

Region 2 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

By REGIS LINN

THE Region 2 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship started on November 14 with 34 dogs drawn and 32 coming to the line.

If one thinks Pennsylvania does not have big grounds, one needs to think again.

This venue is a test of strength but yet of true handling; the hills are as high as they are long.

You cannot hide too much here.

Judges Rob Frame of Manheim, Pa., with a wealth of grouse hunting and walking trials, and a fair share of training some of the nicest setters, has a sharp eye for what he wants. Judge Daryl Thomas of Blairsville, Pa., grew up hunting the hills of Pennsylvania and deciding he wanted to be in the ranks of a trainer, honing his skills on any bird dog that comes through his hands.

The Indiantown Gap Bird Dog Club was the place, an old farm house as the headquarters equipped with a kitchen, bedrooms and bathrooms, makes this place ideal for everyone to relax during and after each day's running.

Irv Mohnkern, the long time squire of this place, was instrumental in purchasing this old farmstead, with longtime friend and trainer Gerald Tracy, making this place special.

I walked into this old house and there hangs the greatest memory of a man who always wanted to be your friend, a picture of him as I always remember him, with that big smile, that of course was Gerald Tracy.

They say having some place to go is home, and having someone to love is family. Having both is a blessing.



BREAKSTONE
Runner-Up in the Region 2 Amateur
Shooting Dog Championship

I arrived on Thursday afternoon only to hear: "Get your tools. We have a problem with the septic tank!" We had a crew of guys not worrying about getting dirty. Chris Catanzarite, Merv Eisenhart, Ernie Saniga, George Tracy and I were knee deep in, well, you know the rest.

I guess this is the only problem you have with a privately owned facility versus a state managed place. Except we do not have to leave because of some bureaucratic misinformation that we are faced with these days on other grounds.

We should always recognize everyone who helps to put on these kinds of events for without them there would be no field trials.

We were fortunate to have Mary Tracy in the kitchen. I guarantee you no one went away hungry. Mary also kept everyone together after each day of the running, making some very good dinners each night.

The steak cookout featured Regis Linn and Judge Daryl Thomas at the grill and the ladies — Susan Duerksen, Tabby Thomas, Karen Saniga, Gail Stover, Mary Tracy — serving a wide array of side dishes. Thank you ladies.

Bird planters Keith Thomas and Greg Strausbaugh were up before light and riding throughout the trial.

George Tracy handled the thankless job of driving the dog wagon, and provided horses for the judges.

Merv Eisenhart took the entries and held the drawing. All I had to do was cook breakfast for everyone who stayed at the house, and ride every brace to report.

THE WINNERS AND OTHERS

Hifalutin emerged as the winner. She was in the second brace, handled by Dr. Roger Duerksen and owned by Roger and Susan Duerksen of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Brian Sanchez of Central Islip, N. Y.

This pointer female was strong on the ground carrying her across these big hills and long edges. Roger rode to the front letting his charge do her thing. She had five finds high and tight, with one unproductive being her only flaw.

Breakstone, a well built red setter, earned the runner-up title for Dr. Roger Boser of Seven Valleys, Pa., with four nice finds and one back of his brace-mate. On one find he showed his staunchness as a bird flew inches off his nose, never even blinking his eyes.

The judges both decided on the same dogs as winner and runner-up and three other dogs to mention, in no particular



HIFALUTIN
Winner of the Region 2 Amateur
Shooting Dog Championship

order: Star Struck, handled by Regis Linn; Piccadilly, Roger Boser; Waybetter Bret, Carl Bishop.

Other entries included: Richfield Amy (Toby Tobiassen) with Big'N'Rich (Frank Henderson); Ben's Blue (Tobiassen) with Hifalutin, the winner; J's Doc (Jim Cohen) with Dutch Master (Ernie Saniga); Kraftsman Pride (Kevin Stuart) with Backcountry Dolly (Chris Catanzarite); Mac's Silk Legacy (Tim McClurg) with Piccadilly (Boser).

Klee's My Guy (Roger Duerksen) with Calico's Country Flirt (Henderson); Stone Free (Joe McHugh) with Mac's Silver Dollar (Tim McClurg); Bulltown (Saniga) with Waybetter Speck (Collin Bishop); Star Struck (Linn) with Serious Dressed Man (Greg Strausbaugh); Fibber's Rogue (Cohen) with Breakstone (Boser); Klee's Calypso (Duerksen) with Ultimate Resource (Merv Eisenhart).

Bittersweet Sensation (Ralph Gillota) with High Flyin Thrill (Roger Dvorak); Calico's Cotton Candy (Henderson) with Annabull (Saniga); M's Kid Rock (Henderson) with Sukara's Come Home Jessie (Ted Faust); Klee's Showboat (Duerksen) with Calico's Catch N Release (Henderson); Waybetter Bret (Carl Bishop) with Serious Threat (Greg Strausbaugh).

Petersburg, Pa., November 14
Judges: Rob Frame and Daryl Thomas
REGION 2 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] —
34 Entries

Winner—HIFALUTIN, 1524732, pointer female, by Kool Fire—Matoi. Roger & Susan Duerksen & Brian Sanchez, owners; Roger Duerksen, handler.
Runner-Up—BREAKSTONE, 1583263, Irish setter male, by Sharpton—Chantilly. Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.