

UKC®  
**FIELD**

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# UKC TEAM IN THE FIELD

— *An update from Domenick Muoio*

I hope everyone has had a great field trial season and is enjoying the shift from trial to award season. With May past us, we shift gears to the award and training seasons. The last Purina points event has been run, and we look forward to the Purina Awards at the end of this month. Like last year, I look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new folks at the award ceremonies. Feel free to introduce yourself if you happen to be there, and let's talk dogs!

While on the topic of awards, you may have noticed some Hall of Fame nominations for this coming year's inductions. If you would like to nominate a *Person* or *Dog*, you certainly can, but I would highlight some common attributes among those whose portraits hang in the Hall of Fame. The indisputable trademark of a Hall of Fame nominee is their impact on the sport.

When a *Dog's* impact is examined, its win record is certainly a factor. Not just in quantity of wins, but also quality should be inspected. A deserving nominee should have performed in such a way that trials they had run at are brought to a new height of competition. Aside from performance, a positive impact on the sport can also be brought on through a *Dog's* genetics as exemplified by their progeny. Their offspring's performance record is just as telling as a *Dog's* record itself.

For *Persons*, their contributions to the sport should be undeniable. They should have participated in the sport in some capacity. You will often see that the common denominator of past elected *Persons* is the diversity and longevity of their participation in the sport. It boils down to the simple question: Is the sport better for having this *Person* involved?

Good luck to all those nominated, and stay posted for more Hall of Fame information in the coming editions!

— *Domenick Muoio*

Field Trial & Hunt Test Program Manager

# National Champion



## MILLER'S BLINDSIDER

Nick Berrong, Owner | Jamie Daniels, Handler | Fran & Jack Miller, Breeders

[Photo by Chris Mathan]

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# NBHA NATIONAL INVITATIONAL BREEDERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

*Glover's Flintstone Named Champion; Gun's Pistol Pete, Runner-Up*

By Christian Ogle | Grovespring, Missouri | February 15, 2023

This year's National Breeders' Championship was held on the beautiful grounds of the Sportsmen's Association in Grovespring, Mo. We drew 36 dogs and started Wednesday, February 15. Our judges were Mark Livingston from Central City, Iowa, and Ken Chenoweth from Fair Grove, Mo. We also had the Missouri Bird Hunters Association and all their workers on hand. These gentlemen kept dogs and handlers on the line, birds planted, pulling the gallery wagon, breakfast in the mornings, and lunch was ready for the handlers and judges when we took a break. These gentlemen make it easy to chair a trial, and I am very proud of their work and sacrifice to help.

Congratulations to this year's champion, Glover's Flintstone and Mr. Jack Glover, and the runner-up, Gun's Pistol Pete and Mr. Colby Tackett.

## The Running

Brace No. 1 saw Blair's Calvary Mountain (Tom Waite) and Pure Confidence (Garry Malzone). Tango would be first to the birds pointing towards the creek back by the cemetery. Garry put two birds in the air from beneath a cedar. Tango would continue to have a nice forward race and seven more spaced-out finds. Bob was found backing three times and was always out front.

Brace No. 2 saw Snow's Home Again Katy (Kenny Snow) and Sho Me Motu (Zach Erne). Katy brought a bird back to her handler five minutes in and was picked up. Motu would have a find at 8 in the Little Vine loop. He had two unproductives after and was picked up.

Brace No. 3 saw Gun's Pistol Pete (Colby Tackett) and Dale Creek Tothe Max (Tom Waite). Pete's first find would be at 24 along a mile strip. With birds in the air, all was in order. Max would find his bird on the side of the big hill. Pete would get credit for a back. Max would later get picked up for manners. Pete would have another find along the creekbank by the cemetery. Colby flushed for perfectly mannered Pete. He would finish the hour hunting to the front.

Brace No. 4 saw Indian Creek Bocephus (Garry Malzone) and Chippewa's Grindstone (Zach Erne). Bo would be found standing in a feeder strip across from Andy's house. Grindstone would get credit for the back. Bo would stand again six minutes later before crossing the road. He ran a strong race but after the hour, couldn't be found and the judge pulled the tracker out. Grindstone would go up the big timber hill on the north side of Sycamore bottom. Zack attempted to flush but couldn't produce a bird. He tapped his dog on the head for relocation, and the bird popped.

Brace No. 5 saw Glover's Flintstone (Jack



NBHA Breeders' Invitational Championship Winners (front, l-r): Jack Glover with Glover's Flintstone and Jim Corpening with Gun's Pistol Pete. (Behind): Tim Penn, Randy Zimmer, Joe Zimmer, Ken Millikin, Greg Gibson, Bob Lais, Kevin Western, Justin Crook and family, Danny Bardwell, and Travis Patterson.

Glover) and Brushville Burton Spencer (Tom Waite). This brace was released at 2:05. Spencer would be the first to be found on point, but Tom could not produce a bird which would be the first unproductive. Flint had his first find at 15 in a feeder strip along the edge of the timber in Little Vine loop. Flint was again found standing 25, but Jack couldn't put a bird up. At 2:34, Spencer would get his second unproductive.

At 2:42, Spencer would stand again. Tom tried to get a bird up, but after an unsuccessful relocation, he picked up Spencer. Flint was working hard, trying to dig a bird up. He took each edge, working hard for his handler. At 2:45, he would cross the road and take the right side until finding some birds on the south side. The birds tried to run on him, but he had them pinned. Jack was happy to put the birds in the air for him. Watered and released, he was on his way. This setter is a beauty to watch. Still hunting hard, Flint would go on point near a feed strip by Andy's house. With a perfect relocation, Jack flushed a single. Flint's race was big to the front and always on the edge. He would finish the hour strong.

Brace No. 6 saw Craig's Runin Roxie (Craig Hiatt) braced with Sulphur Bend Firestorm (Dewayne Langley). These two broke away at 3:19 across from the clubhouse. Roxie had a single near Andy's house with all in order. She would be pointed again at 3:42. Firestorm would have the back. Roxie would get picked up. Dewayne continued on to have a find with his shorthair in Sycamore Bottom. He would finish the hour.

Brace No. 7 saw Milomix Paddy (Bill Wright) braced with Justin Crook and Fast Money. Released at 4:30, these two would run hard looking for birds. Molly would find a pair of birds in a feed strip before the big chute in

Sycamore bottom. Paddy was standing in the briar patch. Bill couldn't produce any birds for an unproductive. At 5:10, they would have another unproductive, and Bill took the tracker. At 5:11, Molly would be picked up for manners.

It was a new day with Dale Creek's Gypsy Queen (Tom Waite) braced with Tinkers Creek R A F Gunner (Zack Erne) in brace No. 8. Queen was only five minutes off the breakaway to be pointed up. Tom needed a relocation, and the bird was flushed. Both dogs were up at 15.

Brace No. 9 saw Emert's Grouse Ringer T (Zack Erne) and Foxy Lady Sadie (Tom Waite). Breakaway at 8:27, and Sadie would be on point at 8:35 with T backing. Tom was able to put birds in the air. At 8:50, T would be pointed off the side of the briar patch in Sycamore bottom. With all in order, they would continue on. At 8:58, still in Sycamore bottom, T would go on point again. Sadie was picked up for manners. At 9:05, T pointed again behind the pond. With the bird under a cedar, Zack would put them in the air. Pointed again at 9:20 in the Little Vine loop, T would be picked up.

Brace No. 10 saw Unfinished Business (Justin Crook) braced with Erin's Deja Vu (Garry Malzone). Turned loose at 9:43, Bess would be found holding a pair of bobs in Little Vine Loop. Garry flushed with all in order. At 10, Bess was pointed in Sycamore bottom. At 10:20, Garry and his classy setter would be picked up for manners. At 10:33, Justin's pointer would have an unproductive.

Brace No. 11 saw Brook's White Hot Blaze (Tom Waite) braced with Emert's Sho Me Mo (Zack Erne). Mo would have an unproductive at 11 and another at 18. Zack would pick him up.

Brace No. 12 saw Full Red Afterburn (Tom Waite) and Hey Mr. Tin Man (Kenny Snow). Tin Man had a find at 9 in Little Vine Loop. Kenny put a single in the air and continued on. At 12:25, both dogs stood for a divided find in Sycamore bottom. Tin Man would be picked up at 12:40. Red would continue to have more bird work behind Andy's house on the big hill. Red finished the hour hunting for more game.

Brace No. 13 saw Jimfork's Black River (Kenny Snow) and bracamate Chippewas Dog of War (Zack Erne). Breakaway at 2:19. At 2:46, River had an unproductive. At 2:58, both dogs were picked up.

Brace No. 14 saw Two Seamer and owner/handler Colby Tackett braced with Sycamore Creek Cody (Zack Erne). The dogs were released at 3:28. Jeff had a find in Sycamore Bottom at 3:50. Both dogs were found near the clubhouse and credited with a divided find. All in order, and both dogs finished the hour.

The first brace of our third day, No. 15, saw Indian Creek Alibi (Garry Malzone) braced with Raintree Blue Moon and Tom Waite. Tom's Irish setter would be 11 minutes in with a bird tucked in tight to a brush pile. Two minutes later, we would find Alley standing across from Andy's house in a feeder strip.

Breakaway at 10:12, brace No. 16 saw Indian Creek Courageous Cat (Garry Malzone) with My Buddy Brody and Bob Lais. Both dogs were pointed on separate birds in the Little Vine loop. Garry flushed but was unable to put a bird in the air. Bob was able to get a bird up for Brody. Still in the Little Vine loop, Cat pinned down a bird. At 10:29, she finds a pair under a cedar tree with Brody backing. Both dogs were watered and sent ahead. Cat had circled back and was picked up. Brody would have more bird work on the big hill east of the road. Needing to be relocated, the bird was not produced. Brody was picked up.

Breakaway at 11:25, brace No. 17 saw Warjam's Big Mac Daddy and Jim Corpening braced with Tim Penn and his setter, Penrosa Hidncash. Five minutes from the breakaway, Cash was on his first bird. Tim flushed and continued on. At 11:37, he had his second along a feeder strip by Andy's house. At 11:40, Mac had his first find up the big hill by the road. All was in order, and they moved on. At 12:08, the tracker was called for Mac. At 12:13, Cash was pointed again. The judges rode up a bird that wasn't seen. Tim continued his flushing attempt and produced a pair from Little Vine loop. He finished the hour.

Brace No. 18 saw K C's Tye Oneon (Ken Sauer) and bracemate Bolts Duramax (Justin Crook) turned loose at 12:35. Max was scratched. At 12:42, Ken's pointer would stand in the big field in Little Vine loop. At 12:44, Ken would pick him up.

**Grovespring, Mo., February 15 – One Course**  
**Judges: Ken Chenoweth and Mark Livingston**  
**NBHA NATIONAL INVITATIONAL BREEDERS' CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 36 Entries**  
*Winner—GLOVER'S FLINTSTONE, 1691597, setter male, by Islander-Kodiak Island Bird Dog. Jack Glover, owner and handler.*  
*Runner-Up—GUN'S PISTOL PETE, 1667396, setter male, by Barker's Big Coon-Carpenter's Daisy Duke. Colby Tackett, owner and handler.*

### **NBHA Futurity**

This year's Futurity drew 22 dogs. The judges were Greg Gibson and Jim Corpening. We had six dogs on a callback, with four on standby. We want the best of the best to show us their potential. These will be next year's shooting dogs and future champions. Congratulations to these ten dogs, owners, and handlers.

In the callbacks were Glover's Liza Menelli, Indian Creek Pineapple, K C's Dominator Pat, Alliwood's Never Say Never, K C's Next Gen, and Chippewa's Dream Chaser.

On standby were The Need For Speed, Jimfork's River Girl, Dale Creek Janie Belle, and Wynona's Nickleback Mickey.



NBHA Futurity Winners (front, l-r): Glover's Liza Menelli, Tom Waite with The Need For Speed, Andy Erne with Chippewa's Dream Chaser, and Tony King with Alliwood's Never Say Never. (Behind): Randy Zimmer, Joe Zimmer, Melissa and Ken Sauer, Ken Millikin, Kevin Western, Andrea Ward, Zach Erne, Greg Gibson (judge), Jim Corpening (judge), Adam DeLude, and Futurity Director Jim Ogle.

### **The Running**

Brace No. 1 saw Glover's Liza Menelli (Jack Glover) braced with Indian Creek Pineapple (Garry Malzone). At 9:15, these two would be powerful off the breakaway. Who would score first? Pineapple, at 9:25, had a bird in a feeder strip by Andy's house. At 9:26, Liza held her birds with good manners. At 9:37, Liza was standing up the side of the hill on the east side of the road. With birds produced, they continued on. At 9:42, by the big Sycamore tree, Liza was pointed with Pineapple, also trying to locate birds. Liza stood with good manners. Pineapple was picked up. Liza would be watered later in the brace but no more bird contact. She finished the hour strong and still hunting hard.

Brace No. 2 saw K C's Dominator Pat (Ken Sauer) braced with Alliwood's Never Say Never (Adam DeLude). Breakaway was at 10:22; both dogs would be watered at 10:37. At 10:47, both dogs were standing on separate birds. Adam would flush across from the big Sycamore near the creek bank. A single was produced with all in order. Ken would make a flushing attempt around the Sycamore but could not produce a bird. At 10:52, Pat would be picked up for manners.

Brace No. 3 saw K C's Next Gen (Ken Sauer) braced with Chippewa's Dream Chaser (Zack Erne). At the 11:30 breakaway, the dogs went their separate ways. At 11:35, Ken's pointer didn't look to be running well. With something possibly wrong, he elected to pick up instead of hurting the young dog. Chase was looking in all the right spots. Zack would water at 11:48 and reset. At 11:53, Chase was standing in a briar patch in Sycamore bottom. With birds produced and excellent manners, they would continue on. Chase continued hitting the edges and hunting hard, finishing the hour.

Brace No. 4 saw The Need For Speed (Tom Waite) braced with Jim Fork's River Girl; Kenny Snow had already left the grounds. The brace started at 12:39, and the setter ran alone. Tom stopped to water at 12:47. At 13:15, Speed stood tall in the briar patch. Tom would do a great job getting these birds out. They would finish the hour with the birds in the air and excellent manners.

Congratulations to our Futurity winners!



Jerry D. Kilgore Puppy Classic Winners (front, l-r): Travis Patterson with Huber's Artemis Sunshine, Ken Sauer with Sonic Boom Vom Huber Haus, Dr. Bill Wright with Milomix Liz, and Kevin Western with Western's Second Chance. (Behind): Randy Zimmer, Joe Zimmer, judges Jim Corpening (judge), Greg Gibson (judge), Futurity Director Jim Ogle, and Tim Penn.

### **Judges: Jim Corpening and Greg Gibson** **37TH NBHA FUTURITY – 22 Entries**

- 1st—*GLOVER'S LIZA MENELLI, 1695569, pointer female, by Hirollins Gone And Doneit-Crimson River Emerald. Jack Glover, owner and handler.*  
 2d—*THE NEED FOR SPEED, 1695127, setter male, by Blair's Witch Project-Big Run Bluebird. Christopher Kobs, owner; Tom Waite, handler.*  
 3d—*CHIPPEWA'S DREAM CHASER, 1698352, setter female, by Dashing Iron Kentucky Coal-Otho's Field of Dreams. Andrew & Zachary Erne, owners; Zach Erne, handler.*  
 4th—*ALLIWOOD'S NEVER SAY NEVER, 1695564, pointer female, by Touch's Grey Street-Alliwood's Shady Shay. Adam DeLude, owner and handler.*

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

Now for everyone's favorite. The judges for this class staying in the saddle were Greg Gibson and Jim Corpening. We drew 14 dogs, and the judges had their work cut out for them. We all know sometimes puppies can sometimes go wild, but these puppies knew what they were doing and were on a mission. These pups handled great and knew how to stay forward. Congrats to this year's winners, owners, handlers, and breeders.

Thank you to our judges, Mark Livingston, Ken Chenoweth, Greg Gibson, and Jim Corpening; the Missouri Bird Hunters Association, Kevin Western, Jack Glover, Randy Zimmer, and Joe Zimmer; to those who are always there for me, Tim Penn, Greg Blair, and Kristi Ogle; and our catering company, Terri & Company. Thank you also to our sponsors. Purina gives us so much in their support with dog food and coupons all year, Garmin provides collars, OnX for their memberships, Gundog Supply for gift certificates, and Gundog Central. Thank you also to the Sportsmen's Association for the use of the clubhouse, kennels, horse stalls, and fantastic grounds.

### **Judges: Jim Corpening and Greg Gibson**

- JERRY D. KILGORE PUPPY CLASSIC – 14 Entries**  
 1st—*HUBER'S ARTEMIS SUNSHINE, 1702261, Brittany female, by Biebel's Walt Longmire O'Call-O'Callahan's Run Around Sue. Aaron Patterson, Jr., owner and handler.*  
 2d—*SONIC BOOM VOM HUBER HAUS, 1701297, 1701297, pointer male, by Mac Rhoads-Lacee Jane Elhew Blackhawk. Aaron Patterson, Jr., owner and handler.*  
 3d—*MILOMIX LIZ, 1701180, Gordon setter female, by Melrose Prairie Storm-Milomix Rocky. William Wright, owner and handler.*  
 4th—*WESTERN'S SECOND CHANCE, 1701153, setter male, by Penrosa Hidncash-Shamrock's Tish. Kevin Western, owner and handler.*

# NATIONAL AMATEUR FREE-FOR-ALL-CHAMPIONSHIP

*One Day Queen Bee Named Champion; Osceola's Rebel Chief, Runner-Up*

By Morgan Brewer | Union Springs, Alabama | February 22, 2023



National Amateur Free-For-All Championship Winners (front, l-r): One Day Queen Bee with Lane Hodges and Osceola's Rebel Chief with Ted Roach. (Behind): Brian Sanderson, Joe Varner, Darron Hendley, George Kimbrell (judge), Roger Key, Darcy Hodges (scout), Steve Hutto, Morgan Brewer (reporter), Brian Spear (judge), Hunter McDuffie, Julie Roach, Brian Sanchez (scout), Harrison Lee, Pat Roach, Bill Lee, Anna Grace Tompkins, Alan Atkins, Shirley Varner, and Ben Chancellor.

February 22 is the most anticipated date for the field trial community; it is the commencement of the 73rd annual National Amateur Free-For-All Championship. This memorable Championship is held at the famous Sedgefields Plantation in Union Springs, Ala., also known as the Field Trial Capital of the World. This historic Championship would not be possible without the continued support from Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Harbert. The Harberts graciously offer their field trial haven to the community year after year, and if it were not for landowners like them, our beloved sport would cease to exist. 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 team at Sedgefields do a phenomenal job manicuring the grounds to be the best to ever turn a bird dog loose in America.

The National Amateur Free-For-All board consists of 15 members; each member plays a key role in the success of this Championship, and each year it runs like a finely tuned instrument. Rick Stallings, the board's resident president, is the head chief; his dedication and time are paramount to keeping the event running smoothly. The secretary is none other than Shirley Varner; she does it all and with a smile. Notable members that served as marshals include Alan Atkins, Darron Hendley, Harold Johnson, Roger Key, Hunter McDuffie, Robert Moorer, Brian Peterson, and Hunter Smith. Chance Kelley and Harrison Lee were also in attendance serving as marshals, and each participant greatly appreciated their efforts. Board member Lisa Littell, a local attorney at Jinks Crow in Union Springs, Ala., provided the judges and reporter a gift basket full of necessities and goodies that were highly valued.

Steve Hutto and Bo Brewer won the Dog Wagon Captain and Co-Captain of the Year

awards. The "dynamic duo" made sure each dog was accounted for and arrived on time, and the wagon was stocked full of snacks and refreshments each day. They offered interesting conversations between braces and were always at the right place and time. Harold Johnson serves as a marshal, manages the barn during the trial, and is always willing to lend the officials a helping hand or horse. Bullock County native and field trial enthusiast Anna Grace Tompkins was a sight for sore eyes at the end of each day. She diligently washed the officials' horses for the trial, and her meticulous attention and promptness were appreciated.

Judges for this esteemed trial were George Kimbrell of Fort Mill, S. C., and Brian Spear of Lowndesboro, Ala. Kimbrell returned for his second consecutive year while Spear made his debut. They rode hard and were very attentive to every dog and handler. I thoroughly enjoyed their knowledge as well as their enthusiasm for the sport.

Purina donates 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 donates 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.

Connie Hicks, April Sanderson, Jan Servais, Molly Darnell, and I prepared heavy hors d'oeuvres for the pre-drawing on February 16. Renee Peek was sorely missed this year; however, we had several volunteers to step up and serve. Among those was Anna Grace Tompkins. It's incredible how the community comes together for these parties.

A delicious breakfast was provided daily,

prepared by two lovely ladies, and sponsored by the Tourism Council of Bullock County. The list of businesses, owners, handlers, and well-wishers that make donations to this welcomed meal is endless. Their contributions go toward the food, the hiring of smiling chefs, and the welcome signs and banners that are hung in town. The Union Springs Country Club prepared lunch daily on the grounds, and it was a delight to see Ginny Allen and her staff after a long morning of riding.

The nightly social events began at the "Kick-Off Party," honoring Mrs. Bootie Smitherman and Mrs. Ginger Austin at the home of Van and Christy Wadsworth on Wednesday night. Christy and Van Wadsworth hosted this event along with Ginny and David Allen, Colleen and Ken Buce, Charlotte and Lynn Jinks, David Padgett, Jane Rutland, Elizabeth and Burt Smithhart, Allison and Ban Stewart, Leigh and Josh Taylor, Susan Wells, and Kara Williamson. Thursday, the Owners' and Handlers' Party was held at the Field House and was sponsored by AmeriFirst Bank. Everyone was invited to the Union Springs Country Club Friday night to participate in the "Draw Down and Dance." A steak dinner and dance were held at the Field House hosted by Raymond and Catherine Harbert on Saturday night. Chefs Bo Brewer, Justin Green, and Robert Moorer did an excellent job preparing and cooking the steaks. 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 Jimmy and Catherine Bassett, Andy and Beverly Callaway, Pete and Chris Del Collo, Brandy Gilmore, Anderson and Laura Hembree, Kevin and Maureen Joyce, Charles and Heather Klinck, Jim and Jane Klingler, Tom and Sue Ellen Lanier, Tommy and Renita Main, Frank Moorer, Frank and Colleen Rutland, Brian and Brooke Sanchez, Jim and Sandra Smith, Joe and Shirley Varner, and Winston and Laura Way. The food was exceptional, and all had a glorious time. Tuesday evening, Tony and Becky Gibson hosted a barbeque at the Field House that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

## Day 1

There is no greater thrill than to hear "turn 'em loose" at the breakaway of the first brace. It was 69 degrees when Ascension, owned and handled by Ted Roach, and Southern Shadows Wave, owned and handled by Lance Servais, came to the line. Ascension, a liver and white pointer male, finished the brace without any bird work. Wave had a good ground race and a clean find at 20, earning him a spot in the callbacks.

Sandhill Maybaby, owned and handled by former youth handler Braden Renfroe, and Sehoy's Run Happy, owned by Sehoy

Plantation and handled by Hunter McDuffie, turned loose for brace No. 2. May had finds at 18 and 25, and Happy had finds at 24 and 39.

Running in brace No. 3 was Erin's Young Offender, owned by Roger Key, Alan Atkins, and Phil Tomlinson and handled by Roger Key, and C S Plains Drifter, owned by Tony Gibson and handled by Bill Clem. Offender had an unproductive at 18 and was picked up at 39. Plains Drifter was ordered up at 16 after a breach in manners.

Hirollins Bad Boy, owned and handled by Brian Sanchez, and Smokin Joe's Rock, owned by Joe Brunner and handled by Roger Brown, approached the line for brace No. 4. Boy had an unproductive at 2 and was picked up at 7. Rock had an unproductive at 8, a find at 25, and a second unproductive at 35.

It was 84 degrees when we turned loose behind the barn for brace No. 5. Miller's Flowers and Lace, owned by Allen Linder and Madison McDonald and handled by Madison McDonald, and Panther Creek Merlin, owned and handled by Frank Rutland, approached the line. Lace and Merlin had an unproductive at 14, and Merlin had a classy find at 40.

Breaking away from Bill Lee's driveway for brace No. 6 was Calico's Sky's The Limit (McDonald) and Rester's Amazing Grace, owned by Tony Gibson and handled by Joe Varner. Sky had a strong front-running ground race with a picture-perfect find at 5, earning her a spot in the callbacks. Grace finished the brace without bird work.

### **Day 2**

Competing Thursday morning in brace No. 7 was Deception's Wild Justice, owned and handled by Jeff Gilbertson, and DuBose's Wander Bog, owned and handled by Bobby DuBose. It was 72 when the pointer males were turned loose. Wander Bog finished without bird work, and Justice was picked up at 39.

Pineywood's Legacy, owned and handled by Darron Hendley, and Miller's Heat Wave, owned by Jack and Fran Miller and handled by Fran Miller, proceeded toward the line for brace No. 8. Legacy laid down a great race with stylish finds at 1, 16, an unproductive at 26 and a clean find at 41. Wave also had a good ground race, having finds at 8 and 38. These pointers' stellar performances earned them positions in the callbacks.

Running in brace No. 9, breaking away at the Coke barn, was Electronic Warfare, owned and handled by Bill Goodwin, and Miller's Triple Digit Heat (McDonald). It was unfavorably hot during this brace, but that didn't stop Warfare or Heat. Warfare, known for his keen ability to find birds had covey finds at 2, 7, and 32. Heat produced no birds during this brace but had a good ground race.

Lawton Huggins's Towncreek Hardaway Red and Will Dunn's Dunn's Ever'n Onward were in brace No. 10. Onward didn't make the turn at breakaway, and the handler was handed the tracker at 10. Red and Huggins debuted together; the pointer male had a good ground

race but no bird work.

It was 81 degrees at breakaway from the barn for brace No. 11 when Southern Shadows Rick, owned by Lance Servais and handled by Brian Peterson, and Miller's Upgraded Version (Miller) approached the line. Version, known for covering the country, ran a scalding ground race but produced no birds. The judges must have liked what they saw because he was asked to return for the callbacks. Rick finished the brace strong but didn't have any bird work.

Releasing from Bill Lee's driveway in brace No. 12 were Erin's Mason Man (Key) and Pineywoods Showstopper (Hendley). Both pointers finished the brace without any bird contacts.

### **Day 3**

Friday morning started sunny and 71 degrees with Dunn's Sneak'n In (Dunn) and Hightailing Penny, owned and handled by Kevin Joyce. Unfortunately, neither dog made it across the road. Sneak'n In appeared to be under the weather, and Penny was never seen off the breakaway, and the handler was given the tracker at 9.

Super Dog, owned and handled by Jade Todd, and Sedgefields Legacy, owned by Sedgefields Plantation and handled by Hunter McDuffie, turned loose for brace No. 14. Super Dog failed to be steady after a flight of birds and was ordered up at 8. Legacy went out of pocket, and the handler asked for the tracker at 29.

Competing in brace No. 15 were Lester's Top Recruit (Servais) and J C L's Dal, owned and handled by Bill Adams. Recruit had a find right off the breakaway, an unproductive at 15, and two classy finds at 35 and 45. Dal had an unproductive at 28.

Braced in No. 16 was Hightailing Maggie (Joyce) and Call Me Clyde, owned and handled by Stan Padgett. Joyce asked for the tracker at 26. Clyde had an unproductive at 33 and a second unproductive at pick up.

Turning loose behind the barn in brace No. 17 was Red Alert Lane (Peterson) and DuBose's What A Dog (DuBose). It was a warm 81 degrees when these pointer males took off from the breakaway; they finished without any bird work.

Town Creek Hardaway Jill (Clem) and Great River Yellowstone (Sanchez) approached the line for brace No. 18. Jill came up birdless. Yellowstone had an impressive ground race despite the heat and an excellent find at 29 after a lengthy relocation earning him a spot in the callbacks.

### **Day 4**

Competing in brace No. 19 Saturday morning was One Day La Bandita, owned by Lane and Darcy Hodges and handled by Lane Hodges, and Miller's Upgrading The Ante (McDonald/Miller). La Bandita covered the countryside but did not have any bird contacts. Ante had an unproductive at 41.

Panther Creek Rosie (Rutland) was released

in brace No. 20 as a bye dog. She put on a show with one stellar find at 21 and was asked to return for the callbacks.

Releasing from the Coke barn for brace No. 21, with the sun starting to peek through the clouds, was One Day Lucky Strike (Hodges) and C S Romeo (Gibson/Clem). Strike didn't seem to mind the heat; he laid down a great ground race and had picture-perfect finds at 24, 31, and 42, earning him a position in the callbacks. Romeo honored with a back at 31, two nice finds at 34 and 39, and a back at 42.

Running in brace No. 22 was Hauser's Rollin Thunder, owned and handled by Sean Hauser, and Neely's Business Man, owned and handled by John Neely. Thunder, a black and white pointer male, had a nice ground race and a back at 28. Man, a stout orange and white pointer male, ran an exceptional ground race and had a picture-perfect find at 28; the judges asked to see him again in the callbacks.

Braced in No. 23, turning loose from the barn, was Dunn's True Reign (Dunn) and Southern Ritz Lane (Peterson). The athletic pointers ran the countryside, trying their best to produce a bird but came up short.

Hauser's Hard Line (Hauser) and Miller's Southern Gossip (McDonald/Miller) turned loose across from Bill Lee's driveway for brace No. 24. It was a scorcher at breakaway, and both handlers decided to pick up at 24.

### **Day 5**

Sunday morning was overcast and 66 degrees. Turning loose in brace No. 25 was Ironstone's Dark Horse, owned by Eli Richardson and handled by Will McFerrin, and Southern Shadows Story (Servais). Dark Horse, a snappy tri-colored setter, went out of pocket, and the handler asked for the retrieval device at 35. Story ran the front but was unsuccessful in producing any bobwhites.

Drawn for brace No. 26 were Miller's Automatic Upgrade (McDonald/Miller) and Southern Shadows T Rex (Peterson). Upgrade recorded two perfect finds at 7 and 31. She was unsuccessful at 37 after a lengthy relocation. T Rex, a robust pointer male, ran the front hunting country and had two stellar bird contacts at 4 and 38.

Releasing from the Coke barn for brace No. 27 was Miller's Big Iron (McDonald/Miller) and Phillips Wind Line, owned and handled by Katie Belle Varner. Iron disappeared shortly off the breakaway, and the handler asked for the tracker at 11. It's always a pleasure to watch Varner, a former youth handler, and Addison McDuffie, a current youth handler, compete with the "big guys." McDuffie called point at 6 shortly off the breakaway. While catching up to the front, Wind Line whipped around and nailed another big covey. McDuffie raised her hat again at 28; Varner produced birds after a lengthy relocation.

C S Rester's Speculation, owned by Tony Gibson and handled by Ted Roach, and Smokin Joe's Moses turned loose for brace No. 30. Speculation ran the front stylishly hunting the country but could not produce a

bird. Moses was unsuccessful a 24.

### Day 6

Competing Monday morning in brace No. 31 were Twin Willow Ice (McDuffie) and Tee's Sweet Emotion, owned by Neil Walker and Brian Sanchez and handled by Brian Sanchez. Ice, a classy black and white pointer female, ran a strong front-running race, had a nice find at 6, and honored with a back at 13. Her great performance earned her a spot in the callbacks. Emotion pointed a covey of bobwhites right before crossing the road by the church. He locked down another big covey at 13 but was unsuccessful at 45.

Erin's Johnny Walker, owned by Harrison Lee and Ted Roach and handled by Ted Roach, and Rentz's Tipped Up, owned by Joe and Tricia Rentz and handled by Joe Rentz, approached the line for brace No. 32. The scouts didn't even get a chance to mount their horses before both dogs locked down on point at the breakaway. Walker ran the front, where you could see him whip around by the pond behind the Harbert's house; he looked like a million dollars and was credited a find at 19. He was successful again at 33. Tipped Up had an outstanding race with four picture-perfect finds at 1, 27, 35, and 40. The judges asked her to return to the callbacks for her performance.

Drawn for brace No. 33 were One Day Queen Bee (Hodges) and Smokin Joe's Matthews (Brunner/Brown). Bee, a petite orange and white pointer female, could not have run a better ground race and locked down on four coveys of bobwhites. She was awarded "Top Qualifying Dog" for her sensational performance. Matthews wasn't suiting his handler and was handed the tracker at 10.

Competing in brace No. 34 were Rentz's Hijacked (Rentz) and Osceola's Rebel Chief, owned by Pat Roach and Ted Roach and handled by Ted Roach. Hijacked ran the front hunting the entire race but was unsuccessful at producing a bird. Chief ran an exceptional ground race; he failed to produce game at 17 but locked down on two big coveys at 25 and 35. The judges asked him to return for the callbacks for his outstanding performance.

It was cloudy and 81 degrees for brace No. 35 when Piney Creek Mae, owned and handled by Woody Woodruff, and Erin's Ty Breaker (Roach) came to the line. Ty, a stout liver and white pointer male, ran an excellent ground race but could not produce a bird. Mae

finished the brace but didn't have any bird work.

C S Trump, owned by Tony Gibson and handled by Joe Varner, and Sandhill's Buddin Up (Renfroe) were in the last brace. Trump disappeared shortly after the breakaway, and Varner asked for the retrieval device at 44. Bud finished the brace birdless.

### The Callbacks

It was 68 degrees for the first brace of callbacks when last year's champion, Dragonfly, owned and handled by Jim Hughes, and Southern Shadows Wave (Servais) came to the line. Dragonfly, a liver and white pointer male, had clean finds at 7 and 41, honored a back at 49, and his handler picked him up. The birds left Wave before the judges made eye contact, and his handler took him on. He had it all to himself, running the front and finishing with two perfect finds at 69 and 80.

Calico's Sky's The Limit (McDonald) and Pineywood's Legacy (Hendley) were in brace No. 2 of the callbacks. Sky, a black and white pointer female, failed to produce a bird at 11 and was credited a find at 33. Legacy had an unproductive at 33. Neither dog was suiting their handler, and at 55, they asked for the trackers.

In brace No. 3 of the callbacks were Miller's Heat Wave (Miller) and Great River Yellowstone (Sanchez). Point was called on Wave at 7, and as soon as the handler dismounted, a big covey lifted. Wave was unsuccessful at 46 after a lengthy relocation and had a clean find at 80. Yellowstone had an unproductive at 54 after a long relocation and a classy find at 60 and was picked up at 72 for his second unproductive.

Panther Creek Rosie (Rutland) and One Day Lucky Strike (Hodges) turned loose for brace No. 4 of the callbacks. Rosie had a nice find at 36, and the handler asked for the tracker at 61. Strike had bird contacts at 11, 31, and unproductive at 37 and was picked up at 45.

Drawn for brace No. 6 of the callbacks were Neely's Business Man (Neely) and Miller's Upgraded Version (Miller). Man ran a great front running race and had impeccable finds at 6, 20, an unproductive at 31, and perfect finds at 38 and 49. Version, a repeat contender for the callbacks, had a find at 45, honored a back at 49, and had an unproductive at 80.

Twin Willow Ice (McDuffie) and Rentz's Tipped Up (Rentz) turned loose for brace No. 6 of the callbacks. Ice, also known as "Kat," was unsuccessful at 22, had a big covey find at 31, and was picked up at 58. Tipped Up ran a good front-running race, had a find at 36, and was picked up at 58.

Top qualifier One Day Queen Bee (Hodges) and Osceola's Rebel Chief (Roach) came to the line with nothing to lose but everything to gain for the last brace of callbacks. These canine athletes laid it all out on the line in 88 degrees, by far the best brace of the trial. There is a superstition in the field trial community that it is a kiss of death if you get the Top Qualifying Dog at this Championship. That didn't bother husband and wife team, Lane and Darcy Hodges. They went out there with their small pointer female and knocked it out of the park with a huge covey find at 7, an unsuccessful attempt at 39, and just when she couldn't be doing a better job, she nailed another covey of bobwhites at 75. One Day Queen Bee was named champion for her amazing performance.

Rebel Chief, also known as "Bill," kept handler Ted Roach on his toes for the duration of the brace. Bill failed to produce a bird at 27 after a lengthy relocation. He continued to run a blistering ground race popping out in front like an aspirin tablet at just the right moment. He had three million dollar finds at 54, 64, and last but certainly not least at 82. Bill won the National Open Shooting Dog Championship in 2020 and has the same drive as he did then. He was awarded runner-up champion for his outstanding performance. As the saying goes, "It ain't over until the fat lady sings." Well, the fat lady sang the very last brace of the National Amateur Free-For-All Championship.

Union Springs, Ala., February 22

Judges: George Kimbrell and Brian Spear  
NATIONAL AMATEUR FREE-FOR-ALL  
CHAMPIONSHIP [Forty-Five Minute Qualifying  
Heats; One- and One-Half Hour Finals]  
- 65 Pointers and 8 Setters

Winner—ONE DAY QUEEN BEE, 1684579, pointer female, by Heard Hill's Memory Lane-Dubose's Snow White. Lane Hodges, owner and handler.  
Runner-Up—OSCEOLA'S REBEL CHIEF, 1682755, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Hilltopper Debutante. Ted Roach, owner and handler.

### Hall of Fame Nomination: DAVID WILLIAMS

I have known David Williams for more than 30 years. I believe he is one of the most passionate people about field trialing I have ever known. In fact, he checks every box for induction into the Field Trial Hall of Fame, and I hope you will join me in supporting his nomination. In this limited space, I would like to mention some of the numerous contributions he has made to this sport. They include the outstanding field trial venue he has created, which he generously shares with numerous other clubs and organizations. Additionally, David has served as a leader who has held many elected and appointed offices on the local, regional, and national levels. He breeds, raises, trains, and successfully campaigns his dogs of the "Rebel" bloodline. He judges, scouts, and marshals and freely helps many individuals and clubs. He supports the professional counterpart of field trialing. And finally, David's character, demeanor, and hospitable ways are most admirable. His love for his family, reputation as an honorable man, and welcoming and hospitable ways add immeasurably to field trialing. Please help secure this Hall of Fame recognition for our friend, David Williams.— Jim Atchison

## SOUTHEASTERN OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

*Nonami's Johnny Come Lately Named Champion; Absolute Dominator, Runner-Up*

By Joel Norman | Lake City, Florida | February 22, 2023

The 2023 Southeastern Open Shooting Dog Championship drew the largest number of entries in recent history. The move South to "The Farm," near Lake City, Fla., did not affect the entries. These grounds more than meet the requirements needed to run a championship. The trial was also held earlier than in the past. This year it commenced on February 22 to conclude before the Masters Open Shooting Dog Championship. This year's judges were advertised as Buck and Lynn Heard from Moultrie, Ga. Unfortunately, due to a death in the family, Lynn had to be replaced before the beginning of the trial. We were fortunate to recruit Mr. Barry Stumbo of Versailles, Ky., to fill in. Both judges have a long history with bird dogs, trials, and horses and the capabilities to sort it all out.

We were fortunate to have Mr. Chester Stokes offer his grounds for running this trial. He has owned these grounds for several decades, making them the epitome of a shooting dog to display his wares. Native wiregrass and understory with scattered longleaf and slash pine on gentle rolling topography is the backdrop for the contestants to perform. Mr. "C," as most call him, also provided the trial with a dog truck, driver, and marshals. Thanks to Joe Hicks, Leroy Griffis, and Rylan "Stick" King for keeping things running smoothly.

Weather conditions tested dogs, horses, and handlers. Highs were in the upper 80s throughout the trial. These birds are hunted and know how to survive. Unproductives



Southeastern Open Shooting Dog Championship Winners (l-r): Barry Stumbo (judge), Ray Pearce, John Hicks, Shon Powell with Nonami's Johnny Come Lately, Doug Ray, Payton Gunby with Absolute Dominator, Joe Hicks, Buck Heard (judge), Chester Stokes, Rylan King, and Leroy Griffis.

daily in the same areas suggest these birds were getting out of the way. Several coveys were seen getting up and moving early. Nonetheless, there were many good performances to sort through.

The first brace of the second day produced our champion, Nonami's Johnny Come Lately, owned by Ted Turner and handled by Ray Pearce, with a back at 5 and a good stylish find at 15. He put on a clinic on the ground. He took advantage of every opportunity these grounds offered to run a consistent forward open shooting dog race. No scouting was needed, and he always showed up to the front.

Absolute Dominator, owned by Johnny

and Joyce Taylor and handled by Doug Ray, garnered the runner-up spot. Dominator had finds at 10, 20, and 26 with a good race. Many dogs challenged the winners; two, in particular, were Nella Belgian Brew with Tommy Rice and Miller's Extreme Heat handled by Mike Tracy.

Lake City, Fla., February 22  
Judges: Buck Heard and Barry Stumbo  
SOUTHEASTERN OPEN SHOOTING DOG  
CHAMPIONSHIP (One-Hour Heats)  
- 61 Pointers and 7 Setters

Winner—NONAMI'S JOHNNY COME LATELY, 1694190, pointer male, by Ransom-Pinewood's Jenny Bell. R. E. Turner, owner; Ray Pearce, handler.  
Runner-Up—ABSOLUTE DOMINATOR, 1686566, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Pearl Again. Johnny & Joyce Taylor, owners; Doug Ray, handler.

## REGION 7 (AFTCA) AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

*K C's Tye Oneon Named Champion; NBHA Companion Stakes Hosted By Valley View Field Trial Club*

By Ken Sauer | Alvord, Texas | February 24, 2023

There are many people to thank for this event's success. We must start with our judges, Tony Miller of Endeavor Kennels, Trenton, Texas, and Matthew Rafferty of Joaquin, Texas, for their two long days in the saddle. Thanks to Larry Seybert, Sr., for driving the dog wagon and planting birds. The USFS plays a huge role in North Texas field trials, allowing us to utilize the LBJ Grasslands for field trials such as these events.

The sponsors that deserve special recognition are Park Cities Quail Coalition for their financial support and believing in us bringing people together to spend more time with their dogs in the field with plenty of birds. The lunch on Friday was King Ranch Chicken Casserole prepared by Ken Sauer, and Saturday was a fantastic brisket provided by Jay Stine. Additional fixings of baked

beans and potato salad were also served. We all did eat well. All of this food was set up and served by Melissa Sauer. She's a dream in my life.

Jackets were purchased from Mule Brand Clothing (NBHA sponsor) for the judges and Yeti NBHA custom tumblers from Alyssa Rowan. We must also thank all the NBHA sponsors for supporting NBHA events. Purina donates dog food coupons, and Gun Dog Supply provides gift certificates for the winners and workers.

### The Running

Brace No. 1 paired Wiggins Super Sin ("Trixie"), a pointer female owned/handled by Jason Super, and Touch's Mac Daddy ("Mac"), a pointer male owned/handled by

Klaus Schmidt. Mac's first find came at 23, with Trixie coming in for a back. Mac was picked up at 39 for a few too many steps on a find moving a bird. Trixie scored another find at 43, but some of her style seemed missing. She scored another find at 49 with a relocation, and a pair of birds were produced similar style.

Brace No. 2 paired Touch's Micro Dot ("Dot"), a pointer female owned by Sonny Clark and handled by Klaus Schmidt, and K C's Tye Oneon ("Tye"), a pointer male owned/handled by Ken Sauer. Tye had an unproductive at 7. The bird planter said he moved the birds when replacing the pair. Feathers were produced by the handler. Dot scored a find at 10, all in order. Tye had a stand at 27. Dot scored again at 30 with Tye backing. Tye had a find at 39 with all in order.



Region 7 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship Winners (l-r): Jason Super, Tony Miller (judge), Klaus Schmidt with Magic Maggie Mae, Matthew Rafferty (judge), Emery Gardner, Weldon Gardner, K C's Tye Oneon with Ken Sauer, and Matthew Puckett.

At 49, Tye scored again, with Dot backing him again. At 56, the judges saw Dot when she failed to stand on stop to flush. She didn't chase, she just failed to stop. Both of these dogs were something to watch.

Brace No. 3 paired Jade, a German Shorthair female owned/handled by Weldon Gardner, and Reed's Super Spirit ("Isla"), a pointer female owned/handled by Jason Super. Isla scored at 17 for handler Super and at 25 suffered an unproductive; Jade scored a find at 29. Jade was found at 35 standing in the trees deep in the cover after missing for a short period. Isla stood at 45, and the only thing produced was a bird the hawks had beaten her to. All was in order. Jade had her final find at 55, her too, all in order.

Brace No. 4 paired Erin's Gypsy Lady ("Maria"), a pointer female owned/handled by Matthew Puckett, and K C's Guitar Man ("Zeke"), a pointer male owned/handled by Ken Sauer. Zeke started with a nice race, but at 23, he seemed to have moved a bird, and after the handler couldn't produce a bird, he elected to pick him up. Maria had a stand at 30 with the handler on a relocation. Maria handled this well. At 45, Maria suffered an unproductive. At 52, with the wind at her back had a stop to flush and handled this to perfection. Handler did not see the bird flush and was told by the judge. Maria was easy to watch and nice on the eyes. Judges indicated she was in consideration.

Brace No. 5 paired Piper, a German Shorthair female, owned/handled by Weldon Gardner, and Wheat's Choo Choo ("Choo"), a pointer male owned/handled by Joshua Wheat. Choo was picked up at 23 when he failed to be steady to wing and shot. At 23, Piper pointed the same bird and was found near the pond. Piper scored at 28, 29, and again at 43. She ran a nice race and covered lots of the countryside. Weldon has done a nice job with her and won the 2021 Region 7 Walking Shooting Dog Championship, returning to defend her title.

Brace No. 6 paired Erin's Lone Star Attitude ("Major"), a pointer male owned/handled by Matthew Puckett, and Magic Maggie Mae ("Maggie"), a pointer female owned/handled by Klaus Schmidt. Major started with guns a blazing. He seemed to be handling a little rough for the handler, so he elected to pick

him up at 35 without any bird work. Maggie ran a nice shooting dog race and scored with bird work at 25. Handling nice for her owner, she scored again at 45 finishing the hour to the front.

K C's Tye Oneon was named champion; Magic Maggie Mae was named runner-up.

**Alvord, Tex., February 24**  
**Judges: Tony Miller and Matthew Rafferty**  
**REGION 7 AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**  
**- 2 Pointers and 10 Setters**

*Winner—K C'S TYE ONEON, 1692606, pointer male, by Valiant-Cypress Church Junebug. Ken Sauer, owner and handler.*

*Runner-Up—MAGIC MAGGIE MAE, 1683245, pointer female, by Working Class-Nemaha Nell. Klaus Schmidt, owner and handler.*

**Valley View Field Trial Club**

The NBHA nationally recognizes these championship companion stakes for Dog and Handler of the Year Awards. These stakes aim to interest bird hunters and newcomers to the sport of field trials. We drew 17 dogs with new faces and some returning. All clubs should consider this stake to expand our participation. They are tough to judge, but some nice dogs show up at these events. Always have birds and show them a good time. The mission was accomplished.

***NBHA Amateur Shooting Dog***

Brace No. 1 paired Onyx, a Brittany male (Colin Johnston), and Thor, a German Shorthair male (Brandon McGill). Thor had a find at 7 and was steady with just a few steps. Thor scored again at 10. At 25 and 29, he suffered two unproductives. Excellent job by Brandon for his first field trial. Onyx had three finds for Colin. The little Brittany did a fantastic job. Colin, too, came to this event for his first trial and did an excellent job.

Brace No. 2 paired Colt, a setter male (Sammy Davidson), and Jenny, a pointer female (Clay Erwin). These two have been coming out to our events regularly. Colt had the afterburners on and was picked up early by the handler. Jenny's first find was at 10 and was pretty steady. At 17 and 26, she scored again. She suffered an unproductive at 29 with plenty of gas left in her tank.

Brace No. 3 paired Ace, a German Shorthair

male (Larry Seybert, Sr.), and Hawk, a setter male (Philip Webster). These two men are not new to the game, and we loved having them back. Ace scored five times for his handler. He possesses excellent speed and range. At 8, on Ace's first find, Hawk backed. Hawk was found standing at 10 with both dogs standing on different birds. Hawk had another find at 15. At 18, Ace had a stand with Hawk backing again. Ace had another find at 20. Ace suffered an unproductive at 26. Ace and Hawk, at 29, had finds on different birds.

Brace No. 4 paired John, a setter male (Clay Erwin), and Rock, a setter male (Kevin Dixon). We were glad to see Kevin Dixon at our event. John got off with a good start with finds at 14, 18, and 26. At 11, Rock was found standing up front. He suffered an unproductive, but on the last brace, a bird was moved. He stood nicely on an extended flush. Rock topped the hill and was found standing again. With another extended flush, Kevin elected to pick him up. Both dogs possessed range and speed.

Brace No. 5 paired Allie, a German Shorthair female (Larry Seybert, Sr.), and Cruze, a setter male (Sammy Davidson). Cruze started quickly with finds at 8 and 11 and Allie backing on both occasions. Handler elected to pick up Allie at 13. Cruze wasn't finished yet, with additional finds at 14 and 17. The judges enjoyed the Cruze dog in their comments.

Brace No. 6 paired Heidi, a German Shorthair female (Brandon McGill), and Tonto, a Brittany male (Matthew Puckett). Heidi was found standing at 8 right out of the gate. Tonto had a stand at 10 with Heidi backing. This turned into an unproductive for Tonto. Tonto had a stop to flush at 18, all in order. At 21, Heidi suffered an unproductive. Tonto had a find at 21. At 24, Heidi had a find. Tonto, at 24, stood at a different location but suffered his second unproductive. At 27, Heidi had a find with Tonto backing her. Tonto suffered his third unproductive at 29.

Brace No. 7 paired Touch, a pointer female (Kevin Dixon), and Hunter, a setter male (Brady Elmore). Early off, Touch had a stop to flush and an unproductive at 4. Kevin elected to ask for his GPS at 18, with Touch running a huge race. Hunter had a find at 24 with all in order. Hunter suffered an unproductive at 27. Brady has made much progress with this well-bred setter.

Brace No. 8 paired Chico, a setter male (Sammy Davidson), and Ripley, a setter male (Philip Webster). Chico scored a find at 10. At 20, Chico had a stop to flush. Again at 26, Chico was found standing. At 28, Chico put the bird in the air. Ripley went the 30 minutes without any bird work.

Brace No. 9 saw Girl, a pointer female (Kevin Dixon). This bye dog ran a nice race for not having a bracemate. She had finds at 10 and 24, well-spaced. We are happy to welcome Kevin Dixon and hope to see him more often.

## NBHA Amateur Derby

Brace No. 1 paired Finley, a setter male (Philip Webster), and Bullet, a pointer male (Cash Kristynik). Finley had bird work at 5, 18, and 24 to derby standards. Bullet ran a nice race and had a stop to flush. Both dogs were pretty separated because of the bird work. We want to welcome Cash to field trials. He's new to our sport but interested and competitive. We hope to see him often.

Brace No. 2 paired Pat, a pointer female (Ken Sauer), and Sam, a pointer male (Sonny Clark). Pat had a shooting dog broke find at 5. At 14, Sam was found standing all in order. At 14 and again at 20, Pat was found standing. Again at 25, she pointed at a creek with a pile of pheasant feathers from a hawk's kill. Pat finished running big. We want to thank Sonny for participating this weekend; he had some nice dogs.



NBHA Amateur Shooting Dog Winner:  
Larry Seybert, Sr., with Lucky Moon Ace.

Brace No. 3 paired Skip, a pointer male (Cash Kristynik), and Dutton, a pointer male (Philip Webster). Skip had a find at 5

but should have been steadier on this stand. Dutton had a find at 6. Skip had another find at 8. Dutton's final find was at 13. Both dogs had excellent range and style.

### NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 17 Entries

1st—LUCKY MOON ACE, 1691039, German Shorthair male, by Keg Creek Second Edition-Big Country's Lucy Lawless. Larry Seybert, Sr., owner and handler.

2d—EXPRESS YOURSELF, 1681964, pointer female, by Ransom-Beane's Line Dancer. Clay Erwin, owner and handler.

3d—TRAVELING SALESMAN, 1688147, setter male, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-Everbreeze Fancy. Clay Erwin, owner and handler.

### NBHA AMATEUR DERBY – 5 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—K C'S DOMINATOR'S PAT, 1695330, pointer female, by Bad Rebel A Risin-Bahama Mama. Ken Sauer, owner and handler.

2d—WEBSTER'S HAWKMO FINLEY, 1701741, setter female, by Cactus Jet Hoppin Hawk-Christie's Molly Solo Cup. Philip Webster, handler.

3d—WEBSTER'S ELHEW DUTTON, 1701740, pointer male, by Hackberry's Elhew Chief-Faith On The Prairies. Philip Webster, owner and handler.

## EASTERN OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP & DERBY CLASSIC

*Harbor City Sure Shot Named Champion; Limbsmoke Urban Lullaby, Runner-Up*

By Jeff Smith | South Hill, Virginia | February 27, 2023

The 2023 Eastern Open Shooting Dog Championship commenced on February 27 at the Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area in Boydton, Va. In judgment for the Championship was Larry King of Shepherdstown, W. Va., and Ashby Morgan of Mathews, Va.

Harbor City Sure Shot, a female pointer owned by Richard Gillis and Karen Lordi of Medford, N. J., and handled by Matt Basilone of Pitts Grove, N. J., emerged as the winner from brace No. 3. Sure Shot had five finds along with two backs to go with a good forward race.

The runner-up champion, also handled by Matt in brace No. 5, was Limbsmoke Urban Lullaby, owned by Lloyd Miller of Bethlehem, Pa. Lullaby had three finds and a very forward run.

Larry and Ashby also judged the Derby

Classic. Iron Will's True Grit took first with one find and a good forward race. True Grit is owned by Robert and Lisa Brooks of Hammonton, N. J., and handled by Matt Basilone. Second place was awarded to L F Explorer, handled by Lefty Henry. Tim had two finds in brace No. 3. Third place was awarded to I Dream of Jeannie, a female English setter owned and handled by Kyle Whitfield of Seven Springs, N. C.

I want to thank Purina for their continued generous support for the Eastern Open Championship and Derby Classic. I would also like to thank the judges, Larry King and Ashby Morgan, and the many people that helped put on the trial—Ellen Clements, Pat Casey, Frankie Henderson, George Doyle, J. J. Doyle, Lyn Kessie, Bruce Conover, and Art Cohen. Thanks also go to the State of Virginia for the use of the grounds and to the owners and handlers of the dogs for

participating in the trial.

### South Hill, Va., February 27 – One Course

Judges: Larry King and Ashby Morgan

### EASTERN OPEN SHOOTING DOG

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 14 Pointers and 5 Setters

Winner—HARBOR CITY SURE SHOT, 1668549, pointer female, by R J's Long Shot-Harbor City Sugar. Richard Gillis & Karen M. Lordi, owners; Matt Basilone, handler.

Runner-Up—LIMBSMOKE URBAN LULLABY, 1688113, pointer female, by Urban Fantasy-Diane Lane. Lloyd Miller, owner; Matt Basilone, handler.

### OPEN DERBY CLASSIC – 7 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—IRON WILL'S TRUE GRIT, 1697739, pointer male, by Hyhope Chipper-Iron Will Suzie. Robert J. & Lisa Brooks, owners; Matt Basilone, handler.

2d—L F EXPLORER, 1697306, pointer male, by Dunn's Hell'n Highwater-Dialing Kate. Thomas J. Liesfeld, owner; Robert Henry, handler.

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

## ILLINOIS OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

*Topp's First J R Named Champion; Lawless Speck, Runner-Up*

By Jeff Wagoner | Chandlerville, Illinois | February 28, 2023

The National site manager at Jim Edgar Panther Creek did an excellent job mowing and hauling water to the staging area.

For those who have not or ones who did not know, the Field Trial Clubs of Illinois have made these grounds perfect for a field trial. The newer clubhouse has electricity (thanks to the state). Alongside is our barn and also a bird shed.

We ran the Max Eldred Open Derby with eight starters. First went to Mark Johnson with Luke, a pointer male. Luke had a good forward race that must have impressed the judges. Second-place pointer male Mike was handled by Jeff Wagoner, with a handy fancy race with two bird contacts. Third place, also handled by Jeff Wagoner, was Kate, a pointer female of a similar race and one nice find to the front.

The trial could not have happened without the help of many people. Pat Sheehan was a big part of what makes an excellent trial and did a great job making sure it was a fair trial.

Two prominent supporters were Purina and SportDOG. Terry Trzcinski with Purina went far and beyond with lunch prep and volunteered dog wagon. Greg Blair ensured we had dog food for winners and our



Illinois Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front, l-r): Jeff Wagoner, Topp's First J R with Luke Topp, and Lawless Speck with Mark Johnson. (Behind): Harold Gearhart, Nathan Berendzen (judge), Eddie Berendzen (judge), Jim Lawless and Terry Trzcinski.

wonderful Purina dinner Wednesday night. SportDOG donated collars for all placements.

Mark Johnson was asking and doing so much to keep the trial going without hiccups. John Hott volunteered his truck when mine crapped out. Lawless helped and scouted along with Mark Livingston to make it fair for everyone. Gearhart did his part by being ready to turn his next dog loose for every brace. Thank you to everyone who helped clean up and lock up after the trial.

This year's Championship had two well-thought-of judges. They also handle their dogs and know a good dog when they see one. We started with 17 dogs this year. There were plenty of bird-pointing opportunities for every brace.

Harold Gearhart handled this year's champion. Owner Luke Topp was here to scout and admire his pointer male, Topp's

First J R. J R had a forward race the whole hour, nice looking on the ground running and high and tight on point. Harold fired his gun five times during the brace. Two of his finds were in front after a big weeping move that amazed us how he got there so beautifully.

The runner-up was a dog that has been posed up a lot. Jim Lawless owns and handles Lawless Speck. Speck also was forward the whole hour. Speck has a hard-charging but never letdown style. Jim was also off his horse five times; four finds and one stop to flush. At the stop to flush, the judges said they did not see a bird go.

The marshal did see a bird and shared it with the judges. Speck also had two of his finds just how you want to find them (dead to the front). His style was high and tight. Jim handled it a bit more cautiously. Speck has been placed in all-age and shooting dog

stakes.

Excellent job, everyone. We will see you next year.

Chandlerville, Ill., February 28

**Judges: Eddy Berendzen and Nathan Berendzen**  
**ILLINOIS OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**[One-Hour Heats] – 17 Pointers**

Winner—*TOPP'S FIRST J R, 1672426, male, by Merrihill's Bravo-Aaron's Mae Be Good. Luke & Ria Topp, owners; Harold Gearhart, handler.*

Runner-Up—*LAWLESS SPECK, 1681205, male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Three Stripe's Fireball. Jim Lawless, owner and handler.*

**MAX ELDRED MEMORIAL OPEN DERBY**

**– 8 Pointers**

1st—*SAGINAW LUKE SKYWALKER, 1697210, male, by Erin's Redrum-Erin's Bella Braveheart. Mark Johnson, owner and handler.*

2d—*ROLLING HILLS MIKE, 1700890, male, by Redhawk's Clyde-Rolling Hill's Alice. Jeff Wagoner, owner and handler.*

3d—*ROLLING HILLS KATE, 1700891, female, by Touch's Grey Street-Touch's Wimbledon. Jeff Wagoner, owner and handler.*



Max Eldred Open Derby Winners (front, l-r): Saginaw Luke Skywalker with Mark Johnson, Rolling Hills Mike with Jeff Wagoner, and Rolling Hills Kate with Mark Livingston. (Behind): Nathan Berendzen (judge), Eddie Berendzen (judge), and Purina rep Terry Trzcinski.

## MASTERS OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

*Nonami's Johnny Come Lately Named Champion; Erin's Three Leaf Shamrock, Runner-Up*

By Steve Standley | Albany, Georgia | March 1, 2023

Each year March 1 is a very special time for like-minded parties to meet at the Potter Center in Albany, Ga. This date marks the beginning of the Masters Open Shooting Dog Championship. This year the event was held over two of the most magnificent private plantations in the country. Wild quail are prevalent on Wildfair Plantation and Nonami Plantation. Wildfair owner Joe Davenport, and Nonami owner Ted Turner, graciously allow the Southern Field Trial Club to host this major Championship over these historic grounds. This venue and this trial should be on every bird dog enthusiast's bucket list.

Club President Shon Powell and Southern Field Trial Club members are committed to this quality Championship's historical integrity and high standards. Club members Kevin Beane, Wildfair manager, and Nonami manager Ray Pearce are to be commended for their efforts in this great Championship. Both men and their staffs concluded their very busy

hunting schedule on February 28, and they willingly ride and marshal every brace of this trial over their plantations. Club Secretary/Treasurer Tim Moore and Vice President Steve Wiley ride the entire trial and are helpful to everyone. Retired Wildfair manager Ronnie Beane rode with us often, and his calm, warm presence added to the mix. Robbie McCue of Wildfair served as back marshal and assisted in numerous ways. It was good to see Cody McLean of Nonami in the field with us.

Judges for this stake were Derek Bonner of Forest City, N. C., and Chris Peek of Albany, Ga. Derek is a full-time Tennessee walking horse trainer who works out of the show barn where he began work as a teenager. He and his wife Deb bought the barn and established themselves in the walking horse business. Derek has also judged the Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration three times. He began as a bird hunter and was later mentored by Ferrell Miller to learn the fine art of field trialing.

Derek and his wife, Deb, whelp and raise dogs for the "White Dog Company." He is very studious in his passion for bird dogs and is an asset to the sport. Runner-up Champion Miller's Martha White and Miller's Hot Rize are among his brag dogs.

Chris Peek grew up in the Albany, Ga., area. He spent vast amounts of time in his youth at Southern Heritage Plantation, where his grandfather was the assistant manager. He learned about horses and dogs in that setting. Also, it was here that he met Ferrell Miller when Mr. Miller came down to work dogs on the plantation. Chris was still a kid when Mr. Miller would take him out to work dogs, and from this start, Chris learned his craft. Chris currently works out of nearby Gillionville Plantation, and he specializes in taking young dogs to the Dakotas for summer training.

Both men were focused on the dogs' performances and were fair to all. We thank

them for their time and commitment to the sport and this Club.

Sponsors included Flint Ag and Turf, Albany's premier John Deere dealer, and Nestlé Purina. Our sport would suffer greatly without the assistance of Purina, whose support of many championships and clubs throughout the nation is vital to the continuation of our beloved game. Greg Blair, senior representative of Purina's sporting dog group, is a true bird dog man. His love and commitment to the sport are both personal and professional. A hearty thanks are due to Greg for his efforts.

Excellent home-cooked meals were prepared by Hannah Sholar Marchbanks and served daily in the dining area. Hannah operates Hannah Jeans Restaurant in nearby Smithville, Ga. She was assisted by her mother, Carol Sholar.

Sixty-nine dogs (63 pointers and six setters) were drawn to run in the 30-minute qualifying series, and ten dogs were called back for the one-hour finals. This was a new format for this Championship, and it proved to be a successful one.

### The Running

It was 67 degrees and clear as Trumped (Swearingen) and Walden's Ridge Slap Shot (Ray) were released onto Wildfair at 8 a.m. Trumped drew the first blood with a find at 5 on a single bird. Slap Shot had an unproductive during the first quarter hour. At 20, both handlers had to go deep to the right to gather their dogs. Tracy returned with his, and Ray did not. No further game contact was witnessed.

Brace No. 2 featured Hatteras Rip Tide (Ray) and Upfront's McQuade (Kinkelaar). The female setter Hatteras had a forward find at 3, all in order. A single bird lifted at our approach, and several flushed nearby when Ray moved in. After this, Ray's entry bore off to the right and was not returned to judgment.

McQuade looked good at 12 as he stood in a mature pine line, but Kinkelaar could not raise any game. The pointer shortened in the middle but ran deeper as the brace continued. His cast along the Colquitt Ford line was strong and eye-catching. He hunted ahead and out of sight, and if he could have been found pointed at the end could have been considered for the callbacks, but this was not the case.

Sioux Bull Run (Lundstrom) and Erin's Three Leaf Shamrock (Swearingen) were poised to continue the westward line along Colquitt Ford Road in the direction of Gator Pond. Scout Mike Tracy found Shamrock to the fore. This was an excellent limb find, and Shamrock connected again at 9. The setting was near a lone oak with nearby scattered pines among gridded-out cover. As soon as Swearingen was on the ground, the spread-out covey took to the air. The setter maintained perfect high and tight composure during the formalities.

Lundstrom came in for his retrieval device



Masters Open Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front, l-r): Nonami's Johnny Come Lately with Shon Powell and Ray Pearce, and Erin's Three Leaf Shamrock with Tracy Swearingen, joined by Derek Bonner (judge), Chris Peek (judge), club officials, and friends.

at 15 for Sioux Bull Run. The white and black setter set a benchmark during his brace as Swearingen rode at a flat walk and allowed his dog to hunt ahead. He displayed numerous driving, high-tailed casts and appeared when it was appropriate. He earned his spot in the finals with this effort. This performance set a standard early in the stake.

Waybetter Rocky (Tracy) and Chelsea's Mae West (Kinkelaar) were released in brace No. 4 just before Gator Pond. It was still overcast, hot, and humid. Mae West pointed right after the breakaway, high-tailed and attractive with all in order after a relocation. Rocky suffered a barren stand at 10, albeit with high style. A second unproductive was gained at the quarter hour, and Tracy had the rope.

We regained the front at 18, and Kinkelaar was on the ground flushing for Mae. He had to work for it, but the birds were put to wing just before the pigeon house. Once released from this find, Mae West offered another stand up the hill as another Wildfair covey flew before the motionless pointer. She finished on an excellent "going away" cast.

It was 11 a.m. as Big Man On Campus (Kinkelaar) and Bully Rock (Tracy) were released. Bully Rock's owners, Ernie and Karen Saniga, were in the field for their beloved pointer. Big Man On Campus had a good find at 6 among the remains of an old burn pile. The liver-headed Big Man scored again at 13 to keep everyone's attention.

At 17, Tracy had an unproductive with Bully Rock. Both handlers remained in their flat walk as we continued. At 21, Kinkelaar called flight of birds which was unseen officially. The dog was carried on.

By 26, Kinkelaar was again on the ground; the pointer was posed on the outer circumference of the spreading oak limbs. Shawn flushed and was advised that a rabbit had exited the area. Kinkelaar acted as though he did not hear the comment. He continued to flush and produced a medium-sized bevy for his composed dog at 28. This was three finds for Big Man in his 30-minute brace.

On Nonami, we had Frontline Nation (Tande) and Miller's Extreme Heat (Tracy) hunting ahead after lunch. At 4, Extreme Heat

pointed, and during Tracy's relocation effort, this writer went on to see Frontline Nation, which was pointed separately. As Jim flushed, Tracy's dog entered the area, stopped, and backed on his own. Tande flushed his birds and shot to good manners.

At 19, Heat pointed ahead, and Mike flushed and shot for his composed dog. At 24, Tracy had a good forward find with Extreme Heat as owner Joe McHugh watched. Nation came into the area, and both dogs were released at 25 in sight of the Blue Springs headquarters. Extreme Heat pointed at time near the equipment shed, and Tracy called flight of birds. This was not seen officially, but Mike shot to end the hour.

It was 2 p.m. as Smooth Talkin (Ray) and Lewis Bluegrass Punchline (Rice) were cast away. At 7, Ray had a good find ahead; the pointer stood high as the birds were flushed and the gun was fired. Right after this, Tommy Rice raised his hat. Smooth Talkin stood some 125 yards ahead, and Ray lifted his hat. Neither of these stands was productive. When released, Ray Pearce called point for Punchline as he stood under the sweeping limbs of a live oak. The writer believes a find ensued, but the action was jumbled and spread out. Rice did have an unproductive near the dirt road, and Tommy withdrew his entry. Doug pulled the plug on his effort as well.

CS Four Seasons (Ray) and Hauser's Hard Line (Tracy) made up brace No. 8. Hard Line produced game at 10, but Tracy reached for the harness at 13. Four Seasons traveled with a cracking tail, but his performance suffered in the afternoon heat, and he was on the rope in the closing minutes of the brace.

Proof Nation (Rice) and Absolute Tornado (Ray) were off in brace No. 9. Joyce and Johnny Taylor were in their saddles for Tornado. Joining Joyce in the field was her sister Carol Stephens of Blue Springs Plantation. Blue Springs manager Marty Adams also joined us in the field.

Both dogs stood at 8, and a divided find was credited to the pair of pointers. Just past the quarter hour, both dogs crossed the main entrance road. The pair stiled up near each other, Rice came and picked his dog up, and Ray shot for Tornado, who had birds ahead.

At 27, Doug pointed out Tornado on a strong, attractive cast near the breeding ground. The pointer scored a good find at 29 giving Doug a chance to show the Taylor entry on a good closing finish.

Melrose Rebel Heart (Chastain) and Faithful (Tracy) made up the last brace on Wednesday. Rebel Heart suffered an unproductive in the early minutes, but she looked good doing it. Faithful pointed with style at 11, but this, too, was unsuccessful. Faithful had a clean find ahead at 13.

At 18, Faithful had another tentative contact, and Tracy lifted the female pointer. Rebel Heart pointed, and at least two, if not three, coveys lifted as Terry James fired for his Melrose entry. Chastain had another clean find at 26 with a single bird. We ended near the north end of Nonami with the irrigation fields in sight.

Thursday morning started with brace No. 11 with Hauser's Rollin' Thunder (Tracy) and S B Always Dreamin (Owen.) The action began at 8 when Thunder pointed ahead in gridded cover. As we approached, birds lifted some 80 yards ahead. Meanwhile, the Owen entry pointed over to the side some 100 yards. Tracy dismounted, walked in front of his dog, shot, and Owen flushed birds for Dreamin and fired his gun.

At 21, Mike Tracy had a clean find on a single with the Hauser entry. A few minutes later, we climbed a slight grade. As we reached the high point, birds flushed ahead. When we could see the area, Thunder was standing, and Tracy walked in front of his dog and shot. Pickup was called with both dogs on forward casts.

At 8:45, Reedy Creek Dial Tone (Tracy), with owner Joe McHugh mounted, was paired with Tallokas New Business (Loper.) As we climbed a hill, Loper called point to the front. He relocated his dog and did raise birds for his attractive pointer. All was good at the shot. We were running through the series of small fields that parallel Colquitt Ford Road when Business pointed, scout Tommy Rice pointed out a rabbit leaving the scene, and Jason took his dog on at 16. Dial Tone had his running shoes on today, and Tracy asked for his tracker at 23. At 28, Loper had a strong independent find to the fore on a falling grade. Jason flushed to impeccable manners, fired his gun, and quickly mounted to show his dog with a strong finish. Tallokas New Business earned his spot in the callbacks. He is a derby at this point, and this writer feels sure we will see him again in the future.

Brace No. 13 comprised A Buccaneer (Ray) and Miller Unfinished Business (Ferguson.) Miller Unfinished Business has won this Championship three times, once with Fran Miller as a derby, then two more times handled by Joel Norman. Now under the whistle of Clay Ferguson, he had our attention.

Business worked the front deeply and not always in sight. At 7, Mike Tracy called out, "There's a dog standing on that hill up there." When he came into our line of sight, Business,

or "Dan," was posed in a most attractive stance on a distant hill. Dan stayed for the action in good form.

Dan again produced a scenic stand at 13, ahead in a dry pond. This was called out by his scout, and Clay performed the ritual with all in order. His next find was in heavy cover, which we had ridden past, but once spotted, all was good.

Business did suffer an unproductive at 27 near Gator Pond, and he went on to finish. A Buccaneer was strong in his effort and stayed to the front throughout his brace.

Lone Tree Splish Splash (Owen) and Pavo Thrill (Rice) made up brace No. 14. The pair of dogs held the front, and at 8, Splash pointed. Bill Owen stepped off his horse, the scattered covey took flight, and Bill fired his gun for his staunch pointer. Later Splash pointed again, and the pointer marked flight and was out of consideration. Pavo Thrill stayed to the front and offered several excellent forward casts punctuated by a find at time.

Erin's Tough Grit (Rice) and Bittersweet War Cry (Tracy) were released at 11 a.m. War Cry did have a bird contact, but the heat appeared to take its toll. The Tracy entry gave it all he had in this last brace of the morning, but Mike called it at 25.

Thursday afternoon, the highly successful veteran Charitable Deed (Rice) and Absolute Dominator (Doug Ray) were released onto Nonami Plantation. Johnny and Joyce Taylor were in the field for their Absolute entry. They were again joined by Joyce's sister, Carol Stephens, and Blue Springs manager Marty Adams. The temperature remained high, but this was a very good brace, with both dogs earning their spot in the finals. Charitable Deed, or "Rachel," struck the first blood at 45 seconds with a clean find off the breakaway. Soon both dogs stood on the edge of a forward green fallow field. Tommy took the back as Ray flushed for Dominator to no avail. The following relocation resulted in an unproductive.

Rachel stood at 16 near Blue Springs Road, appeared uncertain, and carded her own empty stand. As we caught the front, Dominator had an excellent find ahead on the right.

We continued northward on Nonami, and Rachel showed well in a weedy strip and produced another clean piece of bird work. The course bends right, but Rice cast Rachael straight ahead for the closing minutes. As she dug in, she yielded to the right to parallel the course and showed well on the pay line for a good finish. Judge Peek saw her disappear into the cover on the Blue Springs line. He stated that it was not necessary for him to see the dog after time, but he wanted to see her gathered up.

At 29, Ray called point near the Blue Springs headquarters. He quickly called flight, but birds were not officially seen. A bevy flew as the gallery rode near, and Doug went up to collar his dog away. A forward finish ensued.

Judge Bonner described this brace as

exciting, noting that it was probably the best performance by a pair of dogs so far.

Miller's High Heat Index (Tracy) and J N Bolt Action (Kinkelaar) were released just past the equipment shed. Index was scouted by his owner Casey Hollander. Bolt Action pointed quickly, but Shawn didn't like what he saw, and the pointer was taken on.

Action went on to some other connection with birds; the writer is unsure what transpired. Kinkelaar had him on the rope shortly thereafter. Meanwhile, Tracy called point ahead, and we were off to witness the successful standby Index.

By 25, Mike Tracy came in for his retrieval device to end No. 17.

After lunch, we had Walden's Rainstorm (Ray) and Cold Creek Thrill (Rice.) The latter suffered an empty stand at 6 in some rough hardwood scrabble. As we went to Thrill, Doug Ray called point for Rainstorm some 150 yards ahead in an independent action. This, too, was empty.

Rice was not seeing what he wanted and withdrew Cold Creek Thrill at 22.

Rainstorm worked ahead in the gridded cover just before the northern ag fields. He finished his time in that endeavor.

It was 3:30 as Waybetter Rebel (Tracy) and Earl's 38 Special (Ferguson) began No. 19. Tracy had a good find ahead at 4. By 10, we had swung around the golf course and were in sight of the horse barn as Rebel pointed ahead. 38 Special came in and backed with little enthusiasm. Judge Peek gave the tracker to Ferguson at this time. Mike went on to complete the action for a good find.

We crossed the main entrance and the service road by 17. Rebel went on for his best stand at 20, the black pointer showing great style. A few minutes later, Tracy called point, then called flight of birds. After a short discussion with the judge, Mike shot his gun and carried his dog on. Waybetter Rebel earned his spot in the finals.

The last brace of the day on Nonami began at 4:05 with a soft, light, misting rain and an ever so slightly cooler temperature. Neither Great River Stallion (Ray) nor Tug O'War (Kinkelaar) rose to the occasion offered by the improved climatic conditions or the potential offered by this course. Quail flushed everywhere, both dogs seemed unsure of themselves, and little was accomplished during this brace.

Friday morning was 68 degrees and clear as Oahe Buck (Rice) and Miller's Stray Bullet (Ferguson) broke away onto Wildfair. Bullet stood staunchly and in high form at 4 for a good find. There was a slight cool breeze which was most welcomed. Ferguson called point at 11, and a find was recorded.

Buck pointed at moderate range at 4, but Tommy took him on when he did not tighten up. It was 18 when Ferguson returned to the front with Bullet as Buck pointed ahead. The find was good, and we continued.

Bullet finished his time running in the 9 o'clock position. Buck had a find at time, but he had lost his pizzazz at that point.

Cheyenne Jack (Tracy) and Due Respect (Tande) made up brace No. 22. Willis Wright scouted Tande's setter and called point at 8. Jim waved it off as we headed that way. During this time, Tracy had a successful contact. Just past the quarter hour, we turned right at Colquitt Ford Road and had a find with the setter at medium range.

Meanwhile, Jack offered an eye-catching ground effort through the series of small fields, and Judge Peek rode to gather a better view. Tracy took his dog to a nearby water tank to cool off. The pair of dogs finished in their westward effort.

Neely's Standing Ovation (Wall) and Hard Truth (Ray) made up No. 23. Ovation had an empty stand at 3 in a birdy spot. By 11, he repeated this action and was on the rope.

We crested the hill at Hawkon's Pond with Hard Truth on his own. The Ray pointer couldn't take advantage of the situation and was harnessed at 28 after an unproductive.

It was 10 a.m., and we were on the west side of Wildfair for brace No. 24, which featured Thunder Bolt's Storm (Kinkelaar) and Miller's War Bonnet (Tracy.) Joe McHugh was in the saddle for his War Bonnet. The course goes westward and then bends to the right parallel to Gator Pond. War Bonnet dug in toward the south end of this mostly dry large wet, weather pond. The pond is probably a half mile wide at this point as War Bonnet bent to show out in the low prairie grass about 100 yards off of what would be described as the bank. The pointer styled up in this area for a most scenic find, all high and tight, as the birds took flight and the gun was fired.

At 25, we were heading toward the pigeon house, and Kinkelaar called out his dog, and quickly both handlers called point. Both handlers shot, and it appeared that both dogs had separate bevies. The pair of dogs went on to finish in good order.

Rester's Cowboy Bill (Kinkelaar) and Erin's Big Casino (Tracy) were off for No. 25. Soon, we could see Cowboy Bill as he stood on a rising grade just past the young longleaf pines. The long-legged Big Casino was visible about 20 yards away when we arrived. Both handlers shot to good manners. By 20, both dogs were out front and showing well. They continued on this course as we passed the Big Jolly Pond on our left.

At 29, Cowboy Bill stood under the broad sweeping limbs of a heritage-class live oak for an excellent piece of bird work. Both dogs finished this brace.

It was Friday after lunch on Nonami. It was windy and felt like it could rain as Two Spot Tommy (Ray) and Erin's Thunder Backus (Kinkelaar) were released. Tommy pointed right off but decided to move on.

Backus had a beautiful find at 13, the black male pointer high on both ends and offering

perfect manners for the wing and the shot. Backus repeated this performance at 17 with all good. Meanwhile, we moved on up a rise, and we could see Tommy Two Spot, also an attractive black male pointer, on a distant cast some 300-400 yards ahead.

Backus went on to point and came up empty. At this time, Doug Ray was on the ground near Blue Springs Road, flushing for Tommy. This writer was distant from this action but was advised by Judge Bonner that Doug did shoot for his dog. Shawn suffered a barren stand at 26 with Backus. Next, Ray called point over near Blue Springs headquarters, followed by calling out flight of birds. This was not officially acknowledged, but Doug dismounted and fired his gun. No further action was recorded.

Mike Tracy had the tracker early for Miller's Record Heat in No. 27. Doug Ray had some game contact with I'm Spartacus, and Judge Bonner gave the go-ahead to keep him on the ground. Spartacus was finished without further bird work.

It was 2:50 as Lester's Another Shockwave (Kinkelaar) and Senah's Back in Business (Ferguson) were released. At 6, scout Tommy Rice called point deep to the left fore for Shockwave. This resulted was an empty stand.

We continued past Cody McLean's house on our way to the north end of Nonami, and at 19, Ferguson came in for his retrieval device. The wind was blowing strongly at 24 when Kinkelaar called point ahead. We rode to the stylish pointer as he stood in brushy cover. Shawn dismounted, walked in, and a strong covey lifted just where the dog indicated. All was good. With one minute left, Shawn again called point ahead, and another find was in the books. Another Shockwave finished ahead as co-owner Lance Schulz rode in support.

Hatteras Sand Storm (Ray) and Miller's Lock And Loaded (Tracy) crossed the main entrance road as we hunted ahead into the sweet spot of Nonami. Soon the Ray setter and the Tracy pointer were posed at off angles to each other. Both were motionless and statuesque, looking like a Sports Afield cover from when this writer was a boy. Both handlers flushed, and both handlers shot to complete this classic scenario.

This situation was later repeated, and Tracy took the back as Doug flushed. By 23, Ray took his dog on, and Mike put his on the rope. Hatteras Sand Storm finished ahead.

The last brace on Friday contained the pointer female, Cheap Thrill (Rice), and the setter male Charlie's Zip Tie (Owen), as the pair hunted ahead toward the breeding ground area. Zip Tie pointed at 4, but this resulted in an unproductive.

Cheap Thrill had her running shoes on, and after offering some deep casts, she left the contest, and Rice had to ask for his tracker. The setter also decided to leave our presence, and the day ended.

Frank and Colleen Rutland rode to see their Panther Creek Rosie (Rice) run with Scott

Jordan's Nine To Five Nation on Saturday morning. Both dogs stood beautifully amidst a long grid at 2, but their handlers took them on.

Rosie is a stylish-looking pointer but did not thrive on the 70-degree sunny day. Rice came in for his retrieval device at 20. Scott Jordan's Nine To Five Nation was all style and run as she pointed with a high head and tail at 29. This scribe was not at the scene as Scott flushed, but he did fire his gun to conclude the brace.

It was 8:45 as Nonami's Johnny Come Lately (Ray Pearce) and Upfront's Southern Star (Kinkelaar) were released onto Wildfair. Lance Schulz, one of Star's owners, was in the saddle. Johnny, or "John," was found pointed off the edge of a green strip at 2. The Nonami pointer was composed as Ray quietly walked in to complete the formalities.

The action continued back-to-back. When we returned to the front, Southern Star had a clean find at 5. Next, Pearce was on the ground, ahead some 25 yards with John's next bevy. A series of long narrow fields run westward and parallel to Colquitt Ford Road. These are classic bird locations, plowed fields amid brushy, gridded cover with the occasional small plum thicket. This is a bird hunter's paradise!

Ray had an excellent forward find in a similar setting at the quarter hour. John stood about 20 yards off the field edge in hardwood sapling scrabble. Then, a point was called for Star on the right as Judge Bonner rode to observe. My assistant reporter came in to describe the scene, "Star stood among the yellow grass under a live oak with two squirrel nests where Kinkelaar had a good find."

Ray had an excellent forward find next at 17 with all attractive, unhurried, and in order.

We went on to top the next rise, and Kevin Beane called out from his marshal position that Star was pointed ahead. We rode to the stylish pointer female, and a covey of birds took wing some 30 yards before we got to her. Shawn asked Judge Chris Peek if that was "good enough." Chris responded, "Probably so, but I would still like to see you flush in front of your dog." Shawn dismounted and walked in front of Star, and a larger covey flushed right where Star indicated they were. One could have made a great short movie of this action-packed brace!

We continued west, and Kinkelaar had yet another find ahead near some young longleaf pines. Meanwhile, John had not been seen for several minutes and probably did not have to be. Time was called with Star to the front as Ray went to collect John. As stated earlier, the dog did not have to be seen at time. Nonetheless, we heard a shot at 36, and Ray came in to report that we had ridden past John by some 30 yards off the path.

Judge Bonner later commented that the dogs set out on a mission when Nonami's Johnny Come Lately and Upfront's Southern Star were loosed onto Wildfair. It was delightful to witness. Both dogs were invited

back for the callbacks.

Thunderbolt Wild Again (Kinkelaar) and Miller's Newest Version (Owen) began No. 33 toward Gator Pond. We topped the hill at 7 with both dogs to the fore. Scout Payton Gunby found Bill Owen's dog ahead deep in the corner before we turn right near Highway 91. This was a good scouting job.

Upon returning to the front, Shawn was on the ground for Wild Again. No birds were observed. Next, Wild Again redeemed himself at 29 with all good.

Neely's Business Man (Neely) and Nella Belgian Brew (Rice) were cast off from Gator Pond in a northward direction. Belgian Brew had a good forward connection after being found to the front at 12. It was a nice, shaded spot for them to sit.

Business Man bore off to the left, with Neely following to reconnect.

By 20, Rice's pointer had made several excellent casts as she was shown to the front at good range. No further action was recorded for Brew as Rice finished her ahead. Neely returned to the front in the closing minutes with Business Man but to no avail.

The last qualifying brace contained by dog Hale's Smooth Touch (Kinkelaar.) Touch was out early after an unproductive and breach of manners on a relocation.

### **The Callbacks**

From this field of 69 dogs, the judges asked ten dogs to return for the one-hour callback braces. This began Sunday morning, March 5, and it was a most exciting and enjoyable day afield. An editorial note from this scribe refers to the fact that this event is a true Championship. The men that officiated this event knew the significance of this stake and were committed to upholding the integrity of the sport and what a championship means. The quality of these grounds and the Southern Field Trial Club standards are very high. The standards of the dogs who win this stake are to be honored and respected.

### **The Winners**

The 2023 Masters Open Shooting Dog Champion, Nonami's Johnny Come Lately, was found in brace No. 4 of the callback series. It proved to be a most exciting pairing of successful field trial pointers. Nonami's Johnny Come Lately, a pointer male owned by Ted Turner and handled by Ray Pearce, was runner-up here last year and just recently won the Southeastern Open Shooting Dog Championship in February at Lake City, Fla.

Joining John was Miller's Unfinished Business, owned by Benjy Griffith and handled by Clay Ferguson of Senah Plantation in Leesburg, Ga. Unfinished Business, or "Dan," was bred and started by Jack and Fran Miller. He is nine years old and has won the Championship three times.

The brace began at 1:30 p.m. on Nonami. Temperatures were in the 80s with a bright

shining sun. In the opening minutes, John was seen sweeping the fore from 11 to 2 at extreme range. At this time, Dan was strong but a bit more moderate. At times the pair almost looked identical. Both white and orange pointers were difficult to identify in the beginning minutes. It was a rocky beginning in that both handlers called point and waved it off. Point was called on the left at 16. As we arrived, the scout stated that the birds had left, so the dogs were carried on.

At the half, Ferguson called point on the left, and as we arrived, Clay dismounted to attend to his dog. At this time, some 125 yards further down course, Pearce was on the ground for John. The results were separate clean finds by both dogs toward the Blue Springs line.

Scout called point at 39, and we cantered some 250 yards near Blue Springs Road to the last pine line on the edge of a fallow field. It was here that John stood on point. He was stacked up like a million bucks as Ray quietly walked in and flushed his birds. Impeccable manners were on display, and it was all scenic.

We regained the front, and John moved ahead and offered a beautiful standover near the road on the right. This was a field trial find as Ray and the judges ran their horses to the distant location.

The dogs were released and went out the front, then crossed and went into cover. Point was called, and Judge Peek described the scene with one dog on the near side of the cover with the other dog on the distant side. This was a truly divided find.

Dan suffered an unproductive next on the left. Right after this, Pearce was on the ground at 53, proving to be a strong find for John. He stood perfectly for the gun six times during this hour and maintained his composure amid confusing conditions. None of his finds were close or near the horse. John ran the entire hour strongly under hot conditions and never showed any stress or letdown. All in all, a true championship performance.

Judge Bonner said that all six of Ray's finds were field trial finds, all to the fore and none on the path. Impeccable manners were displayed.

Runner-up Champion Erin's Three Leaf Shamrock, owned by Tucker Johnson and handled by Tracy Swearingen, was found in the first brace of the callback series. Waybetter Rocky (Tracy) and Erin's Three Leaf Shamrock began at 8 a.m. Sunday, the coolest morning, 51 degrees, that we had experienced in this stake. Shamrock, call name "Jake," struck the first blood at 4 when he was found pointed out front on his own. It was clean, high-tailed, and striking as Tracy pushed the birds up and fired.

Point was called for Waybetter Rebel to the right fore at 9. Rebel was backing the setter when we arrived, who was posed forward in a classic, proud stand among the gridded cover. The birds were put to wing as impeccable manners were displayed.

At the quarter hour, Mike Tracy withdrew

his entry.

Moments later, Tracy Swearingen had his hat in the air up the course. Jake was posed calmly and staunchly. Tracy flushed ahead, turned back, and birds lifted closer to the dog. Another step by Tracy and a different covey burst forth. Tracy commented, "Why didn't you do that the first time I walked by? That's bad on my heart."

Jake was absent for almost ten minutes; Tracy rode the front, and scout Luke Eisenhart rode the left wing. The setter checked in, and he hunted ahead in strong form. As we turned west, Tracy rode the front as we ran from field to field. Tracy eased off to the left and discovered Jake pointed at 39 for his next excellent find.

At 46, Marshal Kevin Beane called out flight of birds to the left fore and advised Tracy to get his dog and carry him on. Tracy did so, and this non-event did not color the performance.

At 50, as we entered the "1000-yard field," Tracy called birds, but they were not seen officially. As the setter moved through the brushy thicket, a couple of birds hopped up as Tracy rode through. This was unrelated to the setter, and Jake was carried on to have an unproductive at 56.

Jake was out of sight for the last few minutes, and Tracy gathered him up at time to complete an exciting performance. The black and white setter carded five finds in his one-hour performance.

### **Callback Running**

Lester's Another Shockwave (Kinkelaar) and Absolute Dominator (Ray) were released at 9:20. Dominator's owners, Joyce and Johnny Taylor, were riding for their pointer. Another Shockwave co-owner Lance Schulz was also mounted.

Gary Lester was also in the field to see the offspring of his National Champion Shockwave as Lester's Another Shockwave scored a good find at 7. The birds were well-located.

At 19, we bent to the right toward Gator Pond; the Absolute dog kept digging in toward Highway 91 to our west instead of making the bend with us. This behavior often produces a limb find in that area. We continued to ride as we expected the call of point by Doug Ray. This never came, and after an absence, the Ray entry was out of contention.

Another Shockwave did run strongly, but Kinkelaar picked him up at 52.

In the third callback brace, Charitable Deed, known as "Rachel," pinned a breakaway covey at 2, with all in order. Rachel scored again at 11 in a plum thicket.

Miller's Extreme Heat (Mike Tracy) had owner Joe McHugh in the field. Extreme Heat was covering the country, keeping scout Casey Hollander busy.

By the half, it was in the 80-degree range as both handlers stopped on the big hill past

Gator Pond for an extended water break for their charges. Next, at 41, scout Jason Loper called point for Rachel. After some work, Rice had to accept the empty stand.

At this time, Mike Tracy called point on the far right. This writer believes that resulted in a good find.

Rachel suffered a second unproductive and was up.

Extreme Heat had a good find at time past the turn for the normal finish. Extreme Heat performed in extreme heat and scored two finds under challenging conditions.

Brace No. 4 of the callbacks contained the Championship performance.

The last brace was Upfront's Southern Star (Kinkelaar) with co-owner Lance Schulz in the saddle and Tallokas New Business (Jason Loper). The Tallokas entry is a son of Miller Unfinished Business. New Business had a good find at 8, and Star followed immediately with his clean connection.

Jason's dog had a barren stand at 15, and we left to rejoin the front. He redeemed himself at 17 on the way to the fore. We continued in a leftward swinging arc toward the road crossing. Loper called point to the front. Jason called flight and shot his gun.

With this brace, the Championship ended without further action.

Albany, Ga., March 1

Judges: Derek Bonner and Chris Peek

MASTERS OPEN SHOOTING DOG

CHAMPIONSHIP [Thirty-Minute Qualifying Heats;

One-Hour Finals] – 63 Pointers and 6 Setters

Winner—NONAMI'S JOHNNY COME LATELY, 1694190, pointer male, by Ransom-Pinewood's Jenny Bell. R. E. Turner, owner; Ray Pearce, handler.

Runner-Up—ERIN'S THREE LEAF SHAMROCK, 1669152, setter male, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-Northwoods Chardonnay. S. Tucker Johnson, owner; Tracy Swearingen, handler.

## Sidelights

Greatly missed was long-time Southern Field Trial Club member Paul DeLoach. Through his relationship with the Miller Brewing Co., Paul arranged a long-time sponsorship of this Championship. A true gentleman, Paul rode every brace of this trial for years.

Johnny and Joyce Taylor of Little Rock, Ark., attended to see their Absolute dogs compete under the whistle of Doug Ray. Joyce was joined in the field by her sister Carol Stephens, who, along with her husband Witt Stephens, own neighboring Blue Springs Plantation. Joyce and Johnny host the U. S. Shooting Dog Invitational Championship each year in Conway, Ark.

Blue Springs manager Marty Adams enjoyed the trial and the company of his daughter Madison. Speaking from experience, every man loves to have his daughter ride with him. Marty's wife, Lisa, rode the dog wagon on the morning of the finals and brought some tasty baked goods.

Ray Pearce's wife Kim, their two daughters, and a large entourage were in the field to support Nonami's Johnny Come Lately's championship performance during the finals.

Ernie and Karen Saniga rode every day to enjoy the Southwest Georgia plantation country as well as to support their dogs with Mike Tracy. Missed were their dear friends Bill and Muriel Primm, who were in south Florida dealing with storm damage repairs on their home.

Owner Lance Schulz of Bismarck, N. D., flew in to see his dogs with Shawn Kinkelaar and to help drive Shawn to the Missouri Championship following this event.

Three of Joe McHugh's dogs, Miller's War Bonnet, Reedy Creek Dial Tone, and Miller's

Extreme Heat, were in this stake with Mike Tracy, and Joe rode to see them all perform.

Cold Creek Thrill owner Terry Reinke drove her rig down from Monument, Colo., to see Tommy Rice run her dog. Terry has been involved in field trials since 2010. This was her second trip to the Masters Open Shooting Dog Championship.

Frank and Colleen Rutland drove over from Pike Road, Ala., to see their Panther Creek Rosie run under the whistle of Tommy Rice.

Tammie Crouch and Melissa Green were down with their father, Ferrell Miller, and rode with us in the field. Both are accomplished horsewomen who grew up in the sport and spent many hours in the saddle accompanying their father. Also, Mr. Miller turned 90 years old during this trip down south. He still rides and is devoted to his dogs and his mentees.

Pinebloom Plantation manager Wendell Hines and dog trainer Jeff Ivey came and rode a day with us. Tommy Bridges from Nilo Plantation and his wife Lorine also rode with us.

We were pleased to see Marcus Cornwell of Pineland Plantation in the field with us.

Also missed were George Hickox and Debbie Ozner, who had to remain at their home in Ochlocknee to manage the upcoming delivery of an important litter.

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Field Trial Checklist

## NBHA NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

*Indian Creek Bocephus Named Champion; Georgia Born Windstorm, Runner-Up*

By Greg Blair | Dancyville, Tennessee | March 1, 2023

The NBHA "Dance in Dancyville" returned to the beautiful grounds of West Tennessee for the 2022-23 renewal of our National Open Championship. The West Tennessee Field Trial Club has existed since the early 1900s, and some of the largest and most storied field trials in history have been run over these grounds. Not to mention a who's who of field trial royalty that graces the clubhouse walls and often are part of the crowd at happy hour. It is an honor to host our National Championship here. We hope this relationship adds to the history that is already present there.

There aren't enough words to express our gratitude to Bill Currie, Dr. Gene Spiotta, Gene Spiotta, Chris Mullen, Ross Callaway,

Ike Todd, and the West Tennessee Field Trial Club for their generosity and help in providing such a quality venue. They went above and beyond every day and in every way to make it a great event. These extraordinary people go out of their way to provide everything we need. This year the West Tennessee Field Trial Club handled all the meals. The lunches were prepared on time daily, and the handlers' steak dinner and the Saturday night fish fry were perfectly prepared! Every participant raves about this Championship, the grounds, the people, and how it continues to be THE NBHA National Open Championship venue.

Special thanks also to our judges, Chad Chadwell and Zach Parsons. Chad and his lovely wife Nancy stopped on their way home

from their winter camp in Georgia. Zach is from close by and judged this Championship in the past. Both men know a championship performance, were helpful to all participants, and rendered a decision respected by all. They are also the kind of people you enjoy having around—honest, straight, and fair. Big thanks also go out to our sponsors. We couldn't do what we do without the amazing support of Purina Pro Plan, Garmin, Gun Dog Supply, Mule Brand Clothing, onX Hunt, and Gun Dog Central. Thanks to you all.

### The Championship Running

#### *Day One, Wednesday*

The weather gave us heavy air, with thunderstorms rolling in for the evening.



NBHA National Open Championship Winners (l-r): Nancy Chadwell, Andy Erne, Zach Parsons (judge), Garry Malzone, Jillian Stuhr with Indian Creek Bocephus, Zach Erne, Klaus Schmidt, Chad Chadwell (judge), Margie Ridings with Georgia Born Windstorm, Sam Ridings, Becky Ridings, Dale Pool, Andrea Ward, Chris Mullen, Julia Currie, Ike Todd, Bill Currie, and Greg Blair.

The heavy air made scenting conditions very tough. We had seven dogs finish the hour and multiple dogs that needed the tracker due to them digging in to find birds. Thursday welcomed us to heavy thunderstorms, damaging winds, and highly saturated/unpassable grounds. Many buildings had roof damage, and there were trees/limbs down across the course. It was decided that the running for the second day would be postponed.

#### Friday, Day Two

The handlers added numerous dogs to the finished list, but the better weather also made the birds come out, and some were too much for dogs to handle.

#### Saturday, Day Three

Heavy thunderstorms rolled through and left the grounds in time to start on time. Cooler temps prevailed, and it was a great day to finish the initial series. We added another seven dogs to the list from which judges would select their callbacks. Due to the postponement, the callbacks were run on Monday morning.

After completing the initial series, the top six dogs were announced for the callback, and two additional were put on standby.

#### The Callback Braces

Callback brace No. 1 was Indian Creek Bocephus ("Bo"/Malzone) and Southern Shadow Bootleg ("Bob"/Klaus). The brace broke away at 7:30 a.m. with both dogs hunting to the front, Bob was handling nicely at a big walking race, and Bo was punching the front end. The first two finds (11 and 16) found both dogs standing, handlers flushed, and all was in order. Bob went on to have three more finds on his own, and his brace mate added another find and unproductive. After Bo was gathered up, and due to the race of both dogs, Bo and Bob finished the hour in the extended portion of the course.

Callback brace No. 2 was Raintree Blue Moon ("Friday"/Waite) and Georgia Born Braveheart ("Luke"/M. Ridings). The brace broke away at 8:50. Friday punched the front with style and intensity but was last seen after the breakaway. His handler had his scout check all the known covey areas, and he sang with a purpose but was unsuccessful in getting Friday to be seen. He requested the tracker at 25. Luke was applying himself nicely and handling exceptionally well for M. Ridings. After crossing the first creek bottom and rolling up the edge of pines, Luke suffered a breach of manners, ending his bid for the championship.

Callback brace No. 3 was Indian Creek Courageous Cat ("Cat"/Malzone) and Georgia Born Windstorm ("Jack"/M. Ridings). The brace broke away at 10:08. Both dogs started strong and handled kindly. Cat is light on her feet and was seen hitting the edges and all the right spots. She carded one back coupled with three stylish finds. Jack had probably one of the best finds in the qualifier (in the scribe's opinion)—an extreme limb find that took many minutes for the handler and judge to walk to. In this callback, Jack applied himself to the entire course. He had four well-spaced bold finds, and after each piece of bird work caught the front. Luke stayed to the front and, even a distance, keeping in tune with his handler.

The standby dogs were not requested by the judges.

After a short break, the winners were announced. The 2023 NBHA National Open Championship winner is Indian Creek Bocephus, handled by Garry Malzone, scouted by Jillian Stuhr, and owned by Ed Marron. Bo laid down two bold back-to-back performances to win the trial. We believe this was Bo's 16th championship title. He is truly a strong, strong competitor with an amazing career. Congratulations, Garry, Jillian, and Mr. Marron.

The runner-up champion is Georgia Born Windstorm, with handler Margie Ridings and scout Sam Ridings. Margie owns Luke. As previously noted, Jack was pointed on an extreme limb find during the initial series and after a brief absence. He handled it flawlessly and probably secured his spot in this callback. Congratulations, Margie, Sam, and the entire Ridings family.

Working around the initial series and the Championship callback, the Open Derby stake was run. There were many fine performances and many great handlers. The juvenile stakes are always exciting and a great place for young and old handlers to participate in a trial.

We want to thank all the people of the West Tennessee Field Trial Club for the fabulous grounds, facilities, and assistance with making the trial a success. Also, thanks go out to dog wagon driver Ken Millikin. We look forward to continuing to run championships at West Tennessee! If you are a bird dog fan, you will thoroughly enjoy the country and people of Dancyville and should make every effort to attend a trial there.

#### Dancyville, Tenn., March 1 – One Course

Judges: Chad Chadwell and Zach Parsons

#### NBHA NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

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

– 29 Pointers, 12 Setters and 4 Irish Setters

Winner—INDIAN CREEK BOCEPHUS, 1656742, pointer male, by Brown's Tom Tom-Indian Creek Riptide. Ed Marron, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.

Runner-Up—GEORGIA BORN WINDSTORM, 1690185, pointer male, by Knight's White Light-Bone Collector. Margie Ridings, owner and handler.

#### NBHA OPEN DERBY – 14 Pointers, 8 Setters and 1 Irish Setter

1st—SOUTHERN SHADOWS BOOTLEG, 1700852, pointer male, by Lester's Prime Poison Lane-Southern Ritz Lane. Lance Servais & Klaus Schmidt, owners; Klaus Schmidt, handler.

2d—GLOVER'S LIZA MENELLI, 1695569, pointer female, by Hirollins Gone And Doneit-Crimson River Emerald. Jack Glover, owner and handler.

3d—JIMFORK'S RIVER GIRL, 1697555, pointer female, by Jimfork's Black River-Jimfork's Sunny Hill Dot. Glenn Cumbie, owner; Kenny Snow, handler.



Open Derby Winners (l-r): Bill Osborne, Chris Mullen, Ike Todd, Klaus Schmidt, Ryan Eichelberger with Southern Shadow Bootleg, Paul Cook, Zach Parsons (judge) and daughter, Andy Erne, Kenny Snow with Jimfork's River Girl, Zach Erne, Chad Chadwell (judge), Jerry Snow, Julia Currie, Bill Currie, and Katie Cook.

# SOUTHEASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP

*Miller's Heat Advisory Named Champion; Touch's Midnight Rider, Runner-Up*

By Dr. Ron Deal | Sasser, Georgia | March 1, 2023

The 33rd renewal of the Southeastern Championship began on March 1 and concluded on March 3. Although weather conditions were far less than ideal, judges Charles Morton and Gary Hill had multiple good performances to pick the winners. Miller's Heat Advisory, owned by Terry Graunke of Chicago, Ill., and handled by Judd Carlton of Cairo, Ga., was named the 2023 Southeastern Quail Champion. Heat Advisory combined an aggressive ground race with three good finds and a solid finish to get the nod. Two of his finds were exceptional. The new champion set the bar in the first brace of the stake. Runner-up honors went to Touch's Midnight Rider, owned by John Milton of Jacksonville, Fla., and handled by Mark McLean of Moultrie, Ga. Midnight Rider had two outstanding finds, a good race, and a strong showy finish. The dog ran the last morning on the second course.

Judges for the stake were Charles Morton and Gary Hill. Charles has been associated with bird dogs and quail plantations all his life. He has handled, and scouted dogs at the Southeastern and has judged multiple major trials. Gary Hill is a transplanted Oklahoma native with a long field trial pedigree. He judged the trial in 2004. Both rode hard and looked attentively at every contestant. The Club appreciates their effort.

Judd Carlton got his first taste of field trials working on Chickasaw and has scouted six champions and three runners-up on the Southeastern grounds. This is the first time he has handled the champion here, making the current win special.

Despite the hot, humid conditions for three days plus high winds on the last day, enough birds were moved for a good trial. The clearing done on Ecilla the past summer has made visibility on the last portion of the first course and most of the second course much better. Work has also been done on the portion of Abigail that the trial crosses.

The Club wants to thank the three landowners for allowing the use of their properties for the trial. They are Richard Burke (Abigail), Frank Foley (Ecila), and the Deal Family (Chickasaw). Greg Blair and Purina also deserve special thanks for their support. Thanks also to Carol Hill, Gary's wife, for catering the lunches.

The trial is headquartered on Chickasaw, necessitating that most of the preparation is left to Wilson Napier and Michael Jackson. Wilson also stocked and drove the Bird Buggy and ensured the dogs got to the line. Michael took care of the barn plus whatever else was needed. Lamar Childers came down a few days early to help with the drawing and preparation. He served as course director, a



Southeastern Quail Championship Winners (kneeling): Michael Jackson with his daughter, Cheyenne. (Behind, l-r): Davey Deal, Claudia McNamee, Judd Carlton, Jamie Daniels, Luke Eisenhart with Miller's Heat Advisory, Tierra Hadley, Cody McLean with Touch's Midnight Rider, Gary Hill (judge), Mark McLean, Dr. Ron Deal (reporter), Charles Morton (judge), and Willis Wright with the perpetual trophy.

task he has performed for the last 33 years. He and this reporter are the only originals still upright and involved in the trial.

## The Winners and Others

Miller's Heat Advisory is a 5-year-old pointer male out of the blue hen bitch Miller's Bring The Heat. His sire, Just Irresistible, won here as a derby. Heat Advisory is a younger full brother of Miller's Blindsider, twice the runner-up here and the recent winner of the National Championship. Judd Carlton won runner-up at the Georgia Derby Championship in 2019 with Heat Advisory when Jamie Daniels was on maternity leave. Nick Berrong owned the dog as a derby. Judd purchased Heat Advisory and hunted him before transferring ownership to Terry Graunke. In 2022, the dog placed in the North Carolina Open All-Age and was called back in the National Free-For-All Championship.

Touch's Midnight Rider is a first-year dog. The dog qualified for championship competition with a North Carolina Association Derby stake placement. The current placement is his first significant one in the all-age category. John Milton purchased the dog as a derby from Keith Wright, the breeder.

Numerous other dogs deserve to be mentioned. They include, in no specific order: Showtime Game Changer (Copeland), Erin's Code of Honor (Eisenhart), Touch's Malcolm Story (McLean), Miller's Blindsider (Daniels), and Chief's Rising Sun (Carlton).

## The Winning Brace

The first brace of the 2023 renewal matched Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton) against Showtime Game Changer (Copeland). The morning was warm and humid. Carlton called point for Heat Advisory just off the breakaway. A non-productive was charged. Likely the birds had lifted with all the near activity. Copeland showed Game Changer

ahead at 4. Both handlers made the slight right turn off the hourglass field, heading toward the chute. At 13, point was called for Heat Advisory. The dog had a big covey well-located in the far-left corner of the hourglass field and showed good style and manners for the flush and shot. Carlton regained the front from the left in the mid-chute area at about 17. The water crossing onto Abigail was made at 22. Both dogs made the crossing and were running aggressively. Point was called at 26 for Heat Advisory from across the wet weather pond on the right. The dog had birds in front. Everything was in order. Carlton caught the front at 30 and showed his dog ahead. Both dogs went straight forward after the creek crossing. Game Changer had a good find at 36 deep in on the right and handled it well. Heat Advisory answered at 40 with his third good piece of bird work. It was also on the right side of the course. Both dogs continued to run aggressively and show enough. Point was called at 45 for Game Changer. The dog had birds several hundred yards in on the right and handled them appropriately. Both dogs crossed the county road at 50 and were shown going deep in at 52. The scout called point for Game Changer at 55. A long ride around a boggy area ensued. The birds held tight and were put up in front of the stylish dog. In the remaining minute, Game Changer showed an excellent finish in front of one judge. Heat Advisory had a good finish in front of the other judge.

## The Runner-Up Brace

The second-morning brace of the third day, No. 14, consisted of Touch's Midnight Rider (McLean) and Erin's Silver Lining (Eisenhart). Both dogs ran aggressively in the early going. Point was called in the distance at 10. Both handlers responded and seemed to ride forever to reach the find to the front before a right turn. Midnight Rider had a covey well located and showed both style

and manners as they flushed, and McLean shot. Both dogs were returned to the course at 16. Midnight Rider had his second good find at 22. The dog was visible on point far to the front as the judges topped a little rise. Birds were produced with everything in order. Silver Lining was lifted at 27. Midnight Rider pointed again at 31. McLean called flight of birds, but none were seen, so he collared his dog without flushing. The dog made some excellent casts, then was not visible for a spell before showing for the crossing onto Abigail. Midnight Rider made a good swing before crossing the creek at 54. McLean put the dog on the right side of the course and got the response he wanted. Midnight Rider was seen far to the front at pickup time.

### **The Running**

Brace No. 1 has been described.

Brace No. 2 was released ten minutes into Ecila. Erin's Wild Atlantic Way (Eisenhart) and Touch's Shadow Rider (McLean) immediately started the action. Atlantic Way pointed on the right at 1. Birds were seen in judgment, and the setter exhibited good style and manners for the flush and shot. While Eisenhart was heeling his dog to the front farther right, McLean called point for Shadow Rider ahead at 2. Birds were seen, and McLean shot.

Both finds were equivalent. Atlantic Way pointed again just at the turn. Eisenhart called flight, but the judge did not see any birds, so no attempt was made to flush. Both handlers made the first turn at 6 and showed their dogs ahead at a good distance. Atlantic Way had a second find in an edge on the left at 22. Eisenhart regained the front at 24 and showed his dog ahead just as Shadow Rider returned from the left. Both dogs were running strong at this point. Atlantic Way scored again at 27. Shadow Rider answered at 28. Both dogs handled their birds in good fashion. At 30, both dogs were shown well forward. Point was called again at 32.

Atlantic Way was credited with the find, and Shadow Rider with a back. Both handlers returned with their dogs at 35. At 40, Eisenhart had a find with Atlantic Way on the left, and McLean had one on the right with Shadow Rider, where birds lifted early but in judgment. Eisenhart called point at 45, but when the birds left early, he elected not to flush. Shadow Rider pointed again at 49. McLean called flight and shot after the judge informed him that he had seen birds. Abigail was entered at 50. Both dogs made the creek crossing at 55 and finished ahead. Erin's Wild Atlantic Way had five finds. Touch's Shadow Rider was credited with four finds and a back. Karen Norton saw much action riding in support of her dog. Bruce was on the Bird Buggy with less visibility.

The last brace of the morning, No. 3, matched Erin's Primetime (Eisenhart) with Woodville's Saddle Tramp (McLean). The brace began on Chickasaw just beyond the big water crossing. Both dogs were put on the right side of the course. Point was called from

the right side at 8. Both handlers responded, but it turned out to be for Prime Time. The dog had a nonproductive at 10, followed by a find at 12.

Meanwhile, McLean got Saddle Tramp and sent the dog over the hill in front, where the setter carded a good find at 13. McLean regained the front at 15. Both dogs showed well in the country behind the barn and the fields heading toward the clay road, which was crossed at 22. The big fields across the drain were entered at 23, and Prime Time had a find on the right side of the middle pine rows at 25. It was followed by his second nonproductive at 27. Saddle Tramp took in the country on the far side of the field on the right. The dog appeared in front at 30 and was put in a harness to end the morning.

Despite the poor conditions, 18 coveys were pointed in two and a half hours of running, and the judges had usable dogs.

The first-afternoon brace, No. 4, consisted of Notorious Dominator's Heir (Carlton) and Lester's Storm Surge (Lester). It was warm and humid. Heir was seen straight ahead at 2. Storm Surge swung around the large wet weather pond on the right and pointed on the far side at 4. Birds were in front. Lester fired his gun at 6, punctuating a good find. Storm Surge tallied another find at 9 on the near side of the hourglass field. Both handlers entered the chute ahead of schedule and rode aggressively to establish contact with their dogs. Storm Surge returned, and Lester crossed the water onto Abigail at 21 with the dog. Carlton got his tracker at 20. Lester showed his dog on the far side of the first pond at 26. Storm Surge returned to him at 28 and swapped ends in front of him at 28. The cover was sparse and unlikely to hold birds. Lester flushed and then asked for relocation before taking a nonproductive. After the creek crossing at 34, the dog was sent up the right side of the course. Point was called deep to the right at 44. When Lester and the judge arrived, Storm Surge had corrected, so the dog was returned to the course. The dog had a second non-productive stand at 54 and was lifted.

Brace No. 5 paired Dominator's Queen Bee (Daniels) with Shadow's Lord Magic (Eisenhart). The dogs were cut loose at 3:04 on Ecila. Bee ran a good ground race. Lord Magic was less consistent. Neither had bird work. Daniels asked for his tracker at 32. Eisenhart called it quits at 30.

The final brace of the first day, No. 6, began on Ecila, heading back toward Abigail. Touch's Malcom Story (McLean) and Chief's Rising Sun (Carlton) started with ambition. Malcolm Story went straight in deep before the course turn. Carlton got Sun back at 2 and called point at 3. The dog had birds on the left and handled them well. McLean got Malcolm Story back at 6, and the dog had a good find on the right front at 8. McLean returned to the forward party at 12.

Meanwhile, Sun was showing well. The county road was crossed back onto Abigail

at 17. Point was called for Malcolm Story at 19. The dog had birds. Sun backed from a considerable distance. Both dogs continued to show well. Malcolm Story covered the right side of the course while Sun was dead center. The final turn back toward Chickasaw came at 30. The water was crossed at 32. Point was called for Sun at 32. The dog was on the upside of the small wet weather area on the right. Sun nailed a large covey after a relocation effort. He maintained his manners for the flush and shot at 34. At the same time, the scout called point for Malcolm Story a good distance to the right front. When McLean requested Malcolm Story to relocate, the dog decided to move on. McLean caught the front at 38. Sun showed on the hill across the rock crossing at 39. Malcolm Story had birds on the left at 44 and handled them in fine fashion. McLean caught the front at 45.

Sun showed well ahead on the rise above the first field. McLean searched the left as the course passed behind the barn and got his dog back at 50. Point was called for Sun from the far right at 50. It proved nonproductive. The clay road was crossed at 52. Malcolm Story went down the edge of the first field, crossed the lower pipe, and continued rimming the far-right side of the course. Sun was shown dead ahead at a good distance when pickup was called. Malcolm Story finished his big swing in front at pickup.

The first brace of the second morning, No. 7, consisted of Supreme Confidence (Eisenhart) and Late Hit (Shenker). The morning was overcast and warm. Claudia McNamee rode to support Supreme Confidence. Both dogs started on the right. Late Hit returned on the hill above the first pond at 4 from his initial cast. Confidence returned at 5. Both handlers had contact with their dogs heading through the gap toward the chute at 9. Shenker had Late Hit as he entered the chute area at 15 and showed the dog ahead at 17. Eisenhart searched extensively on the right before asking for his tracker at 20. Shenker crossed the water onto Abigail at 22. Late Hit made a big swing and was shown across the big wet weather pond on the right. The cast culminated in a good find at 32, which the dog handled well. The creek was traversed at 35. Shenker sent the dog straight ahead as he made the little left jog with the course. Late Hit was shown well ahead at 40 before returning at 44. Shenker decided to call it quits at 46 just before the road crossing onto Ecila.

Brace No. 8 matched Erin's Code of Honor (Eisenhart) with Miller's King Poast (Lester). Ferrell Miller and his two daughters were in the horse gallery. The brace was released just on Ecila. Both dogs went straight ahead. Eisenhart showed Code of Honor at a reasonable distance going right to left. Point was called on the right at 4 for King Poast. The dog had birds and handled them well. Eisenhart found Code of Honor pointed at 6. The dog was mannerly for the flush and shot. Code of Honor scored again at 8. Both handlers covered the right side after the first turn and sent their scouts left. Point was

called for King Poast at 17. After a relocation, a single was flushed.

Meanwhile, about a hundred yards to the right, Eisenhart called flight of birds. They escaped unseen, so he did not flush. Lester and King Poast regained the front at 20. King Poast was charged with a nonproductive at 23. The dog was seen deep on the right, then not for a time, only to be found straight ahead on point at 34. Birds were flushed.

Meanwhile, Code of Honor pointed a good distance in at 31. After a flushing attempt and relocation effort failed, Eisenhart collared the dog as the covey flushed. No credit or blame was charged. A divided find was tallied at 44. Code of Honor was seen standing in a mowed strip about 300 yards straight ahead at 44. Everything was in order for the flush and shot. As the dog was being returned to the course, another find was credited at 46. King Poast failed to back and was picked up. Code of Honor continued to make some good swings and finished across the road on Abigail. The dog had one divided find and four individual ones. King Poast had the divided find and three individual ones before his breach of manners.

Aucilla Jim (McLean) combined with Rester's Cajun Spirit (Carlton) for the last morning brace, No. 9. Gene Brown was on the Bird Buggy to support Jim. The judges allowed Carlton's horse a longer break than usual to recover from two scouting efforts. The dogs were released on Abigail heading toward the creek crossing, which both crossed at 3. Jim took the country on the right and Cajun Spirit on the left. Spirit returned from a good swing at 9. Point was called at 11 for Jim. The dog was standing in the border pines on the left. No birds were flushed. Carlton waited at the water crossing with Cajun Spirit and released the dog as the judges approached at 15. McLean caught the front at 17 and sent Jim to the right. The dog was seen at 25 and shown well ahead at 27. Cajun Spirit was picked up behind the barn at 30. Jim continued to run a strong race but had no bird contact. The heat ended at 47 with a second non-productive stand.

Confident Nation (Eisenhart) and Touch's Breakaway Fred (McLean) started the afternoon with brace No. 10. Scott Jordan was mounted for his 2022 Southeastern Champion, and Karen and Bruce Norton were present for Breakaway Fred. Both dogs took the right side of the course. The handlers rode the course and depended on their scouts. The hourglass field was entered at 7. Confident Nation returned and was shown going down the field edge at 9. McLean searched the right for Fred to no avail, but the dog did return at 13 from the left front and was shown making a good cast at 15. McLean called point on the right at 16. The judge saw something run out and advised the handler to shoot, but nothing flew. Both handlers crossed onto Abigail at 22. Fred was found pointed on the far side of the first wet weather pond on Abigail at 27. It proved nonproductive.

Meanwhile, Eisenhart got his tracker at 28.



Charles Morton (judge), Dr. Ron Deal (reporter), Gary Hill (judge), and Lamar Childers. [Photo by Chris Mathan].

Breakaway Fred continued to run sufficiently but had no definitive bird work. He was lifted at the county road crossing at 48.

Touch's Gallatin Fire (McLean) and Game Ice (Eisenhart) were turned loose to begin brace No. 11. Both dogs started aggressively and were shown well forward in the early going. The right turn was made at 7 with both handlers searching for their dogs. Game Ice showed in the front at 11 and was periodically pointed out ahead thereafter. McLean got his tracker at 20. Game Ice had a good find at 25 and handled it with style and manners. Point was called again for the dog at 44 on what would have been a tremendous find had there been birds. Game Ice continued to stay in front the rest of the hour but could not add to his bird score.

The last brace of the second day, No. 12, pitted Dominator's Wild Bill (Daniels) against Lester's Shockwave (Lester). The dogs were released just across the county road on Abigail. Both handlers kept their dogs for the creek crossing at 5. After that, Shockwave took in the country on the right, where Lester searched for him while Daniels rode the course. No dogs were seen until about 10 when both appeared ahead for the turn toward the water crossing back onto Chickasaw. The crossing was made at 14. Daniels called point for Wild Bill at 15. The dog was standing in the perimeter firebreak. Birds were in front, and Wild Bill handled the situation well. Both dogs were seen ahead at 21. Point was called from the right at 24. Both handlers responded initially, but the call was for Shockwave. The dog was credited with a good piece of bird work. Both dogs did well on the ground, but neither added to the bird score. Wild Bill was picked up at 57. Shockwave completed the hour.

The first brace of the last morning, No. 13, brought Rester's Cajun Justice (Eisenhart) and Erin's High Note (Carlton) to the line. A little rain had fallen overnight, and the wind was brisk. Both dogs started on the right. High Note showed on the hill above the big pond

at 3. Both dogs were ahead as the hourglass field was entered at 7. The handlers rode the course, leaving their scouts to cover the hourglass field. Both dogs reappeared from the left in the mid-chute area at 13. Both handlers had their dog for the water crossing at 21. The handlers continued to ride in front of the judges and periodically showed their dogs to advantage. Ecila was entered at 42. Both dogs were doing commendable jobs on the ground without results until High Note pointed a good distance ahead at 46. The dog had birds and was credited with good bird work. Point was called for Cajun Justice on the right at 52, followed by the flight of birds. The judge returning from the previous find spotted an infraction and ordered Cajun Justice up at 56. Carlton rode ahead looking for High Note, but when the scout returned with the dog, he was put on a lease at 57.

Brace No. 14 has been described.

Miller's Blindsider (Daniels) and Woodville's Yukon Cornelius (McLean) began their bid in brace No. 15 just onto Chickasaw. Both dogs, followed by their scouts, powered ahead on the right side of the course. Blindsider returned to the first field after the rock crossing. Both handlers had their dog behind headquarters at 14, and both dogs showed well. Cornelius showed again in the field before crossing the clay road at 19. Point was called deep to the right at 23. Both handlers shot as a big covey flushed, but Cornelius was slightly ahead when the judge arrived and received the credit for the find. Blindsider continued to show many heels. Cornelius was also running well. McLean showed Cornelius at 32. Daniels showed Blindsider well forward at 34. Point was called deep beyond the far turn for Blindsider at 38. A nonproductive was charged after a relocation attempt was unsuccessful. McLean made the far turn with his dog at 40 and got around the next bend at 46. Daniels had to hustle to regain the front but did. Blindsider had an excellent find deep on the right front at 47 and handled it appropriately. The dog continued to run and show often enough.

McLean elected to pick up Cornelius at 52. Blindsider continued and was seen well forward at pickup time.

The wind picked up for the start of brace No. 16. Knight's Little John (Lester) and Rentz's Hijacked (Eisenhart) were released behind the barn to begin the last afternoon of the stake. Claudia McNamee rode to watch Hijacked. Her dog started on the right and rimmed the edge of the big pond before returning from the impressive swing. Lester got Little John back before the hourglass field and had a good find at 7. Lester regained the front at 8.

Both handlers went through the gap at 9. Hijacked returned to Eisenhart at the beginning of the chute at about 11. Little John had his second find deep down on the near edge of the hourglass field. Lester returned from the left with his dog in the

mid-chute at 15. Both dogs were ranging well at this point. Abigail was entered a few minutes ahead of schedule. Hijacked was out of pocket for a time, heading toward the creek crossing but returned in time to make it. Both dogs were shown ahead on the right at 30, and both handlers rode aggressively to maintain contact. Eisenhart got Hijacked back from the right at 39. Lester showed Little John far ahead at about the same time. Eisenhart crossed the county road onto Ecila at 41 and showed Hijacked making a good cast at 45. Lester showed Little John far to the right front at 47. Both dogs made the first right turn at 50. Little John was shown well ahead at 52. Both dogs finished the hour. Hijacked went birdless. Little John had two early finds.

The second-afternoon brace, No. 17, consisted of Rester's Powered Up (Eisenhart) and Til You Can't (Haynes). The dogs got

underway deep into Ecila. Eisenhart asked for his tracker at 20. Till You Can't made some good casts early and had a find at 25. The dog shortened thereafter and was lifted at 30.

Erin's Perfect Storm (Eisenhart) ran as a bye dog in the final brace of the stake, No. 18. The wind was brisk, and some rain was falling. The dog ran well and had a nonproductive at 8 and a find at 17. Perfect Storm was lifted at 25 to end the trial.

Sasser, Ga., March 1

**Judges: Gary Hill and Charles Morton**  
**SOUTHEASTERN QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**[One-Hour Heats] – 31 Pointers and 4 Setters**

*Winner—MILLER'S HEAT ADVISORY, 1685672, pointer male, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Terry Graunke, owner; Judd Carlton, handler.*

*Runner-Up—TOUCH'S MIDNIGHT RIDER, 1697542, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Touch's Gold Dance. John D. Milton, Jr., owner; Mark McLean, handler.*

## U.S. COMPLETE SOUTHEAST OPEN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

*Smoke Rise Jake Named Champion; Ms. Lady W, Runner-Up*

**By David Huffine | Hoffman, North Carolina | March 1, 2023**

**S**moke Rise Jake, a 4-year-old white and lemon pointer male, bested a field of 40 dogs to win the Southeast Open Regional Championship of the U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association held March 1, 2023, at the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds in Hoffman, N. C. Jake is proudly owned by long-time and highly successful field trialer Fred Rose and was ably handled by Tony Bingham. The 2023 champion is out of Stoney Run's Buddy and Smoke Rise Mariah.

Runner-up went to crowd favorite Ms. Lady W, a 6-year-old orange and white pointer female, owned and handled by the cantankerous Earl Drew and expertly scouted by his better half, Margaret Drew, both of whom are in the U. S. Complete Hall of Fame. Lady is out of Dunn's Tried'n True and Moonlite Magic.

The Championship took place on the famed Hoffman Field Trial Grounds, with six continuous courses carved out of longleaf pine and wiregrass in the 63,000-acre Sandhills Gamelands. Trials at Hoffman began in 1954. They were primarily horseback trials until a few years ago when U. S. Complete began holding its National Championship and this Regional Championship on the grounds.

In this reporter's opinion, Hoffman is the best test of a dog and walking handler in North Carolina. The handler and dog must be fit to handle the sugar sand and changing elevations of the North Carolina sandhills, and the dogs must be adept bird-finders as there are no daily releases. Several handlers walked four hours in tough conditions to finish their dogs.

It has been a frustrating year for the bird populations at Hoffman. The early release took place as scheduled, but a supplemental release planned for early January was canceled due

to adverse weather and was not rescheduled until later in March. Birds were scarce, and the warm weather was tough on even the best-conditioned dogs.

All handlers, judges, and guests considered this one of the most entertaining and "fun" championships they had ever attended. Laughing was frequent and contagious. Competing handlers helped other handlers without being asked. The judges were attentive, helpful, and congenial. Our illustrious dog wagon driver, Greg Roberson, serenaded us with George Jones and Johnny Cash songs at virtually all snack breaks. Greg and Judge Ellen Clements sang old hymns for us at lunch. Surely, we could have used more bird work, but we all had a great time. It's the way field trialing should be.

The Championship was fortunate to have two of the best judges to oversee a U. S. Complete trial. Gary Winall and Ellen Clements of Powhatan, Va., sat in the saddles for our Championship. Gary began in the early walking trial circuit but has since produced Hall of Fame credentials in all-age competition. Ellen has shared in and contributed to the Mohawk Mill team's success and has no superior as a scout for amateur stakes (and possibly open stakes). While suffering from severe disc issues, Gary fulfilled his judging commitment, watching all dogs diligently. Near the end of the Championship, Gary saw a dog heading toward the highway on Course 5 and put his horse at full gallop to help the handler avoid an accident. All handlers were most appreciative of their expertise, effort, and service.

### The Placements

The champion ran in brace No. 4, which began at the first turn on Course 4. His brace mate was Backwoods Wildfire, handled by Mark Hughes. Both dogs broke away strongly on the straightaway, showing good style and ground application. Jake ran a big race and handled well, showing at appropriate times and places. Wildfire required a bit more handler supervision but was competitive. At approximately 40, both dogs were missing. Tony sent his scout hard left looking for Jake and showed some concern that he might be lost. At 45, judges and gallery summited the rise before the creek crossing. Jake was spied, standing just to the left of a thicket at about 250 yards. Tony had to cross the creek and traverse the next hill to get to his dog, with Ellen Clements following closely behind. Upon reaching the dog, Tony began a long, bloody flushing attempt in the heavy cover. Ellen dismounted and was on the ground looking for birds. Tony finally saw the birds running in the heavy cover, and Ellen could see two birds. She told him to fire his pistol. Tony did so and collared his dog to the front. After a good watering, Tony released Jake, who finished well. Mark had called for the tracker and retrieved his dog.

The runner-up champion battled leadoff in the trial, breaking away at 8:02 in comfortable 52-degree weather on Course 1 near the clubhouse. Part of Course 1 was not used in the trial because of the sand and verticality of the first portion, but the remaining portions of Courses 1, 2, and 3 are suitable for a full morning at a walking trial. Lady was braced with Low Country Kate (PF/Bingham). Kate disappeared at breakaway but returned at 30 and was picked up by Tony. Lady was

long off the breakaway but settled into a moderate, consistent race, always to the front and handling well for Earl. She made two particularly nice casts at 25 and 40 but disappeared after that. The handler, judges, and gallery were moving to the last field before the road crossing when Margaret calmly called point on the left and to the rear, all having passed the dog in the cover. Lady waited stylishly while Earl dismounted and flushed on the edge of a newly timbered cutover. Five birds lifted as Earl fired his pistol. Tony graciously helped Earl with his dog while he remounted. Lady quickly resumed her stylish but methodical race until the end of her hour. Margaret was unofficially given the Top Scout Award for guiding Earl to the placement, and the find shall be remembered as “Margaret’s Find.”

### The Running

Brace No. 1 is has been covered.

Brace No. 2 matched Sweet Grass Slim (ESM/David Huffine) and Wayward Flyin Tomato (ESM/Mark Hughes). Both dogs broke away strongly and to the front. Slim had an erratic race with large casts to the front, followed by face time with his handler. He had an unproductive just past the Army Camp. At 45, he was seen standing approximately 300 yards to the front. The flushing attempt produced a nice covey of birds with all in order. Slim finished his hour. Mark’s dog had a more consistent race with a back on the unproductive but had no bird contact.

Mohawk Mill War Hawk (PM/Tony Bingham) and Double Deuce Oscar (PM/Hughes) broke away on Course 3. Oscar was wide and right early and then made a big cast to the left as the course turned to the right. Deer were seen in the vicinity, and both dogs appeared intrigued by their presence. Scouts located the dogs, but they had no interest in returning to the course. Both handlers called for their trackers. After that, Tony’s dog was found standing on several birds well off the course.

Brace No. 4 is has been covered.

Miller’s Special Upgrade (PF/Hughes) and Island Blue Genes (ESM/Drew) drew brace No. 5. The thermometer was rising quickly as they broke away at 3:15. Both dogs produced exceptional ground races in the heat and humidity and carried their style and class throughout their race but were ultimately birdless.

The last brace on Wednesday placed Hirollins Talkin Smack (PM/Scott Miller) and Knight’s Last Chipster (PM/Bingham) on Course 5. Scott’s dog looked great and produced the best race of the day, ranging well and consistently to the front and showing when appropriate. Tony’s dog had a good, forward race but not as aggressive as his bracemate. He suffered an unproductive. Neither dog produced birds.

Thursday’s sunup brought 64 degrees, and a light drizzle as Miller’s Hopped Up Version (PF/Hughes) and Belle Star



U. S. Complete Southeast Open Regional Championship Winners (front, L-R): Mark Hughes and Tony Bingham (handler) with Smoke Rise Jake, Earl Drew and Margaret Drew with Ms. Lady W, and David Huffine, joined by spectators.

(PF/Miller) attacked the straightaway on Course 1. Mark’s dog had a medium to long race. An unproductive at 5 in a plum thicket was all she had to show for her efforts. Scott’s charge had an excellent, reaching race but found no birds. Both dogs finished their hour.

Drizzle had become steady rain by the time My Way Little Bud (PM/Bingham) and Double Deuce Sage (PF/Hughes) were loosed for brace No. 8. Both dogs stayed to the front with moderate races, possibly due to the inclement weather. They shared an unproductive at 27, but neither dog produced birds.

CC Jax’s Rebel Wonder (GSM/Miller) and 2022 Champion Hirollins Gone And Doneit (PM/Bingham) finished the morning in brace No. 9, breaking away at 10:45. Scott’s dog ran a moderate race, always to the front. Gunner ran his normal “big” race, ignoring weather conditions. Unfortunately, the birds were as miserable in the rain as the handlers and were not pointed by either dog.

Brace No. 10 began the afternoon braces with 2021 Champion Ringo’s Sweet Heart (PF/V. Stephenson) paired with Suemac’s Sashay (PF/Hughes). Heart made a huge move to the front on the long straightaway on Course 4, passing the waterhole and the tall pines in the center of the course. She checked in with Verlene for a short period as the course turned to the northeast but then disappeared again. Verlene reluctantly called for the tracker at 35. Mark’s dog ran a modest, forward race. She was found standing at 30, but flushing efforts produced no results.

Doc’s Haven Jake’s Law (PM/Bingham) and Lucky Recharge (PM/Drew) matched up in brace No. 11. Both dogs were relatively short. The veteran handlers knew they were not “beating” dogs that had previously finished. Tony picked up at 30, and Earl followed at 35.

Braggabull (PF/Hughes) ran as a bye dog in the final brace of the day as Tony Bingham

scratched Smoke Rise Hanna. Mark’s dog had a beautiful cracking tail, and the early race was good. However, she shortened later in the run, and Mark picked her up at 45.

Clayhill T Bone (PM/H. Cook III) and Tenacee Franklin (PM/Isenberg) had the early brace on Friday morning. T Bone’s race was moderate, but he shortened late; Harry elected to pick him up at 58. Franklin performed well. He was classy on the ground and handled well with a moderate race. He had an unproductive at 55 and finished birdless shortly after that.

Brace No. 14 was released at 9:18. Double Deuce Zeke (PM/Hughes) ran a big race but was missing his handler for a portion of the hour. He was stylishly right and long for long periods, but his efforts produced no birds. Zeke’s bracemate was the handsome Erin’s Battle Cry (PM/Bingham). Tony’s dog had a moderate race interspersed with some nice longer casts. Unfortunately, he also was birdless.

Brace No. 15 pitted another Hall of Famer, Bobby Phillips, running Bob’s Elhew Sage (PF) with Attakullakulla (ESM/Bingham). Sage had a rare bad day, having difficulty finding the front and not handling as Bobby required. She was collared at 20. Tony’s dog tired early, and he also picked up at 20.

Harry Cook was up again in brace No. 16, running Cook’s Back In Black (PM) with Greg Isenberg’s Tenacee Shelby (PM). Harry’s dog was lost shortly after the breakaway, and he called for the tracker at 20. Shelby ran a big race in the warming temperature but was gone for long periods. Greg collared his dog at 40.

Brace No. 17 was run in the heat with Twiggy (PF/C. Monroe) paired with Sweet Grass Skeeter (ESM/Huffine). The appropriately petite Twiggy had a delightful race, dancing across the ground long and to the front. Her only failing was finding birds. Skeeter looked good going but suffered some in the heat. However, he would get some water and come back with another big cast.

He had a nice covey find at 25 near the water hole before the road crossing on Course 4 with everything in order. Skeeter finished his hour.

Tenacee Rowdy (PM/Isenberg) was on Course 5 for brace No. 18. Rowdy is a very handsome and athletic dog and showed a competitive race with any other dogs in the Championship. Unfortunately, he was birdless. He was braced with Hirollins B K Bushwacker (PM/Warren Parrott). Warren's dog struggled in the heat, and Warren elected to pick him up at 35.

Brace No. 19 featured Treasure Chest (PM/Monroe) and Naname Emma (PF/Drew). Cliff's dog ran a modest race and handled well but found no birds. Emma was not minding Earl, and after his performance on the first day, he was not in the mood to waste time with her with the trial nearing an end and the judges growing tired. He graciously picked her up at 15.

Shoal Creek Belle (PF/Monroe) and Rebel's Orange Crush (ESM/Bingham) broke away on Course 2 for brace No. 20. Belle was gone early, and Cliff called for the tracker at 25. Tony recognized that his dog was not performing well enough to beat the dogs that had preceded him and picked up at 35.

Triple L's Ben (PM/Bingham) ran as a bye dog in the final brace of the Championship. Ben handled well and showed a moderate race but was not positioned to place in the Championship. Tony collared him shortly after the 30-minute mark.

**Hoffman, N. C., March 1**

**Judges: Ellen Clements and Gary Winall  
U. S. COMPLETE SOUTHEAST OPEN**

**REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]  
– 34 Pointers, 6 Setters and 1 German Shorthair**

*Winner—SMOKE RISE JAKE, 1684876, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Smoke Rise Mariah. P. F. Rose, owner; Tony Bingham, handler.*  
*Runner-Up—MS. LADY W, 1671582, pointer female, by Dunn's Tried'n True-Moonlite Magic. Earl Drew, Jr., owner and handler.*

### **Paul Walker Open Derby Classic**

Sixteen derbies faced off in the Paul Walker Derby Classic. The competition was reduced to 30 minutes based on the large number of



Paul Walker Open Derby Classic Winners (front, l-r): J. D. Waters with Redbud's Lightning Catcher, Cliff Monroe with Hirollins All American, and Jamey Miller and Scott Miller with Hirollins White Lightning. (Behind): Chris Catanzarite, Tony Bingham, Greg Roberson, Margaret Drew (judge), and Earl Drew (judge) joined by two spectators.

entries for both the Championship and the Derby stake. Margaret and Earl Drew agreed to substitute as judges. Unfortunately, no birds were found during the Derby stake, but ground races for the young dogs were good, and the future looks promising.

First place went to Redbud's Lightning Catcher (PM/Bingham), who had a good race and a great finish. Second place was awarded to Hirollins All American, a snappy setter handled by Warren Parrott. Third place went to Hirollins White Lightning (PM/Miller), who also had a good forward race and a nice finish.

**Judges: Earl Drew and Margaret Drew  
PAUL WALKER OPEN DERBY CLASSIC  
– 13 Pointers and 3 Setters**

*1st—REDBUD'S LIGHTNING CATCHER, 1697098, pointer male, by Clayhill Bones-Santee River Ice Cream. Aaron McAfee, owner; Tony Bingham, handler.*

*2d—HIROLLINS ALL AMERICAN, 1702820, setter male, by Grouse Feather Hawk-Sky's The Limit. Warren Parrott, owner and handler.*

*3d—HIROLLINS WHITE LIGHTNING, 1696976, pointer male, by Hirollins B K Unforgettable-Newbegun Courtney. Warren Parrott, owner; Scott Miller, handler.*

### **Afterword**

The U. S. Complete contingent at Hoffman has established an excellent team that has worked together to facilitate three championships at the venue in 2023. Tony Bingham is responsible for ground operations, including recruiting judges, securing loaner horses, buying groceries, and consulting

with the trial chairman on in-trial matters. Margaret Drew shepherds all of us, reminding us of what must be done, what should be done, and covering for us when it's not done exactly right. Gretchen and John Adsit work tirelessly to see that lunches are available in the clubhouse and stretch dinner leftovers to help with our tight budgets. Gretchen recruits Hoffman friends to assist, and their help is essential.

Greg Roberson drives the dog/gallery wagon and is a delight. He is reliable, timely, and engaged in the trials, following each dog and handler attentively.

We give special thanks to Warren Parrott, who sponsored the handlers' dinner. The food was delicious, but the stories, ribbing, and laughter among old friends and competitors enhanced the dining experience.

The Cape Fear Field Trial Club thanks the Wildlife Resources Commission and the North Carolina Field Trial Association for making this trial possible.

The Club also thanks Purina for its sponsorship of the Championship. Our trial and many others would not occur without the support of Greg Blair and Purina.

### **In Memoriam**

We all share in the loss of our dear friend and U. S. Complete leader Ted Riley who died on March 8. Ted was present at the founding of U. S. Complete, often traveling with Bob Lee and others to recruit new clubs for membership. Ted was co-chairman for the Futurity, chairman of the Bob Lee Classic, and ran and organized many other trials in North Carolina. He was president of the Southeast Region for many years and was active in his leadership positions. Ted was a leading proponent for the handicapped rules now in effect and was responsible for the U. S. Complete National Championship moving to Hoffman. This Championship is held due to Ted's efforts to bring walking trials to this venue.

We will miss Ted, and our best wishes and memories go out to Ted's family.

## **REGION 3 (AFTCA) AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP**

*Calico's Guns N Roses Named Champion; Waybetter Bobby, Runner-Up*

**By Jeff Smith | Boydton, Virginia | March 3, 2023**

The 2023 Region 3 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship drew 29 dogs at the Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area, starting on March 3. We had two experienced judges, John Malone of Bolton, Conn., and Calvin Curnutte of Jackson Springs, N. C. Named champion was Calico's Guns N Roses of Calico Kennels, handled by Alex Smith. She ran in brace No. 5, had four finds, and a very consistent forward race. The runner-up emerged from brace No. 10. Waybetter Bobby,

handled by Bob Verderosa, had five finds and a consistent race.

The Region would like to thank the judges, John Malone and Calvin Curnutte; Purina for their support; the State of Virginia for the use of the grounds; Frankie Henderson, Pat Casey, George Doyle, J. J. Doyle, Lyn Kessie, and Larry King for their help with the dog wagon, planting birds, meals, setting up the courses and cleaning the clubhouse. I apologize if I missed anyone. Lastly, I would like to thank

the participants for their fine attendance.

**Boydton, Va., March 3 – One Course  
Judges: Calvin Curnutte and John Malone  
REGION 3 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG  
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**

**– 28 Pointers and 1 Setter**

*Winner—CALICO'S GUN N ROSES, 1682136, pointer female, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Calico's Touch of Class. Calico Kennels, owner; Alex Smith, handler.*

*Runner-Up—WAYBETTER BOBBY, 1682880, pointer male, by Waybetter Rocky-Nehawka Amazin Sue. Robert Verderosa, owner and handler.*

# MASTERS QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP

*Miller's Blindsider Named Champion; Shadow's Lord Magic, Runner-Up*

By Andrew Campbell | Albany, Georgia | March 6, 2023

The 54th running of the Masters Quail Championship was held March 6-8 on the south side of Albany on the legendary properties of Nilo Plantation and Nonami Plantation. From a field of 37 starters—33 pointers and four setters—the judges, Dr. Fred Corder of Corinth, Miss., and Mike Lemons of Conway, Ark., awarded the Norman J. Ellis Memorial Trophy to Miller's Blindsider, owned by Nick Berrong, and handled by Jamie Daniels, with Shadow's Lord Magic, owned by Carl Bowman and handled by Luke Eisenhart, as runner-up.

It was a year of remarkable record-setting. Firstly, to acknowledge the outstanding stewardship of both properties, bird numbers were exceptional. While both properties maintain extensive records for their hunting parties, and both documented remarkable years in terms of birds seen and harvested, in particular, Hall of Famer Tommy Davis, now hunting program manager at Nilo, reported that 2022-2023 was the best since 1961, while the property was still under John Olin's ownership. (Put in direct terms for this trial: 24 coveys would be successfully pointed on the first morning at Nilo, 23 on the first afternoon at Nonami.)

The Southern Field Trial Club is extremely grateful to the Williams Family and Mr. Ted Turner for their kindness in offering their grounds for what remains one of the premier wild bird trials in the country. Also, thanks to Garrett Jones and Ray Pearce, the respective managers, for their superb stewardship of these remarkable properties. Once again, the by-line common in the trial's American Field ads from the 1980s rang true: "Enjoy running your dogs over the beautiful grounds of South Georgia Plantations, where the conditions for Field Trials are definitely unexcelled."

In the former category of record-setting, Miller's Blindsider crossed two significant thresholds: firstly, he became the first dog to win this Championship three times, having previously done it in 2020, 2022, and now 2023, passing White Knight's Button (1973, 1975), Mississippi Kid (2002, 2003), Dominator's Rebel Heir (2015, 2017) and Touch's White Knight (2016, 2019) in the process; secondly, he became the first National Champion to win this prestigious wild bird event. Native Tango had won the Masters in 1983 and would then go on to win the National the following winter. It has perhaps never been done precisely because it requires the dog to run for three hours in cold, muddy conditions in west Tennessee, often less than three weeks before coming to run in the spring heat of South Georgia. While Blindsider had been fortunate to run at Ames on Valentine's Day with temperatures in the 50s, his run for this particular win came in the heat of an



Masters Open Quail Championship Winners (front, l-r): Judd Carlton with Miller's Blindsider and Mark McLean with Shadow's Lord Magic. (Behind): Steve Wiley, Shon Powell, Cody McLean, Eddie Sholar, Mike Lemons (judge), Dr. Fred Corder (judge), Ray Pearce, Tim Moore, Tierra Hadley, Allison and Jamie Daniels, Nick Berrong, Woody Watson, John Mathys, L. J. Lundstrom, Luke Eisenhart, Shannon Nygard, Tommy Davis, Claudia McNamee, Jim Hamilton, and David Rains joined by a spectator. [Photo by Chris Mathan].

oppressive afternoon with the temperatures in the mid-80s.

The Club is also deeply grateful to Flint Equipment for loaning the tractor to pull the gallery wagon and to the ensemble staffs at Nilo and Nonami for marshaling in the mornings. A heartfelt thanks also go to Nestlé Purina for their ongoing support of this event.

Besides the two winners, the judges also held their bracemates' performances in high regard: Erin's High Note (Carlton) from the very first brace and Touch's Breakaway Fred (McLean) from the sixth and final brace of the first day.

## The Winners

Miller's Blindsider had run in brace No. 6 with his owner, Nick Berrong riding up front, drawn against another exciting young dog just coming into his own, Touch's Breakaway Fred, with his owners, Becky and Gary Futch and Karen and Bruce Norton, also riding in attendance. With the second brace of the afternoon picking up early due to the heat, and to avoid a lot of deadhead time, the two dogs would be sent almost directly due south from below the trio of large rotator fields on the northern edge of the grounds. After both dogs had established a strong race out front, the call of point would first come for Fred at 0:07 on the southwestern corner of a rectangular cover crop field that opens up to a larger field, standing in the shade and looking up into an oak thicket. In the meantime, Blindsider had come in from the shoulder on the left and established a point of his own on the eastern side of that good-sized cover crop field at 0:08. Daniels would easily produce the birds ahead of his dog, leaving McLean with an extended flushing attempt that would ultimately produce not one, but two coveys of birds surrounding the mannerly dog. As the course began to angle southeast in the general

direction of the Nonami stable and kennels, the call of point would come for Blindsider out to the left at 0:13. Standing in the shade of a live oak, he would have birds pinned immediately ahead of him. Crossing the main access road, Blindsider would stop again at 0:21 perhaps 100 yards north and west of the kennels. After an extensive flushing effort ahead of the dog and a relocation effort out front, the handler would collar his dog to water him and take him on, only to have birds flush from directly behind where the dog had been standing. (It should be noted that, while fairly consistent, the breeze had been arcing from northwest to southwest all afternoon and that the humidity had dropped over the course of the afternoon, producing ephemeral scenting conditions especially in open ground).

In the meantime, at 0:22, down in a hollow to the left, McLean would call point for Fred, but with the flight of birds unseen by the judge he would elect to simply water his dog and take him on. As the course crested over the slow rise, Daniels would then alert McLean to Fred standing once more at 0:27, standing in the shade, the birds clearly seeking the relief as much as the humans. Blindsider, in particular, had been able to establish a strong forward race for a solid quarter-hour but after his bracemate had carded another find at 0:34, both he and Fred would be taken off to the solitary water tank at the apex of the turn west. Turned loose once more, albeit into the relatively shady pine woods paralleling Wildfair Road, both dogs would come to a stop soon thereafter: Blindsider directly to the front at 0:38, the birds immediately ahead of him; Fred, too, had come to a stop at 0:39 down in the hollow to the left, the birds seen rising by the oncoming judge. As the dogs pushed westward with no seeming loss of pace, Blindsider directly out front, Fred working through the woods to the south, the call of point would come from McLean's

scout at 0:43, albeit for Daniels. Birds would be seen rising by the reporter as he, the oncoming judge, and finally Daniels came in, only for Daniels to declare that this was not in fact his dog, but Fred, the scout having mistaken one white, orange, and ticked male pointer standing in mottled shade for the other. Daniels would race back to the front where he would successfully reconnect with his dog and successfully handle another find at 0:48 on the edge of one of the east-west cover crop fields. McLean would then ask his scout to bring Fred forward to try and regain the front, but arguably it was this point of mild confusion and the subsequent loss of momentum that would cost Fred the runner-up slot on the podium.

As the course angled slightly northwest to come around the bowl shortly after the afternoon breakaway, Blindsider would stop for a final time at 0:51, roughly 100 yards below the rotator field, a relocation effort successfully pinning the birds for Daniels to flush. By contrast, some 200 yards further south, Fred would come to a stop at 0:52, but after an initial flushing effort, the dog would choose to take himself on when asked to relocate. As the gallery came around the western end of the bowl and climbed up towards the imminent afternoon breakaway, Fred would swing up the left side (and ultimately finish his hour arcing back to the east) while Blindsider would be seen climbing out on the shoulder to the right parallel to Hardup Road. Both dogs had moved exceptionally well, but Blindsider had weathered the hot, dry conditions with not only four immaculate finds but also the confusion of the misidentified dog.

Shadow's Lord Magic (Eisenhart) had come out of brace No. 1 drawn against another young dog also coming off an impressive spring season, Erin's High Note (Carlton). Since High Note's impressive showing to claim runner-up at the Continental, he had been purchased by Mike Sweet, now riding in the gallery to watch his dog. As it had been two years ago at Nilo, although now with Hall of Famer Tommy Davis marshaling, the course broke away just over the main access road from the parking area and proceeded due north for over a mile and a half before turning east below the pecan orchards. The action would begin quickly, barely 400 yards off the breakaway, with High Note successfully pinning birds at 0:02, then Lord Magic at 0:03 some 300 yards further on. With Lord Magic staying out on the left side, he would then be found again at 0:05 some 150 yards out from the gallery, although it would take three relocation efforts and about 25 yards to successfully pin the covey in the broomsedge ahead of him (and with two others then rising in the immediate vicinity). After another successful find down in an oaky bottom on the left at 0:10 for High Note, both dogs were able to show a degree of range and race for an extended period. With Lord Magic moving consistently forward and then around into the turn below the pecan grove, High Note would be found standing in the broomsedge on the

other edge of the turn at 0:21, although the relocation would prove fruitless. He would then swing powerfully through the woods parallel to the grove and come to a stop at 0:26; the birds then called in the air but unseen by the oncoming judge, and the dog then taken on.

After roughly three-quarters of a mile east, both dogs would make the turn south, Lord Magic staying ahead of his handler in the central wooded corridor between two long, skinny cover crop fields, High Note taking the inside of the turn and staying out to the east. With Lord Magic then carding a find roughly two-thirds of the way down that piney corridor at 0:38, High Note would then have a find way out on the far side of the large pond in the center of the first course. This was that kind of find that a complete novice could appreciate and could have appreciated from several hundred yards away, the dog clearly visible from across the pond, framed by tall pines, the tight silhouette standing out against the grassy slope as the entourage of handler, scout, judge, and owner loped around the pond to him, the birds still there and rising in such numbers to be readily seen even from the other side. With Carlton then bringing his dog back around and to the front, High Note would then honor his brace mate from easily 75 yards away at 0:43, Lord Magic standing on the edge of the large, key-shaped cover crop field on the inside of the turn west, the birds seen rising by the judge as he rode up. High Note would come to a stop on the woods edge on the outside of the turn at 0:46, birds called rising but unseen by the judge, another covey rising after the handler took the dog by the collar to take him on. Luck would stay with Lord Magic at 0:49, stopped for a fifth and final time down in a live oak bottom, the birds again seen rising by the approaching judge. Both dogs would finish up moving well out front, Lord Magic the model of skill and consistency and the recipient of some good fortune with the vicissitudes of wild birds.

### **The Running**

The first brace featuring Shadow's Lord Magic (Eisenhart) and Erin's High Note (Carlton) has just been narrated in the placements.

Brace No. 2 brought Dominator's Wild Bill (Daniels), with owners Sarah and Jack Schwarz and Nick Berrong riding in support, to the line with Lester's Shockwave (Lester). Angling southwest, the action would also begin quickly with both dogs coming to a stop at 0:06 near the powerlines, Wild Bill some 300 yards west of Shockwave, he just under the powerlines, standing in the broomsedge, looking up into the southeasterly breeze. Both handlers would successfully flush birds, although two other coveys would rise within 25 yards of Shockwave at Lester's shot. Shockwave would stop again at 0:09, perhaps a quarter mile further south, this time standing in a firebreak, but birds aplenty rising directly ahead of him; 300 yards out to the west, he would be taken on at 0:11 after the birds rose ahead of him unseen by the oncoming judge.

As the course followed a prominent feed trail largely southbound, both dogs would stop again at 0:16 near where the trail makes an obvious cant east. Shockwave would be tucked under a pine tree in the shade some 75 yards off the trail to the right, a momentous covey of birds rising from the two broomsedge blocks ahead of him; Wild Bill would be out in the piney woods some 200 yards further southeast, birds easily produced ahead of the stylish dog. As the course took a westward turn past one of the hunting course hitching posts, Storm Surge would be out to the south and come to a stop near a prominent woodpile at 0:21, the birds again directly ahead of him. With the course now turning south parallel to Cooleewahee Creek, Wild Bill would come to a stop in the northeast corner of the field at the apex of the turn at 0:27, Shockwave establishing an honor, although sadly, despite a solid relocation effort, this would prove to be a barren stand. Sent on south and Shockwave would come to a stop out to the right down in a shady, oaky bottom at 0:32, birds still plentiful ahead of him. Sadly, though, at 0:35, a covey of birds would get up around him on the way past, and his handler elected to pick him up without giving him the benefit of the doubt. In the process of this, the call of point would come from out on the right side at 0:35 for Wild Bill, up on a rise some 250 yards out to the northwest, birds immediately ahead of him. He would still be moving well as the gallery passed the old stone picnic shed and began to angle northeast, and while he had not shown quite the same degree of consistency in his pattern as the winners. For example, he would finish up moving out front out on the right side.

Brace No. 3 featured Touch's Malcolm Story (McLean) alongside Erin's Perfect Storm (Eisenhart). Turned loose to the north, the first call of point would come early at 0:02 for Gallatin Fire out to the left, some 100 yards east of a dried-out cypress swamp, the birds plentiful ahead of the stylish dog. Shortly after crossing the prominent access road at 0:07, the call of point would come for Perfect Storm standing tall in a stand of young pines on the left. The birds easily produced ahead of him, their flight prompting another two into the air as well; turned loose on the same trajectory north, he would come to a stop shortly afterward at 0:10, another covey sent skyward. As the first view of the main buildings came into view, Perfect Storm had certainly been seen moving out into the woods immediately south of the Big Richardson Pond, and indeed, the distant call from the scout at 0:18 would confirm that Perfect Storm had located game on the southwestern edge of the pond. Standing in a shady spot just above the depleted pond's normal watermark, a solitary bird would be produced ahead of him.

In the meantime, Gallatin Fire had been absent for some time, and McLean would opt to ask for his tracker at 0:24. Angling northwest after crossing the main access road, Perfect Storm would be found tucked into an oaky thicket on the edge of a cover crop field some 200 yards south of the skeet

field, although the judge was unable to see the flight birds called in the air and the dog taken on. Three hundred yards further on, due east of the lodge on the north side of the pond, he would come to a stop at 0:38 in the shade of a prominent live oak, the birds readily ahead of him. The numbers of subsequent birds would disincite the belief that these were refugees from the previous find; nevertheless, the dog would point once more at 0:39 and then be forced into a stop to flush at 0:40 as the gallery came back to the main trail headed north. After a strong move out into the woods to the right and an absence of several minutes, he would be found on the nearside corner of a roughly triangular cover crop field at 0:50, the birds easily produced ahead of him. He would have a final find at 0:54 as the course finished its clockwise turn around to the south, just off the course to the left. He would finish up his hour moving out front ahead of his handler.

Brace No. 4 brought Rester's Powered Up (Eisenhart), with his owner Cecil Rester in the gallery, to the line with Miller's King Poast (Lester). As it had been all morning over on Nilo, there was no shortage of birds to be located here on Nonami. Past the bowl and into the first section of cover crop fields to the right, Powered Up would be the first to stop on the left side of the course at 0:06, with King Poast honoring with both integrity and intensity. After an initial unsuccessful flushing effort, King Poast would be taken on, while Powered Up would be asked to relocate, although he would be forced to stop to flush in the process. King Poast would then come to a stop of his own in a hollow some 200 yards north on the left side of the course at 0:18. After an unsuccessful initial flushing effort, he would move up some 50 yards into the southwesterly breeze before finally pinning the birds that had initially stopped him. Very soon after the turn north parallel with the Blue Springs equipment shed, after working through several patches of scent, King Poast would firm up emphatically once more at 0:26, the birds readily flushed out of the scrubby cover block. Birds were clearly moving through this section of the course as King Poast would twice initially set himself up and then take himself on without incident before coming to a resolute stop towards the end of the skinny cover crop field that runs parallel to the road once more at 0:32, the birds easily located ahead of him. Shortly afterward, he would stop once more at 0:34. After an initially unsuccessful flushing effort, he would be asked to relocate, birds lifting from the area in the process, but without the dog directly responsible.

At the same time, over on the left side of the course, Powered Up would have a straightforward find of his own at 0:34. After sending King Poast up into the reclaimed and pine-planted rotator field as the course passed the site of the old Baptist church and turned north, the call of point would come for him once more at 0:49, some 250 yards west of the course and some 200 yards south of the dirt road. Sadly, this time, the extended flushing and relocation effort would yield nothing,

while a shot would ring out at 0:50 for Powered Up on the edge of the trail directly ahead of his handler. The action would not be over, though, with King Poast stopping again near the dirt road at 0:55, Powered Up demonstrating a stylish honor. After successfully flushing the birds, both dogs would be sent north, only for each to stop very shortly thereafter. Where King Poast would successfully locate birds at 0:57, Silver Lining would be unable to produce any more at 0:58, despite a thorough relocation.

Brace No. 5 drew Touch's Malcolm Story (McLean) to the line with Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton). Turning loose from the base of the long cover crop fields, Malcolm Story would be the first to make contact at 0:03 out on the right side, barely 75 yards due west of the house out towards the road, the dog maintaining his composure despite a mixed bag of deer and quail flushing out ahead of him. As the course climbed up over the first major rise and out into the far more open country, Malcolm Story would stop once more at 0:07 on the edge of the prominent east-west cover crop field, this time with just birds immediately ahead of him; he would stop successfully once more barely 300 yards further on at 0:09.

In the meantime, Heat Advisory could be seen moving out through the rippling woods down to the left. The course would begin to turn west under the first of the rotator fields, and Heat Advisory's last-seen move would generate one of the outstanding limb finds of the trial, the call of point at 0:15 from behind the gallery leading to a several-minute canter to locate the dog on the edge of a cover crop field. With his handler still making his way back, Lee Phillips was on the verge of flushing for the taut dog to minimize the possibility that birds might otherwise slip away. (This degree of sportsmanship and collegiality has always struck me as a refreshing hallmark of the southern trials.) His services would not be needed, and the birds still pinned ahead of the dog.

With Malcolm Story now absent for some time, Heat Advisory would move through the thinned woods of Nonami's north end, thinned because they are still in recovery from the hurricane of 2018, and while tremendous work has since been done to re-seed and replant, this section of the courses lacks the same degree of shade as the rest. Coming to a stop roughly parallel with the center of the pivot and some 150 yards out to the south, Heat Advisory would successfully point again at 0:23. He would then be sent down into the live oak hollow to the right and would come to a stop barely 300 yards further on at 0:25, although this time neither flushing nor relocation efforts would prove productive. Pushing through the final wooded section below the second rotator field, Heat Advisory would stop once more out on the left side, standing in the shade of a woody tongue at 0:31, the birds once more securely ahead of him. At this point, though, the shade cover disappeared leaving dogs, horses, and humans exposed to the full heat of the afternoon, and while Heat Advisory

was still moving well, he had also diminished, and after a brief conversation with the judges at 0:45, he would elect to pick up his dog. Simultaneously McLean, too, had come for his tracker with no desire to leave his dog in the Nonami outback for too long.

Brace No. 6 featuring Miller's Blindsider (Daniels) and Touch's Breakaway Fred (McLean) has been covered in the placements.

Due to a scratch, brace No. 7 brought Knight's Little John (Lester) to the line with Erin's Silver Lining (Eisenhart) for the second morning at Nilo. As expected, the action began early, with Little John stopping barely 300 yards north of the breakaway on the left side of the course under a large live oak at 0:03, the birds flushing as Lester's feet hit the ground. Silver Lining would be found roughly 200 yards further ahead out in a stand of young, planted pines to the northeast at 0:04, although sadly, despite a thorough relocation, nothing could be produced ahead of him. Little John would stop again at 0:07, perhaps another quarter mile further north in a checkerboard of broomsedge blocks, although this, too, would prove to be a barren stand despite a solid relocation effort. He would redeem himself at 0:13, still on the left side of the course, standing tall in the broomsedge between two cover crop fields, the birds easily flushed ahead of him. Eisenhart would be the next to call point at 0:21, Silver Lining just on the outside edge of the turn to the east below the pecan orchards, the birds seen rising from the broomsedge ahead of him as the judge arrived on scene. Little John would make the turn east successfully and then stop on the western edge of the skinny, east-west cover crop field immediately below the orchard at 0:24, although, despite an extended relocation, this would prove fruitless ending his bid. Silver Lining appeared to be moving well ahead of his handler and would stop at the apex of the turn south at 0:30. He would have birds successfully pointed, but his handler had seen something he didn't care for and elected to pick him up.

Brace No. 8 brought Game Ice (Eisenhart) to the line with Sioux Bull Run (Lundstrom). Midway through the first-morning course, the two dogs turned loose to the south parallel to the long skinny cover crop field. Game Ice would be the first to stop at 0:03 in the woods to the right, the birds seen rising by the oncoming judge. After a long cast down the corridor of pines on the left, Bull Run would be found standing at 0:06, although after birds flushed directly over his head, he would exhibit acrobatic behavior to excess. Game Ice would then crisscross the cover crop field and stop once more at 0:07, the birds easily flushed ahead of him. As the course began to angle to the southwest, Game Ice would work up in the woods at the bottom of the cover crop field behind a small screen of young pines. Eisenhart would call point at 0:15 and ask the judges if they had seen birds rise (which they had not); he would still dismount and spring out ahead, managing to flush a single into the air. At which point, sadly, the dog would ease out of its stance and begin to

nose the ground once more, ending its bid.

Brace No. 9 featuring Erin's Code of Honor (Eisenhart) and Aucilla Jim (McLean) would not last much longer. Jim would be the first to point at 0:07, 75 yards east of the red dirt road and roughly 100 yards south of the planted pines, the birds seen rising ahead of the stylish dog. Code of Honor would stop at 0:16 in the woody corridor between two roughly square cover crop fields, the Nilo kennels visible out to the southeast, perhaps three-quarters of a mile away, the birds readily ahead of him after he set himself up tight. As the course headed resolutely south, Jim would stop once more just above a little dried-out bowl at 0:22, the birds easily flushed by his handler. Neither dog had shown the degree of punch that all four named dogs had shown. Soon thereafter, Jim stopped immediately before the power lines at 0:26 and then Code of Honor just south of them at 0:27, both with birds ahead of them, only to have Jim leapfrog and then stop another 200 yards southwest of Code of Honor down in the hollow. But with Jim's stand and relocation proving fruitless, both handlers would elect to pick up their dogs.

To minimize the likelihood of the trial running into four days, the judges had asked for four braces of dogs to be ready to run for the morning. And so, with the three previous braces ending early, No. 10 brought Erin's Primetime (Eisenhart) to the line with Touch's Shadow Rider (McLean) to be turned loose for the fourth and final brace of the morning. Turned loose heading west on the prominent sandy two-track, Primetime would stop early on at 0:02, just off the track on the right as it began to angle southwest, the birds seen leaving as the judge approached. Shadow Rider would strike next at 0:05 out in some young pines on the northeast corner of the dried-out pond to the east, while Primetime would be obligated to stop-to-flush on the right side of the two-track shortly thereafter. Both dogs would be taken on and then found together barely 200 yards further south at 0:07, Shadow Rider honoring Primetime, the birds easily produced ahead of him. Happily, both dogs would be able to demonstrate some range and speed as the course headed almost due south down the Coolewahee Way.

Shortly after the course turned east, down in a dry, grassy hollow on the inside of the turn, Primetime would be found standing tall and tight at 0:23. Nevertheless after a thorough flushing effort through the sparse grass, Eisenhart would pronounce it "a very pretty nonproductive" and take his dog on without further ado (if for no other reason than it looked like premier snake territory). After passing the old stone picnic shed and angling northeast again, the dogs would be found together once more at 0:31, Primetime pointing off on the right side near a prominent live oak, Shadow Rider honoring from at least 50 yards away, his integrity rewarded with the flight of birds from in front of his bracemate. Both dogs would stop again at 0:35, on the north side of the obvious skinny, east-west cover crop field, Shadow Rider in the shade of a live oak roughly 100 yards further northwest

of Primetime out in the broomsedge, both dogs with coveys in front of them. Very soon thereafter, Primetime would stop once more at 0:37, although he would be taken on after the judge had been unable to see the birds leaving before he arrived; Shadow Rider had also recognized the stop and come to an honor at 0:37. As the course re-crossed the prominent two-track, Shadow Rider would come to a stop in the stand of young, planted pines on the left at 0:42, the birds easily produced ahead of him. Nevertheless, with a good sense of what was already in the judges' books, McLean would elect to pick up his dog at 0:48 as the gallery approached the Big Richardson Pond on the right. Leaving the pond behind but after a brief conversation with the judges, Eisenhart would follow suit at 0:52.

The afternoon over at Nonami would not fare much better. Brace No. 11 would bring Erin's Wild Atlantic Way (Eisenhart) to the line with Lester's Storm Surge (Lester). An initial stop out on the left side in the shade of a live oak at 0:05 for Wild Atlantic Way would prove fruitless despite a thorough relocation effort, only to have the dog then fail to stop in a sufficiently mannerly fashion for a flushing bird at 0:12. Approximately three-quarters of a mile east of the breakaway, Storm Surge would start with a solid find at 0:08 out to the north of the first two prominent and parallel north-south cover crop fields. Punching out to the north, he would stop once more at 0:12, roughly 100 yards south of the large rectangular cover crop field out on the left side, the birds easily produced ahead of him. After a strong cast east towards the Blue Springs headquarters and then readily turning north with his handler, what happened next can perhaps best be described as one of the odder occurrences in field trialing. As the course moved parallel to Blue Springs Road, the call of point would come from the scout way out to the right at 0:33 at the foot of the two skinny cover crop fields. After an enthusiastic canter to the spot (and a covey of birds ridden up on the way to the scout), when asked where the dog was standing, the scout turned his head only to realize that the dog was not there. He would be found standing some 600 yards further up the corridor of woods between the two fields at 0:35, but nothing could be produced ahead of him despite a relocation effort. With the significant heat appearing to take its toll, Lester elected to pick up his dog at 0:52, just south of the sinkhole.

Brace No. 12, featuring Chief's Rising Sun (Carlton) and Touch's Blue Knight (Watson), would sadly end prematurely. Turned loose just north of the sinkhole, Chief would break out to the west and stop in the cover between two cover crop fields some 250 yards out at 0:01, although this would prove non-productive despite a relocation. Crossing the dirt road, he would stop once more on the southwest corner of the long going-away field at 0:08, but this, too, proved to be a barren stand despite an extensive relocation effort. Blue Knight, in the meantime, had crossed the course from right to left, to be then found pointed out on the edge of the next westerly

cover crop field. This, too, proved to be non-productive despite a thorough relocation. He would come to a successful and stylish stop at 0:15, just south of the home on the Nonami side of Blue Springs Road, in the same general vicinity that Crown's Black Ice had been found at time to win the 2021 edition of the Masters. Nevertheless, as the course angled westward underneath the pivot field, Watson would come in for his tracker at 0:32.

Brace No. 13, Johnny Ringo (Eisenhart) and Woodville's Yukon Cornelius (McLean), was, perhaps unsurprisingly, no more fortunate. Turned loose roughly parallel with the center of the pivot, Johnny Ringo would go barely 200 yards out to the left before stopping at 0:01 on the southwest corner of a cover crop field, the birds readily flushed ahead of him. As had been the case the day before, with the two previous braces ending early, the course would make a southbound turn towards the edge of the golf course almost a mile away. Erudite scouting would locate Yukon Cornelius some 400 yards out to the southwest, standing in bright sunshine, the birds nevertheless still there for his handler to flush. While the course angled south and would then curve west around the 14th green, Johnny Ringo would push out to the southeast around 0:11, never to return. Yukon Cornelius would stop out in the shady woods some 150 yards west of the course at 0:12, only to have the initial flushing effort and extended relocation prove nothing. Sadly, as the dog was being gathered up to be watered, birds would pop out of the scrubby cover, and after a brief conversation with the judges, McLean would opt to pick up his dog.

Brace No. 14 drew Notorious Front Range (Mathys) head-to-head with Rester's Cajun Justice (Eisenhart) for another abbreviated brace. While the temperature was pleasantly cool, the wind had picked up and was coming stiff out of the east. Point would be called for Cajun Justice by his scout at 0:06 out on the left, but by the time the handler had reached him, he had already taken himself on. Front Range would then be found down in the oak bowl to the left at 0:12, the birds readily in front of him, but when Eisenhart verified that his dog was not also standing there, he came for his tracker, concerned he had left the dog standing back behind. Front Range would finish the remainder of the northbound leg moving nicely out on the left side, and after coming around with his handler at the turn east, would come to another stop at 0:30, 25 yards south of the edge of the woods almost directly below where the old and new pecan groves meet. The judge would ride up a bird on the way to the taut dog, albeit at some distance, alert Mathys, who would nevertheless show absolute faith in his dog standing tall, head up into the stiff breeze, and then flush a covey immediately ahead of him. He would stop once more at the apex of the turn south at 0:36, more birds flushed ahead of him, but after seeking a conversation with the judges, Mathys elected to pick up his dog.

Due to a scratch, brace No. 15 saw Dominator's Queen Bee (Daniels) run by

herself, avidly supported by her collegium of owners, "The Morning Brace." Turned loose for the southbound leg parallel to the long, slender cover crop fields. After taking a few minutes to get herself oriented to the terrain, she would punch out for the far end of the field and come to an initial stop at 0:11 behind the cluster of small pines where Game Ice had stopped in the eighth brace, but after an initial call of point, she would take herself on without incident. Almost at the end of the three-quarter mile westward arc, very soon after the dirt road crossing on the right, Queen Bee would come to a stop at 0:19, although the birds called rising ahead of her would be unseen by the oncoming judges. She would keep moving well despite what was now warm, dry, and gusty conditions as the course headed southwest, but by the time the gallery reached the prominent sandy road that heads up towards the skeet field at 0:27, Daniels elected to save his dog any further struggle in the conditions.

Brace No. 16 brought Dogwood Bill (Stringer) to the line with Rentz's Hijacked (Eisenhart), with owner Claudia McNamee riding in the gallery. The excitement would begin with six finds between the two dogs in the first quarter-hour. Bill would strike first at 0:04, roughly 400 yards north of the powerlines, tucked in the corner of a cover crop field in the shade, the bird easily produced ahead of him. Then Hijacked would make successful contact at 0:06 in the same piney corner immediately before the power lines that Aucilla Jim had located birds in the ninth brace. Coming under the powerlines, both dogs would stop with independent finds near the prominent live oak at 0:07, Hijacked roughly 75 yards west, Bill 75 yards to the southwest, Hijacked with a covey, Bill with perhaps a solitary sentry bird well ahead of him, too. Punching south, Bill would score again at 0:13, just off the sandy road to the right and out in a flat glade some 75 yards north of a large live oak, Hijacked honoring in high style. Taken on, he would stop almost immediately again at 0:15, now some 25 yards east of that live oak, Hijacked again obligated to honor, and while birds would be seen leaving as the gallery approached, more would flush immediately ahead of the mannerly pair. Bill would barely get moving again before stopping at 0:17, although despite a thorough flushing and relocation effort, this would prove non-productive. As this relocation attempt was taking place, Eisenhart would elect to pick up his dog at 0:18. Bill would stop for a final time at 0:22 on the edge of the large cover crop field on the right of the trail, but despite his best efforts, he would be thwarted again ending his bid.

The final afternoon on Nonami would prove no less challenging, especially now that in addition to temperatures in the 70s, the humidity had dropped into the teens, there was a strong smell of smoke, presumably

from plantations getting an early start on their burning, and the wind coming primarily from the east at around 10 mph. With 'east being least (and west being best),' it is perhaps no wonder how few birds were successfully pinned.

Brace No. 17 nevertheless came to the line with Rester's Cajun Spirit (Carlton) and Boumeester's Duramax (Mathys). Turned loose into the wind, both dogs would break out smartly, Duramax carving out around the bowl to the north. Mathys would call point twice for him out on that shoulder, at 0:05 and then 0:06, but the dog would take himself on both times without incident. Cajun Spirit would come to a stop at 0:08 midway down the eastern edge of the first north-south cover crop field on the right, looking up into an oaky thicket. Sadly though, despite a thorough relocation effort, this would prove non-productive. In the meantime, Duramax had been moving out hard on the left side. Coming over the rise for the first view of the Blue Springs headquarters at 0:18, Cajun Spirit would once again be sighted, stopped near the eastern edge of that north-south cover crop field. Sadly, he would also be seen moving after the flight of birds ahead of him, ending his day. In the meantime, Duramax had come in towards his handler and come to a stop at 0:20 in the next hollow, looking up into the shade of a live oak, the birds readily flushed ahead of him. Sent on, he would go perhaps 200 yards before stopping once more, although this time, neither flush nor relocation could produce anything ahead of him. He would point successfully twice more, the first shortly after sighting the Blue Springs headquarters at 0:27, the second a solid quarter-mile out to the north in the center of the course at 0:38. A false alarm at 0:49 (where the dog would be called pointed, but he would take himself on before the handler reached him) would lead to a final stop at 0:52 on the corner of the cover crop where the course cuts northeast in the direction of the now-gone Baptist Church. Sadly, this would prove non-productive, ending the otherwise strong dog's bid.

Brace No. 18 would bring Notorious Dominator's Heir (Carlton) head-to-head with Erin's Three Leaf Shamrock (Eisenhart). Past the sinkhole, Dominator's Heir would swing up through the woods between the skinny cover crop field and the roadside edge of Blue Springs Road and come to a stop at 0:06, roughly 25 yards south of the head of the field. The initial flush would prove unsuccessful, and the dog extremely reluctant to move up into the stiff, easterly breeze. He would move up, but whatever had stopped him was no longer there. As this was taking place, Three Leaf Shamrock stopped at 0:08, perhaps 250 yards north, just off the edge of the trail as it curves to the northwest, the birds seen leaving by the judge as he approached. Crossing the main access road, Shamrock would stop

again roughly 250 yards north of the road at 0:14, but after the flushing and relocation efforts proved fruitless, Eisenhart elected to pick up his dog. Dominator's Heir had also punched into those woods parallel to the long going-away field and come to a stop of his own another 250 yards to the north at 0:15, but when this too failed to produce birds, his bid came to an end.

The final brace, No. 19, saw Supreme Confidence (Eisenhart) with owner Claudia McNamee riding in support, and Touch's Midnight Rider (McLean) turned loose northbound. As the course passed the house near which Blue Knight had pointed in the 12th brace, and then crossed the dirt access path and entered the key-shaped, east-west cover crop field, Supreme Confidence would be found standing in the shaded firebreak on its northwest corner at 0:05, high, tight, and accurate in his location of birds. At that point, the course began to turn west, only for Midnight Rider to stop at 0:07 midway down the southern edge of the next long east-west field. Sadly, despite a solid relocation effort, this would prove to be a fruitless stand. Supreme Confidence had come around with his handler but had stayed out to the north, and the call of point would come for him a quarter mile out to the right, just over the prominent north-south access road at 0:10. This, too, would prove to be a fruitless stand, despite a relocation effort. Soon after regaining the front, Supreme Confidence would stop at 0:14, buried deep in an oaky thicket on the left side, the judge seeing the birds rise as he approached.

As the course turned east above the golf course, Supreme Confidence would come to a stop approximately 250 yards due north of the 14th green at 0:18, standing in the shade of a pine looking up into an oaky thicket, Midnight Rider honoring with the fullest integrity. Unfortunately, despite a thorough relocation, this would prove fruitless, bringing his time on the ground to an end. Midnight Rider would continue to swing around the edge of the golf course, still moving well despite the heat, and would come to a stop roughly parallel with the clubhouse at 0:25 out towards a cover crop field on the left; the birds easily produced ahead of him. He would then punch out southbound once more and, to his credit, be largely out of sight until he was sighted stopped at 0:41, standing in the broomsedge on the eastern shoulder of the live oak valley descending ahead of him. Despite a thorough relocation effort, he, too, would be stymied, bringing this year's Championship to an end.

**Albany, Ga., March 6**

**Judges: Dr. Fred Corder and Mike Lemons  
MASTERS QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP**

**[One-Hour Heats] – 33 Pointers and 4 Setters**

*Winner—MILLER'S BLINDSIDER, 1674983, pointer male, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Nick Berrong, owner; Jamie Daniels, handler.*

*Runner-Up—SHADOW'S LORD MAGIC, 1668301, pointer male, by In The Shadow-Hello Kitty. Carl Bowman, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.*

REMINDER: The advertising deadline for the July issue is June 5!

# NBHA NATIONAL FREE-FOR-ALL CHAMPIONSHIP

*Pure Confidence Named Champion; Piper, Runner-Up*

By Ken Sauer | Booneville, Arkansas | March 6, 2023



NBHA National Free-For-All Championship Winners (l-r): NBHA President Ken Sauer, Joyce Taylor (judge), Steve Messick (judge), Glenn Cumbie, Jillian Stuhr with Pure Confidence, Garry Malzone, Glenn Click, Steve James, Matthew Puckett with Piper, Emory Gardner, Weldon Gardner, Lucinda Gardner, Clay Erwin, and Jerry Oswalt.

Our journey began on March 8, 2023, at the Blue Mountain SEU Field Trial Grounds. This was coming off multiple NBHA events in Kansas, then to the NBHA Futurity at Grovespring, Mo., then home to host the Region 7 Walking Shooting Dog Championship. We had a week off, missing the NBHA National Open Championship in Tennessee. Sad to miss this one, but my road warrior days seem to be getting shorter. With all these events, Melissa's birthday was February 14 (once again, she stuck with me), and our 40th Anniversary was March 12. It seems like we've been doing this for decades. At Blue Mountain, our trailer neighbors, the famous Rich Robertson and his lovely wife Penny, brought flowers to Melissa to celebrate our anniversary. Next year is her year with no trials on those dates!



Melissa Sauer with flowers from Rich and Penny Robertson.

The weather was projected to be stormy and raining all day Thursday, so the trial was moved to start on Friday. This was a great call and would have been miserable for the judges, handlers, and dogs. The course was wet but drained and dried out somewhat. It was a little sloppy in a few areas but, for the most part, in good shape. We had to change up the finishing 5-10 minutes because Lick Creek was not passable. It all worked out well. The course was laid out nicely for a walking shooting dog event, with a nice open breakaway with edges and objectives throughout the entire hour.

Booneville is a wonderful venue with all the amenities—a clubhouse, kennels, horse stalls, turn-outs, and a great crew with the AF&G (thank you, Brad Wells and crew). The Westark Field Trial Club and Cypress Creek Field Trial Club co-hosted this event. The team from Arkansas is a huge help. Thank

you, Glenn Cumbie and Jerry Oswalt, for managing the handlers, dogs, dog wagon, and bird planting. A special thanks to Joyce Taylor and Steve Messick for the three days of sitting in the saddle judging. Also, thanks to Zack and Andy Erne for judging the Open Puppy stakes. We must thank our many sponsors and supporters—Purina, Garmin, Gun Dog Supply, Mule Brand Clothing, Park Cities Quail Coalition, Gun Dog Central, and OnX Hunt. Cosey Tee's provided the engraving trophies for the winners. Thanks to C&G Game Bird Farm from Oklahoma, the birds were good flying. Also, we can't forget Kim Seaton for all the lunches and dinners made and prepared and a young man, Trace Nicholas, who came and cleaned all the horse stalls. We also want to thank Larry Cox with Christie Enterprises for the halter bridle judges' gifts and Alyssa Rowan for the NBHA Yeti tumblers. We also had a special guest, Harold Woodward, a long-time NBHA supporter, and dear friend. Harold is recovering from shoulder issues but seems to be healing nicely.

## Free-For-All First Series

Brace No. 1 paired Hey Mr. Tin Man ("Tin Man"/Kenney Snow, owner/handler) and Indian Creek Sprout ("Sprout"/Jillian Stuhr, owner, and Garry Malzone, handler). Both dogs had a forward breakaway. At 25, Sprout was found standing with all in order. Tin Man was found standing on another location (bird) at 26. Tin Man had another stand at 29, but his manners cost him, and Kenny picked him up. Sprout was awarded additional finds at 32, 40, 50, and again at 54. This young dog moves nicely, has excellent manners on her game, and is still a first-year shooting dog.

Brace No. 2 paired Erin's Lone Star Attitude ("Major"/Matthew Puckett, owner/handler) and Cates Rocket Girl ("Girl"/David Cates, owner, and Zack Erne, handler). At the breakaway, Major had a stand at 7, but the

handler could not produce a bird. On through the course, Girl was found at 22 with Major backing. All was in order. Again at 25, Girl had another find, all in order.

Further ahead, Major had a nice find at 31 and 34, all in order. At 46, Girl was located on a stand, all in order, and at 53, suffered an unproductive. Major was missing at around 55 but was found at 58 standing and only could produce a pile of feathers.

Brace No. 3 paired Jimfork's Staple ("Bo"/Steve James, owner/handler) and Pure Confidence ("Tango"/Black Meadows Kennels, owner, and Garry Malzone, handler). At 5, Tango was found to the front on the right edge, standing over the breakaway hill with Bo backing. This had a long-extended flush, and both dogs handled this situation with all the manners. Bo was found standing at 15 and 26 with all in order. Tango was located ahead at 26 with a stand. At 40, Bo suffered an unproductive. Tango was ahead and found at 42, standing high and tight. Tango scored again at 48, with Bo coming in to back. At 52, Tango had yet another find; at 54, Bo stood but could only produce a dead bird with no harm done.

Brace No. 4 paired Jimfork's Hawkeye Buck ("Mac"/Kenny Snow, owner/handler) and Sycamore Creek Cody ("Cody"/Bob Kelly, owner, and Zack Erne, handler). At 15, off the breakaway, Mac stood nicely for his handler, all in order. Mac again produced a find at 20, with Cody coming in for a back. At 22, both dogs were found pointed on a divided find. Cody, at 34, was found standing and had to let Cody relocate. All was in order, with Cody handling the relocation like a seasoned shooting dog. At 38, Cody again had a find and took a few steps during the flush, and at 48, he failed to back and was picked up. At 48, Mac suffered an unproductive stand. Mac had his final find at 52 before the backfield.

Brace No. 5 paired Erin's Deja Vu ("Bess"/Joseph Link, owner, and Garry Malzone, handler) and Chippewa's Grindstone ("Grady"/Geoff Johnson, owner, and Zack Erne, handler). Bess started at 14 with a find, and Grady came in for a back. All was in order. Grady had finds at 20 and again at 30. Grady's find at 30 had a little too much movement during the flush. Bess scored a find at 37, all in order. At 45, Bess ran too big for a walking shooting dog, and the handler asked for the Garmin.

Brace No. 6 paired Sulphur Bend Firestorm ("Freckles"/Jim Langley, owner/handler) and Snow's Home Again Katy ("Katy"/Jerry Snow, owner, and Kenny Snow, handler). At 21, past the first creek crossing, Katy was standing but unable to produce a bird. At 36, Katy brought Kenny a bird back. Freckles

didn't have any bird work in this reporter's notes.

Brace No. 7 paired Jade (Weldon Gardner, owner/handler) and Dave's Sho Me Motu ("Tu"/David Cates, owner, and Zack Erne, handler). Tu had a find at 14 requiring a relocation, all in order. Jade was found standing at 15, and all was in order. At 20, both dogs were found pointing on a divided find. At 23, Tu had another find with Jade coming in for a back. At 35, the dogs swapped, with Jade pointing and Tu backing. Jade took a few steps before the flush and was left down. Again at 38, Jade and Tu had a divided find. Tu was awarded a stop to flush at 46. Jade stood with a bit of ticking in the tail. Another divided find pursued at 53. Jade's final stand was at 58 with a bit of ticking in the tail.

Brace No. 8 paired Indian Creek Bocephus ("Bo"/Ed Marron, owner, and Garry Malzone, handler) and K C's Guitar Man ("Zeke"/Ken Sauer, owner/handler). Zeke had a find to the front at 5 in a mowed strip edge. He moved up a step or two before the handler arrived. Zeke stood steady to wing and shot. Zeke was found again at 15 standing but moved up too much for the handler, and he elected to pick up. Bo scored his first and only find at 25, and all was in order. At 40, Bo had not been seen, and the handler asked for the Garmin.

Brace No. 9 paired Chippewa's Dog of War ("Finn"/Geoff Johnson, owner, and Zack Erne, handler) and Erin's Gypsy Lady ("Maria"/Matthew Puckett, owner/handler). Maria started this brace with a find at 13 and at 20 had an unproductive. At 34, Finn scored a find, but Maria failed to back and was collared to the dog wagon. No other bird work was produced in this brace.

Brace No. 10 paired Indian Creek Courageous Cat ("Cat"/Ed Marron, owner, and Garry Malzone, handler) and K C's Tye Oneon ("Tye"/Ken Sauer, owner/handler). At 3, Cat pointed a rabbit, and the handler couldn't get it to fly very well. No harm, and Cat made a big move to the front. Cat was missing for some time, and the handler asked for the Garmin. Tye scored birds at 10, 19, and 40 with nice style and intensity. His ground game wasn't his typical powerful race. He didn't seem to hit the edges like he usually does. He was able to make it the whole hour and handled well for the handler.

Brace No. 11 paired Piper (Weldon Gardner, owner/handler) and Jimfork's Black River ("Hawk"/Glenn Cumbie, owner, and Kenny Snow, handler). At 10, Hawk stood nicely, and the bird popped up. Unfortunately for the owner, handler, and dog, Hawk went with the bird, and his bid was over. Piper handled nicely for Weldon throughout the hour brace. She made excellent casts hitting objectives and edges of cover. Piper was rewarded with excellent bird work at 9, 18, 23, 26, 34, 45, and 49. This reporter felt she had laid down all the qualities to get into the finals.

Brace No. 12 paired Indian Creek Spur ("Spur"/Black Meadows Kennels owner, and Garry Malzone, handler) and Emert's Sho

Me Mo ("Mo"/Dave Emert, owner, and Zack Erne, handler). Spur was found standing off the breakaway over the hill in a thick brushy objective. The handler could not produce a bird after an extended flush and relocation. At 20, around the bend past the first creek crossing in another objective with heavy and thick underbrush, Mo was found standing with Spur backing. After a while of flushing, Spur's handler moved on, and Mo carded an unproductive. Both dogs stood on a divided find up on an edge before Lick Creek. After many attempts to flush by both handlers and two relocations, both dogs got too close to the bird and moved when it flushed.

### **Free-For-All Second Series (Finals)**

Called back were Pure Confidence, Dave's Sho Me Motu, Piper, and Indian Creek Sprout. On standby were Cates Rocket Girl and Jade.

Brace No. 1 was Pure Confidence and Dave's Sho Me Motu. Tango got off to a hot start with a find at 8 and Tu backing. Tu scored on his own at 15 with a nice find past the first creek crossing. At 17, Tango had a stand but only could produce a dead bird. Near the Lick Creek turn, Tu and Tango had a divided find; all was in order for both handlers and dogs. Coming along Lick Creek's edge at 30, Tu suffered an unproductive even after relocation. Heading past the second creek crossing and having to turn in the course, Tango scored on a find with Tu backing. Tu scored finds at 38 and again at 44. Tango, not to be outdone, scored finds at 40 and 43. Coming into the back part of the course, Tu, ahead of Tango, scored a find at 15 on a bird and Tango backing. Tango scored again at 58 to conclude this brace.

Brace No. 2 was Piper and Indian Creek Sprout. Piper was the first to score and rewarded with a find at 9 and Sprout backing. Piper had another stand at 14, all in order. Sprout scored on her first find at 18. Piper, ahead in the field, scored at 19, and Sprout backed again. Piper continued her quest with finds at 27 and 34. The find at 34 was considered a divided find. After being cut loose, both Piper and Sprout had finds in two different locations, each finding birds at 38. Sprout scored again at 41 and 45, but the find at 45 was an unproductive even after relocation. Hitting the back part of the course on the creek's edge, Sprout swapped ends at 51, being rewarded with birds being flushed. Piper wasn't done and had a find at 53 to the front.

This concluded the second series, and the judges had performances from the callback dogs not having to go into the depths of the standby dogs.

**Booneville, Ark., March 10**  
**Judges: Steve Messick and Joyce Taylor**  
**NBHA NATIONAL FREE-FOR-ALL**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Qualifying Heats;**  
**One-Hour Finals] – 24 Entries**

*Winner—PURE CONFIDENCE, 1660531, pointer male, by True Confidence-Richfield Rose. Black Meadow Kennels, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.*  
*Runner-Up—PIPER, 1687183, German Shorthair female, by W&W Rip N Dig-H&r Miss Rock Star. Weldon Gardner, owner and handler.*

### **NBHA Free-For-All Open Derby**

Brace No. 1 paired K C's Dominator's Pat ("Pat"/Ken Sauer, owner/handler) and Maumee Jules D L ("Jules"/Jerry Snow, owner, and Kenny Snow, handler). Jules took off like a rocket at the breakaway. It wasn't long before the handler asked for the Garmin. Pat scored a nice broke find at 8, where no other dog had pointed a bird. At 17, Pat had a bird pop up while moving through some cover and had to be whoa'ed to stop. At 20, Pat suffered an unproductive. Pat made a cast to the creek edge cover and had bird contact. At this point, the wheels acted like they were coming off. She had a final stand at 28 when she had a pair of birds flushed for her. She had a nice ground race but needed more correction than the judges were looking for with springtime derbies.

Brace No. 2 paired Indian Creek Pineapple ("Pineapple"/Jillian Stuhr, owner, and Garry Malzone, handler) and Chippewa's Dream Chaser ("Arco"/Zack & Andy Erne, owners, and Zack Erne, handler). Both dogs had nice breakaways. At 10, past the first creek crossing, Pineapple was found standing, and Arco failed to back. Arco was collared by the handler and loaded on the dog wagon. Pineapple was awarded another find at 25, and all was in order.

Brace No. 3 paired Wynona's Nickleback Mickey ("Mickey"/Kenny Snow, owner/handler) and Silent Assassin ("Tucker"/Bill Osborne, owner, and Ryan Eichelberger, handler). Very soon after the breakaway, Micky needs lots of scouting. The Garmin was asked for soon thereafter. Tucker scored a find at 18 with style and shooting dog skills. Tucker ran a pretty tight race needing no scouting and handling for Ryan. At 27, Tucker was pointed on an edge with heavy cover. Ryan had an extended flush in heavy cover, and no bird was produced. This was carded as an unproductive.

Brace No. 4 paired K C's Next Gen ("Ben"/Ken Sauer, owner/handler) and Jimfork's River Girl ("Girl"/Glenn Cumbie, owner, and Kenny Snow, handler). At 17, Girl had bird contact but failed on some of her manners going with the bird. Girl was gathered up and loaded on the dog wagon. Ben's race was big and to the front. He showed back up front at the breakaway after not being seen for seven minutes. Running big, however, he kept popping up in the front. At 26, Ben scored his only find some 400 yards to the front in the open field. It took a while for the handler to get to him, but he was able to before time. He showed a nice broke find.

Brace No. 5 paired Texas Rebel Heiress ("Joy"/Joe Davis, owner, and Kenny Snow, handler). This brace had a bye. Joy made some nice moves in her ground game. She scored a find at 14. At 23, she was found pointing again, but only to a pile of feathers that a hawk may have beat her to the bird. With a final find at 28, Joy suffered a delayed chase and was picked up.

Booneville, Ark., March 10

**NBHA OPEN DERBY – 7 Pointers and 2 Setters**

1st—*SILENT ASSASSIN*, 1698775, pointer male, by Undertaker-W K Maybe. Bill Osborne, owner; Ryan Eichelberger, handler.

2d—*INDIAN CREEK PINEAPPLE*, 1697900, pointer female, by Indian Creek Perfect Storm-Indian Creek Ramona. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.

3d—*K C'S NEXT GEN*, 1699316, pointer male, by K C's Shrimphoot-K C's Beth Hart. Ken Sauer, owner and handler.

**NBHA Free-For-All Open Puppy**

This reporter didn't ride the puppy stakes and relied on the notes from the judges.

Brace No. 1 was Honey Hush ("Pistol"/Clay Erwin, owner/handler) and "Katy" (Glenn Cumbie, owner/handler). Both dogs possessed speed and front running; we will see this nice set of young dogs in derby stakes



NBHA Open Puppy Winners (l-r): Emory and Weldon Gardner, Jerry Oswald with Saline River Man, Zack Erne (judge), Clay Erwin with Honey Hush, Glenn Click, Matthew Puckett, Steve James with Saline River Judge, Andy Erne (judge), Glenn Cumbie, Jillian Stuhr, Garry Malzone, a curious participant, and Ken Sauer.

next year.

Brace No. 2 was "Jackie" (Glenn Click, owner/handler) and Saline River Judge

("Judge"/Steve James, owner/handler). Both dogs were off with excellent forward casts, staying to the front even through the coarse turns.

Brace No. 3 was Saline River Man ("Patch"/Steve James, owner/handler) and "Jack" (Glenn Cumbie, owner/handler). These two dogs are nice. Patch separates himself from the others. The race was forward and to the front.

**Judges: Andrew Erne and Zach Erne**

**NBHA OPEN PUPPY – 6 Pointers**

1st—*SALINE RIVER MAN*, 1702059, male, by Hey Mr. Tin Man-Snow's Rhiannon. Steve James, owner and handler.

2d—*HONEY HUSH*, 1702266, female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Welsh's All In. Clay Erwin, owner and handler.

3d—*SALINE RIVER JUDGE*, unreg., male, Game Warden-Saline River Jill. Steve James, owner and handler.

## REGION 17 (AFTCA) AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

*Bromance Named Champion; Warjam's Big Mac Daddy, Runner-Up*

By Diane K. Shoemaker | Dexter, Kansas | March 10, 2023

The 2023 installment of the Region 17 Shooting Dog Championship was contested on the sprawling grounds that make up the Radcliff Ranch just north of Dexter, Kan., on March 10. When you plan a trial in March in Kansas, the weather is always a best guess, and this year, it decided to cooperate with us enough to get the running in with no delays.

This year's running saw a nice entry with 38 shooting dogs coming to the line. Dogs from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Missouri made up a strong field representing the region. As with every trial, many people work behind the scenes to put the event together and make it run smoothly. Many good people came together to make this trial a great event. Everyone is appreciated, and a trial like this isn't possible without them.

The Wichita Bird Dog Club hosted this year's Championship, and the boys did a great job, as usual. Trial Chairman Paul Ott helped out everywhere he was needed. His wife, Ms. Rae Ott, was the head chef and did not disappoint. The food was amazing, as usual. Laura Miller hosted the Saturday evening banquet. She made a traditional Scottish dish that was well received; good job, Laura. Region President Rodney Shoemaker was present and available to everyone that needed anything. He even managed to run a few dogs as well. Region 17 Secretary Diane Shoemaker did a great job collecting and accounting entries, snapping pictures, and staying on top of all the action. Don Beauchamp manned his usual dog wagon post, and Frank Schoenborn was in the ranger to shuttle dogs as needed. A very special thank you to Paula Radcliffe for her continued support for the field trial community and the use of this fine ranch to run these dogs the way we all do. The Radcliffe Ranch is truly a unique place to show a dog in Kansas on the



Region 17 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship Winner: Bromance with Austin Bryant, joined by participants.

prairies. Without our landowners, none of this is possible. We are blessed to have access to such a great place.

We were blessed with quality judges for this renewal when John and Jessica Hann from Perfection Kennels in Gallatin, Mo., agreed to judge the event. They need no introduction. The pair brings years of professional bird dog knowledge to the saddle, and we were lucky to have them this year. Hopefully, the rocks won't keep them from coming back! Many thanks to them for many hours in tough country and sometimes harsh weather to look at every dog equally, which they indeed did.

**The Winners**

Judges John and Jessica Hann looked over the field very attentively. After the dust settled, Bromance was named champion out of brace No. 14. Jon Humphrey of Claremore, Okla., proudly owns the 7-year-old white and orange male pointer. Bromance is sired by Tallokas Lane Change, and his dam is Osceola Patty Cake. He is no stranger to the winners' circle. Drawn on Course 1, John was on a mission to win from the breakaway. He broke big to the front after being released and quickly made his way to the front. When the gallery reached the hilltop, John was nowhere to be seen. The scout was working hard, and Jon showed up several minutes later, well to the front.

He rimmed the wheat field and continued. Humphrey called point for John at 21 in a large drainage. John was tall and mannerly through an extended flushing attempt, but no bird could be produced. The handler elected for a relocation, which proved smart as the dog handled it like an expert and pinned the bird for his handler to flush. The bird was produced, and we were on again. The gallery rode to the front to find John backing his bracemate. The bird was produced with everything in order, and John was gathered up at the road crossing and sent on. John continued his big going ways on the backside of the first hour and was with his handler well in touch at the second road crossing. Jon sent the dog down the bottom, and point was called again at 58. An extensive flushing attempt was unsuccessful, and relocation was again requested. And again, John delivered with an expertly handled relocation with the wind blowing over his back and the birds downwind in the creek. Birds were produced, and all was in order. There was just enough time to cut loose and watch John head to the front, which he did as time was called. All in all, a championship-caliber performance.

Judges awarded runner-up to Warjam's Big Mac Daddy, owned and handled by Jim Corpening of Topeka, Kan. The long leggy black and white male pointer is sired by Boumeester's Duramax, and his dam is Oday Nation. Mac came out of brace No. 3 and drew the wide-open third hour to put on his show in this Championship. At just three years old, Mac has a very bright future in front of him. Having already secured two runner-up championship titles this spring alone, Mac is definitely on a roll.

Mac's bid started just below the red corrals on the third hour, where he made an impressive move to gain the front right off the breakaway. After a short absence, the

gallery made their way around the ridge to find Mac standing well ahead to the front at the creek crossing. Mac's bracemate came in from the right for a stellar back, and Mac was undeterred and still standing tall for his handler. Birds were produced, and all was in order. Mac was watered and sent to the front. He moved through the country on a mission to find birds, and his forward, reaching race was awarded at 38 with another nice find. Once again, his bracemate came in to back, and both dogs stood nice and tall while Jim flushed for his dog. The bird was away, and Mac was taken on to the front. Once loosed, Mac found the far front immediately and was on the hunt again. He ran the draws and ran big in the open country. He finished the hour just like he started it, far to the front, looking for birds—a great performance for Mac.

### **The Running**

Brace No. 1 featured Bye Bye G G (Bob Lais) and Traveler's Split Rail (Greg Sands). Split Rail took to the front right off the breakaway with a big, long cast up the hill and into the creek bottom. Point was called by the handler at 19. Birds were produced; unfortunately, Split Rail's bid ended with the contact. G G also broke to the front and was found pointed to the front at 12. Birds were produced, and things were in order. G G was pointed again at 19 with birds produced. G G continued and was on point again at 29. Birds were produced, which proved too much for G G, and her bid ended at 29.

Brace No. 2 brought H P Social Distancing (Rodney Shoemaker) and Stylish Miss Bell (Tom Curtsinger) to the line. Both dogs started well. Social Distancing ran the front well with finds at 27, again at 36, and a divided find at 58. The dog exhibited excellent manners on all three finds and was the early dog to beat at the pickup. Miss Bell would also start strong to the front. A find at 30 would split the handlers up, but Bell would not be denied the front. Bell and her handler made the front and had a divided find at 58 right before time—a good dog race by both dogs.

Brace No. 3 included Warjam's Big Mac Daddy (Jim Corpening), who has been covered already, and Bitterark's Top Dollar (Frank Schoenborn). Buck started the brace strong and well to the front. Buck hit the front and had a nice back at 7. He was mannerly and continued to the front looking for birds after his release. He managed a back again at 38 with manners in order. Buck finished the hour strong to the front but with no birds.

Millstar's Lion Rampant and Aim High Elhew Hadley were drawn in brace No. 4 for handlers Laura Miller and Scott Hadley, respectively. Rampant had a bit of a slow start but found the front eventually. Rampant was handling kindly swung into a draw to point at 22. Birds were produced, and Rampant went with them and was up. Hadley had a nice forward-shooting dog race that was consistently forward. Hadley had two good finds, one at 45 and another at 58, with

manners in order. Hadley finished her brace headed to the front.

Brace No. 5 was Magic Maggie Mae (Klaus Schmidt) and Ten Oaks Annie A (Jeanette Heise). Maggie was on a bird-finding mission early with a nice find at 10. All was in order, and Maggie was loosed to the front. Point was called again for Maggie at 29, and the handler indicated fresh feathers in front of the dog, and she was rounded up and sent on. Maggie got stronger as the hour went on and was well to the front at time. Annie broke the front for her handler and was headed toward the creek bottom in the first hour. Her cast was rewarded with a nice, wild covey find at 11, with birds lifting all around the dog as the gallery approached, with Annie showing great style and manners. Annie was released, found the front, and had a good back at 29. Annie made a nice move and was found by the scout pointing at 42, but no birds were produced. Annie made the front again and finished well to the front at time.

Brace No. 6 featured Cruise Rocket (Paul Roederer) and Nemaha Tap Water (Pat McInTeer). Rocket was a rocket from the start and was lost at 20 when the handler asked for the tracker. Tap Water was also wide running and was out of pocket on more than one occasion, and the handler elected to pick it up at the road crossing.

Brace No. 7 was Fast Money (Bud Moore) and Hadley's Honky Tonk Song (Scott Hadley). Fast Money didn't fire the way her handler had hoped, so he elected to pick her up at 30. Song was lost early, and the handler elected for the tracker at 7.

Brace No. 8 was Iron and Wine for handler Jon Humphrey and H P Dirty Dancing for handler Rodney Shoemaker. Iron and Wine had a big break to the front and, after a short absence, was spotted in the bottom on point by the other handler. Birds were produced, and all was in order. Iron and Wine continued to the front and was found backing bracemate at 30 by the road crossing. Everything was good, and we continued into the wheat fields. Point was called again at 56 but was waved off. Iron and Wine had a nice finish to the front. Dirty Dancing had a good find at the road crossing at 30. All was in order, and the dog was loosed to the front. Handling became an issue for Dirty Dancing, and the tracker was finally requested at 45.

Brace No. 9 saw Ten Oaks Sophie's Jack (Lou Qualtiere) and Topp's First J R (Luke Topp). Sophie's Jack started well and was hunting to the front. Point was called at 30, and the bird was produced, which proved to be a bit much for Sophie. J R ran a far-reaching race that led him to the front and beyond multiple times.

Brace No. 10 had Fortius Nights A Blazin (Sean Anderson) and Whiteway Anarchy (Ray Roberts). Blaze started slowly but opened up quickly and found the front. He had a nice find at 18 while his bracemate was also pointed on his find. Everything was in order, and Blaze was released to the front. The

handler made the road crossing to the oil well field, and Blaze was heading forward when he swapped ends to point at 45 in the wide-open prairie. The handler made an extensive flushing attempt, but no bird was produced. Blaze was asked to relocate but only took a step when sent on. The handler flushed again, but no bird was found. One final relocation produced a bird, and all was in order. He finished to the front at time. Anarchy was away to the front immediately. He had a good find at 10 with a mark to flight. He continued and had a good find on a wild covey at 17 while his bracemate was standing on a find of his own. The covey was flushed, and Anarchy was mannerly. He continued to the front with a good race finishing to the front.

Brace No. 11 brought Unfinished Business (Bud Moore) to the line with Aaron's Four Roses (Luke Topp). Unfinished Business was away to the front on a wide cast. He went into the creek bottom, and the handler called point. A bird was rode up by the judge but was unrelated. The dog carried on and went on to have a nice find at 30 with all in order. The handler eventually made the front and finished going away, down the start of the second hour. Four Roses had a good start and was hunting the front with purpose. She was awarded a nice find at 31. The dog showed good manners and was carried on from there. She hit the open country and opened up, finishing the hour to the front.

In brace No. 12, Griff's Express and Reed's Super Spirit were turned loose for handlers Mike Griffin and Jason Super, respectively. Both dogs headed to the front at the start of the second-hour course and took to the long draw heading away. Isla was pointed by the road at 17, but no bird was produced, and she was taken on. Isla was running the front and was pointed again at 47. This time a bird was produced, her manners were good, and she was taken on. She finished strong to the front, and shortly after time was called, she was discovered in the creek pointed on a wild covey. Griff's Express hunted the country hard and had a find at 41. After a good flushing attempt, a dead bird was found, and the handler shot his gun and took his dog on. The dog finished his hour hunting hard to the front at time.

Brace No. 13 featured Working Class (Steve Auxier) and Hale's High Flyer (Jeff Hale). Both dogs were away wide to the front and hunted the country well until point was called at 26 for High Flyer by the handler. Working Class came in for a nice back, and birds were produced with both dogs mannerly, and we continued. Point was called quickly again at 34 for Working Class by his handler. His bracemate was in the vicinity but not privy to the action and continued to the front. Birds were produced for Working Class in the third hour-long draw paralleling the road, and this proved too much and the dog collar for a breach of manners. High Flyer continued to search the country for the rest of the hour, but birds proved hard to come by.

Brace No. 14 comprised H P Shockwave and Bromance for handlers Rodney Shoemaker and Jon Humphrey, respectively. Bromance's winning performance has been covered. Shockwave went to the task at hand early and was pointed at 13. The handler flushed birds for his dog, and everything was in order. Shockwave struck again at 19 with a find in the open. After a good relocation, the bird was produced, and everything was in order. It is to be noted that the brace mate was also pointed at this time, approximately 80 yards and both dogs exhibited excellent manners and simultaneous relocations on their finds—nice work by both. Shockwave was at it again at 28 with a find near the first-hour road crossing. With his brace mate backing, the handler produced birds with both dogs mannerly. He continued with a forward race and rounded out his hour with a nicely located find at the end of the second-hour draw at 59.

Brace No. 15 was Greypointe Kilogramo (Doug Meyer) and H P Cottonmouth (Rodney Shoemaker). Kilogramo started fast to the front and was pointed shortly thereafter at 5. The handler made an extensive flushing attempt in the ditch leading to the hard left road crossing, but relocation was needed, and the dog delivered after a couple of tries. The handler was able to produce a bird. The dog observed a couple of untimely hops, thus ending his bid early. Cottonmouth continued across the hard left road crossing in the deep draw where another hard left is required. He made both turns and was observed pointed at 10 on the hillside. Relocation was needed, which was performed, and the birds were produced with everything in order. Point was called again in the silo field south of the third-hour gates at 24. Birds were produced, and all was in order. Cottonmouth suffered a nonproductive at 32 and was pointed again at 39, but point was waved off and the dog taken on. Rodney again called point below the big

pond at 44, with a good find observed. The dog was collared and sent on. Point again was called at 49, with birds produced in the draw below the third-hour gates. The dog was sent on and finished to the front at time,

Brace No. 16 was Nemaha Magic Marker (Pat McInteer) and Southern Shadows Bootleg (Klaus Schmidt). Bootleg started short but warmed up in the open country in Course 3, heading to the low water crossing. He was observed making moves at 24, but the bird had other plans and took flight, not allowing the dog to handle it correctly. He was picked up as a result. Magic Marker was well to the front and had a find at 32 heading to the low water crossing. The dog was relocated, and the birds took flight as a result. The dog stopped to flush and was taken on. At 38, the dog was observed to the front, pointed in the draw below the T corner. Birds were produced, and the dog was mannerly and was taken on to T corner and across the last road crossing of the third hour. The dog was again pointed at 51. A relocation was performed with birds again being put aloft with a stop to flush. The handler picked up shortly thereafter.

Brace No. 17 was Topps Ice Chip (Luke Topp) and Wreak Havok (Scott Hadley). Ice Chip broke well away to the front and was gone often. She was not with us at the first-hour road crossing, and the handler called on the tracker to get her gathered up. Wreak Havok did just that, to the front from the break, not to be returned to judgment. The tracker was called for at 17.

Brace No. 18 would see Bocomo Dutchman (Jay Lewis) and Hale's Smooth Touch (Jeff Hale) in the second hour. Both dogs were away quickly to the front from the break into the wheat fields at the first-hour road crossing. Dutchman was observed pointed in a likely spot in the long second-hour draw after the

road crossing. Smooth Touch came in to back nicely, and after an extended flushing attempt, a pile of feathers was all that could be produced, and both dogs were sent to the front. Both dogs spent the remainder of the hour hunting hard to the front, but it was not to be on this day as no more bird contact was observed. Both dogs finished far to the front at time, the same way they started.

Brace No. 19 would bring Bitterark's Royal Hoz (Frank Schoenborn) and Roulette Rocket (Paul Roederer) to the line. Both dogs started fast in the silo pasture south of the third-hour gates. Hoz was found well ahead to the front, pointed in the deep draw leading to the big pond at 9. Rocket came in for a nice back, and after a quick flushing attempt, a dead bird was picked up in front of Hoz. The handler fired, and both dogs were led away to the front. At 15, Hoz was observed well to the front in the draw below the third-hour corals pointed. His brace mate came in to back. A hawk was actually in the ditch eating a bird. There's a first for everything, which was a first for me in my 25 years in this sport. However, both dogs were manner for the hawk flush, and we continued, on the third hour, now heading back into the long draw. Hoz was seen pointed again at 50 in a wood pile by the pond coming out of the silo pasture. Everything was in order as the bird was flushed and Hoz was taken on to the front. Both dogs showed well to the front at time. The Championship concluded in the draw at the low water crossing on the third hour.

**Dexter, Kan., March 10**

**Judges: Jessica Hann and Jon Hann**

**REGION 17 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG**

**CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 38 Entries**

*Winner—BROMANCE, 1668193, pointer male, by Tallokas Lane Change-Osceola Patty Cake. Jon Humphrey, owner and handler.*

*Runner-Up—WARJAM'S BIG MAC DADDY, 1692715, pointer male, by Boumeester's Duramax-Oday Nation. James W. Corpening, owner and handler.*

## NGSPA REGION 5 CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Open & Amateur Series

By Diane Rakers Coppens | Pinckneyville, Illinois | March 11, 2023

The Championships began March 11 at Pyramid State Park near Pinckneyville, Ill. We want to thank Purina for their continued support of this trial. Shout out to Greg Blair, Terry Trzcinski, Karl Gunzer, Alan Davidson, and Jim Morehouse. Jim is also a generous supplier of SportDOG collars for our champions. Dogs Unlimited and Alan Davidson are wonderful supporters of this trial. We want to thank Diane Rakers for lunches, paperwork, clean up, picking up where we need help, and staying on us to get our write-up turned in. A trial doesn't happen without volunteers to drive the dog wagon, plant birds, and make trips into town. Hoping we don't forget anyone, Dan DiMambro, Mike Patrick, Diane Rakers, and Peter Coppens. We had a couple of new faces,

Josh Nieman and Abraham Macke, who also worked to help this trial be a success. We would also like to thank our participants this year. We love having faithful participants and also new faces. Thank you, judges. Thank you to the president of Region 5, Peter Coppens. Without 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. The scribe was Peter Coppens, with the help of the judges.

### Open Shooting Dog Championship

The series began with the Shooting Dog Championship. Brandon Blum and Rodney Albin capably judged it. The judges were

presented with 12 braces of quality dogs to watch. Thank you to the handlers, Josh Nieman, Mr. and Mrs. Dan DiMambro (April Raber), Jay Wade, Kirk Loftin, and Sherri Tangsrud.

The judges announced Llano's Game On Greta, owned by Chad Inderman and handled by Josh Nieman, as the champion. Greta had finds at 12, 21, 37, and 52 and a nonproductive at 35. She was perfect on her style before and after the flush. Greta ran a powerful shooting dog race. She was always forward and handled kindly. Her very nice powerful moves are what earned her the champion title.

Uodibar's Robbi Jo, owned and scouted by Sheri Tangsrud and handled by Kirk Loftin, was the runner-up. Robbi had finds at 2, 28,

and 46. She also handled kindly and had a powerful run. All manners were in order on her birds. Both of these dogs were rewarded for their superior effort. Congratulations.

**Pinckneyville, Ill., March 11**  
**Judges: Rodney Albin and Brandon Blum**  
**NGSPA REGION 5 OPEN SHOOTING DOG**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**  
**– 20 German Shorthairs**

*Winner—LLANO'S GAME ON GREAT, 1679141, female, by Llano's Game On Dude-H K Angie's Slick Image. Chad Inderman, owner; Josh Nieman, handler.*  
*Runner-Up—UODIBAR'S ROBBI JO, 1662507, female, by Uodibar's Against All Odds-B D K's Sin City Casino. Sherri Tangsrud, owner; Kirk Loftin, handler.*

**Open All-Age Championship**

We started the All-Age on Tuesday, March 14. Chris Young and John Schoonover capably judged it. Big thank you to you both for filling these judging spots. Six braces were drawn.

Chicoree's Riden High Trixie is owned by Rondal Alexander and handled by Dan DiMambro. She ran in brace No. 7, impressing the judges with her consistency and forward run. Trixie had several finds with impeccable style and all manners in order. She worked in conjunction with her handler and had a strong finish. With all these elements, Trixie was named our champion this year.

Runner-up went to Cuttin Wild's Rebel Yell, owned by Mike Patrick and handled by Josh Nieman. Rebel was also a great contender in this stake. He came from brace No. 4. He was strong and forward with multiple finds. Rebel listened well to his handler and was stylish on his bird work. This performance is what earned him the runner-up champion title.

**Judges: John Schoonover and Chris Young**  
**NGSPA REGION 5 OPEN ALL-AGE**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**  
**– 12 German Shorthairs**

*Winner—CHICOREE'S RIDEN HIGH TRIXIE, 1685125, female, by Riden High Rudy-Chicoree's Sparkle In Her Eye. Rondal Alexander, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.*  
*Runner-Up—CUTTIN WILD'S REBEL YELL, 1673649, male, by Slicks Cuttin Wild-C L K's Point Me The Way. Mike Patrick, owner; Josh Nieman, handler.*

**Amateur Shooting Dog Championship**

Mary Sue Schalk and Peter Coppens judged the Amateur Shooting Dog. We thank both of you for your time and expertise. We had 17 dogs and would like to thank all the amateurs who supported us.

Named champion was In Country's Hurricane Jane, owned by Dr. Robert Reynolds and Chris Young and handled by Chris. Jane broke away strong. She had her first find at 11 in the autumn olives on the

hill. She had impeccable style. The birds were buried, and the dog was relocated. The handler finally raised the birds. All manners were in order. She had another find at 33, single in the cow pasture. The next find was at 50 in the autumn olives. She stayed solid as the handler flushed the bird. Jane's last find was at time below the dozer. Throughout the hour, this dog ran forward and held game with manners, thus garnering the title of Region 5 Amateur Shooting Dog Champion.

The runner-up was Uodibar's Robbi Jo, owned and scouted by Sherri Tangsrud and handled by Kirk Loftin. Robbi's first find was at 25. She then had a big, final find at 49 on the other side of the lake. Robbi Jo had a forward, strong ground race, and a big finish to the front. This performance garnered Robbi the runner-up title. Congratulations!

**Judges: Peter Coppens and Mary Sue Schalk**  
**NGSPA REGION 5 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**  
**– 14 German Shorthairs**

*Winner—IN COUNTRY'S HURRICANE JANE, 1672744, female, by Hi N's Bodacious-Slaterock Mattie Clark. Dr. Robert Reynolds & Chris Young, owners; Chris Young, handler.*  
*Runner-Up—UODIBAR'S ROBBI JO, 1662507, female, by Uodibar's Against All Odds-B D K's Sin City Casino. Sherri Tangsrud, owner; Kirk Loftin, handler.*

**NGSPA Region 5 Derby**

The 2023 NGSPA Region 5 Derby was run on Wednesday, March 15, at the Denmark Unit of Pyramid State Park near Pinckneyville, Ill. It was a sunny day with ideal conditions to run young dogs. The 14-dog competition was high in this stake, and many dogs that did not receive nods could have won in other derby stakes. Thank you to Dr. Robert Reynolds and Peter Coppens for their capable judging time.

First place went to D K's Last Shot ("Colt"), owned by Donovan Kelly and handled by Josh Nieman. Second place was awarded to Top Fuel's East Bound & Down ("Snowman"), owned by Courtney Campeau and Brian Lick and handled by Dan DiMambro. Third place was earned by Cuttin Wild's American Beauty ("Brandi"), owned by Mike Patrick and handled by Josh Nieman.

**Judges: Peter Coppens and Robert Reynolds**  
**NGSPA REGION 5 DERBY – 13 German Shorthairs**

*1st—D K'S LAST SHOT, 1702797, male, by Lambourn's Slick Shot-Wind Dancer's Luci Leiu. Donovan Kelly, owner; Josh Nieman, handler.*  
*2d—TOP FUEL'S EAST BOUND & DOWN, 1701889, male, by Evergreen's Jed-Top Fuel's Bail Jumper. Courtney Campeau & Brian Lick, owners; Dan DiMambro, handler.*  
*3d—CUTTIN WILD'S AMERICAN BEAUTY, unreg., female, by Cuttin Wild's Rebel Yell-Uodibar's P S I Love You. Mike Patrick, owner; Josh Nieman, handler.*



NGSPA Region 5 Open Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front, l-r): Abraham Macke with Llano's Game On Greta and Sherri Tangsrud with Uodibar's Robbi Jo. (Behind): Rodney Albin (judge), Chris Young, Brandon Blum (judge), Kirk Loftin, and Dr. Robert Reynolds.



NGSPA Region 5 Open All-Age Championship Winners (front, l-r): April Raber with Chicoree's Riden High Trixie and Mike Patrick with Cuttin Wild's Rebel Yell. (Behind): Dan DiMambro, Chris Young (judge), John Schoonover (judge), Josh Nieman, and Abraham Macke.



NGSPA Region 5 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front, l-r): Chris Young with In Country's Hurricane Jane and Sherri Tangsrud with Uodibar's Robbi Jo. (Behind): Peter Coppens (judge), Dr. Robert Reynolds, Mary Sue Schalk (judge), Kirk Loftin (judge), and Purina rep Terry Trzeinski.



NGSPA Region 5 Derby Winners (front, l-r): Abraham Macke with D K's Last Shot, April Raber with Top Fuel's East Bound & Down, and Mike Patrick with Cuttin Wild's American Beauty. (Behind): Josh Nieman, Peter Coppens (judge), Andy Dynkiewicz, Dr. Robert Reynolds (judge), and Dan DiMambro.

**Hall of Fame Nomination: RICH ROBERTSON**

I am casting my vote for Rich Robertson, an honorable man who believes in fair play and that the best dog wins. I competed against Rich in the 70s and 80s. As a trainer/handler, there's none better. As a friend, he's at the top of the list. He's developed and handled many champions in top-flight competitions. Many people are deserving of the Hall of Fame, but Rich Robertson should be at the top of that list. — *Robert Pettit*

# ALL-AMERICA QUAIL & DERBY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Game Surge Named Derby Champion; Phillips Linebacker, Quail Champion

By Jim Atchison | Cutler, Illinois | March 10, 2023



All-America Derby Championship Winners (l-r): Rita Corder, Dr. Fred Corder, Justin Hunt (judge), Korry Rinehart with Game Surge, Jason Williams (judge), Mike Small, Justin Swearingen with Nighthawk's Rebel, Nathan Phillips, Jim Lawless, Tracy Swearingen, Doug Burgess, and Mike Jackson.

The 97th renewals of the All-America Derby Championship and the All-America Quail Championship, hosted by the Hoosier Field Trial Club, were run at Pyramid State Park near Cutler, Ill., March 10-12. Each championship drew 18 entries, with the Derbies competing first, followed by the All-Age. Jason Williams and Justin Hunt, neighbors from Blakely, Ga., traveled to Illinois and judged both stakes. Their attention to their judicial responsibilities and their services were greatly appreciated.

Purina was again the generous sponsor of the Championships. The company and its representative, Greg Blair, were remembered with appreciation as their gifts of financial assistance, dog food for the winners, and vests for the judges and reporter were acknowledged.

The champion of the Derby challenge was Game Surge, owned by Dr. Fred Corder of Corinth, Miss., and handled by Ike Todd. The runner-up was Nighthawk's Rebel, owned by Rich Leverich and Sheree Lucero of Thomasville, Ga., and handled by Tracy Swearingen, also of Georgia.

The champion of the Quail Championship was Phillips Linebacker, owned by Orrin Ingram and Nathan Phillips and handled by Nathan Phillips. The runner-up was Miller's King Poast, owned by Jannie Chapman of Memphis and handled by Gary Lester from Gracey, Ky.

The members of the Hoosier Club, which Nathan Phillips chairs, and all who attended these championships, were blessed by the efforts of two extraordinary club members—Jim Lawless and Kay Morrison. The husband and wife must put their lives on hold each year for these championships as they were onsite 12-15 hours a day doing everything an amazing host and hostess could ever think of to do.

In addition to all Jim and Kay did during the running, they maintain a close and friendly relationship with Pyramid's management and staff. They can suggest and influence changes and improvements made to the grounds. As a result, the field trial courses have shown evidence of significant and continuous improvement in each of the years the Hoosier Club has been able to run on these grounds of the Captain Unit of Pyramid State Park.

Jim and Kay also marshaled throughout the running. They were assisted by Mike Lam and other club members as needed.

Doug Burgess brought an ATV from Indiana and operated the dog wagon. Doug and his brother-in-law, Max Wimmer, served many years as the treasurer and chairman, respectively, of the Hoosier Club. Thus, it was noted that Doug and his wife, Sally Wimmer Burgess, have a direct and continuous connection to the entire history of the 97 years of running of these Championships through the long association of her immediate family, plus that of her father, Bert Wimmer (1930-2012), and her grandfather, Walt Wimmer (1900-1984).

While Kay prepared most of the three meals served in the clubhouse daily, several owners and participants sponsored some of the food. Those generous sponsors were Orrin Ingram and Escape Ranch, Dr. Corder, Chris Cagle, Sr., and Jon Lam.

The weather was cold and windy throughout the Championships. Limited amounts of rain, sleet, and snow were seen during the running, but the timing of each was such, and the amounts were so limited that the weather inconvenienced no one.

## The Derby Championship

### The Champion and Runner-Up

Game Surge won with his powerful performance during the first hour of the

Championship. He found birds for Todd at 8, 19, 34, and 44, where he stood with beautiful style and absolute focus during each flush and shot. His manners and attention to Todd's minimal handling were excellent as he clung perfectly to every edge as he gobbled the course with all-age speed and intelligence. Game Surge's first hour impressed those who watched him and was not forgotten by the judges when placements were awarded.

Nighthawk's Rebel was runner-up, as he performed in brace No. 8 for Tracy Swearingen. The derby had birds at 15, 39, and 59, plus an unproductive stand at 30. A single was moved during relocation at 15, with some flagging during the relocation effort. He looked strong and stylish running throughout the hour and showed himself perfectly as birds were flushed at 39 and 59. Nighthawk's Rebel will be an all-age contender to watch in the coming years.

## The Derby Running

Shagtime Sunny, owned by Chris Cagle, Sr., and handled by Randy Anderson, was braced with the champion in brace No. 1. He backed his bracemate at 19 and 34 as he hunted throughout the hour.

Beeler's White Knight, owned by Scott Beeler and Charlie Beeler, was handled by Scott and braced with Haney's All In, owned by Chris Cagle, Sr., and handled by Randy Anderson, went next. White Knight had an unproductive at 21. Then both dogs stood nicely with a divided find at 28, White Knight stood again, and birds flushed as time was called at 60.

Miller's King Poast and Tee's Crazy Train went next. King Poast, owned by Jannie Chapman and handled by Gary Lester, and Crazy Train, owned by Brian Sanchez and Neal Walker, and handled by Tracy Swearingen, finished the hour with King Poast having birds at 10 and 42, and with Crazy Train backing the stand at 42.

In brace No. 4, Valiant Fight was handled by Randy Anderson for Jay McKenzie, while Gary Lester handled Mayfield Storm Charger for owners Scott Mason and Jake Davis. Valiant Fight pointed at 21 with Storm Charger backing, but he moved during the flushing effort and was picked up by Anderson. Storm Charger continued and had nice finds at 42 and 49.

No Strings Attached, owned by Dennis Beauford, and handled by Randy Anderson, was paired with Small's Five Star, owned and handled by Mike Small. Neither dog finished the hour. Anderson picked up in the first half hour, and Small picked up after Star moved while pointed at 49.

In the last brace of the first day, Scott Beeler

had Carbonado's Wilberg, owned by Ben DeJonge, while Ike Todd handled Haney's Silver Dollar, owned by Chris Cagle, Sr. Carbonado's Wilberg was picked up early by Beeler. Haney's Silver Dollar had one find, which occurred at 37, where he pointed, and Todd flushed birds when about to go up onto a high ridge that overlooks a great deal of Perry County, Ill.

World Class Instigator, owned by Mick Marietta, and handled by Randy Anderson, and Nosam Silver Dollar, owned and handled by Mason Ashburn, were loosed at 8 a.m. on Saturday for brace No. 7. Anderson asked for and received his tracker at 25. Silver Dollar scored the most finds of the Championship, with birds located and easily flushed at 9, 19, 29, 33, and 36. He was beautiful each time he stood and finished the hour, but not with the gait of some of the other contenders.

World Class Equalizer, owned by Mick Marietta, and handled by Randy Anderson, was paired with the runner-up in brace No. 8. Anderson picked him up in the first quarter-hour.

Weldon Bennett had Coldwater War Cry in brace No. 9. Bennett and Paul Melton own the derby. He had an unproductive at 10, and then Bennett elected to pick him up at 39.

Lunch was soon served, and the champion and runner-up were announced, with the all-age competition scheduled to start at 1:30 p.m.

**Cutler, Ill., March 10**

**Judges: Justin Hunt and Jason Williams**

**ALL-AMERICA DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 17 Pointers and 1 Setter**

*Winner—GAME SURGE, 1700091, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Maggie. Dr. Fred Corder, owner; Ike Todd, handler.*

*Runner-Up—NIGHTHAWK'S REBEL, 1701213, pointer male, by Touch's Red Rider-Tee's Funseekin Belle. Rick Leverich & Sheree Lucero, owners; Tracy Swearingen, handler.*

**The Quail Championship**

**The Champion and Runner-Up**

Phillips Linebacker stood on the winners' bench this second year in a row as he was the 2023 champion and the runner-up in 2022. The 3-year-old pointer male, owned by Orrin Ingram of Franklin, Tenn., and his handler, Nathan Phillips of Oakland City, Ind., ran a strong and forward race in brace No. 4, the first one on Sunday morning. He was tight and stylish each time he stood on game, scoring finds at 5, 10, and 23 before backing a find of his bracemate, which came at 58.

Miller's King Poast, the outstanding derby owned by Jannie Chapman from Memphis and handled by Gary Lester, earned the runner-up title. The second-course aggressive ground race resulted in his first find, at 6, being to the far right and above a lake which is not usually a part of the course. Yet, after that first find, he and the accompanying judge reconnected with the gallery and continued forward. He had another excellent find at 33 and then impressively finished the hour, leaving no doubt that the young derby ranked among the best all-age contenders.



All-America Quail All-Age Championship Winners (l-r): Jason Williams (judge), Jim Lawless, Mike Small, Nathan Phillips with Phillips Linebacker, Doug Burgess, Justin Hunt (judge), Korry Rinehart with Miller's King Poast, Mike Jackson (not visible), Gary Lester, Scott Mason, and Jim Atchison.

**The All-Age Running**

Touch's Fire Away, owned by Dr. Greg and Carmen Adams, and handled by Randy Anderson, was braced with Coldwater Odyssey, owned by Andrew and Debra Agnew, and handled by Weldon Bennett, in the first brace, which started after lunch on Saturday. Coldwater Odyssey had birds at 11, 20, and 30 before the judge reported that he knocked a pheasant at 50 and was ordered to be picked up. Fire Away hunted throughout the hour and backed the find of his bracemate at 20.

Game Heir and Miller's Speed Dial went next. Game Heir was handled by his owner, Dr. Fred Corder, and Randy Anderson handled Speed Dial for his owner, Mick Marietta. Both dogs finished the hour but found no birds.

Lester's Storm Surge, owned by Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton, and handled by Gary Lester, was braced with Haney's Storm Warning, handled by Randy Anderson for owner Chris Cagle, Sr. Storm Warning was gone in the first half hour, and Anderson asked for his tracker at 29. Storm Surge, the former National Champion, ran an excellent full-hour race and had birds at 15, 23, 48, 53, and 59.

Knight's Little John was braced with the champion in brace No. 4. Gary Lester handled him for his owner, Scott Griffin, as he backed his bracemate at 5, 10, and 23 before continuing to find birds which Lester flushed at 53 and 58.

Touch's Cocaine Blues, owned by Matt Griffith, and handled by Randy Anderson, went next, paired with Lester's Shockwave,

owned by Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton and handled by Gary Lester. Early in the hour, Cocaine Blues caused alarm to those in the gallery when he swam a large lake and, most amazingly, came out, not seeming at all exhausted. He then pointed at 31, but the effort proved unproductive. Later, Anderson did ask for his tracker at 49. Shockwave ran for about half an hour, but then Lester asked for his tracker.

Dr. Corder loosed Game Warden in brace No. 6, while Randy Anderson loosed Slick Water Frac, owned by Raymond Morrow. Game Warden had one find at the end of the hour with Slick Water Frac backing. In addition to the back, Frac had an unproductive at 9, and pointed twice more, with birds flushed at 36 and 50.

I'm Gallant, owned by Jay McKenzie and handled by Randy Anderson, and Small's White Charger, owned and handled by Mike Small, went next. I'm Gallant knocked a single at 7 and was picked up; White Charger finished the hour and had birds at 22 and 54.

Randy Anderson had Bonner's Bulletproof, owned by Dr. Chris Cornman, in brace No. 8 with the runner-up. Bulletproof finished the hour but found no birds.

Lester's Stem Winder and Mayfield Storm Charger were the last to compete in this all-age competition. Randy Anderson had Stemwinder for owner Dan Hensley, and Gary Lester had Storm Charger for owners Scott Mason and Jake Davis, with Scott Mason in the gallery. Stem Winder had birds at 19 but moved while backing his bracemate at 22 and was picked up. Storm Charger had a good hour and produced birds for Lester at 11, 17, 22, and 37. This ended the 97th renewal of the All-America Championships on March 12, 2023.

**ALL-AMERICA QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 18 Pointers**

*Winner—PHILLIPS LINEBACKER, 1695679, pointer male, by Phillips Off Line-Phillips Silver Lady. Nathan Phillips & Orrin Ingram, owners; Nathan Phillips, handler.*

*Runner-Up—MILLER'S KING POAST, 1702090, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-R W Susie Q. Jannie Chapman, owner; Gary Lester, handler.*



Judges Justin Hunt and Jason Williams.



# RICH ROBERTSON, JR.

## *for Field Trial Hall of Fame*

Ch./Hall of Famer Hicks Rising Sun (1999)

| Ch./Hall of Famer Tekoa Mountain Sunrise (2000)



Washington Championship, early 1980s. Tekoa Mountain Hope joined by (from left): Ron Masters, Richard Robertson, Sr., George Thomas, Alex Mauck, Richard Robertson, Jr., and Art Smith.

When I think of bird dogs and hard work, a few names come to mind, and while this may come off as biased, the first that comes to mind is Rich Robertson, Jr., my dad. It has been amazing to be a part of this man's remarkable career, which is continuing to grow. It is with great pleasure to nominate one of the living legends for this year's Hall of Fame, Rich Robertson, Jr.

He is a second-generation trainer who has made a huge name for himself. As a child, he trained with his father, Richard Robertson, Sr., in California. Later, they would move to Idaho, where he'd start handling more dogs. His first championship win came in 1982 at 24; now the rest is history.

Not many people are willing to travel across the United States and Canada and win in all of them, let alone with multiple different breeds. He almost missed me being born because he was in Canada, but as always, he defied the odds and made it just in time. He gave up much time with his family to build his commendable career. Dedicated and committed are just a few words to describe him.

Rich's win record of roughly 150 championships continues to grow, and that is not counting the ones he has helped other trainers win. That's just the thing; he isn't just a trainer but one of the most selfless humans on this planet. He is always one of the first to lend a hand whenever needed.

From the West Coast to the East Coast, the Prairies of Canada, and everywhere in between, this man has won or placed in almost every trial possible. He tried to retire at one point, but that didn't last long, and he was back at it, winning but with a different breed and group of trainers. That is the thing about legends; you can't keep them from doing what they love. To most, it is just a job, but for Rich, it is his life and passion.

I have waited my entire life to write this nomination. Because of this man, I could see the country, meet amazing people and share this incredible life with him. I will forever cherish the countless hours in the saddle from sunup to sundown chasing dogs and this dream with him. So, please join my family and his friends in this journey of inducting Rich Robertson, Jr. into the Hall of Fame. There is no one more deserving of this honor.

*— Emily, Penny, April, and the entire Robertson Family*

From the Friends and Family of Rich; we finally get to do something for you!



# 6x Ch./4x R-U Ch. Rivertons Funseek'n Scooter



Sire: 6x Ch./R-U Ch. Funseeker's Rebel | Dam: 6x Ch./4x R-U Ch. Rivertons Blackeye Pea  
Matt Coverdale & Gerry Hignite, *Owners* | Rich Robertson, *Handler*



Rivertons Funseek'n Scooter with his sons,  
Just Irresistible and Funseek'n Hit Man

## **Scooter's Winning Dogs**

- Ch./Hall of Famer Just Irresistible
- Ch. Dominator's Rebel Heir
- Ch. Funseek'n Hit Man
- Ch. Little Willow Aaron
- Ch. Painted Owyhee Mac
- R-U Ch. Just Watch
- R-U Ch. Just Unforgettable
- R-U Ch. Wait A Minute
- R-U Ch. Born On Fourth July

Scooter had respect as a competitor and as a breeder. He competed from the West Coast to the Prairies to the Deep South. Not many dogs can make this transition of different terrains. Scooter could quickly figure out different types of wild bird country and be a competitor; I also used him to guide wild bird hunting. He knew the difference between trialing and foot hunting.

His legacy continues to live on through his progeny, and his list of winning dogs continues through three generations of his bloodline. Look at what he has passed on in the breed and what he has done for the sport of field trials.

Scooter, you created a lot of great friendships and memories! Let's elect Scooter!

— *Friends of Rich Robertson*  
"Scooter" for Hall of Fame

# NGPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

*Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee Named Shooting Dog Champion; B D K's Dirty Harry, All-Age Champion*  
By Diane Rakers Coppens | Pinckneyville, Illinois | March 12, 2023



NGPDA National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front, l-r): Sherri Tangsrud with Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee and Abraham Macke with P J Wildfire's Little Lexi. (Behind): Josh Nieman (judge), Kirk Loftin, and Aaron McAfee (judge).

The National German Pointing Dog Association (NGPDA) held its 67th National, 53rd National Shooting Dog, and 43rd Amateur Shooting Dog Championships at Pyramid State Park, Denmark Unit, in southern Illinois.

The park has three courses on the Denmark unit. Course 1 was not used due to overgrowth on this course. We had nice, chilly weather for this trial. Thanks to Diane for handling all the lunches, paperwork, organization, etc. Once again, the Amateur dinner was sponsored by Purina, and we thank them for their support. It was a fun night, and everyone enjoyed themselves.

This trial would not be possible without our sponsors. We want to extend our great gratitude to Purina and SportDOG. Thank you to Alan Davidson, owner of Dogs Unlimited, for your generous donation. Also, a shout out to our SportDOG representative Jim Morehouse who has donated and shown a great commitment to our sport. Jim also represents Purina, and we appreciate all you do for us. Thank you to Greg Blair for making it so easy to work with Purina; a shout out to Terry Trzcinski for always supporting this trial and to Karl Gunzer, who is with Purina. Without their help, our dog trial would not be the same. Please support these companies.

Thank you to the bird planters, Dan DiMambro, Mike Patrick, and Peter Coppens. Also, thanks to everyone who helped with the dog and horse wagons. Everything runs great when the dogs and horses are at the line and ready to go on time. A national event doesn't work unless you have volunteer help from everyone. We appreciate the pros, amateurs, and all who attended this year's trial. Peter Coppens was the scribe with the help of the judges. Due to a lack of entries, we did not have a Shooting Dog or Derby this year.

## NGPDA National Amateur Shooting Dog

The NGPDA Amateur Shooting Dog stake was held on March 19 and 20. The judges were Aaron McAfee and Josh Nieman. Both of them have years of experience running and training bird dogs. We thank them both for their time and capable judging abilities. Dan DiMambro served as the stake manager. Thank you all for your time and dedication. The weather was perfect for running dogs. Fourteen dogs were entered for consideration of this prestigious National Amateur title in which German Shorthair pointers and German Wirehair pointers, Vizslas, and Weimaraners can compete.

Crowned champion was Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee, owned and handled by Kirk Loftin and scouted by Sherri Tangsrud. Dee came from brace No. 3. She was snappy and fast on the ground. She is a super high-quality bird dog. Dee handled kindly for Kirk with two finds. This earned her the champion title.

This year's runner-up, P J Wildfire's Little Lexi, came from brace No. 6. Lexi is owned by Larry and Kirk Loftin and handled by Kirk. Lexi had finds at 9, 18, 33, 45, and 54. She had a nice shooting dog race and applied herself very well to the course she ran. Handled well and ran the edges out front. Lexi handled with an application even with the wind. This garnered her the runner-up title.

Pinckneyville, Ill., March 12  
Judges: Aaron McAfee and Josh Nieman  
NGPDA NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG  
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]  
– 14 German Shorthairs

Winner—STONEY HILL'S PINNACLE DEE, 1694168, female, by Simons Gunner-Shadowrocks Mighty Mouse. Kirk 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. Kirk & Larry Loftin, owners; Kirk Loftin, handler.

## NGPDA National All-Age

The NGPDA National All-Age Championship was run on March 20 and 21 on the Denmark Unit of Pyramid State Park in Pinckneyville, Ill. The judges were Mike Kindler and Aaron McAfee. We thank you both for your dedication. The judges were presented with 12 dogs.

B D K's Dirty Harry, who came from brace No. 4, was named champion. Harry is owned by Mark Wasserman and handled by Josh Nieman. Harry had a find at 12 and a back at 16. He had a consistent all-age race and handled kindly for Josh.

Twin Creeks Running Rocky came from brace No. 6 and was named runner-up. Rocky is owned by Larry and Kirk Loftin and handled by Kirk. Rocky had a forward-reaching race with finds at 14 and 50.

Judges: Mike Kindler and Aaron McAfee  
NGPDA NATIONAL ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP  
[One-Hour Heats] – 12 German Shorthairs

Winner—B D K'S DIRTY HARRY, 1675196, male, by Slicks Cuttin Wild-C L K's Point Me The Way. Mark Wasserman, owner; Josh Nieman, handler.  
Runner-Up—TWIN CREEKS RUNNING ROCKY, 1685652, male, by Twin Creeks Running Ruger-P J Wildfire's Little Lexi. Kirk & Larry Loftin, owners; Kirk Loftin, handler.



NGPDA National All-Age Championship Winners (front, l-r): Abraham Macke with B D K's Dirty Harry and Sherri Tangsrud with Twin Creeks Running Rocky. (Behind): Josh Nieman, Aaron McAfee (judge), Mike Kindler (judge), and Kirk Loftin.

## CALENDAR

**June 3:** Dixie Trace Field Trial Association Business Meeting & Awards Banquet; Merry Acres Inn & Event Center, 1500 Dawson Rd., Albany, Ga.

**June 3:** Region 16 (AFTCA) Annual Meeting; Merry Acres Inn & Event Center, 1500 Dawson Rd., Albany, Ga.

**June 24:** Purina Awards Program; The Hilton Garden Inn, 406 Sigma Dr., Summerville, S. C.

# MIDWEST OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

*Thunder Bolt's Storm Wins 36th Running; Upfront's Southern Star, Named Runner-Up*

By David Taylor | Elk City, Kansas | March 17, 2023

The 36th running of the Midwest Open Shooting Dog Championship ended with the completion of running on March 17. Those in attendance gathered at the headquarters for the announcement. Field Trial Chairman Garvin Collins thanked everyone for their contributions and announced judges Lynn Oxendine and Dennis Hidalgo's popular decision.

Thunder Bolt's Storm, a lemon and white female owned by Dr. Thomas Jackson of Columbus, Ind., and handled by Shawn Kinkelaar, was named champion. Storm ran in brace No. 9 and established a standard that was not challenged. Storm had finds at 12, 21, and 35, all on wild birds. Her style and location were noteworthy. Storm's race was smooth and consistently forward, reaching objectives like the class shooting dog that she is. Kinkelaar pointed Storm out as she put on a show with an impressive final cast. Observers praised the performance after she was picked up.

Upfront's Southern Star, owned by Lance Schulz from Bismarck, N. D., and handled by Kinkelaar, was named runner-up. In a draw near the thirty-minute gate, Star first contacted game, wild birds. Star's style and manners were excellent. Taken on, she reached through the expansive pastures going to likely objectives. She stood at 58 at a known release site, but no birds could be produced. This talented female ran a race similar to the champion. Star's record at this Championship now stands at two championships plus this runner-up.

The Derby stake was won by The Defender, a setter male in the ownership of Ron Prewitt and handled by Kinkelaar. Second place was awarded to Creative Lady, owned by Bob and Catherine Reynolds and handled by Chuck Stretz. The third place was Georgian, owned by John Fort, and was handled by Kinkelaar. Each of the juveniles was placed based on pleasing race.

## The Running

In brace No. 1, Dominator's Mae Belle, handled by Scott Hadley, established an early standard. She ran a forward race and had a stylish find at 56. Kinkelaar was not pleased with Hale's Smooth Touch and took her up at 40.

In brace No. 2, Justin Crook took Griff's Big Ransom up at 40. J N Bolt Action was making impressive casts in the first 30 minutes. Owner Joe Stokely was present to support Bolt. Just before the thirty-minute gate, Bolt reached the top of the high hills boarding the course and did not return.

In brace No. 3, Thunderbolts Wild Again was released by Virgil Moore after waiting



Midwest Open Shooting Dog Championship Winners (l-r): Dennis Hidalgo (judge), Lynn Oxendine (judge), Virgil Moore with Thunder Bolt's Storm, Shawn Kinkelaar, Curtis Teare with Upfront's Southern Star, and Joe Stokely.

for Kinkelaar to return from his search for Bolt Action. Wild Again made some excellent casts but suffered unproductive stands at 20 and 31 near release sites. Griff's Express made strong casts and stood at 41, but no birds were produced. Express was taken up at 41 when his pattern was not to the front.

Brace No. 4 ended early when Aim High Elhew Hadley's performance didn't please Scott, and Aim was taken up at 47. Touch's Grand Finali's effort ended when Stretz took the tracker at 10.

Brace No. 5 matched Luke Warm Whiskey and Levi Express. Whiskey stood at 12, Gearhart couldn't produce birds, and requested the tracker at 22 when he was missing. Express ran a snappy race making some excellent casts. He backed his brace mate at 12 but could not produce a find for Moore.

In brace No. 6, Upfront's McQuade ran a forward, solid race. He backed Ranger at 23 but did not contact game for Kinkelaar. Ninnescah Ranger ran a well-applied race, always to the front. He stood at 23, but Gearhart could not produce birds.

Erin's Thunder Backus, the 2022 Midwest Derby winner, and Touch's Shameless ran into a strong wind in brace No. 7. Kinkelaar took Backus up at 23. Shameless pointed at 58, and Stretz flushed birds for a stylish and mannerly pointer. Shameless had battled the wind for the entire hour.

In brace No. 8, Virgil Moore released Silver W Carson on Course 1, and she made some solid forward casts. She recorded a mannerly stop to flush at 40. Silver and Chelsea's Mae West stood at a release site at 48, but neither Kinkelaar nor Moore could produce birds. Both dogs were taken on after an extensive flushing attempt.

Thunder Bolt's Storm was reported as

champion in brace No. 9. After running a solid race, Topp's Ice Chip was missing at 50, and Gearhart requested the tracker.

The armadillo came out during brace No. 10 and impacted the performances of both dogs. Kinkelaar took Lester's Another Shockwave up at 30, and Moore picked up Resolution at 48.

Rester's Cowboy Bill and Ninnescah Cooper made big opening casts in brace No. 11. Both reached well into the country. Kinkelaar picked Bill up at 21, and Gearhart followed suit at 40.

During brace No. 12, Big Man On Campus mounted a serious challenge for recognition in the first 20 minutes. Man pointed a wild covey near the top of the hill boarding Course 1. Curtis Teare, filling in for Kinkelaar, flushed the birds after a steep ride to reach the pointed dog. Teare flushed birds a second time for Man with everything in order. Unfortunately, Man chased deer at 19 and was not returned. Game Sport stood twice, but birds were not produced either time, and Gearhart put him on the dog wagon.

Touch's Big Whiskey ran a solid forward race but had not contacted game, and Stretz took him up at 35. Topp's First J R was missing, and Gearhart asked for the tracker at 22, ending brace No. 13.

Upfront's Southern Star ran in brace No. 14 and was reported as runner-up. Jacks R Better was missing at 18, and Gearhart asked for the tracker.

In brace No. 15, Purple Line Casper delivered a strong ground effort but suffered a blank stand at 12 and was gone at 30 when Stretz took the tracker. Kinkelaar picked up Tug O'War after he backed Casper at 12.

In brace No. 16, Anchor Down Sunny Mike ran as a bye and did not mount a challenge to the placed dogs.

Elk City, Kan., March 17

Judges: Dennis Hidalgo and Lynn Oxendine  
MIDWEST OPEN SHOOTING DOG  
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]  
- 30 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner—THUNDER BOLT'S STORM, 1684304, pointer female, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Lacey Underall. Dr. Tom Jackson, owner; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.  
Runner-Up—UPFRONT'S SOUTHERN STAR, 1662579, pointer female, by Ransom-Double Wild. Lance Schulz, owner; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.

OPEN DERBY - 4 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st—THE DEFENDER, 1695049, setter male, by Erin's Wild Atlantic Way-Quickmarksman's Silky. Ron Prewitt, owner; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.  
2d—CREATIVE LADY, 1701680, pointer female, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Buche's Elhew Rebel. Bob & Catherine Reynolds, owners; Chuck Stretz, handler.  
3d—GEORGIAN, 1695040, setter male, by Erin's Wild Atlantic Way-Quickmarksman's Silky. John Fort, owner; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.



Open Derby Winners (l-r): Dennis Hidalgo (judge), Virgil Moore with The Defender, Bob Reynolds, Harold Gearhart with Creative Lady, Chuck Stretz, Curtis Teare with Georgian, Shawn Kinkelaar, and Lynn Oxendine (judge).

### **Acknowledgments**

The Championship Committee wishes to thank Lynn Oxendine and Dennis Hidalgo, experienced dogmen, for judging both stakes. Both gentlemen have been active and successful at the club and competitive levels. Their decisions were well received. Dennis was willing to step in on short notice when Greg Gibson, the advertised judge, was injured in a horse accident.

The trial officials appreciate the continued support of Purina and the company's representative, Mr. Greg Blair, helping to make this Championship a reality.

The traditional championship dinner was provided by Lance Schulz and Shawn Kinkelaar, owner and handler, respectively, of the 2022 champion, Upfront's Southern Star.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious steak dinner.

Randy Wilson was in charge of meals. He provided three meals a day throughout the trial featuring wonderful comfort foods. If anyone left hungry, it was their fault. Great job. T. J. Hadley and Marla Stretz pitched in to help.

A special thanks to Bob Reynolds, long-time trial chairman, for taking care of the dog wagon duties. His continued effort to make the Championship a success was appreciated.

Ranch Manager Chuck Campfield will be retiring this year. Club officials wish to thank him for how he has helped to make this event a success for many years. Chuck will be missed.

Thanks to each of the owners and handlers for their entries.

Trial Chairman Garvin Collins presented plaques to Bob and Catherine Reynolds, and Bill Westfall in recognition of their dedication and service to the Championship.

It takes many individuals to organize and host a successful trial. In addition, thanks are extended to Scott and T. J. Hadley, the association's newest members, Curtis Teare, Luke Topp, and Harold Gearhart. The Hadleys made a family trip from Colorado to participate in area trials and were a big help at this Championship; welcome to the association. Hadley's daughter, Kiowa, rode at her first trial. She was mounted on Preacher,



Bob Reynolds receives a plaque for him and his wife, Cathy, in appreciation for hosting the Midwest Open Shooting Dog trial for several years.

one of Hidalgo's horses, and had a great time. While traveling with Shawn Kinkelaar, Curtis Teare was quick to help in many ways. Luke Topp provided his side-by-side to plant birds. Harold Gearhart, a trial committee member, helps Garvin plant birds and, as he says, does the heavy lifting to make everything work.

The trial officials are indebted to Bill Westfall for providing his ranch at Browning, Mo., and Elk City, Kan., as a home for the Midwest Championship for over two decades. Bill also provides ranch facilities and equipment, making the running of this event possible.

Garvin Collins has attended each renewal of the Midwest Open Shooting Dog Championship. He has served in many capacities over the years. Now as field trial chairman, he will provide optimistic and positive leadership for the future.

## **NORTH AMERICAN WOODCOCK FUTURITY** *Chasehills Wango Tango Wins 46th Renewal* **By Robert Little | Exeter, Rhode Island | March 17, 2023**

Each fall, the North American Woodcock Futurity is normally held in conjunction with the North American Woodcock Championship in New Brunswick, Canada. Last fall, due to the size of the Championship entry and an accommodations crunch, the Futurity was postponed, and a decision was made to hold it in Rhode Island in the spring of 2023.

The Maritime Bird Dog Club wishes to thank the South County Field Trial Club, John and Jill Stolgitis, for all the leg work leading up to the trial and hosting a St. Patrick's Day meal at their home after the trial. Everyone enjoyed an excellent evening of great food and fellowship.

The Futurity was the first trial in a series of wild bird trials at Arcadia Wildlife Management Area, including the New England Amateur Woodcock Classic and the Southern New England Woodcock Championship that followed. We wish to thank Greg Blair and Purina for sponsoring these trials.

All the woodcock trials were blessed with beautiful spring weather and numerous birds on all the courses. The nice weather brought

out large galleries to all of the stakes.

Thank you to judges Jimmy Levesque of Salem, Mass., and Tim Cavanaugh of East Hampton, Conn., for looking over these young hopefuls and giving each dog their utmost attention.

We also thank and recognize club member Joe Dahl for his efforts as Futurity chairman. Joe has overseen the Futurity for several years and has kept this important wild bird stake viable and in good stead.

### **The Winners**

The second brace of the trial featured littermates Chasehills Wango Tango (PM), owned by Alan Raiano and handled by John Stolgitis, and Sunkhaze Vera Masardis (PF), owned and handled by Mike Flewelling. These two white and liver pointers broke away on Pine Top #2 ahead of a huge gallery, and it didn't take them long to get to work. After crossing the 300-yard field and into the alder run, both dogs stopped in unison to the right of the trail. A woodcock was put to flight, guns were fired, and a divided find was in the books at 3. The dogs continued through the

alder run with Tango carding another find at 6. Vera's bell stopped well ahead and slightly right at the end of the alder run as the course breaks left toward the brook. As Mike's gun rang out for Vera's find, Tango had a stop to flush back on course, and John's gun was fired almost simultaneously at 12. With plenty of bird work in the books, both dogs ran hard to the front for the remainder of the brace. Tango was named first, and Vera second. Little did we know at that point what the next six days would hold for Vera and Mike. Let's just say this will be a young dog to watch for. These two dogs were bred by John Stolgitis out of Panola Bacon x Chasehill Little Izzy. This was the second litter out of this pair, with these dogs showing the same winning attributes as the first. A third litter is now winning puppy stakes this spring.

The third-place dog, North Country's Soda Pop, ran in brace No. 4 with Magic Mist LLB. These young setters broke away on Bridge #1 with Adam Dubriske handling Soda Pop and Joe Dahl, owner and handler of LLB. Both dogs handled nicely to the front. At 25, LLB stopped to the left of the course, and nothing could be produced after a flushing attempt and

relocation. The young setter was reluctant to move on, and while this was going on, Soda Pop had a woodcock find ahead on course with seconds remaining on the clock. Soda Pop, owned by Nick Hamel, is out of multiple Champion Ponderosa Mac x Hunter's Flight Risk. Nick and his wife Emily were on hand to watch her winning performance.

The fourth-place dog, Chasehill Wicked Wilma, ran in brace No. 7 and is owned and handled by John Stolgitis. Wilma was braced with Creekside's Riptide, owned and handled by Chris Wasserman. Back on Pine Top #2, both dogs ran to the front, with Wilma showing greater range. Wilma had a stop to flush on a woodcock at 7. Wilma is also a littermate to the first and second-place dogs.

### **The Running**

Brace No. 1, on Pine Top #1, paired Lady Lucy Lou, owned by Jonathan Wilkins and handled by Robert Little, and Country Roads Acer, owned and handled by Chris Wasserman. The two setter females stormed the side hill and down into the bottomland. Lucy got under two woodcock along the stream and took them for a ride.

Brace No. 2 was described under "The Winners."

Brace No. 3, on the Cemetery course, paired Snake, owned by Pat Connors and handled by John Stolgitis, and Snuff Mill High Caliber, owned and handled by Lanny Dellinger. Both setters ripped through the plentiful green brier and laurel on this course. Snake stood at 7 with a woodcock flushing in front of him before a flushing attempt could be made and showed derby manners. He also had barren stands at 16 and 27. High Caliber was a magnum on this day, and Dellinger asked for the tracker when he hit the road at 20.

Brace No. 4 was described under "The Winners."



North American Woodcock Futurity Winners (l-r): Tim Cavanaugh (judge), Al Raiano, John Stolgitis with Chasehills Wango Tango, Mike Flewelling with Sunkhaze Vera Masardis, Adam Dubriske with North Country's Soda Pop, Jimmy Levesque (judge), Josie Wasserman with Chasehill Wicked Wilma, and Nick Hamel.

Brace No. 5, on Bridge #2, paired Wynot Lottie, owned and handled by Al Robbins, and Partridge Hollow Elrumhew, owned by Giuseppe Papandrea and handled by Adam Dubriske. Lottie ran a moderate race to the front with minimal handling and had a stop to flush on woodcock at 20 and 28. Elrumhew was a handful this day, with the handler having a time keeping him to the front.

Brace No. 6, on Pine Top #1, paired Ralph's Chasehill Molly, owned by Brian Ralph and handled by John Stolgitis, and Pool Brook Dobby, owned by Charles Hulbert and handled by Adam Dubriske. Molly ran strong and animated to the front with an unproductive at 3. At 28, she stopped with purpose along the brook, and after a lengthy flushing attempt, the dog was sent on with a woodcock popping just beyond where the handler had flushed. Dobby ran a moderate race and was birdless.

Brace No. 7 was described under "The

Winners."

Brace No. 8, on the Cemetery course, saw bye dog Ralph's Chasehill Rip, owned by Brian Ralph and handled by John Stolgitis. Rip made his way through the brier and laurel with a moderate race and was birdless on this day.

**Exeter, R. I., March 17**

**Judges: Tim Cavanaugh and Jim Levesque  
NORTH AMERICAN WOODCOCK FUTURITY  
- 8 Pointers and 1 Setter**

*1st—CHASEHILLS WANGO TANGO, 1697813, pointer male, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Alan Raiano, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.*

*2d—SUNKHAZE VERA MASARDIS, 1699121, pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Mike Flewelling, owner and handler.*

*3d—NORTH COUNTRY'S SODA POP, 1694744, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Hunter's Flight Risk. Nicholas Hamel, owner; Adam Dubriske, handler.*

*4th—CHASEHILL WICKED WILMA, 1698454, pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Harley D. McClung, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.*

## **MISSOURI OPEN ALL-AGE TRIALS**

*Westfall's True Grit Wins All-Age; Miller's Blindsider Named Missouri Champion*

**By Bonnie Hidalgo | Grovespring, Missouri | March 20, 2023**

The prestigious title of the Missouri Open All-Age Championship was captured by Miller's Blindsider, the reigning National Champion. He is proudly owned by Nick Berrong of Maryville, Tenn., and was handled by Jamie Daniels. This win clinches the Purina All-Age Award for Miller's Blindsider. Miller's Heat Advisory was named runner-up. He is owned by Terry Graunke of Cairo, Ga., and was handled by Judd Carlton.

Heartily winning the Missouri Open All-Age stake was Westfall's True Grit, a pointer male owned by Ryan Westfall of Liberty, Mo., and handled by Andy Daugherty. Second-place honors went to Barshoe Forget Me Not, owned by Bob Gum of Tuttle, Okla., and handled by Allen Vincent. Lester's Stem

Winder was third for handler Randy Anderson and owner Dan Hensley of Claremore, Okla. The Southwest Missouri Sportsmen's Club sponsors this National qualifying stake. It also hosts the Don Fox Memorial Derby.

Haney's All In handily won the Don Fox Open Derby for owner/handler Chris Cagle, Sr. of Woodlawn, Tenn. Tee's Crazy Train was second for Tracy and Christy Swearingen of Leesburg, Ga. Tracy capably handled him. Valiant Fight, owned by Jay McKenzie of Eureka, Kan., was handed to third place by Randy Anderson.

The drawing was conducted at the home of Andy and Sharleen Daugherty on Saturday evening, March 18. Sharleen conducted

the draw with the help of Bill Westfall, Matt Cochran, and Andy Daugherty. The Missouri Open All-Age attracted a field of 36. The Don Fox Memorial Derby drew 23 entries. The Missouri Championship drew 38 dogs. The trial commenced with the running of the Missouri Open All-Age stake on Monday, March 20. The Don Fox Derby followed, running in its entirety on Thursday. The Missouri Championship, which the Missouri State Field Trial Association hosts, commenced on Sunday, March 26. Winning the Missouri Championship automatically qualifies the dog for the National Championship.

The cover was sparse this spring on the popular Sportsmen's Club grounds at



Missouri Open All-Age Winners (front, l-r): Sharleen Daugherty with Westfall's True Grit, Matt Cochran with Barshoe Forget Me Not, and Kipp Linard with Lester's Stem Winder. (Behind): Andy Daugherty, Bill Westfall, Bonnie Hidalgo, Keith Wright (judge), Tommi Smith, Allen Vincent, Marian Mills, Jordan Wyatt, Mike Jackson (judge), Jarrett and Allison Bell, Randy Anderson, William Smith, George Hill, and Dennis Hidalgo.

Grovespring, Mo. The dry summer of 2022 caused the feed strips and the cover to be light. Eight inches of heavy snow in late winter flattened grass in many areas. Even with the lightness of the cover, there was plenty of bird work; several pre-released coveys were found in addition to the birds planted every day during the trial. The facilities were in excellent repair, and the area was well-kept.

The weather caused a few problems; light rain on the second day of running was unpleasant, but it was nothing compared to what came on Thursday night after the conclusion of the Don Fox Derby. Over two inches of rain fell during the night on Thursday, and it rained all day Friday. Flash flooding was harsh; the creek channel was rearranged at some crossings. Parks Creek was running too fast and high to cross for two days; the running was halted. Water was flowing over the cement bridge on the north road to the grounds at a dangerous rate on Friday morning. The bridge on the south end was passable, allowing people to come and go to care for their animals. When the running began for the Missouri Championship, minor course changes were in place to avoid the two deepest crossings. There was standing water in parts of the meadows; the dog wagon was forced to stay on the gravel roads. A side-by-side was utilized to get dogs from the dog wagon to where they were needed to keep the courses continuous. The club owes Bill Westfall a debt of gratitude for generously donating the use of his Can-Am for that purpose.

Purina is an important and valued sponsor of this event. Club officials and contestants appreciate Purina's unwavering financial support and dog food donation. This is a Purina Points trial which adds to its prestige and popularity with the handlers, most of whom feed Purina's top product. Purina Pro Plan 30/20 Sport is literally "the dinner of champions."

Gary Lester made a generous cash donation to the club to aid with trial expenses. That donation is very much appreciated and goes a long way in helping with lunch and cocktail hour expenses. Thank you, Gary!

Sharleen Daugherty provided a cocktail hour on five evenings during the event. When Sharleen makes appetizers, no one leaves hungry enough to need dinner. On Wednesday evening, Ken Schmidt served fried chicken wings, onion sticks, mozzarella sticks, mushrooms, and okra. It all disappeared!

The John Evans Memorial fish fry was held on Sunday evening, March 26. Betty Evans and Bonnie and Dennis Hidalgo sponsored it. John was a 20-year member of this group that hosts the Missouri All-Age trials. He loved the grounds, the people, and the camaraderie found at this particular field trial. Bonnie and Dennis purchased, then planted, two young apple trees on Apple Tree Hill in John's memory. Thank you to Ken Schmidt, Kipp Linard, Hank Jansen, Dave Capstick, and Tim Self for cooking and serving the meal.

The Champion's dinner was held on Monday, March 27, at the clubhouse. It was sponsored by Randy Anderson and 2022 Champion Bonner's Bulletproof, along with his owner, Dr. Chris Cornman. Ken Schmidt prepared a delicious steak dinner with an assist from Dave Capstick, Kipp Linard, Hank Jansen, and Tim Self. There was a crowd of 30 or more in attendance.

The people who worked hard to make this trial a great success were George Hill, who served as chairman, Hank Jansen, Kendell Schmidt, Dave Capstick, Kipp Linard, Dennis Hidalgo, and Tim Self. They interchangeably handled bird planting, marshaling, and dog wagon duties. Kendell cooked the two dinners held during the Missouri Open trials and planted birds in the early morning hours with the assistance of Dave. In addition to the cook's assistants, Piper Huffman, Sharleen Daugherty, Lorie Vincent, and Bonnie Hidalgo helped with kitchen clean-up. It takes a village; this trial has an awesome one!

### Missouri Open All-Age

Mike Jackson of Battle Ground, Ind., and Keith Wright of Covington, Ind., officiated this stake. They set a reasonable pace and held to it throughout the stake. Both gentlemen are well-known as top owners and handlers on

the amateur circuit. They were friendly and courteous; each has a good sense of humor. Mike and Keith knew what they were looking for in their winners, and the stake was of high enough quality that they could be discerning in their choices. The judges sought class, range, speed, power, and endurance. Several of the 36 competitors came close, but three stood out.

### *The Winners*

Westfall's True Grit, handled by Andy Daugherty for Ryan Westfall, Liberty, Mo., was the clearcut winner of this stake. John was strong and forward for the hour. On the way to Davis bottom, he was seen several times, always a speck in the distance. In Davis, he was out of sight, then Ryan Westfall spotted him on point in the corner, a half mile to the front. His bracemate failed to back; John stood high and tight for flush and shot at 27. True Grit continued powering ever forward, running the edges. At 42, he pointed again; this was on the right, just before Horse Killer hill. His birds were well-located, and his manners were superb. He crossed Apple Tree hill by taking the right edge and crossing the front. He took the left edge toward Little Vine. Point was called at 55; he was far to the front. The birds weren't as cooperative here, but John did a fine job on the relocation, and birds were put up with the pointer standing tall as the hour expired. True Grit's hour was impressive; he showed amazing power, extreme range, excellent application, and bird-handling style and prowess.

Barshoe Forget Me Not was a popular choice for second in this highly competitive National qualifying stake. Handled by Allen Vincent and owned by Bob Gum, she broke away at 8 a.m. on a frosty Monday, the first of 18 braces. She showed far forward on the way to the rocky creek crossing. At 14, point was called for her bracemate; Forget Me Not was backing with style and manners. She was forward into Davis bottom, where she took the ridge top. Point was called for her at 23. She had a dug-up covey find on the ridge near the road. Her birds were well located, and all was in order. At 48, Forget Me Not was pointed again, just before Horse Killer hill. She stood in the cover along the right edge, head and tail high. Her decorum was excellent through flush and beyond. She showed forward, going across Apple Tree hill and into the bottom. When the hour expired, she was found styled up, well to the front; this third find was also well-mannered.

Lester's Stem Winder, handled by Randy Anderson and owned by Dan Hensley, placed third. Stem Winder was turned loose at the barns, heading west. He was pointed to the front on the right edge in under two minutes. Birds were produced for him with all in order at 4. Stem Winder continued, strong and forward into the bull pasture. He made a good move up the hill, around the corner, and to the pond, where he pointed with style at 16. It was a nice find in every way. Stem Winder hunted the right side in Climer's first field, following it to the front, where

he connected with birds at 20. He stood tall and with propriety while his handler flushed his quarry. On to catch the front, they flew, carding a mannerly back at 22 on the east side of Climer's. Stem Winder scored his fourth find on the ridge above the corrals at 26; he was flawless. His fifth and final find came at 34, beside the pond. The birds refused to leave the cedar trees but were observed by the judge. Upon release, he went rapidly off the hill and up to the twin barns. He disappeared there for several minutes before coming to the front, which may have cost him. Stem Winder went on to a strong and forward finish beyond the cemetery.

### **The Running**

Miller's King Poast (Lester) and Barshoe Forget Me Not (Vincent) broke away at 8 a.m. on Monday. Forget Me Not's hour has been described. King Poast showed forward attractively. At 14, point was called. King was standing on the south line of the Double Gates field; he displayed high style and excellent manners through flush and shot. King Poast ran far to the front in Davis bottom but was absent in Island field and not recovered under judgment.

Westfall's Wheels Up (Daugherty) and Erin's High Note (Carlton) turned loose going up Little Vine hill. Bill, Ryan, and Landon Westfall were on hand to watch their dog. Point was called at 5 for Wheels. He was standing on the left edge. Birds were well located, and the dog was high and tight. Both dogs were forward as the course came out of the loop. At 19, point was called in Sycamore bottom. They were on the left; High Note was pointing with Wheels honoring. Judd flushed the birds, and both dogs were good. They flew through Sycamore bottom; Wheels took the left side at the crossline, and Note took the right. Wheels pointed just around the corner at 26. Note was coming across the field and backed at a great distance. On Daugherty Ridge, Note scored a nice one at 35; everything was in order. They showed well from the barns to the bull pasture. Note took the right side of the pasture, Wheels the left. At 45, Wheels was pointed below on the fence line. It was another good find for the Westfall color bearer. Across Climer's pastures, they both went out of sight but showed forward soon after time was called.

Touch's Fire Away (Anderson) and Notorious Dominator's Heir (Carlton) were headed up the hill into Clubhouse Loop. Both hung up briefly above the parking area before heading into the back portion of the loop. At 10, point was called; Fire was pointing on the fence line to the west of the pond. Heir was pointing on the same line but closer to the corner. Anderson flushed and shot, but Fire released himself, came to point beside Heir, and was up. It was an excellent find for Heir; he continued forward but went left before the course went down the hill. By 25, he wasn't suiting his handler and was picked up.

B G K's Luke (Bell) and Reed's Yellowstone (Cochran) were first out after lunch. They were pointing side by side at 6.

Yellowstone was ripe with skunk odor, and Matt collared him with the thought that the dogs were pointing the critter. Bell made a brief attempt to flush before taking Luke on. Luke made a nice move on the far-right edge in Davis bottom but broke it off. Yellowstone was not himself. Both handlers opted to pick up at 25.

Touch's Cocaine Blues (Anderson) and Haney's Storm Warning (Cagle) were released in the center of Davis bottom. Blues was forward in pattern; he honored naturally at 5 and again at 18. Anderson opted to pick him up before the hour was out. Haney's Storm Warning was powerful for most of the hour and covered the edges well to the front. Near the end of Davis, Spec styled up on the right edge at 5. His style was lofty, he remained that way until the work was complete and he was collared. He made short work of Island field and went to the front as we passed Don Fox Hill. Blues could be seen standing well off the left edge at 18. On closer inspection, he was backing Spec, pointing in the woods before Horse Killer hill. Birds were flushed before the impressively styled dog, who remained staunch. Up the hill he went, he was pointed out to the left on top of the hill, and then he was gone. At 26, gallery members spied him on the left edge of Apple Tree hill, pointing beautifully. The handler saw the birds under a cedar tree, and Judge Jackson climbed the fence to see them fly. The dog was perfectly composed throughout. Spec continued forward through the Little Vine loop and to the fields beyond, where he seemed to slow his pace. He went into the draw on the left at the top of Sycamore and was absent for a lengthy period before being returned after the hour by his scout, Chris Cagle, Jr.

Lester's Storm Surge (Lester) and Whippoorwill Vette (Huffman) were released heading up the ridge near Daugherty's. Surge scored a nice find at 11, just south of the twin barns. Both dogs were forward through the bull pasture and Climer's. On the east side of Climer's, point was called for Vette; Surge was backing. Both dogs were high and tight for flush and shot. At 39, they pointed in the same locale but were separate pieces of bird work. Again, they showed good manners on their game. They went toward the far pond in Clubhouse Loop; Surge pointed there at 48, Vette failed to back and was taken up, and Surge scored a mannerly find. Surge continued to the barns, where he pointed at 57. He indicated that he needed to relocate, and while doing so, he ran over a bird to end his bid at 59.

Westfall's True Grit's (Daugherty) winning performance has been described. Slick Water Frac (Anderson) was putting in a respectable ground race when he came upon his bracemate on point at 27 and failed to back.

Como Rain (Russell) and Texas Wild Rex (Vincent) were released, heading up Little Vine. They struck gold early. Rex pointed at 5, just around the right corner. His birds were flushed from the briars, and all was well. Rain was found pointed in the far-left corner at 6.

Extensive relocation was required, but the running birds were eventually pinned with Rain handling them perfectly. The dogs were forward into Sycamore bottom but vanished on the ridge. Both handlers asked for trackers at 38.

Miller's Blindsider (Daniels) and Lester's Stem Winder (Anderson) were turned loose at the barns, headed west. Stem Winder's third-place performance was related earlier in this report. Nick Berrong, owner of Blindsider, and his cousins, the McCords, were on hand to see the current National Champion perform. In the blink of an eye, Blindsider could be seen well down the field, on point. He was beautiful, standing out in the grass, but no birds were produced. Blindsider was strong and forward into the bull pasture, where he took the right and showed crossing the front on the far hill. He went up into the corner and soon found himself on the road with no way to get through the hog wire fence. Daniels called him back, and Kipp Linard helped the dog over the fence. Crisis averted! Blindsider scored on the east side of Climer's at 22, showing beautiful style and perfect manners for the flush. Blindsider made a huge move down Horse Corral valley before heading up the hill into the clubhouse loop. He was lost in the loop, and the tracker was eventually required.

Jim Mills rode to watch Miss Stylin Sue (Vincent); unfortunately, she was lost early. Nosam's Sweet Water (Huffman) scored a pretty find on the south edge of the Double Gates field at 15. His manners were perfect. He made some nice moves through Davis bottom and was rewarded with bird contact in the far-right corner. Sweet Water stood with fine style while Huffman flushed but whirled as they flew to end the brace.

Como Thunder (Russell) and I'm Gallant (Anderson) cast off near the end of Davis bottom. Jay McKenzie was mounted to watch Gallant. In the Island field, at 7, both dogs were standing along the left edge; Gallant was on point, and Thunder backed politely. No birds were produced. A second barren stand on Apple Tree hill for Gallant spelled the end of his run at 30. Thunder was absent at that time but was believed to be forward. After an absence of 18 minutes, Thunder was found to the front on point at 33. It was a good find, just before Little Vine Road. Thunder made the Little Vine loop, showing forward in the bottom. He was absent again at Sycamore and was not recovered under judgment.

Westfall's River Ice (Daugherty) and Chief's Rising Sun (Carlton) were the final brace on this cold and rainy day. They turned loose, heading up the hill out of Sycamore bottom. Ice was absent before the barns but came on to take the right edge forward. At 16, point was called, but it was a dead bird; Andy opted to pick up. Sun was predominantly forward in pattern and had eye appeal. He scored a beautiful find in Climer's at 33. His next find was on the hill in Clubhouse Loop at 40; he was stylish and mannerly. Sun's third find was at the pond in the back corner at 48,

and his last find came at 52. All his bird work was flawless; he finished going away at the barns.

An overcast morning gave way to patchy sunshine, welcomed after Tuesday's wet weather. Miller's Heat Advisory's (Carlton) scout spotted him, standing far to the front. He was pointing on the south edge of the Double Gates field. Birds were produced at 14 with all in nice order. Wynona's Nickleback Sugar (Vincent) went up on the ridge in Davis while Heat took the right edge. Heat pointed in the far corner of Davis at 28; Sugar honored him from 200 yards but moved on the shot and was up. Heat was forward into the Island field; he was found on point on top of Horse Killer hill at 45. He had a pre-released covey well pinned; it was a pretty find. Heat traversed Apple Tree hill but disappeared in the bottom. He was found on top of Little Vine loop at the end of the hour.

Miller's Speed Dial (Anderson) and Westfall's Power Trip (Daugherty) were released heading into Little Vine. They were absent through the loop; Speed Dial caught up coming into the bottom. Trip showed up at 22 and was picked up. At 35, near the twin barns, Dial stacked up on game. He exhibited high style along with perfect manners. Speed Dial pointed again at 55 at the cross fence in the bull pasture. Relocation was needed, he did it cautiously, and Anderson put up a single. In the corner, above the pond at 55, the veteran pointed once more, a covey lifted at the judge's approach, but all was in order. He finished the hour well forward in Climer's pasture.

Lester's Shockwave (Lester) and Cold Creek Buck (Cochran) started their hour heading into Clubhouse loop. Shockwave scored a find at 11; Buck was not suiting his handler and was up early. In the alley beyond the barns, Shockwave pointed at 29 with nice manners for flush and shot. His race was forward in pattern. Shockwave's third find occurred in the Double Gates field at 34, and he was mannerly. Shockwave finished his hour in the Breakaway Ridge loop to the front.

Bonner's Bulletproof (Anderson) and Firefly's Invictus (Vincent). Dennis Hidalgo rode to watch Annie. Both dogs made bold moves in the Double Gates field and had to be turned. On the way down the south line, Annie jumped into the cover and pointed. Bullet backed her but moved in before his handler arrived. Birds were flushed for Annie with all in order. Bullet was picked up there at 15. Annie made some nice moves on the edges. She pointed in the far corner of Davis bottom at 32, but Vincent put the hook on her as she wasn't challenging the leaders.

Mayfield Storm Charger (Lester) and Dream Chaser (Daugherty) were released below the gate in Davis. Scott Mason was on hand to watch his young Storm Charger perform. Dream Chaser was not cooperative today and was up early. Storm scored a pretty find at 23 on Apple Tree hill's left line. Birds were successfully put to flight for the mannerly pointer. He continued forward



Don Fox Derby Winners (front, l-r): Chris Cagle, Jr. with Haney's All In, Justin Swearingen with Tee's Crazy Train, and Jordan Wyatt with Valiant Fight. (Behind): Dennis Hidalgo, Chris Cagle, Sr., Bonnie Hidalgo, Hank Jansen, Kendell Schmidt (judge), Tracy Swearingen, Dave Capstick (judge), Randy Anderson, George Hill, and Jay McKenzie.

into the Little Vine loop and onto Sycamore bottom. At 50, he pointed on the left edge, relocation was required, and he flushed the bird in the process; the afternoon's second hour was done.

Dominator's Wild Bill (Daniels) and Big N Wild (Cochran). Bill scored a nice find by the twin barns at 14. Big notched an impressive find at 26 on a far hill in the bull pasture. Into Climer's, Bill was picked up at 31, as he was not achieving the standard set earlier in the stake. At 40, Big pointed in the Clubhouse loop, overlooking the lower parking lot. Big was required to relocate but was unsuccessful, and he was up.

**Grovespring, Mo., March 20**  
**Judges: Mike Jackson and Keith Wright**  
**MISSOURI OPEN ALL-AGE (One-Hour Heats)**  
**- 34 Pointers and 2 Setters**

- 1st—WESTFALL'S TRUE GRIT, 1663635, pointer male, by Erin's Brave Heart-Westfall's Irish Bell. Ryan Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.  
2d—BARSHOE FORGET ME NOT, 1692349, pointer female, by Whipoorwill Justified-Greypointe Invierna. Robert Gum, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.  
3d—LESTER'S STEM WINDER, 1686991, pointer male, by Lester's Sunny Hill Jo-Beane's Line Dancer. Dan Hensley, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.

**The Don Fox Memorial Derby**

Haney's All In, owned and handled by Chris Cagle, Sr., and scouted by Chris Cagle, Jr., won this highly competitive Derby stake with an outstanding all-age performance. Ray appeared in brace No. 5, which ran late on Thursday morning. He covered lots of ground in his 30-minute heat and did it with class. Ray scored a find just south of the twin barns at 18, with brilliant style and perfect manners. He ran hard, and he ran forward. After time was called, he was found on point near the cemetery along Parks Creek. Again, it was spectacular work. All In did what his name implies, and his effort set him apart from the other performers.

Tee's Crazy Train, handled by Tracy Swearingen and scouted by Justin Swearingen, placed second with a strong, forward race. Tracy and Christy Swearingen of Leesburg, Ga., own Train. He scored a very nice find just out of Climer's east gate at 26 and finished strong in the Clubhouse loop.

Valiant Fight, handled by Randy Anderson, placed third. Fight is owned by Jay McKenzie of Eureka, Kan. Jay was on hand to witness the performance of his young dog. Fight

ran a good, forward race. At 25, he pointed before the east gate of Climer's pasture; when relocation became necessary, he did it effectively and properly.

Of the 23 entries, 22 were starters. Aside from the winners, there were five other dogs with acceptable bird work and creditable races. Those dogs, in order of appearance, were: World Class Instigator, handled by Randy Anderson and owned by Mick Marietta's World Class Kennel; Beeler's White Knight, owned and handled by Scott Beeler; Rester's Cajun Spirit, handled by Judd Carlton for owner Cecil Rester; Shagtime Sunny and Haney's Silver Dollar, both of which are owned and handled by Chris Cagle. Additionally, Southern Thunder, handled by Tom Shenker, turned in an impressive ground race but went without bird contact.

Judges for this stake were Ken Schmidt, Foristell, Mo., and Dave Capstick, Jonesboro, Mo. They are members of the club that hosts this trial and stepped up to the plate to judge. Ken has retired from running dogs; he used to compete with pointers on the amateur circuit. Dave competes successfully with his Brittanys on their amateur all-age circuit. Both judges are quite knowledgeable when it comes to bird dogs.

**Judges: Dave Capstick and Ken Schmidt**  
**DON FOX MEMORIAL DERBY**  
**- 20 Pointers and 2 Setters**

- 1st—HANEY'S ALL IN, 1698756, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle, owner; Chris Cagle, Sr., handler.  
2d—TEE'S CRAZY TRAIN, 1699147, pointer male, by Touch's Red Rider-Tee's Funseekin Belle. Tracy & Christy Swearingen, owners; Tracy Swearingen, handler.  
3d—VALIANT FIGHT, 1697215, pointer male, by Valiant-World Class Country Girl. Jay McKenzie, owner; Randy Anderson, handler.

**The Missouri Championship**

Judges for this great Championship were Gary McKibben, Hernando, Miss., and Perry Lacy, Elkton, Ky. They were looking for style on point and hard running, forward patterning dogs and got their wish! They watched the dogs carefully and were very enjoyable to be around. They are both well respected as judges and competitors. The Missouri State Field Trial Association appreciates their time waiting for the flooded creek to subside and judging the 2023 Missouri Championship.

Gary has enjoyed much success on the amateur circuit with his pointers, most recently with Coldwater Spectre and Coldwater Paradise. Gary has judged numerous local and regional trials and a great many championships.

Perry joined this sport years ago because he loved hunting dogs and walking horses. Perry took several years away from the sport but returned to it about eight years ago. He runs all-age dogs on the western Kentucky and Tennessee amateur circuit. He has enjoyed success with his pointers, especially Lacy's Cool Hand Luke, with which he won the Ames Amateur "Joe Walker Memorial" All-Age in late December. Perry could be heard playing his mandolin in his trailer in the evenings.

## The Winners and Others

Miller's Blindsider, owned by Nick Berrong and expertly handled by Jamie Daniels, knocked it out of the park with his brilliant performance to win the Missouri Open Championship. He appeared in brace No. 9, the last brace, on Monday morning, March 27. He was released heading up the ridge out of Sycamore bottom. Blindsider showed forward just beyond the barns and again near the bull pasture. He could be seen pointing at the cross fence, far to the front on the hillside behind the pond. He stood high and tight while his handler and judge rode to him. The birds were put up at 22 on this impressive limb find. In Climer's east field, Blindsider was found pointing by scout Judd Carlton. The pointer was buried in the cover on the right edge. His birds were flushed with all in order at 31. The handler and dog raced to the front, up into the Clubhouse loop, where Blindsider pointed at 35 for another well-handled find. At 42, Blindsider was found pointed on the back side of the west fence line; his birds were flushed while he remained high and tight. William Smith assisted Jamie in getting the dog lifted over the fence after the bird work. On the south side of the barns, Blindsider was pointing at 54, but when feathers were found, the dog was taken on. He finished the hour, well forward in the alley, the embodiment of power and stamina.

Runner-up Champion Miller's Heat Advisory, handled by Judd Carlton, appeared in brace No. 1 of the Championship. There was a course change for this stake; the creek crossing that leads directly into the Island field from Davis bottom was utilized because the water was too deep at the normal crossing. Miller's Heat Advisory put in a performance that set an early standard for the rest of the field. Terry Graunke owns the 5-year-old pointer male. Point was called for Heat, in the far corner of the double gates field at 15. The work proved to be unproductive. He hunted fast and forward through Davis bottom on the right edge. Heat pointed in the south end at 33, showing great style and intensity for the flush of his game. He made good time through Island field and was found forward on point at 42, just before Horse Killer hill. Birds were flushed, with the dog being mannerly. Heat wanted to hunt the cover but went up the steep hill at his handler's bidding. At 50, Heat was styled up on the left edge of Apple Tree hill; his birds were flushed with everything perfect. He was seen pointing far to the front as the course approached Little Vine Road at 57. Heat's style was high, and his birds were well-located. The hour ended after they climbed Little Vine hill, but Heat was not in view. Point was called at 103; Heat was in the far corner of the loop. His bird was flushed from a briar patch as the dog stood high and tight to top off a stellar showing.

## The Championship Running

Miller's Heat Advisory's (Carlton) hour has been described above. Wynona's Nickleback Sugar's (Vincent) owner, Bruce Sooter, was in the gallery. In the far corner of the



Missouri Open Championship Winners (front, l-r): Tracy Swearingen with Miller's Blindsider and Justin Swearingen with Miller's Heat Advisory. (Behind): Jamie Daniels, Dave Capstick, Gary McKibben (judge), Bonnie Hidalgo, Hank Jansen, Perry Lacy (judge), Kipp Linard, Tiffany Genre, Scott Mason, Judd Carlton, and Jake Davis.

Double Gates field at 15, Sugar naturally honored her bracemate. She worked nicely forward through Davis bottom. She made good time through Island field and was found forward before Horse Killer hill, backing her bracemate with style at 42. Sugar remained mannerly throughout. Sugar was seen forward at 50 on Apple Tree hill and then again in the bottoms of Little Vine loop. Time expired on Little Vine; Sugar was picked up forward.

Lester's Storm Surge (Lester) and Miller's Speed Dial (Anderson). These past National Champions started with a world of promise. Point was called at 5; it was Speed Dial pointing with Surge backing politely. Both were mannerly for the flush. They raced on from there, leading the way to Sycamore bottom. Around the first outcropping, we came upon Speed Dial on point with Surge honoring at 19. Once again, they were stylish and steady. They continued down Sycamore bottom and up the ridge, but Speed Dial was missing before the twin barns and was not recovered under judgment. Storm Surge made a huge move down the ridge and was pointed well to the front, near the barns at 33. He exhibited excellent style and intensity through flush and shot. He showed nicely forward from the barns and through the bull pasture. At 47, Surge slammed into point at the pond. His birds were well pinned, and things were as they should be. He was mainly forward through Climer's, took Horse Corral bottom at speed, but swung around and took the direction his handler asked for, climbing the hill into Clubhouse loop. He was out of view to the front at time and was found pointed at 104 above the corrals. The birds did not flush, but he stood nicely for the shot.

Dream Chaser (Daugherty) and B G K's Luke (Bell) were released heading up into Clubhouse loop. Luke pointed birds at 4, above the corrals. Dream Chaser honored naturally. Both dogs displayed style and perfect decorum. Dream Chaser disappeared, and his tracker was eventually taken. Luke continued forward out of the loop and past

the barns, where he pointed quail near the cedar tree at 20. His manners were good. A few minutes later, while heading down to the alley, he flushed a single from beside the trail and stopped to flush. Luke was absent before Sycamore but showed on the hillside near the road. Once through the double gates, he turned right and followed the edge to the corner where he pointed at 34. Luke's birds were well located, and he was mannerly, but the judges advised that he wasn't in contention, and the morning's running ended.

Whippoorwill Vette (Huffman) and Late Hit (Shenker). Vette ran a predominantly forward race. At 43, he pointed on Apple Tree hill, but it was unsuccessful, and his handler opted to pick up. Late Hit didn't look like himself and was up at 32.

Lester's Stem Winder (Anderson) and Cold Creek Buck (Cochran) turned loose below Apple Tree hill, heading into Little Vine. Stem Winder scored a nice find at 10 in the back corner. He had a couple of brief absences between Sycamore bottom and the bull pasture. Coming out of Climer's, he went to the front to end the hour at the Clubhouse loop. Cold Creek Buck had no bird contact.

Firefly's Invictus (Vincent) and Erin's High Note (Carlton) turned loose heading into the Clubhouse loop, the final brace on Sunday. Dennis Hidalgo was riding for Annie. They were forward to the pond, then Annie disappeared for a few minutes, returning to the front at the end of the loop. At 20, Annie was found pointing just south of the barns. She displayed excellent manners for the flush and shot. Sent into the alley, she disappeared quickly; the tracker was needed. High Note wasn't pleasing his handler and was also picked up.

Touch's Cocaine Blues (Anderson) and Knight's Little John (Lester) were quickly away on this chilly, overcast morning. Lester called point for John at 14 but waved it off. Both dogs could be seen checking out the cover along the south edge of the Double

Gates field before they went on down the line. In Davis bottom at 24, point was again called for John, but before we could get close, both dogs moved in and out of the cover. It looked suspicious. Anderson opted to pick Blues up. John continued forward and made a beautiful move through Island field. On the right edge just before Horse Killer hill, John pointed stylishly at 36. His manners were good. He was up and over Apple Tree in a hurry and showed forward below. The judges had him picked up before Little Vine hill at 53; he was not challenging the dogs they were carrying.

Westfall's River Ice (Daugherty) and Nosam's Sweet Water (Huffman) were headed up Little Vine hill to start. Sweet Water was found at 5, standing stylishly in the back corner of the loop. Ice was backing. Ice was picked up for an indiscretion. Sweet Water was relocated, and no birds were found. He stayed to the front through Sycamore but checked back to his handler and was picked up at 25.

Miller's Blindsider (Daniels) and I'm Gallant (Anderson). This brace was released heading up the ridge out of Sycamore bottom. Blindsider's winning performance was described. Gallant's owner, Jay McKenzie, was riding. Gallant honored his brace mate perfectly at 22. Gallant was out of pocket in Clubhouse loop and was picked up as the course came out of the loop.

Miller's King Poast (Lester) and Barshoe Forget Me Not (Vincent) were in the first brace on Monday afternoon. Jannie Chapman was riding to watch King Poast. Forget Me Not was a handful and absent on a couple of occasions. She returned to the front in Davis bottom and was forward into the Island field. She was next seen on point below Horse Killer hill at 36. King came up the other line and backed her on sight. When her birds were flushed, they fluttered instead of flying; she couldn't resist that and was picked up. King Poast went out of sight on Apple Tree hill but came in from the left as the course reached the Little Vine bottom. He was forward until 55, when Lester opted to pick up. King Poast found no birds.

Westfall's True Grit (Daugherty) and Notorious Dominator's Heir (Daniels) were turned loose at Little Vine hill. They were fast forward, showing a few times along the way to Sycamore bottom. They were gone before the twin barns. Grit was found forward, pointing on the west fence line in the bull pasture at 40. It was unproductive, and he was put on the wagon. Heir was not recovered under judgment.

Reed's Yellowstone (Cochran) and Mayfield Storm Charger (Lester). Storm was moved from brace No. 18 when Randy Anderson

was forced to scratch Slick Water Frac due to an injury. Storm had been set to run as a bye due to the earlier scratch of Touch's Amazing Greyce. They were released just beyond the cross fence in the bull pasture. They made good moves up the hill and around the pond, but the birds weren't home. They continued nicely into Climer's pastures; Yellowstone showed well on the left, going into the Clubhouse loop. Storm showed on the hill to the right front, swung around it, and then came to the Clubhouse loop. Storm pointed on the right edge at 18. It required relocation, which the young dog handled admirably. He was steady to wing and shot. His handler opted to pick him up. Yellowstone had no bird contact.

Haney's Storm Warning (Cagle) and Lester's Shockwave (Lester). Shockwave pointed in the double gates field at 13, with Spec honoring. All was in order. They were forward to the end of Davis bottom and scored a divided find there at 27. The dogs were high and tight on both ends. They were gone to the front as the course left the Island field. After several minutes they were seen on Apple Tree hill. Point was called for Spec; he showed perfect style and manners for the flush and shot at 44. The dogs were forward into Little Vine. At 58, point was called for Spec, Shockwave was backing. Both dogs looked great and were mannerly throughout. Time was called when the bird work completed.

Westfall's Wheels Up (Daugherty) and Dominator's Wild Bill (Daniels) were released in the bottom, beyond Little Vine loop. Wheels took the right edge of Sycamore; Bill took the left, and they each hunted the cross strip. Bill went up the ridge. Wheels scored a find just into the alley at 16 with high style. Daugherty caught the front on the ridge, and Wheels made a big move on the right line. Bill was not suiting his handler and was picked up. Wheels pointed below the barns at 24; his birds were flushed with all in good order. He took the right edge, heading west from the barns, and swapped ends to point at 26. He had his bird very well located. Sent on, Wheels continued up the same edge, and at 28, he ran over a woodcock to end his bid.

Texas Wild Rex (Vincent) and Bonner's Bulletproof (Anderson) were released at the bull pasture gate. Both dogs were quickly out of sight. Rex showed on the left before Climer's west gate, then scored a nice covey find in Climer's at 11. Both were absent as the course entered Clubhouse loop; Anderson took his tracker at 20. Rex showed on the left front, then turned and pointed, or so it seemed. It turned out that he was backing Bullet. Bullet was picked up, and Rex was taken on. He made a huge move on the ridge and past the pond, coming from the left front as we exited the loop. He pointed at the base of the hill, but

it was unproductive, and he was picked up.

Como Thunder (Russell) and Miss Stylin Sue (Vincent). Jim Mills rode to watch Sue in what turned out to be her final performance. Into the Double Gates field, these two pointers rimmed the edge and scored a divided find on the south line at 16. All was in order. Como Thunder made some big moves but had no further game contact. Sue used the lines well for the entire hour; in Davis bottom, her move was rewarded at 30, with a pretty find in the far-right corner. Thunder was absent from Island field but appeared on Apple Tree hill later. Sue mainly continued forward, with just one brief absence at the top of Horse Killer hill. She finished heading up Little Vine hill.

Chief's Rising Sun (Carlton) and Touch's Fire Away (Anderson) turned loose at Little Vine Road. They were forward through the loop and Sycamore bottom. Point was called for Fire Away at 24; he stood on the hillside to the left of the alley. No birds were produced, and he was taken to the front. No birds were pointed during this brace by either dog.

Westfall's Power Trip (Daugherty) and Como Rain (Russell) were released into the Clubhouse loop. Trip pointed above the clubhouse parking lot at 5, relocation was necessary, but he flushed his birds in the process and ended his run. Rain backed on sight at 5. He quickly made the Clubhouse loop and followed the edges across the next hill and toward the barns. He was absent when his handler reached the barns. The scout took the edge heading west and called point for Rain, far down the field at 24. The pointer exhibited beautiful style and flawless manners. Back on course, he headed down the alley to Sycamore and was guided through the double gates. He went south in Double Gates field and then ran the south edge to the east, where he slammed on point. Rain's birds were flushed with all in order at 40. Being brought back to the north, he got headstrong and turned back east. He was absent briefly before he showed to the front on the far right. At the cemetery, he missed the crossing, staying west of the creek, and the judges handed the tracker over to the handler. This concluded the running of the 2023 Missouri Open Championship.

**Judges: Perry Lacy and Gary McKibben  
MISSOURI OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP**

**[One-Hour Heats] – 34 Pointers and 2 Setters**

*Winner—MILLER'S BLINDSIDER, 1674983, pointer male, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Nick Berrong, owner; Jamie Daniels, handler.*

*Runner-Up—MILLER'S HEAT ADVISORY, 1685672, pointer male, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Terry Graunke, owner; Judd Carlton, handler.*

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Please email your nominations of 200 words or less to: [dwellmann@ukcdogs.com](mailto:dwellmann@ukcdogs.com)

## NBHA MIDWEST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

*Indian Creek Sprout Named Champion; Griff's Express, Runner-Up*

By Tim Penn | Williamsburg, Missouri | March 23, 2023

Due to a conflict in the original schedule, the NBHA Midwest Regional Championship was held and completed at the Whetstone Conservation Area near Williamsburg, Mo., on March 23. The grounds were in excellent condition; those attending would agree that these grounds allow a dog to naturally hunt the cover and show the good qualities that judges are looking for in their winners. Whetstone area manager Ben Diekman and his team of dedicated workers have continued to improve the area for quail habitat, thus making for some excellent grounds to run dogs on.

Co-chairs for rescheduling this trial were Tim Penn and Kevin Western. Hosting this trial wasn't all that difficult, but it did have some challenges. With a Thursday start and short notice, we were short of some of our usual workers. Along with the threat of rain in the forecast, it was a concern about how muddy and difficult the course could become. Mother Nature was on our side as it stayed cloudy, dry, and cool all day, making for excellent conditions to work dogs in. A special thanks to Ralph Niemeyer for bringing his side-by-side and providing a dog wagon throughout the trial to help the trial run more efficiently.

The judicial team for this event was Dan Draffen of Bunceton, Mo., and Craig Hiatt of Edgeton, Mo. Both men compete with shooting dogs regularly, and both have achieved the honors of reaching the championship winners' table with their dogs. We were very fortunate to have them serve as our judges for this event, and their decisions were well received.



NBHA Midwest Regional Championship Winners (front, l-r): Jillian Stuhr with Indian Creek Sprout and Tim Penn with Griff's Express. (Behind): Garry Malzone, Craig Hiatt (judge), Dan Draffen (judge), Justin Crook, and Brian Stockrahm.

This year's winners emerged from brace No. 3, with Indian Creek Sprout being named champion for her owner Jillian Stuhr and handler Garry Malzone. Sprout settled in from the start with a smooth and forward application and always to the front. She had two beautiful finds and a back to show that she was the complete package of a champion shooting dog. Bracemate Griff's Express, owned by Mike Griffin and handled by Justin Crook, was named the runner-up champion. Griff had scored on three finds, his race was comparable to the winners, and his manners and class pleased the judges. This was an exciting brace to watch, with both dogs performing at a high level.

Other dogs that finished the hour with quality performances were Indian Creek Courageous Cat (brace No. 4) and Pure

Confidence (brace No. 6). Garry Malzone handled both contenders. On this day, they fell short of making the winners' table.

NBHA would like to acknowledge the support of our sponsors who make these trials a success: Purina Pro Plan, Garmin, Gun Dog Supply, OnX, and Mule Brand Clothing. Their participation and sponsorship of the NBHA are greatly appreciated.

**Williamsburg, Mo., March 23 – One Course**

**Judges: Danny Draffen and Craig Hiatt**

**NBHA MIDWEST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

**[One-Hour Heats] – 11 Pointers, 3 Setters**

**and 1 Irish Setter**

*Winner—INDIAN CREEK SPROUT, 1693330, pointer female, by Indian Creek Perfect Storm-Indian Creek Ramona. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.*

*Runner-Up—GRIFF'S EXPRESS, 1690730, pointer male, by L V's Western Express-L V's Silver Lining. Mike Griffin, owner; Justin Crook, handler.*

## UNITED STATES AMATEUR DERBY INVITATIONAL

*Haney's Hurricane Seeker Named Champion; Rebel Gold, Runner-Up*

By Jim Atchison | Dancyville, Tennessee | March 24, 2023

The United States Amateur Derby Invitational Club sponsored the 4th renewal of their outstanding stake March 24-26 on the grounds of the West Tennessee Field Trial Club at Dancyville, Tenn. Twelve dogs competed, with invitations initially extended to the four high point derbies from each of the Eastern, Central, and Western regions of the nation. As only three dogs were able to come from the west, the roster was filled with a 12th "wildcard" dog from the Eastern region. The year-round efforts of the sponsoring club: Quintin and Tasha Wiseman, Jay Lewis, Todd Babbel, Rich Heaton, and Whitley Stephenson, were apparent when the Wisemans and Jay Lewis arrived at Dancyville and were welcomed by the hosting

West Tennesseans who had their clubhouse, grounds, and birds ready for all who came.

Steve Hurdle from Hickory Flat, Miss., and Joe Don House from Clinton, Ky., judged. Steve Hurdle, a well-respected professional with an outstanding record of winning, and Joe Don House, who holds many years of successful breeding bird dogs and competing as an amateur, were well qualified and did an excellent job of watching the competing derbies and handing down their judicial decision. Hurdle's service as a judge was his second, as he judged this Invitational on the first year of its running. House, who has been out of the sport for over a decade, returned, bringing his vast knowledge and experience.

This pair of judges continued the tradition of this Invitational, which is to invite some of the most highly respected individuals in the sport to judge each year.

Numerous corporate and individual sponsors again contributed generously, thus enabling this Invitational and the Super Qualifiers, which led to its finale, to present an impressive list of awards and trophies to the winners. Purina was again recognized as the primary sponsor, and their generosity, and that of Garmin and many others, will be acknowledged later in this report.

### The Winners

Haney's Hurricane Seeker, owned and



United States Amateur Derby Invitational Winners (l-r): Chris Perkins with Perkins Diamond Cutter, Gordy Jones with Costas, Ben DeJonge with Carbonado's Wilberg, Cecil Rester with Rester's Johnny Ringo, Chris Cagle, Jr. with Shagtime Sunny, Joe Worsham with Worsham's Spitfire, Dr. Pat McInteer with Nemaha Touch A Grey, David Russell with Haney's Hurricane Seeker, Mike Small with Small's Five Star, Lance Servais with Southern Shadow's Story, David Williams with Rebel Gold, and Dr. Fred Corder with Game Mode.

handled by David Russell from Como, Miss., was the winner. The runner-up was Rebel Gold, owned and handled by David Williams from Beech Bluff, Tenn.

Competing in brace No. 5 on the first afternoon, Haney's Hurricane Seeker had a significant absence after the breakaway but returned to stylishly back his bracemate while birds were flushed on the Boumeester tract at 20. He then continued with a strong forward race until he stood again at 35, where he perfectly handled the flush and shot of a covey of the land owned by Ike and Marty Todd on the east side of Coffee Gap Road. While competing in brace No. 2 on day two, he hunted aggressively until 43 when he stood statuesquely on birds along the west side of the large bottom. Time was out immediately after the birds were flushed, and the winner had earned the privilege of being called back to compete the following morning. During the first brace of the Sunday morning callback, Hurricane Seeker stood twice. He first had birds just west of the buildings on the Boumeester tract and then continued until 31 when he backed his bracemate on the Humber land. The combination of power, speed, and style demonstrated during each of the 45-minute braces of this Invitational readily earned Haney's Hurricane Seeker the honor of being the "Best of the Best" in this competition.

Rebel Gold competed in brace No. 6 on the first afternoon, in brace No. 2 on the second morning, and in the second of the callback braces on Sunday. He became more forward and stronger each time he competed. On Friday, he had birds at 20 and again at 35. On Saturday, he circled Humber's north field and pointed birds as he returned almost to the awaiting gallery, enabling Williams to easily flush. During the callback, he came through the woods at 11 and backed his bracemate, who had birds on an edge on the Rickert and Turley property. He then had birds again at 16 when making a 90-degree turn to head west toward Russell Grove Church and then pointed again, and Williams flushed at 22 in a honeysuckle thicket near the cemetery behind the former Russel Grove Church. This runner-up continued until the end with a strong finish after coming down off the McClanahan tract and along Currie's north bottom. Style, speed, and intelligent navigation of the courses were apparent during each of his 45-minute periods of competition.

### **Also Called Back**

Small's Five Star, owned and handled by Mike Small, was one of the four dogs called back to compete a third time during the Invitational. He had two finds on the first morning when he pointed at 26 and again at 34, with birds being easily flushed each time. On the second afternoon, he pointed, and Small flushed birds behind the Russel Grove Church. As one of the dogs in the first brace called back on Sunday, the derby backed his bracemate at 25 in the area on the west edge of the Boumeester tract and soon crossed Fayette Corners Road onto Humber and found birds again at 31. He then continued to finish the allotted time as he neared Coffee Gap Road.

Rester's Johnny Ringo, owned and handled by Cecil Rester from Louisiana, was another of the four dogs called back. He had one find while competing in the first brace on Friday morning. That find was at 10, under cedar trees immediately before going into the clearing leading to an area known as the Well, along the edge of Blalock Road. During brace No. 5 on Saturday, he had birds one time, at 41, along the west edge of Todd's bottom at a place where they were also found during earlier braces. Then he again had one find during the callback. That action was at 11 between two long fields on the Rickert and Turley land as Rester's determination successfully found birds where others had tried but taken unproductives.

### **The Remaining Eight**

Chris Perkins and his wife traveled from Idaho with Perkins Diamond Cutter, the highest point dog attending from the Western Region. On the first course Friday morning, he backed his bracemate while birds were flushed from cedars near Blalock Road. They then had an independent find at 40 when he pointed near a terrace on the Taylor/McCloud land that is principally hunted as a large horseshoe that makes up a significant part of the first-hour course. Then in the last brace on the second day, Diamond Cutter found no birds, but he ran a much bigger and more aggressive race than the first day and finished the hour in an excellent place to show the judges a very strong finish.

Worsham's Spitfire, owned and handled by Joe Worsham from St. Joe, Mo., backed his bracemate twice during the morning's effort in the second brace. In brace No. 4, on the second day, he had birds near the Well at 11 and continued until 16 when Spitfire and his

bracemate stopped and started, then stopped and started again, and maybe again, before deciding to continue. Spitfire then finished the 45 minutes but had no more birds.

Carbonado's Wilberg came from Montana with his owner/handler Ben DeJonge who brought three cases of beautiful potatoes from the area where he is involved with raising certified seed potatoes and barley. The Montana derby backed his bracemate at 16 and continued to hunt on the Spiotta land, where he had a find which was handled well at 27. Time was then called at 45 while he was to the front on McClanahan's high knoll. On the second afternoon, in brace No. 5, he had unproductives at 3 and again at 19 and was put into his harness.

Nemaha Touch A Grey traveled from Nebraska with his owner/handler, Dr. Pat McInteer. On the first day, Touch A Grey finished the hour and stood once, at 16, where the effort produced no birds. In brace No. 4, on Saturday, he backed his bracemate at 11 and continued until 36, when Dr. McInteer chose to pick him up.

Southern Shadows Story, owned and handled by Lance Servais from Alabama, ran well during brace No. 4 on Friday but found no birds. On Saturday morning, he finished the hour in the first brace but stood only once, backing his brace mate at 13.

Shagtime Sunny, owned and handled by Chris Cagle, Sr., was the only setter among the remaining field of 11 pointers. He hunted well throughout brace No. 4 on Friday but found no birds. During brace No. 3 on Saturday, he failed to back properly and was picked up at 16.

Game Mode, owned and handled by Dr. Fred Corder, competed in brace No. 5 on Friday and No. 3 on Saturday. On Friday, he had birds once, at 20. On Saturday, at 16 near Russell Grove Church, he pointed, but his bracemate did not back correctly, and the birds were flushed. He then crossed Fayette Corners Road and the McClanahan property onto Dr. Spiotta and had birds at 25. Continuing then until 36, he had an unproductive and then finished the hour.

Gordy Jones traveled twice from Utah to the West Tennessee grounds within a few weeks as he judged the West Tennessee Open in February. He returned to this Invitational, bringing Costas to compete. Costas, running in brace No. 6 on Friday, backed his bracemate at 20 and 35 before having a nice independent

find at 40. On Saturday morning, at 13, he pointed with his brace mate backing, and Jones flushed birds. Costas then finished the allotted time but found no more birds.

### Sponsors, Awards, Food, and Fellowship

The hosts, sponsors, prizes, awards, and meals for this Invitational are so numerous and so outstanding that Quintin Wiseman, assisted by Jay Lewis, spent a great deal of time on the Friday evening of the Purina dinner talking about those whose generosity made the 4th renewal of this young Invitational so spectacular.

He thanked the West Tennessee Field Trial Club members and the landowners of the Dancyville community who so generously enabled the annual competition to be held in Fayette County. Club members who worked most of the day Thursday before the drawing included Bill Currie, Ike Todd, Chris Mullin, and Dale Pool, who got the clubhouse, kitchen, and horse stalls ready before they caught birds and put them out on the three courses. Those four were joined by Allen Currie, who frequently marshaled, while the others hauled horses, provided safety at road crossings, and did everything thoughtful hosts do when they have guests.

The landowners who were invited to dinner and thanked included Bill and Allen Currie, Skip Taylor and Mrs. Jan McCloud, Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Spiotta, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Humber, Ike and Marty Todd, Alex Rickert, Austin Turley, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed McClanahan.

Wiseman recognized and thanked the judges, reporter, and Mrs. Vera Courtney. Vera and her camera are a much-loved addition to numerous field trials each year, and she again photographed much of the happenings each day, as she has done in each of the four years of this Invitational. She printed 8x10 photographs of the derby group photo and gave them as gifts to each owner.

Three meals a day were provided, with Tasha Wiseman doing much of the preparation and cooking, coupled with the help of West Tennessee Club members. Quintin prepared the beef tenderloin served at the Purina dinner Friday night, and the pork loin dinner served on Saturday night was provided by Whitley Stephenson.

On Friday evening, each dog owner, the judges, and the reporter received warm winter coats embroidered with the Purina logo, the Invitational logo, 2023, and the recipient's



United States Amateur Derby Invitational Winners (front, l-r): Billy Blackwell with Haney's Hurricane Seeker and David Williams with Rebel Gold. (Behind): Lance Servais, Gordy Jones, Keith St. John, Brian Peterson, Anniston and Rachel Russell, Dr. Corder, Rita Corder, Parker Russell, Ike Todd, Jay Lewis, David Russell, Joe Don House (judge), Steve Hurdle (judge), Michelle Clark, Quintin Wiseman, Dale Pool, Tasha Wiseman, Chris Mullin, Julia Currie, Bill Currie, and Ann Forrester.

name. Caps and swag bags were also given to each dog owner. Purina's sponsorship, which included financial assistance for advertising and the Purina dinner, plus eight bags of dog food for the winner, four for the runner-up, and one for each of the other ten participants, was gratefully acknowledged. Phil and Melissa Town of Rule One Investing were thanked for their generosity, and Garmin was thanked for their gift of their latest tracking collar to the winner. Also, Wiseman strongly touted the quality of Grooms Hand and Derm 360, created by Sam McKee and contained in the swag bags. Wiseman thanked David Williams, the Carroll County Field Trial Club, and Jim Lawless, Kay Morrison, and Brad Hargis from the Pyramid State Park grounds for hosting the Super Qualifiers at their venues.

Other generous donations of dog training given by Allen Vincent and Luke Eisenhart had been received and auctioned, providing money, some of which was used to purchase the saddles given at the Super Qualifiers. Brian and Brooke Sanchez provided a painting of the winning dog to be done by Leah Brigham. In addition to a saddle, the owner of the runner-up would receive a painting of their dog done on a turkey feather by Mike Kearney of Trophy Bone Artistry. The scout of the winning dog would receive a custom-made pair of chaps designed and made by Patty Ewer of Custom Leather and Canvas. A Henry 17 HMR Rifle given by Alex and Bryana Rickert had earlier been awarded to David Russell and Haney's Hurricane Seeker.

Two additional awards were announced and would be given based on the outcome of the Invitational. The Gary Phillips Breeders Cup Award, given annually by Nathan Phillips, is awarded to the breeder of the winner and

therefore went to Chris Cagle, Sr., who was the breeder of Haney's Hurricane Seeker.

The other award was the Jim Crouse Memorial Plaque for the owner of the National High Point Dog. Going into the Invitational, Chris Cagle, Sr., Mike Small, and David Russell were closely in contention, and the winner would be determined solely by the outcome of this Invitational. Haney's Hurricane Seeker's win resulted in David Russell winning that coveted Jim Crouse Memorial Plaque.

Finally, Quintin acknowledged the wonderful work and support of Tasha, who works throughout the year with him to make this Invitational one of the premiere annual gatherings of those who love the sport of field trialing.

This reporter is panicked that he may have forgotten or overlooked mentioning others who in some way helped make this wonderful fourth year of the United States Amateur Derby Invitational the great success it was. There were so many, and Quintin thanked them, even if this scribe failed to write as fast as Quintin spoke. The gathering was outstanding, and dog owners returned to their respective states hoping to qualify and be invited to return in 2024.

**Dancyville, Tenn., March 24**  
**Judges: Joe Don House and Steve Hurdle**  
**UNITED STATES AMATEUR DERBY**  
**INVITATIONAL [Forty-Five-Minute Heats on two**  
**Consecutive Days; Forty-Five-Minute Finals]**  
**- 12 Pointers**

*Winner—HANEY'S HURRICANE SEEKER, 1698759, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. David Russell, owner and handler.*  
*Runner-Up—REBEL GOLD, 1701829, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Rebel Maiden. David Williams, owner and handler.*

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# REGION 5 (AFTCA) AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

*Hirollins Gone And Doneit Named Champion; Crow Creek Redbud, Runner-Up*

By Tim Penn | Williamsburg, Missouri | March 25, 2023



Region 5 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front, l-r): Warren Parrott with Hirollins Gone and Doneit, and Aaron McAfee with Crow Creek Redbud. (Behind): Randy Zimmer, Cliff Monroe, Jillian Stuhr (judge), Garry Malzone (judge), Tim Penn, and Joe Zimmer.

The AFTCA Region 5 Walking Shooting Dog Championship was held at the Whetstone Conservation Area near Williamsburg, Mo. This year's Championship had 17 entries competing for the title, which started on Saturday, March 25. Whetstone Conservation Area is managed by Ben Diekman and his team of dedicated workers. Their efforts to improve the quail habitat have made for an excellent area to show a dog. This year the grounds were in perfect condition; the fields were open with ample cover and edges to attract and hold quail.

Judging duties were done by Garry Malzone and Jillian Stuhr of Franklin, N. J. We were fortunate to have Garry and Jill in the saddle to evaluate the competition of this stake. Their experience of campaigning for dogs nationwide and their winning success is unmatched. We thank them for their time, and their decisions were well received.

This year's champion, Hirollins Gone And Doneit (PM), emerged from brace No. 2. His performance set the standard for the remaining braces. This champion is owned and handled by Warren Parrott of Stranton, S. C. The runner-up champion, Crow Creek Redbud (PF), came from the last brace. She is owned by Ken Black of Washington, Ill., and was handled by Aaron McAfee of Edinburg, Ill.

Tim Penn and Kevin Western of the North Missouri Field Trial Club were co-chairs for

this trial. With heavy rains from Friday night, the Saturday morning start was delayed by 30 minutes. The course was wet and slick with the extra rain, but it did improve as the day went on. A big thanks to our helpers, Ralph Niemeyer, for bringing his side-by-side to use as the dog wagon, Joe Zimmer, who came with his ATV to help bring dogs to the line and get them picked up as needed, and Randy Zimmer, who was the behind-the-scenes director who ensured what dogs were needed next. We are very appreciative of all their help.

## The Running

Brace No. 1 paired Walker's Legacy with Aaron McAfee and Double D's Red Lancelot with Dan Draffen. Legacy ran a forward race and finished the hour with no bird work. Red had an absent early, appeared to the front, and had a find at 31 with good manners. He became lost, and the tracker was called for at 58.

In brace No. 2, Milomix Paddy, with Bill Wright, started her score with a back at 22. She went on to have a find at 26 with good manners and a woodcock find at 36. She became lost at 55, and the tracker was called for. Hirollins Gone and Doneit, with Warren Parrott, had a find at 22, showing good style and manners. At 42, he carded his second find again, showing good manners and style. His race was to the front and consistent, setting the

bar for the following competitors.

In brace No. 3, Craig's Runin Roxie, with Craig Hiatt, made some good moves and had finds at 19 and 33. She was making a push to make it to the winners' table finishing the hour. She just fell short this weekend to the eventual winners. Bracemate Blue Mound's True Class, with Dan Crunk, couldn't get on track today, and the tracker was called for at 16.

In brace No. 4, R Z Zuzu, with Randy Zimmer, moved up from No. 9 to fill the void left when Western's Whistlin Dixie had to be scratched. Zu had finds at 22 and another at 31. She became out of pocket, and the tracker was called for at 50. My Way Little Bud with Cliff Monroe had some bad luck with an unproductive at 13 and another at 18.

In brace No. 5, Twiggy, with Cliff Monroe, was pointed at 12. Cliff elected not to flush and sent Twiggy on, he later became lost, and the tracker was called for at 30. Chief Deception with Tim Penn was picked up at 12 when he didn't recognize his opportunity to back.

In brace No. 6, Hirollins B K Bulletproof, with Warren Parrott, finished the hour scoring one find at 38. Glover's Flintstone, with Jack Glover, was picked up at 35 for a breach of manners.

Brace No. 7 paired Penrosa Hidncash with Tim Penn and Fast Money with Brian Stockrahm. Their bid ended at 19.

In brace No. 8, Crow Creek Redbud, with Aaron McAfee, ran a big forward race, scored her find at 45, and displayed excellent manners; her performance was the closest to the winner earning her runner-up. Bracemate The Treasure Chest, with Cliff Monroe, finished the hour but went birdless.

**Williamsburg, Mo., March 25 – One Course**  
**Judges: Garry Malzone and Jillian Stuhr**  
**REGION 5 AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**  
**– 13 Pointers and 4 Setters**

*Winner—HIROLLINS GONE AND DONEIT, 1679825, pointer male, by Fastforward's B K Gunner-Littlewing B K Tia. Warren Parrott, owner and handler.*  
*Runner-Up—CROW CREEK REDBUD, 1697119, pointer female, by Walker's Legacy-Redbud's Country Girl. Ken Black, owner; Aaron McAfee, handler.*

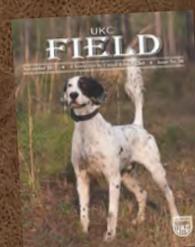


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\*High-Resolution Color Images Preferred.



# David Williams for Field Trial Hall of Fame

David Williams not only meets the lofty HOF requirements but far, far exceeds them. For nearly half a century, every aspect of our sport has benefitted from his tireless giving of his time, knowledge, resources, generosity and commitment.

**The greatest threat to our sport, throughout the country, is the loss of field trial grounds suitable for the evaluation of our bird dogs. The very purpose of our sport — the betterment of bird dogs, cannot be achieved without game-rich field trial grounds... *and those who assure we have them.***



- Due to David Williams' tireless hands-on efforts as well as his own financial resources and generosity, his land and facilities, permanent home to the **Carroll County Field Trial Club**, have become one of the country's best, most popular and utilized field trial venues.

- Hundreds of stakes — both open and amateur — have been hosted on these grounds during the past 30 years including prestigious open and amateur championships. Dozens of field trial clubs found a venue for their events. Today Carroll County FTC grounds annually host six to eight field trial events with a full slate of stakes, including two **National Qualifiers**, the American Quail Classic and the Lynn Taylor Open All-Age.

- Constantly being improved by David, "the farm" offers three hours of continuous courses, immaculately groomed and managed for pre-released and native quail, first-class field trial facilities including kennels and horse corrals and a fully equipped, insulated club house.

- The Carroll County FTC — David Williams along with long-time friends/active club members not only provide excellent bird-rich grounds and top notch facilities, but assure that all visitors feel welcome and are well fed and looked after. These social aspects are essential ingredients for the enjoyment, camaraderie and preservation of our field trial pastime.

- Serving as Trustee of AFTCA Region 6 since 2009, as well as Director for many years and President for the 2017-2019 term, David spearheaded the all-important **Land Contribution Program**. It provides a tax benefit to private landowners, a tremendous incentive for allowing their land to be used for field trials, in turn, leading to the securement of grounds and of increased participation in our sport.

*Between his tremendous effort and time caring for the farm, David's passion has been fueled by breeding a line of Rebel pointers for many years, training and successfully competing his dogs as an amateur, as well as campaigning them with professional handlers. He has been an active member and officer of numerous clubs and held offices and board positions of many field trial associations. He is sought after as a knowledgeable and fair judge having presided over championships and field trials — both open and amateur, all over the country including the Quail Championship Invitational, National Amateur All-Age Championship, National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship, Missouri Championship and many others.*

To this day, David Williams continues to quietly and selflessly devote his life to the betterment of our sport.

*Please join us in honoring David's nearly 50 years of dedication to field trials with your support.  
— Thank you, the Committee to Elect David Williams to the Field Trial Hall of Fame*

# AMERICAN DERBY INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

*Haney's All In Wins 2023 Running*

By Bonnie Hidalgo | Grovespring, Missouri | March 29, 2023



American Derby Invitational Championship Winners (front): Korry Rinehart with Haney's All In. (Behind): Dennis Hidalgo, Hank Jansen, Bonnie Hidalgo, Kipp Linard, Chris Cagle, Sr., George Hill, Ike Todd, Kendell Schmidt, Chris Cagle, Jr., Ronnie Beane (judge), and Kevin Beane (judge).

**H**aney's All In put it all on the line for two days to claim the title of American Derby Invitational Champion for owner Chris Cagle of Woodlawn, Tenn. The attractive white and orange pointer was expertly trained and handled by Ike Todd. No runner-up was named.

Haney's All In scored eight high-class finds in his two-and-a-half hours of competition, putting down a top-quality performance in the first series, which paled in comparison to his second series effort. He showed incredible power, speed, and stamina. His future is bright; he has proven to be a consistent performer. This was his second win on these grounds in a week, having waltzed away with the "W" in the Don Fox Memorial Open Derby.

The American Derby Invitational is conducted over the premier grounds of the Field Trial Sportsmen's Association at Grovespring, Mo. It ran on March 29 and 30. It has been held here since 2018. Kendell Schmidt has served as the chairman of the trial since that time. Beginning with the 2024 renewal, Ken is turning the reins of this Championship over to Kipp Linard. Kipp has helped Ken put it on every year, making the transition seamless.

This marks the second year a Cagle color bearer has annexed this title; it was won by Haney's Storm Warning in 2022, also handled by Ike Todd. Ike has the distinction of winning this stake every year it has run at the Field Trial Sportsmen's grounds, except for 2021, when Randy Anderson won with Miller's L'Eletto, and Ike took runner-up with Game Heir.

Each season, the competing derby dogs are ranked by points received for placements in All-Age Derby stakes. The top 12 ranked derbies are invited to compete in this Invitational Championship. The points are based on the placement and the

number of dogs that competed. Four Derby Championships are automatic qualifiers for the American Derby Invitational Championship: The Continental, The National, Georgia, and All-American Derby Championships. The dogs that win these go to the top of the rankings and are the first to be invited. All four derby champions accepted the invitation, some already in the top 12.

The drawing was conducted Tuesday, March 28, in the clubhouse following the announcement of the Missouri Open Championship winners. Kendell Schmidt, George Hill, and Kipp Linard conducted the draw. Sharleen Daugherty served appetizers.

The judges for this year's American Derby Invitational Championship were the father-son team of Ronnie and Kevin Beane of Albany, Ga. Ronnie has been in the bird dog business for years, training dogs and managing plantations. Kevin followed in his father's footsteps and currently manages Wildfair Plantation in Albany, Ga. Both men brought a wealth of bird-dog knowledge to the judicial roles. They watched all entrants with careful eyes, rode hard when they needed to, and were on the same page as to what they were looking for. They called back four dogs for the final series, which had many similarities. Kevin and Ronnie Beane were personable and courteous. The Southwest Missouri Sportsmen's Club is grateful for their time and attention to the contestants in this Championship.

The Southwest Missouri Sportsmen's Club hosted a pork chop dinner on Wednesday evening. Ken Schmidt did the cooking, and it was a fantastic meal! The announcement of callback dogs was made during the evening festivities.

Ken Schmidt, Kipp Linard, Hank Jansen, Dave Capstick, George Hill, and Dennis Hidalgo covered all aspects of the trial, from paperwork to bird planting, marshaling, and

dog wagon detail. These gentlemen get along well and do a great job conducting a class field trial. Bill Westfall kindly provided his side-by-side to move the dogs from the dog wagon to the starting points. The ground was too saturated to have a truck and wagon in the fields. Hank Jansen handled the conveyance of the dogs to the line, a task he truly enjoyed.

Purina supplied dog food and financial support so that this Invitational Derby Championship can prosper and continue to be a quality event. Purina Pro Plan Sport 30/20 is a fantastic dog food fed by many top kennels nationwide. Thank you to Greg Blair and all the people at Purina for your dedication to the sport of field trials.

Jay McKenzie and Mick Marietta added \$5,000 to the winner's purse. This generous donation is greatly appreciated by the Southwest Missouri Sportsmen's Club, which sponsors this event. While it doesn't appear to aid the club at first glance, the added purse will make this Championship more important in the eyes of next year's top derby owners and handlers. Thank you, Jay and Mick!

Gary Lester made a cash donation to help with the expenses of running this Invitational. His contribution is greatly appreciated.

## The Contestants

Nighthawk's Rebel qualified automatically for this Invitational Championship by winning the Continental Derby Championship in January. He is owned by Rick Leverich and Sheree Lucero and was handled in this Invitational by Tracy Swearingen. Rebel is sired by Touch's Red Rider out of Tee's Funseekin Belle. In addition to the Continental Derby, Rebel won the Dr. Guthrie Memorial Derby and was second in the Preston Trimble Memorial Derby. He continued his winning by taking runner-up in the All-America Derby Championship, winning the Blackbelt Open Derby, and placing second in the NCFTA Open Derby and the Central Carolina Open Derby. Rebel qualified automatically, but he also had the points to make him the top qualifier.

Haney's Silver Dollar qualified for the Invitational Championship by being named the National Derby Champion. Silver Dollar is owned by Chris Cagle, Woodlawn, Tenn., and was handled by Ike Todd. In addition to his championship win, he placed second in the West Tennessee Open Derby. He is the product of the mating of Ransom to Haney's North Star. He and two of his littermates competed in this Derby Invitational.

Rester's Cajun Spirit won the Georgia Derby Championship to get an automatic qualification to this event. He also placed second in the Dixie Open Derby. Cajun is

owned by Allen Linder, Livingston, Tenn., and is handled by Judd Carlton. He was sired by Miller's Blindsider and out of Rester's Amazing Grace.

Game Surge was an automatic qualifier for the Invitational by winning the All-America Derby Championship. He is owned by Dr. Fred Corder of Corinth, Miss. Ike Todd is Surge's handler. In addition to winning the All-America Derby, he placed third in the Ricky Chism Open Derby. He was sired by Lester's Storm Surge and out of Game Maggie, who is by Cole Train.

Beeler's White Knight, owned and handled by Scott Beeler, amassed 443 points. He had six first-place wins: The Sunflower, Ricky Chism Derby, American Quail Classic, Kentucky Quail Classic, Alabama, and Heartland Open Derby stakes. The Alabama, Heartland, and Ricky Chism Derby were one-hour stakes. His seventh placement this season was third place in the Buck-Tuck Open Derby. Touch's Smooth Rider sired Knight; his dam is Touch's Wildwood Flower.

Tom Shenker handled Southern Thunder for owner Chris Campbell, Shreveport, La. Lester's Storm Surge sired Thunder, and his dam is Bryson's Dialing On Line. Thunder was named runner-up champion in the one-and-one-half-hour National Derby Championship. Additionally, Thunder was first in the Dixie Classic Open Derby, third in the Blackbelt Open Derby, and second in the Hobart Ames Memorial Derby, a one-hour stake. He accumulated 236 Invitational qualifying points.

Haney's Hurricane Seeker was sired by Ransom out of Haney's North Star, the second of three littermates to qualify for this Invitational Championship. After he ran in the Don Fox Derby at Grovespring, he went to run in the Amateur Derby Invitational at Dancyville, Tenn., where he emerged as the winner. Owned by David and Rachel Russell, Como, Miss., he was handled by David. "Bud" earned his invitation with third place in the Kentucky Quail Classic Open Derby and won in both the Buck-Tuck Open Derby and the West Tennessee Open Derby for 227 qualifying points.

Miller's King Poast is owned by Jannie Chapman and trained and handled by Gary Lester. King was sired by Lester's Storm Surge and out of R W Susie Q. His wins include derby placements that gave him 219 points. He is also the winner of the Rend Lake Open All-Age and took second in the West Tennessee Open All-Age; both are major accomplishments for a derby. He is a littermate to Mayfield Storm Charger and shares his sire with Southern Thunder, and Game Surge, all of which competed in this Invitational.

Haney's All In is owned by Chris Cagle, Woodlawn, Tenn., and was trained and handled by Ike Todd. Sired by Ransom out of Haney's North Star, he is the third of three littermates to qualify for this Invitational Championship. "Ray" won runner-up in the

Continental Derby Championship out of 27 entries and the Georgia Derby Championship with 23 entries. He also won the Don Fox Memorial Derby with 23 entries. The 184 points on which his invitation was based do not reflect the additional Don Fox Derby points.

Sandridge Big Iron was sired by Westfall's True Grit and is out of Gin Smoke and Lies. He is owned by Dr. Jim Mills, Steven Lightle, and Natalie Cooper of Searcy, Ark. "Pete" placed third in the Dr. Douglas Guthrie Memorial Derby, second in the Kansas Prairie Classic Open Derby, third in the Stillwater Open Derby and third in the Prairie Field Trial Club Open Derby. He accumulated 145 points for his invitation.

Wynona's Nickleback Hank is owned by Bruce Sooter of Welch, Okla., and handled by Allen Vincent. The only setter in the stake, he is by T's Nickleback out of Carpenter's Don't Ya. Hank placed first in the Kansas Prairie Open Derby and the Inola Open Derby for 130 points.

Mayfield Storm Charger is owned by Scott Mason, Mayfield, Ky., and Jake Davis, who hails from Texas. Gary Lester handles Storm. He is a son of Lester's Storm Surge out of R W Susie Q, making him a littermate to Miller's King Poast. His derby wins accumulated 111 points for an invite to this Championship.

### The First Series

Game Surge (Todd) and Nighthawk's Rebel (Swearingen) turned loose on Course 1 on Wednesday morning, March 29. They showed forward on the way to the first creek crossing. Surge pointed briefly on the left line at 7 but corrected on. Surge pointed on the south line in the Double Gates field, with Rebel backing at 14. All was in excellent order for both dogs. Surge carded a second find at 40, just before Horse Killer hill. Rebel was strong and forward through Davis bottom and was absent in the Island field. He showed forward at Horse Killer hill. On Apple Tree hill at 52, Surge notched his third find, showing good intensity. Rebel backed naturally. In the Little Vine bottom, both dogs were nicely forward. They appeared to be backing each other at the end, and both were taken on to a strong forward finish. They were both attractive on the ground. Unfortunately, Rebel did not have any finds.

Beeler's White Knight (Beeler) and Haney's Silver Dollar (Todd) got into a foot race off the breakaway and were not recovered under judgment.

Sandridge Big Iron (Vincent) and Rester's Cajun Spirit (Carlton). Jim Mills was present for Pete. Pete ran a strong, predominantly forward race but went without bird contact. Spirit ran a good forward race. He scored a beautiful find in the woods on the north end of Clubhouse loop at 33. His manners were perfect. Both dogs finished forward along the creek.

Southern Thunder (Shenker) and Miller's King Poast (Lester) were first up on

Wednesday afternoon. They both showed excellent ground speed from the start. They looked good in the Double Gates field and on the hill before the road crossing. In Davis bottom, they ran the edges and then shared a feather find at 25 at the far end. Lester took King Poast through the shortcut to the crossing; Shenker took Thunder around the pond, where, at 28, he pointed stylishly; quail were put up with all in order. King Poast pointed along the fence line on Apple Tree hill at 45, and Thunder honored beautifully. Both dogs were high and tight for the flush. King Poast scored again in the bottoms of Little Vine at 52, pinning his quail accurately and exhibiting perfect decorum. Both dogs finished strong on Little Vine hill.

Wynona's Nickleback Hank (Vincent) and Haney's All In (Todd) turned loose at the end of Little Vine loop. Hank made some good moves but had no contact with game. Hank pointed at 35, but it was unproductive, and he was picked up. Haney's All In put in a forward, bird-finding performance. He had a lofty find at 10, at the top of Sycamore bottom. Ray's second find came at 24, near the twin barns, all in order. Ray was nicely forward from the barns into the bull pasture. He made a big reaching move to the northwest corner, scoring another beautiful find at 36. Into Clubhouse loop, Ray reached the corner where he pointed quail under a cedar tree at 51. He finished his hour well to the front on the west side of the loop.

Mayfield Storm Charger (Lester) and Haney's Hurricane Seeker (Russell) turned loose heading out of Clubhouse loop. Storm Charger had a large following; his owners, Scott Mason and Jake Davis, were joined by Kyle Davis, Jeremy Gulick, and Tiffany Genre to cheer him on. The dogs showed well, using the edges on the way up to the barns. Just beyond the barns, Hurricane was found on point at 8. His style and manners were laudable. Into Double Gates field, Charger pointed on the south line. He had a very attractive find at 19, with all in order. Charger made a strong cast on the right and showed well to the front, approaching the cemetery. Hurricane had already passed the cemetery, missing the creek crossing. Lester rode hard to get in front of Charger to get him to turn in at the crossing and succeeded. Hurricane came across the creek bed at the behest of his handler, struggling up the steep bank to reach him. He then hit the right edge to catch up to Charger. They both went wide left at the ridge loop and took the lower hillside forward. Charger came through the draw; Hurricane showed at the end of the ridge and needed help getting across the boundary fence from Russell. Down into the bottom, they both flew, using the edges appropriately. At 47, point was called for Hurricane, and Charger was backing. After a brief search for game, Russell decided that the dogs were backing each other, and the dogs were taken on. With 13 minutes remaining, they made it into Davis bottom. Charger hunted the left hillside; Hurricane made a huge move to finish far into Davis.

## The Second Series Contestants

Judges Ronnie and Kevin Beane called back four dogs and put another pair on standby. The top four dogs were Haney's All In (Todd), Southern Thunder (Shenker), Miller's King Poast (Lester), and Game Surge (Todd).

Rester's Cajun Spirit (Carlton) and Mayfield Storm Charger (Lester) were the standby dogs. These two dogs were not called upon to run in the second series.

## The Second Series

Haney's All In (Todd) and Southern Thunder (Shenker) were into the Double Gates field by 9. Point was called for Ray at 10, and a lengthy ride ensued. Ray was standing tall on the south line. Birds were flushed for him at 12 with all in order. At the same time, Thunder was on point across the road into Sycamore bottom, and birds were flushed for him at 13. He was picturesque. They were fast and forward through Davis bottom, with Thunder showing far forward on the left and Ray taking the right line. Into the Island field, Ray took the far-left edge to the cut. Thunder worked the right edge. A second find for Haney's All In came in the field before Horse Killer hill at 37, his birds were well located,

and he was stylish and staunch. On top of Apple Tree hill, a bird popped, and Thunder gave chase to end his bid at 44. He had been doing an impressive job on the ground. Ray continued into Little Vine loop, where he notched another beautiful find at 57. He was well forward through Sycamore, showed from the alley on the left, rejoined his handler to climb the ridge, and powered forward across the Daugherty ridge. He was found on point at 1:22, just south of the twin barns. He was true to form, high on both ends and perfectly composed. Ray finished the hour and a half well to the front in the bull pasture with no sign of letting up. It was a thrilling performance by this young pointer.

Miller's King Poast (Lester) and Game Surge (Todd) turned loose just inside the gate of the bull pasture. They each showed much promise on the ground as they raced across the hills of the bull pasture. Into Climer's, King Poast showed well on the left; Surge took the right. Point was called for Surge at 11. He stood on the west edge of the woods, displaying excellent style and intensity. King Poast came in for a back, which he did from a good distance and with high style. Birds were put up, Surge remained mannerly through flush and shot, but King Poast took a hop

and was picked up. At 21, Surge pointed in the Clubhouse loop, but it was only feathers. Beside the back pond, he styled up at 28; Todd produced quail in front of him with all in order. Scout Scott Beeler called point for him at 57, and he stood loftily on the north edge of the Double Gates field. All was in order, with birds properly located. He crossed the creek at the cemetery and ran hard forward along the right edge, turning to the right at the end of the woods. He pointed feathers in the middle of the draw at 1:06 before being redirected up the ridge loop. Surge scored a beautiful find on the ridge at 1:10; his manners and form were beyond reproach. He continued forward off the ridge and back onto the number one course. He took the right edge forward and was going away when the judges decided he wasn't in contention and ordered him up at 1:19.

Grovespring, Mo., March 29

Judges: Ronnie Beane and Kevin Beane  
AMERICAN DERBY INVITATIONAL

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Qualifying Heats;  
Ninety-Minute Finals] – 11 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner—HANEY'S ALL IN, 1698756, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle, owner; Ike Todd, handler.

## NBHA NORTHERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

*Pure Confidence Named Champion; Brook's White Hot Blaze, Runner-Up*

By Greg Blair | Argyle, Wisconsin | March 31, 2023



NBHA Northern Regional Championship Winners (l-r): Chris Fields, Garry Malzone, Jillian Stuhr with Pure Confidence, Deb Dlobik, John Dlobik, Mike Vicari (judge), Greg Blair with Brook's White Hot Blaze, James Woods, Frank Vicari (judge), Brian Lick, Tom Waite, and Ken Millikin.

The 2023 NBHA Northern Regional Championship was held again this year at the Yellowstone Wildlife Management Area near Argyle, Wis. The grounds are very rolling with plenty of acreage, allowing a dog to stretch their legs yet be in touch with

their handler. Mowing was done this past summer and provided objectives and cover. The 12 O'Clock Field Trial Club hosts a very welcoming, warm event, and this year was no different. The field consisted of American Field/UKC and AKC champions, and major

Futurity winners. Thank you to each owner and handler who joined this Championship.

Our judges this year were Frank and Mike Vicari of Hampshire, Ill. The Vicaris operate Wildfire Kennels, a nationally known kennel that raises and produces national champion German Shorthaired pointers. Frank's father, Joe Vicari, started the winning Wildfire lines. Frank, Mike, and other family members have dogs in the top 10 standings on the AKC GSPCA national rankings. They did a great job and were welcomed kindly by all participants. Thank you, Frank and Mike!

This year drew a reputable entry from across the country. We began the running at 11:30 a.m. on Friday because heavy thunderstorms were predicted. We were able to get three braces in before the thunderstorm and tornado warnings came into effect. Heavy rain, wind, and hail dropped overnight on the grounds. That front rolling through brought a dusting of snow, cooler temperatures, and a strong wind out of the northwest. Numerous dogs finished the hour, and the champion, Pure Confidence ("Tango"), came out of brace No. 5 (the second one on Saturday morning), and runner-up champion, Brook's White Hot Blaze ("Blaze"), arose from the sixth overall brace.

Champion Pure Confidence is owned by Black Meadow Kennel, handled by Garry

Malzone, and scouted by Jillian Stuhr, both from Indian Creek Kennels out of Franklin, N. J. Tango started his brace with a bold cast and was found pointed to the front on the east side of the course. After catching the front, the powerful male pointer carded three more finds, all well-spaced throughout the hour and one unproductive. Pure Confidence is a consistent bird finder and finished well to the front as time was called.

Runner-up Champion Brook's White Hot Blaze is an exciting, bold, young (3-year-old) Red setter. Blaze is owned by Luke Tewes of Palmyra, Neb., handled by Tom Waite of Dale Creek Gundogs in Burlington, Wis., and scouted by Greg Blair. Blaze is a son of National Champion and recent Hall of Fame inductee, Zansett Simply Red. He has his dad's bird-finding capabilities and style to burn. Tom and Blaze were in brace No. 6 and laid down a strong and forward ground application. On Blaze's first find, he was able to withstand pressure from his bracemate, which did not deter his composure. He went on to have two more well-spaced finds and finished strong.

Sunday morning brought the best weather for the weekend; although windy, it was more comfortable than the previous two days, and many dogs showed great promise. The Derby stake drew 17 highly competitive youngsters! Three very nice up-and-comers



NBHA North Regional Derby Winners (l-r): Chris Fields, Amber Dequaine, Mike Vicari (judge), AJ Jungbluth, Ben Brettingen with Hackberry's Amos Moses, Garry Malzone, Frank Vicari (judge), Jillian Stuhr with Indian Creek Pineapple, James Woods, Chris Kobs, Tom Waite with The Need For Speed, Aaron Marker, and Greg Blair.

secured derby placements. Hackberry's Amos Moses ("Amos"), a white and liver male pointer, owned and handled by Ben Brettingen of Waconia, Minn., took first and showed great range and handling with a forward application. Amos had a beautiful woodcock find, and finished strongly. Indian Creek Pineapple ("Pineapple"), a white and orange female pointer owned by Stuhr and handled by Malzone of Franklin, N. J., gave Amos a run for his money. Her smooth gait and ability to hit the right spots earned her a second-place finish. Rounding out the placements was The Need For Speed ("Maverick"), a white and black ticked male English setter, owned by Chris Kobs of Cudahy, Wis., and handled by Waite of Burlington, Wis. Maverick ran a race that was always in tune with the handler and stayed to the front and applied himself well.

He had a nice broke find to start the brace and went on to have two more finds. All three placements showed application and desire for the entire 30 minutes.

The 12 O'clock Field Trial Club would like to thank our national sponsors: Purina, Garmin, Mule Brand Clothing, OnX Hunt, Gun Dog Supply, and Gun Dog Central. We also would like to thank our dedicated dog wagon drivers Ken Millikin and Chris Fields, bird planter John Dlobik and scouts, who helped everyone who needed assistance, for their time and hard work. It is appreciated!

**Argyle, Wis., March 31 – One Course  
Judges: Frank Vicari and Mike Vicari  
NBHA NORTHERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP  
(One-Hour Heats) - 8 Pointers, 4 Setters, 4 Irish Setters  
and 4 German Shorthairs**

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

*Runner-Up—BROOK'S WHITE HOT BLAZE, 1686462, Irish setter male, by Zansett Simply Red-Lincoln's Steady Brook. Luke Tewes, owner; Tom Waite, handler.*

**NBHA NORTH REGIONAL DERBY – 5 Pointers,  
7 Setters, 4 Irish Setters and 1 German Shorthair**

*1st—HACKBERRY'S AMOS MOSES, 1695788, pointer male, by Elhew Sinbad-Numark Surefire Peg. Ben Brettingen, owner and handler.*

*2d—INDIAN CREEK PINEAPPLE, 1697900, pointer female, by Indian Creek Perfect Storm-Indian Creek Ramona. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.*

*3d—THE NEED FOR SPEED, 1695127, setter male, by Blair's Witch Project-Big Run Bluebird. Chris Kobs, owner; Tom Waite, handler.*

## REGION 9 AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

*Painted Owyhee Breeze Wins Larry McConnell Memorial; Lone Tree Splish Splash, Runner-Up*

**By Jeremy Skousen | Payette, Idaho | April 1, 2023**

Spring weather in the sagebrush-covered hills at Prairie Wind Ranch is never easy to predict, and this year we got to experience heavy rain, snow, hail, wind, and a little sunshine. This year's running of the Region 9 Amateur All-Age Championship was the first commemorating the impact and legacy of Larry McConnell on our sport in the region. The trial was well attended, and handlers from all over the West competed for the trophy with 25 dogs.

Once again, we can't thank Keith and Bobbi Richardson enough for access to these grounds and amenities. The Boise Valley Pointing Dog Club would also like to thank all those involved for all the work before, during, and after the trial concluded. Talmage Smedley, Phil Bowden, and Jeremy Skousen worked tirelessly on the dog truck and had to get creative with the soggy conditions. Kris Wall and Terry Reinke provided coffee, breakfast burritos, other morning refreshments, and hot lunches that kept the handlers in good spirits. The BVPDC would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to Purina and SportDOG for the continued sponsorship of this trial. The well-deserved 2023 Region 9 Larry McConnell Memorial Amateur



Region 9 Amateur All-Age Championship Winners (front, l-r): Tammy Larrondo, Kris Wall, Alex Mauck (scout) with Lone Tree Splish Splash, Jim Ledington (scout) with Painted Owyhee Breeze, June McConnell, Bridget Ledington, and Phil Bowden. (Behind): Ray Larrondo, Ryan Marriotti, Bill Owen, Sergio Velez (judge), Jack Cafferty (judge), Mike Eades, Mel Lueck, Talmage Smedley, and Terry Erickson.

All-Age Champion was Painted Owyhee Breeze, owned and handled by Bridget Ledington, with a forward and powerful all-age race and a couple of finds on chukar and an impressive finish that was exactly how the judges expected the eventual champion to conclude her hour. The runner-up was Lone Tree Splish Splash, owned and handled by Bill Owen, with exciting all-age moves throughout

her hour and an impressive limb find on a pair of wild Hungarian partridges, which she handled perfectly. She also had a nice find at chukar rocks with good manners.

Jim and Bridget Ledington chaired the trial again and continued to work hard to keep this trial running smoothly. They are always ready to lend a hand, which usually leads to one of them scouting, which was especially difficult

on Bridget this year in her leg brace.

We were happy to have June McConnell attend and present the Larry McConnell Memorial Amateur All-Age Championship Trophy to Champion Painted Owyhee Breeze and Bridget Ledington. This was touching and seemed meant to be, as the McConnell and Ledington families have always been close in the field trial community. It was like Larry McConnell was looking down on us all and always there in spirit with all of us.

This year, the courses were redone to take advantage of some areas of the ranch where the wild birds are often found in the spring and to make the trial smoother. The dogs and horses had to have grit and gumption to deal



Larry McConnell Memorial Trophy

with the conditions the crazy weather created. But the real bird dogs were rewarded with the opportunity to do what they love; run and find birds. Everyone in attendance got to test their mettle and show their true love and passion

for the sport. The faint of heart would not last very long at a field trial in early April in Idaho.

This year's judges were Sergio Velez and Jack Cafferty, and both performed their duties admirably, even in tough conditions. Their enthusiasm and perseverance were encouraging as they watched each brace.

Payette, Ida., April 1

Judges: Jack Cafferty and Sergio Velez  
REGION 9 AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP  
[One-Hour Heats] – 15 Pointers and 8 Setters

Winner—PAINTED OWYHEE BREEZE, 1669636, pointer female, by Utah's Red Rock Express-Little Willow Aaron. Bridget & Jim Ledington, owners; Bridget Ledington, handler.

Runner-Up-LONE TREE SPLISH SPLASH, 1672171, pointer female, by Frontline Shack Attack-Whippoorwill Wild Spark. Bill Owen, owner and handler.

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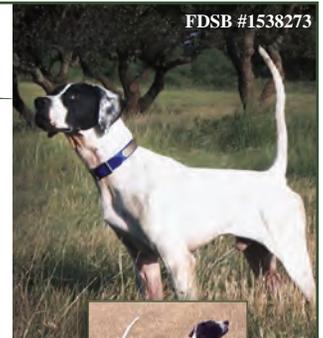
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