



**Central Texas Amateur Shooting Dog Winners. From left: Chandler Lambert, Dr. Buck Neil with Aggie Ace, Julie Neil with Aggie Amazin, Lindsay O'Neil and John Benoist with San Jacinto Range.**

## Central Texas and Heart O'Texas Field Trial Clubs

By CONRAD PLEVNIC

**T**HE Central Texas and Heart O'Texas Field Trial Clubs had successful one-day trials starting April 20 on the spacious Porter Ranch near Hubbard, Tex. These are two of the oldest and continuous clubs in Texas started by Dr. P. T. Killman of Malakoff, Tex., in the 1940s. Dogs competing in these trials have been some of the finest in the state. Dr. Douglas Guthrie teamed with Dr. Killman in the 1950s allowing both men to share their love of the sport, and Douglas continues as president of the clubs to this day.

Dickie Sorrell lives adjacent to the Porter Ranch and has been involved in leasing it for several years with the purpose in mind to improve the 1300+ acres to become premier field trial grounds. Dickie has an established quail enterprise business and makes birds available for purchase for clubs holding trials on the grounds at a below average cost. In addition, he regularly releases birds around the many feeders to maintain a consistent population. This has had very successful results as all of the placed shooting dogs, and 15 of the competing 29 dogs in both trials, had bird work.

The headquarters area, clubhouse and amenities have been greatly improved through his efforts. This season the ranch owners started a dedicated brush-clearing program (currently 100+ acres) resulting in an unbelievable improvement.

Weekend trials these days seem to be a financial loss before the trials even begin. A very deep appreciation goes to the many who donated time and material to support the trial.

The Gustafsons, Mary Ann and Royce, provided and prepared lunches and snacks with Royce driving the dog wagon. The Colliers and Ray Black did a great job of providing liquid refresh-



**Central Texas Amateur Derby Winners. From front left: Charlie Collier with Texas Brute, Julie Neil with Rock Star Andy and John Benoist with Willin. Standing: Mike Faherty, Mary Ann Gustafson, Travis Goodner, Chandler Lambert, Royce Gustafson, Dr. Buck Neil, James Baker, Frank Ford and Lindsay O'Neil.**

ments and snacks as many congregated around their trailers at the end of the day.

The judges, Dickie and Conrad Plevnic, were more than compensated by going through other peoples' coolers, and everyone pitched in to keep the trial flowing smoothly and enjoyably.

The weather fully cooperated and when bills were paid there actually was a monetary surplus that goes into the next trial. Thanks also certainly goes to those not named.

The Central Texas trial pretty much belonged to Dr. Buck Neil. A longtime favorite Region 7 person, many were in the gallery to watch his horsemanship and dog handling skills. He handled Aggie Ace, pointer male co-owned with Bob Baylis, to first place securing this season's Region 7 Amateur Shooting Dog of the Year honors. Not finished, he piloted his Rock Star Andy, pointer male, to second in the Derby for needed points to win the Region 7 Amateur Shooting Dog Derby of the Year Award. Buck's daughter Julie was on hand to assist him, and allow those of us watching her grow up to share her youthful and wonderful personality. Now in high school she brought her friend Chandler Lambert for Chandler's first trial. During picture taking Chandler was urged to get in the picture but hesitated saying she didn't know what to do. Julie, quicker thinking than her dad, said, "Oh, just stand there and look pretty."

Rounding out the Central Texas wins, Buck handled Aggie Amazin for owner Bob Baylis to second place, and his running buddy, scout and longtime friend John Benoist handled his San Jacinto



Range to third.

The Amateur Shooting Dog Derby pitted littermates Texas Brute, owned by Mike Faherty, and Rock Star Andy, owned and handled by Buck Neil, in what became a very exciting brace to watch. Called into action, Charlie Collier handled Brute to first place with Andy placing second. A pretty fair handler in his own right, the consensus of the gallery was that Charlie showed Buck a handling trick or two. It was a third place day for John as he pushed the winners guiding his Willin to third.

Speaking of handler skills and tricks, Travis Goodner ran his excellent dogs and once again showed how to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

The Heart O'Texas showed that dogs, like people, can have off days as three of the four placed dogs did not really please their handlers during the previous day's running.

Flame'n Red Legacy, handsome Irish setter male, captured first place for owners Mary Ann and Royce Gustafson in the Amateur Shooting Dog Stake. Known to be a bit hyper at times, Mary Ann's activation level went off the scale as her brace continued. Her dog had six picturesque finds, digging them up in areas not previously pointed, ran a nice forward race and finished strong. Royce was accompanied by passenger Bob Baylis while driving the dog wagon and showed a personality trait few of us have seen. Normally a quiet and laid back man, Bob later said Royce got a bit



**Heart O'Texas Amateur Shooting Dog Winners. From front left: Mary Ann Gustafson with Flame'n Red Legacy, Gary Wentz with Barshoe Topgun Ace and Charlie Collier with Aggie Amazin. Standing: James Baker, Judge Dickie Sorrell, Terry Tuley, Frank Ford, Ray Black and Dr. Doug Guthrie.**

excited as the brace ended without a mishap. This hardworking and dedicated couple are great contributors to our sport and the gallery enjoyed watching their brace.

An old Texas saying came into vogue when it was over, "They were talking loud and walking proud."

Terry Tuley handled his veteran setter male Barshoe Topgun Ace to second with birds and a good ground performance, and Charlie Collier handled Aggie

Amazin to third, also with birds and a good ground performance for owner Bob Baylis.

Although the Amateur Shooting Dog Derby had few entries, Jim Baker handled his setter female Blackthorn to first place with a strong and forward ground effort enhanced with a fine piece of bird work. The performance would have been worthy of consideration if several dogs had been entered.

**Hubbard, Tex., April 20**

**Judges: Conrad Plevnic and Dickie Sorrell  
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG — 9 Pointers,**

**2 Setters and 1 Irish Setter**

- 1st—AGGIE ACE, 1617824, pointer male, by Over And Out—Blackhawk Patches. Robert Baylis & Dr. Buck Neil, owners; Dr. Buck Neil, handler.
- 2d—AGGIE AMAZIN, 1625296, pointer female, by Covey Rise's Offlee Amazin—Encore. Robert Baylis, owner; Dr. Buck Neil, handler.
- 3d—SAN JACINTO RANGE, 1585210, pointer male, by Blank Range—San Jacinto Tina. John Benoist, owner and handler.

**AMATEUR DERBY — 5 Pointers  
and 1 Setter**

- 1st—TEXAS BRUTE, 1646785, pointer male, by Elhew Sinbad—Senator's Ragweed Vendor. Mike Faherty, owner; Charlie Collier, handler.
- 2d—ROCK STAR ANDY, 1642549, pointer male, by Elhew Sinbad—Senator's Ragweed Vendor. Dr. Buck Neil, owner and handler.
- 3d—WILLIN, 1646923, pointer male, by Covey Rise's Offlee Amazin—Top Deduction. John Benoist, owner and handler.

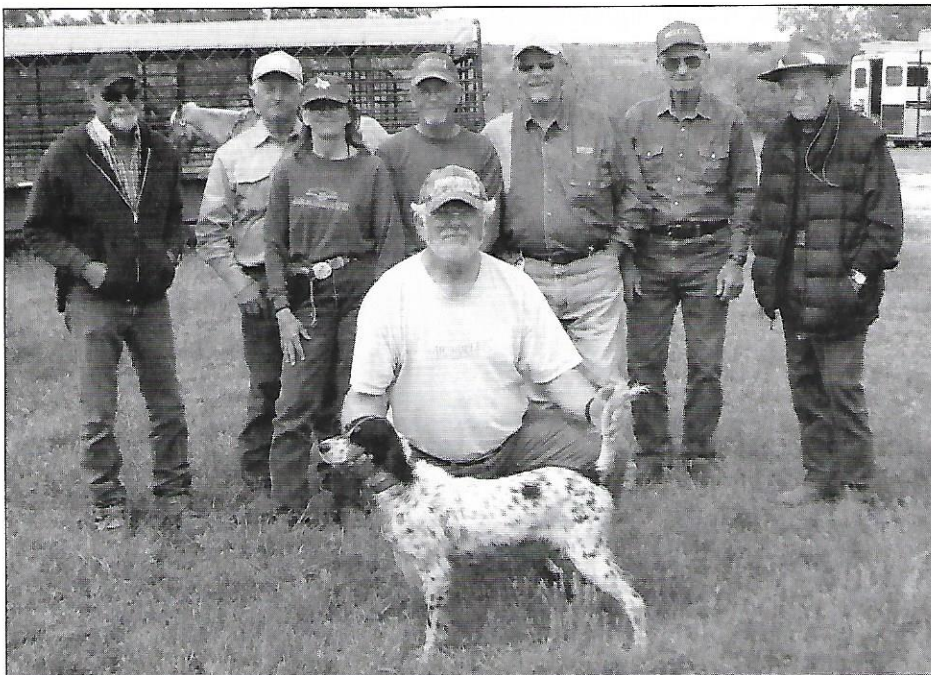
**HEART O'TEXAS FIELD TRIAL CLUB**

**AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG — 6 Pointers,  
1 Setter and 1 Irish Setter**

- 1st—FLAME'N RED LEGACY, 1590959, Irish setter male, by Flame'n Red Limited Edition—Iskote Odayin. Mary Ann Gustafson, owner and handler.
- 2d—BARSHOE TOPGUN ACE, 1562334, setter male, by T's Gunrunner—Berg's Dixie Chic. Arbuckle Kennels, owner; Terry Tuley, handler.
- 3d—AGGIE AMAZIN, 1625296, pointer female, by Covey Rise's Offlee Amazin—Encore. Robert Baylis, owner; Charlie Collier, handler.

**AMATEUR DERBY — 2 Pointers  
and 1 Setter**

- 1st—BLACKTHORN, 1643008, setter female, by Walker's Mark—Walker's Beca. James Baker, owner and handler.



**Heart O'Texas Amateur Derby Winner Blackthorn is posed by James Baker. Standing, from left: Charlie Collier, Judge Dickie Sorrell, Mary Ann Gustafson, Terry Tuley, Ray Black, Frank Ford and Dr. Doug Guthrie.**