



# 2009 ABC National Amateur Gun Dog Championship

October 20-24, 2009 • Ionia, Michigan

Reported by Darlene Dow • Photos courtesy of Ed Lehosky and Julie Romence



Left to right: Brian Henderickson, Sue Lehosky, Drew Carter, three friends from Norway, Jim Carter with Champion NGDC/FC/AFC PETER GUNN, Judge Lyle Johnson, Kathy Byrne, Larry Bates with Runner-up DC/AFC SWEETWATER BILLY TUCKER, Judge Kevin Byrne, Sue Bates, Al Cropek, granddaughter Kylie with third place winner NAGDC/FC/AFC HIGH HOPE'S FLY BY NITE, Judge Wade Haines, Cindy Cropek, granddaughter Desiree, two friends from Norway, Ray Gorman with fourth place winner FC/AFC COOS RYLEE, Roger McPherson, and Ron Gulembo.

Leaves crunching or more appropriately for this stake slipping under foot – it was late fall and that means gun dog nationals. The amateur event immediately followed the open in the last weeks of October. Spirits were high while the weather was damp making walking treacherous and slippery in the mud due to the onslaught of rain on the day prior and the first day of the event. The last vestiges of leaves could still be seen on the trees. On occasion a lone tree would be standing tall and colorful amongst a group of barren ones. We were joined this year by several new faces from California and also a contingent of fellow Brittany lovers from Norway. I was very fortunate to have met most of this group two years ago at the all age nationals in Booneville and it was a very pleasant surprise to have them show up just in time for the rousing open calcutta. They stayed for the whole event riding the dog wagon, a horse when they got the opportunity and walked braces. Their enthusiasm for this little gun dog is astounding. They also brought an inscribed crystal vase for the winner(s) of the Open & Amateur Championship.

We need to give special thanks to our corporate sponsors. Purina supplied dog food for all entrants and the winners. Tri-Tronics provided a 500 collar to the winner. It goes without saying special thanks need to be given to the stewards of the stake. They were back again this year to keep everything running smoothly: course marshal Ron Gulembo who kept everyone on track and Kathy Byrne who kept everyone well fed with her wonderful lunches. Chuck & Theda Langstaff for being our dog wagon driver and tour guide and of course, Jane Hopper for getting the dogs where they needed to be. Also, Brian Hendrickson, Sue Lehosky, Cindy Cropek along with many others without whom this event would not take place. Special thanks to Bob Burchett for hanging around after the open to bag birds and bird plant for the amateur stake.

Special thanks go to Jeff and Gina Currier for hosting the party on Saturday

evening in honor of 2008 NAGDC/DC/AFC Triumphant's To Hot to Handle JH. They hosted a wonderful pig roast with many "hot" decorations. The karaoke machine was a big hit! Jeff was thrilled to have his parents, Dennis and Kathy Currier, come all the way from northern New Hampshire to enjoy the festivities.

Our judges, Kevin Byrne of West Olive, MI, Lyle Johnson of Wichita, KS and Wade Haines of Pastakala OH gave their rapt attention in often difficult weather conditions to the fine assemblage of 43 dogs brought to the line with the winner emerging from brace 6. Newly named 2009 Open Gun Dog Champion and now 2009 National Amateur Gun Champion, Peter Gunn, had 7 finds and handled smoothly with few voice commands. It was indeed teamwork.

Pete is an orange and white male out of NAFC/FC/AFC Walker's Gunner and Bullet's Renegade Miss Megan. Bred, trained and owned by Jim Carter and his wife Drew. He was the 3rd pick of the litter. Jim kept a male & female that were the first picks and they were sent off to a professional trainer. There was just something Jim liked about this little fella so he kept him to train himself. Once all three started to compete this "also ran" was beating them every time in juvenile stakes. At 16 months old he started out in broke gun dog stakes. A month later he placed in a 26 dog amateur gun dog stake qualifying him for the nationals. Thinking he may never get another chance Jim and Pete "trained like crazy". Pete was posted that first year and was posted again the following two years. At the ripe old age of 5 this was the year for Pete and Jim. It all came together for them. Jim and Pete have a special bond that is quite visible when you see them running. That also holds true outside of the competition arena. If you ever go to Dr. Jim's vet clinic, don't be surprised to find Pete having full range of the place. There is nothing sweeter than having done all the work yourself to reach this pinnacle. Pete is the only dog since the split to horseback and



walking of the National Gun Dog Championship to win both in the same year. I guess it will be a tough task to keep the dust off of both iron dogs and crystal vases!

No stranger to national placements is runner-up DC/AFC Sweetwater Billy Tucker, handled by Larry Bates. Tucker and 4th place dog FC/AFC Coos Rylee came from first brace on the second day. Another familiar name in the placements is third place finisher NAGDC/FC/AFC High Hopes Fly By Nite, Zoey, handled by Al Cropek coming from the first brace on Monday afternoon. The judges also gave a Judges Award of Merit to Little Rock It Man, handled by Shan Wessels, he ran in the eighth brace.

Six braces a day were run with the exception of the last day where it was decided 4 braces would be run in the morning.

**Day 1 – Saturday** the weather was intermittent rain all day.

Brace 1 FC BROOK'S LITTLE PETE, Opie, owner/handler Jim Carter and JAZZ'S SWEETEST LITTLE SECRET, Karo, owners Gil & Jane Hopper, handler Gil – Both dogs broke straight up the hill on course 1 with Opie going wider to the right at the top. Point was called for Opie by the scout on the far side right hand edge running parallel to the two-track at 4 minutes. He re-established point zeroing in on the bird prior to Jim getting there. All was in order and he was released to go up the hedge row farther and point again. Once again all was fine. Opie went on to have 5 more finds at 12, 25, 30, 35 and 45 finishing the brace by gathering steam and getting out of pocket at times. All of this while being blind in one eye. After Opie's first find I lost contact with Karo and the front judges. I was not to see the rest of her performance. Judges accounted that she made the hour with a clean find at 42 minutes and her run was of the average range.

Brace 2 FC KING OF POPS, King, owner Freeman Riggle, handler Steve Tubach and CH/AFC SWIFT RIVER'S PIVOTAL MOMENT, Aja, owner/handler Jane Bjork Flanagan – This brace broke away at the derby course. At 5 before the wet creek crossing Aja pointed with King backing. Jane elected to relocate and Steve took King on. The relocation was successful. Steve deserves special recognition. The creek was running high from all the rain and the boards could not be put across for handlers to navigate. Dogs were lifted on horses & Steve braved the knee high water to get across. Jane

was much obliged to Al Cropek for lending her his horse so she could get across. This was in 40 degree weather. They were the only handlers to have to endure this. After the creek crossing at 19 at the end of the right hedgerow heading into the orchard King was pointing with nice style. All was in order and at this point Aja caught up. Aja is snappy runner while King was more methodical. She hunted the orchard in all the likely spots. King had a second find in the orchard. King had to be relocated and one of the judges insisted that I add to the report that his relocation was the nicest he had ever seen. King moved 20 feet and “slammed on point as if he hit a brick wall”. All was in order with King's find and they both worked uneventfully through the shotgun field. At 33 in the line of oaks at the hill bottom Aja went on point with King backing. All was in order and both dogs worked the edge of the woods before the right turn to the dyke crossing. King was rewarded with another find with Aja working in to a back. After the very muddy dyke crossing King worked the right side while Aja the left. King had another find with high and tight style well off the birds. After moving on King disappeared at 53 to be found standing at the end of the left hedgerow after the gap. Ultimately it turns out he was backing Aja who was found deep in the hedgerow. There was a suspected indiscretion and Jane elected to pick her up. King finished the hour at medium range.

Brace 3 CH AJAX FREQUENT FLYER, Miles, owners John & Judy Marinelli, handler Hap Harrison and FC/AFC IN IT FOR THE FUN MH, Dude, owner/handler Wayne Hale – Both dogs broke nicely with both going on point at 3. The judges called a divided find. Not much later Dude had an indiscretion to be picked up. Miles really slammed point hard at 5 to the right side with terrific style. All was in order and shortly thereafter he pointed on a strip between two mowed strips. He was relocated twice and a non-productive was carded. He had a find to the gap at 13 minutes, but he couldn't resist temptation and it ended his hour.

Brace 4 CH/AFC REQUETS ABOVE AND BEYOND, Jet, owners Kristi Anglen and Diane Requet, handler Carl Anglen and FC BULLOCHS FIRST IN LINE ALVIN, JH, Alvin, owners John and Terra Bulloch, handler John – Jet handled close for the first 5 minutes. Alvin made a terrific move to the right rimming the field and cutting through a gap far out moving forward into the next field. Alvin had staunch find at 15 heading up the hedgerow that borders Hire's field with Jet backing. After being released he had another leg up beautiful point at 18 in the gap to Hire's field. At 24 at the right edge of the barn field Alvin had another classy find. After being released Alvin crossed the big fields and he handled the edges to be called on point at 35 by the scout on the hedgerow coming back before the hill. When released, he went half way down the hill and cut left and buried himself on point in the hedgerow. At 40 birds were raised and John had gun issues. The scout fired with the consent of the judges and then guns were traded. Unfortunately, in the field to the right towards the bottom of the hill Alvin was cutting through and a bird popped and Alvin went with it to end his very exciting hour. Having been separated in the meantime Jet was carded with a clean find at 38. However, Carl elected to pick him up early.

Brace 5 AFC CASCO BAY JASPER, Jasper, owner/handler Peter Mazzaglia and RU-JEM'S PRARIE WIN, Win, owners Gill & Jane Hopper, handler Gil – At 8 Win went on point to the right at the bottom of the hill before the creek crossing. Jasper was getting a drink in a puddle, stood up and backed. Jasper went on point to the left of the derby course before the creek crossing with Win backing. He was relocated, but nothing was put up while Gil had taken Win on. Win then went on point to the left before



the creek crossing, but it turned out to be a dead bird with no dog involved. Jasper was also on point at the same time. Peter again relocated Jasper up the hedgerow and he stopped again, birds lifted with all in order. Jasper was the wider of the two requiring more handling. The water was lower in the afternoon at the wet crossing with boards back in place for the handlers to cross. An indiscretion occurred while heading into the field before the orchard with both dogs involved and that ended the brace for them.

Brace 6 FC DERAILED, Teddy, owners Cindy & Al Cropek, handler Cindy and NGDC/FC/AFC PETER GUNN, owner/handler Jim Carter DVM. The breakaway occurred heading to the orchard. Both dogs broke forward with Teddy a good looking orange roan, working hard and wide to the left. At 3 point was called and it took Cindy a couple of minutes to be able to get to him. He held high and tight for the clean find. Unfortunately, he was picked up a few minutes later at the owner/scout's request for an out of sight mishap in the orchard. Pete hunted the orchard hard and then worked the whole left edge of the shot gun range. He went on point at the long stand of oaks at the bottom of the hill. All in order and he was moved on. He worked the left line and then worked the right woods edge before the right turn before the dyke crossing. He was rewarded with another find at 13. After crossing the dyke he hunted the forest in front and then worked up the hill, rimmed the top and swooped back down to go on point. After a lengthy relocation he was moved on with a non-productive carded. After going through the gap Jim sent him left and he took the line to the end. The scout was sent and point was called at 33. Manners were in order and Pete was moved on. On approach at the crest of the hill, Pete was standing to the right not too far off the two-track with another find. Breaking away again he was found in the next field pointing into the hedgerow. Birds were produced. At 51 he had another find in the edge at the fields heading to the Sessions Creek Crossing. Jim whistled Pete to the right as the group crossed the gap into the field and he was rewarded with Pete taking the whole right line all the way around to the end and crossing in front continuing up the line. He was called back to make the creek crossing. Pete still had a lot of gas left in the tank.

**Day 2 – Sunday.** Weather was cloudy with the threat of rain.

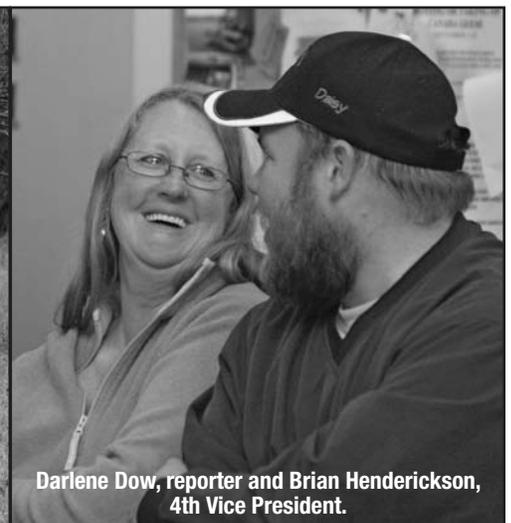
Brace 7 DC/AFC SWEETWATER BILLY TUCKER, Tucker, owners Larry & Sue Bates, handler Larry and FC/AFC COOS RYLEE, Rylee, owner/handler Ray Gorman – Both dogs started a little short going up the breakaway hill, but opening up more at the top. Tucker worked the right hand edge parallel to the road and was rewarded with his first find at 6. Rylee worked further ahead into the next field and had a find at 9. As Rylee worked forward into Hires field, Tucker came through and had a find where Rylee's bird had flushed. He then worked the left edge while Rylee worked the right of the hedgerow separating the field from Hire's field. At 16 Rylee stopped with Tucker coming in for the back. Ray elected to relocate Rylee and Tucker was moved on. After a second relocation a tiny quail lifted in the grass. Meanwhile Tucker was working the left edge of Hire's field and stopped in the mott of trees with the feeder. Rylee came in for the back. They both went through the gap into the barn field with Tucker working the right side and Rylee the left. Tucker took the whole mowed line to be rewarded with a find at 27. Rylee had worked across the field in front of Ray and as both dogs moved forward on the right they went on point at 31 quite a ways

from each other. Both had successful finds. At 45 Rylee had another find. Rylee made a nice move working the left edge of two fields to come in and back Tucker standing at 48. Tucker shortened some at the end with Rylee being out of pocket. He must have gone grouse hunting because at time he appeared at the bottom of the hill to the right emerging from the woods.

Brace 8 AFC LITTLE ROCK IT MAN, Rock It, owners Shan & Linda Wessels, handler, Shan and UNE'S BLAZING JAKE, Jake, Jim & Mary Cullor, handler Jim Cullor – Breakaway was at the derby course with both dogs running strong to the front. Rock It worked wide left before the creek crossing and went on point at 6. Nice staunch style. Shan took the creek crossing in 4 hops across the boards. Both dogs worked the whole left edge way to the front by the gun dog parking lot. Jake was out of touch with his handler most of the time. Rock It went on point at 15 to the right of the orchard with Jake working the left. A successful find and Rock It was moved on to have another find in the orchard at 19. It had been pre-arranged with the judges that if Jim couldn't make the hour due to a medical condition an alternate handler could take over. This was called for and Kyle, who had been walking the whole brace, took over. This put him quite a ways behind Rock It and Jake. Down the hill from the shotgun range Rock It was making game on the line before the right turn to the Dyke. Jake also came in and pointed. Both dogs stood for quite a long time while Kyle jogged to catch up. Each had their own birds and were moved forward for the dyke crossing. After the crossing Jake worked wide to the right sweeping down off the hill to point in a small stand of trees. The bird lifted behind the handler and all was in order. Rock It was not seen for a couple of minutes, but was found to the front. Both worked the course forward and hard. Deer were spotted on course with Jake being the suspect chaser. He disappeared again for quite some time while Shan had Rock It working the edges. At 59 Rock It went on point far of the right hand edge. Jake came by and failed to back finishing his nice forward bid. Feathers were found and the brace ended on that note. Special merit by the judges was given to Rock It.

Brace 9 NAGDC/DC/AFC TRIUMPHANT TO HOT TO HANDLE JH, Nitro, owners Jeff & Gina Currier, handler Jeff and FC/AFC WRIGLEY'S FIRST DANCE, Jazz, owners Gil & Jane Hopper, handler Gil – Nitro & Jazz broke away in the big field north of the dyke. Both worked fairly close at the onset. Moving into the next fields they worked the edges kindly. After Sessions Creek crossing in the Nitro jumped into the hedgerow on the left with Jazz doing the same up in front. At 9 point was called for both dogs at the same time. A single was produced for Jazz and she was moved forward. The front judge saw Nitro's bird and told Jeff to fire, but he and the other judges apparently didn't here him. So, a lengthy multiple relocation was attempted, but did not produce other birds. After just being moved forward, Nitro went on point in a small grouping of brush and trees with a single produced. His race wasn't up to his stellar performance of last year and at 35 handler elected to pick up. Jazz was quite a ways forward and when we caught up she was also picked up by her handler.

Brace 10 AFC EIBHEAR OF AUTEN, Bear, owners Jeanne & Ronald Telfare handler, Ron and SPRING HILL PANCHO DEL PRADO, Pancho, owners Steve & Mary Lauterbach, handler Steve – Both dogs broke up the two track with Pancho going left at the top of the hill and Bear going to the right. Pancho worked the whole left inside woods edge to pop out at 11 o'clock in front



Darlene Dow, reporter and Brian Henderickson, 4th Vice President.



Brace 14 DC/AFC GINJAC'S HEATING IT UP, Cajun, owners Jeff Currier & Jeanne Rozowski, handler Jeff and CH SGT'S SMOKY MTN MOONSHINE, Jack, owners Sandy Sargent & Steve Tubach, handler Sandy Sargent – Breakaway on the derby course with both dogs going strong and forward. Cajun hunted the obvious places heading to the creek crossing while Jack worked up the hill and was rewarded with a find on the left hedgerow. He had a second find before the creek crossing while Cajun worked ahead taking the whole left edge of the field before the shotgun range. Jack had caught the front and momentum was building as they entered the orchard. At 14 Jack pointed in the two-track with Cajun swinging in for the back on what turned out to be a dead bird. Sandy had to catch up to Jack standing and realized she had lost her gun on the course. A replacement was found and both dogs worked the orchard working opposite sides. Jack had a find at 20 with Cajun going on point at 23 on the end of the right hedgerow before the shotgun field. Jack approached after Cajun's find with both dogs heading into the shotgun field together. Cajun worked the whole left inside edge popping out at the end while Jack patterned in front of his handler. At 30 in the row of oaks at the bottom of the hill Jack had another find with the bird flying directly over Cajun's head as he worked the far hedgerow. Kudos to that dog for not having any issues with that bird. Cajun worked the hillside

of Steve. Bear worked the right side hedge rows going on point at 8. An indiscretion occurred and he was done for the day. Pancho had his running shoes on and was out of pocket quite a bit. He showed in the big fields before going down the hill and was gone again. When observed, he was working the edges hard. At 38 Steve called for the tracker.

Brace 11 DC/AFC SCIROCO DEL PRADO, Ricco, owners Les & Donna Casselberry, handler Les and FC/AFC PALE RIDER, Duke, owner/handler John Sala – Breakaway at the top of the hill before the boy scout bridge. With Ricco working left and Duke to the right. At 3 Duke went on point multiple birds lifted and all was in order. Both dogs gathered steam as they went. At 16 Duke was out of pocket returning at 22 to swing way high to the left on the derby course. Last seen going away over the wooden bridge handler elected to pick him up. Ricco also worked hard to the left coming down off the hill and going into the brush. Scout called point at 29. A single lifted and Ricco was moved on over the creek crossing. He took the whole left edge in the woods by the shot gun parking lot. As we were about to enter the orchard he slammed point with extreme intensity and style under a small cedar just off the two track. This find gave Ricco his momentum and he was out of pocket at the end of the orchard. He eventually returned and worked the stand of oaks at the bottom of the hill where birds had been pointed previously, but he came up empty and ended the hour.

Brace 12 SANBAR CASTLE BUILT ON LEGENDS, Cody, owners Robert, Carolyn and Polly West, handler Ned Castillo and FC SUEMAC'S LIBERTY BELLE, Libby, owners Sue & Roger McPherson, handler Ray Gorman – Breakaway at the end of the stand of oaks. Unfortunately, Cody got a tough break and a bird lifted with him going with it right after the breakaway. Libby worked her way towards the big oak and working the side hill. She came down and went on point at 6. All in order and she was moved on towards the dyke crossing. After the dyke she worked the right hill coming back down to slam on point in the two track. A bird was produced and she was moved on. At the same time the gallery witnessed the swans lift and fly over the water and land. It was a magnificent display. Meanwhile Libby worked the hedgerows animatedly hunting. At 27 her scout called point with Libby having a nice tight find. Unfortunately, at 38 she returned with a bird and the brace was over.

**Day 3** – Weather was warmer especially in the afternoon braces with no threat of rain.

Brace 13 JETER III, Jeter, owner handler Mike Blondin and WRIGLEY'S REVVED UP CUB, Turbo, owners Petra & Barry Steinmetz handler Gil Hopper – Gallery was small and dog wagon sparse. Both dogs broke forward and went left when the course opened up at the top of the hill. At 5 point was called for Jeter way far right. It must have taken Mike 5 minutes to get to him. In the meantime Turbo worked the course kindly and at 11 had a find at the gap heading into Hire's field. Turbo was consistently forward of moderate range. They both had nice moves going down the barn field. Turbo had multiple finds throughout the brace with a really nice move along the left edge of the big fields before heading down the hill. Mike cut the course some to catch up. Jeter laid down a nice race impressing the judges, but unfortunately he had a small indiscretion to end his hour. Jeter is a young dog and one to watch in the future.

before the dyke. Jack came in for a stop to flush as a bird popped and Cajun was already standing inside the woods. Jeff fired and both dogs were moved across the dyke crossing. At 45 minutes after the dyke crossing both dogs were standing in a grouping of trees and brush to the right. Divided find was called. Jack was starting to shorten up, but entered the gap and worked the perpendicular left hedgerow before the hill while Cajun started to open up and finish lines to the right. As we entered a gap after the field at the top of the hill, Cajun pointed to the right. A kamikaze bird was flushed that tried to take out this reporter, the scout and one of our Norwegian friends. Cajun finished the hour hunting. Jack got behind Cajun, but came through with two more finds to end his hour.

Brace 15 SUEMAC'S BLAZEN BIBI, Bi, owners Sue and Roger McPherson, handler Ray Gorman and FC/AFC HAP'S FAST TRACK ZAK, Zak, owner Sharon Harrison, handler Hap Harrison – Breakaway was in the fields where coffee break is generally held. Both dogs worked fairly close along the left hedgerow and then across the big fields until the Sessions Creek crossing. They opened up more at the crest of the hill. In the next field the dogs were working the left hedgerow where Zak was seen standing, but it turns out he was backing Bibi who was buried deeper in the hedgerow. A bird was produced and Bibi couldn't resist the temptation. Zak was moved forward and at the next hedgerow he worked the complete line to the end locking on point when he got there. There was a double relocation, but no birds were produced. He worked the edges nicely until the top of Cardiac Hill where at 27 he went on point in the woods to the right. He was relocated again and worked the area quite thoroughly. However, no birds were located so Hap picked him up.





Brace 16 NAGDC/FC/AFC HIGH HOPES FLY BY NITE, Zoey, owners Cindy & Al Cropek, handler Al Cropek and 2x NAGDC/DC/AFC CLYDE'S DOUBLE TROUBLE, Dub, owners Kevin & Sandra Remmers handler Kevin – Breakaway was at course 1 at 1:00 p.m. with two former NAGDC. I wonder how American Field manages to do that in the drawing? Both dogs broke up the two-track with Zoey last being seen at the crest of the hill. Point was called for her by the scout at 8-1/2 with her being buried in the hedgerow to the right that parallels the road. Dub was handling kindly working forward with Kevin. At 15 Dub had a stop to flush in the hedgerow bordering Hires field. Zoey cut cross lots into a group of brush and came out with a really smelly dead bird. Dub had worked across Hires field and was standing in the mott of trees with the feeder and Zoey caught up and backed. Both were moved forward and were working towards the right edge of the barn field. A bird popped out in the open and Zoey was carded with a stop to flush. As she worked forward Dub circled and went on point. Birds were produced for him after a lengthy flushing attempt. As Zoey worked forward, Dub had a second non-productive to end his bid. At 35 Zoey was out of pocket again as we crossed the big fields to head down the hill. The gallery called point as the handler and judges must have gone right past her buried deep in the hedgerow to the left. All was and order and as she worked down the hill, she pointed in to the hedgerow to the left. Birds were produced again and Zoey worked forward and at the bottom cardiac hill went on point at 59 to be rewarded with her final find.

Brace 17 FC/AFC RC'S RUFF RANGE, Ruff, owners Rob & Carol Richter, handler Rob and FC/AFC BOUDREAUX'S HI-CALIBER BULLET, Cali, owners Darlene & David Dow, handler Darlene – Breakaway at the derby field. Both dogs patterned forward towards the wet crossing. Cali circled a clump of brush to the right as Ruff came out from under it with a dead bird. It quite obviously had been dead for a while. I personally crossed my fingers to get across the boards without falling. Cali worked the left edge heading towards the shotgun range as did Ruff. Into the orchard Ruff went on point at the far end of the right hand hedgerow. Birds were flushed and all was in order as Cali moved forward on the left. Birds flushed wild without Cali's involvement and handler was directed to collar her and move her past the birds which had landed in the two-track. In the meantime, Ruff worked the right side of the orchard. Both dogs moved into the shotgun field working the whole left edge. Ruff got down the hill first and worked the hedgerow of oaks with Cali doing the same. Ruff was rewarded with a find with Cali coming in for the back. Both dogs were released and moved forward up the perpendicular hedgerow. Both dogs were stopped when came upon by the handlers and judges. Judges reported seeing only meadowlarks, but gallery reported quail flew over their heads in the opposite direction. Both dogs were collared and moved forward with Cali going on point inside the edge of the right hand hedgerow before the turn to the dyke crossing with Ruff backing. All was in order and dogs hunted to the dyke crossing. Both dogs handled kindly and forward working the cover. At 59 scout called point for Cali to the left of the course in a clump of brush with Ruff backing. There was another dead bird and a live one could not be produced to end the hour.

Brace 18 HERE WE GO AGAIN, JJ, owner/handler Wayne Hale and FC HAP'S SPICE RUM LUKE, Luke, owner Sharon Harrison, handler Hap Harrison. Breakaway at the usual coffee break spot. Both dogs broke forward patterning in front of their handlers with Luke being the wider. He was rewarded with a clean find at 9. JJ had a couple of dead bird finds. He reached out and worked the left hand edge while Luke was to the right. Hap's dogs always seem to handle kindly. Unfortunately, neither got it done on this day.

**Day 4** – Naturally the last day was the nicest day of the stake. There were sunny clear blue skies, a small gallery and full dog wagon.

Brace 19 DC/AFC WRIGLEY'S CHIP MAKIN' HIS MARC, Chip, owner/handler Mike Pehler and GREEN MOUNTAIN BRADY, Brady, owner/handler Mike Blondin – Both dogs patterned back and forth until reaching the top of the breakaway hill where Brady disappeared from view. Point was called by the scout in the right hedgerow for Brady at 6 with Chip backing. Mike #2 relocated Brady, but his style was not pleasing the judges he was picked up. Chip went on to have his first stylish find at 11 in the right hedgerow. Upon release he worked forward to the cross hedgerow and went on point at 12. Chip was relocated, but no birds were produced. Chip worked the right edge heading towards the gap leading into Hire's field nicely breaking off only once. Moving forward at 22 he had a find at the feeder under the mott of trees to the left with a hard mark. Upon release he worked the edge to the gap leading into the barn field and was rewarded with a find at 25. After being released again he continued working the hedgerow until he went through a gap and was out of pocket the whole barn field. After quite some time he returned to judgment coming in from the right. He then jumped in to the left and made a terrific inside edge move popping out at the end, crossed the big fields and worked the right edge back towards the gap leading down the hill. At 46 he had a stop to flush to the right, crossed in front and point was called by the scout on the left edge where we had previous bird work. Chip was precariously balanced on a log. At first the only thing flushed was a 10 pt. buck. After a double relocation Mike was able to flush the birds at the edge of the hedgerow. Chip worked on the right going down the hill to be rewarded with at find at 54 on a small covey.

Brace 20 HIGH TAIL FLYER, Flyer, owner/handler Gene Knotts and FC/AFC HY STEPPIN MAGGIE SH owners Chris & Gerilynn Sennot, handler Chris – Breakaway at the derby course with both dogs working fairly close to the two-track to the creek crossing. Flyer was picked up by the judges as we headed towards the gun dog parking lot for trailing the other dog. Into the orchard Maggie worked in from the left crossing in front of the handler and heading up to the end of the right hedgerow where there had been previous finds. She was carded with a stylish find at 14. She handled kindly through the orchard hunting all the likely spots. She started to work the left edge of the shotgun range, but broke off the edge into the field. Down the hill by the row of oaks she went on point at 24 quite a ways off the edge. Chris relocated her and she moved 10 ft further down the hedge row and pointed. He relocated her again and she went back to point in her original spot, where a single was finally produced. After running across the dyke

Maggie had another find to the right of the two track. She continued to hunt at moderate range for the remainder of the brace carding two more finds.

Brace 21 SPRING HILL'S HEMI MAGNUM, Nash, owners Ed & Sue Lehosky, handler Sue and FC GROUSEHAVENS STAR OF AUTEN, Star, owners Craig & Deb Shaw, handler Ron Auten – Both dogs started with good ground speed. Nash took a really nice edge, but ended up back tracking and Sue had to get on him. It worked and they blew through the first two fields. Unfortunately, as they crossed Sessions Creek there was a bird right on the edge and Nash couldn't resist. Star likes to hunt the inside woods edge. She has a pleasing gait that worked the right edge up the hill crossing in front and at 15 she had a find on the left edge. Continuing on the left edge she had another stylish find at 19 with multiple birds lifting. Her range shortened heading up the hill. At 37 she had a find to the right where Chip had been standing on the log in the first brace of the day. At 52 Star had a stop to flush on the left hedgerow at top of course 1 breakaway hill. Unfortunately, she was picked up for delay chase.

Brace 22 DC BRETON'S TRUCKEE RIVER GOLD, Paige, owners Gordon Theilen, DVM and Christine Zink, handler Christine – BYE. Paige broke away on course 1. She handled kindly for Christine and at 8 she had a find on the right hedgerow. Moved on at the end of a right finger Paige went on point again at 11. The handler elected to tap her forward. Paige worked further down the hedgerow and at 13 had a stop to flush on multiple birds. At 18 Paige was pointing from a long way off the edge. Christine relocated her and she was carded with a find. Paige worked the back edge of Hires field. As she crossed she went on point at the feeder under the mott of trees. Unfortunately, Paige had an indiscretion to end her hour.



**Rugged. Reliable. Proven.**  
The Leader in Electronic Dog Training Equipment for over 40 years.

**2009 AMERICAN BRITTANY CLUB  
NATIONAL AMATEUR GUN DOG CHAMPIONSHIP 1hr (43S)  
Judges: Kevin Byrne, Wade Haines & Lyle Johnson**

- CHAMPION** NGDC/FC/AFC PETER GUNN, by NAFC/FC/AFC Walker's Gunner x Bullet's Renegade Miss Megan; o/h Jim Carter  
**RUNNER UP** - DC/AFC SWEETWATER BILLY TUCKER, by NFC/DC/AFC Gambler's Ace In The Hole x Angels Lucky Starshine; o Laurence & Susan Bates, h Larry Bates  
 3 - NAGDC/FC/AFC HIGH HOPES FLY BY NITE, by CH Hi Points Pick Up Man x DC/AFC Hi Points On The Fly; o Albert & Cynthia Cropek Jr., h Al Cropek  
 4 - FC/AFC COOS RYLEE, by FC/AFC TBF's Hotroddin Howser x Pheasant Ridge Sydney; o/h Ray Gorman  
 Judge's Award of Merit  
 AFC LITTLE ROCK IT MAN, o/h Shan Wessels



Left to right: Drew Carter, Judge Lyle Johnson, Jim Carter with 2009 National Amateur Gun Dog Champion/NGDCH/FC/AFC PETER GUNN, Judge Kevin Byrne and Judge Wade Haines.



Brian Hendrickson with 2008 NGDC/FC BJ's Blaz'n Daisy, and her painting.



Jeff and Gina Currier with 2008 NAGDC/DC/AFC Triumphants To Hot To Handle, JH and his painting.