



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2003 • Published Quarterly • Jim Bradford, Editor

OUR GOAL: To Promote, Preserve, and Experience One of the Greatest Southern Traditions Known... Quail Hunting.

9th Annual Spring Field Trial Big Success

Our Spring Trial keeps getting better and better. The weather was perfect and the dogs put on a great show for both the judges and spectators. There was non-stop action in both the Puppy-Derby field and the All-Age field. All of the beautiful dog work and shooting could be seen from the Frost Cabin.

This was without doubt the best organized trial that we have conducted so far and we had the most entries ever and also the most spectators. We were also treated to a gourmet breakfast and lunch at very reasonable prices.

The field was highly competitive as most of the time both dogs performed well and generally did not allow birds to accumulate in the field. The All Age Champion was Bob Carr's Champagne Sioux with who totaled 179 points based on six finds. Sioux also won our fall field trial at the M&H Farms.

We are very grateful to the entire Frost family for once again making

these beautiful grounds available to us on prime preserve hunting days. They also were very gracious hosts and Jeanise Frost had a big hand in the orderly manner in which the trial was conducted. We are also grateful to the many club members who contributed their time in this worthy effort that attracted some new members from around the state.



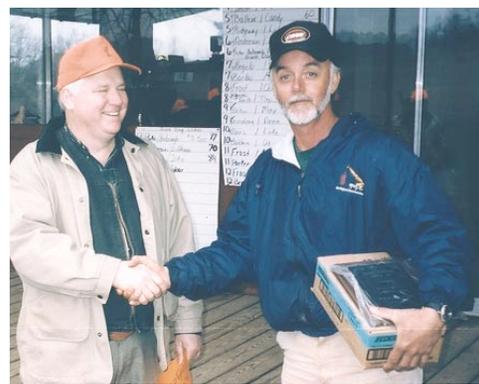
ALL AGE

1. Sioux Bob Carr
2. Sport Tommy Smith
3. Tap Jack Harold Ridgeway



DERBY

1. Major Laylon Cox
2. Bell Terry Cohron
3. Nell Mims



PUPPY

1. Candy Johnny Littleton
2. Goldie Aaron Parker
3. Kate Donny Hodges

Where in the World is Hatchechubbee?

Recently, Frank Harris and I enjoyed a wonderful Saturday in Hatchechubbee, Alabama. Now you may ask, "Where in the world is Hatchechubbee and what in the world were ya'll doing there?" Frank and I were visiting the East Alabama Field Trial Club's spring field trial to see how they put on their trials. Mainly, we just wanted to get out and see some country, watch some good bird dogs working a field and meet some more folks who were as interested in bird hunting. I can attest to the fact that we accomplished our mission, thanks to the effort of East Alabama Field Trial members. Frank and I left home very, VERY, early for the long

drive down south to Russell County and Hatchechubbee. We traveled through some absolutely beautiful parts of Alabama. I could not help but say that little prayer of thanks for getting the chance to enjoy this little piece of nature's bounty. You should know that, while Hatchechubbee is a beautiful place, a measure of its worth is its very remote locale. This isolation may be one of the reasons it has remained such a fine place for the field trials. Hatchechubbee is located on the "Old Federal Road" that brought the first sustained influx of settlers into and across Alabama. As to land usage and population density, there has been little change since the early 1800's.

resources. The bonds between the birds, the land, the wonderful bird dogs and the hunters seem most strong in that belt of land running east and west through the lower third of our southern states. On this Saturday, Frank and I found ourselves astride a couple of forgiving steeds, in pursuit of a brace of determined bird dogs that were bent on locating the elusive quail coveys. Could it get any better? NO.

The day was spent doing all those things that quail hunters enjoy. Not one single experience would you have wanted to change. It was perfect. To the East Alabama Field Trial Club, and especially to Mr. & Mrs. Hyder, Frank and I offer our sincere gratitude and appreciation for a great time in a wonderful place, with some GREAT folks!

Mike Barlow

Quail Shoppers Corner

Sioux's Puppies...Yet to be conceived: Contact Bob Carr if you are interested in purchasing one of Sioux's puppies (Carr's Champagne Sioux). Bob plans to breed Sioux to Elhew Ripkin owned by Morris Slingluff from Dothan, AL. Puppies should be available this summer. Bob's office: 205-424-1381 or Email coalcarr@bellsouth.net.

For Sale: Reflections by Ed Mack Farnior. A recollection of the "Golden Years" of quail hunting on the major field trial circuit, from 1913 through 1960. Hardback editions, \$30.00, postage paid. Paperback editions, \$17.50, postage paid. Call Ed Mack at 334-738-2223 or write him at

**207 Chunn St.,
Union Springs, AL 36089.**

A hardback & paperback will be available for viewing at May Meeting.

AQH Members, do you have equipment you would like to sell, or do you need to buy some more equipment? Place your add in the Quail Shoppers Corner for \$5.00 per newsletter.

Hatchechubbee stands in tribute to our great love of the land, a more gracious time in the reign of the Noble Quail and the hunter's desire to be good stewards of our natural

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT
www.newleafpub.com/alaquail
www.alabamaquailtrail.com

Senior's Field Trial?

We will be discussing the possibility of a Senior's Division for future field trials. On the face of it, this would seem to me to be long over due not just for our trials but for other organizations also. There may be some organizations that are already doing this, of which, I am not aware.

Think of it. You have a proven dog that is a winner that may have lost a step with age and so gets left in the kennel while you compete with the younger dogs. Older dogs are already trained and all you have to do is work with them just a little and they are ready to compete with the same determination that they have always shown.

The minimum age is up for discussion. There could also be a minimum age for the handler and shooter. To me, 10 years young would give these older pups a chance to compete for another 2 to 5 years. Also, Seniors could still compete in the All Age Dog Division.

The few people that I have talked to have been mostly positive. Jake is all for it. He will be 13 by the time next season rolls around and hopefully he could compete in both divisions.

If you have thoughts on this idea, please call me at 991-8635 or email me at sunbrad@msn.com.

Jim Bradford

President's Corner

Hey Folks: Our monthly meetings at Lloyd's Restaurant have been upbeat and very interesting lately. I hope you have been one of the privileged few to be in attendance. **Dr. Kyendall** visited with us at our March meeting and spoke to our group about the field trials from the 1960's to the present.

His dog Native Tango won the National Field Trial at Grand Junction, Tennessee. Strawdog won the Region 16 several times. Dr. Kyendall, a veterinarian, also passed along to our attending members valuable tips on dog care including feeding and health care.

At our April meeting, we had a last minute speaker named **Danny White** from Circle W Preserve in Heflin, AL. I was sorry James Frost was not in attendance, because Danny was running a field trial the following Saturday, using rules similar to that of which I have heard James speak. Danny spoke of his first trial in Horns Valley and of some of the champion dogs he has trained. He also spoke about some of the methods he uses to train his dogs.

Mike Barlow and I attended a field trial in Hatchachubbee, AL. The field trial was sponsored by the **East Alabama Field Trial Association**. The trial was a 4-day event that was held on the lands where Collier Smith trains his dogs. They were very friendly to us and even lent us two horses to ride in the gallery to view the dogs as they covered miles of beautiful quail country. While

inspecting the grounds, kennels and office, we saw an old newspaper clipping about Dr. Kyendall framed on the wall.

Les Lockridge will be our speaker for our May 13th meeting. Les is a Certified Master Shooter in the field of Sporting Clays. He designed the sporting clay course at the M and H Farms where he is an instructor. We held our first, annual Fall Field Trial as guests of M and H Farms located near Talladega. Les is also a new member of our club, so make your plans, now to come to Lloyds on May 13th. We will see you there.

We are very thankful to the Frost Family for the use of there farm for our Spring Trial. It was a well organized event. In the future, I will be pushing for pre registration including the name of the dog by Monday, the week of the trial. I believe that early registration will allow us to start the trial sooner and will be more efficient use of time.

I regret to inform you that **Mike Arban**, of Tyler has passed away. Jim Bradford and I particularly recall the first meeting that Mike attended. He was extremely enthusiastic about bird hunting. Like many of our members, Mike had gotten out of bird hunting several years earlier due to loss of habitat and fewer quail. It was apparent that he had not found a hobby to replace quail hunting. Soon afterwards, he set a fast pace traveling through out Alabama and Tennessee looking for

that perfect bird dog puppy, an English Pointer, of course. His daughter, Tracy worked for AmSouth Bank in Montgomery and later Birmingham. She was an excellent employee. I am sure you will want to send regrets to the Arban family , including Philip and Tracy Wiedmeyer.

Our club is looking to **lease some property** to use for training bird dogs. I do not want us to get hung up on where it should be located, but we do need something convenient and suitable for our use. Hopefully, we can find a property with at least 30% open acreage either in pasture or row crops. If you know of some available acreage, please let us know.

I want to encourage each of you to spend some time in this beautiful spring weather working on your quail habitat. It is getting a little late for control burning, but trapping and plowing should have a positive effect on your quail numbers. If you have a hunting story or you know where to purchase partridge peas at a discount, please share this information with us. I am beginning to hear that preseason release of quail is gaining in popularity. Just email your story or information to me, fharris@amsouth.com or put it on a floppy disc and send it to me.

I know all of you are proud of the success of our American Troops in Iraq. We should all be very appreciative to live in a country where loss of quail habitat can be a primary concern. **God bless America.**

Frank

Treasurer's Desk

We have begun to remove names from our AQH mailing list. Those people who have not paid their dues in quite some time are in danger of being removed. If you would like to continue to receive this newsletter, please pay your dues, now. Thanks, again, to all of you who have already

paid your \$15.00, 2003 dues. If you have not yet paid them, my mailing address is:

1901 Morgan Road SE
Bessemer, AL 35022

If you have moved, changed telephone numbers or have a new

Email address, please include a printed or typed note to me with your correct personal information, particularly your correct Email address. Thank you very much.

Bob Carr
Treasurer, AQH

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Office Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____

New Member Renewal

2003 DUES – \$15.00

Check Payable to "Alabama Quail Hunters"

Call Jim Bradford, 991-8635 or for more information, contact...



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