

Region 3 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

By BOB MITCHELL

IN a dramatic once in a lifetime heat befitting the grand traditions of legend days gone by, Matlock, A.D. and Alvin Hurst's splendid pointer, stirred the hearts of men grown old and calloused in the sport.

Seemingly, Alvin kept the dog just at the brink of abyss' edge throughout, always in danger of crossing a line of reckless endangerment that would have cost him everything, but he didn't. And, even at that, it was close. Both the champion and his brace-mate, the red dog runner-up, Desperado, achieved great ground races punctuated with well spaced multiple finds. Not since the beginning glory days of his own phenomenal sire has a red dog startled such a distinguished field of greats as the 62 bird dogs drawn in the Region 3 Amateur Championship. Slashing to the fore in relentless cast after huge cast the brilliant Desperado made a supreme bid for the win in a faultless effort that would have taken the crown under different circumstances. Here in one magnificent heat the champion and the runner-up cleaned more clocks than a New Haven watchmaker.

The grandeur of the immense southern forest with its carpet of tiny blackjacks displays a panoramic complement to the dream scenes of bygone days traditional of South Carolina bird hunting. Treelands of immense southern white pines spaced just open enough to see the performance well and be able to define the beheld actions at more distance than one would commonly imagine, these dogs were presented with objectives at every jump and the dog that would take it in and then some, and use his bird sense and his manners to his advantage, would be the winner. These judges were not there to count birds.

Handlers came from nine states and one foreign country. Matlock, the superlative champion and Desperado, the runner-up. It is scarce exaggeration to declare that if ever a better combined effort has been put down in a shooting dog championship, it must have been on wild birds under worse weather conditions to have surpassed what was witnessed in the Region 3 Championship.



MATLOCK
Winner of the Region 3 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

Temples, aided and supported by James Sigmon, host at Little Hobcaw Plantation for the South Carolina Shooting Dog Championship, now the subsequent chairman of the Sporting Dog Commission, who would be the primary advocates and scout workers for the finer details to be literally nailed in place.

The great potential of the H. Cooper Black Field Area is being developed through the combined efforts and funding of the State of South Carolina and its departments of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, the Forestry Department, and the former Wildlife Division, now known as the Department of Natural Resources. The respective representatives of those entities made a more than respectable showing with their attention to the needs and helps to Region 3, in particular, Forrest Murphy, Bill McMeekin and Buddy Jennings; Mark Whitney and Breck Carmichael. Under funding supplied by these departments the work has started and will be continued to include a large stable and parking area, kennels and storage. It is expected that contributions will supply much of the funding for ultimate improvements.

At the Region 3 meeting held in conjunction with the handlers supper on Friday night, Dr. Billy McCathern's resignation as secretary was accepted and Dwight Smith was compelled to catch the bouquet again. The French quizzene (I know it's cuisine but with H. C. it's always best to ask questions), poodle in bar b que, was supplied (thing's bar-

Dub Watkins, now semi-retired, observed with satisfaction, proud of the accomplishments of the club which they have dedicated so much time to in the past. This time they got a lot of help from Danny Kent, now retired to being a gentleman farmer in Georgia around Waynesboro. Steve Merton, outstanding young professional trainer. Yankee by birth, Southern by inclination, has turned out to be an outstanding bird man. The courses here at the Cooper Black Area eventually will be at least six continuous courses, and a big six at that, but during the infancy of the grounds, the baby presents one great first hour, 'posed to end in Southern Pines, but the champion and runner-up both plowed new ground into the cut overs, both extreme still full steam after their grand hour.

One of those who made it so fine is Steve Merton, the bird man. The fine multiple bird work, mostly covey finds, seen in most of the dogs can register only to his credit. He coveyed the birds, 16 coveys, kept them fed and replenished, an outstanding performance both by Steve and the bobwhites. Not to discount the fact that Mary Agee possibly raises the best flying, strong and wildest quail birds in the Southeast. Her Round O Quail Farm, Round O, S. C., supplied the released birds. She did allow husband John Agee, winner of many NBHA events, to deliver them for her.



DESPERADO
Runner-Up in the Region 3 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

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country. Matlock, the superlative champion and Desperado, the runner-up. It is scarce exaggeration to declare that if ever a better combined effort has been put down in a shooting dog championship, it must have been on wild birds under worse weather conditions to have surpassed what was witnessed in the Region 3 Championship.

It is altogether fitting that the very first championship ever held at the H. Cooper Black Memorial Field Trial and Recreation Area was to be hosted by the wild bunch from South Carolina. Region 3 constituents and activists comprised mainly of so many of Dr. Black's friends and compatriots. Richard Wood, John Temples, the main ramrods, the stake managers, were Doc's friends, running buddies, hunting, and training companions, successful in tugging him into the field trial sport several years ago. They, in fact, along with old and wore out Willie Harley, put in lots of time at the "steppin hi club" and other coon hunts associated with South Carolina bird dog field trialing, and mutually lived all the other legends of the famous Belmont Plantation, and the South Carolina Shooting Dog Championship at Webb Wildlife Center, long associated with the group, which has and now includes here mostly Sandlapper Field Trial Club members.

Dr. H. Cooper Black was a gentle man, pleasant to be around, kind and deferential. He was a general and vascular surgeon, partner in Columbia Surgical Associates, and had been Chief of Staff at Lexington Medical Center and a driving force toward success of that facility. He carried with him the same success driven dedication to the task of founding chairman of the South Carolina Commission on Sporting Dogs through which the planning and accomplishment for the recreation and field trial facility now dedicated to his memory was achieved. It is also particularly poignant that it would be primarily Richard Wood and John

made improvements.

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Region 3 has named as new president D. L. (Smoke) McKnight of Virginia Beach, Va., to succeed John Temples. David Dale is first vice-president, Gilbert Webber is second v-p. Directors are Johnny Atkinson, Gilbert Webber and Dr. Frank B. Hines of South Carolina; David Dale, Paul Gadd and Dwight Smith of North Carolina; Gary Winal and Andy Crowell of Virginia; Tom Brigman and Chris Lockard of Maryland and Parke Brinkley of the District of Columbia.

With the continued support and help of Governor David Beasley, who hails from just across the field at Society Hill, and Senator John Drummond and Senator Donald Holland, Senate Speaker Pro Tempore and Chairman of the Judiciary Committees, respectively, both country cousins, the potential of this great area will begin to live in fact as it has in our dreams.

The old guard of South Carolina field trialing and a few high ranking other aficionados handled chores, dog wagons and feeding time, making life a little easier on those in the running and judging. That thin grey line included Dr. Billy McCathern, Dr. Frank Hines, A. D. Hurst, Homer Taylor, Sim Wright, Alvin Hurst, Bill Britt and Gilbert Webber. The elder statesmen of that group, Bob Lindler and

DESPERADO *Reynolds* **Runner-Up in the Region 3 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship**

It fell to Jerry Dible to build the holding pen for the birds, accomplished in good fashion by the Michigan engineer, unique and sturdy. It should suffice in its intended use for several years.

The distinguished judges avow both traditional and current greatness. Jim Crangle, like most of us, now beginning to be somewhat long in the tooth, having just taken a position of early retirement from the Feds, has been a bird dog trainer for years. He got his start as a young boy traipsing after his father, Ed Crangle, renown all-age trainer and contemporary of Capt. John S. Gates. Retirement gives Jim the opportunity and time to devote to gun dog training for hunters around his Dorchester, S. C., home. His Jet Engine Kennel has put many a good dog into the spotlight, and he is now considering whether to give the local pros another look at competition. Mike Wrenn's stellar record has been achieved over the past 20 years, the Warrenton, Ga., pro first briefly winning all the local marbles in NBHA and then establishing himself as a major league shooting dog trainer. This year alone, under his tutelage, Bly Spy Master has won four shooting dog titles, including the National Open Shooting Dog Championship. Riding and judging for six straight days during a period that was the coldest constant on record for the state since 1966, one admires their dedication.

It must be noted here that in the modern world, dependence on battery powered electronic devices can "make" or just as easily break a good prospect. The same applies to a prospective brace by brace report. This time the "shirvner" broke when the on button failed. Therefore, reconstruction and recol-

lection were depended on. One thing is for sure, a failed recorder in no way detracts from the overall superiority of this stake.

The "what if" dogs in this case in order of brace sequence were: Hacienda Joseph with Charles Young, Railway Willie (Gene Casale), Ground Attack (Bob Pombrío), Bearcat (Roger Boser), Ed's Carolina Cindy (Glen Allen), Quailcross Chief (Gilbert Webber), Dust Storm Flame, eleven years old and still capable of eight solid finds for Ann Johnston; and Gary Bradley's Delivery Line Priss. Amongst these and others not quite at full sail in their endeavor or having had a wreck after ten finds as did Ed's Carolina Cindy, most dogs had a full slate of bird work. It was not unusual for these dogs to have as many as six or seven finds, as Matlock and Desperado did, respectively. Matlock slightly pulled the edge in race, given the nod for being a bit more far flung, the old heads of the gallery describing his effort as "going through the country just right". Desperado, on the other hand, had a superior forward effort in which he demonstrated excellent backing manners from as far as the eye could see, the backs affirming the perspective that Matlock hung out a little farther. Both were cited for going to the birds hard and slamming into point repeatedly with unrelenting style and intensity.

Other contenders were: Bull Bellows and Ad Rail Comet with Ernie Saniga and Earl Drew; Bill's Rail Dot and Mohawk Mill Dan with Bob Simpson and Tom Brigman; Rex's Little Katie (Bob Perkins), Come Back Proud Lady (Boser), Flatrock Long John (Nick Reams), Luke's Firefield Jane (Willis Hill/Conners), Dust Storm Punch (Johnston), Woods Reminisce (Dr. Billy McCathern), Clay Hill Crews (Steve Merton), The Colonel (Casale), See Ya Tyler (Brigman), Dust Storm Spectre (Woody Ruff), Flatrock Black Beard (Reams), Dust Storm Trooper (Johnston), The Lorelai (Ernie Saniga), Cajun Mojo (McCathern), Stargun Amos (L. E. Jones), Rail's Princess (Drew).

Oaky Point Jack and Tooth Acres Rail were handled by George Livingood and Dr. Frank Hines; Glen Allen and Roger Boser handled Silk Sails and Come Back Rippidey; Delivery's Butch went for Willis Hill. Rail Dancer's Ballerina and Here's Johnny ran for Glen Allen and Lamar Mobley; Roger Dueksen and John Temples had Gentleman Jack and Ridgeview Happy Hooker; Tom Davies and Glen Allen countered with Kilgore's Oneeyed

Georgetown Field Trial Club

By ED TURNER AND FAYE BOSWELL

THE second renewal of the Jeff Powers Shooting Dog Classic ran December 1-3. The H. Cooper Black Field Trial and Recreation Area was used to everyone's delight and satisfaction. The piney wood courses with sparse blackjack oaks, when in its completed state, will be second to none.

Judging the shooting dogs were Ed Turner of Eastover, S. C., and Gary Phelps of Elgin, S. C. Their friendship was bonded more than 27 years ago by two pointers, a German Shorthair and a drop. Bird hunting on foot was the only way; no horseback or jeeps running ditch banks, never asking a dog to go into a briar patch or honeysuckle thicket that they weren't willing to go into themselves. Dogs were not allowed to hunt handily or potter over scent — they had to "go yonder", check in and go again, or be found ahead on point.

When they ventured into horseback field trialing the ruler being used to bird hunt was traded for a yard stick. "Really go yonder" in pattern, range, point birds and make no mistakes. At this trial each knew what the other was looking for before the first whistle blew.

Likeable dogs in no particular order were: Ming, Gary Whitworth; Aberdeen Abby and Swing Easy, Roger Martens; Rip, Joe Edwards; Matt, Alvin Hurst, and Joe, C. K. Young. Tiny Too was very impressive on the ground, with one find and a back for Fred Rose. Attention getters having been lost from judgment were: The Colonel, Tag, Sonny, Smokerise Buck and "No Ears" Willie.

Trophylands Boogerman, owned by Marvin and Faye Boswell, more than filled the optimum to win this stake. He broke away straight ahead hunting to the limit and sometimes slightly beyond, to be found standing far to the front with perfect manners and beautiful style as quail were flushed.

There was no difference in his first two finds. There was a relocation on his third find caused by confusion between the two handlers and respective dogs in a thick area, heavily laden with birds. Boogier got to the left side once as he checked in just before the "Belmont Crossing". (Turner so named it in reminiscence of an area at the Belmont Plantation that was negotiated while running trials there).

right off the breakaway. (This indicates to this writer that a good wild bird population will be established on these courses as they are opened and good food crops are planted and productive.)

Rounding out the winners was Springtime J J. Roger Martens seemed a little more confident in this charge than some he ran and it showed! J J rambled through cover, edges and open areas showing independence in running, yet always mindful of Roger's beck and call. He may have been the easiest handling dog of the stake while "going yonder". At each of his four quail finds he showed maturity around his game and Roger's confidence was proven by his dog's manners. J J made several extremely nice long forward and stay-to-the-front casts, always returning on his own.

A final note: all dogs placed in this stake, named for one of the founders of the Georgetown Field Trial Club, Jeff Powers, are all first year dogs in the two and one-half-year-old bracket. Mr. Powers, in his seventy-plus year, rode one-half day and entered one dog.

Gary Phelps and Brad Sadler judged the Amateur Derby. Brad, a native of Missouri, is assistant manager of Chelsea Plantation near Beaufort, S. C. Gary and Brad met through Chelsea Plantation purchasing quail for release. Brad trains



TROPHYLANDS BOOGERMAN
First in the Jeff Powers Amateur Shooting Dog
Classic

and handles dogs during hunts and has an eye for what a dog is doing or should be doing.

seen by George Livingood and Dr. Frank Hines; Glen Allen and Roger Boser handled Silk Sails and Come Back Riptide; Delivery's Butch went for Willis Hill. Rail Dancer's Ballerina and Here's Johnny ran for Glen Allen and Lamar Mobley; Roger Duerksen and John Temples had Gentleman Jack and Ridgeview Happy Hooker; Tom Davies and Glen Allen countered with Kilgore's Oneeyed Jack and Winyah Peanut; Gilbert Webber and Tom Brigman ran Quailcross Hawk and Harbor City Abner.

Jerry Dible ran Jerry's Little Freebie; Russell Williams and Much Moe Dan paired with J. K. Hope and Hope's Winyah Pete; Einn's Dash and Black Titleist contended for Dr. Roger Duerksen and Ernie Saniga. Charles Green paired with Jerry Dible to run Hank's Hun with Bubba's Spotlight; Nick Reams ran Flatrock Sugar Plum; Tom Brigman and Jerry Dible ran Abe's Tiger and Jerry's Little Sharkie, and the last dogs to run were Hystyle Lucky Strike and Aurelion with Danny Kent and Ernie Saniga.

When the dawn came up on January 1, 1996, the weather had changed dramatically, a front had come in, ushering in a thick and hazy, unmovable and visually impenetrable fog. With no assurance that the morrow would bring anything better from a visual prospective, the consensus was that the remaining braces would be cancelled, the entry fees refunded and that the winners would be derived from the 56 dogs which had already been run.

Patrick, S. C., December 28

Judges: Mike Wrenn and James C. Crangle REGION 3 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] — 44 Pointers, 8 Setters and 4 Irish Setters

Winner—MATTLOCK, 1334630, pointer male, by Fiddler's Smoke—Delivery's Bonnie, A. D. Hurst, Sr. & A. D. Hurst, Jr., owners; A. D. Hurst, Jr., handler.
Runner-Up—DESPERADO, 1336808, Irish setter male, by Beacut—Come Back Rosie, Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.

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Railway Willie placed second. His race for the most part was consistently to the front and he had more far reaching forward casts than his handler wanted. (Casale maybe not knowing Willie was pleasing the judges more than himself.) Five of his seven points were flawless. He had two other finds while under the eye of Judge Turner where he tended to move in the front to mark the flight, but was acceptable. His finish was as strong as his start. In the two days of running the shooting dogs, wild birds were moved twelve times from eight different locations. Willie pointed one small covey



RAILWAY WILLIE
Second in the Jeff Powers Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

TROPHYLANDS BOOGERMAN First in the Jeff Powers Amateur Shooting Dog Classic



and handles dogs during hunts and has an eye for what a dog is doing or should be doing.

By mid-morning, the temperature had risen to "hot". These Derbies seemed not to realize the temperature was up. Scenting conditions were not as good as in the Shooting Dog Stake, but birds were being pointed.

White Pine Boy ran in the last brace at noon when the weather was at its hottest. He showed no signs of heat or areas where footing was not the best and kept driving forward. A good first place dog. Glen Allen's setter male, Buddy, was impressive during his 30 minutes and held the top spot until the last brace. Hoke, as in Hoke County, N. C., rounded out the placements. He ran with fluid drive, snap, crackle and eye appeal and handled nicely for Roger Martens. All dogs had bird work. There was an insufficient number of puppies to run a stake for them.

Patrick, S. C., December 1

Judges: Gary Phelps and Ed Turner JEFF POWERS AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats] — 21 Pointers, 2 Setters and 4 Irish Setters

1st—TROPHYLANDS BOOGERMAN, 1399661, pointer male, by Sumner's Hacienda Bull—Razzie Dazzie Roz, M. T. & Faye H. Boswell, owners; M. T. Boswell, handler.
2d—RAILWAY WILLIE, 1413264, pointer male, by Railway Joseph—Brewster's Rebel Sally, Gene Casale, owner and handler.
3d—SPRINGTIME J. J., 1405790, pointer male, by Mr. Hard Cash—Kelly's Girl, R. W. Martens, owner and handler.

Judges: Gary Phelps and Brad Sadler

AMATEUR DERBY — 9 Pointers and 1 Setter
1st—WHITE PINE BOY, 1437596, pointer male, by Hickory Ridge Goboy—Hickory Ridge Hunter, Gary Bradley, owner and handler.
2d—BUDDY, unreg., setter male, breeding not given, Glen Allen, agent and handler.
3d—HOKÉ, 1430889, pointer male, by Mr. Hard Cash—Kelly's Girl, R. W. Martens, owner and handler.