

2008 American Brittany Club National Field Championship
December 1-6, 2008
Blue Mountain WDA, Booneville, Arkansas
As seen by Jan Kilpatrick



This years running of the ABC National Field Championship boasted a draw of 66 dogs with 65 coming to the line beginning December 1 to compete for the title of 2008 National Field Trial Champion!

FC REBEL JAC'S HAMMERING DANDY "JAC" NAMED 2008 NATIONAL FIELD CHAMPION

This years winner was bottom dog in Brace 20, FC Rebel Jac's Hammering Dandy "Jac" a stout, athletic 7 year old white and orange male handled adeptly by Chad Holman and owned by Ron Harling. Jac is a second generation NFC out of NFC/FC Rebel Jack's Hammering Hank and Hi Tail Lokota. Jac bested the field by rolling though Course 2 with a far flung forward race. In addition to his excellent ground race he exhibited intelligence, style and intensity on his bird contacts. Jac was handled quietly which enabled all his natural abilities to shine through.

Runner up Champion was bottom dog in Brace 24, CH Shadow Attack "Tack", a well built flashy 3 year old liver and white male handled by Ed Tillson and owned by Phil Dangerfield. Tack is the product of two amazing all age Champions NFC/FC/AFC Shambo's Dark Shadow and FC/AFC The Prairie Tornado. Tack garnered the RU position by running a fast forward race on Course 3. His youth was belied by the maturity he exhibited on his birds and his stamina at the finish all combined to cinch the runner up position. Tack's participation in the National Specialty Show combined with his RU placement earned him the 2008 W. E. Stevenson Sr. Memorial ABC National Dual Award.

In third place was bottom dog in Brace 16, DC/AFC TJ's Single Shot of Scipio, "Emme" a precocious 7 year old orange and white female handled by Paul Doiron and owned by Tom White and Margaret Horstmeyer. Emme is no stranger to the National Field Championship having been named Runner Up Champion in 2006.

Emme was the lone pup out of a breeding between two great NFC Champions, NFC/DC/AFC Tequila's Joker and NFC/DC/AFC Microchips of Nutmeg. Emme ran a snappy forward race over Course 1 and was well extended and strong at the finish. She was an easy handle and showed exceptional style and intensity on her multiple bird contacts. Emme earned the 2008 Christy's Feather Duster "Best Bitch" Award for being the highest placing bitch in this year's National trial.

Finishing in fourth place from the top position in Brace 12 was FC/AFC Kinwashkly Dakota Molester "Lester", a handsome 7 year old orange roan male handled by Jim John and owned by Ken Seivert. Lester is out of FC/AFC Blaze Dakota Trucker and Can DC Kinwashkly Crash Test Dummy. Lester's performance can be described as far reaching covering all the likely spots on Course 3. Lester had an exceptional limb find which he handled with intelligence and style. Lester never let up for a minute and finished forward going away.

Deleted: awesome

To just qualify for the National Field Championships is an honor for the dogs, handlers and owners. An event occurred at this year's Nationals that is worthy of special mention. The bottom dog in Brace 28, DC/AFC Jayhawker Tequila With A Twist, was awarded 2008 National Best of Breed at the National Specialty Show in Fort Smith on Sunday, November 30. Taryn is the first Field Champion in 29 years to win National Best of Breed and the first Dual Champion bitch to ever win the national specialty show. Not just a pretty face Taryn boasts 17 hour career placements to date "Taryn" is no stranger to the National Field Championship having placed 4th twice as well as earning the W. E. Stevenson Sr. Memorial ABC National Dual Award in 2005 and 2007. This captivating 6 year old orange and white female out of NFC/DC/AFC Tequila's Joker and Princess Haley II is handled in the field by Ed Tillson with owner Jessica Carlson stepping in for Amateur stakes. In the show ring Taryn shines under Jessica's lead. There were a total of 12 Dual Champions competing in the 2008 National Field Championship with DC/AFC TJ's Single Shot of Scipio, "Emme" earning 3rd place. 11 Dual Champions came to the line in the 2008 National Amateur All Age Championship with DC/AFC Shady's "Tia" Maria taking 3rd place. Another 22 Dual Champions competed at the National Specialty Show with Taryn coming out on top. That we have this large a number of Dual Champions competing and winning at our National Events is proof positive that the dual dog is alive and well in the Brittany world.

[A Special Tribute goes to the seven veteran dogs over the age of 10 competing in this year's National Field Championship. These grand old champions, whose accomplishments would fill an entire page, showed us the tremendous heart, experience and intelligence that has earned them a place of respect in Brittany history. It was inspiring to watch them compete in what was to be the final competition runs for most of them before easing into a well earned retirement.](#)

Judges for this year's National Field Championship were Howard Burback from Missouri, Ray Calkins from Oregon and David Taylor from Iowa. The list of National bird dog events these gentlemen have judged is impressive and the depth of their experience and knowledge showed through as they carefully observed, evaluated and discussed each dog's individual performance. They were united in their preference for true all age performances from dogs with a ton of natural bird dog ability that didn't need a lot of direction from the handler to get the job done.

The following dogs met the judge's criteria and made the posting board during this year's running:
Brace 1b DC/AFC Terras Cabo Wabo "Sammy"; handler Paul Doiron, owners Tom White and Margaret Horstmeyer
Brace 2b, FC/AFC Dakota Alley Cat "Tiger"; handler Tom Tracey Jr., owner Bo & Renae Ackerman
Brace 12a FC/AFC Kinwashkly Dakota Molester "Lester"; handler Jim John, owner Ken Seivert
Brace 12b NFC/DC/AFC Shady's "Tia" Maria; handler Jimmy Berneathy, owners Clem and Marilynne Little
Brace 16a FC "Trace" of Time; handler Chad Holman, owner William Thomson
Brace 16b DC/AFC TJ's Single Shot of Scipio "Emme"; handler Paul Doiron, owners Tom White and Margaret Horstmeyer

Brace 20b FC Rebel Jac's Hammering Dandy "Jac"; handler Chad Holman, owner Ronald Harling
Brace 24b CH Shadow Attack, handler Ed Tillson, owner Phil Dangerfield.

The American Brittany Club Nationals doesn't just happen by chance. It takes concentrated efforts from a lot of dedicated people to organize then carry out the myriad of activities in front of and behind the scenes. Trial Chairman Tom White assumes a hands on approach to all tasks but has confidence in the abilities of his team leaders to plan and execute their assigned duties in the most efficient manner possible. Tom's wife Margaret Horstmeyer not only attends to a minutia of details for Tom but also dedicates time as the trials on site veterinarian. Steve Ralph is most proficient as field trial secretary making sure all the t's get crossed and i's dotted. Year after year Marilynne Little serves at the helm of the Calcuttas and Auctions which are not only fun activities but are essential in keeping the funding shortfalls to a minimum which in turn maintains the high caliber of the National Event. Out on course thanks is due the Stakes/Gallery Manager Warren Montgomery and Course/Judges Marshall Tom Milam. These guys with the help of many volunteers kept the trial moving smoothly and on time. A special thanks to Mary Jo Trimble for staging herself along County Road 109 which borders Course 1 to serve as a spotter for those dogs that unwittingly get out onto this busy road. This year Mary Jo was able to send alerts for two dogs that ventured onto the pavement. It is a priceless service Mary Jo provides looking out for the safety of our field trial Britts. Hot and cold liquids and delicious pastries/cookies were provided by friendly volunteers who never complained no matter how cold it got. A huge thanks to Will Langley of Bottom Creek Farms for providing first class gaited horses for officials and spectators.

Everyone is beholden to grounds keepers Larry McAnally and Red Bailey who groom and clear these grounds all year as well as release the birds before hand to provide optimum bird finding opportunity for all competing dogs. Larry and Red then drive the dog wagon all day throughout the National Field Championship.

Sponsors of this year's National Field Championship included Purina who has been providing financial support as well as Pro Plan dog food to the winners and participants for many years. Another long time sponsor is Tri-Tronics producer of top of the line electronic dog training equipment. The Model 200 electric collar they donated is a must have tool for bird dog trainers and was well received and appreciated. Tracker Radio Location Systems keeps our bird dogs safe and found and we were very fortunate to have them as a sponsor again this year. Ann and Lary Cox owners of Christie Enterprises in Alvord, Texas donate hand made engraved trooper saddles to both the NFC and NAFC winners and those saddles are a source of lifetime pride to all who have dogs who are awarded one.

It goes without saying we all appreciate the wonderful food, beverages and service provided by Jake Tabler and The Bearcat Too crew throughout the running of this trial. Also the City of Booneville and its friendly merchants extend every courtesy and service to the Brittany crowd and we thank each and every one of them.

EVENTS

On Sunday, November 30 the National Specialty Show concluded in Fort Smith and the National Field Championship activities got rolling at the Club House with dinner followed by the spirited Open Calcutta.

Monday morning December 1 the Championship running began at 8 am. Monday's dinner at the Club house was followed by an interesting and informative Tri Tronics Presentation by Hank Hartnek.

Tuesday brought the second day of the NATIONAL FIELD Championship running, but all day Judy and Tom Robin and their able assistants had been preparing the Clubhouse for the National Open Party honoring their 2007 National Field Champion NFC/FC/AFCLand's End We-Be Clean. What a grand event Judy and Tom presented. The elegant hors d'oeuvre table featured delicious finger foods and the festive table dressings, complete with engraved We-Be shot glasses and all kinds of chocolate, provided the perfect setting for the scrumptious buffet dinner which everyone ate with relish all the while visiting the mind boggling libations

tables featuring exotic liquors with unusual names and a powerful punch! After dinner those still able to stand danced to the tunes of the talented local C&W band. **Everything was first cabin and we all reveled in We-Be's celebration**. A huge congrats and thanks to Judy and Tom for making it a night to remember!

Wednesday was Steak night at the clubhouse! The steaks and accompanying side dishes were delicious and much appreciated after a full day in the saddle.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner continued to be served through the completion of the Championship and once again thanks to Jake and the Bearcat Too crew for making these meals so enjoyable.

THE RUNNING:

Day One: It was a frosty 28 degrees the first morning of the National Field Championship, some 8 degrees lower than normal, and I'm wondering where the heck is global warming when you need it? The morning began with a moment of silence for Ed Sawicki who passed November 23, 2008. Ed was a lifelong member of The American Brittany Club, American Field, and Southern New England Brittany Club. He had a deep rooted passion for hunting and field trialing and will be greatly missed by the Brittany community. The dog wagon was loaded with warmly bundled field trial junkies with their flasks full of frostbite remedies. The gallery contained 30+ energized trialers and their frisky steeds awaiting the start of the 2008 ABC National Field Championship.

Brace 1 FC/AFC Hanging Jaze Howlalewya Amen "**Slick**", Ed Tillson and DC/AFC Terras Cabo Wabo "**Sammy**", Paul Doiron

The dogs released in this first brace appeared invigorated by the 28 degree temperatures as both broke fast for the heavy cover on the right. Both reappeared far to the front running the right tree line at the first turn. Just past the barking dog house Slick was found on point in heavy cover. Birds were put to flight with the dog standing tall and tight through the flush and shot. Both dogs moved through the Lick Creek Crossing when Slick ran over some birds, failed to stop and was collared. Sammy almost simultaneously slammed to a stylish point in this same general vicinity. A covey was produced with all in order and Sammy was moved on. Sammy continued hunting hard and was rewarded with a series of finds in the Cotton Field cover at 35, 40 and 45. All of his birdwork was impeccable and he finished out the hour hunting hard mixing some nice long casts with some shorter work.

Brace 2 NFC/FC/AFCLane's End "**We-Be**" Clean, Chad Holman and FC/AFC Dakota Alley Cat "**Tiger**", Tom Tracy Jr

Off in the second brace was the 2007 NFC We-Be and brace mate Tiger. We-Be immediately claimed the front and was seen moving forward at all age speed and distance throughout the hour. Tiger ran a fast steady race to the front and had a nice find in Parish Field at 34. The bird was worked with no complications and Tiger was moved on. Tiger continued to work steadily forward at a fast pace until time was called. We-Be was seen going into thick cover at 52 and was not visible when time was called. Judge Calkins was with Handler Holman in the cover and observed We-Be swap ends after time had elapsed. True to form We-Be put down a fast forward all age run showing consistently at likely objectives and always to the front but ended up without birds on this occasion.

Brace 3 FC/AFC Smarteyes Joker "**Jordan**"; Jim John and NFC/2xNAFC/FC/AFC Just Call Me "**Roy**", Ben Lorenson

The third brace featured the first 10+ year old veteran **Jordan** and his 9 year old NFC, NAFC brace mate Roy. These dogs blew out to the front after being released on Course 3. They both go missing with **Jordan** finally returning to the front at 20 where he began handling and staying closer. He logged a nice find near Mario's Hill and the bird was put to flight with the dog exhibiting good style and excellent manners. After being sent on **Jordan** was unable to get into his normal all age running gear so the handler picked him up at 40. From the start

Roy was a handful with many extended absences. This pattern continued and the tracker came out at 50 when Roy was officially declared gone.

The afternoon braces began with low 40 degree temps and overcast skies.

Brace 4 FC/AFC Clyde's Micro Breeze "**Mike**", Tom Tracy Jr. and DC/AFC Emme's "**Cabo**" De Scipio, Paul Doiron

Mike and Cabo took off in a foot race down the road with Mike peeling off to the right while Cabo went left. Cabo was discovered pointing at 11 in a clump of scrubby trees in the White Post Field. Cabo stood tall and tight through the covey flush and shot. Mike continued moving forward at a medium pace. Cabo pointed again at 15 in the area of the Barking Dog House but no birds were found so he was sent on. At 25 Cabo had a second non productive in the Cotton Fields and was picked up by the handler. Mike continued at a medium pace moving forward searching the likely objectives and found what he was looking for at 50 where he pointed in heavy cover along the Upper Woods Crossing. As the birds were flushed, Mike got a little footsy but was moved on and finished out the hour at a moderate pace.

Brace 5 Shamrock's Sirius "**SI**", Chad Holman and FC/AFC TJ's Prairie "**Blizzard**", Ed Tillson

Both dogs blasted off hanging a left running strong through the horseshoe bend, then crossed over taking different sides, hunting hard for the elusive birds on Course 2. Both exhibited strong forward races at the beginning, shortened up in the middle and finished at a medium pace. SI was found on point at 35 in the tree line in Pine Tree Meadow but no birds were produced. Both dogs finished the hour moving ever forward at a medium pace but neither had bird contact.

Brace 6 FC/AFC Megasmoke Limited Edition "**Ted**", Paul Doiron and Pancha's Prince Edward "**Eddie**", Ed Wild

These two were away in a dash moving quickly along the right edge to the front on Course 3. Ted crossed to the left and pointed at 13 in a brushy area. Ted looked good and showed nice manners through the flush and shot. Both dogs navigated Mario's hill and Ted was found on point shortly thereafter along the tree line at 25. Birds were not produced so he was moved on. Eddie entered the big meadow after Lick Crossing #3 and pointed into a large mott at 29. As the handler kicked around in the heavy cover, Eddie self released and was leashed. We regained the front and found Ted hunting hard at a medium pace through the tighter part of Course 3. He was rewarded at 55 with another covey find in a brushy area just past Lovers Bend. Ted looked good through the flush and shot and finished his hour moving at a medium pace through the Beaver Pond area.

Day Two – Tuesday dawns crisp and cold with clear skies and a temperature of 23 degrees. There are fewer people on the wagon and it is feared by those in the Gallery the frostbite remedies might be in low supply today.

Brace 7 Trademark's Iceman "**Timmy**", Chad Holman and DC/AFC Blueridge "**Major**" Adventure, David Downing

Major, who has just turned 10, was running in his last field trial competition this morning. Both dogs break away fast to the right and the scouts are sent out. The dogs were pointed out by the handlers running to the front and reappear for viewing at 20. **Major** pointed at 28 in the feed plot after Lick Crossing. **Major** stood tall thru the flush and shot and was gathered up and sent on his way. Timmy continued to hunt hard to the front but never encountered birds. Major finished the hour with an inconsistent but forward race. **Major** has had a remarkable career and his legacy will continue in the careers of his up and coming offspring.

Brace 8 FC Hi Proof "**Whizki**", Al Gorrow and FC/AFC TJ's Apache "**Bandit**", Ed Tillson

Both dogs take off with a bang and quickly gain Parish Field showing far to the front. Whizki presents himself beautifully and the handler lets him make his own way feeling no need to direct his every move as Whizki consistently showed to the front in all the right places exhibiting great foot speed and intent. **Bandit**, another 10 year old highly experienced veteran, also put down an exciting all age performance. **Bandit** ate up the course with confidence and intelligence moving always to the far front with the handler singing encouragingly. Both

dogs logged non productives along the way and there was great disappointment among all of us witnessing this brace that no birds were encountered. Always seen moving fast forward either dog could have changed the placements with a find.

Brace 9 DC/AFC Ru-Jem's A Touch of Bourbon "**Chug**", Jerry McGee and FC Wimberley Jim "**Dandy**", Scott Johnson

Chug and Dandy take off on Course 3 hunting hard at a moderate pace and range. Chug logged a non productive at 23 just past Mario's Hill. On the front end of the course Dandy was a tough handle running lateral and coming from behind but finally got going forward and just after Lick Creek Crossing # 3 had a nice covey find at 33 which he handled with style and class. Chug continued moving forward and established point near a mott by the Gas Well. The birds could not be found so Chug was relocated and in his enthusiasm bumped the birds and was collared at 50. Dandy finished the hour running to the front at a medium range and pace.

The afternoon warmed to 60 which made it more comfortable for all the spectators.

Brace 10 FC KB's Shadow "**Dancer**", Jim John and DC Quail Rock Tough Enough "**King**", Paul Doiron
The dogs cast to the right off the breakaway and reappeared on the tree line at the first turn. At 13 point was called on the left for Dancer and on the right for King. No birds were produced for Dancer and he was sent on. A single was flushed for King after a relocate with all in order. Both dogs continued moving to the front through the Lick Creek Crossing #1. Dancer carded another non-productive at 26 in the Cotton Fields and was picked up. King's performance became tenuous and was not meeting the handler's expectations so he was picked up at 32.

Brace 11 FC/AFC Dakota "**Luke**", Ed Wild and Trademark's ATM "**Cash**", Chad Holman

These two were released intent on finding birds. Cash's first bird encounter occurred at 8 with a nice covey find. He was mannerly through the flush and shot and moved forward at a moderate pace. Luke made a few nice casts but worked close for the most part. Luke went on point at 40 in the Horton Pond Field, was relocated but the birds could not be found so he was moved on. The dogs continued moderately down the course with Cash pointing again at 50. He stood tight while the covey was flushed and the shot fired. Both dogs shortened up and finished the hour at a slower pace.

Brace 12 FC/AFC Kinwashkly Dakota Molester "**Lester**", Jim John and NFC/DC/AFC Shady's "**Tia**" Maria, Jimmy Berneathy

Both dogs blow out at the start with fast, animated intent. Tia was found buried up in a line of short trees on the left at 9. Birds were produced and Tia stood tall and mannerly through the flush and shot. As the dogs moved forward both were spotted on point in a heavily treed area at 25. No birds were produced for Lester and he was moved on. Judges and handler got off their horses and moved into the thick tangled underbrush looking for Tia's birds. Handler went down a slope when he yelled birds up and fired. Neither judge was able to see the handler or hear the birds rise in the thick cover. Like the pro she is Tia ignored the drama and remained intense throughout the long ordeal. When everyone became disentangled Tia was moved on without further ado. At 38 point was called for Lester by the scout way the heck off the beaten path. The handler, Judges and a few more of us finally arrived in a lather to find Lester waiting patiently and intently in a feed plot near the old corral. He stood tall and tight through the flush and shot and a long fast gallop was required to regain the front. Both dogs continued running strong and forward through the tight area of Course 3. Tia carded another find at 57 which she handled with style and class. Both dogs finished out the hour with strong forward movements.

Day Three – At 33 degrees it's about 10 degrees warmer this morning with only a few clouds.

Brace 13 FC The "**Rock**" II, Tom Tracy Jr. and FC Royal Reverend "**Luke**", Ben Lorenson

Both dogs break to the left running hard and pushing forward. Point was called for Rock at 15 and a covey was produced with all in order through the flush and shot. Luke pointed at 24 in a hedgerow but no birds were produced. Both dogs ran the edges through the Cotton Fields with Rock pointing at 31. Birds came up with all

in order and the dog was moved on. Both dogs were found standing at 38 in a hedgerow in the Cotton Fields. Rock was credited with the point and Luke the honor. A covey was produced with both dogs exhibiting excellent manners. Luke moved only a short distance before slamming on point at 41. Birds were produced with Luke standing tall and mannerly. Rock ran a strong all age race but coming down the stretch he was seen chasing birds and ordered up at 48. Luke finished the hour running forward along the edges on the right side.

Brace 14 Grand Junction “**Jake**”, Chad Holman and FC/AFC MTB Cabo “**Rita**” De Scipio, Paul Doiron
Jake and Rita had a fast forward breakaway. Jake put down a nicely executed race, moving forward through all the likely objectives along Course 2 but never had bird contact. Rita had a fast snappy style at the beginning with extended forward casts. At 40 she had a non-productive and at 50 she was not working to the handler’s satisfaction so he picked her up.

Brace 15 DC Starlight’s Blazing Sirius “**Sy**”, Bob Burchett and Boudreaux’s “**JJ**” Johnson, Scott Johnson
Both dogs take off on Course 3 pushing hard to the front. Sy made a big lateral cast and appeared back to the front. JJ had an extended absence but reappeared to the front at 20. Sy had a non productive at 30 and had to be urged to move on by the handler. When he finally got going he was never seen again and the tracker was requested at 45. JJ pointed at 33 with the birds being produced while JJ stood tall and mannerly through the flush and shot. JJ had a non productive at 42 near the gas well but at 47 he pointed again and this time birds were produced with everything in order and he was sent on. JJ continued running moderately to the front past the Beaver Pond making a nice cast along the tree line. Birds were observed in the air but it was unclear if the dog was involved so JJ finished out the hour moving forward at a moderate pace.

It has really warmed up for the afternoon braces with a temperature a very warm 71 degrees.

Deleted: Day Three –

Brace 16 FC “**Trace**” of Time, Chad Holman and DC/AFC TJ’s Single Shot of Scipio “**Emme**”, Paul Doiron
These dogs break away fast and forward intent on just “gittin ‘ur done”. This was a brace that had the gallery sitting forward in their saddles as the dogs both ran consistently fast and forward. Both handlers kept it simple allowing the dogs to work independently through all the likely objectives on Course 1. Emme first pointed birds at 15 and looked like a million bucks through the flush and shot. Trace pointed at 18 but the birds could not be located so he was moved on. Both dogs roared through the Lick Creek Crossing #1 into the Cotton Fields. Trace pointed in the feed plot at 25 and stood tall and tight as the birds were flushed and the shot fired. At 32 both dogs were found separately on point in the Upper Woods area. Birds were produced for Trace with no complications and he was sent forward. Emme was relocated but her birds could not be found so she was moved on. As Hayden Camp was approached Trace was working the right line and Emme the left line. Emme pointed at 53 in tall grass. The birds were flushed and the shot fired with Emme standing picture perfect. Both dogs used up all of Course 1 and continued down the river edge where they disappeared into the heavy cover. Trace popped out far to the front as time was called and Emme was observed farther down the same edge gaining momentum for a strong finish.

Brace 17 FC Tequila Dynamite “**Mike**”, Bob Burchett and FC Tequila Joker’s “**Jose**” Cuervo, Jimmy Berneathy

Like a shot both dogs head for the corner to the right running the tree line in a fast forward race. They shoot thru the middle casting back to the left for Mike while Jose remained on the right tree line. Point was called for Mike at 24 along the tree line in Parish Field. While the handler attempted to locate the birds Mike self released and was collared at 25. While galloping to regain the front we observed Jose making a monster move around the fish hook moving forward with great speed and intent. As we round the corner catching up to the front we see Jose on the handler’s saddle. The 70 degree temperature combined with high humidity had given the handler cause to be concerned for 10-1/2 year old Jose’s overheated condition. Having only his well being in mind the decision was made to pick up this grand old champion. In this his last race Jose showed the stuff true champions are made of. Happy retirement Old Man.

Brace 18 FC Linvel's "Ace" of Diamonds, Tom Tracy Jr and Breton's Gold Run Ruffian "Runner", Ed Tillson

In the last brace of the day Ace and Runner blew out the front at the start with Ace immediately going missing. Ace was brought into the gallery by the scout at 25 only to find the handler was missing. Ace then proceeded to make a giant left hand turn the wrong way and left the area with the scout in pursuit. The handler was found shortly thereafter and advised his dog had been declared MIA at 30. Runner was unable to move consistently forward logging multiple show ups from the back so the handler elected to pick him up at 28.

Day Four – The temps have dropped again and we begin the morning braces with a chilly 25 degree reading under clear skies. Only about 6 people are brave enough to ride the dog wagon this morning.

Brace 19 FC "Jake" Acres in Disguish, Al Corrow and Maxwell's Gun Smoke "Pete", Ben Lorenson

These dogs immediately disappeared down the right side not to be seen again until they both appeared crossing the road at 12. At 13 Jake bumped the birds that had consistently been in the feed plot on the right side of the road and was picked up. Pete was still no where to be seen when the scout got the message from Mary Jo that he was on the pavement. The scout and handler got him through the road gate and he showed to the front through Lick Creek Crossing #1 but was gone again at 20. At 40 the dog was declared officially gone and the tracker came out.

Brace 20 FC/AFC Megasmoke Grand Finale "Al", Paul Doiron and Rebel Jac's Hammering Dandy "Jac"

This brace began at the cut off for Course 3 but continued onto Course 2 through the marshy field. Both dogs ran forward thru the marshy field towards the Upper Woods Crossing. Point was called for Al at 5 in the tree line to the right of the Lower Woods Crossing. The bird was produced with Al standing tall with good manners. As we continued Handler Holman made a giant cast down the left tree line only to hear POINT called for Jac who was standing tall and tight along the same tree line at 7. Birds were produced with the dog exhibiting good manners and style. Al ran an animated moderate race but the handler expected more so picked him up at 40. Jac continued to run a fast forward all age race running strong to the front. At 38 point was called for Jac but no birds were produced so he was moved on. As we approached the old corral area the birds that were hanging out there took to flight, Jac froze, the shot was fired and a stop to flush was logged. At 53 birds again took flight with the dog standing rigid to the stop to flush. A shot was fired and he was moved forward. Jac was handled quietly throughout the race and finished the hour moving forward at an extended range.

Brace 21 FC/AFC The Far Side's Kid "Amee", Al Gorrow and KD's Slip and Slide "Splash", Ed Tillson

Both of these dogs broke away in stealth mode. Splash was seen crossing the road at 5 but did not resurface so the tracker was requested at 38. Amee, another 10-1/2 year old veteran, was zipping around invisibly until she uncloaked long enough to allow us to watch her work the area around Mario's Hill before going missing again. At 58 her handler called for the tracker so she was officially declared missing at time. Amee exhibited a tremendous amount of spunk for a veteran and was exciting to watch when we got the chance to see her.

The afternoon braces are run in bright sunshine with a temperature around 46 degrees. About six people are on the dog wagon to enjoy the activities.

Brace 22 FC T & W's Diamond "Jim", Ed Wild and Harling's Breton Smith "Brett", Chad Holman

The dogs broke fast to the front before Jim peeled to the right and Brett dove into the trees on the left. Jim was seen under birds at 9 and ordered up. These particular birds were the demise of a few other competitors and were consistently hanging out in this feed plot in the Big Oak Field. A non productive was carded for Brett at 19 and he just never got going to his handlers liking after that so he was picked at 22.

Brace 23 DC TC's Match Boks Racer "Rob", David Downing and Brisco's Mr. "Stub", Ray Trimble

These dogs were put down just after the Lick Creek Crossing #1 and almost immediately after their release Stub went on point in some tall grass on the right side. No birds were produced even with a relocate effort so Stub was moved on. Both dogs continued to move forward at a medium pace hitting the edges. At 20 the handler

spotted Stub buried up in some tall thick brush. Birds were produced with the dog exhibiting good style and nice manners. At 32 while making our way back to the front birds took flight and Stub slammed on the brakes and was credited with a nice stop to flush. At 34 Stub had another non productive so the handler picked him up. Rob continued to work steadily to the front edges at a moderate range but never had bird contact.

Brace 24 Belle's Beau "**Max**", Vic Carrington and CH Shadow Attack "**Tack**", Ed Tillson

These guys hit the ground running strong to the front. Max slammed on point at 3 in the tree line at the Lower Woods Crossing. The dog looked terrific through the flush and as he was gathered up Tack was found standing just down the line. Birds were not produced for Tack so both dogs move boldly forward making some really nice all age casts and eating up the course. At 38 Tack was pointing into heavy cover just off the horse trail in the old corral area. Max came in and honored with style. The birds were not found during the first kick around so the handler relocated Tack. At this time Max was moved on by his handler. Tack quickly but intelligently pinned the running covey and they were put to flight with Tack standing tall and mannerly. After the shot the dog was moved forward rapidly to regain the front. At 52 Max was found standing near a mott of trees on the right side of the horse trail and simultaneously Tack was pointing with a great deal of intensity into another mott of trees on the left side. A large covey was produced for Tack which he handled with perfect manners. No birds were found for Max so both dogs were moved forward. Tack finished out the hour looking strong and moving ever forward. Max set a more moderate race toward the finish.

Day Five – Today is heavily overcast but slightly warmer at 26 degrees

Brace 25 DC Havapal's Renegade "**Billy**" Boy, Bob Burchett and Traveler's New Twist "**Trait**", Paul Doiron

These guys hit the ground and were immediately gone on the right. At 22 Mary Jo advised Billy was on the pavement and the handler went to get him back on course. He was brought through the road gate and rejoined Trait who had just reappeared on the horse trail at 25. Both dogs move rapidly to the front through Lick Creek Crossing #1. Trait went on point at 30 and a nice covey was flushed and fired over. Everything was in order and Trait was moved on. Trait found more birds at 34 which he handled with nice manners. At 56 Billy went on point along the river bank but no birds were produced. Billy finished the hour with no bird contact. Trait finished to the front still hunting hard.

Brace 26 Mustang "**Sally**" VIII, Tom Tracy Jr. and FC Micro T "**Mike**", Scott Johnson

This pair broke away enthusiastically. Sally hit the cover and went missing early on. At 34 she was officially gone and the tracker was requested. Mike moved forward through the course hitting likely objectives but handling a little rough. Shortly after entering Parish Field Mike goes on point but as the handler approached he bumped the birds and was leashed at 44.

Brace 27 DC/AFC Redline's Tequila Smoker "**Smokey**", Paul Doiron and NAFC/FC/AFC Maxwell's White Spirit "**Butch**", Ben Lorensen

As they broke away from the horse bridge on Course 3 Butch took off with a bang to the right while the veteran **Smokey** made a big cast to the left through the Lower Woods Crossing where he got hung up in a heavily treed area behind him. The handler finally got him turned forward and they were back on course at 10. Butch made some really nice moves along the right side and at 20 is found pointing near Mario's Hill. No birds were found and Butch was released to hunt some more. Butch pointed again at 35 in heavy cover along the horse trail. As he began his relocation the running birds were ridden up by someone's horse so the handler fired with Butch handling the crowded area in a mannerly fashion. At 28 near the pavilion **Smokey** appeared to be favoring his left shoulder so the handler picked up the old man. **Smokey** will now retire but his legacy will leave an impression, not only through his own successes but through the successes of his offspring who are now competing in events across the country. Butch continued to make some terrific all age moves hitting all the far objectives and finishing out his hour along the heavily treed river area.

The afternoon warmed up to about 46 degrees with light cloud coverage

Brace 28 FC/AFC White Mountain Smoke “**Bud**”, Chad Holman and DC/AFC Jayhawker Tequila With A Twist “**Taryn**”, Ed Tillson

This brace featured the newly crowned National Best of Breed Taryn and her braced mate Bud. Off they went both dogs making long wide casts to the right into the woods. They were seen sporadically mostly running together to the front before they checked in at 22 as they move through the Lick Creek Crossing #1. At 28 Taryn established point at the site of many covey finds on the right side of the horse path near the Old Corral. Bud came in and backed politely. When Taryn was relocated Bud was moved on. No birds were found so Taryn was sent on her way. In the area of the Twin Ponds both dogs weren't making any moves that were particularly appealing so both handlers elected to pick them up at 40.

Brace 29 Rocklan's Whizzle Stop “**Whiz**”, Bob Burchett and FC/AFC Gun Runner's Lady's Man “**Lute**”, Jimmy Berneathy

The minute these guys were turned loose you got the feeling they had one thing on their mind and that was to find some birds. **Lute** was the first to accomplish this mission with a nice covey find at 6. The birds were flushed and the shot fired with **Lute** standing tall and tight. Next Whiz coveys up at 20. He looked great on the birds and exhibited excellent manners to the flush and shot. Both dogs continued down the course with Whiz making fast forward moves while **Lute** worked at a more moderate pace and range. At 50 Whiz had another find and as the birds were flushed he took a few steps and was picked up. The veteran **Lute** finished out his hour moving forward at a reduced pace.

Brace 30 FC Early Times “**Earl**”, Tom Tracy Jr and FC/AFC Ru-Jem's Stop N Watch “**Quill**”, Jerry McGee
These dogs had a spirited breakaway on Course 3 moving quickly though the Lower Woods Crossing. Earl established point at 10 and looked terrific as the birds were flushed and the shot fired. Quill pointed along a tree line at 18 with great intensity. The birds were flushed and the shot fired with everything orderly and he was moved on. Quill pointed again at 22 with no birds produced. Earl slowed down the pace and at 40 the handler picked him up. Quill finished out the hour moving forward at a modest pace and range.

Day Six – Final day of competition is frosty at 26 with very light clouds.

Brace 31 FC/AFC Harlan County “**Cowboy**” and NAFC/FC/AFC Maxwell's Blew By You “**Chuck**”, Terry Maxwell

Cowboy scratched and Chuck was released solo. This year's NAFC took off to the right and was seen running the left tree line at 9. Chuck worked through Licks Crossing #1 showing boldly to the front. Chuck entered the Cotton Fields at 28 where he spent a little too much time circling the same mott and revisiting the same tree line. He disappeared shortly thereafter and at time had not been seen for a while. Chuck was found on point in the feed strip at the end of Course 1 during the grace period. Several birds were produced with Chuck standing tall and tight through the flush and shot. The judges had seen all they needed to see so we headed to start the next brace.

Brace 32 Chief's “**Gunner**”, Dave Jones and FC Shady's The Price Is Right “**Steele**”, Paul Doiron

The dogs were released on Course 2 and both ran straight towards the horseshoe bend. Steele came through the crossing at 5 but Gunner got hung up and didn't reappear until 24 when the scout brought him forward. Steele continued a moderate race moving forward through the course hunting hard and looking fresh. Handler Jones continued singing a melodious tune for Gunner who was very unresponsive. Gunner was brought forward again at 56 and was picked up. Steele continued moving forward to finish out the hour at a snappy pace but had no bird contact.

Brace 33 FC Tsunami “**Sue**”, Scott Johnson and Trucker's Wild Ride “**Rider**”, Ray Trimble

These dogs took off on Course 3 and at 1 **Sue** was pointing in the feed strip right after the crossing. She looked terrific on point and stood tall and tight thru the flush and shot. At 11 both dogs were standing on the right in the Lower Woods Crossing tree line. As we got closer it became apparent **Sue** was pointing and **Rider** was

honoring. The bird was produced with both dogs mannerly to the flush and shot. At 27 Rider was found pointing in tall grass just past Mario's Hill. No birds were found on the relocate so Rider was moved on. Sue logged a non productive at 34 and a stop to flush at 40. At 46 Sue pointed in a grassy strip in the area of the Gas Well. A covey was flushed with Sue exhibiting nice style and excellent manners. Rider had another non productive at 50 so he was picked up. Sue continued her quick snappy forward race through Beaver Pond Slough. With six minutes remaining Sue dove into the heavily treed river bottom area and headed backwards. She was brought out five minutes later by the handler. This little excursion might have cost her a piece of this Championship because up to that point she had executed a snappy forward all age race with a ton of stylish impeccably executed bird work.

The running was now completed and we all headed back to the Club House to wait for the announcements.