



**THE AMERICAN BRITTANY CLUB
2006 Pheasant Classic/Championship**

hosted by the Ringneck Brittany Club
Dave Tech Ranch, Bonesteel, South Dakota
September 25-29, 2006
by Leslie Andreas

The American Brittany Club's 2006 Pheasant Championship took place at the Dave Tech ranch a few miles outside of Bonesteel, South Dakota from September 25 to 29. Sixty two competitors were entered; a total of 61 went to the line.

The grounds were in amazing shape, considering that the South Dakota summer temperatures hit record highs. Watching the American Field, and seeing many championships in the state cancelled because of the fear of fire, I feared the worst. Timely rain came in August and the cover grew lush and green again. And these grounds are as good as it gets when they are at their best. Picture rolling hills dotted with fat, black Angus cattle, big draws with trees just showing a hint of yellow, outlined against the occasional splash of red sumac, and well tended hay meadows, soybean fields, and feed strips of milo, designed to attract wild birds and hold released birds.. In addition to the land of Dave Tech's, we owe a debt of gratitude to ranchers Bob Viktoria and Jim Selle, who allow us to use their scenic and game covered holdings. Pictures are worth a thousand words, so I am enclosing a few shots of the breakaways of each course.

Our judges for the event were Gene Salmons, Liberty, Illinois and Bill Nadeau, Osage City, Kansas. Gene is well known and respected in the Brittany world both as a competitor and a judge, while Bill runs in longtail trials and judges regularly in all types of trials, with many a championship judged between them. Their experiences would give them much insight as they spent long hours in the saddle over the five days' running. They were rewarded with about as good a championship as it would be possible to have. The placements were well received. Many dogs presented them with good and even great hours. It sure makes for easier riding and writing when there is so much quality work spread out through the week. Some dogs that didn't get posted might have been in the money other years.

The host club is the Ringneck Brittany Club, a member club of the American Brittany Club. At the regular trial the weekend preceding, the rains came down in buckets. The ground was sloppy and footing poor, but by the time the championship got going, it was already drying. Our gracious landowner Dave

Tech, is always good to us, providing hay for feeding horses, raising birds for release, and going above and beyond to provide towing services to RV's and horse trailers, to get them onto the grounds. Some of us parked at the roadside and "commuted". The championship was blessed to have better weather, with only part of one day spent in a light drizzle.

Our sponsor, Purina, as always, provided their quality products to the winning dogs as well as to everyone who entered. Without the support of the fine people at Purina, one would have to wonder how long the championships would thrive. Another sponsor, Tri-Tronics, showed their good will in donating a training collar to the winner. (Also presented was a great painting of pheasants flushing, which I am sure Joyce and Vic will look at for years to come, and wonder why this was the year they didn't come to the championship!)

The people who put on the trial are to be applauded for a job well done. Kristen Tracy was a welcome addition to our working members as she brought in delicious lunches at noon every day. Ken Seivert, Randy Walth and Ron Walth, and Rob Rohner all split the marshalling duties, dog wagon driving, provided coffee, soft drinks and sticky rolls at break time, and released birds on the courses each evening. Unseen help was Janet, Ken's better half, who did the computer work and sent out the premiums and helping Ken behind the scene with all the details that need to be taken care of both before and after the trial.

The American Brittany Club's concept of game bird classics, to be held around the country on a bird that is commonly found in that area, was to give field trialers the opportunity to compete on their own terrain on a familiar game bird. These classics have evolved into championships that are second in prestige only to the National Championships. The first classic ever held was the Pheasant classic in 1960, hosted by the Golden Empire Club in California. One of the stipulations that the American Brittany Club has is that the champion must point the game bird named in the title of the stake in order to win. Since the grounds here in South Dakota also have abundant sharptail, and prairie chicken populations as well as a few quail and Hungarian partridge, not all the finds will be on pheasant. Wherever possible, I have named the game bird involved where it has been worked by a dog.

The Winners-----

Claiming the title to add to his many laurels is Chancey Jackpot Lotto, owned by Vic Williams and Joyce Roberts, of Georgia, and handled as always by Tom Tracy Jr. of Kenbridge, Virginia. Chance drew the second course on Thursday morning with near ideal conditions for finding birds. He would put on a formidable performance, front running at the limits of the course but handling and showing where you would want to see him. His bird work was crisp, with two stylish pheasant finds. With the competition of many dogs getting around with credible hours, (and some that were incredible), only a dog with much virtue and no flaws was going to win. And that is just how Chance did it. It was with an exciting hour of all age intelligence and pure bird dog purpose that made Chance the 2006 champion. Runner-up, just days after winning the title at the American Brittany Club Prairie Chicken Championship, was Perfect Timing, owned by Tony Vescosco, Michigan, and handled by Chad Holman, Whittington, Illinois. Ty's performance was one of perfect application, power and bottom end. The only thing keeping him from the title was his sole find was on sharptail rather than pheasant.

Third place went to Billy's Random Task, owner John Hall, handler Chad Holman with a very wide all age race and a stylish piece of work, again on sharptail rather than on the named bird, and fourth was Smarteye's Joker, owner Steve Ralph, Forest Lake, Minnesota, handler Jim John, Yates Center, Kansas, with multiple finds on pheasant and a hard driving, smart, forward race. Billy and Jordan were braced together and although they were separated for much of the hour, the finish of both dogs driving forward as hard as they started after an action packed hour was a sight for sore eyes.

2006 American Brittany Club Pheasant Championship, hosted by the Ringneck Brittany Club in Bonesteel, South Dakota

Beginning September 25, Monday, with warm and sunny conditions.

Brace 1# KB's Shadow Dancer (John) & TC's Match Boks Racer-"Rob"- (Downing) Breaking away under pleasant conditions, a mild temperature, sunny skies, the morning dew glistening and the distant flush of many pheasants congregated in the cover surrounding the dam. Both dogs were in the vicinity of the birds and showed great interest in their flight. Dancer displayed good manners on a single quail find at 9. Dancer was doing a good job on the ground. Rob showed a lot of hustle and applied himself to hunting. At 29 Dancer posed with regal style on point in the first draw of the big hay meadow. Rob was cautioned to back. A large rooster was flushed. Just over the hill, after release Dancer would again encounter this bird, this time not so correctly-and was picked up. Rob continued on, dropping into the long draw on the right, then showing to the front to finish at a moderate pace, with no birdwork.

Brace 2# Tar's Rising Star of Desire (Garrow) & PJ's Count de Archie (Tillson) Archie chased a rooster just over the first hill with the judges not in a position to see. Star broke away and began a short looping pattern. She did not line out til halfway through the hour. Through the thick crossing near the artesian wells, Star was handly, Archie not showing again until we had punched out the other side. At 31 minutes, Al called point with sharptail lifting on their own in front of Star. She began running better following this find, with some big moves along the edges of the hayfield. At 42, she scored a pheasant find with all in order. Archie had some good moments, but did not string them together well. Ed picked Archie up just short of the hour, while Star finished modestly. Chad Holman scored the most exciting "find" of the hour when he heard, then spotted a rattlesnake while riding in the gallery.

Brace 3# Harling's Breton Smith-(Holman) & Briscoe's Mr. Stub (Trimble) Neither handled the rapidly warming conditions well, and ran short of the standards of an all age championship. On a hight ridge, Bret pointed with Stub backing, with no birds produced. Only a minute later, Stub established a stand but moved on to the front when Ray tried to relocate him. Watered at a stock tank, Bret revived and moved out more. Stub pointed in a weedy patch. When Ray failed to move a bird, and was taking him out of the area, his scout rode up the pheasant. Near the end of the hour, Bret pointed on the uphill side of a long draw, and needed to be relocated. Ray and Stub caught up and worked the downside of the draw. Both dogs were birdy and appeared to be working scent of a running bird, but the hour ran out with nothing pinned.

Brace 4# Rebel Jac's Hammering Dandy (Holman) & Linvel's Ace of Diamonds (Tracy) Ace and Jac showed early speed and purpose. Ace was credited with a find on a running pheasant, and although the handler was unable to flush the bird, it was seen by the judge. Ace had an all age race, seen "just enough" with Tommy pointing him out to the front. At 44 Ace scored a good pheasant find in a plum thicket. Jac had a non-productive at 49. He had a flat spot midway through the hour, but rallied and had a very strrong finish down a likely draw. Ace caught the front after his find, and also put on a good show to finish well out front down the same draw.

Brace 5# Grand Junction Jake (Holman) & Dakota Alley Cat (Tracy) Jake stopped simultaneously with a bird flushing at 25, but his race was not up to Chad's expectaions and he did not finish the hour. Tiger made one big move in the gully to the right, but got loopy and appeared from the rear several times. After an absence he showed up at 32, and Tommy threw in the towel at 44 minutes.

Brace 6# Make My Day Dude (Tillson) & Far Side A. J. (Garrow) A.J., a quick youngster, liked the timbered bottoms and was spotted moving effortlessly through them. After a fair absence, he was brought forward, but soon dived back into the woods again, this time he was gone for good. Dude was a bit slow to start, not liking the Angus cattle, but warmed to the task as we left the bovines behind. When he did get out, he was reaching well forward to likely areas with a smooth effortless handle on him. At 44 in a grassy finger running into the hayfield, Dude recorded a pretty find on a pheasant. He sustained his momentum to finish near the large dam.

Posted for the day-Tar's Rising Star of Desire, Linvel's Ace of Diamonds, and Make My Day Dude. September 26th Tuesday, the weather is beautiful, warm and sunny.

Brace 7# Perfect Timing-(Homan) & The Rock-(Tracy) Breaking away on course one, with idyllic conditions, Ty was soon digging in to the draw to the left. Rock also got down to business quickly with some good casts. Ty was briefly out of pocket, but when returned to the course, immediately went forward with what could be considered perfect application. He began a briliant move in the deep draw starting at the large am, carrying forward with good momentum the length of an entire field. Rock was putting down some pretty good moves himself on the right side of the course. At the beehives, both

handlers gathered their charges for the ride up the hill to the big hay meadows. Ty really impressed by rimming the edges of all the objectives, pointing at 37 along the soybean field where sharptail have often seen rising. None were home today--the stand was unproductive. At the same time, Rock scored a nice find on a pheasant in the big island. All age races from each dog continued as we entered the pastureland across the roads. At 47, Ty pointed with a wild flush from a sharptail. At the finish, Ty was flying to the front down the draw to the right. Rock also had plenty of steam left, and was giving it all he had when time was called. It was a good brace of all age dogs.

Brace 8# Lane's End Jess N Time (Down) & Dixie Kid Ultimate ATV (Tracy) Jess was wide from the get go, and was seen sparingly in the early portions of the course. "H" settled early into a gun dog pattern, and when he did not improve, he was leashed at 17. Point was called for Jess at 19 with a rabbit produced. At 23, she scored a nice pheasant find. At 31, she stopped to flush on a sharptail. At 47, she scored a sharptail find in a grassy finger and added another at 49 in the next grassy finger. In hunting mode, Jess finished rather close compared to her earlier vigor.

Brace 9# Gambler's Good Deal (Holman) & Shady's Beanstalk (Berneathy) Billi had his directions scrambled and needed to be gathered and put on course following the breakaway. Jack ran a medium shooting dog race, hunting the treed bottom thoroughly. At 41, he pointed in a grassy finger. A relocation attempt yielded a dead quail. At 54, point was called on Jack at the end of a ravine, while his bracemate's handler was calling point in a feed strip 50 feet away. Chad moved Billi up several times, but no bird was produced. Time ran out with each dog trying to pin a bird without luck.

Brace 10# Smokey's Magic (Holman) & Bada Bing (Garrow) A warm sun beat down on us, with temperatures rising to 80 degrees. Jag did some reaching hunting in the first thirty minutes, but lost his wheels, and went to the wagon at 32 minutes. At 4 Bing pointed along a feed strip. Relocated, he quickly re-established at the end of the row. Luck was with Al. He was able to effortlessly flush a big rooster in front of the staunch dog. At 9, Wade Haines (Chad's scout) called point for Bing, in a feed strip while looking for his own dog. Nothing was produced with Bing bulling off when a relocation was attempted. Not wanting to handle he was leashed and sent to the dog wagon.

Brace 11# RuJem's Field of Feathers (McGee) & Tequila Jack II (John) Feather, a veteran performer of many years, battled the ravages of age and heat, gamely trying but ending her challenge at 32 minutes. Jack, on the other hand, impressed with an all age race and great staming, going places no other dog had been to in a fruitless effort to connect with birds. He had not been seen for about 10 minutes at time, and a tracker was required to locate him.

Brace 12# Bluewater Guns A Blazin' (Down) & TJ's Thunder (John) Gunner and Thunder charged forward following breakaway. Taken to water at 30, just as the course turns left, Thunder would take the wooded draw while Gunner was seen flying across the valley and two hills way with speed to burn. He whirled and pointed with the bird leaving on its own a few seconds after point was established. What followed was not properly executed. Thunder could not line out and get anthying going. He was up at 50.

Posted dogs for day 2-Perfect Timing, The Rock, and Lane's End Jess N Time

Wednesday, Sept. 27, a cold front had moved in, with a chilling wind, temperatures in the mid 40's, overcast and by noon, scattered showers off and on. Scenting conditions were great though!

Brace 13# Jake Acre's In Disguish (Garrow) Early Times (Tracy) Bird work came early for Earl with a stand by the dam at 2. He needed to be moved up several times before two hens were flushed. Jake made a stand at 10 in one of the feed rows up top. Sent on to relocate, he pushed a running bird into flight and chased. Earl scored again in a feed strip just through the 2nd gate at 15, the pheasant flushing easily. At 20, Earl pointed in the draw leading to the small pond, with four hen pheasants rising one at a time. At 35, he stood at the first strip in the haymeadow, taking a non-productive on this one. At 44 he pointed uphill, with a flock of chicken flushed just off the other side of the hill. At 57, he again pointed at the edge of a soybean field with a lone chicken raised. He had the most bird work, but did not display the all age race needed to figure in the stake.

Brace 14# Far Side's Kid Aimee (Garrow) & TJ's Prairie Blizzard (Tillson) Blizzard's trip was short as he ignored an opportunity to stop to flush at 7. Aimee got going quickly and was briefly out of pocket. She was returned to the course at 10 minutes. At 26, she pointed a pheasant which flew right past her face on flush. She made a quick sideways move, ending her chances early.

Brace 15# Blueridge's Major Adventure (Downing) & Alamaden's Lone Shadow Dancer (Tracy) Major moved out fast and disappeared from sight, to be ruled out of contention. He would not be seen again til afternoon. Dottie, with a speedy light gait, rimmed the trees past the artesian wells, dipped into the canyon to the right when we got up top the steep hill, and got hung up there. She was not responding as desired to the handler's directions when she returned and he picked her up in the hayfield will before the hour ended. It began to rain as we made our way to camp, and would continue off and on all afternoon.

Brace 16# Billy's Random Task (Holman) & Smarteye's Joker (John) Jordan was on point at 4. When sent to relocate, the bird got up by the scout's horse with the dog uninolved and not in positon to see it. Jordan stylishly pointed agian at 8, this time with a well located pheasant in front of him. Billy was covering a lot of country with wide all age type casts over the far hills. At 15, point was called by Jordan's scoutin the corner of a field down in a deep draw. There was a lengthy delay in getting to the dog because of some miscommunication, but a good find resulted. With Billy continuing to rim the hills in fast forward, the pair was seperated for most of the brace. At 49, Billy stood with intensity and style as Chad flushed several chicken. Sent on, Billy dropped into the treed bottom to put on a powerful finish. At this time the other handler and dog caught up, with Jordan also going to the distant timber with good bottom end.

Brace 17# Fade to Black (Holman) & Bouncing Betty (Garrow) Major, the dog missing form the morning's braces, showed up at the artisian wells. Betty is a smooth moving fast bitchwho was moving out well. Mac was hunting at moderate range. Both got involved in a jointchase on a pheasant at 19.

Brace 18#Shambo's Dark Shadow (John) & Ajoax Driving Miss Daisy (Down) Shadow began to roll out and find edges to run right from breakaway, establishing his all age intentions. Daisy was a bit immature but enthusiastic in her race. She would hunt cover better as the hour went on, but did not connect with birds. At 18, Shadow showed good style on a find on top of a windswept hill on a small covery of chicken. >From there, he hit the line of the ditch in the bottom and took it forward. Daisy made a similiar move. As we turned up hill, Shadow toiled for awhile to keep going. He got a second wind and took a cast to the left throught the tall weeds. As we entered the Seale field, he dropped into a treed cut with point called at 58. Shadow showed beautiful style on this pheasant find.

Dogs posted for Wednesday Billy's Random Task, Smarteye's Joker & Shambo's Dark Shadow Thursday September 28, The weather is partly cloudy, cool, with ideal scenting conditions.

Brace 19# Gunrunner's Lady's Man (Berneathy) & Bluewater Pink (Down) At 3, Pink was on point going up the hill from thedam, with Lootie backing---a pretty sight, but no birds were flushed. At 7, Pink stood hight and tight along a feed strip with a pheasant flushed. At 8 judge Salmons saw a bird go out of a strip of cover along the fenceline. Lootie was stopped at the end, very intense, and Jimmy decided to call point and try for another bird. He was able to flush a hen pheasant right where the dog said it was. In the next field, both dogs took casts in the treed ravine. Pink was nest spotted way out front coming out of the bottom to cross to the front. All age races were the order of the day for both dogs. Lootie, who had given us such an exciting race, was missing at time. Pink was still flying, and pointed out going across the valley as the hour was up. Several minutes after time, Lootie was seen coming back from the far front. He slammed onot a point about as far away as the eye could see with Jimmy riding out and working the bird, too late to count. It was an enjoyable brace.

Brace 20# Rambling Man (Garrow) Breton's Castle Rocket (John) Randy and Rocket were running shooting dog type races. At 40 minutes, as they were edgin a big grassy finger, four cackling pheasants flushed wild and the two dogs went with them.

Brace 21# RuJem's Stop N Watch (McGee) & TJ's Apache (Tillson) Quill made a big move into the field at the left side of the course, coming foreward quickly and going to likely spots. Bandit started more forward but was not meeting handler's expectations and was picked up at 21. Quill continued to check the objectives smartly. At 47, he had a non-productive by the dry pond. At 55, as he worked his way out of a ravine, a pheasant flushed wild and he took a few steps in its direction.

Brace 22# Jaybird's I. M. Buckwheat (John) & Marjo's Red Rum (Luisi) Buckwheat eliminated himself in less than 2 minutes by chasing a bird west of the dam with passion. Johnny was missing just after the dam crossing and Joe rode looking for him. Johnny returned and Tommy Tracy handled him forward til Joe returned. As soon as Joe took over handling his dog, Tommy rode and foune the dog on point at 10, standing along a strip edge. The bird flushed easily, and the dog had good manners. This was followed

by near identical finds at 13 and 21. Johnny put in a solid hour's effort on the ground.

Brace 23# Le Grand Tank du Fayette (Garrow) & Chancey Jackpot Lotto (Tracy) Chance broke way hard to the front, soon diving into the deep draw on the right and travelling the length of it. Tank was not as wide, but hunted well to the front.

Chance was spotted ahead as we entered the wooded crossing. He continued to reach forward at the limits of the course, needing little scouting, with powerful strides and great purpose. At 44 point was called for Tank with no luck raising birds. Well ahead, Chance was spied standing at 45, intensely posed in a grassy finger. With a bird produced, Chance was turned loose, moving up about 100 feet and again nailing a rooster with great accuracy. Chance rolled forward in the hay meadow. Through the gate at Seale's, at 55, Chance was briefly behind, but regained the front, still strong to finish with power to spare.

Brace 24# Scar's Little Bear (Garrow) & Clyde's Micro Breeze (Pollack) Bear was wide and fast needing a lot of scouting almost right off the breakaway, as he moved down the ditches and treelines on the right. Mike began with a left swing, then coming up over the ridge to hunt the right hand timber. At 13, he was seen under a bird. Bear showed popping out of cover for a moment. When he went back in, he remained out of sight long enough to be ruled out of contention.

Dogs posted Thursday-Chancey Jackpot Lotto

Friday September 29, pleasant mild temperatures, blue skies. With the high standards set in the days before, handlers seemed to have an unspoken agreement to pick up any dog that was not meeting the criteria to win.

Brace 25# Oak Hill's Time To Burn (Garrow) & Tequila Joker's Jose Cuervo (Berneathy) Burny had an early stop to flush. He vanished to the front when released. At 16, a distant call of point was called for Burny. After a long ride backwards, and with a non-productive to his credit, Al elected to put him on a leash. Jose had a stop to flush at 20. He punched out his hour, but not with his usual gusto.

Brace 26# Ortho Acre's Booker T (Tracy) & Kolicko's Cuervo Joker (Berneathy) Booker hunted the tough, broken country of the left side of course Two. C.J. was not feeling well, and Jimmy leashed him early. Booker was losing steam as we entered the mid portion of the 2nd course hay meadow and was also picked up early.

Brace 27# Lane's End WeBe Clean (Holman) & Kinwashkly Dakota Molester (Seivert) WeBe started with some nice casts, but soon began checking in with the handler. Lester was slow to start and when he did line out a cast, he ran into an aggressive cow and got confused. Neither were capable of over taking the dogs we already had and handlers elected to pick up early.

Brace 28 Dakota Shakedown (Tracy) & Tequila With A Twist (Tillson) Rufus had a skunk encounter soon after breakaway. Taryn was erratic on the ground. Neither dog would extend themselves beyond gun dog range, and another double early pick up occurred.

Brace 29# Trademark's Ice Man (Holman) & Material Girl (Garrow) Girl took out a bird at 3 right by the dam. Timmy had a very nice stop to flush at 3. He was standing at 4, with no bird produced in a feed strip. Sent on, he went to the next feed strip and styled up. This required a relocation, which he did quickly and his intensity left no doubt that he had it. Chad had to chase the running bird to put it in the air, and young Timmy suffered a breach of manners at flush to end this brace at 8 minutes.

Brace 30# Sunrise Dot Com (Tracy) & Shady's Tia Maria (Berneathy) The latter was scratched so "Bill" went it alone. With a non-productive early and a second stand that produced only a rabbit, Bill was leashed at 16.

Brace 31# White Mountain Smoke-"Budd" (Holman) & Charlotte's Rocker Man-"Chuckie" (Garrow) Chuckie immediately shot to the front fast and hard running. Budd was no slouch on the ground either, making some smart moves past the dam and catching everyone's attention. Chuckie required gathering at the first turn. Budd scored a nice piece of work on two pheasants at 18. Chuckie, back on course had the bit in his teeth, and needed to be gathered again to turn him through the gate into the pasture land. Budd was tiring and Chad picked him up at the half hour, and Al also lifted Chuckie minutes later to end the championship early in the afternoon.

The American Brittany Club Pheasant Classic (61 dogs)

Winner - Chancey Jackpot Lotto; o Vic Williams & Joyce Roberts, h Tom Tracy Jr.

Runner-Up - Perfect Timing; o Tony Vescosco, h Chad Holman
3rd place - Billy's Random Task ; o John Hall, h Chad Holman
4th place - Smarteyes-Joker; o Steve Ralph, h Jim John

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