

The 2008 Irish Setter Club of America Quail Classic Scribes Report

By Dan Tenaglia

On Thursday, September 18th, 2008 much of the Irish Setter Club of America field trial community gathered at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Management Area for the annual "Quail Classic".

The day dawned with azure blue cloudless skies, and virtually no wind to speak of. The temperature began in the upper 50's, but as the day progressed would reach into the 80's. While this is very comfortable for humans, it isn't generally very conducive to superior bird-work for dogs. Heavy chlorophyll laden foliage cover due to a very wet spring, followed by near drought conditions for the summer also did not favor the dog's performances. It would take exceptional dogs performing superior work, combined with smart handlers, to be able to handle the conditions and produce the kind of performances worthy of being considered the winner and placers at this trial.

Killdeer Plains is a flat, nearly 9000 acre prairie-like property with some hardwood forests, or groves of trees. The soil is clay-like due to having once been former lake bottom as the ice-age glaciers retreated. Until the 1850's when Dutch immigrants drained it to become farmland, Killdeer Plains was very much a marshy, swampy area into which the Native Americans had been driven to avoid white encroachment. In the spring, Killdeer Plains is still quite swampy. However, in the fall, the ground can become nearly as hard as baked adobe brick. Waist to shoulder high grass interspersed with many different types of yellow and blue wildflowers characterize the grounds. The grounds are manicured into a checkerboard pattern so that passage through for dogs and humans is possible while maintaining the cover needed for the various species of songbirds, endangered snakes, and numerous mammals. Killdeer Plains is also famous for its waterfowl, and for its raptors such as many types of beautiful hawks and eagles soaring effortlessly overhead on thermal currents just waiting for a bird planter to toss out a quail into some cover for the dogs to be able to find. The thrill of being outdoors, astride a horse, inter-reacting with nature in all of its splendor and glory, whether it is hot or cold, wet, or dry is a feeling that just isn't easy to describe. Toss in getting to watch bird dogs do what they were bred to do over the course of 10,000 years is an added bonus. Unfortunately, due to policies of USF&WS, Killdeer Plains, which has been the site of championship field trials since 1933, will be closed to field trialers after the fall 2009 season. Fortunately, the State ODNR and OWS has worked with the field trial community in Ohio to secure new grounds at Tri-Valley Wildlife Area near Zanesville, Ohio for the future. Still, I must say that even with all of the complaining that some folks do about Killdeer Plains muck in the spring, and having come to these grounds for more than 25 years, I will miss coming here. But, life is about change and adapting to new things, and life goes on. I do hope that ISCA will continue to host the Quail Classic in 2010 at Tri-Valley. In that vain, I'd like to thank Jennifer Windus from ODNR for coming out and riding some of the braces so that she can better understand and assess the needs of field trialers in the future. To my knowledge, she is the first ODNR person to ever ride braces at a trial at Killdeer Plains.

The Course

The course began with a nearly 1/8th mile northerly facing tree-line "breakaway, or castoff. A short perpendicular tree-line is crossed before traversing a field to come to a 2nd tree-line. Passing on through, another field is crossed, a drainage ditch is crossed before coming to the 1st pond. After that is an area known as the clumps and then making a left turn, on into the tree groves. After the groves, the ditch is re-crossed, a field is traversed, to come into a tree-line known as bird alley. Another left turn is made and another long tree-line is taken that leads back to an extension of the original 2nd tree line. Passing through that, a long tree-line that parallels the breakaway line leads to another pond before crossing the road and continuing on to the south for another 1/8th of a mile. On the west side of this line is a pond. A left turn is made to cross another field, passing through a cut, and then making a right turn, and crossing a culvert to come to another pond. Continuing to the south for another 1/16th of a mile, another left turn is made

and a field crossed with another pond, to bring one to a T tree-line where another left turn is made. This is taken back to the north until the perpendicular of the T is reached and a right turn is taken. This line was taken towards the east nearly until the road where there was a bare field. A left turn was made, and heading back north, to the culvert where the course ended. As one can see, especially on hot, dry days, water is very important to dogs and maintaining their safety. Additionally, handlers carried water containers on their saddles and were free to water their dogs whenever they felt the need to do so.

The Running

Judges: Richard Pristov - Denny Keeton

Judges Marshal / Scribe - Dan Tenaglia

Brace one

A. Brophy's Frequent Flyer F 3/16/06 (Robin)
Brophy's Let's Play Two X Brophy's Layla of Pauncefoot

Stan / Susan Noble and Charlie Blackburn
B. Brophy's Unleashed F 4/9/01 (Lea)
Brophy's Iowa Boy X Brophy's Lightning II
Phil Ruff & Ken Ruff

Castoff was at 8:05 A.M. under absolutely clear blue skies. Robin & Lea both cast off smartly to the front. Robin soon disappeared and was not seen for some time and ended up being timed out. Lea was seen standing at 29 minutes, but a non-productive was taken after a relocation. Phil was not happy with how Lea was running and picked her up at 44 minutes.

Brace two

A. Brophy's Mariah of Ballycroy F 4/28/05 (Mariah)
Brophy's Lets Play Two X Brophy's Independence
Ken Ruff & Connie Vanacore

B. Karrycourt's Catus Cidor F 9/27/04 (Sedona)
Runnymead's Karrycourt Rocky X
Karrycourt's Tempest of Aerie
Brian Wagner

A slight breeze has freshened after being absolutely still during the 1st brace. Sedona had a stop to flush at the 1 minute mark just off of the breakaway. Sedona had another STF at 28 minutes on Mariah's find as the birds were flown. All was in order. At 48 minutes, Sedona was found standing, and after a relocation, a 3 bird covey was flown. At 57 minutes, Mariah was found standing with Sedona honoring. With the attempt to flush, Mariah moved and went with the bird while Sedona properly stayed. Mariah was picked up.

Brace three

A. Brophy's Aretha Buckaroo F 12/15/03 (Ritha)
Brophy's Bodacious Buckaroo X Brophy's Queen Buckaroo
Lee Shoaf

B. Pauncefoot Promises to Keep M 3/16/06 (Sorrel)
Brophy's Let's Play Two X Brophy's Layla of Pauncefoot
Stephen Salt and Ken Ruff

The dew on the grass has pretty much disappeared and temperatures are starting to get warm. Ritha was found pointing at 31 minutes on the line heading towards the road by the pond, but a bird was unable to be produced and a non-productive taken. Ritha was again found pointing at 50 minutes with Sorrel honoring. At the flush, Sorrel went with the bird and was picked up. Ritha finished very strong.

Brace four

A. Mythodical Marnie F 6/21/02 (Marnie)
Runnymede's Karrycourt Rocky X
Mythodical's Uncommon Jade
Halyley Sutphen Handler Jean Webb

B. Brophy's Shenaigans F 5/11/06 (Shauna)
Brophy's Lets Play Two X Brophy's Brianne
Robert Geddis & Ken Ruff

It is now getting hot, and direct sun on solid colored dogs, what I call radiated heat, comes more into play. 5 minutes into her run, Shauna had a bird flush wild in front of her on the 2nd tree-line which was just too stimulating. She broke and went with the birds. Marnie was seen standing at 17 minutes just past bird alley. After a relocation, no bird could be produced and a non-productive taken. Marnie was again found standing at 34 minutes just after crossing the road., a bird produced, and all was in order. Lunchtime.

Brace five

A. Lachlanmoor's Countess F 6/17/05 (Tess)
Lachlanmoor's Raising Cain X Brophy's
Flashback
Alex / Alexandra Mclachlan Handler Tim
Hidalgo

B. Brophy's Erin Go Braugh M 3/14/04 (Erin)
Iskote Ni-Mosh X Brophy's Brianne
Lucas and Ken Ruff

It is now hot, and dry with the sun beating down on dogs. Tess was seen pointing at 3 minutes. After a relocation, no bird could be produced and a non-productive taken. Erin pushed out some birds at the 16 minute mark in the tree groves. Both dogs were picked up.

Brace six

A. Rogan the Red M 3/12/05 (Rogan)
Brophy's Absolute Power X Hazelwoods
Miss Georgia Jett
J. Douglas Boone & Rebecca Boone
Handler Tim Hidalgo

B. Brophy's Let's Play Two M 2/10/03 (Ernie)
Brophy's Ruff Rider X Brophy's Sandhills
Spirit
Lynn/ Charles Blackbourn & Ken Ruff

Rogan was found pointing at 15 minutes, but after a relocation, no bird could be produced and a non-productive taken. At 27 minutes, a covey is produced for Rogan's point just past bird alley, and all is in order. Rogan had additional finds at 54 minutes, and again at 58 minutes, the last coming along the next to last tree-line. After having had a back on Rogan, Ernie was picked up at the pond on the line heading towards the road.

Brace seven

A. Lachlanmoor's Razing Cane M 12/4/02 (Broozer)
Brohy's Rider on the Storm X Lachalnmoors
Macushla
Alex McLachlan Handler Tim Hidalgo

B. Brophy's Queen Buckaroo F 1/30/02 (Kate)
Brophy's odacious Buckaroo X Brophy's
Lightning II
Lee Shoaf

Broozer was seen pointing at 5 minutes. After being relocated, no bird could be produced. He decided to help out the handler on a find at 11 minutes on the 2nd tree-line, and was picked up. Kate had a find at 7 minutes on the 2nd tree line where a covey was successfully produced for her. She went on to have additional finds at bird alley, and then at 43 minutes on the t-line. She finished strong by rimming the last field as time was called. This was the end of day 1.

Brace eight

A. Lynturk's Runnymede Ranger M 4/9/03 (Ranger)
Runnymede Karrycourt Rocky X Lynturks Indian Summer
Teresa Sanford & Kevin Culver Handler
Jesse Chapman

B. Aeries Strick it Rich M 2/15/01 (Richie)
Firefly's High Dollar Bill X Aeries
Runnymede Sprite
Joanne Eging Handler Tim Hidalgo

Friday morning began with some fog, but quickly lifted. Castoff was at 8:22 A. M. Ranger was seen standing at 17 minutes just past bird alley After relocating, no bird could be produced and a non-productive taken. Richie had a non-productive at 27 minutes. Richie then had a find just after crossing the road at 34 minutes where the bird was successfully flown. Both dogs were then found pointing the same bird (divided find) at 37 minutes shortly after crossing the road, and successfully worked. At 41 minutes, Ranger was again found standing just as the culvert is being crossed, but yet again the dreaded RL and NP were taken.

Brace nine

A. Runnymede Mythodical Pilot M 1/5/00 (Lindy)
Runnymede Karrycourt Rocky X
Mythodical's Uncommon Jade
Kevin Culver & Karolynne McAteer

B. Brophy's Hammerin Buckaroo M 11/28/02 (Hank)
Brophy's Absolute Power X Brophy's
Patricia Buckaroo Lee Shoaf

Hank had a covey of 8-10 birds find along the ditch line at 9 minutes. At 14 minutes, Hank had a bird at bird alley. At 15 minutes, Lindy had bird contact at bird alley as well, but he did not hold and was picked up. Hank then had two birds flown for him at 20 minutes on the line heading towards the road. At 28 minutes, a bird flew in front of him and Hank properly did a stop to flush. Hank then had a find at 33 minutes. Again, a bird flew in front of Hank at 37 minutes and he properly did a STF as the culvert is crossed. Hank then had another find at 38 minutes by the pond, and again at 47 minutes. Hank closed out the Quail Classic by having a point at 49 minutes, but after a relocation, no bird could be produced and the non-productive taken.

There is often the misconception that the biggest running dog, or the dog with the most birds is, or will be the winner. This just isn't the case. Quality of work, or performance is more important than quantity. Personally, as a judge, (I have often judged with both judges for the Quail Classic) I view some 17 different criteria in selecting dogs for placement. Some of these include range, accuracy, intensity on point, work ethic, style on point, style of run, working for the gun or handler, stamina, bird finding ability, intelligence in using the wind and seeking objectives or likely cover to find birds, etc. All of the placing dogs were shining examples of complete, and balanced performances under trying circumstances and would be a joy to go hunting over.

Placements 1st **(8B) Richie** _____ 2nd **(7B) Kate** _____
3rd **(9B) Hank** _____ 4th **(3A) Ritha** _____

Many thanks should be extended to Steve Salt and his committee and workers such as Jeannie Wagner, Brian Wagner, Jody Eging, Cassie Allen, Rob & Jean Webb and many others for once again making this event such a success.

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ISCA Quail Classic Trial Results 2008

Quail Classic Open Gun Dog (1 Hour)

- 1st Aeris Strike it Rich Owner Jody Eging Handler Tim Hidlago
- 2nd Brophy's Queen Buckaroo Owner/Handler Lee Shoaf
- 3rd Brophy's Hammerin Buckaroo Owner/Handler Lee Shoaf
- 4th Brophy's Aretha Buckaroo Owner/ Handler Lee Shoaf

Open Derby Classic

- 1st Mythodical Russell Hail Gandolf Owner Cassie Allen Handler Jean Webb
- 2nd Russell's Jooseph Journey Owner Kristi/Carl Anglen Handler Cassie Allen
- 3rd Runnymead Texas Rose Owner /Handler Kevin Culver

Amateur Gun Dog Walking Classic (45 min)

- 1st Karrycourt's Catus Cidor Owner/ Handler Brian Wagner
- 2nd Pompei's Look Who's Here
Owners Annett Pusey/MaryThompson/Sue Hahnen/L.Edwars
Handler Brian Wagner

Irish Setter Club of Ohio 2008 Trial Results

Open Limited Gun Dog

- 1st Blackburn Sir Lancelot GS
- 2nd Lachlanmoors Razing Cane IS
- 3rd Mythodical Marnie IS
- 4th Home Again Atta Girl Pearl VZ

Open Puppy

- 1st Dobledee Daisy of Stoneyridge ES
- 2nd Hi Score Jackie D Ruffian BR
- 3rd Sandcreeks Pink Panther IS
- Russell's Josephs Journery IS

Amateur Gun Dog

- 1st Withheld
- 2nd Withheld
- 3rd Lynturks Runnymead Ranger IS
- 4th Pauncefoot Blackberry Wine IS

Open Gun Dog

- 1st Brphy's Hammerin Buckaroo IS (5 pts Finished FCH)
- 2nd Pauncefoot Blackberry Wind IS (1pts Finished FCH)
- 3rd Tartana Mystic Traveller GS
- 4th Brophy's Shenanigans IS

Amateur Limited Gun Dog

- 1st Brophy's Queen bBuckaroo IS
- 2nd Karrycourt's Cactus Cidor IS
- 3rd Requets Above and Beyond BR
- 4th Withheld

Open Derby

- 1st Karrycourt's Double Down ES
- 2nd Dobledee Dexter GS
- 3rd Parire Schooner Jake ES
- 4th Falcons Jasmine GS