



NEWSLETTER

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

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A Rookie at National UFTA

While running my young pup in local trials in Alabama and Georgia, I had been hearing all the talk about last years Nationals in Indiana. Since the Fall trial at DoubleHead Resort and Preserve, I had been looking forward to the Big Show in Alabama with great anticipation.

What an event! I met trialers that were legends in the sport and some of the nicest and most down to earth people that you would ever want to meet. I competed twice with a microphone on me and a camera rolling. Tom Knapp showed up out of nowhere and started interviewing me after one of the runs. I had lunch with the incoming president, Jeff Beasley and his wife, Christie. Christie was greatly responsible for the way everything ran so smoothly.

There were 4 events for the pointers and then you had the flushing dogs in a separate area. JJ, at 20 months, was entered in the Amateur, Open, and Seniors since I barely qualified at age 62. With 2 runs each in the Amateur and the Open and 1 in the Senior, I was looking forward to the week.

It had been a while since JJ's one win in August and our goal was to make the finals in the amateur. I had been told that it would take 2 perfect runs of 10 minutes or less to make the top 20 of nearly 70 dogs.

JJ turned in his best performance ever and I managed to not screw it up and we made the finals. The goal then changed to make the top 10 but we fell short because of my rookie mistakes.

The pup was getting better each day and we made the final 25 in the Open out of nearly 130 grown

dogs. Once again, the goal of making the top 10 was thwarted because of my mistakes. Enough about JJ and me. Even if things had not gone well, we would still have had a good time.

DoubleHead Resort has got to be the best kept secret in Alabama and Tracy Jackson and her staff went out of their way to make us welcome. Like most groups, Quail hunters will complain if things are not right. I can honestly say that that if there were any problems about the lodging or the fields, I did not hear about them.

The UFTA board voted to have the event there again next year although they did move it off of Valentine's week. Next year, I will take my boat and tie it up at our cabin's private dock on Lake Wheeler.

A special thanks has to go to Laylon Cox who personally lobbied to bring the Nationals to Alabama and brought many of our fine sponsors on board. Kenny Armstrong was right there with Laylon on much of the pre-trial work. Speaking of the sponsors, many of them had Representatives on hand and they donated a lot of really good door prizes.

So that is a snapshot of a 62 year old rookie's trip to Nationals. I have next year's week blocked off on my calendar and I do not plan on missing out on any in the foreseeable future.

For further info or complete results from the trial, you can go to www.ufta-online.com

Jim Bradford and JJ

LEASE

As most of you know we were able to have a control burn on about 1/3 of the property. It was done by the Alabama Forestry Commission in late February. If any of you have access to a back hoe we could use one. In a couple of days we should accomplish all we need to do with one.

Frank



We would like to thank Simmons Sporting Goods and Holcombe Building Materials for their continued support.

Just A Dog

From time to time people tell me, "Lighten up, it's just a dog," or "That's a lot of money for just a dog." They don't understand the distance traveled, time spent, or costs involved for "Just a dog." Some of my proudest moments have come about with "Just a dog." Many hours have passed with my only company being "just a dog", and not once have I felt slighted. Some of my saddest moments were brought about by "Just a dog." In those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "Just a dog" provided comfort and purpose to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's "Just a dog" you will probably understand phrases like "Just a friend", "Just a sunrise", or "Just a promise". "Just a dog" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. "Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that makes me a better person. Because of "Just a dog" I will rise early, take long walks, and look longingly to the future.

For me and folks like me, it's not "Just a dog". It's an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment. "Just a dog" brings out what's good in me

and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday people can understand it's not "Just a dog". It's the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "Just a man or woman".

So the next time you hear the phrase "Just a dog", smile, because they "Just Don't Understand".

~Author Unknown



Treasurer's Desk

I hope every one had a fun quail season! Check your mailing label and if "12-09" does not follow your name, my records show that you have not yet paid your 2009 dues. 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, email me at coalcarr@bham.rr.com or call me during office hours at (205) 424-1381.

Thank you,
Bob Carr, AQH Treasurer

NEW MEETING LOCATION

Richard's BAR-B-Q

2409 Acton Road (205) 979-6057
(Off I 459)

In Shopping Center beside Krystals
and across street from Triple A

**Join Us 2nd Tuesday of Each Month! —
Great Food!**

HEY FOLKS

Interest in quail hunting continues to grow. It seems that all you have to do is introduce quail hunting to anyone that has the slightest aptitude for outdoor sports and you have another person with the desire to hunt quail. Quail hunting provides the hunter an opportunity to walk in the outdoors, wing shoot, watch a dog hunt, point and retrieve.

Opportunities to hunt quail are limited but available. If the hunter does not own a dog, the easiest pursuit is through a day hunt hosted by a licensed hunting preserve. Preserves offer a wide range of hunting opportunities, from "put-n-take to preseason release". "Put-n-take" refers to the fact that the birds are pen reared and released the morning of the hunt. The McGiffert family own a private licensed hunting preserve near Tuscaloosa and they have mastered the "preseason release" technique. Licensed hunting preserves may also provide meals and lodging. On the Alabama Quail Trail web site, www.AlabamaQuailtrail.com, you can find a listing of many preserves and what they have to offer the quail hunter. You may locate a preserve that becomes your favorite and stick to it, or you may want to hunt them all. If you consider the cost of keeping a dog or two all year, hunting on a preserve can be very economical. Hunting on a licensed hunting preserve is very similar to paying a green fee to play golf.

If you do have your own bird dog, which beats owning a cat, another choice would be hunting public land. Public hunting is available in Alabama from the Tennessee line to the north down to the Gulf Coast on the south. Public hunting land targeted for small game is more limited and will require some investigating to find a suitable property. Go to the website www.outdooralabama.com which provides a list of available public hunting lands. Public hunting for small game in Alabama needs some specific attention.

Some hunters without sufficient capital to purchase acreage for quail hunting are electing to lease property. Leasing may be done individually or collectively as a quail hunting club. Selecting the right property or hunting club is tedious. Factors to consider include travel distance from your home to the hunting club, how much acreage the owner will allow the club to manipulate, lease terms, the adjacent land owner's attitude towards property rights, and the details of the hunting club's rules. Select hunting club members who share your enthusiasm for quail. I want to make you aware of a quail hunting club that is being formed in Bibb Co. You may contact Jim Bradford at 205-910-0845 for specific information.

Leasing property provides the opportunity to occupy and use the land for the short term without the tremendous capital outlay. You say, "I want to lease a property where I can locate 10 coveys in a days hunt." It is highly probable that this property does not exist in Alabama. This is an indication of how far behind Alabama is in quail habitat restoration. The greatest advantage to leasing is that you don't have to shell out \$ 1,500 per acre to buy the property. Unlike quail hunting on public land, you don't have to share it with someone that does not agree with your habitat goals and what you are trying to accomplish. Depending on the property, you may also pursue hunting doves and shooting sporting clays. I will expand on leasing in another article.

Private land is available to be purchased from small parcels to large plantations. Private owners may also lease adjacent property to add acreage to their own property holdings. I know of some private landowners with a few acres that have a couple of coveys of which they are extremely proud. To own your own property, the limiting factor is the capital outlay. Ownership is preferred, if you can do it.

Frank H. — President

Welcome To Our Newest Members

Tommy Coker from Alabaster
Roland Jones from Randolph
Mel Levy from Birmingham
William Price from Randolph
Donnis Ray from Jemison
J. T. Russom from Verbena
Larry Weaver from Vinemont

SPRING FIELD TRIAL

The Fifteenth, 15th, Annual Field Trial was cancelled due to rainy weather. All post reports were that it rained about 3 inches that weekend. We met at Frost Farms early Saturday in anticipation of a break in the weather, however it didn't come. We cancelled about 8:30 AM prior to running any braces. We have been fortunate that out of 15 trials this is the first that got rained out. That is a track record to be thankful. We have been rained on, but never stopped. This time the weather man was correct as they forecast 90 to 100 % rain the day before.

Frank

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

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

Cell Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____

New Member

Renewal

2009 DUES – \$15.00

Check Payable to "Alabama Quail Hunters"

Call N. H. Holt, 205-936-6293 for more information, contact...



1901 Morgan Road S.E. Bessemer, Alabama 35022



Alabama Quail Hunters

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