

Open Shooting Dog Winners. Front, from left: Bob Gove with Restless Red Toolman, Frank LaNasa with True Confidence, Katherine Gove with Restless Red Bella and Avery Herzog. Standing: Rich Boumeester, Don Dak, Judge Clark Linn, Don Voss, Jim Smith, Matt Eder, Ian MacTavish, Julie Varney, Judge Scott Jordan, Larry Brutger, Nicole Herzog, Alexander and Derek Herzog.

Northwest Field Trial Association

By KATHERINE GOVE

AMAZINGLY, this May trial started with snow flurries that lasted most of the day on Friday. Considering the snowy spring we had I suppose this was par for the course.

The Open All-Age was run on dry prairie cover without any of the normal green grass or leaves that are typical this time of year. The winner, Mae, handled by Rich Boumeester, has been found in the winners' circle for this stake multiple years. She rimmed the course and more with two good looking finds and a back to make her win a cinch. Second place honors went to Chuck Wingard's

Lefty, handled by Jim Tande. Lefty had a strong forward race and garnered two finds during his 30-minute trial. Frank LaNasa's Bob received third place for a forward race, one stylish find and back.

The Open (all-age) Derby was won by Jack with an impressive forward race for handler by Jim Tande. Handler Matt Eder was awarded both second and third place with littermates Spec and Sunny that both ran strong forward races.

The biggest stake of the weekend was the Open Shooting Dog with 24 entries. First place went to red setter Toolman with three staunch finds and a strong

race for handler Bob Gove. Frank LaNasa's Bob was awarded second place with one find and a mannerly race. Bella ran a forward race and was rewarded with two finds for handler Bob Gove for third place.

Jerry Kolter handled the stylish setter Trixie to first place honors in the Open (shooting dog) Derby with a pleasing race and a picture perfect find and back. Matt Eder returned to the winners' circle with the setter Sunny with a forward race and a staunch find. The best race of the stake was presented by Hawthorn Edge, handled by Jim Tande, for third place.

Mae ran a pleasing race with two finds to garner first in the Amateur Shooting Dog for Todd Manns. Charlie Aspenson gained second and third place honors with setters Buster and Bud.

The Amateur (shooting dog) Derby was handily won by Chuck Wingard's Barney with a strong race always to the front. Duke, Charlie Aspenson's stylish setter, received second place honors, and Todd Manns' pointer Sam made several good moves for third place.

The highlight of Saturday night was the club sponsored cookout with delicious donations from all club members.

The toughest part of a trial is finding judges and we cannot say enough thanks to all the judges including Dan Voss, Justin Martin, Scott Jordan, Clark Linn, Bob and Katherine Gove and Rich Boumeester. Weekend trials could not exist without the commitment of trialers to help out with judging duties. Trial Chairman Todd Manns did an excellent job orchestrating this trial after a failed attempt two weeks earlier that was aborted after 12 inches of snow shut



Open Derby Winners. Front, from left: Dave Moore with Hawthorn Standing Tall, Todd Manns with Foxrun's Spectacular and Matt Eder with U Are My Sunshine. Standing: Judge Dan Voss, Jim Tande, Scott Jordan, Judge Justin Martin, Ian MacTavish and Robin MacTavish.



Open All-Age Winners. Front, from left: Rich Boumeester with Boumeester's Just Wright, Jim Tande with Picking Time and Todd Manns with True Confidence. Standing: Don Dak, Judge Don Voss, Judge Justin Martin and Frank LaNasa.

down the grounds. Multiple bird planters helped during the event but special thanks to Rich Boumeester for his efforts.

Because of the April trial cancellation we had an unusual circumstance and we are very appreciative of both trial sponsors, Nutra Source and Purina. We are grateful for their generous donations to the trials and their understanding of the unique circumstances.

Rogers, Minn., May 3 — One Course

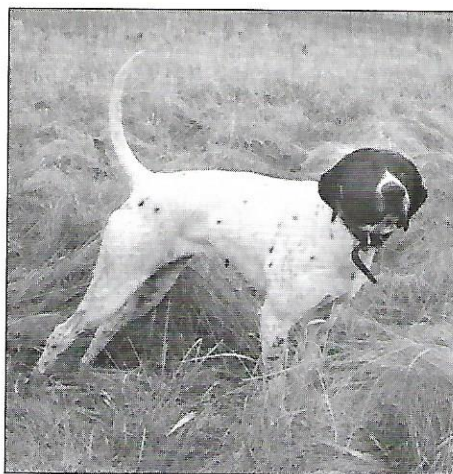
Judges: Justin Martin and Dan Voss

OPEN ALL-AGE — 11 Pointers

- 1st—BOUMEESTER'S JUST WRIGHT, 1624452, female, by Touch's Green River—Buckthorn's Belle. Rich Boumeester, owner and handler.
- 2d—PICKING TIME, 1608226, male, by Elhev Sinbad—Caney Creek Dot. Chuck Wingard, owner; Jim Tande, handler.
- 3d—TRUE CONFIDENCE, 1622365, male, by Two Acre Bulldog—Bar P Anex. Frank & Jeanne LaNasa, owners; Frank LaNasa, handler.

OPEN DERBY — 8 Entries

- 1st—HAWTHORN STANDING TALL, 1649613, pointer male, by Picking Time—Light Your Fire. Jim Tande, owner and handler.
- 2d—FOXRUN'S SPECTACULAR, 1642756, setter male, by Ridge Creek Jake—Foxrun's Gemstone. Matt Eder, owner and handler.
- 3d—U ARE MY SUNSHINE, 1642806, setter male, by Ridge Creek Jake—Foxrun's Gemstone. Matt Eder, owner and handler.



SHATTERED

First in the Amateur Shooting Dog Stake

Judges: Scott Jordan and Clark Linn

OPEN SHOOTING DOG — 9 Pointers, 13 Setters and 2 Irish Setters

- 1st—RESTLESS RED TOOLMAN, 1602579, Irish setter male, by Silver Creek's Wanted—Restless Red Cedar. Katherine Gove, owner; Bob Gove, handler.
- 2d—TRUE CONFIDENCE, 1622365, pointer male, by Two Acres Bulldog—Bar P Anex. Frank & Jean LaNasa, owners; Frank LaNasa, handler.

- 3d—RESTLESS RED BELLA, 1602599, Irish setter female, by Silver Creek's Wanted—Restless Red Cedar. Robert Gove, owner and handler.

Judges: Bob Gove and Katherine Gove

OPEN DERBY — 18 Entries

- 1st—NORTHWOODS GRITS, 1626439, setter male, by Northwoods Blue Ox—Northwoods Chablis. Northwoods Bird Dogs, owner; Jerry Kolter, handler.
- 2d—FOXRUN'S SPECTACULAR, 1642756, setter male, by Ridge Creek Jake—Foxrun's Gemstone. Matt Eder, owner and handler.
- 3d—HAWTHORN EDGE, 1645091, pointer male, by In The Shadow—Dry Bridge Betty. Jim Tande, owner and handler.

Judges: Rich Boumeester and Clark Linn

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG — 8 Entries

- 1st—SHATTERED, 1597742, pointer female, by Front N' Center—Attitude's Tornado. Todd Manns, owner and handler.
- 2d—SPRING GARDEN GOLD, 1613712, setter male, by Berg Brothers Jack—Spring Garden Topsail. Charles Aspenson, owner and handler.
- 3d—CEDAR HILL BLIZZARD, 1625173, setter male, by Spring Garden Gold—Cedar Hill Princess. Charles Aspenson, owner and handler.

Judges: Bob Gove and Katherine Gove

AMATEUR DERBY — 6 Entries

- 1st—CENTER SHOT, 1649410, pointer male, by Picking Time—Light Your Fire. Chuck Wingard, owner and handler.
- 2d—BO'S TOP PICK, 1649454, setter male, by Shadow Oak Bo—Cedar Hill Princess. Charles Aspenson, owner and handler.
- 3d—LUCKY STRIKE'S TWICE, 1648975, pointer male, by Idaho's Lucky Strike—Lindsey's Cloudy Days. Todd Manns, owner and handler.

Empty Kennel

I thought I heard a dog cry out last night. I was laying in bed, turning, tossing, unable to sleep. It was one of those nights where the little things that trouble you keep you awake; those little things that keep running through your head.

I got up and went to the back of the house to the kennel room. The "crew" was all looking at me through the kennels and I greeted them all, opening each door and stroking their heads and holding their faces next to mine. I promised all of them a good run in the morning.

I paused and stood at one kennel, the empty one. A flood of memories began to emerge, a crescendo of memories.

I stepped back, pulled out the chair from the desk and sat down, staring into the empty space. The rest of the crew all laid down and continued to stare at me. I could hear the sound of tails lightly thumping the floor. These memories made me smile.

I started to recount the travel, the places we'd been. Those things that were troubling me moments before were pushed aside and I felt peacefulness come upon me, and I smiled. The pictures on the wall all tell a bigger story than what they reveal. These pictures make me recall the wins, the near wins and the challenges that had to be overcome.

I began to recount the things I saw

that dog do. I remember the drive and heart of a champion.

I remind myself that when a dog is set to the task it was bred and raised to do, it sets us to a higher purpose. We are presented an obligation that we all need to commit ourselves to, so that these dogs can show us what they are capable of.

I could recount stories of wins and championships, but some of the most remarkable things were when it was just the two of us, or when it was just John and I. Running the flat prairies, driving out so far he was a mere speck on the far fields and disappearing only to find him, after a considerable amount of riding, standing point on wild coveys. I remember watching that dog run the piney woods of a plantation in the Deep South, finding a covey after other dogs could find none. I remember the anticipation I would feel when I would pull him out of the truck box up north in the grouse woods. I would walk for miles behind him, and rejoice with one grouse and one woodcock after another. I would recount a blind retrieve on a wounded pheasant while guiding some hunters that could not fathom or appreciate what an incredible find and retrieve just took place.

Even as his head turned gray and white, his eyes cloudy and the years and miles of running began to take their toll, he still bounced around the house as though he were a puppy. No butter dish was safe in our house.

He would curl himself up into the tiniest ball beside me on the couch and sleep. If I moved or stood up, he would spring to action, looking at me wide eyed with the look of "It's on. Let's go!" His enthusiasm was contagious.

Just one more hunt, one more point, just one more time.

I think, I hope, he is in those secret grounds with the others that have passed through and shared their lives with me; J D, Dusty, Kansas, Jackie, Dolly, Voodoo, Splash, Jaeger. Any serenity or peacefulness that they were enjoying has just been shattered by the arrival of Farley.

I thought I heard a dog cry out last night. It was me.

Onpoint Farley Got Soul — August, 2001 — June, 2013.

Along a trail, heading south past the old Sugar Maple syrup shack, you will find a fork in the trail. Walk off the trail to the west, up a small hill. It is here where Farley will rest, beside a drumming log where we have found grouse.

And the next time I take a dog along there, and the grouse seem a little wiser and a little more jumpy than usual, then I will know that Farley's spirit has been working those birds. And that's fine by me.

Some may say "It's just a dog", but they utter those words with no understanding . . .

BARRY BASSINGTHWAIGHTE
Ottawa, Ontario