

## **Region 19 AAA Brittany Championship**

**Harms Cattle Company**

**Valentine, Nebraska**

**Kent D. Patterson**



L to R: Rob Rohner, judge; Tom Milam with Glade Run Irish; Steve Ralph; Stan Williamson with Ru-Jem's "Last" Penny; Dr. Pat McInteer, judge; Jerry McGee; Kent Patterson with Alar's Dirty Dancer; Bob Rankin; Jim Harms; John Harms with Sophie; Campbell's Razz-Ma-Tazz, Frank Campbell not available for picture.

The generosity of Jim and John Harms allowed the re-emergence of the Region 19 AAA Brittany Championship. Formerly held in Bonesteel, SD and sponsored by the Ringneck Brittany Club, the 2017 running was coordinated by the St. Croix Brittany Club with Steve Ralph at the helm. The American Brittany Club Pheasant Championship has been held on this beautiful Nebraska Sandhills ranch in recent years, pairing an amateur championship attracted a large contingent of owner/amateur handlers. The spacious ranch is a blend of meadows and Sandhills providing a challenging and scenic landscape by which to show a dog. The 3 hour courses covering over 20 miles provided dogs with plenty of country to showcase their talent. Wild birds were pointed, ridden-up, or seen on most every brace.

With a course of this magnitude, having dogs available for successive braces is a challenge. It requires someone who knows the ground, courses, gates, and equipment to safely transport humans and canines. John Harms knows the country and Tehrani Motors of Valentine Nebraska provided two crew cab Polaris UTV's that allowed flawless execution of this important task. The main dog wagon Polaris was equipped with a hard shell enclosure, electric windows, and heat, which, according to those that rode in it, provided a luxurious experience that the rest of us on horses in cold rain were longing to



experience. Purina continues to be an excellent partner in support of the American Brittany. Their food and merchandise are always welcome gifts to those that work hard to put competitive dogs on the ground.

This championship could not have been conducted without the significant effort of Tom Tracy Jr. His hard work in setting up the 3 courses, planting birds, and marshalling was a herculean task that allowed amateurs from across the country to enjoy one of the most spectacular venues available to the brittany community.

Dr. Pat McInteer of Falls City, NE and Rob Rohner of Burchard, NE were in saddle to look over the field of 34 dogs. Both are intimately familiar with the sport and the upland game that inhabit the Sandhills. Pat's Nemaha Kennels has produced a number of highly decorated champions and he was elected to the Field Trial Hall of Fame in 2014. Rob campaigned a large string of field trial brittanys early in his career winning the ABC National Championship, the US Open, and numerous other championships. His current business, Upland Dog Works.com, turns young dogs into polished hunting companions to meet the needs of the avid hunter. Both gentlemen set a consistent pace by which handlers could show their dogs.

The champion was found in 8 year old Glade Run Irish, handled by Tom Milam, scouted by Kent Patterson for owner David Webb of Valencia, PA. Irish is no stranger to the winners circle. He is the reigning American Brittany Club National Amateur All Age Champion and the 2016 Purina All Age Dog of the Year. Irish is on the string of professional trainer Tom Tracy Jr. based out of Virginia, NE.

Runner-Up Champions was Ru-Jem's "Last" Penny handled by Steve Ralph, scouted by Stan Williamson for owner Jerry McGee of Steward, IL. Jerry was riding in the Tehrani Motors Polaris UTV to watch his charge. Penny is also consistently near the winners' circle having won the Nebraska Championship in the spring and runner-up in the Prairie States Championship.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Alar's Dirty Dancer handled by Kent Patterson, scouted by Richard Beaver for owner Jessica Carlson Tillson.

4<sup>th</sup> Place: Campbell's Razz-Ma-Tazz handled by owner Frank Campbell, scouted by Richard Beaver.

## **The Running**

Things started with a bang...literally...as the Sandhills experienced its first major storm event of the fall. Temps were in the mid 40's, angry skies, and wind.

Brace 1: Piney Run Jake – Kent Patterson; Driving Miss Daisy II – Burton Wice

Dogs were away west of the main ranch under ominous skies. By the time we reached the north meadow at 15, there was lightning and rain on the nearby hills. When the event intensified to the point where horses were trying to turn around, the judges decided to suspend the running. This brace would drop to the end of the trial for a "do-over".

Brace 2: MK's My Lil Ammo – Harlan Gerardy; Georgia Texas Two Step – Travis Tangen

Once the weather cell that wreaked havoc in the first brace moved north, we were away with Georgia and BB. Both moved well as we headed west and swung north. They were showy on the east fence at 15. As we hit the far north meadow the standing water and cold temps began to take a toll on Georgia.



Travis picked up at the gate as we came out of the hills. BB made game coming out of the north meadow along a fence line with a breach of manners that had her on a rope at 20.

Brace 3: Campbell's Razz-Ma-Tazz – Frank Campbell; Tequila Scorcher – Richard Beaver

Razz and Lincoln were away at the gate in the west meadow and probed the margins of the course as we turned south. In the jug handle loop at 20, Razz made a move deep along the fence and was standing in neck high prairie grass. As Frank was crossing the fence a nice covey of sharptails took flight with all manners in order. By 30, Richard made the decision to pick up. Razz continued the hour with logical casts at moderate range.

Brace 4: Highpoint's Spike Southern Gal – Trey Baer; Redrock's Seismic Sniksoh- David Lincoln

Elle was flashy on the ground making casts that held everyone's attention with her only bird contact a stop to flush, at time. Mickey was a handful on this day and picked up after two non-productives.

Brace 5: Crescent City Girl- Barry Steinmetz; Just Call Me Lucky Ned Pepper-Frank Campbell

The weather was beginning to deteriorate but it didn't seem to be slowing girl down as she was handful over the early portions of the course. She wasn't pleasing her handler at 35 and was leashed. Ned had a find at 15 and took steps.

Brace 6: Bammer Jammer Jax – Trey Baer; Kashmir – Bob Rankin

At Trout Lake, the bottom fell out followed shortly by lightning. Both dogs had big races but were together a lot with scouts going to multiple fences to get them back. Neither had bird work to their credit.

Brace 7: Hoochie Coochie Man – Kent Patterson; Kinwashkly Fat Bastard – Tom Milam

Weather was still in the area Sunday morning so a decision was made to hold off until noon. Karl and Fatz were at moderate range early. Karl made a big move east down along a lake that took some time to pull him out while Fatz was building in speed and range as the course turned west. Kent asked for the tracker at 25, Fatz had pheasant encounter then got him a ride on the wagon.

Brace 8: Ru-Jem's Last Penny – Steve Ralph; Carpe Diem – David Lincoln

Penny was the model of consistency as she maintained the front swinging with her handler. Early in the hour, she was stopped and deer were seen leaving the area. She was standing with excellent style at 36 with Trout Lake in the background. Birds went east with all manners in order. She had a non-productive at time in the pheasant meadow. Carp hit the marsh meadow at 15 and a lengthy exercise to pull him out was unsuccessful.

Brace 9: Brendi Brooks Cowboy Up – Ray Trimble; Jagoub's Buzz'n Bayou – Jack Alexander

Trace and Skeeter started in Pheasant meadow. Trace was barely up to speed before one took him out near the windmill. Skeeter continued to move well in the hills headed north. As we came down near Ballard's Marsh, he went into a hillside of sunflowers with pheasants pouring out in pairs to end his hour.

Brace 10: KJ's Irish Whizky – Ken Windom; SS Rig's Colorado Gun Runner – Tom Milam



Whizky and Rigs had their sneakers on early moving through the hills in nice fashion down to the marsh with Rigs pointing where Judge McInteer had seen a bird land. He recovered quickly with a beautiful find near camp as the pheasant shot north. He suffered 2 non-productives to end his bid. Whizky was wide and flashy the entire hour but had no birds to his credit, he needed one badly.

Brace 11: Arrow's Tequila Rustler – Richard Beaver; Ocaje – Terry Gowin

Ocaje was scratched so Richard and Rusty had course 1 to themselves until a lone sharptail 10 minutes into the brace got up wild. Rusty was curious enough to follow it for just a little too much to end the brace.

Brace 12: JJ's Levi the Lion Heart – Joe Williams; Glade Run Irish – Tom Milam

Irish was sailing far to the front along a western fence line when he froze. Tom pushed a cackling pheasant to the north. Levi went into the northern hills and it took some good scout work to pull him out as the course turned south. Levi was standing at 25 as the course heads into the Sandhills. Irish backing in a picturesque scene. Birds had been seen in this area each time through but they couldn't be produced on this occasion. Irish was credited with a stop to flush not 100 yards away from Levi's find after being released. We had both dogs as we came out of the hills with Irish making a big move to the southern end of a meadow that extended into a flashy move up and into the hills. He rolled over the remaining 15 minutes of the brace finishing on a far flung eastern cast.

Brace 13: Kokomo Josey Joe – Kent Patterson; TLM Tejano Bob – Tom Milam

Josey and Bob made a nice big swing in the horseshoe loop with Josey coming out first and hanging on the hillsides. He continued wide, being seen sparingly, as we headed toward Trout Lake. He showed far to the front on the Pheasant meadow fence and finished on a far western hill with no birds to his credit. Bob was at moderate range through the hills and Tom had seen enough by the 20 minute mark.

Brace 14: Alar's Dirty Dancer – Kent Patterson; JJ's Diablo With Rusty Tears – Joe Williams

Dani and Rusty had their sneakers on as the field trial party rolled through the Sandhills toward Ballard Marsh. Dani was seen infrequently but far to the front then came out of the hills to her handler near the marsh. She cruised the south hills as the course neared camp and was found standing in a shelter belt at 47. Judge Rohner had seen a pheasant come out, shot fired, all in order. She finished in the south meadow with a stop to flush on a sharptail. Rusty was handful on this day with a stop to flush early in the hour. She was searching for a line to run and those are hard to come by in the high hills. Joe elected to pick up at 40.

Brace 15: Alleycat's Drought – Stan Williamson; Kinwashkly's Tempo – Bob Rankin

Tempo headed west on a mission...a mission that took her to parts unknown with Bob asking for the tracker early. Drought suffered 2 early non-productives and was up by 20.

Brace 16: Sniksoh Windtuck Willy – Chuck Schaefer; CVK's Spartan King – Jack Alexander

Willy and Leo started with a bang as both found the north meadow to their liking. Willy styled up nicely at 12 with Chuck flushing a single pheasant, all manners in order. Leo had his eye on the lake to the west which is a huge move, if accomplished.....on this day, it was his swan song as Jack requested the tracker at 30. Willy was increasingly challenging handler and scout as he got interested in all creatures large and

small that live in the marsh. He got behind at 25 on his first trip into the reeds and was pulled forward...at 35, he made a second trip that was his undoing.

Brace 17: Firestarter's Crossed the Line – Bob Rankin; McChesney's I Got My Mojo Working – Steve Ralph

Ty and Mojo were loosed near the single tree west of the ranch. Mojo handled kindly across the meadow to the hills as Ty went out the west end of the meadow then turned south. When Bob turned the tracker on, he was 1.4 miles away. Mojo continued a pleasing forward pattern with no bird work to his credit.

Brace 18: Sparky's Prairie Wind Gypsy – Steve Ralph

Gypsy was in heat and run alone. She was forward but at moderate range over her time down. She suffered two non-productives in Pheasant Meadow.

Brace 19: Piney Run Jake – Kent Patterson; Driving Miss Daisy II – Stan Williamson

Jake and Daisy were away from the windmill at the base of the Sandhills that lead back to Ballard's Marsh. Jake had two finds on sharptails in the hills at 12 and 21 with excellent style. Daisy topped a hill and pheasants got up.....she stopped but then moved on to end her bid. Jake continued through the meadows leading back to camp where a 2<sup>nd</sup> non-productive at 57 ended the championship.

**Region 19 AAA Brittany Championship**

**Harms Cattle Company**

**Valentine, NE**

**34 Starters**

**Judges: Dr. Pat McInteer and Rob Rohner**

**1st: Glade Run Irish, Brittany Male, By Ortho Acres Booker T X Fly Feather Cocobean**

**Tom Milam, handler; David Webb, owner**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Ru-Jem's "Last" Penny, Brittany Female, By Trademark's ATM X Red Bud Zipper**

**Steve Ralph, handler; Jerry McGee, owner**

**3<sup>rd</sup>: Alar's Dirty Dancer, Brittany Female, By Lost Creek Timber Ridge X Alar's Sky Dancer**

**Kent Patterson, handler; Jessica Carlson Tillson, owner**

**4<sup>th</sup>: Campbell's Razz-Ma-Tazz, Brittany Male, By Tera's Cabo Wabo X Breton's Truckee River Gold**

**Frank Campbell, owner/handler**