



2018 ABC National Amateur Championship November 19-22, 2018

Blue Mountain fi J. Perry Mikles WDA, Booneville, Arkansas

As seen by Jan Kilpatrick



L to R: Steve Ralph, Claude Kilpatrick, Mike Poehler, Jan Kilpatrick, Tommy Thomas with Anj's Ohio Hellion, Ed Janulis, Judge Gailen Cooper, Margaret & Tom White with Mtb Scipio's Hot Shot Of Whizki, Judge Larry Meek, Joe Gower, Tom Milam with Spanish Corral's Sonny Patch, Jack Alexander, Crystal Alexander with Cvk's Spartan King, Tara Alexander, Dr. Rober Rankin

The 2018 running of the American Brittany Club National Amateur All Age Championship boasted an entry of 45 dogs with 45 coming to the line on Monday, November 19 at the Blue Mountain Wildlife Demonstration Area near Booneville, Arkansas. The weather was mostly clear skies with cool brisk mornings and mild afternoons with light variable winds and just enough humidity to make for good scenting conditions. The grounds were in great shape with just a few boggy spots.

Larry Meek and Gailen Cooper undertook judicial responsibilities for this year's National Amateur Championship. Both these guys are passionate about bird dogs and have spent a good portion of their life hunting, training, running, and judging them. We greatly appreciate the undivided attention they showed each and every contender. Both Larry and Gailen expressed their desire to see dogs with a strong distant race, who showed less than more, and were searching forward objectives when seen. Their ideal dog would display intensity, high style and good manners on birds. Those chosen who best represented their ideals are listed below.

THE RECOGNIZED:

CHAMPION: Top Dog Brace 11 – GAFC/FC/AFC Anj's Ohio Hellion "Hank", just turned 4-year-old white and orange male born 11/18/2014. Sire: DC/AFC Grand Junction Jake, Dam: NAGDC/FC/AFC High Hope's Little Ann. Hank is owned and was handled by Mike Poehler. Hank caught the judge's eyes with a series of fast forward all age casts, a kindly handle, style and manners on his birds and a strong forward finish.

RUNNER-UP CHAMPION: Top Dog Brace 4 – DC/GFC/AFC Mtb Scipio's Hot Shot of Whizki "Cali", 9-year-old orange and white female born 7/28/2009. Sire: DC/AFC Hi Proof Whizki, Dam: DC/AFC TJ's Single

Shot of Scipio. Cali is owned by Tom White & Margaret Horstmeyer and was handled by Tom White. Another fantastic job by a Mtb girl who follows a long line of National Mtb winners and placers. Cali pushed the Champion with her mature all age race and application. Cali, when seen, was always in the right places; her style, intensity and manners on birds were faultless and a strong finish landed her the Runner-Up Champion designation.

Third Place: Top Dog Brace 8 – NAFC/GFC/FC/AFC Spanish Corral's Sonny "Patch", 7-year-old white and orange male born 4/29/2011. Sire: NAFC/FC/AFC Spanish Corral's Sundance Kid "Sonny", Dam: CH/AFC Midas Blazin Amber Skies. Patch is owned and was handled by Joe Gower.

Fourth Place: Bottom Dog Brace 18 – FC Cvk's Spartan King "Leo", 4-year-old white and orange male born 5/23/2014. Sire: Maxwell's Outer Limit, Dam: Cedar Valley Lily. Leo is owned and was handled by Jack Alexander.

This was Tom Milam's final year serving as the Field Trial Chairman and once again he did a bang-up job. Tom's wife Linda assisted Tom with all the behind the scenes tasks that assure the smooth running of this event. Members of the Field Trial Committee dedicated hours scheduling and coordinating the national activities. As always, Steve Ralph was indispensable as the field trial secretary, always patient and smiling while managing so many items, big and small. Claude Kilpatrick returned as Stakes Manager and Ed Tillson offered steady guidance as the Judges Marshall. Bret Lindback served as Course Marshall and he and his crew of volunteer Marshalls kept the gallery flowing in an orderly fashion. And a special thanks to Bret's wife Rocky for providing her delicious homemade cookies that we all fought over each and every

afternoon. Joe Gower brought fresh a.m. donuts for the wagon and we thank him for the much-needed sugar surge we all required to finish out the morning braces. Everyone riding on the dog wagon made sure all the horseback provisos received food and drink sustenance during the morning and afternoon braces.

Judi Tipton and her smiling crew worked hard to provide us with excellent food and beverages throughout the running of this event. A special thanks to Red Bailey and Brad Wells for grooming and maintaining the grounds all year, releasing and feeding the birds, and to Robert Smith who drove the dog wagon all day throughout the Amateur Championship.

This event depends on the support of our Sponsors. For many years Purina has contributed financial support as well as Pro Plan dog food to help provide our incredible canine athletes with the platform to showcase their amazing abilities in this annual National event. Purina Pro Plan is a performance food second to none and one trusted to keep our performance dogs exceling in all competition arenas. Both the winners of the NAFC and NFC received an electronic training collar donated by Garmin Tri-Tronics and a hand tooled trooper saddle from Christy Enterprises.

Events held during the week of the National Amateur All Age Championship included a horseback tour of the grounds guided by Tom White on Sunday afternoon. Sunday evening Judi Button provided a welcoming dinner which was followed by the lively Amateur All Age Championship Calcutta. Tuesday evening, we all gathered at the Clubhouse to celebrate the 2017 National Amateur Champion NAFC/GFC/FC/GAFC/AFC Ru-Jem's "Last" "Penny". Jerry McGee was a charming host with lots of Penny stories. The tables were elegantly decorated and delightfully sprinkled with dark chocolate kisses and copper wrapped chocolate pennies. The generous hosted bar and outstanding dinner fare were enjoyed by all and we give thanks to Jerry and crew for a very pleasant evening. On Wednesday, the All Age National Silent Auction was enjoyed after dinner. Auction items included large baskets donated by Brittany clubs from around the country filled with items that represented their clubs and state. These baskets were over the top awesome and the auction was a huge success thanks to Andi Christensen. Thursday was Thanksgiving Day and after running the final five braces and placement announcements, a mouth-watering Thanksgiving feast was served up followed by the annual membership meeting. On Friday the ABC All Age Derby Invitational was run and will be reported separately. Saturday FC/AFC Piney Run Jake and his owner/handler Kent Patterson received the coveted Purina All Age Dog of the Year Award. A huge congratulations to Jake and Kent and kudos to Purina for offering this prestigious award.

The Running:

Mother Nature was kind to the Championship this year. Temperatures over the four days of running ranged from lows in the mid 20's to highs in the low 60's with gentle variable winds and enough humidity to make scenting conditions very good. Birds were plentiful but unfortunately a lot, certainly more than usual, of these elite multititled dogs acted like it was the "Derby Invitational" as time and time again we watched what looked to be an incredible performance turn into a derby act when birds were encountered. Was it the wily birds, cosmological misalignment, or gnomes in the woods? Hard to say. Just happens every now and then in this extreme sport we all train so hard for.

Monday Day 1: A brisk 33 degree, partly cloudy morning greeted us this first day of running. The temperatures stayed chilly with the high only reaching 47 in the afternoon. Very nice conditions for the amped up birddogs.

BRACE 1: FC/AFC Ss "Rig's" Colorado Gun Runner, Tom Milam and FC/AFC Mk's Magnificent Bandito "Chico", Dave Lincoln. Rig's and Chico, a powerful pair-up, were away fast and furious in the first

brace of the 2018 NAFC. Didn't take long for Rig's to lock up at 6, deep in the woods on the right. A single bird was put to flight with all in order. At 19 Chico had a nice covey find which turned unpleasant when Chico took flight with them. At 20 Rig's stood tall and tight on a big scattered covey just off Road 109. Multiple waves of birds got up on the flush with Rig's rock steady throughout. Mr. Rig's was putting down a far-flung ground race but went missing after the Lick Creek crossing and at 42 the tracker was requested.

BRACE 2: NAFC/GFC/FC/AFC Spanish Corral's Sundance Kid "Sonny", Joe Gower and FC Jagoub's Buzz'N Bayou "Skeeter", Tom Jagielski. This brace featured 9-year-old Sonny and 10-year-old Skeeter, both powerhouses with many National events under their belts. At 27 point was called for Sonny just before the horse bridge. A large covey was flushed over Sonny's head with all in order. Skeeter had been missing since the breakaway so Tom requested the tracker at 27. Sonny continued over the bridge and established point at 35 in a grassy area just after the creek crossing. No birds were found even after a relocation so Joe moved him on. A couple of minutes later, a little deeper in this same area, Sonny ran through a covey, putting them to flight so he was picked up at 40.

BRACE 3: GCH/DC/AFC Ricochet Gunsmoke's Mr. "Dillion", Tommy Thomas and FC KJ's Irish Whizky "Mickey", Ken Windom. Dillion and Mickey were released after the morning break and quickly separated. Dillion went on point at 35 with all in order. It was reported to me that Mickey had a bird indiscretion on a large covey and was picked up at 30. At 52 Dillion



probably interrupted someone's breakfast when he pointed a large, very fresh pile of feathers. Dillion continued his somewhat short subdued range and pace and logged another find at 58 with all in order to finish out his time.

BRACE 4: DC/GFC/AFC Mtb Scipio's Hot Shot of Whizki "Cali", Tom White and Lambachs Blew By You "Blue", Joey Rogers. From breakaway Cali and Blue quickly parted company with Cali heading off to the tree filled right and Blue making a big cast to the left along the treeline. Blue was rewarded with a single at 21 which he handled with style and proper manners. At 30 Blue slammed on point right off the road. A small covey was flushed, shot fired and Blue sent on his way. Blue went missing shortly thereafter and was not returned to judgment. Cali continued reaching out to the far objectives, showing only occasionally but always to the front. At 40 Cali was found on point in the treeline just before the double gates. A single bird was flushed, shot fired with all in order and Cali sent on her way. Cali showed the judges what they were looking for. A bold forward race, savvy mature application and strong fast finish for a well-deserved Runner Up Championship title.

Note: My apprentice steed, Nash, chose to revert to his wild mustang state during the excitement of Cali's find and I was forced to abandon my reporter post and take him back to camp. Braces 5 & 6 are the judges accounting of the events.

BRACE 5: NAFC/GFC/GAFC/FC/AFC Ru-Jem's "Last" "Penny", Steve Ralph and FC Gun Creek Gangster "Doc", Ed Janulis. Away from the horse bridge at 2:10 were Penny and Doc. Penny got on the bird board at 12 with a clean find. At 20 Penny went with a covey and was picked up. (Rumor is it was the same scentless covey that took out Sonny in Brace 2) Doc continued his race but at 40 Ed picked him up due to an injured foot which was later determined to be broken.

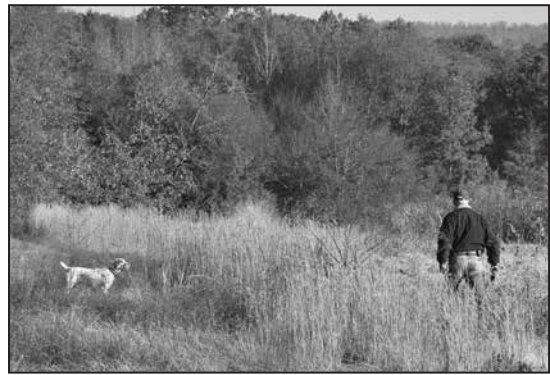
BRACE 6: FC Campbell's "Razz"-Ma-Tazz, Frank Campbell and GFC/FC/AFC Firestarter's Crossed The Line "Ty", Andi Christensen. Razz and TY ran in the final brace of the day. Ty was on a bird finding mission with covey finds at 3, 11, 17, 35 and a divided find at 26. Ty ran a nice judicious race and showed intensity and impeccable manners on all his finds. Razz was a little erratic in his application but shared a find at 26 which he handled with proper manners. Razz continued charting a course of his own and was lost at time and not returned to judgment.

Posted Dogs: 4A Mtb Scipio's Hot Shot of Whizki "Cali", 6B Firestarter's Crossed The Line "Ty".

Tuesday Day 2: Clear sunny skies and a frosty 30 degrees rising to 56 in the afternoon.

BRACE 7: FC/AFC Piney Run "Jake", Kent Patterson and Chiefs Cross Plains "Copper" Breeze, Craig Rucker. Copper hit the road in a hurry while Jake took a hard left running the treeline that parallels the road in a fast moving, eye pleasing manner. At 9 Jake slammed on point just off the tree line in a patch of tall frosty grass. No birds could be located so Kent moved him on. Jake continued his fast-smooth race showing to the front occasionally and just after crossing Lick Creek point was called from the high brushy feed strip on the left. Upon arrival Jake was seen standing tall and tight as Kent dismounted and began thrashing around in the shrubs trying to put the running birds to flight. With no notice at all Jake decided to lend a hand and relocated about 10 feet. Jake's unrequested relocation ended his bid at 28. Copper proved to be an elusive handle so Craig called for the tracker at 32.

BRACE 8: NAFC/FC/AFC Spanish Corral's Sonny "Patch", Joe Gower and GFC/FC/AFC Ocaje "Grace", Matt Harris. Patch and Grace take off in fine fashion with Grace scoring a large covey find at 9 with all in order. At 36 Patch was seen standing tall and tight next to a small group of trees located on a shallow bluff. As Joe approached, Grace came into the area, ran in front of Patch, stopped but remained



restless. Joe dismounted and approached quietly. Patch remained solid while Matt came in and collared Grace. Joe began his search for the birds but the terrain and briars were challenging so Joe elected to move him on. Patch logged a nonproductive at 45 but scored a nice find at 55 which he handled with style and proper manners. Patch earned his third place with a fast far reaching ground application, intensity and style on his birds and a strong forward finish.

BRACE 9: Jwb Artic Cat "Kimber", Jack Alexander and FC Jr's Cool Hand "Luke", Matt Harris. Luke had no luck finding the front so handler picked him up at 20. Kimber was easy to watch as she cruised over the course in a snappy animated fashion. She had her first find at 26 which she handled with style and manners. Kimber had a long absence after that but was found by the handler and while bringing her back to the front she pointed with intensity at 58. The bird was flushed, the shot fired with Kimber remaining mannerly. She was released and surged forward at a rapid rate as time was called.

BRACE 10: FC Kj's Darlin' "Darcy", Ken Windom and FC Crescent City Girl "Nola", Barry Steinmetz. Darcy and Nola were girls on fire as they broke away in the first brace of the afternoon. Darcy logged a nonproductive at 4, a clean find at 18 and backed Nola at 21. Nola scored a covey find at 21 with all in order. At 29 Darcy was observed under birds ending her run. Nola had another find at 33 but when the birds took flight so did naughty Nola.

BRACE 11: GAFC/FC/AFC Anj's Ohio Hellion "Hank", Mike

Poehler and FC/AFC High Lonesome "Sage", Jim Hammett. Hank and Sage surged to the front from the get go. Hank was seen standing tall and tight at 7 and stayed that way through the flush and shot. Hank nailed a large covey at 42, again handling them with style and manners. Sage rolled down the course in impressive fashion making big casts to all objectives in a fast and forward manner. Sage was seen pointing at 52 into a small stand of trees and as Jim rode forward, Sage suddenly pushed the birds up ending his time on the ground. Hank and Mike worked in concert throughout their hour and for their smooth performance Hank was declared Champion by staying forward with beautifully executed line casts, handling his birds with great style and impeccable manners and finishing to the front with speed and intensity.

BRACE 12: DC Just Cal Me Lucky "Ned" Pepper, Frank Campbell and FC Maxwell's Legal Tender "Faith", Joey Rogers. Ned made a few nice moves and had finds at 20 and 30 with good manners and a nonproductive at 24. He finished the hour at a moderate range and speed. Faith looked in all the right places but went unrewarded.

Posted Dogs: 8a Spanish Corral's Sonny "Patch", 9a Jwb Arctic Cat "Kimber", 11a Anj's Ohio Hellion "Hank".

Wednesday Day 3: The temperature ranged from a low of 28 to a high of 61. There were clear skies with light variable winds and enough humidity to keep scenting conditions good.

BRACE 13: GFC/FC Driving Miss "Daisy" II, Burton Wice and Highpoint Spike's Southern Gal "Ellie", Trey Baer. Daisy rocked along smoothly running the edges with purpose. Ellie was a handful diving into the cover and coming from behind occasionally. Both girls were picked up at 45 for chasing birds.

BRACE 14: FC A "Trace" of Bourbon With Diamonds, Rick Hastings and NFC/GFC/FC/AFC Sparky's Prairie Wind "Gypsy", Steve Ralph. Trace made some really nice moves and had a clean find at 20. His second point at 40 produced no birds but when released Trace ran to the end of the line he had been working and put up the bird. Gypsy got lost and was not returned to judgment.

BRACE 15: DC/GFC/AFC Tequila Scorcher "Lincoln", Bob Rankin and FC MTB Louree's V-0-2 "Max", Tom White. Lincoln and Max surged into the netherworld at breakaway. After a substantial absence Lincoln returned to put down a big all age race but went birdless. Max stayed gone and tracker was called at 25.

BRACE 16: FC Marjo's Fille De La Bretagne "Brie", John Perry and DC/AFC Kinwashkly "Tempo", Bob Rankin. Brie and Tempo traveled across Course 1 with a steady pace and moderate range. No objective remained unsearched but birds remained elusive. At 46 as we made the turn after the double gates birds were seen taking flight from the corner of the big meadow. Tempo was found standing in the middle of the tall grass in this area but he started moving as we approached which pushed more birds into the air. By the time Tempo was collared yet another large group of birds took flight. Brie continued her effort but handler elected to pick her up at 48.

BRACE 17: Alleycat's "Drought", Stan Williamson and FC Tequila's "Tyler" On Fire, Victor Retherford. Young Tyler could not contain his enthusiasm when he encountered a bird at 16 so he was collared. Drought just couldn't get rolling this afternoon and handler elected to pick him up at 24.

BRACE 18: FC/AFC Mk's My Lil Ammo "BB", Nick Blasi and FC Cvk's Spartan King "Leo", Jack Alexander. BB and Leo took off like gangbusters across Course 2 and we all sat up in the saddle a little taller. Leo scores at 15 with a nice covey find. All is good through the flush and fire and he is moved forward. Leo had another point at 27 way off the road in a snarly plot and after extensive searching a bird was put to flight with all in order. The dogs were separated by this time but it

was reported BB had a clean find at 30. Leo continued his forward race and pointed again at 50 just off the road in a heavily weeded ditch and handler made a wise decision to move him out of that dangerous spot. BB was missing for a long while and never regained the front. Leo got a little sticky after his final point, wanting to hunt everywhere, but overall his spirited determined all age performance was very deserving of the 4th place rosette.

Posted Dog: 18b Cvk's Spartan King "Leo".

Thursday Final Day 4 & Thanksgiving Day: Continued clear skies with a temperature range of 32 to 65.

BRACE 19: Maxwell's Quick Silver "Chick", Kevin Rogers and GFC/FC Rammer Jammer "Jax", Trey Baer. Chick ran a moderate forward race without bird contact. Jax ran so fast and unpredictable it was hard to determine which direction he was headed. The scout's efforts were valiant but Jax was seldom seen and he was lost at time and not returned to judgement.

BRACE 20: GFC/FC/AFC Cedar Creek Hawkeye "Hank", Joe Waitman and NFC/NAFC/GFC/GAFC/FC/AFC Glade Run "Irish". Hank ran a consistent forward race but never really got anything going so handler elected to pick him up at 52. Irish started out nicely floating in the early minutes down the tree lines and scored a single at 10 with all in order. After his bird Irish became a hard handle moving laterally and off course. He made a big move into the woods that resulted in a long absence and it was a little late to get anything going as time was called just as he arrived back to the front.

BRACE 21 FC Tnt's Raise'N A Leprechaun "Dex", Tommy Thomas and FC/AFC Brendi Brooks Cowboy Up "Tuff", Ray Trimble. Dex moved around nimbly but was birdless for his hour. Tuff ran with animation and spunk. He made some really nice all age casts but got really excited at 30 in a small grass strip by the side of the road. As Tuff made his way down this strip, he put up 2 tweety birds before scoring his sought-after prize. Up came a quail and Tuff gleefully took off after it. Tuff was in a full body grin when he came back to Ray's call and after a few hugs and tugs from Ray and Mary Jo, Tuff was put on the waiting dog wagon.

BRACE 22 GFC/FC/AFC Marjo's Leftover "Haley", John Perry and CH Arrow's Tequila Rustler "Rusty", Richard Beaver. Haley went missing early on and was not returned to judgement. Rusty made some nice moves and had a nonproductive at 45 but finished his bid birdless.

BRACE 23: FC Sr's Blew By Typhoon "Ty", Joe Gower and Bye. Ty was a handful at breakaway, making big moves in most every direction. Just as Joe got him lined out, he ran into the sticky hedge line just before the old bridge and pushed a nice size covey up and so was he at 20.

This concluded the 2018 running of the American Brittany Club National Amateur Championship and we all head into the Clubhouse for announcements.

2018 ABC National Amateur Championship Grand Amateur Limited All Age 1hr (45S)

J: Gailen Cooper & Larry Meek

- 1 –GAFC/FC/AFC ANJ'S OHIO HELLION (D), by DC/AFC Grand Junction Jake x NAGDC/FC/AFC High Hope's Little Ann; o/h Mike Poehler
- 2 –DC/GFC/AFC MTB'S SCIPIO'S HOT SHOT OF WHIZKI (B), by DC/AFC Hi Proof Whizki x DC/AFC T.J's Single Shot of Scipio; o Tom White & Margaret Horstmeyer, h Tom White
- 3 –NAFC/GFC/FC/AFC SPANISH CORRAL'S SONNY PATCH (D), by NAFC/GFC/AFC Spanish Corral's Sundance Kid x AFC/CH Midas Blazin Amber Skies; o/h Joe Gower
- 4 –FC CVK'S SPARTAN KING (D), by Maxwell's Outer Limits x Cedar Valley Lilly; o Jack Alexander & Dr. Bob Rankin, h Jack Alexander