



NEWSLETTER

OUR GOAL: To Promote, Preserve, and Experience One of the Greatest Southern Traditions Known... Quail Hunting.

MAY 2007 • Published Quarterly • Jim Bradford, Editor

Spring Field Trial, 2007

The 13th annual Alabama Quail Hunters Spring Field Trial was held March 3rd at Frost Farms. The beautiful spring weather presented a nearly perfect day to hold the trial. Many old and some new faces came out to participate and watch the trial. The front porch around the Frost's cabin provided a perfect place to pull up a chair and watch the dogs run. The porch seemed to be the place to draw everyone together to listen and share stories of past outings that included some great dogs.

We had a great turn out of dogs and some close competition. The dogs provided stiff competition leaving some of the handlers thinking they need to visit the target range before next season. We would like to congratulate the following owners and handlers whose dogs will be surely be talked about around the Frost's porch in the future.

Congratulations to:

PUPPY CLASS

- 1stJill - Bill Whitley
- 2ndBee - Jim Bradford,
.....Aaron Parker's dog
- 3rdJJ - Jim Bradford



DERBY DOGS

- 1stJJ - Jim Bradford
- 2ndJill - Bill Whitley
- 3rdLillie - Chris McDaniel



SENIOR DOGS

- 1stSioux - Bob Carr
- 2ndRocky - Bob Hensley

GUN DOGS

- 1stNell - Tack Mims
- 2ndKit - Tack Mims
- 3rdDeke - Chris McDaniel

A special thanks goes to Leon Flynn and Harry Puryear for preparing our wonderful lunch. Thanks also to the Frost family for hosting our Spring Field Trial, 2007 and to everyone else who worked so hard to make this year's trial a success.

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT

www.alabamaquailhunters.org • www.alabamaquailtrail.com

Field Trialing Primer

Many if not most bird dog enthusiasts are actively participating in some form of Field Trial with their dogs. This short article is for those folks that have not entered a dog or entered one a couple of times and decided trialing is not for them.

To start with, there are several forms of trialing. The big divider is horseback or foot. If you like to ride horses, get a big running dog and be prepared to spend a lot of time and money with training up North in the summer and trialing all over in the Fall and Winter.

There is the National Bird Hunters which is best described as horseback hunting without the horse. The dogs run big but the handler is on foot. The gallery rides in a tractor pulled wagon.

NASTRA (Nat. Shoot To Retrieve Assoc.) has 2 dogs competing in a field of about 20 ac. with 5 released birds.

AFOA

Lee Laechelt spoke to AQH about his organization, the Alabama Forest Owners' Association (AFOA) at our April meeting. Lee serves as Executive Vice President of the association that began in 1981. Ben F. Black is a director of the same organization. The organization is an advocate for the small landowner. Their web site, www.afoa.org is excellent and provides its members a place to advertise land for sale or lease. Capital Ideas is the name of the organization's monthly newsletter. In addition, the organization provides hunting club liability insurance at a reasonable cost. We want to thank Lee for speaking to our membership.

At our May 8th meeting, long time AQH member, Philip Wiedmeyer will speak to us. Phillip is also the president the Birmingham Chapter of Quail Unlimited.

Dogs are scored on points, retrieves, backs and field coverage. Each dog competes in an A and B field and combined score wins. The hunter must be able to bring down the bird so his dog can make the retrieve.

United Field Trialers Association is the newest group and the one that I have recently joined. Scoring is based on the time it takes to bag three released birds in a field. Each dog runs in 2 fields and the best combined score wins. There are major deductions for missed shots and partial retrieves.

There are two reasons why I am competing with UFTA. The first reason is my 10 month old pup J.J. who handles exceptionally well but has several puppy flaws on points and retrieves. Next year, I plan to also enter him in NASTRA and NBA.

The 2nd reason is that UFTA will hold their Nationals at Doublehead Resort at Joe Wheeler State Park. This event

is coming mainly because of the determined efforts of one of our members, Layton Cox.

For further Info and rules for the above groups, you can go to the following Web sites...

Americanfield.com

nbhafuturity.com

nstra.org

ufta-online.com

As a footnote, I was graciously welcomed every time I have ever shown up at any of the above groups, either as a first time participant or as a spectator.

JB



If you would like an embroidered cap or shirt please contact Denise Hubbert (Jared's mother) 205-389-4922.



HEY FOLKS

Congratulations Alabama Quail Hunters!!! You have been incorporated TEN YEARS! Our Charter Members who signed the Articles of Incorporation were Jim Bradford, Terry Ballew, Price McGiffert, Harold Spradley, Aaron Parker, David Crawley, John Walker and Frank Harris. Jim Bradford served as the first president. While I was not involved with the conception of the idea for a local quail club, I was involved by the time of our club's incorporation.

The genesis story of AQH as it was told to me is as follows. While a group of men were playing golf, one openly stated that he enjoyed quail hunting much more than golf, but there were declining places to hunt and decreasing quail numbers. This was the spark for establishing AQH. Initially, the focus of the club was to locate a field for

dog training. AQH now has 365 acres leased in Cullman County for dog training and hunting. Other activities include our monthly meetings, some with outstanding speakers about Mr. Bob White and related subjects including improving quail habitat or your dog's training and performance. Some speakers have been discouraging to the small landowner, reporting that you needed 10,000 acres to maintain a wild bird population. Today, there are some success stories of wild quail coveys established on tracts of about 400 acres.

Reflecting back over our history, it was very interesting in the early days to listen to our members speculate on the problems quail face, like the coyote. Our wildlife biologist speakers would point out that nest raiding predators like rat snakes,

raccoons and opossums and avian predators like the Cooper's Hawks were of a much greater threat. We are now much better educated on the limiting factors of a thriving quail population. Wild quail are possible if one can control the plant mix in their habitat and the predation on sufficient acreage.

Some of our other key successes over our history are that AQH now has two members active on the Quail Council, we publish a quarterly newsletter, and we host a fall and a spring field trial every year. Most of all, we have fun with each other and we all enjoy working to benefit Mr. Bob White.

Join me in celebrating this milestone, the Tenth Anniversary of your club.

President, Frank Harris

Welcome To Our Newest Members

William Aycock
from Hartselle

Anthony Duke
from Alabaster

Hiliary Henderson
from Birmingham

Dan Lyles
from Birmingham

Steven Sparks
from Gadsden

Andy Torsch
from Birmingham



Treasurer's Desk

Check your mailing label and if "12-07" does not follow your name, your 2007 dues are now payable. Please send me your check made out to AL Quail Hunters, 1901 Morgan Road SE, Bessemer, AL 35022. Your annual \$15.00 dues are income tax deductible. If I have made an error, or if you have decided you no longer want to be a member, email me at coalcarr@bham.rr.com or call me during office hours at (205) 424-1381.

**Thank you,
Bob Carr, AQH Treasurer**

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Office Phone (____) _____

Cell Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____

New Member

Renewal

2007 DUES – \$15.00

Check Payable to "Alabama Quail Hunters"

Call Jim Bradford, 991-8635 for more information, contact...



Alabama Quail Hunters

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