

National Red Setter Championship

By KEN WHITESIDE

THE Red Setter faithful gathered once again, as they do twice a year at various centrally located venues across the nation, to pit the best against the best in an attempt to name a champion. This is a four-day event that combines the Championship, which runs on Thursday, with a full slate of supporting stakes, a banquet, various meetings, and a heckuva good time.

As is the case with any other national breed club, the NRSFTC's membership is scattered around the country, and most of the members don't get a chance to see one another at any other time of the year, so this is an opportunity to renew old friendships and start new ones.



POLLYWOG
Runner-up in the National Red Setter Championship

The location chosen for this year's activities was the Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area near Richmond and Berea, where Dewey Mullins held forth for so many years. It had been almost a dozen years since we'd utilized these grounds, and I, for one, was curious to see what kind of shape they were in. Happily, the grounds were in good condition, though a bit wet due to recent rains plus more that fell while we were there, and held plenty of birds.

Presiding over the preparation of the many meals was the very personable Billy Joe (B. J.) Stevens, preacher, musician, storyteller, and pretty good cook. With the varied menu and help-yourself portions, if anyone left hungry it was nobody's fault but their own.

As has been the case for at least the last decade and probably more, the breeding program of North Caro-

let down until collared. Polly did not show the wide race of the champion but showed consistently to the front with a moderate range race.

THE RUNNING

Bye (Bixler) with Left Over (Gove).—Breaking away behind the barn at 7:37 a.m. both dogs struck out for the closest objective, which is an area of pines. It was here, at 3 minutes, that the brace came to an end when the two normally mannerly dogs succumbed to the temptation to chase running birds.

Come Back Fancy Bear (Edwards) with Devil Fire (Bruns).—Both dogs had a little trouble getting untracked in the stiff wind at the beginning, with Devil Fire having the early edge in range. Fancy Bear was just getting started good when, at 12, he struck scent along a treeline and stood somewhat loosely for an unsuccessful flushing effort. Edwards asked his charge to relocate, and Fancy Bear moved 50-75 yards up the edge before re-establishing point with better style than on the initial stand. This time the birds were home, and the work was completed satisfactorily. The action slowed through the middle of the hour, but both dogs were stretching more, even to the extent that they were each scouted. At 46 in cedars to left, Fancy Bear pointed for the second time, but the birds, even after a relocation effort, could not be produced. As we crossed the road for the first time at 50, Bruns' shotgun was heard far to the rear. Don Beauchamp reported that Devil Fire had found birds walking in front of him, causing his style to suffer a little. As we crossed the road the second time just prior to time, Devil Fire appeared tired. Fancy Bear seemed to still have some gas left for the finish, hunting the edge at pickup. Pollywog (Boser) with Carolina Lady (White).—



tently wide race but turned when asked to do so. His lone find was at the end of probably his biggest cast. When Mack didn't show to the front as the course turned Boser rode to where he was last seen and shortly called point. His charge was standing a covey proudly on the downside of a large clump of trees. His style was high and tight for the shot. He finished strong.

Bearcat (Boser) with Celtic's Comeback Fireboy (Ober).—Anticipation ran high as these two speedsters went to the line, their proclivity to roll having preceded them. Running a course custom-made to show a running dog, the pair of them did just that, and did it with style. Bear wasted no time in locating a nice covey along the first treeline he encountered, and handling it with plenty of style and intensity. Sent on, Bear was presently found far ahead with another well-located covey, again handling the work nicely. Fireboy was giving Ober a rough go of it, but was generally far to the front. At 17 coming through a gap near the pond, Fireboy pointed a large covey and took them out as handler approached, putting an end to his bid for the title. At 28 Bear tallied his third and final find as he pointed into a heavy tangle of briars and pines. With Boser in the thickest of it, the large covey exploded back over the dog's head, whereupon Bear executed a pretty good imitation of Michael Jordan, jumping four feet into the air in a failed attempt to catch a bird on the way by. Boser wisely elected to pick up.

Restless Wind (Gove) with Celtic's Sex Appeal (Ober).—Restless Wind, the veteran, is normally a solid bird-finder, and has won the title in the past. On this day, however, despite putting down a big, nice handling effort, she was destined to go birdless and Gove ended her stint a few minutes short of time. Sex Appeal, a classy little Derby-age dog, made a strong bid for the roses with a nice race, a solid covey find at 33, and another at 36. She made a nice stand again at 45, but a lengthy flushing effort and relocation proved fruitless. She pointed again in a tangled fencerow near time. Knowing he couldn't afford another unproductive, Ober tried valiantly to produce a bird for the young contender, but it was not to be.

Celtic's Comeback Scrappy (Ober) with Scarlet Fever (Boser).—This was another study in contrasts; Scrappy, the young, diminutive product of Joe Edwards' breeding, against the veteran of many field trial wars and the winner of many of them, including multiple wins of this same title, the relatively large, strongly built Scarlet Fever. Scrappy was first shot over at 4, but no birds were seen officially. She had a nice find shortly thereafter, at 9, but suffered an unproductive stand at 16. Feeling that she wasn't performing up to the standards already set by previous competitors, Ober elected to pick up at 45. Scarlet Fever, a normally solid bird finder, just couldn't get any cooperation from the quail on this occasion, suffering unproductives at 15 and 26 during a nice race that belied her nine years.

Aerowind's Chipper (Williams) with Chevelle (Zdanczewicz).—These two descendants of the legend-

since we'd utilized these grounds, and I, for one, was curious to see what kind of shape they were in. Happily, the grounds were in good condition, though a bit wet due to recent rains plus more that fell while we were there, and held plenty of birds.

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As has been the case for at least the last decade and probably more, the breeding program of North Carolinian Joe Edwards once again played a major roll in the Championship as well as in the Futurity. Both the champion, Makita, and the runner-up, Pollywog, are products of Joe's breeding. The first, third, and fourth placed dogs in the Red Setter Futurity were also of Joe's breeding.

The newly crowned champion, Come Back Makita, was with Joe when the Red Setter Championship and Futurity ran at Assunpink, N.J., a few years ago, which, by the way, were both won by another product of Joe's breeding, Celtic's Sua Sponte. Carroll (Buck) Mumma was there in a judicial capacity, and was looking for a nice young amateur prospect. He got to talking to Joe, they did some trading, and Buck became Makita's new owner. George Tracy soon had the dog in training, where it became evident that he had the potential to compete as part of George's string. Being a family man with a son to put through college, Buck felt as though he couldn't afford to keep two dogs on the circuit with a trainer, so he decided to keep his pointer female, Miss Shasta, and Makita became the property of Jim Millett. Jim had been away from trials for several years since having campaigned a little bitch called Rosie to Red Setter Championship status, and was looking to get "back in the traces" again. For whatever reason, neither Jim nor George was able to go to Kentucky with us, so it fell to Roger Boser to pilot Makita. From what I understand, Roger only had the dog for a day prior to leaving home for the trial, which to me says a lot, not only about Roger's abilities but more importantly about the intelligence and adaptability of Makita to a strange handler.

Pollywog, the runner-up, has been doing her share of winning for Boser. With Scarlet Fever and Bearcat in his string as well, Roger's been real tough to beat on the local circuit for several years. Polly is a second year shooting dog, and has been a very consistent performer. Her trademark is her high composure on point with no



AEROWIND'S CHIPPER
Second in the Amateur Shooting Dog Stake

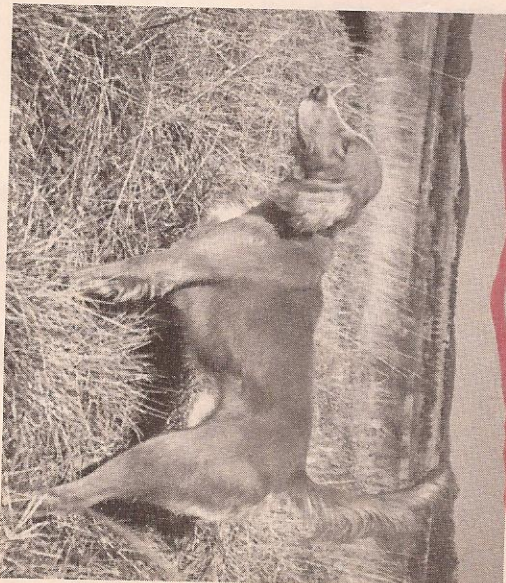
After a short coffee/cookie break we were underway again, both dogs showing plenty of heel at the breakaway. Polly, the experienced veteran of the pair, rimmed the edges and handled kindly, using the wind to her advantage to card a pair of quality finds at 35 and 55. Lady, meanwhile, was putting on a fine performance of her own, ranging well to the front and laying on the edge of the cover, and was rewarded with a nice find at 25. Giving in a little bit to her youthful exuberance, she whirled to mark the flight of the bird, but stayed for the shot. Taken on, she continued her far-flung pace, but began getting off to the side and rear, and was ultimately lost at 43, to be rounded up during the following brace.

Celtic's Sua Sponte (Ober) with Double P Remington (Plevnic).—Sue, a prior winner of this event (she won the Futurity and the Championship on successive days a few years ago at Assunpink), was not really accustomed to working for her owner, and it showed in relatively rough handling from the outset. She showed plenty of drive during the first half of the hour, but seemed to weaken deep into the brace. She showed her bird-finding ability with a pair of nicely handled finds. Remington had the bit in his teeth and was not pleasing his handler, who elected to pick up at 40.

Come Back Makita (Boser) with Restless Roamer (Temby).—Roamer had trouble getting untracked, and was leashed at 20. Makita was ably handled by Roger Boser, who was filling in on short notice. Showing his high level of competence and adaptability, he put on quite a show. He ran the course to the limits, always out front, and handled his lone find at 47 to perfection. Makita ran on course No. 2, which is the tightest of the three, with several sharp turns. Makita ran a consis-

wars and the winner of many of them, including multiple wins of this same title, the relatively large, strongly built Scarlet Fever. Scrappy was first shot over at 4, but no birds were seen officially. She had a nice find shortly thereafter, at 9, but suffered an unproductive stand at 16. Feeling that she wasn't performing up to the standards already set by previous competitors, Ober elected to pick up at 45. Scarlet Fever, a normally solid bird finder, just couldn't get any cooperation from the quail on this occasion, suffering unproductives at 15 and 26 during a nice race that belied her nine years.

Aerowind's Chipper (Williams) with Chelle (Zdanczewicz).—These two descendants of the legend-



BEARCAT
First in the Open All-Age Stake

ary Abra had their running shoes on. Chelle, the big, leggy male, put down a big race with nice application, but came up short in the bird-finding department. He finally managed to get a bird pointed right at time, but a very lengthy flushing effort covering a lot of real estate produced nothing. Chipper's effort was the hard luck story of the trial. He was ranging wide, requiring some scouting on the part of owner Jim Allen, and had two spectacular covey finds in the first 30 minutes. In both instances he had very large coveys pointed accurately at nice range, and handled them both immaculately, exhibiting a world of style and intensity. At 43 along a woodsedge, he handled a third large covey in like manner, and this reporter was pretty much con-

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vinced that we were witnessing a performance that would carry Chipper if not into the top slot at least into the runner-up position. Immediately following this third covey find, the wheels suddenly fell off the cart. While Williams remounted, owner/scout Allen col-lared Chipper down the edge away from the scattered covey, and released him upon Williams' command. The dog made about two strides when a bird jumped up right at the dog's head and flew into the cover. Whether the bird was a single or part of the previously pointed covey is a moot point; the bottom line is that the dog acknowledged the flight of the bird by throwing his head sharply in the direction of flight. With the handler laying on the whistle, Chipper bore on, never missing a stride. Coming shortly to an intersecting edge, Chipper hooked a left and quickly pointed yet another covey. After handling the birds satisfactorily, he was ordered up as a result of his prior apparent infraction. Why he wasn't ordered up immediately following the earlier incident remains a mystery; perhaps it was the speed with which things were taking place. However it was viewed, and different witnesses saw the same thing differently, it was a truly unfortunate end to an otherwise stellar performance.

Matlock (Beauchamp), a bye.—This last contender, used to running on the Kansas prairies, must have felt that these grounds were tight. He ran a big race and showed plenty of style on the ground for the majority of the hour. He stopped to a wild flush at 13, then followed up ten minutes later with a nice find that he handled in fine fashion. Apparently failing to negotiate a tight turn, he was lost for sixteen minutes after the mid-point, and finished somewhat short.

Berea, Ky., March 15

Judges: Robert P. Durbin and Jerry W. Backe
NATIONAL RED SETTER CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats]—19 Irish Setters

Winner—COME BACK MAKITA, 1272952, male, by Devil Fire's Transplant—Sugar Plum Christmas, James Millett, owner; Roger W. Boser, handler.
Runner-Up—POLLYWOG, 1280385, female, by Devil Fire's Transplant—Celtic's Comeback Suzie, Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.

ACCOMPANYING STAKES

Roger Boser's dog, Bearcat, put together four finds interspersed throughout a forward, edge-running ground pattern to take the No. 1 spot in the Open All-Age Stake. Celtic's Sua Sponte, under the direction of owner Paul Ober, had a wide race and two stylish finds to take second. Makita had a wide, stylish race

with perfect manners on his birds to garner third.

Celtic's Sex Appeal, fresh from her win of the Futurity, came back in the Amateur Walking Shooting Dog with a wide race which netted her a way-out-on-a-limb covey find after an extended absence, two single finds, and a perfectly executed long-range back to take first. Second place went to Kopperkey Ms. Nellie on the strength of a strong race, a real nice find, a back, and an unproductive in impenetrable cover. Come Back Pale Lady found more birds than any other dog in the stake, coupled with a nice race, a stop to flush, and an unproductive to take third. If she'd been more polished around her game she'd have placed higher.

Roger Boser's veteran performer, Scarlet Fever, added yet another first place to an already impressive total with a nice race and three nice finds under trying conditions coverwise. She did such a nice job that an unproductive didn't substantially mar her performance in the Amateur Shooting Dog. Second was Aerowind's Chipper with a far-flung race and two nice finds. Celtic's Sex Appeal put down a nice race with three finds and a back that with a little luck could have been a fourth find as Ober flushed a bird near the dog as he moved to take her on. She also showed nice manners in a backing situation, and was awarded third.

OPEN ALL-AGE—15 Irish Setters

1st—BEARCAT, 1291796, male, by Come Back Choo Choo—Sugar Plum Christmas, Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.

2d—CELTIC'S SUA SPONTE, 1272625, female, by Celtic's Injunction—Celtic's Sequela, Paul R. Ober, owner and handler.

3d—COME BACK MAKITA, 1272952, male, by Devil Fire's Transplant—Sugar Plum Christmas, James Millett, owner; Roger Boser, handler.

Judges: James E. Cohen and Samuel Salyer

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG—18 Irish Setters

1st—SCARLET FEVER, 1204412, female, by Razzle Dazzle—Pine Hollow Micki, Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.

2d—AEROWIND'S CHIPPER, 1240342, male, by Raptor—Alibi, James W. Allen, owner; Chuck Williams, handler.

3d—CELTIC'S SEX APPEAL, 1329716, female, by Come Back Choo Choo—Six Runs Polly, Karl Ober, Richard Quackenbush & Paul Ober, owners; Paul R. Ober, handler.

Judges: Robert Gove and Katherine Gove

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG—11 Irish Setters

1st—CELTIC'S SEX APPEAL, 1329716, female, by Come Back Choo Choo—Six Runs Polly, Karl Ober, Richard Quackenbush & Paul Ober, owners; Paul R. Ober, handler.

2d—KOPPERKEY MS. NELLIE, 1206181, female, by Carlyle Kory—Over The Rainbow, Patricia & Stephen Salt, owners; Stephen Salt, handler.

3d—COME BACK PALE LADY, 1291799, female, by Come Back Choo Choo—Sugar Plum Christmas, Joe Edwards, owner and handler.



HUNTING HILLS COWBOY
Second in the Open Shooting Dog Stake

3d—BLACKSMITH'S DEE LIGHT, 1329116, pointer female, by Hunting Hills Barjo—Hunting Hills Gold, R. A. Kovacic, owner and handler.

Judges: Bill Umbel and Richard A. Kovacic

OPEN PUPPY—8 Pointers and 9 Setters

1st—BOZEANN'S TINA LADY, 1316279, setter female, by Bozeann's Moseley—Bug Man's Jill, Sal Cotella, owner and handler.

2d—YOUNG AND RESTLESS, 1316839, pointer male, by Eastman—Pixie Monique, Roger Hoover, owner and handler.

3d—TIM, unreg., pointer male, breeding not given, J. W. Godwin, owner; Henry Caruso, handler.

Judges: Tom Vassen and Ken Graham

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG—7 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—LOCOMOTION LADY, 1262493, pointer female, by Ultra Sound—Lakeland Jill, John Patterson, owner; Bob Friedl, handler.

2d—GALWAY ROYAL FLUSH, 1317428, pointer male, by Flush's Red Flush—Galway, Ron Breckenridge, owner; Dennis Murphy, handler.

3d—SOCIETY'S EXPRESS, 1189418, pointer male, by Blacktop—Society's Express, Mike Husemits, owner and handler.