



**Open Shooting Dog Stake Winners. Front, from left: Houston's Blue Diamond with Ross Leonard, Rockstory Storm with Daryl Thomas, Jr. and Chaperon with Rob Boot. Standing: Tom Perry, Joe Rentz, Daryl Thomas, Sr., Lavon King and Chris Kahlan.**

## Flint River Field Trial Club

By ROB BOOT

**T**HE Flint River Club renewed its autumn trial with a full slate of amateur and open stakes November 12-13 at the J. L. Lester Wildlife Management Area outside Cedartown, Ga. Professional trainers Daryl Thomas, Sr. and Daryl Thomas, Jr. of Rockstory Kennels in Dawson, Ga., traveled north to judge our Amateur Shooting Dog Stakes. Daryl Thomas, Jr. was joined by Ronnie Rogers of New Market, Tenn., to judge the Amateur Derby. Thomas Perry of Newnan, Ga., and Joe Rentz of Fayetteville, Ga., adjudicated the Open Derby and Open Shooting Dog. The judges devoted their full attention to all the competitors and their decisions were well received. The club and the handlers are grateful to them for their efforts.

A special thanks to Chris Kahlan, president of the Flint River Club and trial chairman, for this trial would not happen if not for Chris' efforts and attention to all the details.

We experienced extreme ranges in temperatures and conditions from a Saturday morning low of 28° with frost to warm sunny afternoons in the mid-60s which made scenting conditions unpredictable and difficult at times.

All in all it was a highly suc-

cessful trial with 45 entries, lots of bird work, plenty of kids running around having a good time and a nice-sized gallery riding to watch the braces.

Houston's Blue Diamond, a well-built setter owned and handled by Ross Leonard, was first in the Amateur Shooting Dog with a bold and forward race and four solid finds. "Sam" displayed exemplary manners and showed a nice rapport with his handler. Rob Boot and his classy pointer High Noon's Elhew

McGee challenged the winner and earned second with three finds and an exceptional shooting dog performance. McGee's posture on his first find exuded class as he pointed his birds from a distance but showed no letdown during an extended flushing attempt that finally produced. His second find was equally impressive. After making a long cast down the left edge of the dove field the pointer was rewarded with a well-mannered find. Steve Montgomery's young pointer Jen and Juice captured third place with three finds and a very snappy ground application.

The judges made note of other strong performances including Nade, handled by owner Joe Rentz; Arnold Hall's pointer Bill which was braced with an exciting young pointer Ben which is owned and handled by Lavon King.

Despite the cool temperatures, scenting conditions were poor for the Amateur Derby. Melissa Dobson garnered first with her pointer Bud Hawk Jet which had one well-located find. Bud pointed with great style and intensity and demonstrated impeccable manners. His bird work was matched with a mature forward race. The judges noted they have high expectations for this dog. Bobby Fox's supremely athletic young pointer Three Rivers put down a good forward race to garner second place. Rivers ran with a high snappy tail and hunted everywhere he needed to be. Randy Marsh was awarded third with Caladen's Dancing River. "Remi" hunted hard and delivered a terrific race. Showing impressive range, she went pleasingly with handler Marsh and demonstrated nice rapport with him.

Ross Leonard's setter Houston's Blue



**Amateur Derby Winners. Front, from left: Melissa Dobson with Bud Hawk Jet and Randy Marsh with Caladen's Dancing River. Standing: Ollie Boot, Nico Boot, Rob Boot, Jr., Daryl Thomas, Jr. Ronnie Rogers, Daryl Thomas, Sr., Chris Kahlan and Lavon King.**

Diamond repeated his success from the previous day, earning first in the Open Shooting Dog Stake. The judges commented that "Sam" exhibited a powerful ground race. His four finds were well to the front and independently located with virtually no handling.

Second was well earned by Rockstory Storm, an impressively built pointer owned by Marlene Thomas and smartly handled by Daryl Thomas, Sr. "Bud" put down an athletic race and was rewarded with four nice finds. Chaperon, five-year old Irish setter owned and handled by Ross Leonard, placed third. Chaperon had three flawless finds where he matched his impressive intensity with impeccable manners.

Fred Rayl piloted Ridgeway's Journeyman to first place in the Open Derby. "Bubba" demonstrated a bird-finding clinic with multiple finds and acceptable Derby manners. Ross Leonard was awarded second with Palomar, a young setter that scored one find. Blackhawk Buzzsaw, owned and handled by Steve Montgomery, was named third.

We thank everyone for participating and would like to encourage everyone to come back in the spring when we will renew the Pat LaBree Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog Classic.

**Cedartown, Ga., November 12 — One Course**

**Judges: Ronnie Rogers and Daryl Thomas, Jr.**

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

- 1st—BUD HAWK JET, 1623917, pointer male, by Blackhawk Jet—Gage's Sparkling Ruby. Melissa Dobson, owner and handler.  
 2d—THREE RIVERS, 1627024, pointer male, by Erin's Bad River—Sweetbriar Sue. Bobby Fox, owner and handler.  
 3d—CALADEN'S DANCING RIVER, 1627147, pointer female, by Caladen's Rein Dancer—Caladen's White River. Don Marsh, owner; Randy Marsh, handler.

**Judges: Daryl Thomas, Sr. and Daryl Thomas, Jr.**

**AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG — 18 Entries**

- 1st—HOUSTON'S BLUE DIAMOND, 1590661, setter male, by Houston—Forest Ridge Jewel. Ross Leonard, owner and handler.  
 2d—HIGH NOON'S ELHEW MCGEE, 1595912, pointer male, by Elhew Fibber McGee—Hunt Club Alice. Rob Boot, owner and handler.  
 3d—JEN AND JUICE, 1595093, pointer female, by Rock Acre Playmaker—Blackhawk's Meg. Steve Montgomery, owner and handler.

**Judges: Thomas Perry and Joe Rentz**

**OPEN SHOOTING DOG — 12 Entries**

- 1st—HOUSTON'S BLUE DIAMOND, 1590661, setter male, by Houston—Forest Ridge Jewel. Ross Leonard, owner and handler.  
 2d—ROCKSTORY STORM, 1606501, pointer male, by Strut—Cinderella Story. Marlene Thomas, owner; Daryl Thomas, Sr., handler.  
 3d—CHAPERON, 1594524, Irish setter male, by Chaparral—Sizzlin Belle. Ross Leonard, owner and handler.

**OPEN DERBY — 8 Pointers and 1 Setter**

- 1st—RIDGEWAY'S JOURNEYMAN, 1627486, pointer male, by Lester's Snowwatch—Festival. Fred Rayl, owner; Rob Thomas, handler.  
 2d—PALOMAR, 1625675, setter male, by Wild Wing Warrior—Wild Wing Ripper. Ross Leonard, owner and handler.  
 3d—BLACKHAWK BUZZSAW, 1623371, pointer male, by Blackhawk Jet—Gage's Sparkling Ruby. Steve Montgomery, owner and handler.



**Amateur Shooting Dog Winners. Front, from left: Ross Leonard with Houston's Blue Diamond and Rob Boot with High Noon's Elhew McGee. Standing: Chris Kahlan, Daryl Thomas, Sr. and Daryl Thomas, Jr.**

## Possum Creek Bird Dog Club

By R. O. BERRYHILL

ON December 30 one of the best trials your scribe was ever associated with began over beautiful and well groomed Good Hope Plantation near Naylor, Ga. The club drew 89 dogs from its South Georgia-North Florida Field Trial Association and seven member dogs which ran us into the third day.

The weather was near perfect for this trial and many thanks go out to judges Barry Young of Tifton, Ga., and Newt Hughes of Nashville, Ga. Newt is engaged in a heavy hunting schedule and was not able to help until the latter part of the trial. Others that judged were Darrell Wells of Folkston, Ga., Daryl Thomas of Albany, Ga., and Tony Bingham of Shelby, N. C., who put in four days then had to drive home.

Without these judges plus help from Don Clarke and Adam Hart this would have been "just another trial".

### OPEN STAKES

The Open All-Age started off like a "house on fire" with several performances that on a given day would have been good enough to win. Misty Acres Abby, handled ably by Ted Dennard, went places no other dog did with two outstanding finds thus being named the winner.

Shadow's Bewitched ran real well with good bird work to win the Open Derby.

The Open Shooting Dog had several good performances with Lumber River Buck having three finds and a strong race to earn the win. Call Fire's Illusion was second and the consistent Night Fire was third. Both dogs pushed the winner. Three braces of the Open Shooting Dog ran the second day.

After a delay in order to complete the Open Shooting Dog, the Amateur All-Age began. Bittersweet Sensation, a very energetic pointer female owned and handled by our good friend Bruce Norton of nearby Norman Park, Ga., put on quite a show running the course with three letter perfect finds. She was named the winner. The setter Shake's Tag was second, and Jeff Walker's Seminole Buck, handled by William Berryhill, was third.

It was beginning to warm up when we started the Amateur Derby. Toy Cannon ran enough with three finds of all-age caliber to place first. Second was Cassique's Bolt Action. Miller's Dream Chaser was third.

Big and strong white and black pointer male Night Fire set the pace in