



2018 ABC National Championship

November 25-28, 2018

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



By Kent D. Patterson



L to R: Bob Rankin, Tom Milam with SS Rigs Colorado GunRunner, Linda Milam, Ed Janulis, Kent Patterson with Piney Run Jake, judge Lynn Oxendine, judge Allen Vincent, Harlene Johnson, Richard Beaver with MK's My Lil Ammo, Scott Johnson, Jessica Carlson with Tequila Scorcher, Bernie Crain, Ed Tillson

With three well-mannered finds in the books, this was not a good time for the dog to go missing... each passing moment sparked a wave of stomach butterflies surging like an Oklahoma storm. More than once, he'd considered this a hard luck dog. Judge Leslie Rue of Kentucky came alongside. "I need to see your dog sir," extending his index finger from atop the big grey gelding, "last I had him was on that tree line to the south." He began the long walk over to the timber as the trial party stopped and waited. With each energy-sapping step across the muddy field, his hopes and dreams of winning the ABC National Championship grew dimmer and dimmer. He eased inside the wood's line and bang!!!! There stood Duke twisted into a pretzel point as he instinctively cried "POINT"! The ground shook as the gallery came over and watched the covey explode north. One by one the faithful found a seat in the clubhouse.... each analyzing the trial over and over, start to finish, with changing odds as to who won. The 1963 ABC National Champion..... Crab Orchard Duke.....37-year-old Raymond Trimble of Flourissant, MO leaped into the air. Regardless of sport, there is an unexplainable thrill that comes to an amateur when winning in open competition. The investment of time, money, and emotions in "your" dog has a lifetime impact. Ray Trimble had just become the first amateur to win the Brittany National Championship since AKC sanctioning. In 2018, at age 92, Ray was still competing in the National Championship with Brendi Brooks Cowboy Up and is believed to be the oldest amateur handler to win an American Field Championship (Illinois Amateur) at age 90. He is a member of the ABC Hall of Fame and the Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame.

From the first amateur to win the nationals to the latest, the emotions do not change. Tom Milam was seated near the clubhouse fireplace and did not leap into the air as SS Rigs Colorado Gun Runner was named the

2018 National Champion but quivering hands covered tears as his head dropped into his lap. If you don't think this stuff matters to people, think again.

Another noteworthy occurrence in 2018...for the first time in breed history, amateurs took both Champion and Runner-up placements at the ABC National Championship. They also scouted for each other.

Rig by rig, hope upon hope, they arrived for the 2018 ABC National Championship. For the 31st year, J Perry Mikles WDA was a gracious host. Peter Kaine had the fireplace crackling and the tantalizing aroma from Judi Tipton's kitchen crew had the clubhouse warm and welcoming as stalwarts from across the country got reacquainted. The American Brittany Club National Championship brought 52 of the nation's best to Logan County, Arkansas.

The city of Booneville generously provides a military Humvee along with driver, Robert Smith, to pull the dog wagon. Robert did a great job of giving those who braved the cold days on a metal dog wagon seat a view of the action while having the next brace of dogs available. Judi Tipton and staff made sure nobody left hungry, from breakfast to the nightly dinners the variety and quality of the menu was excellent by any measure. Joe Gower was flawless as stake manager, and was once again pressed into action as the substitute calcutta auctioneer. Brett Lindback used his law enforcement skills organizing daily gallery marshals and his wife Rocky's homemade cookies had folks lined up at the dog wagon like Walmartians on a Black Friday. Mary Jo Trimble was ever vigilant as the road guard with Linda Thomas, Linda Milam, Margaret Horstmeyer and Nancy Clendenen keeping the dog wagon stocked with coffee/donuts. Operationally, the event came off without a hitch in great part thanks to a committee of volunteers under the guidance of 1st VP Tom

Milam. And lastly, there isn't a better national event field trial secretary than Steve Ralph. He covers all bases, flawlessly!

We had a great party on Monday night to honor the 2017 National Champion, Glade Run Irish. David and Emma Webb had the room decorated in Irish (Notre Dame) green with gifts of etched glasses and books from David's Glade Run Press, "Brittany Tales" and "Amateurs Training with Professionals – The Brittany" by Martha Greenlee and David Webb. Judi Tipton and staff prepared a wonderful bar-b-que feast with all the trimmings. A band entertained the group as libations flowed deep into the night. A wonderful time was had by all.

We were blessed to have a panel of judges with experience and success in the field trial sport. Allen Vincent hails from Collinsville, OK with a string of competitive dogs that have qualified and run in the Ames Plantation National Championship every year since 2002. His Oakspring Big Time Warrior made a strong bid for the title in 2018. He began trialing in 1984 and training for the public in 2000 with summers spent at camp in North Dakota. He's won the Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Missouri and Mississippi Championships multiple times. Lynn Oxendine of Joplin, MO has lived the amateur field trial life. He grew up bird hunting over pointers and started trialing in 1983. Oklahoman Bill Traubel was a mentor and many of his early dogs were out of Bill's breeding. More recently, he's had dogs with Allen and made it to summer camp for nearly 20 years. He's adjudicated the Oklahoma Championship and the Quail Futurity. Owning and managing a feed store kept him busy for most of his working years but now retired, he's enjoying more time in the saddle watching bird dogs. These gentlemen set a wonderful pace that allowed handlers to show their dogs. They were attentive and consistent with each brace.

Purina, Garmin, and Christie Saddlery generously supported this championship with dog food, electronic gear and a saddle. These fine sponsors manufacture quality products known throughout the field trial community as products that assist in producing champions. I doubt there was a handler or owner at this year's championship that doesn't utilize one or all of these trusted manufacturers. Additionally, Purina and Garmin sponsor the annual "dog of the year" awards for all age and shooting dogs.

Quality grounds are essential for the credibility of a title of this caliber and few would argue the J. Perry Mickle grounds can separate the field in quick order. These are challenging grounds based on the cover and directional options a dog has at its disposal. Brian Enfield, Brad Wells, and Clyde "Red" Bailey had the facilities and grounds in good condition.

THE WINNERS

Champion – SS Rig's Colorado GunRunner – Tom and Linda Milam, owners; Tom Milam, handler; Kent Patterson, scout. Rig's had that "try and keep up" look in his eyes when released on course 2. He shot toward the Buzzard Roost with the scout working early in the expanse to the east. He was seen briefly in the bowling alley where he crossed to the left margin and came to Tom as we dropped off toward the first 109 crossing. He skimmed the edges of the eastern field and was coming across to the course when he froze. As the scout called point, a large group of birds lifted. When Tom got on the ground and fired, another group of 20 lifted with Rigs maintaining great composure through it all. Upon release, he shot toward the Parrish Field and swung north around the islands of cover. He finished the big move by coming out of the last ring of cover leading toward the fish hook loop. As he was crossing to meet Tom, he stopped in knee high broom sedge. Tom flushed a big, hard-flying group of birds to the east toward woods cover. He was rimming the islands of cover in the fish hook at 25 when Tom raised his hat. Rigs was standing inside a ring of sparse cover with a small group of birds well located. He finished the fish hook in style and shot out into the Parrish Field. While most dogs go to the cover along the northern



timber line, not Rigs; he was having prairie flashbacks and shot out into the great expanse of broom sedge to the south. He was not seen again until he came across to Tom near the second 109 crossing where he maintained the front over the next 15 minutes being seen infrequently back to the bridge. He was going away along a mowed strip north of the bridge at time.

Runner-up Champion – Piney Run Jake – Kent D. Patterson, owner/handler; Tom Milam, scout. Coming off a year culminating in his being named the 2018 ABC Purina All Age Dog of the Year, Piney Run Jake shot away from the Petit Jean bridge glued to the river edge as the gallery moved up course 3. He flashed in the few lanes of visibility that lead to the bottleneck where he crossed the front, rimmed the large field on the right and seen along lines near the old corral. He was recovered near the big culvert where he crossed toward Course 1. Scout Tom Milam rode that direction and called point at 16 with Jake standing inside a thick line of cover. After a lengthy flushing attempt on running birds, they lifted to the west with Jake maintaining excellent style. He blasted away toward Mario's Hill as handler, judge, and gallery cantered to catch the front. He was seen on the far northern edge of the Pavilion field then crossed to the southern edge and disappeared. Both handler and scout looked thoroughly in an area known to hold birds with no sign of him but continued riding south looking in likely places toward Gas Well Hill. On top of the hill, Jake was seen coming back from the front where he promptly grabbed the western edge leading off the hill and was seen going up a service road into the woods. It took some time for the scout to dig him out and back to his handler where he resumed his performance by hitting the edge leading toward the road split. He was standing at 40 along a feed strip to the left of the course with Judge Oxendine indicating his birds had already lifted and flown across the road. Kent flushed briefly, shot, and took him on. Near the road split, he went south to the line of timber that leads east. He completed the big move by meeting his handler at the beaver dam, rimmed a large pocket to the west, then crossed over to search lines back to the river chute. He was heeled through the river chute then released toward the dog wagon. He was cruising a line of timber back toward the road split at time.

Third – MK's My Lil Ammo – Nick Blasi, owner; Scott Johnson, handler; Richard Beaver, scout. BB chose the river edge to start her hour on Course 3. Gifted with a fluid gait that can eat up country in quick fashion, she crossed over to the right margins of the course as the party entered the bottleneck. Handler and scout were working double time near the old corral to minimize a deer chase from derailing the hour. They got her turned toward Mario's Hill, where she made the showy cast near Course 1. She maintained the northern edge of the Pavilion field and was out of pocket briefly before showing on top of Gas Well Hill. She, along with her brace mate, took a woods road cut leading to an absence. Coming out first, she worked cover along the right side of the course to the road split then went south to the timber line. She crossed the beaver dam and was standing along the river at 50 with excellent style and manners. She shot south from her find, was heeled through the river chute, and was going east in cover at time.

Fourth – Tequila Scorcher – Bernie Crain, owner; Ed Tillson, handler; Jessica Carlson, scout. Lincoln was released at 1:22 just across Lick Creek and shot toward Mario's Hill. As the gallery crossed the service road, he made the flashy cast down the eastern tree line and turned in toward the S curve where he stylishly nailed a small covey at 10. He worked both sides of the course as we moved toward the Old Corral area turning north on a line of cover toward Hwy 109. Halfway down the line, he spun hard into a point. Ed flushed thoroughly with no luck and relocated him before deciding to go on. Leaves were falling like snowflakes as the 25mph wind battered the gallery entering the river



bottom. Lincoln maintained the right margin of the course and was out of pocket back up Course 3 as we neared the bridge. He was gathered up and crossed the bridge at 40. He handled the early portions of Course 2 like a pro and shot down the southern edge of the bowling. At 55, he was standing on the reliable covey along the right margin of the course

with excellent manners. He finished up a line of cover near the old bridge 109 crossing.

The Running

Day 1: Cold, clear sky morning, temps in high 20's as a large gallery gathered on breakaway hill.

Brace 1: JWB Artic Cat – Jack and Crystal Alexander, owners; Tom Tracy, handler and Spanish Corral's Sonny Patch – Joe Gower, owner/handler. The 2019 National Championship started with a bang...literally. A local, yellow lab was milling about among the horses and people on breakaway hill sensing something big was about to happen. When the scouts released the brittanys, the lab showed his sneakers and down the hill he went with the Brittany's looking at him like...What?? Who??? There were handlers shouting, blank guns going off, and marshals scurrying to convince him this was an invitation only event. By the time we got to the bottom of the hill things had settled down with Kimber and Patch reaching for cover toward Lick Creek. Both were in and out of pocket over the early portions of the hour with Patch searching cover near the Barking Dog house at 13. Kimber's scout was looking for her near Mario's Hill and she was recovered along the tree line as Patch rimmed the field north of the S curve. They primarily used the cover to the left of the course with Kimber being rewarded with a stylish covey find in broom sedge at 35. Patch pinned a nice group of birds at 40 as we neared the chute toward the double gates. Both dogs were standing 20 ft apart at 51 but the handlers couldn't produce any game. Time was called in the river bottom with both dogs on the back side of the woods.

Brace 2: Whisky's Little Tip – Gaylord Jowett, owner; Bob Burchett, handler and MK's Magnificent Bandito – Bill and Mary Lynn Oliver, owners; Scott Johnson, handler. We were away at 9:15 on Course 2 with clearing skies as Tip and Chico sprinted toward the Buzzard Roost. Chico made the turn and maintained the front with Tip making the deep cast east with Bob and scout worked hard to pull him through the woods into the bowling alley. At 11, Chico was standing stylishly as Scott pushed a nice group of birds toward the river. Upon release, Chico shot down the woods edge and disappeared over the small rise leading toward 109. At 14, Scott had his hat in the air with Chico standing in sparse cover looking straight down, a scene that no handler likes to see. When Scott kicked, the bird ran as did Chico to end his bid. Tip was being a handful on this day, he was finally recovered near the first Old 109 crossing and got into a little more trouble around game at 30 to end the brace.

Brace 3: High Hope's Jac's Original Spice – Kathy Gulembo and Cindy Cropek, owners and Glade Run Irish – David Webb, owner; Tom Tracy, handler. Spice and Irish were released after a nice donut and coffee break headed toward the fish hook on Course 2. Irish was standing at 6 in a feed strip at the entrance to the fish hook loop. These birds are reliable year to year and he had them pinned with excellent style and manners. At 10, Spice stopped on a ring of cover to the right of the course with Irish backing. Before Chad was able to get in front of her, a bird got up and she moved to end her hour. Upon release, Irish made the showy cast into the pocket near the gas well pad and met Tommy at the crossing. He ran in cover until we got back out into the Parrish Field where he was glued to the northern margin of the course. He came out of the far corner and down the 109 tree-line pinning a running covey near the service road intersection. He skimmed the left margin of the course back to the bridge where he was watered. The wind was picking up out of the north as he went through the bottleneck on Course 3. At 50, he was standing on a tree line known to hold a covey. Tommy flushed and relocated him several times before birds were seen. He was stopped

at 55 along tall cover near Mario's Hill with no birds seen and ended his hour up the tree line across Lick Creek.

Brace 4: JT Copper Buckaroo – Jeff Minch, owner; Paul Doiron, handler and Roustabout's White Knight – Paul Rosevear, owner; Tom Tracy, handler. Buck and Lance shot down the hill as the gallery began to feel warming slivers of sunshine on their back but temps were expected to drop over the afternoon. Buck was at moderate range over the first quarter of the hour, with Paul electing to put him on the wagon near Lick Creek. Lance was seen headed toward 109 near the 3-minute mark and hadn't been seen once we got to Lick Creek with Tommy asking for the tracker.

Brace 5: Tequila Scorcher – Charles Crain, owner; Ed Tillson, handler and Crosscreek Argus' Early Christmas – Donovan Markiewicz, owner; Chad Holman, handler. Lincoln's hour was summarized earlier. Gus were released at 1:22 just across Lick Creek and shot toward Mario's Hill. He was seen sparingly as the party crossed through the S curve and dropped over the knoll toward the old corral. He worked both sides of the course over the next 15 minutes then took a line leading north as we approached the double gate chute. He was flying down a feed strip toward the chute when he spun hard then suffered a breach of manners to end his hour.

Brace 6: Starlight's Mercury Out Ryder – Teresa Richmond, owner; Bob Burchett, handler and Ru-Jem's "Last" Penny – Jerry McGee, owner; Tom Tracy, Jr., handler. Both owners were in saddle to watch their dogs as Ryder and Penny were released on the south margins of the Parrish Field. Both made opening moves out in the great expanse to the north. Penny rimmed the long island of cover on the left, showed up front, and went down into the fish hook loop. Ryder had gone farther north near the fish hook exit and was coming back to Bob when he froze. As we were riding to him, a large covey lifted west and Ryder went with them. Penny was stopped at 18 in cover along the new pond with birds seen by Judge Allen Vincent flying out the back side. She hunted the cover as we headed back toward the Parish Field where she crossed from left to right and was rewarded with a large feed strip covey. She moved smartly and smoothly toward 109 where point was called at 35. Tommy pointed out a hawk kill and took her on. She crossed the bridge at 42 with a nonproductive at 50. She continued toward Mario's Hill but suffered a second nonproductive at 58.

Posted Dogs Day 1: Tequila Scorcher – Ed Tillson.

Day 2: Brace 7: MTB Louree's V-0-2 Max – Tom White and Margaret Horstmeyer, owners; Tom White, handler and A Trace of Bourbon With Diamonds – Rick and Becky Hastings, owners; Scott Johnson, handler. Everyone on the hill had an extra layer of clothing as temps had dipped into the low 20's overnight. We were away at 7:55 with Max and Trace both moving nicely over the early portions of the course. They were absent for a bit as we approached Lick Creek but regained the front at that point. Max went north to the line of cover along the service road and was found standing at 18. This covey had been pointed by several dogs both in the amateur championship and this, the open, championship. The covey had taken out every dog that had pointed them. Max became their next victim. Going forward this covey was referred to as the "undefeated covey". Trace had begun to get a bit lateral and came from behind a couple of times as we neared the old corral area where Scott elected to pick up.

Brace 8: KJ's Irish Whizky – Ken and Jane Windom, owners; Ken Windom, handler and High Lonesome Sage – Jim Hammett, owner/handler. Sage and Mickey were released at 8:40 near the old corral disappearing into the frost covered broom sedge. Sage went north to a mott and styled up at 4. Jim flushed briefly and relocated him where he promptly disappeared into the cover. Everyone was sure he

was in there standing with Jim searching for some time. At some point, someone in the gallery saw him on the far north perimeter of the course going forward. Mickey had rolled around pretty nicely as we approached the river bottom where he disappeared down the course. Sage went over to the river bottom and was standing at 37 and suffered his 2nd non-productive. Ken continued on course to the bridge never having seen Mickey since the double gates. He went over the bridge in hopes that he had crossed in front of us but there was no sign of him so Ken asked for the tracker.

Brace 9: Kinwashkly Tempo – Leslie Andreas, owner; Ed Tillson, handler and Kinwashkly Fat Bastard – Bo Ackerman and Leslie Andreas, owners; Tom Tracy, handler. Leslie Andreas was riding to watch two dogs out of her kennel. With an ownership position in each, imagine her nerves watching this brace. Both dogs were released at 9:30 sprinting across the buzzard roost with Tempo extending the cast down in the far corner and Ed working to get him up to the bowling alley. Fatz had maintained the front from the start and we had both dogs up front as we crossed 109 for the first time. Each rimmed the eastern edge as we turned toward the Parrish Field, then hunted the island on the left as we turned toward the fish hook. In the fish hook loop, Tempo took the right and Fatz the left making impressive moves. Tempo was seen taking the edge up to the new pond and kept the right edge back out to the Parrish Field where he nailed a big covey in fine fashion with birds all around him. At 45, Fatz had reached the tree line along 109 and was standing stylishly. An extended relocation did not produce game with Tommy electing to pick up. At 45, Tempo was rimming the north edge of the Parrish Field and found a water puddle to cool off...he then stood up, took 4 steps and went on point, all manners in order. Tempo finished on the Course 2 side of the river.

Brace 10: Remchester's Premium White Lightning – Don McNabb, Jr. and Steve Deger, owners; Scott Johnson, handler and Tequila's Tyler On Fire – Victor Retherford, owner/handler. Hooch and Tyler were away after a nice lunch, both dogs probing the logical cover on either side of the course leading toward Lick Creek. Tyler is a nice young dog experiencing these grounds for the first time and was hunting every likely piece of cover over the early portions of the hour. Vic decided to pick him up at 17. Hooch continued to move nicely. He had a non-productive at 22 near the S curve. At 40, as we neared the chute to the double gates, Hooch displayed excellent style and manners on a covey in a feed strip. He was credited with a stop to flush at 50 along a tree line in the river bottom and finished along the cover near the bridge.

Brace 11: SR's Blew By Typhoon – Daniel Doiron, owner; Paul Doiron, handler and Sniksoh Spank's Hank – Jeff Hoskins, owner/handler. Ty and Hank are two strapping boys that can "tote the mail" as they shot toward the Buzzard Roost on course 2 at 1:40. Jeff worked to pull Hank back up to the course as we entered the bowling alley as we had both dogs ahead at that point. Ty showed exquisite style on a covey at 18 as the party near the first 109 crossing. Both dogs explored the margins of the course as we crossed 109 with Ty coming around first and Hank down in the corner. Hank was seen cruising the edge leading to an island of cover where he jumped in and suffered a breach of manners to end his bid. Ty was holding everyone's attention through the fish hook and was seen standing on the eastern margin of the Parrish Field at 42. A nice covey was moved as Ty stood proudly in a difficult cover setting. He was credited with another find at 55 to the left of the course and finished near the bridge.

Brace 12: Hehi's Slim Chipley – Matt Healey, owner; Bob Burchett, handler and Rusty Ridge Where U Been – Claude and Jan Kilpatrick, owners; Paul Doiron, handler. Slim and Been had their sneakers laced tight as we left on course 3. Both were a handful

over the first quarter of the hour and seen flying through the course 3 bottleneck. Each was recovered in the Mario's Hill area and crossed Lick Creek. Slim showed nicely below the pavilion with no sign of Been. As we were crossing Gas Well Hill, Been regained the front and we had both dogs down the hill. Slim had a stylish find in a feed strip below Gas Well Hill as birds boiled out of feed strip to the right of the course. Been was standing on the end of an island of cover at 41 with a small group of birds pushed out of hiding. At 48, both dogs suffered non-productives just across the beaver dam. Been continued on around the next field and suffered his second non-productive. At time, Slim was moving along cover near the dog wagon on course 3.

Posted Dogs Day 2: Kinwashkly Tempo – Ed Tillson, SR's Blew By Typhoon – Paul Doiron, Hehi's Slim Chipley – Bob Burchett.

Day 3: Brace 13: Shot of Whizki – Pam Baird, owner; Chad Holman, handler and Rev'N Gunrunner's Tilly – Weldon Eberhart, owner; Tom Tracy, Jr., handler. Shot and Tilly sprang off the hill under clear skies, 24 degrees, and a frosty landscape. Both were hunting likely objectives over the first fifteen minutes with Tilly having a short absence up to Lick Creek. Shot went north and was cruising the cover along the service road when a covey got up and he didn't hit the brakes quick enough to remain in consideration. Tilly was recovered in the Mario's Hill area and was forward through the S curve and maintained the left margin of the course as we went through the old corral area. She continued to the east as we went through the river bottom returning to Tommy near the bridge with no bird contact during the hour.

Brace 14: SS Rig's Colorado GunRunner – Tom and Linda Milam, owners; Tom Milam, handler and Jagoub's Buzz'N Bayou – Tom and Debra Jagielski, owners; Tom Tracy, Jr., handler. Rig's hour was summarized earlier. Skeeter had his sneakers on and hearing aids off as Tommy worked hard over the first 25 minutes to get things lined out... it just wasn't working so he cashed it in at 26 near the Parrish Field northern entrance.

Brace 15: Sniksoh Little Diamond – Tom and Jane Wonderling, owners; Scott Johnson, handler and Almaden's Under Lock and Key – Emmy and Noah Wollenburg, owners; Ed Tillson, handler. Oudi was scratched so Kate had course 3 all to herself. Her early actions were impressive. She had to be discouraged from going back up Course 1 and came around to show nicely through the bottleneck. She was recovered near Mario's Hill and made flashy moves across Lick Creek, through the Pavilion field, and over Gas Well Hill. She began to slow at 40 with Scott electing to pick up 51.

Brace 16: Castaway Wilson – Tim Huglen, owner; Tom Tracy, Jr., handler and MTB Scipio's Hot Shot of Whizki – Tom White and Margaret Horstmeyer, owners; Tom White, handler. It was San Diego weather as we dropped off breakaway hill at 12:50. Tim Huglen was riding to watch Wilson. Wilson and Cali kept everyone's attention to Lick Creek with probing casts that kept them up front. They were gone a bit at the 20-minute mark and recovered near the S curve where Tommy sent Wilson along the edge of the big field to the north. Cali was watered at 30 and sent north as both were beginning to feel the effect of warmer temps. Tom elected to pick Cali up at 42 near the double gates. Wilson had gone to the river's edge and was rewarded with a mannerly covey find. Upon release, he went down the river edge and turned back to the course where he had a find at 47 near the tree line gap. He finished nicely back up the river bottom north of the bridge.

Brace 17: JR's Cool Hand Luke – Matt Harris and Harlene Hoyt Johnson, owners; Scott Johnson, handler and Hope's Chief of Crosscreek – Wayne Pepin, Bob and Polly West, owners; Bob Burchett, handler. Barbara and Wayne Pepin were in the gallery watching Chief, as well as Matt Harris for Luke. Both dogs shot away

east of the Petit Jean bridge with a bit of push and pull to the buzzard roost crossing where Luke was seen headed down in the far corner near the river. It would be the last we saw of him with Scott asking for the tracker at 22. Chief's effort on this day was not up to his usual standard with Bob electing to cash it in at 20.

Brace 18: Sparky's Prairie Wind Gypsy – Barry Koepke and Karen Fujikawa, owners; Scott Johnson, handler and CVK's Spartan King – Jack Alexander, owner; Tom Tracy, Jr., handler. Gypsy and Leo were released along the south margins of the Parrish Field where both made a wide swing north showing nicely as we approached the fish hook loop. Gypsy went down into the loop ahead of us as Leo was seen going into eastern cover. Tommy continued riding and singing with Leo popping out in front of us down in the loop...an impressive move. Gypsy did all the right things through the loop and we had both dogs to the front as we re-emerged in the Parrish Field. Leo was standing to the right of the course at 28 but no birds were produced. He suffered his second non-productive at 32 along Old 109. Gypsy continued her probing casts back to the bridge where she was watered and seen going up course 3. She had been gone for some time as we approached Mario's Hill with Scott reaching for the tracker.

Posted Dogs Day 3: SS Rig's Colorado GunRunner – Tom Milam and Castaway Wilson – Tom Tracy, Jr.

Day 4: Brace 19: Firestarter's Crossed The Line – Vicki Rankin and Andi Christensen, owners; Ed Tillson, handler and ANJ's Ohio Hellion – Mike Poehler, owner; Bob Burchett, handler. Ty and Hank were first up on the last day of the National Championship. The weather had moderated overnight with dawn temperatures in the high 30's expected to reach the mid 60's by afternoon. Hank was coming off a great prior week where he captured the National Amateur title with his owner, Mike Poehler. He was flying around early but went missing as we approached the barking dog house at 12. Bob rode to the service road crossing at Mario's Hill and requested the tracker from the marshal. Ty had been maintaining contact with Ed throughout the first half of the hour at a moderate pace and went to the river edge as we passed the double gates. Jessica called point at 42 with Ty standing in a feed strip. When Ed stepped in, the ground exploded with Ty somehow maintaining his composure. He cast away toward the bridge and wasn't seen for some time with Ed asking for the tracker near the bridge.

Brace 20: Touch of Bourbon Little Chug – Tom and Jane Wonderling, owners; Scott Johnson, handler and Driving Miss Daisy – Burton Wice, owner; Tom Tracy, Jr., handler. Carson and Daisy were away at 9:00 am on Course 2 making smart and flashy moves over the buzzard roost and down the bowling alley. They were standing near each other just over a rise near the first 109 crossing with birds flushed and both handlers firing. Daisy the gallery buzzing as she was making bigger and bigger moves through the mid-portions of the course. She was standing at 26 with a nice, well located covey near the south end of the Parrish Field. Carson was standing a mere 30 yards away with separate birds. Both shot into the fish hook loop, where Carson suffered a non-productive on an island of cover at 47. Daisy was lighting up both sides of the fish hook loop with cast after showy cast. She was standing in the trail as we came out into the Parrish Field and Tommy walked a big loop around her when a big group of birds lifted. She followed them a bit too far to remain in consideration. Carson maintained a moderate pace back toward the bridge with an absence across the second 109 crossing. He finished near the bridge.

Brace 21: MK's My Lil Ammo – Nick Blasi, owner; Scott Johnson, handler and Piney Run Jake – Kent Patterson, owner/handler. Jake and BB's hour was summarized earlier.

Brace 22: Crescent City Girl – Barry and Petra Steinmetz,

owners; Ed Tillson, handler and Blew Me Away – Norm and Terry Ahl, owners; Paul Doiron, handler. Nola and Bud started the afternoon session under clear skies and temps in the 50's. They were up to the task over the rolling hills toward Lick Creek with Bud standing at 8 under a big oak tree surrounded by cover. Nola came barreling over the hill and didn't get stopped in time to get her ticket to the wagon. Bud was statuesque in the afternoon sun as Paul pushed birds south. After his find, Bud went into hunting mode with Paul electing to pick up at 24.

Brace 23: Maxwell's Prickly Pete – Bo Ackerman, owner and SKF Miss Cheap Bourbon Whiskey – Steven and Kelly Foster and Herb Rea, owners; Scott Johnson, handler. Pete and KD were away from the service road crossing at Mario's Hill. Pete was coming off a successful fall campaign having won the Pheasant Championship and Runner-up in the Chicken Championship. KD placed in the National Derby events the prior year and was a great example of how that stake and format highlights talented youngsters that can return to Booneville and compete in the Nationals. Pete streaked away toward the S curve and disappeared. Tommy rode all the way to the river bottom without ever seeing him again. When he took the tracker he was standing within 100 yards from where we broke him away. KD showed nicely to the bridge and on to Course 2 with Scott working at times to get her out of cover. As we neared the Parrish field, he decided she likely wasn't moving anything in the judge's book and elected to pick up.

Brace 24: Alar's Dirty Dancer – Jessica Carlson, owner; Ed Tillson, handler and Brendi Brooks Cowboy Up – Ray and Mary Jo Trimble, owners; Ray Trimble, handler. Dani and Tuff were the final two participants released on the south end of the Parrish Field. Both excitedly skirted away leading the field trial party into the loop. They were a pleasure to watch skimming the edges that lead toward the new pond where Dani was stopped in a briar patch at 15. Ed finally got a group of running birds in the air. Tuff was flashy along the northern edges of the Parrish Field, as was Dani. Both dogs got in the woods as we turned toward the bridge at 30. It took some time for Dani to come out while Tuff made the impressive big loop around the early portions of Course 2 meeting Ray near the bridge. We crossed the bridge at 35 and moved up Course 3 with each being independent along the lines that lead west. Tuff flashed up the tree line near Mario's Hill while point was called for Dani to the left of the course at 55. She handled it beautifully. Both dogs finished nicely across Lick Creek as everyone took the Pavilion short cut back to the clubhouse.

2018 ABC National Championship Grand Open Limited All Age 1hr(46S)

J: Lynn Oxedine & Allen Vincent

- 1 –FC/AFC SS RIG'S COLORADO GUN RUNNER (D), by Eleet's Colorado Blue x Gun Runner's Diamond Forever; o Linda & Tom Milam, h Tom Milam
- 2 –FC/AFC PIENY RUN JAKE (D), by NFC Piney Run Art x Piney Run Gypsy; o/h Kent D. Patterson
- 3 –FC/AFC MK'S MY LIL AMMO (B), by Sniksoh Free Boy x Chief's Nubbin My Lil Lady; o Nick Blasi, h Scott Johnson
- 4 –GFC/DC/AFC TEQUILA SCORCHER (D), by DC Almaden's River of Shadows x DC/AFC Tequila With a Twist; o Charles B. Crain, h Ed Tillson