribbon Bella.

Harper ran in the first brace with Mulberry Fields Molly. Mark Hughes handled Molly. This fancy Setter finished the hour with a find and a well-applied ground race and was considered in the hunt along with her runner-up brace mate.

Harper was the defending champion from last year and set the standard for the rest of the field to beat. Several dogs put down stout performances with multiple bird contacts, but it wasn't until the final brace that eventually decided the champion. She ran the course to perfection, always forward and ranging far but not in need of any serious scouting until scout Knight echoed the welcoming ring of "point" 200 yards from handler and gallery. Sky kissing style and a single quail located a good 15 feet in a young popple stand held up until the final brace.

Several dogs had high quality

performances with multiple finds. Sarah Gomes's Cal Peak Hundredth Meridian was closest to the winners.

Special thanks to Purina and Garmin for sponsoring local weekend trials and this Championship. Judges Paul Renius and Will Langley were always attentive and a pleasure to have around. Their experience and knowledge of what a walking quail dog is is a prerequisite to securing quality judges. They have owned many winning dogs themselves but find time to judge when the call goes out.

Highland, Mich., April 27
Judges: Will Langley and Paul Renius
U. S. COMPLETE GREAT LAKES CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 30 Entries
Winner-WILDLAND HIDE THE WINE, 1697105, pointer male, by Double Deuce Zeke-Beaver Meadow Rose. Eric & Krysta Munden, owners; Eric Munden, handler.
Runner-Up-BLUE RIBBON HARPER'S BELLA, 1682768, pointer female, by Bud of Piney Woods-Blue Ribbon Bella. Martin Festa, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

GREENSBURG POINTER & SETTER CLUB

Spring Trial Held At Beaver Valley Grounds

By Mike Husenits | Rochester, Pennsylvania | May 3, 2024



Open Shooting Dog Qualifier (front, l-r): West Wind Big Jake with Gerry Mercatoris, Millers Dusty Version with Mark Hughes, and County Line Sky with Patti Chelednik. (Behind): Tim McClurg (judge) and Nick Lasica (judge).



Open Puppy (front, l-r): Backcountry Jacob with Reese Carroll, Meadowink Rae of Sunshine with William P. Yant III, and Backcountry Fearless with Chris Catanzarite. (Behind): Jhonna Zona (judge), Nick Mellon, and Nick Lasica (judge).



Open Walking Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Saddled Up Sadie with Joe Cammissa, Miller's Special Upgrade with Mark Hughes, and Double Deuce Zeke with Doug McMillen. (Behind): Chris Catanzarite (judge), Dave Park (judge), and Grayson Fox.

The spring field trial sponsored by the Greensburg Pointer & Setter Club was conducted May 3-5 at grounds owned by the Beaver Valley Pointer & Setter Club near Rochester, Pennsylvania. This well-known venue has hosted field trials for the past 75 years, and the Club continually looks ahead for a bright future.

The dedicated young and enthusiastic persons responsible for planning, organizing, and implementing the details that ensured a successful event were Nick Lasica and Justin Mason, along with their significant others, Giannia Kustra and Karah Thatcher. Giannia and Karah prepared and served delicious meals. Mrs. Bob Smith assisted with the meals daily. On Friday, freshly prepared Domino's

Pizza fed everyone in attendance; the food was complimentary of the Club. Nick Lasica and Justin Mason handled the advertising, secured judges, held the draw, made brace sheets, and collected entry fees and essential information.

Our primary sponsor is Purina. Without the support of Greg Blair and his team, field trial clubs wouldn't be able to sustain the number and high level of competitive events we enjoy today. All winners won discount coupons for Purina dog food.

Thanks to Chris Catanzarite, Dave Park, Tim McClurg, and Brian Ralph for generously donating the use of their horses for the judges and gallery. Thanks to Dave and Mark Hughes, Bob Smith, Justin Mason, and Norm Meeder for the use of

their all-terrain vehicles for dog wagons, bird planting, and an interested gallery.

A panel of knowledgeable, experienced, attentive sportsmen and women handled judging duties. Nick Lasica and Dave Park teamed up for the Open Shooting Dog stakes on Friday along with Tim McClurg. Nick Lasica and Jhonna Zona evaluated the Puppy stakes. Sarah Gomes and Krysta Munden teamed for the Open Derby. Chris Catanzarite and Dave Park judged the featured Open Walking Shooting Dog. Jeff Crum and Brian Ralph teamed up for the Amateur Shooting Dog. Joe Cammissa and Nick Lasica evaluated the Open Gun Dog. Norm Meeder, Bob Smith, Reese Carroll, and Tyler Bower performed the all-important bird planting.

The Club appreciates their long hours on the job. Most gratifying was the number of youngsters in attendance, particularly two young gentlemen who impressed even the seasoned veterans with their handling skills. Young Reese Carroll placed two dogs in the Open Puppy class, and 11-year-old Grayson Fox handled first and second-place winners in the Amateur Shooting Dog stake. Reese has also competed and placed here in previous trials.

The Open Horseback Shooting Dog ran first on Friday with Mac's Real McCoy, a Pointer male, taking top honors for owner/handler Tim McClurg with a strong front-running ground heat, a pair of finds handled with high style and proper manners, his finish powerful and going away. Second was Miller's Special Upgrade, a Pointer female owned by Carlos Escalante and handled by Mark Hughes to a far-reaching forward race, with two perfectly handled finds and a far-flung finish. Third went to Double Deuce Zeke, multiple champion Pointer male owned by Doug McMillen, also handled by Mark Hughes, to a medium-range wisely directed ground heat with three finds, all handled perfectly. Closest to the winners was Sadie with one find and a classy race.

The Open Horseback Derby first place winner was Backcountry Champagnesupernova, a Pointer female owned and handled by Chris Catanzarite, to a wide forward race and perfectly handled birdwork. Nova, or "Flex," has compiled a very impressive derby season record with placements in three futurities and several other top derby stakes, and her future is bright. Second was Mac's Silver Moon, a Pointer female owned and handled by Tim McClurg, to a well-applied forward ground race complemented with mature birdwork and a strong finish.

The Open Shooting Dog qualifier first place winner was West Wind Big Jake, a strapping Pointer male owned by Gerry and Janie Mercatoris and handled by Mark Hughes. Jake canvassed the course far to the front with plenty of eye appeal, disappeared near the far turn, and was found standing like a marble statue along the wooded edge at 25; Jake displaying perfect manners, then forward to finish going away. Second went to Millers Dusty Version, a Pointer female owned by Mike Husenits and handled by Mark Hughes, to a classy, wide-ranging ground race coupled with a pair of maturely handled finds, plus a strong finish. County Line Sky, a Pointer female owned by Tony Napolitano and handled by Patti Chelednik, took third with a consistent, well-directed race and



Amateur Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Foxy Abralena with Grayson Fox, Foxy Lady Sadie with Mike Fox, and Wildland Sweet Caroline with Eric Munden. (Behind): Jeff Crum (judge) and Brian Ralph (judge).

one perfectly handled find. Closest to the winners was "Bitty" with three mannerly finds, her handling response a bit erratic.

The winner of the Open Walking Puppy was Backcountry Jacob, handled by young Reese Carroll, to a wide-ranging, hard-hunting forward ground race. Second went to William P. Yant's "Sadie," a Setter female that demonstrated plenty of potential with a fast, snappy way of going and relentless stamina. Reese Carroll also handled Backcountry Fearless to third on the virtues of a far-ranging race directed to likely objectives and a willingness to handle.

First in the Open Walking Derby went to CC Lenni Lenape, a hard-hunting Irish Setter owned and handled by Al Fazenbaker. Lenni was found at 9 by scout Grayson Fox, pointing in heavy cover; this a maturely handled find. Lenni was sent ahead and found backing bracedmate at 20 near the far corner, good manners exhibited. After watering, Lenni finished strong and forward. Second was Hitail Roxy Afield, a Setter owned and handled by Russ Fazio, to a classy medium-range ground race and a stylish find handled with advanced derby manners. Millers Dusty Version was third with a front running far-reaching ground race and one stylish find where Dusty turned to mark the flight of the bird that flew behind; Dusty steadfast for the shot, finishing well ahead, going strong.

The featured Open Walking Shooting Dog stake drew 19 top-notch competitors. First place honors went to Saddled Up Sadie, a 3-year-old Pointer female owned by Joe Cammisa and handled by Mark Hughes, to a far-reaching forward ground race combined with finds at 12, 18, and 29, all pointed with high, intense style and perfect manners at flush and shot. Miller's Special Upgrade ("Penny") notched her second placement of the weekend for owner Carlos Escalante and handler Mark Hughes with a wide-ranging ground race, Penny hunting the likely objectives and handling like a glove. Her two finds were

stylish and handled with proper manners, her finish going away. Mark Hughes made a clean sweep by taking third with Double Deuce Zeke, also his second placement of the trial, for owner Doug McMillen. Zeke's race was somewhat less in overall range versus the higher-placed dogs, but his birdwork was stylish, and he showed flawless manners on each of his two finds.

All winners in the Amateur Puppy demonstrated potential for a bright future with Souleret's Cathasach Lady, a classy English Setter female named first with a far-reaching, eye-catching performance. "Storm," a Pointer male, took second with a classy medium-range effort, and a Pointer male named "Moose" was third with slightly less overall range than the other winners.

The highly competitive Amateur Shooting Dog was laden with worthy performances. Young Grayson Fox handled the first and second-placed dogs with confidence and expertise that belied his tender age. Foxy Abralena ran a well-directed forward race, maintaining a consistent pattern and always in tune with her handler. Lena's performance in the first brace included three solid finds evenly spaced throughout her stint. Lena pointed her birds with high style and granite-like intensity, maintaining perfect deportment at flush and shot. She finished going away.

Second-place Foxy Lady Sadie hunted the front with eagerness, displaying plenty of eye-catching animation. She found birds three times, each pointed with exact location, intensity, and polished manners. The judges noted that the slight difference between first and second was a little more pointing style shown by the winner.

Wildland Sweet Caroline was third for owner/handler Eric Munden. "Carol's" ground race was forward with several far-reaching casts to likely objectives holding the judge's attention. She scored a perfectly executed find at 12 along the top field edge, her finish ahead and to the limits. The judges noted that the two dogs closest to the winners were "Chess" with three finds and "Wayne" with two, both with extra wide ground races. Other contenders included "Ellie" and "Jiggs."

The standard for the Open Gun Dog stake was to honor the ideal foot-hunting dog with judgment ceasing at flush. All three winners met the standard, leaving the judges with a hard decision. First was "Stella," a fast-moving Brittany female that canvassed the fields in sweeping fashion, backed once and pointed twice with perfect location. Second went to Bailey, a hard-hunting German Shorthair female that also carded one back and scored a pair of finds. Third-place Caliber Peak Hundred

Proof, a most stylish Pointer male, handled well with a bit more range than the others, scoring finds at 7, 15, and 20.

Rochester, Pa., May 3

Judges: Nick Lasica and Dave Park

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 10 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-MAC'S REAL MCCOY, 1686791, pointer male, by Mac's Silver Chief-Mac's Silver Shadow. Timothy McClurg, owner and handler.

2d-MILLER'S SPECIAL UPGRADE, 1695107, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Carlos Escalante, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

3d-DOUBLE DEUCE ZEKE, 1673940, pointer male, by Double Deuce Peter-Funseeker's Holiday. Douglas E. McMillen Jr., owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

OPEN DERBY – 5 Pointers

1st-BACKCOUNTRY CHAMPAGNESUPERNOVA, 1701699, female, by Dragonfly-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.

2d-MAC'S SILVER MOON, 1700895, female, by Mac's Silver Chief-Mac's Silver Shadow. Tim McClurg, owner and handler.

Judges: Nick Lasica and Tim McClurg

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 7 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-WEST WIND BIG JAKE, 1685412, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Brave Heart Cassie. Gerry & Jane Mercatoris, owners; Mark Hughes, handler.

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

3d-COUNTY LINE SKY, 1694900, pointer female, by Lester's Shockwave-Lester's Speed Lady. Anthony Napolitano, owner; Patti Chelednik, handler.

Judges: Krysta Munden and Sarah Gomes

OPEN DERBY

– 3 Pointers, 3 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter

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

2d-HITAIL ROXY AFIELD, 1705101, setter female, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. Russell Fazio, owner and handler.

3d-MILLERS DUSTY VERSION, 1706290, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Mike Husenits, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

Judges: Chris Catanzarite and Dave Park

OPEN SHOOTING DOG

– 13 Pointers, 3 Setters, and 3 Irish Setters

1st-SADDLED UP SADIE, 1699757, pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Beaver Meadow Rose. Joe Cammisa, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

2d-MILLER'S SPECIAL UPGRADE, 1695107, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Carlos Escalante, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

3d-DOUBLE DEUCE ZEKE, 1673940, pointer male, by Double Deuce Peter-Funseeker's Holiday. Douglas E. McMillen Jr., owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

Judges: Nick Lasica and Jhonna Zona

AMATEUR PUPPY – 8 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-SOULERET'S CATHASACH LADY, 1705450, setter female, by Stillmeadow's Benjamin-J's Stillmeadow's Maggie. Larry W. Souleret, owner and handler.

2d-STORM, unreg., pointer male, breeding not given. Tony Napolitano, owner; Patti Chelednik, handler.

3d-MOOSE, unreg., pointer male, breeding not given. Dave Park, owner and handler.

Judges: Jeff Crum and Brian Ralph

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 11 Pointers, 6 Setters, and 4 Irish Setters

1st-FOXY ABRALENA, 1682017, Irish setter female, by Zansett Simply Red-Foxy's Lil Red Missy. Mike Fox, owner; Grayson Fox, handler.

2d-FOXY LADY SADIE, 1691626, Irish setter female, by Zansett Simply Red-Foxy's Lil Red Missy. Mike Fox, owner; Grayson Fox, handler.

3d-WILDLAND SWEET CAROLINE, 1692066, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Beaver Meadow Rose. Eric Munden, owner and handler.

Judges: Nick Lasica and Jhonna Zona

OPEN PUPPY – 4 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-BACKCOUNTRY JACOB, 1705244, pointer male, by Springflow's Backcountry P-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Chris Catanzarite, owner; Rose Carroll, handler.

2d-MEADOWINK RAE OF SUNSHINE, 1705287, setter female, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. William P. Yant III, owner and handler.

3d-BACKCOUNTRY FEARLESS, 1705245, pointer female, by Springflow's Backcountry P-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Chris Catanzarite, owner; Reese Carroll, handler.

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SUMMERHILL FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial

By Ernie Saniga | Greenville, Pennsylvania | May 4, 2024



Youth Stake (front, l-r): Raina Ruby with Faithful, Blake Ruby with Rebel, Liam Lawrence with Scooter, Laine Berdiner with Big, and Braydon Smith with Eva. (Behind): Ernie Saniga and Gunner Boyer.

The Summerhill Club ran a three-stake program on May 4 and 5 at the George Tracy training grounds near Greenville, Pennsylvania. Also run was an unrecognized Youth stake.

Karen Saniga is chairman and has quite a staff helping her. Mike Tracy wrangled the horses and side-by-side for participants. George Tracy planted the birds each brace.

Aidan and Evan Tracy were here to scout and to wrangle. All were busy throughout the trial, doing all the little things to be done to make the trial a success.

A public drawing was held on Friday evening at the clubhouse, which doubles as a horse and hay barn. The drawing was in conjunction with a pizza dinner furnished by the Club. Dave Hughes drew the dogs

out of a bowl.

On Saturday, Mary and Casey Tracy hosted a dinner for all participants at Mike's home near the training grounds. We had an off-and-on cold rain throughout the trial, and their hospitality was much appreciated.

The first stake was the Amateur Restricted Derby, judged by Ben Dillard from Maryland and Larry King from West Virginia. The winner was Erin's Envy, a Pointer male owned by Joe McHugh and handled by Joe Lordi. The attractive dog had four finds with style and finished manners to go with a strong race. Second went to Excitable Boy, a Pointer male owned and handled by Dave McKay. He had a back and three upright finds with finished manners on two. Third was GJF Oakley, a Pointer female owned by Greg Fried and handed by Dave McKay to a four-find performance with a good race and some finished work.

We had 17 in the Amateur Shooting Dog stake, judged by Hall of Fame trainer Dave



Amateur Derby (front, l-r): Joe Lordi with Hausers Unhinged, Larry King with Umpteen Tries, and Shotput with Roger Boser. (Behind): Darren Boyer (judge) and Tom Brigman (judge).



Amateur Restricted Derby (front, l-r): Joe Lordi with Erin's Envy, Dave McKay with Excitable Boy, and Evan Tracy with GJF Oakley. (Behind): Danielle Lordi and Mike Tracy.



Amateur Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Aidan Tracy with Iron Bully, Ernie Saniga with Bull Finch, and Roger Boser with Gratitude. (Behind): Darren Boyer, Liz McKay, Larry King, Dave McKay, Mike Tracy, Dave Hughes, Tom Brigman, Evan Tracy, Joe Lordi, Danielle Lordi, Sheila Cassidy, and Liam Lawrence.

Hughes from northwestern Pennsylvania and top amateur Tom Brigman from North Carolina. Pointer male Iron Bully won with four finds, a back, and a strong forward race. He is back in competition after a yearlong recovery from a hip injury. His littermate sister, Bull Finch, was second with a similar performance, including four finds and a back. Third went to Gratitude, Roger Boser's Red Setter male with six finds and a good race always to the front.

Darren Boyer and Tom Brigman judged the Amateur Derby. Sean and Deb Hauser's Pointer male, Hausers Unhinged, won the stake with three nicely handled finds and a classy race. Joe Lordi handled him. Larry King won second with his Pointer male, Umpteen Tries. The fancy dog had multiple finds handled with high style and mostly finished with a fast race. Irish Setter male, Shotput, earned the yellow ribbon with a good race and three finished and upright finds. Roger Boser owns and handles him.

The Youth stake was run Saturday in light rain, but nothing dampened the spirits of the young handlers, the dogs, or the largest gallery of the trial who were following. Ben Dillard and Gunner Boyer judged the five entries and ended up with a tie for first.

Blake Ruby was up first with "Scooter," and the champion dog handled and hunted as expected, with sharp birdwork between

his casts. Blake works dogs here in the summer with his grandpa and sister Raina, so he knows how to handle and flush.

Liam Lawrence's mother, Nikki, is Luke Eisenhart's sister, so you would expect Liam to know what to do with his entry, champion Rebel, and he did just that on the dog's multiple finds and nice race.

Braydon Smith handles when dad runs his dogs, at least in terms of singing to the dog. He won an honorable mention in the Amateur Shooting Dog when he handled Over The Top, and here he ran their female, Eva, to a good race and multiple finds.

Laine Berdiner ran her dad's champion Setter, "Big." The dog did very well on the ground and was perfect on his game for the young lady.

Raina Ruby was up last with another champion, Faithful, and the dog looked the part in her snappy race and flawless birdwork.

Greenville, Pa., May 4

Judges: Ben Dillard and Larry King
SBHA AMATEUR RESTRICTED DERBY
– 6 Pointers

1st-ERIN'S ENVY, 1705275, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Erin's Miss Maggie. Joseph McHugh, owner; Joe Lordi, handler.

2d-EXCITABLE BOY, 1701610, pointer male, by Bad Bourbon-Gun Runner Carli. David McKay, owner and handler.

3d-GJF OAKLEY, 1701794, pointer female, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Apalachee Elhew Kat. Gregory & Jacki Fried, owners; David McKay, handler.

Judges: Tom Brigman and Dave Hughes
SBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 15 Pointers and 2 Irish Setters

1st-IRON BULLY, 1686077, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Bullerina. Ernie & Karen Saniga & Bill & Muriel Primm, owners; Ernie Saniga, handler.

2d-BULL FINCH, 1686091, pointer female, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Bullerina. Ernie & Karen Saniga, owners; Ernie Saniga, handler.

3d-GRATITUDE, 1676458, pointer female, by Come Back Cutter-Come Back Doodle. Roger Boser, owner and handler.

Judges: Tom Brigman and Darren Boyer
SBHA AMATEUR DERBY

– 6 Pointers and 1 Irish Setter

1st-HAUSERS UNHINGED, 1706301, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-Hauser's Cotton Dots. Sean & Deb Hauser, owners; Joe Lordi, handler.

2d-UMPTREEN TRIES, 1702133, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Knight Hawk-Full Effect. L. J. & Casey King, owners; Larry King, handler.

3d-SHOTPUT, 1704405, Irish setter female, by Gratitude-Slingshot. Roger Boser, owner and handler.

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WOLVERINE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial Held At Highland Recreation Area

By David A. Fletcher | Highland, Michigan | May 10, 2024



Open Puppy (l-r): Paul Renius with Dunrovens Rolling Stone, Mark Hughes (judge), and Rich Hollister (handler) with Fearless Hawkeye Hank. (Not pictured): IV's Feed The Flame, handled by Robert Ecker.



Open Walking Derby (l-r): Paul Renius (judge) with Grouse Feather Tilly and Rich Hollister (handler) with Sutter's Boy Sue. (Not pictured): Fire Marshall Bill handled by Robert Ecker.



Dave Fletcher Open Shooting Dog Classic (l-r): Mark Hughes with Parkway, Will Langley (judge), Joe Guzman with Double Deuce Zeke, Chris Jaeger, Bill Darr (judge), and Rich Hollister (handler) with Dun Rovens Soozee.

The Wolverine Club, notably the oldest one-course field trial club in Michigan, held its spring event May 10-11 over fine courses at the Highland Recreation Area near Milford, Michigan. An entry of 60 dogs in three walking and two horseback stakes filled two days with great birdwork and strong competition for placements, leaving Sunday, Mother's Day, for family matters.

The Wolverine Club ran its first event in 1978 with an entry of 77 dogs. Club leaders in the early years were Oliver DeLuca, considered founder, Lou and Dave Campana, Ken Kortilla, and others, but Oliver DeLuca and Jim Cipponeri were soon club leaders and, for over 40 years, steered this club into prominence. Since the demise of Oliver and Almerinda DeLuca in 2019 and 2020, the club presidency and all the management duties that go with it have fallen on the shoulders of Jim Cipponeri. The Fletcher Classic was inaugurated by Mike Traxler and staged with the Southwest Michigan Club for several years. It was then brought to the Wolverine Club to help their new walking stake program, and it has been a great success over the last 14 years. This year, the 29-dog entry helped the program entries measurably.

The weather for the event was favorable to the trial, with temperatures in the 50 to 60 range with no winds or heavy rains. A few brief rain showers did not affect the running or the birds. Stake Manager and Club President Jim Cipponeri and his wife Connie looked after the drawing, and Jim was on the grounds judging a stake, putting out birds, and marshaling the

courses. Secretary Fletcher reported, took the entry money, and paid the bills. Other club helpers included Paul Tutro with the morning doughnuts and bringing the birds from the Emmett, Michigan supplier. Ron Sposita was there putting out birds, running dogs, and cooking lunches. Brian Wood announced the braces. Judges were Bill Darr and Will Langley in the Fletcher Classic, along with Jim Cipponeri, Mark Hughes, Christy Helmes, Paul Renius, Rich Hollister, and John Paul Jones. Our thanks also must go to Purina for their continuing support.

Open Puppy

Judges commented that placements were based on how much courage to reach out and hunt the course given by the dogs we placed.

Highland, Mich., May 10

Judges: Jim Cipponeri and Mark Hughes
OPEN PUPPY - 3 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-DUNROVENS ROLLING STONE, 1705028, pointer male, by Crosswind Jim-Highbank's Down'n'dirty. Mark & Jim Fernandez, owners; Rich Hollister, handler.

2d-IV's Feed The Flame, 1712100, pointer female, by Bo of Piney Woods-Sugar On Fire. Samantha Adams, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

3d-FEARLESS HAWKEYE HANK, registration pending. Mac Linton, owner; Richard Hollister, handler.

Open Walking Derby

Tilly was the top dog with a great forward effort and a trio of broke finds. Second was Fire Marshall Bill, a hard-going youngster who always headed forward and was rewarded with two mannerly and stylish finds. Sutter's Boy Sue ("Cash") claimed third place with three somewhat immature finds and some great hunting.

Judges: Christy Helmes and Paul Renius

OPEN WALKING DERBY- 3 Pointers and 10 Setters

1st-GROUSE FEATHER TILLY, 1703250, setter female, by Grouse Feather Hawk-GF Southern Belle. Curtis Coleman Jr., owner; Richard Hollister, handler.

2d-FIRE MARSHALL BILL, 1702783, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Moonshine Sage. Eli Richardson, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

3d-SUTTER'S BOY SUE, 1706342, setter female, by Sutter's Backwoods Rumble-Dunroven Crystal. Paula Giulitto, owner; Richard Hollister, handler.

The Fletcher Classic

The winner was "Parker," a first-year shooting dog that we rode up on twice, well to the front of course to witness superb quail finds. He hunted the edges hard, came around to the front regularly, and was a deserving top dog. Double Deuce Zeke, a Grouse Championship winner and a previous winner of this stake, had a very similar performance, two great finds way up front, and a good start and finish. Soozee was third, with slightly less ground coverage than the dogs placed above her, but she had four very stylish and mannerly finds.

Judges: Will Langley and Bill Darr

DAVE FLETCHER OPEN SHOOTING DOG

CLASSIC - 13 Pointers, 12 Setters, and 4 Brittanys

1st-PARKWAY, 1701708, pointer male, by Grouse Trails Tuscarora-Halestorm. Mark Hughes, owner and handler.

2d-DOUBLE DEUCE ZEKE, 1673940, pointer male, by Double Deuce Peter-Funseeker's Holiday. Doug McMillen Jr., owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

3d-DUN ROVENS SOOZEE, 1682090, setter female, by Clary's Tekoa Sky Hawk-Dun Rovens Boofay. Chris Jaeger, owner; Richard Hollister, handler.

Open Shooting Dog

Beer was the winner with a hard hunting search of his course and a stylish stand on quail, his bird well located, and he was

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very mannerly at flush. Second and third placements were taken by Quick, who had a somewhat undefined point, and Mickie, who both ran and hunted well but were birdless.

Judges: Rich Hollister and John Paul Jones

OPEN SHOOTING DOG - 3 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-DUKE'S HOLD MY BEER, 1684677, pointer male, by Sugarknoll War Paint-Sizzlin Julie. Ron Sposita, owner and handler.

2d-WICKED QUICK, 1674810, pointer female, by Dunn's Tried'n True-Dunn's Get Out Sue. Kelsey Hajek & Sandy Maclean, owners; Kelsey Hajek, handler.

3rd-MICKIE, unreg., setter male, breeding not given. Bill Darr, owner and handler.

Open Derby

The three dogs placed in this stake were all littermates from a litter bred by Joe Guzman and a sire owned by Dan Battistella of Ottawa, Ontario. Last Stand was the winner with a good hunting effort and an "up front" find. Katie, second, and Mackinac Straights also had good finds and good hunting efforts.



**Knight's Last Stand,
First in the Open Horseback Derby**



**Windfall Mackinac Straights,
Third in the Open Horseback Derby**

Judges: Rich Hollister and John Paul Jones

OPEN DERBY - 3 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-KNIGHT'S LAST STAND, 1705328, pointer male, by Knight's Last Chipster-Windfall Queen of Soul. Joe Guzman, owner and handler.

2d-DUKE'S C C KATIE, 1699933, pointer female, by Knight's Last Chipster-Windfall Queen of Soul. Ron Sposita, owner and handler.

3d-WINDFALL MACKINAC STRAIGHTS, 1701992, pointer male, by Knight's Last Chipster-Windfall Queen of Soul. Joseph Guzman, owner and handler.

Don't miss the next print deadline!
The August issue closes July 5.

MAINE BIRD DOG CLUB

Mother's Day Trial

By Deb Kennedy, Secretary/Treasurer | Brownfield, Maine | May 11, 2024

The Maine Bird Dog Club held its spring trial during Mother's Day weekend, May 11-12. The weather was all that could be asked for in May—some sun, some clouds, and a breeze strong enough to gather a scent to a dog's nose but not so strong as to blow off hats. Blood-sucking insects were few and far between; saints be praised!

The ground crew, Kellie Short, her dad, Bob Paucek, Bruce Burnell, and other trial participants made sure the tables were up, the birds planted for the first brace, and the new grill set up for a burger and dog lunch. Many volunteered for bird planting duty, but we were especially grateful for Roy "Iron Legs" Hargreaves and Dave Theroux, aka "The Motor Man." Dave brought his e-bike, which was a huge help in delivering judges' books, water, and, of course, planting a bird or two. Bruce Burnell was the grill master, and a special thanks to Deb Sloan, who brought raspberry chocolate bars that were wicked good. Purina provided dog food coupons for the winners through USCSDA. Many thanks to Jameson Crandall, the Secretary of the USCSDA, for getting the coupons to us in time for the event.

Saturday kicked off with the Clifton



Twin Wins! Liam and Lukas Dix take first and second in Sunday's Gun Dog stake.

Hale-Garfield Wall Open Derby Classic. Kelly Hays and Jimmy Levesque did a fine job sorting out the winners. Taking home the blue was WV's Spot On Spotto, an orange and white male Pointer owned by Victor Forsyth and expertly handled by his son, William. Second was Paucek's Woodland Jedi Leia, a tri-color female owned and handled by Roy Hargreaves. Taking third was Paucek's Rocky Road, another tri-color female owned and handled by Kellie Short.

A strong group of puppies gave the judges, Cal Robinson and Roy Hargreaves, something to talk about. The Michael S. Robinson Open Puppy stake ran later in

the morning. The first-place puppy ran big, under control, and with a perfect pattern. A lovely liver and white Pointer, owned and handled by Jamie Welsh, who traveled from Wilmington, New York, to run his dog, Points North Pour Another ("Quila"). The drive was worth it. He took firsts in both the Open and Amateur Puppy stakes. Second place went to Still Meadows Little Sunray, a little tri-color Setter female, owned and handled by her proud owner, Kelly Hays. Ray has had an amazing puppy season, winning the Grand National Grouse Puppy Classic and the Michigan Grouse Dog Puppy Classic. This weekend, Ray added to her pile of ribbons, taking seconds in both the open and amateur stakes. The third-place ribbon went to Kellie Short for her tri-color Setter male, Fowler, who impressed the judges with his connection with his handler.

The Open Shooting Dog stake drew a strong entry of 20 dogs. Jamie Leitch and Victor Forsyth had the toughest job, walking for more than five hours in the heat of the day. A special thanks to both gentlemen for their careful and thoughtful consideration of some very fine dogs.

First place went to Henry's Susieq Dot, a tri-color Setter female owned and handled

by a relatively newcomer to trials, Dave Theroux, who is racking up the wins with his Setter female, Dot, a turbo-charged hoover of a bird finder, and a real joy to watch. She took firsts in both the Open and Amateur Shooting Dog stakes. She's got speed, class, and an exceptionally great nose, a combination that is hard to beat. Taking second was Ch. Paucek's Little Tommy Tucker, a tri-color Setter male owned and handled by Kellie Short, who has brought her dogs to the winners' circle many times. Frank Joyal's Pointer female, Bluey, took home the third. Frank's trio of littermate sisters are always in contention for a ribbon wherever they show up.

Saturday's Gun Dog stake was won by Will's Gunshot Gump, a tri-color Setter male, owned by Victor Forsyth and handled by his son, Will. The young handler and his dog put on a master class in handling and hunting. Gump had multiple, beautifully handled finds within an admirable gundog range and seemed tied to his boy by an invisible heartstring. Second place went to Silvie, a tri-color female Setter owned and handled by Kellie Short. Silvie looked like an L.L.Bean catalog cover as she beautifully pointed to her numerous quail.

Sunday's events started with the Bernie Murray Amateur Shooting Dog. Judged by Sam Jackson and Adam Dubriske, the stake put some very good dogs to the test. Theroux's Setter female, Dot, took the first, her second blue of the weekend. Dot ran last as a bye and had a chance to show off her nose by cleaning up two days' worth of quail during her half hour. Owner Dave Theroux shot at least nine times and had to borrow a gun to get through the stake.

Second place honors went to Kellie Short's Paucek's Little Tommy Tucker, who had another splendid half hour, and third went to his daughter, Leia, owned and handled by Roy Hargreaves. Leia is a derby who has always punched above her weight, placing consistently, and sometimes in more advanced stakes, since her first trial. Roy couldn't be happier with his little girl.

The father/son team of Doug and Brian Dix judged the Amateur Derby. Leia took the blue, and Kellie Short's Paucek's Rocky Road ("Roadie") garnered the red. The two tri-color females were fun to watch and showed the mature manners expected in a spring derby stake.

The Amateur Puppy stake, judged by Tom Jay and Jim Levesque, gave Jamie Welsh his second blue of the weekend for his female Pointer, Quila, who ran a perfect puppy race. Still Meadows Little Sunray, the snappy Setter owned and handled by Kelly Hays, took second place. Deb's Jane, a big tri-color Setter female owned and handled by Deb Kennedy, took third.

Certainly, the highlight of the trial was Sunday's Amateur Gun Dog stake. Six-year-old identical twins, Liam and Lukas Dix, each handled a dog to a placement. The first-place dog was Rock Solid Tucker, a tri-color Setter male handled by Lukas and owned by his father, Brian. The second-place dog was Rock Solid Casey, an orange and white male Setter, handled by Liam and owned by his grandfather, Doug. These boys are serious trialers we will see much of in the future. Kellie Short's Jordi, a tri-color Setter female, took third.

As the grounds cleared, gear was stowed, and folks took their puppies toward the calling quail, Bob Paucek, a founder of the 50-plus-year-old club, brought his truck to tow the trailer back home. Bob is a young fellow of 96; 90 years older than the Dix twins, but just excited about bird dogs. We are very lucky to have them all.

Brownfield, Me., May 11 – One Course

Judges: Kelly Hays and James Levesque

CLIFTON HALE-GARFIELD WALL OPEN DERBY CLASSIC – 3 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-WV'S SPOT ON SPOTTO, 1702380, pointer male, by Flint Ridge Ranger-Flint Ridge Annie. Victor Forsyth, owner; William Forsyth, handler.

2d-PAUCEK'S WOODLAND JEDI LEIA, 1703529, setter female, by Paucek's Little Tommy Tucker-Paucek's Andromeda. Roy Hargreaves, owner and handler.

3d-PAUCEK'S ROCKY ROAD, 1704261, setter female, by Long Gone Porky-Paucek's Mandy. Kellie Short, owner and handler.

Judges: Victor Forsyth and Jamie Leitch

OPEN SHOOTING DOG

– 8 Pointers, 9 Setters, and 3 Irish Setters

1st-HENRY'S SUSIEQ DOT, 1680901, setter female, by Henry of Ferguson-Blossom's Pale Face Susieq. David Theroux, owner and handler.

2d-PAUCEK'S LITTLE TOMMY TUCKER, 1679370, setter male, by Long Gone Wallace-Paucek's Hickory Roxy. Kellie Short, owner and handler.

3d-ONCE IN A BLUEMOON, 1695576, pointer female, by Miller's Heat Seeker-Moonlite Yellow Jacket. Frank Joyal, owner and handler.

Judges: Roy Hargreaves and Cal Robinson

MICHAEL S. ROBINSON OPEN PUPPY

– 1 Pointer and 5 Setters

1st-POINTS NORTH POUR ANOTHER, 1705570, pointer female, by Wild Apple Boa Constrictor-Prairie Creek Dolly. James Welsh, owner and handler.

2d-STILL MEADOWS LITTLE SUNRAY, 1704573, setter female, by Long Gone Wallace-Chase's I'm Miss Smith. Kelly & Brian Hays, owners; Kelly Hays, handler.

3d-PAUCEK'S FOWLER, 1704853, setter male, by Long Gone Dequan-Paucek's Jordi. Kellie Short, owner and handler.

Judges: Kelly Hays and Dave Theroux

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 1 Pointer and 5 Setters

1st-ROCK SOLID TUCKER, 1670005, setter male, by Lightning Flash Abe-Oswego's Shore Oaks Annie. Brian Dix, owner and handler.

2d-ROCK SOLID CASEY, 1672254, setter male, by Grouse Ridge Whitestone-Grouse Ridge Merri. Douglas J. Dix, owner; Liam Dix, handler.

3d-PAUCEK'S JORDI, 1679395, setter female, by Long Gone Porky-Long Gone Juicy. Kellie Short, owner and handler.

Judges: Adam Dubriske and Sam Jackson

BERNIE MURRAY AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 1 Pointer, 11 Setters, and 1 Brittany

1st-HENRY'S SUSIEQ DOT, 1680901, setter female, by Henry of Ferguson-Blossom's Pale Face Susieq. David Theroux, owner and handler.

2d-PAUCEK'S LITTLE TOMMY TUCKER, 1679370, setter male, by Long Gone Wallace-Paucek's Hickory Roxy. Kellie Short, owner and handler.

3d-PAUCEK'S WOODLAND JEDI LEIA, 1703529, setter female, by Paucek's Little Tommy Tucker-Paucek's Andromeda. Roy Hargreaves, owner and handler.

Judges: Tom Jay and Jim Levesque

AMATEUR PUPPY – 1 Pointer and 7 Setters

1st-POINTS NORTH POUR ANOTHER, 1705570, pointer female, by Wild Apple Boa Constrictor-Prairie Creek Dolly. James Welsh, owner and handler.

2d-STILL MEADOWS LITTLE SUNRAY, 1704573, setter female, by Long Gone Wallace-Chase's I'm Miss Smith. Kelly & Brian Hays, owners; Kelly Hays, handler.

3d-DEB'S JANE, 1706487, setter female, by Sterlingworth Jack-Long Gone Hatfield. Deborah Kennedy, owner and handler.

Judges: Deb Kennedy and David Theroux

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 1 Pointer, 3 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-WILL'S GUNSHOT GUMP, 1676261, setter male, by Islander-Victor's Golden Girl. Victor Forsyth, owner; William Forsyth, handler.

2d-PAUCEK'S SILVIE, 1704260, setter female, by Long Gone Study-Paucek's Black Pearl. Kellie Short, owner and handler.

Judges: Brian Dix and Doug Dix

AMATEUR DERBY – 2 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-PAUCEK'S WOODLAND JEDI LEIA, 1703529, setter female, by Paucek's Little Tommy Tucker-Paucek's Andromeda. Roy Hargreaves, owner and handler.

2d-PAUCEK'S ROCKY ROAD, 1704261, setter female, by Long Gone Porky-Paucek's Mandy. Kellie Short, owner and handler.

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SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA BIRD DOG CLUB

Spring NBHA Trial Held At Indian Creek Shooting Preserve

By Jillian Stuhr | Hardyston, New Jersey | May 11, 2024

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Bird Dog Club held its annual NBHA spring trial on May 11 at Indian Creek Shooting Preserve in Hardyston, New Jersey. The wet spring weather was put on pause for the day, and we were graced with beautiful sunny skies and cool temperatures, making for dream bird dog weather! A slight fog delay allowed Chairman Joe Faggiola to welcome some newcomers over bagels and coffee before the start of the day's running.

The first stake underway was the Open Derby with a competitive field of 15 dogs. A powerful young Pointer named Tucker took the third-place spot with two finds for owner/handler Pat Cheney. With an impressive long stand at finish, Irish Setter male Braeval Rory claimed the red ribbon for owner/handler Gregor McCluskey of Harwinton, Connecticut. Rounding out the placements was Indian Creek Pearl Jam, scoring three finds and showing off his mature manners and range for handler Garry Malzone.

The excitement continued into the Open Shooting Dog, with Indian Creek Spur capturing third with five stylish finds and a classy race for owner Black Meadow Kennels. Proving he can run with the big dogs, Braeval Rory again put himself in the winners' circle for owner/handler Gregor McCluskey, displaying two beautiful finds and a big race. Erin's Deja Vu soared through the competition with a powerful fast-forward race and three well-spaced finds. Springing through the green cover, her bird-finding talent earned her the top spot for owner Joe Link.

Lunch was made a spectacle with pizza and Jersey Mike's subs courtesy of John and Lori Bleeker; thank you! The Club also held a raffle. Prizes included gift certificates to The Irish Cottage Inn, a fishing charter aboard the Janie K, a half-day pheasant/chukar hunt at Indian Creek Shooting Preserve, OnX Hunt membership cards, Purina merchandise, and more! Placements were announced during lunch, including some of this year's Dog of the Day Club Awards. The Club members put together these awards to recognize non-ribbon-earning participants. Categories were dispersed throughout the three stakes, including Honorable Mention, Top Pointer, Top Setter, Top Bird Finder, and Top Application.

Earning an honorable mention in the



Open Derby (front, l-r): Garry Malzone with Indian Creek Pearl Jam, Gregor McCluskey with Braeval Rory, and Pat Cheney with Tucker. (Behind, l-r): Amy Cauley, Jason Paternostro, John Olfson, Joe Link, Kerri, Evelyn, Emery, and Brian Wieland, Joe Scaglione, Jillian Stuhr, John and Lori Bleeker, Ed Marron, Jeff Good, John Avanzato, Dan Burzon, and Scott Wardrop.

Open Shooting Dog was Harwich Indian Creek Buck for owner/handler John Olfson. At 12 years old, Buck displayed his knowledge of the game, having two finds and two backs. This would be Buck's last field trial run and a nice way to honor his career as he begins retirement.

The start of the Amateur Shooting Dog judgment ceases at flush had capital F-U-N written all over it! The field was composed of veteran field trialers and first-time entrants. The course used a different part of the preserve known as the "Killer Fields" to mimic a true hunting situation. Judges were Gregor McCluskey and Joe Faggiola, with 13-year-old Gabe Cavanaugh electing himself as marshal to help make sure everyone had their whistles, blank guns, and dogs ready for their run.

After a bird-packed performance of eight finds, Pointer female Little Miss Dottie claimed the third-place spot handled by Tim Cavanaugh. With an impressive run, Scott Wardrop earned second place with Ramey's Elhew Hanky Panky. "Hank" had six chukar finds, maintained his composure through temptation, and ran at a comfortable range for his handler. Sliding into first place was Little Miss Bella. She worked the course with her bird



Amateur Shooting Dog (l-r): Joe Faggiola (judge), Tim Cauley, Gabe Cavanaugh with Little Miss Bella, John Bleeker, Jason Paternostro, Scott Wardrop with Ramey's Elhew Hanky Panky, Lori Bleeker, Tim Cavanaugh with Little Miss Dottie, Gregor McCluskey (judge), Joe Link, and Pat Cheney.

finding magic and pointed with beauty and precision for owner/handler Tim Cavanaugh.

Congratulations to all dogs and handlers! Thank you to our NBHA sponsors: Purina, Garmin, Mule Brand Gear, Gun Dog Supply, Gun Dog Central, and OnX Hunt.

Thank you to our judging panel: Peter Slattery, Brian Wieland, Tim Cavanaugh, Gregor McCluskey, and Joe Faggiola. A special thanks to all the new sportsmen who came out and the experienced handlers who helped make this event a success. Camaraderie brought this trial together!

Hardyston, N. J., May 11

Judges: Joe Faggiola and Peter Slattery

NBHA OPEN DERBY

– 9 Pointers, 5 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter

1st-INDIAN CREEK PEARL JAM, 1703034, setter male, by Indian Creek Wingman-Erin's Deja Vu. Jillian Stuhr & Garry Malzone, owners; Garry Malzone, handler.

2d-BRAEVAL RORY, 1700621, Irish setter male, by Braeval Ghillie-Braeval Skye. Gregor McCluskey & Braeval Kennels, owners; Gregor McCluskey, handler.

3d-TUCKER, unreg., pointer male, by Erin's Hollywood-Indian Creek High Tide. Patrick Cheney, owner and handler.

Judges: Tim Cavanaugh and Brian Willard

NBHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG

– 8 Pointers, 1 Setter, and 1 Irish Setter

1st-ERIN'S DEJA VU, 1679292, setter female, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-T T's Southern Miss. Joe Link, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.

2d-BRAEVAL RORY, 1700621, Irish setter male, by Braeval Ghillie-Braeval Skye. Gregor McCluskey & Braeval Kennels, owners; Gregor McCluskey, handler.

3d-INDIAN CREEK SPUR, 1695312, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Legacy's Pride-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Black Meadow Kennels, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.

Judges: Joe Faggiola and Gregor McCluskey

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 12 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-LITTLE MISS BELLA, 1664328, pointer female, by Chasehill Little Bud-Shaula. Tim Cavanaugh, owner and handler.

2d-RAMEY'S ELHEW HANKY PANKY, 1698046, pointer male, by Fly'n Rascally Pete-Hackberry's Elhew Ruby. Scott Wardrop, owner and handler.

3d-LITTLE MISS DOTTIE, unreg., pointer female, by Glassilaun War Paint-Hog Hill Katie. Tim Cavanaugh, owner and handler.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT BIRD DOG CLUB

Spring Trial Held At Famed Flaherty Grounds

By Tom Gates | East Windsor, Connecticut | May 17, 2024

The Central Connecticut Bird Dog Club staged its annual spring event May 17-19 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 63 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 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.

Frank Scarpinato of Saratoga, New York, treated the Club to an eggplant parmesan dinner on Friday night. Wow, what a meal. Thank you, Frank!

On Saturday evening, a special presentation was made before the handlers’ dinner. Kevin Stuart of Schenectady, New York, was awarded a Bird Dog Foundation Life Patron Membership plaque. With over 40 people in attendance, Kevin was appreciative of the award.

The Casale family was well represented—daughters Anna and Heather helped with every detail. Pam Casale, Gene’s wife, again put on the Club’s famous Saturday night Handlers’ Dinner—fried chicken and all the fixins. Club member Tony Forte again prepared his prized eggplant for the trial. At 85, Tony can still out-cook anyone. A good time was had by all attending.

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, John Stolgitis, Thor Kain, and Tim Cavanaugh for their fine judicial work. Their decisions were applauded by all attending. John Olfson, Kevin Stuart, Tim Cavanaugh, and Anna (Casale) were true warriors, planting birds all three days! Thank you all!

The Open Shooting Dog started the trial on Friday with an exceptional field of competitors. The weather was still cool, and the grass was very wet, which made for great scenting conditions. Amilcar Pereira took the blue with Great River Bella. This Pointer female was outstanding! She ran the limits of the course, finding quail at five locations. She runs with a very animated, happy gait. A high cracking tail and very



Little Miss Bella,
Second in the Milo Wilkenson Amateur Shooting Dog Stake

fast attack on the ground was certainly unbeatable. A very intense stance was rewarded, with multiple birds lifting over the motionless dog at each find. Very nice dog!

High Drive Drinkaby (“Kim”) logged second with a hard-driving effort. She scored three times on quail with impeccable manners for Mike Tracy. This dog can win anywhere. Nice race!

Matt Basilone was a close third with Southern Shadows Rick. Rick ran the limits and looked good doing it. Two picture-perfect covey finds made him a sure bet!

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 in saving people from burning buildings. First one in and the last one out; Scotty put others ahead of his own safety. Chasehill Snoop Dog took the blue for John Stolgitis. Snoop took second in this stake a year ago as a puppy. This is a dog to ride! He is an eye-catcher 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!

Jim Thomas carded second with a thrilling half-hour with Thomas Rising Tide. This Pointer is a true ‘bird dog’! Exciting and completely ‘in tune’ with the handler. Tide 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 Tracy took third with Backcountry Snake Eyes. Another powerful Tracy charge, Snake Eyes, 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 be seeing 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, 23 top dogs from up and down the East Coast competed for the chance to add a “Guard Rail” placement to their résumé. Trumped was named the winner. 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. Trumped had plenty of bottom, finishing strong on the left edge. A thrill to watch!

Matt Basilone was a very close second with Mohawk Mill Jacked Up. He scored twice with admirable style pointing. Jacked Up was then found standing in a large covey, birds perfectly located. This ground race was a true hunting effort that could not be beaten. A great driving finish made him a sure bet.

Mike Tracy carded third with Steel Valley Raven. This Pointer female was exciting. She ran a championship-caliber race with a lofty pointing style on two big coveys. Real nice dog!

Jim Thomas took the blue in the Amateur Derby. After taking second in the Scotty Creel Open Derby, Thomas Rising Tide (“Shane”) was unbeatable. Jim flushed covey birds twice over a statue-like stance and logged a single near the end. Great job by a young derby!

Thor Kain took Mohawk Mill Dreamer to second. Impressive on the ground, Dreamer was a bird finder. This Pointer female scored four quail finds and had a very strong finish.

Tattle Tailer, an Eli Richardson Pointer male, gained third for handler Tim Cavanaugh. Big going and classy to the watcher, Tailer traded ends three times with perfect manners and 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 and establishing clubs and the New England Association. Tim Cavanaugh took first and second with Little Miss Margaret and Little Miss Bella.

Margaret is exciting to watch and was a handful at times for Tim. She carded three evenly spaced finds in perfect form. The style of pointing can only be described as intense. A statue flush, she was untouchable. Bella found birds four times and finished as a dot in the distance. Bella's quail finds were perfect, with birds lifting right over her motionless stance on one occasion. Wow, what a great job!

Gene Casale had Guard Rail's Little Annie for third. I love this dog! Annie is magic on the ground, magic on birds. With two great quail finds and a race that got bigger and bigger, Annie finished as a spot far out on the power line.

East Windsor, Conn., May 17 – One Course

Judges: Thor Kain and Kevin Stuart
OPEN SHOOTING DOG

– 12 Pointers and 1 German Shorthair

1st-GREAT RIVER BELLA, 1696071, pointer female, by Miller's Unbridled Forever-Hirollins Amazing Grace. Amílcar Pereira, owner and handler.

2d-HIGH DRIVE DINKABY, 1705283, pointer female, by Miller's High Heat Index-Osceola's Seminole Wind. Allen Linder & Madison McDonald, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

3d-SOUTHERN SHADOWS RICK, 1700851, pointer male, by Lester's Prime Poison Lane-Southern Ritz Lane. Ed & Megan McKay, owners; Matt Basilone, handler.

Judges: Kevin Joyce and John Olsson

SCOTTY CREEL OPEN DERBY – 13 Pointers

1st-CHASEHILL SNOOP DOG, 1703110, male, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Erin Stolgitis, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.

2d-THOMAS RISING TIDE, 1705124, male, by Erin's Lone Star Law-Erin's Little Lullaby. Jim Thomas, owner and handler.

3d-BACKCOUNTRY SNAKE EYES, 1701700, pointer male, by Dragonfly-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Chris Catanzarite, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

Judges: Tim Cavanaugh and Thor Kain

GUARD RAIL OPEN SHOOTING DOG

– 20 Pointers, 2 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-TRUMPED, 1690083, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Image-Bevy's Cadillac Jukebox. Allen Linder, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

2d-MOHAWK MILL JACKED UP, 1689941, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Hirollins Fancy Lady. Ed & Megan McCay, owners; Matt Basilone, handler.

3d-STEEL VALLEY RAVEN, 1696173, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Steel City Karen. Ted Foust, Brian Sanchez & Lisa Pollock, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

Judges: John Olsson and John Stolgitis

AMATEUR DERBY – 6 Pointers

1st-THOMAS RISING TIDE, 1705124, male, by Erin's Lone Star Law-Erin's Little Lullaby. Jim Thomas, owner and handler.

2d-MOHAWK MILL DREAMER, 1703196, female, by Mohawk Mill Knight Hawk-Full Effect. Thor Kain, owner and handler.

3d-TATTLE TAILER, 1705140, male, by Trumped-Campbell's Hog Hill Remi. Elias Richardson IV, owner; Tim Cavanaugh, handler.

Judges: John Stolgitis and Kevin Stuart

MILO WILKENSON AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 5 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-LITTLE MISS MARGARET, 1693526, pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill little Izzy. Tim Cavanaugh, owner and handler.

2d-LITTLE MISS BELLA, 1664328, pointer female, by Chasehill Little Bud-Shaula. Tim Cavanaugh, owner and handler.

3d-GUARD RAIL'S LITTLE ANNIE, 1670473, pointer female, by Guard Rail-Myakka T Marie. Gene Casale, owner and handler.

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NORTHERN NEW JERSEY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial

By Jillian Stuhr | Hardyston, New Jersey | May 19, 2024

The Northern New Jersey Field Trial Club held its spring trial at Indian Creek Shooting Preserve in Hardyston, New Jersey, on May 19.

Pleasant weather greeted the field of canine competitors, but the mid-afternoon heat reminded us that bird dog season would shortly be in the shadows of fast-approaching summer. This field trial brought some of the “cool kids” for an end-of-the-season celebration. In that group were owners Tim and Amy Cauley, who were there to cheer on Indian Creek Tom Boy for a performance that earned her third place in the Open Derby. Prepping for his graduation to the next class, No Doubt About Scout secured second place with a forward run and two well-spaced finds for owner/handler Mike Imparato. Not to be outdone by the Pointers, English Setter male Indian Creek Pearl Jam had an impressive run with four finds to close out the season with handler Garry Malzone.

The Open Shooting Dog had several honorable runs. Hurricane Freya took the judges by storm with three finds and a snappy race, taking third for



Open Derby Winners (l-r): Garry Malzone, Jillian Stuhr with Indian Creek Pearl Jam, Jason Paternostro, Cara Stuhr and Ryker, Mike Imparato with No Doubt About Scout, Peter Slattery (judge), Brian and Kerri Wieland, Tim Cauley with Indian Creek Tomboy, and Amy Cauley.

owner/handler Jason Paternostro. Perhaps the most fun run of the day was first-time handler Amanda Chiofalo handling Flash (who she affectionately calls “Piggy”) to second place. The gallery cheered them on as she made her field trial debut. Together, they scored three perfect finds, navigated the course as a team, and demonstrated the power to learn can take you into the winners’ circle! Rounding out the placements was Pointer female Daisy, with six finds and a strong forward race.

Thank you to our NBHA sponsors: Garmin, Purina, Mule Brand Clothing, Gun Dog Supply, OnX Hunt, and Gun Dog Central. Thank you, as always, to our attentive judges. Congratulations to all. See you in the fall!

Hardyston, N. J., May 19

Judges: Steve Chiofalo and Peter Slattery

NBHA OPEN DERBY - 8 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-INDIAN CREEK PEARL JAM, 1703034, setter male, by Indian Creek Wingman-Erin's Deja Vu. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.

2d-NO DOUBT ABOUT SCOUT, 1704980, pointer male, by Oh Well Little Tucker-Oh Well Little Kacey. Mike Imparato, owner and handler.

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

Judges: Peter Slattery and Brian Wieland

NBHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG

– 9 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-KISSAMEE GROUSEWOODS TEA, 1672676, pointer female, by Daddy's Little Boy Butch-Porter Meadow Bette. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.

2d-FLASH, unreg., pointer male, by Indian Creek Perfect Storm-Indian Creek High Tide. Steve Chiofalo, owner; Amanda Chiofalo, handler.

3d-HURRICANE FREYA, 1696741, setter female, by Five B K Country Road Pharoah-Leia. Jason Paternostro, owner and handler.

FIELD TRIAL HALL OF FAME

Nominations For Candidates Readers Deem Deserving

As is well known, there are two categories of honorees — Dogs and Persons. The hallmark of a candidate for Hall of Fame recognition is contributions to the sport.

For Dogs, the win record of a canine candidate should be impressive. Performances by a deserving nominee should be such that they elevated the quality of a stake in which they competed. Likewise, emphasis is also placed on production (i.e., the number of winners produced and the quality of the wins these dogs earned.)

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

The deadline for Hall of Fame nominations and ads is August 5. Voting instructions will appear in the September issue.

Clinton “Joe” Bush

Mr. Bush began his career with Mr. Gene Galloway, (HOF) Mr. Harold Ray, (HOF) Mr. Bill Rayl, and (HOF) Fred Rayl. Mr. Bush has trained, handled, scouted, and judged a great number of magnificent bird dogs, such as Ch. Builder’s Addition, Ch. Evolution, Ch. Meadowbrook Joe, along with many other notable bird dogs.

Mr. Bush has also handled and scouted numerous notable events over the years, such as the Continental, International Pheasant, and Southeastern Championships, along with many more. Mr. Bush is the first African American dog trainer to qualify and handle a bird dog at the prestigious Ames Plantation National Bird Dog Championship for the running years of 1991 and 1992, by winning the Southeastern Championship with Pointer male Meadowbrook Joe.

I humbly ask that Mr. Bush be bestowed the honor of entering the Field Trial Hall of Fame 2024. Mr. Bush is a respected man in the dog world; his body of work speaks volumes. Mr. Bush has devoted his life to setting a fine example for any individual involved with bird dogs. God Bless.

— *Jerone Boggs, O.B.G. Kennels*

Larry Smith

Larry’s dedication to the sport was unmatched! His travel was to the extreme to get from one field trial to another, which,

to a point, people were most amazed! Larry meets every facet to be elected. Larry supported open and amateur field trials, supported pros by putting dogs with them, judged open and amateur field trials, and was a successful breeder. The most important factor was he provided field trial grounds for many of us to enjoy. Larry hosted premier field trial events at Smith Farms. He was a true sportsman and was a giver to the sport, not a taker. I ask you to join us in electing Mr. Larry Smith to the Hall of Fame!

— *Randy Anderson*

To quote Steve Auxier, “Larry Smith wanted what was best for field trials and the growth of the sport.”

Larry was a man of integrity. He was a man of his word, which is rare.

Larry was my friend.

— *T. Mason Ashburn*

Larry Smith devoted his life to the sport of field trialing through his generosity and kindness! He was a sportsman who approached the game with the mindset of “what’s best for field trialing!” Larry traveled the country supporting local amateur clubs from Canada to Connecticut to California to Tennessee and was not afraid to put in the miles!

Larry would go out of his way to help others through his mentorship, scouting, judging prestigious field trials, and supporting pros on the open circuit.

Larry’s vision to create a top-level field trial venue came true with his wife Linda at Smith Farms. Larry did not skip any area of hospitality on their 2,500+ acre field trial haven.

Larry was known by everyone as a gentleman in the highest regard!

— *Steve Auxier*

Larry Smith was a class individual who gave so much to the sport instead of taking so much from the sport. He opened up his Smith Farms and hosted many open and amateur trials; he participated and was very successful in a lot of amateur and open stakes, judged many trials, and was always helpful in sharing information that he had learned in his many travels around the country and boy would he travel from the west coast to the east coast and everywhere in between.

I remember the story he told me about breaking down on the bridge that goes into St. Louis with his horse trailer. He said

there was only inches away from his trailer and the oncoming traffic. He made a few calls and was able to put his horses in a very fancy stable around the St. Louis area that had some kind of show horses...they were in heaven! The bottom line was that he was always honest and always wanted to do what was right for the sport, and it was not all about him.

— *Robert Barker*

Bay Area Bird Dog Club members strongly endorse Larry Smith as a nominee to the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

It’s been said that Larry traveled great distances in good and bad conditions to compete with his dogs, and members of the Bay Area Bird Dog Club will readily testify to that. Larry and his wife Linda made the 1,600-mile (one-way) trip from Iowa to Red Rock five times from 2016 to 2022 (a total of 16,000 miles traveled round trip). Larry did not go unrewarded; in 2016, Larry handled S F Bandwagon to runner-up in the Western All-Age and S F Mapleleaf (sired by S F Cufflink) to runner-up in the National Amateur Chukar Championship; at the end of the 2016 season, S F Bandwagon would become Purina Amateur Dog of the Year. In 2018, Larry handled S F Bandwagon to win the Western All-Age. The following year, 2019, Larry would handle S F Fullcolor (sired by Bandwagon and out of S F Rushhour) to win the Pacific Coast Derby Championship. In winning, Larry showed great humility and was very thankful and courteous to club members, judges, and others in the gallery and around camp. Larry was a great competitor.

— *Bay Area Bird Dog Club (Larry Walton, President, and Jared Tappero, Secretary-Treasurer)*

He definitely deserves this! He was a great friend to all who knew him. I was certainly blessed to have known Larry. Please remember him when casting your vote for the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

— *Elton Bray*

I strongly endorse Larry Smith for the Hall of Fame. I can’t think of a more deserving person. I knew him personally for 10+ years. He always had class and made everyone feel welcome. I admired his passion for the sport and always held him in high regard. Larry has fulfilled all of the requirements for the prestigious Hall of Fame.

— *Matt Cochran, Cochran Kennels*

Larry Smith left us way too soon, as he was just getting started expanding his footprint in the Sport that he loved very much! In just a few short years he and Linda had developed one of the best places to run dogs in the country! Always plenty of horse stalls, dog kennels, food, hay, and birds to make for one of the best trials that you have ever attended! I would like to nominate Larry for the Hall of Fame, as he deserves it very much!

— *Garvin Collins*

When searching for potential Hall of Fame candidates, there are certain criteria that must be met. However, Larry Smith exceeds these expectations and goes above and beyond what is required. Not only was he a talented dog man, but he also possessed qualities that set him apart from others. Larry was always humble and eagerly accepted any challenges that came his way. In a game where many players were focused on their own success, Larry stood out as someone who gave back to others whenever possible; he was always willing to lend a helping hand. His actions and behavior in the game set an example of how one should conduct themselves and treat others. Larry's contributions to the game far outweigh what he ever took from it, solidifying his place as a true Hall of Fame candidate.

— *Dan DiMambro*

If character, kindness, and integrity of an individual are examples of an individual to be inducted into the Field Trial Hall of Fame. Larry was one of our fellow members of the Raymond Lease in South Texas. Larry was well received by all, and we all looked forward to when he would come down to work his dogs. He didn't hunt, never shot a bird as far as I know, but his love of his dogs brought him a great distance from his home to work his nice string of dogs. The spirit of competition, particularly in the field trial world, brings out all sorts of negative comments from handlers, owners, breeders...you name it. We are all guilty of it. However, one individual whom we never heard one negative word about is Larry Smith, which speaks volumes about his character, integrity, and reputation among the field trial world. On behalf of the Raymond Lease, including Hugh Seale, Bill Raymond, Rex Wallace, Steve Hilbun, and myself, we proudly endorse our friend, Larry Smith, for the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

— *Kevin Dixon*

My family was lucky enough to meet Mr. Larry Smith at Killdeer Plains, Harpster, Ohio. The grounds were familiar

to me as I had spent many seasons at the venue. Mr. Larry was a true gentleman and honestly interested in a meaningful conversation, whether the topic was family, business, bird dogs, or horses! Even if we were not selling, we would trade mounts during a brace and appreciate each other's pleasantries. The first time Larry got on one of my colts, he had both reins on one side of the youngster's neck! I was petrified! I soon realized that bay colt liked Larry more than me! This gentleman could also drive! Larry would run a couple of dogs and head to another trial hours away, then turn around and come back to run more dogs! I am so thankful that my daughters and I enjoyed hours in the saddle with Larry Smith. We are very sorry not to see him again this fall. God bless his family, and God bless Larry Smith. May he rest in peace.

— *Ralph Gillota*

I was lucky enough to meet Larry and Linda Smith over 20 years ago at the Southwestern Championship in South Dakota. I learned what a passion he had for his dogs. I was always happy to run into him at the prairie trials. Larry was a true gentleman, offering whatever he could to help others enjoy the sport as he did, as evidenced by the generosity he and Linda showed in holding the many trials on their property. There is so much more that should be said about what he has given to this sport, but no words can really come close except to say that he will really be missed. No doubt that I will be voting to induct Larry Smith into the Hall of Fame.

— *Tracy Haines*

Larry Smith is the epitome of someone who deserves to be in the Hall of Fame. He devoted many hours working at trials and helping people. He had a positive attitude and was a fierce competitor, but he was also more than willing to help his competition without hesitation. Most importantly, he was a good friend of ours and will be missed. His legacy will continue with Smith Farms field trial grounds. Please join us in getting Larry into the HOF.

— *Sean and Deb Hauser*

Larry Smith was a dear close friend who would do anything for you! He was a true gentleman of the sport and a true family man.

He supported field trials all over the United States. He hosted trials at his S F Farm alongside his wife, Linda Smith, and there was always a big group of young kids involved.

Larry has judged, given his time to the sport unselfishly, and successfully campaigned a string of dogs. In 2016, Larry's S F Bandwagon won Purina Dog

of the Year and Dog of the Year with S F Mapleleaf the next year.

Please join me, and let's get Larry into the Hall of Fame!

We endorse Larry 100%!

— *Larry and Piper Huffman*

Larry Smith has been an absolute presence in field trials at every level. He had a lot of success while maintaining great relationships with those who crossed his path, a rarity. He was a gentleman and a sportsman with a seemingly insatiable appetite for his conquest with bird dogs and upland game. It seems everyone has a Larry Smith story. His relaxed posture on a horse radiated confidence and a love for horses and the outdoors. No problem or dream was too small or too large for Larry to tackle. I will always enjoy remembering Larry Smith, HOF Larry Smith, if it were up to me.

— *Jon Humphrey*

Reflecting on Larry as a fellow field trialer and friend, the following words come to mind:

Integrity, patron, gentleman, generous, sincere, mentor, welcoming, resolute competitor & breeder, sharing, and always a true sportsman. Larry's actions on the field, or off, are reflective of the upstanding individual he was and merit recognition as a significant contributor to the field trial community.

— *Mark Johnson*

Rivertons Funseek'n Scooter

I'm very proud to nominate Rivertons Funseek'n Scooter for the 2024 Hall of Fame. I had the pleasure of watching Scooter compete in California, Oregon, Idaho, and Saskatchewan, Canada. He was truly a showman going to where he should be, showing himself where he should be, and always on a mission to find birds no matter what part of the country he was in. He was always on a mission, and his win record of six championships and four runner-up championships is pretty impressive, and his production record is just as impressive. He sired Just Irresistible and Dominator's Rebel Heir, and he was either the sire or grandsire of Jack and Fran Miller's Miller-prefix dogs, over 21 different champions. If there ever been a dog that deserves to be in the Hall of Fame, Scooter is due.

— *Jeff Gilbertson*

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 Email: piper.huffman@aim.com

American Bird Hunters Association

www.facebook.com/trialabha/
 Ronnie Rogers, President
 Phone: (865) 712-9229
 Email: esetter34@yahoo.com

National Bird Hunters Association

www.nbhadog.org
 Ken Sauer, President
 Phone: (281) 960-2508
 Email: kfsauer@sbcglobal.net
 Tim Penn, Secretary
 Phone: (660) 341-1165
 Email: tpennhwy6@gmail.com

National German Shorthaired Pointer Association

www.ngspa.org
 Natalie Inderman, Secretary
 Phone: (806) 777-2769
 Email: Nataliealicia@ymail.com

National Red Setter Field Trial Club

www.nrsftc.com
 Ed Liermann
 Phone: (414) 625-0715
 Email: eal1886@aol.com

National Vizsla Association

www.thenva.org
 Robert Tomczak
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 Email: shilohkl@aol.com

Southern Bird Hunters Association

www.southernbirdhunters.org
 Marty Robinson, President
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 Bruce Mercer, Secretary
 Phone: (470) 345-6369
 Email: mercercbruce@hotmail.com
 Georgia Casey, Treasurer
 Phone: (618) 638-2952

U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Association

www.uscomplete.org
 Chris Catanzarite, President
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 Bill Bonnetti, Vice-President
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 Email: bmdrew@windstream.net

Recognized Field Trials

New England Bird Dog Club

August 24 / Dummer, NH
 Contact: Kelly Hays
 Phone: (802) 782-1097
 Email: mymagicgardner@yahoo.com

CanAm Open Shooting Dog Classic

October 4 / Payette, ID
 Contact: Bill Owen
 Phone: (805) 886-7339
 Email: billowen@cox.net

Chickahominy Field Trial Association

October 27 / Jarrett, VA
 Contact: Meredith Jones
 Phone: (804) 512-7567 or (804) 512-9637
 Email: fewpointers@gmail.com

ABHA TRIALS

(No trials scheduled)

NBHA TRIALS

(No trials scheduled)

SBHA TRIALS

(No trials scheduled)

USCSDA TRIALS

Chickahominy Field Trial Association
 October 26 / Jarrett, VA
 Contact: Meredith Jones
 Phone: (804) 512-7567 or (804) 512-9637
 Email: fewpointers@gmail.com

**FIELD TRIAL REMINDER
 2024-25 Field Trial Season**

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 the 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 below:

Issue	Deadline
August	July 5
September	August 5
October	September 5
November	October 5
December	November 5

Material must be received and approved by 4:30 p.m. on the deadline date. Deadlines that fall on weekends or holidays move to the next business day.

Questions? Email: gsmith@ukcdogs.com



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