



NEWSLETTER

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

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Dog Manners...

Recently my daughter, Maggie, and I had the opportunity to visit the Murray, Kentucky farm of Ferrel and Eleanor Miller. That is Ferrel, as in over one thousand major field trial wins, Miller of Murray, Kentucky. For those of us who follow the happenings of birddogs, you enter the experience sort of pinching yourself to see that it isn't a dream.

The November trip gave Maggie and I an opportunity to see great dog action and watch Mr. Miller as he put his special touch to work in those sharp looking pointers. Maggie got to spend lots of time riding and between the dog action and the horseback riding, she was one happy camper!

The evening we arrived, Kentucky saw some very bad thunderstorm activity and I thought for a while that our visit might be confined to watching Mr. Miller work with the dogs under the cover of the barn. Yet, at daybreak we found ourselves atop a couple of well-trained mounts, hot on the trail of a string of magnificent pointers, and having the time of our lives. The horses that Mr. Miller provided had obviously done the drill so many times that they were masterful in their smooth gaited movement over the beautiful Kentucky farmland. They made the adventure a pleasure to behold as we swiftly moved over hill and dale to catch each point at the perfect time.

During the day I'd glance over at Maggie and she always had the look of a girl that was having the time of her life. For those that know Maggie from our club events, you know that her first love is birddogs and her second love is anything to do with horses. She was having a ball as we rode after the dogs. Seeing them run over the beautiful farmland with no apparent

fatigue, you knew that their strength and stamina was the product of a tremendous amount of hard work on the part of Mr. Miller. Little had been left to chance with these dogs and I suspect that due to Mr. Miller's work ethic, that was the case with most everything he undertook. It would surely sound odd to the uninitiated but the pointers just seemed to be "well mannered" and constantly mindful of the game and how it was to be played. Each point and each back made you grab for the camera in hopes of getting "just one more great action shot" of those fine dogs. I will forever remember the rock hard points and equally staunch honoring backs that we saw over and over. The pointers seemed to instantly respond to commands, always moving aggressively and with a determination that let you know they had quail and only quail on their minds.

We closed out the morning with Mr. Miller running a young dog, a very young dog, who ran as if he had experience waaaaay beyond his years. He ran just as if he as one of the "big dogs" and his every move was impressive. I'm sure we'll be hearing about this young one before long.

Returning to the barn, Maggie and I had a chance to see two of the most famous dogs in America. Maggie and I were introduced to Dateline and White Powder. Of course, when we were outside their pens they sorta looked like regular birddogs but then something really impressive happened. Mr. Miller opened one of the pens and off went Dateline in a flash. Mr. Miller was in mid-sentence and never, I repeat NEVER, blinked as this champion (that is spelled expensive) birddog burst out the barn door for parts unknown. After what seemed like minutes, though actually it was just seconds, Mr. Miller called once



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DOG MANNERS...

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and immediately the "flash" was back by Mr. Miller's side. Dateline sat there and stared up at Mr. Miller with this look that said "wanna play, huh, huh, wanna play". I was impressed. Then exactly the same thing happened with White Powder. It was just an amazing display of control and a dog's devotion to its master.

All too soon the visit came to an end but the experience will not be forgotten. I have had some wonderful experiences and met some great folks while messing about with bird dogs. I know I'm having a great time but seeing my children enjoying the sport really tops it all off for me. As I was writing this article, I turned to Maggie and asked what she'd enjoyed most about our visit to the Miller's farm and she quickly piped up EVERYTHING! I guess I'd have to agree. I have to say that the time spent with Mr. and Mrs. Miller is time that Maggie Barlow will never forget. The traits she observed, kindness, gracious behavior, a strong work ethic, and love of the land were not wasted on her. Maggie and I had a wonderful time visiting a great "bird dog" couple and feel that we walked away with a little better understanding of the reason for the hundreds and hundreds of trial wins. Hard work and dedication do wonders! To the Miller's we will be forever grateful and to each of you we hope such an experience is in your future.

Mike Barlow — Alabama Quail Hunters

Treasurer's Desk

Thank you for your participation in our raffle. You and your hunting buddies who bought the chances helped AQH raise more than \$1,500. With the start of 2005, all dues are due. Look at your mailing label. If "05" does not follow your name, please send me your check made out to AL Quail Hunters, 1901 Morgan Road SE, Bessemer, AL 35022. Your annual \$15.00 dues are income tax deductible. Email me any questions to coalcarr@bellsouth.net or call me at (205) 424-1381.

Thank you,
Bob Carr, AQH Treasurer

New Members

We have several new members to welcome. They are:

David Magouirk from Heflin
Beckham Palmer from Tuscaloosa
Todd Skaggs from Birmingham

AQH Raffle

Congratulations to Harold Ridgeway upon winning our raffle drawing for the limited edition Beretta shotgun.

Editors Notes..

Frank Harris, with help from some very enthusiastic board members is doing a fine job as president and meetings have been excellent. Leon Flynn spoke briefly at our December meeting about his recent hunting trip to Kansas. Then he made us all feel good when he praised Frank and the club for the camaraderie and enjoyable meetings that he looks forward to each month. I feel the same way.

The Northern Bobwhite Quail Initiative is the latest and possibly the greatest happening since AQH was formed some 12 years ago. Land owners will have a significant monetary reason to provide improved quail habitat. This is very exciting. Up to now, only a few people were working on habitat because of the expense involved and this did little to help the average quail hunter.

Several other good things have happened since the club was formed and I believe in each case the club was at least partially responsible.

The Quail Shortcourse was held for several years and

was attended by several hundred property owners around the state. This was formed after AQH had a meeting with Charles Kelly.

The Mid Alabama Chapter of Q.U. was formed by one of our members, Vern Burns and they have raised a significant amount of money and have obtained some large grants.

The Alabama Quail Trail was formed, greatly benefiting Hunting Preserves and creating interest in former hunters.

Covey Rise was started and AQH was in at the beginning and continues to work with Tim and Kim Price. I believe that magazine will be responsible for greater things than any one can imagine.

We lent moral support to Stan Stewart when he was the loneliest man in Montgomery and we were some of the most depressed folks in the B'ham area.

Renewal time is just around the corner and I thought some of you might like to know where your \$15 is going.

JB

HEY FOLKS

Our fall field trial in Lincoln was a big success. For the complete trial results see the web site under "Field Trial News". Aaron Parker and his dogs had an outstanding day. Please join me in thanking the Bama Bird Dog Club for allowing us to use their grounds, again. Also a big thanks to Joy Dog Food and Buddy McElroy for providing their fine products for all placements.

You may have noticed that we are allowing advertisements on our website. I want to thank LAH Real Estate and Bill Warren for their ad.

At our November meeting, Anthony Joseph with Joseph Lumber Co. spoke to us about mulching woodlands through his environmentally green friendly process. His extremely powerful machine has been customized

to his specifications. It does a wonderful job making mulch out of small trees, brush, and grasses. Landowners can plant immediately after the mulching operation. You may read the recent article in Wildlife Trends for more information.

Commissioner Barnet Lawley has invited Richard Anderson and me to serve on the newly formed Alabama Quail Council. The first meeting was held in December. Announcements were made for a Conservation Reserve Program known as CP 33. This new program will be available in mid January 2005. It is a program that encourages row-crop farmers to leave borders along field edges for quail and songbirds. They will be paid for allowing this land to lay fallow. It must be maintained, however. Richard and I will be updating you on the

Quail Council and actions we need to take to enhance quail habitat.

Please remember to update your membership in January. Our dues are still only

\$ 15.00 per year. You may want to consider paying dues for a friend to introduce them to Alabama Quail Hunters Inc.

Tentative plans are for Stephen Mitchell with Auburn University's Quail Research Group to speak at the January 11, 2005 meeting. Stephen's research is ongoing on the Sehoy Plantation in near Hurtsboro, Alabama.

I wish you a wonderful Christmas!!! I hope that your holidays are filled with good health and cheer.

Frank Harris
President

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AQH Patches

iron on or sew
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vest. \$15.00 each
or buy 4 and the
5th one is free.
Contact Bob Carr at
coalcarr@bellsouth.net
or call him at
205-424-1381.

2004 Fall Field Trial

The Fall Field Trial was held on Saturday, the October 30, 2004. We had 36 dogs entered in the competition held at the Bama Bird Dog Club in Lincoln, AL. Aaron Parker was the overall winner, and the winner of more events than any other competitor. Listed below is the name of the winner of each class of competition.

CONTESTANT	WINNER	NAME	CLASS
Aaron Parker	1st	Babe	ALL AGE
Terry Cohron	2nd	Belle	ALL AGE
Richard Anderson	3rd	Little Man	ALL AGE
Aaron Parker	1st	Colby	DERBY
Tommie Smith	2nd	Highway	DERBY
Aaron Parker	3rd	Pepper	DERBY
Aaron Parker	1st	Pepper	PUPPY
A. Baldwin	2nd	Tara	PUPPY
Bob Carr	3rd	Maize	PUPPY
Aaron Parker	1st	Daisy	SENIOR
Jim Bradford	2nd	Jake	SENIOR

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

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

Email Address _____

New Member Renewal

2005 DUES – \$15.00

Check Payable to "Alabama Quail Hunters"

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



Alabama Quail Hunters

1901 Morgan Road S.E. • Bessemer, Alabama 35022



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