

The German Shorthaired Club of Central Iowa held its autumn horseback trial the weekend of November 11-13 at the Dude Hoehns farm near Columbia, Iowa. We've had one of the most beautiful falls in memory with mild, dry weather throughout the season. The weekend was a continuation of this great weather, with lows near freezing and highs near 60 for the weekend. A mild southwesterly breeze made for good weather for both the handlers and gallery, and also made for good scenting conditions for the bird dogs.

The trial was run over private land belonging to Dude and Rachel Hoehns and their neighbors Wayne and Jo Langstraat. More gracious hosts could not be found. Both courses were again in good shape this fall. Plenty of cover and edges were present for objectives, with enough of the CRP being mowed and crops harvested to allow us to see the dogs make their moves.

The Amateur Gun Dog stake was won by Ned Myers stylish pointer male, Ben. Ben had a nice forward race with a solid wild covey find midway through his brace. Birds came up in waves with Ben steady throughout. Wayland Russell's shorthair Katie came in second with Larry Bradley's shorthair female Powder placing third, scoring on a wild hen pheasant.

The Open Gun Dog contest was won by Kansas City native RC Coleman with his Vizsla male, Bowie. Bowie was always to the front, applied himself well and had two steady, stylish finds. Close behind was Larry Loftin's Shorthair, Lucy, and Randy Caldwell's Vizsla female, Zinga. Both with solid races and multiple finds.

Rodney Albin's Vizsla female Ruby won the open derby with an aggressive forward race, hunting all the way with two forward finds. Second place, and winner of the best named dog at the trial, was Shoeberry. "Shoe" is a Brittany male is owned by Randy Hammons, and handled by Minnesota pro Tommy Hagan. He also had a nice forward race and two stylish finds. After winning the Open Puppy stake, Jarrett and Allison Bell's young Vizsla Benelli came back to place third in the open derby with 2 nice finds and a solid race.

The Amateur Derby was won by field trial newcomer Nick Wassenaar and his shorthair Auggie. Rodney Albin's "Ruby" and Wassenaar's "Bleau" rounded out the placements.

As always, we would like to thank our judges. Their attention and professionalism was certainly appreciated. Rodney Albin, Wayland Russell, Randy Caldwell, Justin Hess, Brent Hoehns, Kendall Brown, and Mike Zimbelman all spent time in the saddle observing dogs and their time, attention, and decisions were all a big help in making this a successful trial.

With two courses and seven stakes over three days, it took a lot of help to pull the trial off. Keith Thompson helped set up camp every day and was pivotal in having the right dogs to the right starting place at the right time. He had good help with the dog wagon from club member John Roslien and a new young gentleman, Trenton Major. Jeff Wallace chaired the trial and kept things running smoothly as always. He seeded the courses with birds and did most of the bird planting, but was assisted by Kendal Brown, Mike Zimbelman, and myself.

Meals were served daily and were top notch each day. Grilled burgers Friday, pulled pork on Saturday, chili and cheeseburger chowder on Sunday. No one left hungry! Thanks to Carol Brown, Angie Thompson, and Carolyn Wallace for all their help with the selection, cooking, and serving of the meals.

Also, special thanks to Purina. They once again were gracious sponsors and provided a bag of ProPlan to the first place winners of the broke dog stakes. Their continued support is greatly appreciated. The club would like to thank everyone who attended. We had a great weekend, and hope to see everyone next spring!