

NW Region of the National Shoot To Retrieve Assoc.

January 2010 NEWSLETTER

NW Officers and Board of Directors



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The NW NSTRA Board of Directors extends best wishes to all of you for a safe and happy new year. We apologize for the lateness of this Newsletter. During the Holiday season and board members hunting trips and general gallivanting around the country, it's been very hard to put something together. Nonetheless a new trialing season is rapidly approaching. This spring's trialing season is a busy one with nine full weekends scheduled. We encourage **everyone** to support your local trials, and when possible travel to one or two others locations. All of the clubs sponsoring trials are in need of dogs, judges, quads, bird planters, meal helpers and volunteers to set up and take down their trials, unpack and pack up trailers, carry out garbage, you name it we need it! The increased cost of birds means that most clubs cannot afford to pay for the use of quads. If you have a quad please consider donating its use. If you can help in anyway please do so. I personally have made many lasting friendships through field trialing. Volunteering at field trials builds camaraderie initially forged in competition during the braces. I look forward meeting like-minded people, helping each other with training, traveling to trials, and hunting together. It makes for time well spent.

Looking back at the past year we had one of the smallest Regionals in quite some time. Some reasons for this come to mind; the poor economy, high gas prices and the increased cost of entering trials have definitely hurt participation. Also some of our NW Region trial dogs passed away last year. Dogs which I am aware of that have died this year are:

Moon (EP)-Jack Richardson, Buddy (ES)-Mike Ouchida, Bonnie GSP-Mary and Ron Park, Meg(GSP)-Scott Harrison, Trey (GWP)- Davy Caven, Dakota (GSP)-Judy and Gary Weitenhagen

No matter how old or how a dog dies, it is never easy. I personally can remember each of these wonderful dogs. Our condolences go to everyone who lost their dog.

Take care and we look forward to seeing you this spring, Your NW Region Offices and Board of Directors

Presidents Message:

As the President of the NW Region it is my privilege to write this letter not only to fellow trial members, but to everyone I consider friends. First and foremost, let me apologize for the lateness of this letter. As many of you know my family was faced with a tragedy this Holiday Season, when Edie's father succumbed to cancer. Our absolute heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for all of the love, prayers and abundant support received.

2009 was faced with many challenges, primarily due to economic difficulties. At a time in which economics were so pressing, I still felt that the NW Region should have strong representation at the Board of Directors Meeting in Indiana with so many important issues on the table. I would like to extend my appreciation to Paul McCawley for taking time out of his busy schedule and using his personal airline miles to represent the NW Region.

Congratulations to P.J. Schneider for earning the NSTRA Youth Scholarship Award. It is my belief that PJ has always been a young man of great integrity and deserving of such recognition, however it is an honor to see that NSTRA recognizes the same. Great job PJ.

On a personal note, I was fortunate enough to squeeze in a personal hunt with family and friends. This fall, I was able to hunt in Montana with Jim Shank, my dad, and a good friend from California Moe Davis. We had a great time. They said the bird count in Montana was down this year but we didn't care. We got into Pheasant, Sharp Tail, Huns, and Sage Hens. Though we only bagged Pheasant and Sharp Tail some days we really didn't have to work real hard to get our limits as for the other days, well, we should have gone to the trap range and practiced before we went out hunting.

After five days on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, we gave the dogs a break and then headed over to Lewistown to hook up with Johnny Murdock where we stayed and hunted on the Murdock Ranch and man did we rough it in a log cabin, hot tub included!

It only got better from there, when additional trial members John Edwards, Nolan Huffman and Jim Wittlia joined up. I really can't wait to see everyone and swap hunting stories. For all my friends in the NW that are still hunting, I'm jealous, good luck.

Your President,

Mike Stotts Jr.

NW NSTRA 2010 SPRING TRIAL SCHEDULE

- Feb 27-28 Long Hollow Bird Dogs, Limited Open Double/Double Trial
Ryan Fortier, 4111 Schnebly Rd, Ellensburg, WA, 98926
509-929-4031, email; lhsetters@gmail.com Entry \$50.00 per run Chukar
- March 27-28 Greater Columbia PDC, Open Limited Double/Double Trial
Location; Wamic, OR. Chairman; Mike Ouchida, 6339 SE Beverly, Milwaukie, OR. 97222.
503-775-5056, email; mgouchida@comcast.net entry \$40.00 per run
- April 3-4 Three Rivers BDC, Double/Double Trial, Location; Fuller Ranch, Kennewick, WA.
Chairman; Matt Huston, 31962 Diagonal Rd., Hermiston, OR. 97838
541-667-7206, email; hustonmc@yahoo.com entry \$40.00 per run
- April 17-18 Snake River SGDA, Double/Double Trial, Location; Asotin, WA.
Chairman; Paul McCawley, 1031 Showalter Rd., Moscow, ID. 83843,
208-883-0752 email; njc@moscow.com entry \$40.00 per run
- April 24-25 Seattle BDA, Double/Double Trial, Location; Moses Lake, WA.
Chairman; Ron Trask, 11610 205th Ave. E, Sumner, WA. 98390
253-862-0883, email; whoadog@q.com entry \$40.00 per run
- May 1-2 Green Valley HRC, Double/Double, Location TBA
Chairman; Charles Warren, 3942 Banner, Eugene, OR 97404
541-688-3071 email; cmwmaintenance@msn.com entry \$40.00 per run
- May 15-16 Spokane BDC, Open Limited Double/Double Trial, Location; TBA
Chairman; Davy Caven, 12924 S. Scribner Rd., Cheney, WA. 99004
509-448-2711 email: davykennels@gmail.com entry \$50.00 (Chukar)
- May 22-23 Clearwater PDC, NW/Big Sky Region Challenge; Location and format TBA
Chairman, Mike Stotts, 15429 Autumn Ln., Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026
509-468-4957 email; birdydogs@msn.com entry fee \$40.00 per run
- May 29-30 NW Region Elimination Trial, Location TBA Chairman; Mike Stotts, 15429 Autumn Ln.
Nine Mile Falls, WA, 99026 509-468-4957 email; birdydogs@msn.com
Entry fee \$60.00 total

Note: A completed entry form with correct entry fee must be sent to the trial chairman listed. Please make checks out to the sponsoring club listed. Entry into the Regional requires placement in the two preceding trial seasons or a dog with NSTRA championship status.

NW NSTRA Fall 2009 trial results

Three Rivers BDC-Trial Chairman; Matt Huston

September 12, 2009

Location; Fuller Ranch, Kennewick, WA

Field A

1 st Java/Ray Proctor	794
2 nd Ranger/Jim Fuller	765
3 rd Fritz/Janet-John Peacock	695
4 th Arrow/Johnson- Schneider	663

Field B

1 st Reilly/Rob Proctor	889
2 nd Sam/Jack Richardson	689
3 rd Star/Jack Richardson	664
4 th Java/Ray Proctor	648

Three Rivers BDC

September 13, 2009

Field A

1 st Mocha/Tony Tohmeh	852
2 nd Remi-Ray-Ed Westbrook	781
3 rd Java/Ray Proctor	669
4 th Max/Mike Smith	655

Field B

1 st Rebel/Bud Folk	916
2 nd Ranger/Jim Fuller	842
3 rd McGee/Jon Milum	640
4 th Copper/Mike Smith	629

**Greater Columbia PDC Double/Double, Trial Chairman; Mike Ouchida
September 19, 2009
Location; Driver Ranch, Wamic, Oregon**



A Field: Judges Tom Medley # 3-40, Ray Proctor # 2443

1 st	Copper/Mike Smith	936.5 points
2 nd	Star/Jack Richardson	897.5
3 rd	Sparky/ Mary/Ron Park	811.5
4 th	True/Paul McCawley	670

Field B Judges: Nance Ceccarelli # 2606, Paul Schneider # 2690

1 st	Sparky/Mary-Ron Park(h)	800.2
2 nd	Jag/Johnson-PJ Schneider (h)	734
3 rd	Stoli/Steve Skipworth	694
4 th	Star/George Clark	653.5

Greater Columbia PDC D/D September 20, 2009

Field A : Judges Jerry Youmans # 4-23, PJ Schneider # 2690

1 st	Star/George Clark	835.3
2 nd	Sam/Jack Richardson	756
3 rd	Stoli/Steve Skipworth	701
4 th	Copper/Mike Smith	686

Field B: Judges Ron Park # 1632, Pat Fleege # 2664

1 st	Duke/Tom Medley	792
2 nd	Bonne/McCawley-Ceccarelli (h)	750
3 rd	Stoli/Steve Skipworth	731
4 th	Fritz/Janet-John Peacock (h)	724.5

NW NSTRA Treasurer's Report

Jan 1 - Nov 20, 09

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Club Trial Fee	965.00
Regional Trial Income	
Auction	945.00
Bird Sales	302.50
Paid Runs	<u>1,485.00</u>
Total Regional Trial Income	<u>2,732.50</u>

Total Income 3,697.50

Expense

Operations

Business Registration Fees	10.00
Judging Seminar	74.54
Printing and Copying	72.00
Web site	<u>231.48</u>
Total Operations	388.02

Regional Trial EXP.

Bird Planting	200.00
Birds	1,293.75
Food	268.23
Judging	614.00
NSTRA FEE	135.00
T Shirts Hats etc.	1,171.06
Trophies	215.60
Regional Trial EXP. - Other	<u>985.55</u>

Total Regional Trial EXP. 4,883.19

Total Expense 5,271.21

Net Ordinary Income -1,573.71

Net Income -1,573.71

Observations from a Dog of the Year 1st Timer

By Paul McCawley

In October, I represented President Stotts and the NW Region at the NSTRA Board of Directors Meeting held at the Dog of the Year trial in Amo, IN. Although I did not take my dogs back to compete in the trial, it certainly left me with some impressions to share with the NW Region.

First, I should explain the reason that I went to Indiana... the Board Meeting. The Board of Directors is made up of the Region Presidents and there are two meetings each year, one at Dog of the Year and the other at the Trial of Champions. Both meetings are in Amo. Several issues were before the Board at this meeting, and President Stotts (and several others of us) thought it was important that the Northwest be part of the discussion. I volunteered my frequent flier miles to go back to Amo.

The most important issue before the Board concerned the NSTRA By-laws and Constitution, which requires the Dog of the Year and Trial of Champions trials to be held at the Conservation Bird Dog Club grounds in Amo, IN. The actual motion was to *send the question to the membership to decide whether the Constitution should be amended*. The amendment would open the Trial of Champions to a bid process whereby the Indiana Region, or any other Region, could submit a bid to host the trial.

I was amazed that the Board voted against sending the proposed Constitutional amendment to the membership to decide. The motion to send the question to the membership failed by only two votes, and those regions most distant from Indiana were normally supportive (with exceptions). I find it appalling that our National Officers first recommended that Constitution not be amended, and then argued against allowing the membership to vote. It is UNACCEPTIBLE that a membership organization is not willing to ask its members about such an important issue.

Four other issues brought to the Board included three proposed by members and a fourth that was recommended by the National Officers. These proposals suggested the following changes in the “rules” for running/judging trials.

1. To change the rule about “running in the field” to one that requires competitors to perform “a natural walk.”
2. To include specific words in the section about interference that explains why ‘taking out birds is interfering with the other dog’s ability to compete, even though the other dog is not in the same area at the time.’
3. To limit all National Officers to two 3-year terms of office (currently limited only for the office of President).
4. To change the format of the Grand National Trial from 64 dogs back to 128 dogs as it was a couple of years ago.

Again, I was astounded that none of the “rules” motions presented by members received any significant discussion, nor did they receive more than a few supportive votes. The Board did approve the recommendation brought by the Officers related to the Grand National. Now I understand the frustration that our Officers take with them to the Board Meeting when one of us wants to suggest a rules change. Based on my observation during this one meeting, it is very unlikely for anything new to be adopted.

As background to the decision-making process, in order to pass, a motion must receive a majority of the votes cast by the regions properly represented at the Board Meeting. The rules for voting are quite strict and do not allow for non-officers to represent the President, nor for proxy votes to be cast, nor for *official representatives* to be designated by the President fewer than 14 days prior to the meeting.

Of the 32 Regions in NSTRA, I *believe* that 24 were casting votes. Let me point out that no one was “qualified” to represent the Arizona, Southern California or Rocky Mountain regions, even though there were competitors at the trial from those regions. Also, there was no one there from the Northern California-Nevada or Utah regions. Only two of the seven western-most Regions (NW and Big Sky) voted. And, because ALL Board meetings are in Indiana, the western regions are always under-represented!

Because we are always under-represented at National Board Meetings, it is even more critical that we exercise our voices when issues come before the membership. Our next opportunities will be to nominate National Officers and to then cast votes to elect our Officers. In the coming election cycles there will be a significant effort to nominate candidates for National Officers from regions west of the Mississippi River. It seems to me that, if we ever want to be represented in NSTRA, then we have a **responsibility to cast a vote** in those elections. Turn-out (the number of votes cast) is generally pretty low, and a strong turn-out from our region could make a difference!

Now, the fun part of the trip... I’ve heard so much from veteran NW trialers about The Dog of the Year trial; about the fields and the bird build-up and the anxiety. Even with the stories, I must say that the trial was more than I expected... great dogs and bird work, attentive and conscientious judges, and wonderful conversations with trialers from across the country, some I’ve known for a while and others new acquaintances. Our hosts from the Indiana Region are gracious and skillful, meals were provided without additional cost, and the Conservation Bird Dog Club facilities are top-notch (although we certainly have fields that are every bit as good). My observations were undoubtedly influenced by my non-competitive status, but DOTY was also less than I expected... less drama, less arguing, less tension.

There were also representatives from most or all of NSTRA’s sponsors at the trial... Purina, Tri Tronics, and the guy who has the contract for all of the NSTRA logo gear. I also got a chance to meet Bob Bertram, the artist who paints much of the wonderful cover art for Pointing Dog Journal, and who has a standard 16% discount for NSTRA members.

The best part of the trial, however, was watching friends’ dogs run, and then whooping it up when they found birds! I can only tell you that next time I go to DOY, I will find a way to get three weeks off and I will be taking my dogs to the trial.

Snap Shots from around the Region



Hunting with Bill Tibbitts in the Owyhee



Bud Folk with Trooper and Fargo



Paul McCawley with # 2 son, Ben and dogs

NW Region Fall 2009 Season Point Standing

Place	Dog/Breed/Owner	Point Total
1	Java/GSP, Ray Proctor	6.01
2	Reilly/ES, Rob Proctor	4
2	Ranger/ES, Jim Fuller	4
2	Sam/ES, Jack Richardson	4
2	Sparky/GSP, Mary Park	4
3	Copper/EP, Mike Smith	3.02
4	Star/ES, George Clark	3.01
5	Diamond/ES, Mike Stotts	3
5	Sam/ES, Jack Richardson	3
5	Mocha/GSP, Tony Tohmeh	3
5	Rebel/ES, Bud Folk	3
5	Stoli/ES, Steve Skipworth	3
5	Duke/Brit, Tom Medley	3
6	Jag/ES, Linda Johnson	2.01
7	Remi/GSP, Ed Westbrook	2
7	Bonne/ES, Paul McCawley	2
8	Fritz/GSP, John Peacock	1.01
9	Bud/EP, John Milum	1
10	Rudy/GSP, Ty Callicotte	.01
10	Max/Brit, Mike Smith	.01
10	True/ES, Paul McCawley	.01

Placement Points: 1st=3, 2nd=2
3rd=1, 4th=.01



Nance Ceccarelli and George Clark at the 2009 Endurance Trial in California



Paul McCawley and True placing 3rd at the Endurance pre-trial