



# NEWSLETTER

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

January 2012 • Published Quarterly • N.H. Holt, Editor

## Fall Field Trial

Congratulations to the winners!

The winners from the 2011 Fall Field Trial are:

### Puppy

1st Place: Buzz - Thurman Campbell

2nd Place: Audrey - Jamie McDaniel

3rd Place: Crystal - Mike Barlow



### Gun

1st Place: Deke - Chris McDaniel

2nd Place: Annie - Bob Spotswood

3rd Place: O.J. - Richard Anderson



### Derby

1st Place: Buddy - Andy Anderson

2nd Place: Crystal - Mike Barlow

3rd Place: Jill - Ben Black



### Senior

1st Place: Woody - Ross Lavette

2nd Place: Curley - Tom Hopwood

3rd Place: Buck - Gates Shaw

# South Dakota Trip

By: Mike Barlow

It's a beautiful Saturday in October and all four of us were eager to go. Three dogs and I have been wondering why we were not in the field. No reason was satisfactory but the weather changes demanded we get our schedule aligned with the weather forecasters. Living in Alabama means dog training usually cannot be routine until the cooler days of fall arrive. When we finally did get in the field, it made us feel absolutely wonderful and we enjoyed a great workout. It was just what the doctor ordered!

Weeks earlier, while Alabama dogs and handlers pace the floor waiting to get into the field to practice for the upcoming season, our dog hunting friends up north are enjoying the cooler days and nights giving them extra days to hone their skills. Southern professional trainers have long traveled north to jump-start their training to maintain their training schedules. This summer Frank Harris and I traveled north with Harold Ridgeway and observed the benefit of early field work with Harold's fine dogs. Imagine traveling to South Dakota with 15 dogs, an ATV, food, supplies and all the gear needed to live and train dogs for a month. Being prepared with the needed items will assure a positive reward to the work effort. Harold, a veteran dog trainer, demonstrated his expertise daily and the results were easy to see. The dogs blossomed and developed daily before our eyes.

The daily training usually followed this schedule:

- 4:15 am: wake up, breakfast and discussion of solving all the world's problems
- 5:15 am: arrive at kennels and handle equipment and dog chores
- 6:00 am: arrive at the field and drop the first dogs
- 11:30 am: return to kennel, feed dogs and lunch
- 3:00 pm: depending on the temperature, resume the field work
- 8:00 pm: return to kennel and do clean up, eat dinner and prep for the next day
- 9:30 pm: enjoy the fine night of well earned sleep

The local Rockham, South Dakota had some points of interest. Rockham is about sixty miles from Aberdeen and about eight miles from Redfield. With a population of 53, we never had to worry about traffic jams. Actually, it was rare to see another non-farm vehicle. The land was beautiful and the farms were big. By big, I mean thousands of acres and huge farm equipment inventories. I found little similarity between our 35 HP tractor at the lease and the 400 HP models on the farm we visited. The house where we stayed was built in 1880 and had one-foot thick walls. The owner said that thickness, plus large strands of trees planted as wind breaks, helped to get through the very bitter winters they have every year. We attended a local fair with lots of livestock being shown, got in a trip to a very interesting museum that showed the early days of life on the Dakota frontier, and still managed to do some back-road touring of the area.

Scattered throughout the area, many professional trainers were doing exactly what we were doing. Rigs from the southern states were scattered on farms all the way up to Canada. It seems to be good for everyone. The local economy benefits, the farmers add another income stream and the dogs love it. This lifestyle works for everyone.

Now for the negative of all this fun, it's a long way up to South Dakota. The ride is not to be taken lightly but you cannot find cooler weather without putting in the miles. Should you decide to go, I think you will find it is a tremendous experience and worth every minute you spend driving to get there and back. Just remember, your dog will thank you for the experience. Go with someone that has been there and knows how the system works. Both Frank and I continue to talk about our experience and will be forever grateful to Harold for sharing not only the trip but his extensive training knowledge and 'dog' sense. I remember seeing smiles on the faces of all the dogs as we drove back home. Their smiles could not have been bigger than the one on my face. So train, hunt, but most of all, enjoy your dog!

Good hunting.

# HEY FOLKS

HEY FOLKS,

The November 18th edition of The Birmingham News announced the sad news of Tripp Head's untimely death. Tripp was a long-time supporter of AQH and on numerous occasions, offered legal advice to assist me in running our club. He and his bird dog, Honey, enjoyed fall and winter days in the field. Tripp is survived by his wife, Julie and their two girls. AQH expresses our thanks and our condolences to Tripp's family for his hard work and for their loss.

I know most of you subscribe to Covey Rise. Did you notice that they mentioned AQH and Harold Ridgeway in their issue reminiscing of the past 10 years? I want to say, "Thank you!" for a job well done at Covey Rise. Thanks for keeping Mr. Bob White in the forefront of every ones' mind. Congratulations to Kim and Tim Price and their staff on your 10-year anniversary.

The big day on AQH's calendar, November 19th finally arrived. It was a cool, clear day and was the first time that AQH hosted its fall field trial in November. Historically, the fall event had been in October. More energy than usual was on exhibit for the puppy class. Mike Barlow had a fine pointer puppy out of Texas, named Crystal, Thurman Campbell had a local setter puppy, and representing the girls was Jamie McDaniel with her Brittany Spaniel, named Audrey. But the winner of the puppy class was Thurman Campbell with his setter named Buzz.

Gates Shaw again proved to be a fine host. Gates had been tossing around ideas of ways to make our trial better. Several months ago, Bob, Mike and I went down to visit with Gates to see what he had in mind. The first idea was to have the trial a little later in the season. Secondly, the bird field was moved to a location with more timber. The gallery's hillside view looked like a southern Georgia plantation. It had mature scattered pines, but with more roll to the terrain. Gates continually improves his farm's quail habitat. It was an exciting venture you will want to read about the winners in this newsletter edition.

All for now!

Frank Harris, President

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## Cullman Lease Update

The AQH Board of Directors has voted their approval for the members of the Cullman Lease to acquire a used tractor and accessories. This will increase the volume of work that can be done more than two fold. To pay for these purchases, the Board approved a \$150.00 increase in the annual dues up to \$450.00 beginning 1-1-12. Shopping for the equipment is ongoing.

Most of the doves we had in residence on our fields of Brown Top Millet and Dove Proso Millet were "kidnapped" by some neighbors about a week before our AQH opening day dove shoot. Someone said that if you listened very carefully between their blasting of #8 shot, you could hear them singing, "Jimmy cracked corn and I don't care!"

### **Welcome To Our Newest Members**

Michael Spurlock from Birmingham

[www.alabamaquailhunters.org](http://www.alabamaquailhunters.org)

### **Treasurer's Desk**

Hunting season is near, so please check your AQH Newsletter mailing label. If "12-12" does not follow your name, my records show that you have not yet paid your 2012 dues payable to all AQH members on January 1st. Please mail me your check made out to AL Quail Hunters & mail to 1901 Morgan Road, 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](mailto: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

**2012 DUES – \$15.00**

*Check Payable to "Alabama Quail Hunters"*

For more information call N. H. Holt @ 205-936-6293 or contact:



1901 Morgan Road S.E. Bessemer, Alabama 35022



**Alabama Quail Hunters**

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