

2009 Randy Cooley Memorial Hunt Test



The Randy Cooley Memorial Hunt Test was held May 15th and 16th at the Winghaven Hunt Club near Burnett Wisconsin. We had several early obstacles; The first was that our Committee and Hunt Test Chair, Karen Copley, developed serious health issues that prohibited her from attending the event. This required another person – me - to step up and fill in the blanks starting a short three weeks prior to the test! This would be the second time ATCA sponsored a test under the AKC Spaniel rules. Our successful execution would pave the way for ATCA to receive AKC approval to sponsor sanctioned Spaniel Hunt Tests where Qualifying Scores would count toward AKC Spaniel Titles. The second obstacle was that all the birds that were being held for our event were killed by a predator ten days before our event. This necessitated a race to find birds. Many suppliers will not sell their birds at this time of the year. Luckily Scott Lichty stepped up to the plate and finally found a supplier and talked Craig Tennies into transporting them to the test site.

With these early obstacles behind us, the test proceeded in a normal and fun manner. With Pam Straus and Jim Middaugh providing the food, Anita Smits collecting money and Sandi Cooley distributing rosettes and awards how could things go wrong?



The Workshop started on Friday with Dale Burrier doing an excellent job of focusing the dogs on prey. Water work with Jim Middaugh and Craig Tennies followed. This gave a good lead-in and warm up for the Hunt Tests on the next day.

Friday started with the “unofficial” AKC Spaniel Test. Long Time Spaniel judges Ron and Bev Haag did judging honors

and Vickie Dahlk served as Field Marshal. Vickie is the owner/handler of a Master Hunting Spaniel and a first time observer of Airedales in the field. AKC Field Rep Tom Meyer was also an observer. As we went through the Junior and Senior entries, the judges complemented the Airedales scenting ability – high praise coming from Spaniel judges!





The weather was good and it was rewarding and fun to watch our Airedales flush and work. The two areas that need the most attention are the final delivery of the bird to hand and the entry into the water no matter what the ground conditions – mud, stalks, cattails, rocks- the faster and harder the entry the better! No hesitation!

We had two qualifying scores, one in Juniors and one in Seniors; both handled by Mark Werner. Mark and Hanna did a very impressive 'double blind' water retrieve.

The qualifier in Juniors was TESSA: Strongbow Tessa of Wingate. By Ch Brisline Keystone's Mr Cool X Ch Huntwood Hannah of Strongbow. Breeder: Sandi Cooley. Owners: Mark & Karen Werner. Handler: Mark Werner

The Seniors qualifier was HANNAH: Hollytroj Han

Rules Wingate. By CH Huntwood Maverick N Hollytroj X Ch Huntwood's Liza at Hollytroj. Breeders: Carole Kane & Susan Kipp. Owners: Mark & Karen Werner. Handler: Mark Werner

Ron and Bev Haag, our Spaniel Test judges, were complementary of all the Airedales and felt that every dog in the



test could qualify with a bit more training. They also said that they appreciated the 'Airedale Hunting Style' document written by the ATCA Hunting/Field Committee and found it an accurate description of what they observed in the field.

The ATCA Retriever Test was judged by Craig Tennes and Sandi Cooley. There were four Qualifiers as follows:

Junior Qualifiers:

TESSA: Strongbow Tessa of Wingate. By Ch Brisline Keystone's Mr Cool X Ch Huntwood Hannah of Strongbow. Breeder: Sandi Cooley. Owners: Mark & Karen Werner. Handler: Mark Werner

BAMA: Bama Knighton. By Strongbow Hilltop X CH Northwoods Expectation.



The Winston & Randy Cooley Memorial Trophy

The Winston & Randy Cooley Memorial Trophy was created by Joanne Vohs and is presented by Sandi Cooley to commemorate her late

husband Randy Cooley, It symbolizes the loving bond and partnership between Randy and their Airedale Winston—Ch Moraine Prime Minister MHV.

Winston was a conformation Champion as well as a Master Versatile Hunter. Randy and Winston were pivotal in the early days of the ATCA Hunting Committee and their accomplishments in the field provide inspiration to many who seek to follow in their footsteps. ATCA awards the trophy to Airedales who have demonstrated true versatility. To date Forge - Stone Ridge Wrought Iron MHV - owned and handled by Ron Swisher is the only recipient.

Breeder: Hilltop Kennels. Owners: Bill & Beth Knighton. Handler: Bill Knighton

IZZY: Aircraft Izzadora Royal flush By Ch Talydale Friar Tuck From Stargus X Aircraft Alouise Warbird

CDX RA. Breeders: Dale and Kimbee Burrier. Owner/Handler: Brian Bolier

Senior Qualifiers:

HANNAH: Hollytroy Han Rules Wingate. By CH Huntwood Maverick N Hollytroy X Ch Huntwood's Liza at Hollytroy. Breeders: Carole Kane & Susan Kipp. Owners: Mark & Karen Werner. Handler: Mark Werner



Bill Knighton gets a special award as the "best trained handler." To qualify in Juniors, the bird must be delivered 'within reach' of the handler. At 6'4", Bill had perfected a "stretch" that gave him at least an eight foot reach. His Airedale 'Bama' told me it took almost 2 years for Bill to be trained to do this ultimate 'stretch' correctly!

The Fur Test was judged by Dale Burrier, Jim Middaugh and Kimbee Burrier. Pamela Tanner handled both

qualifiers:

In Juniors, the qualifier was NAUTI: Gemstone Bipolaire Nautigal. By Ch Gemstone High Voltage X Gemstone Triskaole Kaphobia RA. Breeders: Lorraine Zivich & Marjorie Green. Owner/Handler: Pamela C Tanner

The Seniors qualifier was SNUFFY: Gemstone Ruff Stuff Snuffy. By Dawndale Raymond X Ch Cripple Creek Margaret Anne. Breeders: Lorraine Zivich and Marjorie Green. Owner/Handler: Pamela C Tanner

Handlers and Airedale had great fun at the 2009 Randy Cooley Memorial with everyone pitching in and pulling together. Recent foot surgery didn't slow down Sandy Cooley and she was a good sport to pose for special photos as the dedicated hunter who doesn't let handicaps slow her down! Handlers are preparing for July 1st. when Airedales can officially compete in Spaniel Hunt Tests. Scott Lichty plans to enter Bob in Spaniel Tests held July 11th and 12th and Joyce Contofalsky has learned that Spaniel Tests fill months prior to the event!

Report and Photos by Kenneth Cook

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