

Chesterfield Field Trial Club

By RONNIE MAXWELL

JANUARY 28 marked the beginning of Chesterfield's 2010 field trial. The trial was held on the Sawtooth Plantation owned by John and Sue Ivester. Our club is eternally grateful that the Ivesters allowed our club the use of Sawtooth as our venue. Along with the use of the plantation, the club is also grateful for the time John devoted in getting the grounds ready for our trial.

Since our trial last year at Sawtooth, many small trees had been removed to open up the grounds. The course this year was changed from previous years to take advantage of the benefit that opening up the grounds had made. The work on the grounds greatly improved the ability of the dogs to navigate the course and made them easier to see. This turned out to be a big improvement. And John used his big John Deere to cut a new gallery path. Later John came back and marked the course for us so we wouldn't get lost.

We missed John at our trial this year as he was on a quail hunt in Mexico and missed all the bad weather we had. He did check with Emsley Laney while he was gone to make sure everything was running smoothly.

Lefty Henry made it to Sawtooth Thursday night after having been to the Continental Championship. He attended our trial with his son on Friday to help us if we needed him. Some of the dogs that Lefty brought in from the Continental would be making another long trip after a short rest, heading to Grand Junction for the National Championship.

Another person our club needs to thank is H. C. Robinson who brought us a delicious southern cooked meal on the second day of our trial from his Hard Times Café in Cassatt, S. C. Two things we are sure of if we know H. C. is coming — he is going to bring us a great meal, and he will not be late. Nothing seems to be able to lift spirits more than one of H. C.'s home cooked meals from the Hard Times, and he always brings with him a new joke or two that keep us laughing even after he leaves.

You can't have a good trial unless you have some good judges and we were fortunate to have two good judges this year — Brian Sullivan of Dillon, S. C., and Gary Ansell of Moyock, N. C. Both judges have a lot of experience with bird dogs and have watched many while sitting in the judicial saddle. Brian is probably best known for campaigning his two champions, Pinekone Max and Pinekone Max Jr. Gary is well known in the U. S. Complete organization and has

campaigning and judged in many horseback trials.

Both judges did an admirable job looking at the dogs and giving their fair assessment. They should also be commended for being willing to judge during such inclement weather conditions. Both were willing to continue with the trial Sunday if the participants were willing, but the remainder of the trial was wisely cancelled. I guess the success of every field trial, when it comes right down to it, depends on the whim and caprice of the weather. And so it was with our trial this year, and we were not dealt a good hand.



Amateur Shooting Dog Classic Winners. From front left: Jimmy Skinner with R J's Long Shot and Sean Melvin with Grandwins Dream Keeper. Standing: Jadie Rayfield, Gary Ansell, judge; Tom Brigman, Jr., Brian Sullivan, judge; Andrew Brown and Alvin Hurst.

Thursday morning when the Shooting Dog Stake began we were greeted with temperatures in the low 20s. The afternoon temperature rose into the 60s. This seemed to bother some of the dogs which had become acclimated to nighttime temperatures that had gone down into the teens the weeks before the trial.

On Friday the weather moderated somewhat and became more seasonal with the high temperature only reaching 48° and the wind picking up a little.

After midnight the wintry mix that had been predicted made its way into the state, and the temperature dropped below freezing. The ground was already saturated with heavy rains over previous weeks that had left standing water in low spots, and the wintry mix had nowhere to go. The ice that covered the ground

and highways when we woke Saturday morning made travel dangerous, and the trial for the day was appropriately called off. Club members who returned to Sawtooth to care for the animals later in the day found trees down and spindly young pines near the road edge bent across the road causing barricades.

It was decided that evening that the Derby would have to be cancelled, and it was agreed that we would meet at 9:00 a. m. the next morning to see if there was any chance we could finish the running of the Shooting Dog Stake. Some participants had already scratched, but there were a few participants who had come early and were already on the grounds.

The decision to cancel the remainder of the Shooting Dog Stake was made the next morning after inspection of the

grounds found them dangerous for the horses due to the ice, and the frozen ground would have taken its toll on the dogs. The forecast for the day was that the temperature would only reach 33° and that would be late in the afternoon, no chance that the course would improve over the course of the day. According to Emsley Laney, club president, it was the first time in the history of the club that a portion of the trial had to be cancelled due to the weather. Luckily, there were enough shooting dogs run during the first two days to name three placements in the Shooting Dog Stake.

After the decision to end the trial the winners were announced, trophies were given out, pictures of the winners were taken. The trial ended early but spirits were lifted when trialers were treated to

bowls of homemade chili and cornbread made by Alvin Hurst's wife Anna.

After the dog talk it was time for some to contemplate the long trip back home with the icy road conditions. Gary Ansell had a long trip getting back to Moyock and Andrew Brown had to return to his home near Fayetteville, N. C. Mr. Brown had brought five very promising Derbies to run in our trial and I was disappointed we didn't get to run the Derbies. Hopefully Mr. Brown can bring them down next year to compete as shooting dogs.

Both the first and third place shooting dogs were handled by Tom Brigman, Jr.; both ran on the first day of the trial when afternoon temperatures possibly reached 70°. R J's Long Shot earned first; Grandwins Dream Keeper took third.

Long Shot had four evenly spaced finds and an exceptional forward race in weather where the change in tempera-



BREAKSTONE
Second in the Sawtooth Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

ture from early morning to afternoon seemed to distress some of the dogs. His extreme forward race and bird work,

marked by a good rapport with handler, garnered Long Shot the top spot. Dream Keeper had a limb find and a creditable race. He also handled kindly and seemed unchallenged by the change in weather.

Second was Breakstone, stylish red setter male owned and handled by Roger Boser. Breakstone carded three finds along with a very well applied forward race. Breakstone ran in the third brace on the second day.

McBee, S. C., January 28 — One Course
Judges: Gary Ansell and Brian Sullivan
SAWTOOTH AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats] — 21 Pointers, 2 Setters and 3 Irish Setters

- 1st—R J'S LONG SHOT, 1587117, pointer male, by Elhew Fibber McGee—Harris Paydirt. Tom Brigman, Sr. & Jr., owners; Tom Brigman, Jr., handler.
2d—BREAKSTONE, 1582163, Irish setter male, by Sharpton—Chantilly. Dr. Roger Boser, owner and handler.
3d—GRANDWINS DREAM KEEPER, 1575120, pointer female, by Santos Blue Note—Rac of Sun. Tom Brigman, Sr. & Jr., owners; Tom Brigman, Jr., handler.

NGSPA Region 16 Championships

By KELLY CUSTER

THE NGSPA Region 16 Championships began February 3 at Ken B. Farms, Leesburg, Ga. The weather was beautiful, temperatures in the low 60s.

We would like to thank Pat Lamantia from Purina for supporting the trial with Purina product.

We would also like to thank judges Kevin Kuiper of Lehigh, Ia., and Mark Martin of Dawson, Ga., for judging both stakes.

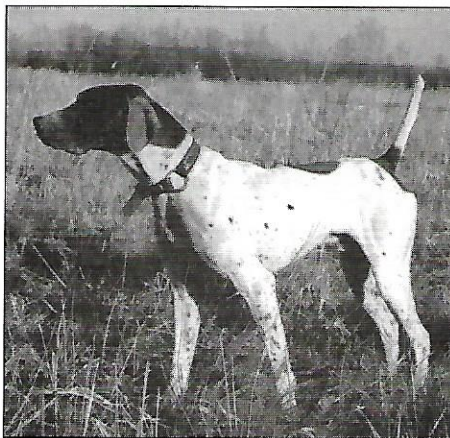
Regrettably there were not enough dogs to hold an All-Age Championship.

Thanks to our pros, Matt Basilone from New Jersey, and Richard and Joyce Barber from Illinois.

The Open Shooting winner was down in brace No. 5, Hadlock's Premiere Player, owned by Linnea Hadlock of Huntley, Ill., and handled by Richard Barber. "Pete" had a huge shooting dog

race hunting through the cover with a covey find at 20 with excellent manners. He finished as strong as he began.

The runner-up came from brace No. 2. Bye Bye Lou, owned by Thomas Oswald of Winnsboro, S. C., and handled by Matt Basilone, had a

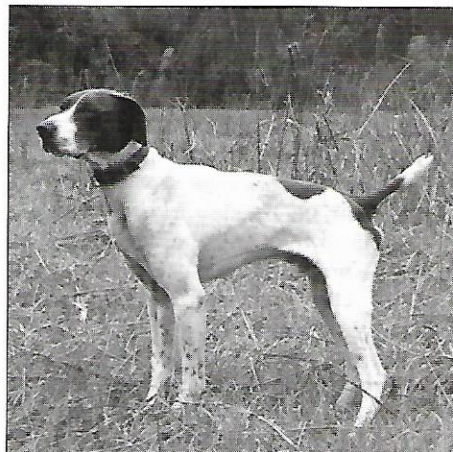


BYE BYE LOU
Winner of the Amateur Shooting Dog Championship; Runner-Up in the Open Shooting Dog Championship

medium shooting dog race with finds at 22 and 43 with good manners.

The Amateur Shooting Dog Championship began on February 4. The weather was cloudy with rain in the distance; however, we were able to finish before the heavy rains began.

The winner emerged from brace No. 4. Bye Bye Lou, owned and handled by Thomas Oswald, ran a consistent shooting dog race with four well spaced finds at 44, 48 (covey finds), 51 and 55,



HADLOCK'S PREMIERE PLAYER
Winner of the Open Shooting Dog Championship

finishing well to the front. Runner-up was What's the Point Jake, owned and handled by Peter Coppens of Highland, Ill. Jake had a covey find at 7, 16, 25, a covey find at 35 and a find at 41. Jake ran a huge shooting dog race but did not finish as strong as the winner.

Leesburg, Ga., February 3 — One Course
Judges: Kevin Kuiper and Mark Martin
NGSPA REGION 16 OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] — 10 German Shorthairs

- Winner—HADLOCK'S PREMIERE PLAYER, 1528669, male, by Hadlock's Far Flung Forbes—Hadlock's Zealous Zelda. Linnea Hadlock, owner; Richard Barber, handler.
Runner-Up—BYE BYE LOU, 1568700, male, by Bye Bye Charlie's Pride—R P R's Bye Bye Suzie. Thomas Oswald, owner; Matt Basilone, handler.

NGSPA REGION 16 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] — 10 German Shorthairs

- Winner—BYE BYE LOU, 1568700, male, by Bye Bye Charlie's Pride—R P R's Bye Bye Suzie. Thomas Oswald, owner and handler.
Runner-Up—WHAT'S THE POINT JAKE, 1526185, male, by Hadlock's Far Flung Flint—Hadlock's Zealous Zelda. Peter Coppens, owner and handler.



WHAT'S THE POINT JAKE
Runner-Up in the Amateur Shooting Dog Championship