

German Shorthaired Pointing Club of Central Iowa April 13-15, 2017

The German Shorthaired Pointing Club of Central Iowa held its spring trial the weekend April 13-15. The trial was held near Columbia, Iowa on private land owned by local farmers Wayne and Jo Langstraat and Dude and Rachel Hoehns. Six inches of rain the week before the trial made conditions wet, especially on the bottom areas of the course. Several turkeys were seen strutting, especially when freshening the water on the course early. The mild winter was good to the native pheasant, with several sightings of wild birds on the course (only 2 under judgement) and along the roadside. A few morel mushrooms were found. All offering incontrovertible proof that spring is here!

We had an outstanding weekend with a total of 149 entries for all events. This required a lot of focus and attention to the dogs and we were blessed with knowledgeable, attentive judges. Chuck Parietti of Maryville, MO judged the amateur gun dog and the amateur derby. Justin Hess of Foley, MO judged the amateur gun dog stake. Dano Morf of Clear Lake, Iowa and Wayland Russell of Kansas City paired up to judge the open limited gun dog stake. The amateur and open puppy stake was looked over by Cynthia Findley of Ventura, Iowa as was the amateur derby. Minnesota pro Tommy Hagan also helped fill in and assisted judging the amateur puppy stake as well. Randy Caldwell of La Porte City, Iowa judged the open puppy as well as the open derby. Brent Hoehns of Knoxville, Iowa assisted judging the open derby. The largest stake of the weekend included 39 dogs in the open gun dog, judged by Dano Morf and Iowa native, Laura Miller.

The big winner of the weekend was My Covert Operative. Pike won the 39 entry open gun dog stake for pro handler Jon Hann, then turned around and won the amateur gun dog stake for owner Elsa Gallgher the next day. BGK's Blinged Up Rossi placed second in the open gun dog stake for owner/handlers Jarrett and Allison Bell, with third place going to Chase and Mark Verdoorn's wirehair Brillows Big Wild Western. Rounding out the amateur gun dog placements were Rueben's Midnight Mark for Paul Howard and RFK's Liverhead Fast Lane Katie for owner Wayland Russell. The open limited gun dog stake was won by Snowy River's Full Strut handled by Chase Verdoorn, second went to the Bell's with Kick Em Up Bullet, and Chase Verdoorn taking third as well with Snowy River's Cuttin Country.

A trial of this size is difficult to pull off without lots of help. Trial chairman Jeff Wallace worked several jobs from keeping the running order straight, to planting birds, to welcoming entrants, even directing parking. He was busy throughout the trial. Keith Thompson and John Roslien were in charge of the dog wagons and did an excellent job of having dogs at the line when needed and back to the handler's strings when done. They were assisted by the youngster, Trenton Major, whose highlight of the weekend may have been simply getting to drive the Polaris Ranger. Kendal Brown helped with bird planting duties as well as a host of odd jobs around the camp. His wife Carol, Angie Thompson, and Carolyn Wallace all helped with meals at the camp. We had a judge's dinner at the local fire station with catering from The Rib Shack in Knoxville served with the help of Kim Hoehns and Carolyn Wallace. As always, we'd be remiss not to thank our sponsors. We'd like to thank Purina for their help and also thank Gun Dog Supply for gift certificates which were raffled. We'd like to thank everyone who attended and look forward to seeing you all this fall.

Brent Hoehns