

Announcing the 2008

National Open Championship Judges



Howard Burbach

I have been associated with bird dogs for over 45 years. I hunted behind Spaniels and Pointers as a child, to my current level of Field Trial/Conformation Shows with German Shorthaired Pointers. Since 1989, I have finished 5 of my Shorthairs as Field & Show Champions with one achieving the Dual Champion/Amateur Field Champion status. I have served as President of the Heart of America GSP Club for 6 years and have been actively involved in the Club for over 20 years. Working with the Conservation Dept. to improve field trial grounds and facilities has been one of my major goals.

I have participated in, and marshaled, many Local, National and Species Trials. I have actively judged American Field and AKC Field Trial/Hunt Tests for several years. My most recent major judging assignment was the 2008 AKC Pointing Breed Gun Dog Championships in Reno, Nevada. Other assignments include juvenile and adult stakes for Ozark GSP; GSP of Nebraska; Heart of American GSP; Minnesota GSP; Sunflower GSP; Nebraska Wirehaired; Oregon GSP; Desert GSP; Eastern Iowa GSP; and Gateway GSP. Also the Eastern Sectional Classic in Arabi, GA; Great Plains Championship, KS; Region 10 Championship WA; GSP Nationals, KS; German Wirehaired Nationals, WI; All Breed Championship, IL; Region 8, WY; Hungarian Partridge Championship, WY; Vizsla Nationals, NE; Region 12, AZ; Region 5, MO and the Quail Championship.

I draw on a dog's natural ability and pride myself on reading those abilities. I believe a judge should be committed to watching a dog from start to finish thus evaluating the total dog. I feel it is important to keep notes in every stake and having a good dialogue with my judging partners. This allows each and every dog to compete at the same level.



Ray Calkins

I grew up hunting in Iowa with a Brittany and received my degree in veterinary medicine from Iowa State University in 1972. I handled my first German Wirehaired Pointer to a red ribbon in a puppy stake in 1975. Since then nine Cascade GWP's, all owner trained and handled have earned field championships. Four dog hold nine National Field Championships and two are Dual Champions. Seven Cascade GWP's are master hunters and two hold NAVHDA utility ratings. Cascade sires are the #1 and #2 producers of GWP Field Champions and Hunt Test Titlists.

I have been a member of the GWPCA since 1974, served as Field Futurity Chairman for 12 years and a member of the GWP Field Trial Advisory Board from 1985-2000. I represented the GWPCA at the AKC Field Trial Advisory Board from 1986 until 1999 and served on the GWPCA Board of Directors for 6 years. In 2006 I was again selected to fill the Western Director position and am currently the GWPCA vice president.

My wife Lynn and I organized the Oregon GWP club in 1978 and have been active members of the Portland Kennel Club since 1981. I helped to form the Columbia NAVHDA Chapter and the Upland Bird Dog association to work with the ODFW and Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation. This non-profit group held the Heritage Classic, a fund raising trial for special projects for the ODFW and the Heritage Foundation from 1987 until 1999.

I have been honored to judge National Championships for the GSP (1990 & 2007), Brittany (1994 AA & 2007 GD), Vizsla (1992 & 2003), Gordon Setter (2000 & 2005), American Pointer (2001), Weimaraner (2003), and English Setter (2004). I have also judged the AKC Gun Dog Championship (1997 & 2002) and regional championships for the NGSP.



David Taylor

I have been breeding, training, and field trialing English Pointers since the mid 1970's.

Highlights include:

Traveling and scouting for my good friend Dr. Pat McInteer.

Winning the Tobe Stallings Memorial All Age at Broomhill, Manitoba when 2 x RU Ch. Ringafire's Nemaha Buddy was braced with the reigning National Champion.

Qualifying 2 x RU Ch. Ringafire's Nemaha Buddy for the National Amateur Shooting Dog Invitational.

Winning Champion and Runner Up in the 2003 Region 17 All Age Championship with Ch. Ringafire's Rhythm and 2 x RU Ch. Ringafire Nemaha Buddy.

Ringafire Kennel's breeding program producing Ch. Ringafire's Rhythm, National Amateur Derby Champion, Quicksilver Quickfire, and American Pointer Club National Champion, Should Have Known Better.

Judging four breed National Championships and two National Amateur Championships.

Witnessing the great performances, meeting the wonderful people, and the opportunity to judge with many outstanding individuals, while judging from Broomhill, Manitoba to Oklahoma and California to Michigan.

The dogs have indeed been kind to us.