

The German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Central Iowa held its spring weekend trial April 15-17 near Columbia, Iowa. April is typically unpredictable from a weather standpoint. This weekend was unusually hot, dry, and windy. Temperatures reached near 80 degrees F with southwesterly winds of about 20 mph. We've been fortunate to gain permission to run on private lands owned by two local farmers, Wayne Langstraat (and wife Jo) and Dude Hoehns (and wife Rachel). These grounds have a modest roll with tree lined edges, grain fields on top of the ridges, with surrounding CRP and open bottoms. All in all a nice place to watch a dog run, but still handle, with lots of natural objectives.

We were blessed with a wonderful entry of 159 dogs for the Friday through Sunday event. Judges were attentive with placements being well received. Peter Wilkin and Kendal Brown judged the Open Gun Dog Stake. They also paired up to judge the Open Derby. Bruce Bryant and Randy Caldwell shared judicial duties in the Amateur Gun Dog stake and the Amateur Walking Derby. Darrin White joined Wayland Russell to oversee the Open Limited Gun Dog stake. Darrin also judged the Open Puppy stake with Brent Hoehns. Hoehns later tag teamed with Randy Caldwell to look at the Amateur Walking Puppy stake. The club would certainly like to thank all the judges for their time and attention to a large entry for a weekend stake.

No trial is complete without help and we had lots of it. Jeff Wallace chaired the trial and helped plant birds along with the myriad of paperwork involved in putting on a trial. Keith Thompson was voted weekend MVP for his role in filling the dog wagons for two busy fields. With this many dogs, it's imperative to stay on time and he was the main reason it happened. He had help from John Roslien and Dwight Harselaar who both put in long hours helping around camp, hauling water, and transporting dogs to and from the course. Keith's wife Angie, Carol Brown, and Jeff's mother Carolyn Wallace overfed us this weekend. Homemade mashed potatoes, noodles, and creamed corn made it feel like a holiday.

I was unable to follow all the stakes throughout the weekend. The judges were kind enough to give accounts of the open gun dog and open derby stakes, which follow. There were many good performance throughout the weekend and while specific comments on each winner are lacking, the placements given are recorded below.

The Open Gun Dog cast off at 7:30 Friday morning with a nice entry of 26 dogs. The weather was cool but it would warm up as the day went on, and the wind would start to pick up. After a scratch in the third brace, we would see 25 dogs with many completing the course in good form. Two would rise to the top. Runner up would run in the 10th brace. Frank, a GSP handled by Rick Heller, had a very competitive brace. Frank had his first find 4 minutes off the cast off, displaying great style. Frank had a very forward run with additional finds at 17 and 22. The winner Cali, a GSP handled by Tom Hagan, ran in the 8th brace. Cali ran a strong race from the cast off. She would have a non-productive in a nice spot early, but go on to have two beautiful finds later at 12 and 20 minutes. She displayed a great nose, pointing at long range.

The Open Derby would cast off after lunch on Saturday. We had a variety of pointing breeds, German Shorthairs, English Pointers, English Setter, Vizslas, German Wirehair and Brittanys. Bird work was good

and plentiful making for an exciting Derby. Third place went to Izzy, an English Pointer run by Tom Peterson. Izzy ran in the last brace making a big cast off and running a strong race. Izzy recorded several finds with great style. Runner up went to Foo in the 10th brace. Foo, a German Shorthair male, was run by Phil Mathiowetz. Foo had a big forward run with two nice finds to secure his placement. The winner was Sadie, a German Shorthair female from the first brace. Sadie was handled by Tom Hagan. Sadie had a good cast off with a nice forward race. Sadie put herself on the back side of the fenceline, using the wind, to record a find at 5. She would finish strong with nice handling.

As always we would like to thank Purina for their support of the trial. Saturday night our judges dinner was at the "Red Rock Grill and Still", a new establishment in Knoxville, Iowa which we would recommend you patronize if in the area. Finally, thanks to all who entered. It was good to see old friends and make new acquaintances.