



Newsletter

December 2006—January 2007

Dear Club Members and Guests,

It was a busy weekend at the 2006 Fall Hunt Test. There were 196 dog entries in the Friday/Saturday test (108 Master, 37 Senior and 51 Junior entries), and 188 in the Saturday/Sunday test (107 Master, 36 Senior, and 45 Junior). If you are interested in seeing a list of the dogs that qualified, you can go to the Entry Express website at www.entryexpress.net.

Congratulations to everyone for a job well done and a big Thank You to all who volunteered for the test and the special events of the weekend to include the tailgate party. I had a handler ask me if we were having fried chicken at the tailgate dinner. He said he comes to our test so he can come to the tailgate party.... I guess the chicken is a keeper!

We barely had a chance to catch our breath before the THRC board members met Tuesday, November 28th, to begin plans for the Spring 2007 test. All four of the 2007 Master National judges will be judging Master at the event. Yes, we are planning to host four Master tests. And remember, you can find the minutes from our meeting on our website. Watch for the event to be on Entry Express soon. It is going to be another great weekend.

Speaking of websites, we have recruited a new web designer. The redesign should be complete by the middle of December. Be sure to check it out so you don't miss all the events scheduled for the coming year. We would like to offer another Judges Seminar but need at least 30 people to show interest. If you would like to participate, send us an email and let us know.

We already have a couple of events planned for January. The first is the Andy Attar Seminar (see page 5 for details) and on Sunday, January 28th, there will be a party for Wayne and Copper at Sallie's house. The party will begin at 4:00 PM with hotdogs and hamburgers served up around 5:00 PM. The 2007 Election will be the same day. The board members whose terms expire this year are Bear Strickland, Sallie Sullivan and myself. The three of us agreed to run again and nominations will be taken from the floor. Make sure you have renewed your membership. A renewal form is in this news letter on page 3. Send it along with your check to Jim Branning, the club treasurer.

So thanks again! Ya'll be careful!

Perk

THRC President

Jack Miller and Molly—by Beckey Malphus DVM



Molly and Jack Miller

As a veterinarian I have the privilege of being around people who are as crazy about their dogs as I am about mine. Most importantly, I have seen or experienced situations that confirm my belief that we share a bond with dogs that is a mutual need. Both dog and man give something to the other in this bond. Each party believing that they re-

ceive more than they give from their counterpart. It is a wonderful thing to witness this bond. I am also in the position, because of my career, to witness when this bond is separated by death, not broken but separated. This is hard to witness but a necessary part of life and death. I remember one such incident when I was a witness to the making of such a bond. I will never forget the story.

It begins with a yellow lab puppy named Molly. Molly was a puppy that my friend Jack got for his wife Fran as a gift when her old Rottwieler died. I think Jack had the intention to train Molly like we all do but his career as a farrier consumed most of

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Jack Miller and Molly—by Beckey Malphus DVM continue from page 1

his time. So Molly spent most of her time in Fran's flowerbeds doing a little redeco-rating of her own. I would hear about this each time Fran came in with Molly for her next set of puppy shots. Each time, Fran would describe how many water hoses Molly had destroyed and how many begonias she had to replace. Each time, Fran would beg me to find her a new home and each time, I ignored the request. I am not sure why I did but now I am glad I did not help. As time went on, Molly became more obnoxious. After Molly ate the seat out of the John Deere, Jack and Fran built her a fine kennel to live in, which was a safe distance from the flowerbeds and garden hoses.

One day, a mule injured Jack. This mule used her head to rearrange Jack's face. Several of the bones in his face were broken and his teeth were knocked out. Jack went through emergency surgery to wire and screw his face back together. This injury put Jack out of commission for months. It was going to take several surgeries in the future to repair him. Now, I need to explain the type of person Jack is. Jack is never without a big smile on his face and a story to tell. He is one of the most energetic and hard working people I know. This injury left Jack without his smile or a story. He ate everything through a straw. He did not want to talk much; it was probably too painful. I remember the first time I saw Jack after he was out of the hospital. I was shocked by the sadness I saw in his eyes. It was probably the fact that he was unable to smile as usual but nonetheless I was worried. As the weeks went by, Jack had little to do but contemplate the surgeries ahead. From the neck down, Jack was normal but the doctors would not let him work. I know a lot of his friends rallied and asked Jack to spend time with them. Most everyone in Jack's and my circle do something with dogs on a daily basis. Jack has coon dog friends, bird dog friends and retriever friends, all of whom

wanted to help keep Jack's mind off his injury. I was lucky enough to be one of these friends. Jack mentioned that now he did have time to start doing something with Molly and we set up a time and place to meet to start.

I will never forget that first day at Mr. Denny's field near his pond. Jack was all about throwing bumpers for my dogs, which I thought was great. Then it was time to see what Molly could do. Jack looked worried and was unsure if she could retrieve in water. I thought I should walk around the other side of the pond so Molly would not be tempted to cheat. I explained this to Jack and he said to me, "I am not sure she can swim that far." She looked ready to me. So, I left Jack and Molly to stand at the edge of the pond while I walked around it. I got to a good place and yelled for them to get ready. Jack's posture was rigid and tense, Molly's was too. I did the hey-hey yell and threw the bumper towards Jack and Molly. Molly took off like she had been waiting for that moment all her life and of course; she had a big water entry. It was about a 70-yard retrieve and she scored a 10 in my book and in Jack's too. I had the pleasure to watch Jack watch Molly make his day. I think he was 2 inches taller when I got back to them on the other side of the pond. And I also found his smile when I reached his side, somewhat altered but there. I do not think I have ever seen one simple water retrieve make someone so happy as that one made the three of us. I do not think my dogs were that impressed but what did they know? That was the beginning.

Molly did great the rest of the day. She would not deliver to hand but would drop in at Jack's feet. It would be too much to ask for her to be naturally force fetched. Jack and I left Mr. Denny's and drove to the nearest force table. Molly had her first lesson on the table that day and Jack the retriever trainer was born. I left them both

there that day with instructions for Jack and a pat on the head for Molly. They both had fire in their eyes because on that day, they discovered a purpose for each of them. Molly had been waiting, bored silly, for the day when someone would come along and give her something to do. Jack needed someone who would care less about what his face looked like and who would make him feel useful and needed. Neither party disappointed the other.

In the weeks to come, Jack and Molly spent many hours together. Jack had lots of help from his friends. Jack and Molly excelled through force fetch. Jack would call me on the phone and say "Molly has been sitting here by the couch holding a coke bottle for 4 minutes and 32 seconds." What pleased me the most was the fact that Molly had elevated herself to being invited into the house.

Jack and Molly's first junior test brought a crowd. I had been Jack's coach prior to the test. I had failed to prepare Jack properly. He showed up on the line to watch the test dog in his white, long sleeve, lucky FSU t-shirt. The judges had to remind him that darker colors were required. An oversight on my part, I can't remember every thing. Fortunately Fran was wearing a dark shirt and they traded. Back to the junior test, Jack was as nervous as a cat on a surfboard. Molly thought she was at Six Flags. The crowd grew thick as the pair approached the line. If I had been judging, she would have scored 10 on both marks. The problem was that it took Jack about 4 minutes per bird to get her to deliver to hand. Jack had to do what I call the "junior shuffle". He would ask her to pick up the bird and then he would dive to catch it before she dropped it again. So much for force fetch. It did not really matter, the gallery was as proud as punch of Jack and Molly anyway. I

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Copper's Drive to the Nationals—by Sam Ferguson

It all started Friday, November 10th, at the 2006 National Retriever Championship in Wentzville, MO. It was the win we all dreamed for! **Copper and Wayne Dodson** started the first series of the Nationals and finished as the "WINNER". Congratulations to Wayne and dog #51 FC-AFC "DR. COPPER PHD" NATIONAL FIELD CHAMPION.

Jerry called me that Saturday night to make sure I knew the good news. I could not get him off the telephone. He wanted to tell me all about Wayne being a winner all his life!

Jerry had known Wayne since their college days. (He roomed across the hall their freshman year.) Jerry told me how Wayne was a winner back then and how it hasn't changed since they were in college. Jerry talked as if it were yesterday. Wayne's roommate was Edgar Butts. He was older than Wayne and Jerry and was going to school on the GI Bill. They both looked up to Edgar. Jerry remembers the day Edgar said, "Wayne is loud and boisterous, but he is a winner and will go far in this world in whatever he does." Wayne broke school records in track, and was elected as Student Body President, among other things. Jerry didn't think life could get any better. He was running around with a friend that had won the Student Body President, which made Wayne the Big Man on Campus. Jerry and Wayne were just 18 years old and as Jerry has said, "We were wild and good looking." Well since then, it has gotten a lot better; the title he received is the highest honor in the dog world!

Wayne also found a wonderful partner to help him on this long journey. He met and married Jan who has been his partner throughout the years. They have two great boys, Bert and Ashley. We all know Ashley, Wayne's best friend, bird boy, bird thrower, and Copper's assistant trainer.

Jerry said Wayne was so lucky to have had a lot of good dogs. Jerry remembers Wayne's first hunting dog, a setter named Drago. Jerry said it was the best setter he had ever shot over. He would stay right at Wayne's side and loved him like no other! He would even pick up a skunk for him. He was out of Thor, who is in the BIRD DOG HALL of FAME. When Thor received his honor, it was



said that Drago and Wayne would join them. When Drago died, Jerry said he and Wayne put a tomb stone on his grave that said, "DRAGO, YOU SOB."

Jerry said he and Wayne have shot lots of ducks together in blinds and slews. (Sometimes they were in places where they could have been arrested for hunting.) They waded out to get their ducks, used fishing poles to retrieve ducks, had their sons retrieve them till they would not do it anymore. (The boys wanted to stay home and sleep.) They finally decided they needed a dog so they got a couple yellow puppies, which did not work out. Jerry said he was not sure if it was the dogs or the handlers. But they had fun!

Then Wayne got a dog from Alabama. He had heard about some dogs on a plantation that wanted to find good homes. This is where Wayne got his Woody #1. (There were 4 Woodys.) Jerry said he could speak volumes on this dog. Wayne and Jerry found Greg Oyer, who helped them train their dogs and most important Greg trained them to be handlers. Again, Wayne had a winner. This dog would do anything for him, pick up ducks, quail, and even get you a beer out of Wayne's cooler (or anyone's cooler that contained a beer). He would even bring Wayne a cigarette.

Woody and Wayne helped start THRC. Wayne could not run in AKC events because he could not get Woody's AKC registration. But they were the first there every morning, the last to go home and always made sure everything was cleaned up!

(Continued on page 5)

Andy Attar Seminar

This seminar is for Senior, Master and Qualifying level dogs and/or handlers.

The subjects Andy will cover include:

1. Preparing dogs to run blinds in the transition
2. Preparing dogs to begin understanding transition level and advanced marking
3. Dealing with behavior problems associated with dogs at this level
4. Understanding the skills necessary to read and handle dogs at this level
5. Preparing handlers to compete at this level
6. Identifying the skills necessary to set up tests in the transition
7. Understanding the stresses associated with training dogs at this level
8. Understanding the principles of correcting a dog
9. Problem solving in the transition

And 2-3 training set-ups a day illustrating the above.

At this time we are accepting observer reservations and alternate handler reservations.

Observer fee is \$125, Handler fee is \$200. Rates include lunches. Reserve a spot by mailing a \$50 deposit to: Seminar, C/O DeWert, 596 Old Thomasville Rd., Cairo, GA 39827.

The event will take place Saturday, January 6, and Sunday, January 7, 2006 at Borderline Plantation south of Thomasville. Sunrise will be at 7:45am, sunset 5:45pm, so anticipate two ten hour days of discussions, set-ups and drills.

if you need any further information, please call Bill & Lindy DeWert.

Jack Miller and Molly—by Beckey Malphus DVM continue from page 2

walked back to the truck with Jack, Fran and Molly. I know Jack was overwhelmed by the support that his new and old friends showed him that day and the weeks prior. Molly still thought she was at Six Flags.

Many happy hours of training continued for Jack and Molly. They became part of several training groups, some of which were mine. I would realize new people would not recognize that his face was rearranged. As part of most training sessions, snack time was always observed. People would offer Jack food like brownies and he would politely refuse. They never realized that to eat that brownie, Jack would require a blender and a straw. His sense of humor was always evident even though he would cover his mouth with his hand when he laughed or smiled. Jack has had about seven surgeries to repair his face and he is better now. Molly has run many hunt tests since that first one. She has passed most of them. She is a Master Hunter and I expect to see her at a Master National soon. She now has a permanent position in Jack and Fran's bed. Jack is back to being a farrier with one addition. Molly is always with him. In our professions, we cross paths a lot. There is almost always a "Molly story" to hear and Jack's smile to enjoy. I am always reminded of that first day when I witnessed the bonding of these two very special individuals.

Copper's Drive to the Nationals—by Sam Ferguson continued from page 4

Then he had the registered Woody that he got from Mark Atwater, a club member. Wayne began another winning team. He and his new Woody dog were competing in AKC events working on a Master title. A terrible accident took Woody's life when he and Wayne were cruising timber. Woody had wandered off toward a slew and when he failed to come when Wayne called, Wayne knew he had lost his Woody. Jerry remembers waiting with Wayne for the gator to come up for the last time.

Wayne wanted Jan to have a puppy so they drove to Illinois to pick up a dog from a friend of Greg Oyer. Wayne said that was the ugliest dog he had ever seen and she was yellow. Little did he know what the future would hold. Copper was Wayne's salvation. Wayne started training hard and trying to forget what had happened to Woody. Al-

though still young, Copper and Wayne became a team and inseparable. They competed in Hunt Tests and Derbies. She started winning Derbies and got her Master title. Wayne and Copper began winning as always. The rest we all know. Copper is the first MH-NFC. Congratulations to Wayne and Copper a "WINNING TEAM".



Cooper and Wayne Dodson

Recap 2006 Fall Test—from Sam Ferguson Hunt & Jim Branning

We had some good dogs show up for the judges. The Club received a number of cards and e-mails from you all, telling us what a great event it was. Thank you, for the notes. It takes a lot of hard work to make an event like this happen and we have a great group of people that make it happen. Entry Express sure made it easier. Below is a recap of the expenditures for the weekend. Happy Holiday to you all. Happy Training!

Income

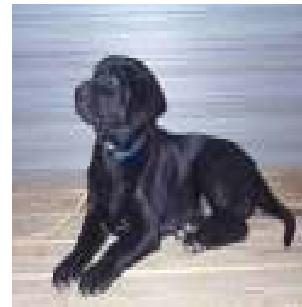
Entry Fees	\$ 20,245.00
Less:	
Entry Fees Refund	1,645.00
Net Income	<u>\$ 18,600.00</u>

Expenses

Judges Motel	1,186.36	
Judges Dinner	591.72	
Judges Gifts	600.00	
Judges Expenses	1,736.34	Pending
Judges Sheets (800 @ .27)	216.00	
Birds	4,250.00	
Bird Boys	3,225.00	
Other Help	300.00	
Recording Fee	672.00	
Workers Lunches	704.50	
Tailgate	1,123.31	
Ribbons (182 @ 3.04)	553.28	
Poppers (8 @ 98.43)	787.44	
Live Ammo-Lead (3 @ 60.73)	182.19	
Live Ammo-Steel (1.5 @ 98.53)	147.79	
Marshals Expenses	256.57	
Catalogs	317.02	Pending
Portable Potties	150.00	
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 16,999.52</u>	
Net Profit (Loss)	<u>\$ 1,600.48</u>	

Puppy for Sale

FOR SALE Labrador Retriever, Black Male, 10 weeks old. SIRE: 2XNAFC FC CANDLEWOODS RAMBLIN MAN X DAME: IRONWEED BOOM BOOM BUTERFLY MH CGC WC WCX, (NFC Abes Ebony and Ivory X WR Ironweed Indige Gromet MH CGC WC WCX) Both parents OFA, eyes checked and CMN white list.



This is a close as possible repeat breeding to two litters out of Gromet, (Flys Mother) and Ram. The first litter produced one puppy (Yes it was a disappointment) but he

certainly has not been. His Name is Ironweed Hi-Bird Shooter MH. He is owned by Paul Brown. Shooter finished his JH and 11 months of age, finished his SH at 14 months of age, and became a Master Hunter by 18 months of age. He qualified for the Master national at 2 years and 5 days old. He ran the Master national at 2 years and 4 months old. He was one of 91 dogs out of 382 to qualify at the master in Texas. Shooter has run in field trials and jammed or place in many derby and has won A Qualifying. Shooter is now three and a half years old.

The second litter is now just two. This litter produced Ironweed Ramblin Ruby Redhot MH WC WCX. Ruby Qualified in two Junior at 7 month finished her JH at 10 month in two more trials. At 13 month she ran two back-to-back weekends for her Senior Hunter. She qualified for her first Master at 18 Month, and finish her MH title before she was 2 going 5 for 5 in the master test she ran.

Fly, who is the mother of the pups, has a litter that is now 2 years old. Ironweed Tax Day Auditor, now has 4 Master qualifications. Another, Fatz Wallers Joints A Jumping, has three Master qualifications. A sister Ironweeds The Lords Summer JH who is owned and trained by 15 year old Rachel Boreman got her JH this June.

If you have any question or need more info Please call Nancy Eisaman at (724) 527-0918 or (724) 863-4390 (cell).

Club MEMBERS in the News!

I wanted to share Mark Waldrep's news. He was not passing out cigars but sweet emails—Just wanted to let everyone know that he and Ashley have a beautiful little girl named Hanna Jewel Waldrep, We call her Jewel. She was born 9/27/06. He said she was going to be a Georgia Bull Dog!



The Off Season for Retriever Trainers—by Andy A. Attar

Thanksgiving has come and gone, soon to be Christmas... we are spending time with family and friends, hunting, etc., we have no reason to sweat anything dog wise for at least awhile. Retriever events for most of us will not start until February anyway. And our dogs need a break, right??

Well, sort of... we all need a break from the training routine. Many dogs do not get worked hard enough throughout the year to say this, but what is a trainer to do during the holidays?

Lets discuss a few areas where we can spend some time.

Keeping in condition

Having our dogs (or us) loaf around for 6- 8 weeks is never a good idea. It makes for such a poor start in the new season and could lead to over-doing it the first few weeks, which could lead to injury. It has been said that it takes an out of shape dog at least 6-8 weeks to get back into condition. Heck, that is about the time we all start competing. And an out of shape competitive retriever can not only be an injury waiting to happen, it could lead to some training problems due to over excitement and lack of conditioning. If you need to take a break from the grind of training, get the 4-wheeler out and do some roading with the dogs. Or if you're down south, how about you both have a workout and get the mountain bike out.

Just a little guidance on how much to work them. Always start out light. You would be surprised at how slowly a productive workout really is performed. 4-6 miles an hour for 15 minutes would be a great start. Perhaps in a week or so, move it up to 30 minutes. It is important to not let the dogs stop during this time. The difficulty comes in keeping their speeds constant and slow. Some people use a harness to control speed. Rigging a harness to a 4-

wheeler with the ability to do multiple dogs is something many sled dog and bird dog trainers have at their disposal. Also you could use a harness to have the dogs pull some weight to create resistance training. Pulling 15-25 pounds for our retrievers during slow speeds is very good for muscle toning and building. Some folks rig up a small harness attached to their treadmill. Visiting a sled dog kennel in Alaska this year, we watched dogs harnessed in a pool with current. They were worked up to eventually swimming 30 minutes. Eventually you will work the dogs into interval training or fast slow training where they can experience training that will both increase their aerobic base and anaerobic ability. Go to someone who has experience in this. These comments are only to let you know there are many ways to keep your retriever fit during the off-season. As a group of people, we retriever enthusiasts, do not pay enough attention to how fit our dogs must be to compete. Some believe the higher weights and poor condition we keep our retrievers in, lead to the many injuries they experience throughout their careers. One final note regarding conditioning... be alert to weight gain. This is the time of year that their metabolism may change because their schedule is different. It is very common to adjust their amounts of food at this time. In the north we sometimes have to actually feed more to combat the cold weather. Some duck hunting dogs up here have to feed increased fat and protein during the season to maintain weight. Purina suggests while looking over your dogs, you should see an hour glassed shape and from the side, you should see the outline of the back two ribs.

Hunting

It is always a question at this time of year whether to hunt your dogs or not. Does it hurt them? Does it help them? Every dog is different. In our part of the country, we have pheasant and duck hunting very close by. Of course duck hunting should be more familiar to our dogs. If you are willing to monitor your dogs behavior in the duck blind and on occasion put the gun down to do some training, it should not hurt anything. Just understand that the experience is so different than training and since dogs learn so much out of circumstance, they could not transfer right away the skills you have taught them over the past years. Sending a dog on a blind, far past the decoys, in a raging crosswind, into a huge lake, can be a very intimidating task... a task that needs to be addressed

with patience. Add some cold water and air temps and you could be in for an unsuccessful event.



Pheasant hunting can be a totally different story. Controlling what pheasants do while being chased by dog and hunter is mystery. Pheasant hunting can lead to a lot of frustration for some. Plus, the "nose to the ground" behavior that dogs must be good to flush a pheasant can be detrimental for training especially in young dogs. Use your judgment and remember how different pheasant hunting is to training and be patient. Interesting how some dogs just pick up on it right away and others take years and years to understand it. Hunting with a seasoned dog sure helps. Sometimes we wish training for competition could be more osmosis based. Thinking back, so few dogs that could compete in field trials, handle the duck chores, and be superman in the field, all with high honors, come to mind.

Light training

Professional dog trainers have 2 periods of the year where they must consider special times regarding competitive dogs: the end of the year and the beginning of the year. For the seasoned open dog or master hunter who is accomplished, sometimes getting into training dilemmas at this time of year is not productive. Keeping them in shape and out of trouble may be the best thing. Sometimes we will get the 4-wheeler out and do "riding singles" for 10 or so minutes for each dog. Perhaps a blind set-up, fundamental and non-complicated with a mark that would incorporate 15 minutes of running overall. Revisiting some old drills to keep them sharp such as an elaborate wagon wheel with white bumpers could be done a few times a week. How about taking a pattern single (taught and repeated in segments) that is over 500 yards. Be creative and productive.



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The Off Season for Retriever Trainers—by Andy Attar

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The point here is that for trained dogs, no matter what, they most likely need to keep in shape yet not be mentally challenged all year. Of course, we are not talking about the dogs going through basics or transition. They give us plenty to train on, but they too could use a little mental break on occasion.

For us, it is a great time of year. We can step aside from our roles as coaches and trainers and allow the dogs to goof off a little and just be dogs. Too much of this will make for some rough beginnings next year. Understanding that our dogs must be able to relax but always put work first does not come easy for some. Each of our dogs are different. Monitor this time of year and come up with a plan that suits your dog. Enjoy them, they come and go so quickly.

Happy holidays and as always, enjoy the journey!

ANDY



Remember Your
Black-Eyed Peas (for Good Luck)
Hog Jowl (for Health)
Collard or Turnip Greens (for Good Cash low).

I might share a little of my New Years Meal with the dog(s) if it help with all this!



THRC Newsletter

1512 Valley Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32301