

# Spartanburg Amateur Field Trial Club

*Kilgore Classics — 2009*

By TOM DAVIES

THE ninth renewal of the Kilgore Classics began on January 2 on the Sam Page Farm in the Kilgore Community near Woodruff, S. C.

The Spartanburg Amateur Field Trial Club initiated the Classics on the farm in 1999. We were unable to run the trial last season due to conflicts with Mother Nature and my schedule at school. After fielding phone calls and e-mails for months we were convinced to keep the trial alive. We got offers of help from friends in the sport from out-of-state as well as here in South Carolina. A lot of folks chipped in to get the grounds ready and to help with the trial.

J. C. Turner was a prime mover. He came down often to work on the grounds, mowing and bringing extra hands to help clean out the horse stalls, get areas ready to hold birds and put a better finish to the course. J. C. was helped out on many occasions by Vinnie Ballester who lives nearby.

Dr. Jim Page, John McMahan and Dr. Jim Anderson (the Kilgore Farm Hunt Club) all did extra duty in the food plots and fields to get the grounds in the best shape ever. Jim Page also helped out during the trial getting dogs on the line. Tom Brigman came down from Baltimore early and stayed late to help during the trial.

Cary Ballentine did double duty as "The Birdman" and occasional dog wagon driver while his wife, Brenda, judged the Amateur Classic. Jim Scott appeared every day to get things rolling with hot coffee in the headquarters building. He also helped Karyn Page-Davies prepare lunches and the steak dinner on Saturday night. It was really good to have the HQ full of field trial folks Saturday night. It's always good to see our old friends and was especially good to see Roger and Donna Martens again after so long.

January 2 was a Friday so we started the Amateur first with judges Brenda Ballentine of Blythewood, S. C., and Bobby Simpson of Kershaw, S. C. Heavy rains at night made the going rough. We've never seen the grounds so wet and muddy! At least we didn't get much rain during the day. Forty-four entries made for some good competition.



**Open Classic Winners. In foreground, from left: Mike Tracy with Hifalutin, Vinnie Ballester with Serious Threat, Alex Smith with Klee's Shooting Star and Jeanette Tracy. Behind: Jo Jo Denton, Arnold Hall and Ronnie Rogers, the judges, and Lett Carrol.**

N Y P D, pointer male owned and handled by Brian Sanchez, ran in the first brace and set the standard that was not beaten on the subsequent days.

Second was Ben's Blue, pointer male owned and handled by Toby Tobiassen. Third went to Breakstone, red setter male owned and handled by Roger Boser. We are always pleased to have so many great amateur dogs representing so many regions from Canada to Georgia and all points in between. We just wish we could arrange to ride more so we could write a proper report. Maybe time and horsepower will permit more at the next renewal.

Woodruff, S. C., January 2

Judges: Brenda Ballentine and Bobby Simpson  
KILGORE AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG  
CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats] —  
44 Entries

- 1st—N Y P D, 1547658, pointer male, Calico's Thrilllogy—Panovski's Comeback. Great River Kennel, owner; Brian Sanchez, handler.  
2d—BEN'S BLUE, 1589231, pointer male, by Ben's Buddy—Why Why Why. Bernard Tobiassen, owner; Toby Tobiassen, handler.  
3d—BREAKSTONE, 1582163, Irish setter male, by Sharpton—Chantilly. Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.

## OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

The Open Classic started Monday afternoon and was judged by Arnold Hall of Morristown, Tenn., and Ronnie Rogers of New Market, Tenn.

We have had as many as 105 dogs entered in the Open Classic. It is a good tune-up for the Georgia Shooting Dog Championship later in the month. The lowest entry was two years ago — 36. We hope the trend is moving back up and next year some other pros will grace us with their presence again.

Forty-four were entered. Norm Basilone made his first trip to Kilgore. We hope to see him again next time.

Mike Tracy handled all the winners. First place went to Hifalutin, pointer female owned by Roger and Susan Duerksen of Pittsburg, Pa. She won the trial with a strong, consistent race and six stylish finds. Judges noted that she "flung mud and water" as she powered around the course and finished as strong as she started.

Serious Threat, pointer male owned by Greg and Maggie Strausbaugh of Mifflinburg, Pa., placed second. Judges noted four good pieces of bird work coupled with a strong race with a big finish. The course has a new finish that goes up the runway edge the last quarter mile.

Third place went to Klee's Shooting Star, pointer female owned by Andrea Clark of Ridgeville, S. C. She had four finds (one on a limb), a back and a strong finish.

Judges also singled out Enhancement Trey, handled by Jeanette Tracy, for honorable mention.

The club would like to thank all the participants and all those who helped put on a really good trial. Special thanks also to Purina for its continued support of our trial and all they do to support our pastime in general. We hope to see everyone again at the next renewal.

Judges: Arnold Hall and Ronnie Rogers  
KILGORE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC  
[One-Hour Heats] — 44 Entries

- 1st—HIFALUTIN, 1524732, female, by Kool Fire—Matoi. Roger & Susan Duerksen & Brian Sanchez, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.  
2d—SERIOUS THREAT, 1550685, pointer male, by Rock N Roller—Mt. Nebo's Bell. Greg & Maggie Strausbaugh, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.  
3d—KLEE'S SHOOTING STAR, 1550472, pointer female, by Calico's Thrilllogy—Guard's Rambling On. Andrea W. Clark, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.