



# 2019 ABC National Amateur Championship

November 25-28, 2019

Blue Mountain fi J. Perry Mikles WDA, Booneville, Arkansas

By Joe Gower



**L to R: Lori Ralph, Steve Ralph with Ru-Jem's "Last" Penny, Stan Williamson, Jerry McGee, Judge George Hill, Mark Claypool, Julie Nelson with Turning Points Shenanigans, Judge Kipp Linard, Tommy Thomas, Joey Rogers with Maxwell's Heavy Hitter, Kevin Rogers, Jack Alexander, Tara Alexander with Jwb Arctic Cat**

The wind was blowing rain from the north under cap and hood, spotting my glasses. My wool gloves were damp, but I kept them on for warmth, as my rain jacket pockets were half-full of water. The notebook I was using; saturated, and ink smudged on every page. Miserable conditions to report the 2019 American Brittany Club National Amateur Field Championship. Far ahead of me, the 93-year-old Ray Trimble, whose National Championship placements are journaled back to 1962, rode alone on Thanksgiving Day, handling his dog Tuff. Mercifully, time struck the one-hour mark. Ray rode on while his dog emerged from a tree line to take the next. None of us expected a handler to hear the call to pick up, given the conditions, and I spurred my horse forward to tell Ray and help catch the dog. Riding past him, I signaled "time" with a thumb up, and "whoa'd" the still-determined Tuff. He stopped, if not reluctantly, and stared at his handler for assurance as I led him to the dog wagon. Ray's wife gave me a clean, dry pair of white cotton gloves through the window, with instructions to have him wear them on his ride in.

There were only two braces remaining that afternoon, and while I didn't "know" the winner just yet, I looked in the Hummer from which Mary Jo passed me Ray's gloves, and another senior trialing statesman sat watching, participating the way he still could. Jerry McGee handled and owned multiple National Open and Amateur Champions. He has passed his handling reins away, but still he was here, looking through fogged windows from far behind the handler, judges, and gallery; sloshing through the mud of the Petit Jean State river bottoms of western Arkansas, all for the love of a dog.

Our judges, Kipp Linard and George Hill, rode with unbroken attention through all conditions. My observation was a firm and fair pair. They looked for what was right, rather than what was wrong, in a performance, with the experience and confidence to know the difference. They relayed that their desire was an all-age application, smooth in handling, and mannerly

on game. I found their placements well received. Kent Patterson, serving as first vice-president, used his committee of Field Trial Secretary: Steve Ralph, and members Claude Kilpatrick, Burton Wice, Bret Lindback, Tom Milam, Joe Gower, and Bob Rankin to help choose the judging pair and coordinate volunteers throughout the week. A special thanks to professional handlers, Bob Burchett, Ed Tillson, Paul Doiron, and Scott Johnson for their help throughout the week. They served in numerous ways and would have left major holes in logistics and marshaling needs without their help.

These events, as many throughout the year, benefit greatly from the support of Purina, Garmin, and Christie Saddlery. There is a preponderance of competitors fueled by Purina Products, and they are as loyal to the product as Purina has been to the sport. Great peace of mind comes in training and tracking with Garmin Products They are innovators in the GPS world, and their donation of the latest in technology is always treasured by the winners. The beautiful, handcrafted, trooper saddle by Christie Saddlery is always treasured by the winner. The grounds were prepared well to hold quail and run bird dogs. Our thanks goes out to the Perry Mikles, Blue Mountain Wildlife Area staff, and the Arkansas Department of Fish and Wildlife.

### THE WINNERS

**Champion:** Our champion came from brace 3 of the first morning. NAFC/GFC/FC/AFC Ru-Jem's "Last" Penny, 9 yr old female, repeated the feat from her first in 2017. Her sire was FC Trademark's ATM and she is out of Red Bud Zipper. Her owner is national stalwart, Jerry McGee, and she was handled to both Championships by the veteran handler Steve Ralph.

**Runner Up Champion:** Pushing her was DC Turning Point's Shenanigans, 4 yr old female, sired by DC/GCH Masked Jack of Diamonds and out of CH Copley Wincrest Grand Theft Auto. She was owner handled to her well-earned runner up championship by Julie Claypool.

**Third Place:** Third place shared brace 3 with the Champion. FC Maxwell's Heavy Hitter, 6 yr old male, by NAFC/FC/AFC Maxwell's Blew by You II and

out of Maxwells' Quick Silver owned by Kevin Rogers and handled by Joey Rogers.

Fourth Place: Fourth Place from brace 12 was JWB's Arctic Cat, 3 yr old female, by Maxwell's Outer Limits and out of Chancey's Frozen Assets owned by Jack and Crystal Alexander and handled by Jack Alexander.



## THE RUNNING

**Brace 1 JJ's Levi the Lionheart (Levi), Owner/Handler Joe Williams and Spanish Corral's Sundance Kid (Sonny), Owner Handler Joe Gower**

The father and son duo started the stake on the coldest and frostiest morning of the event. Levi and Sonny made veteran moves but struggled with consistent flow on challenging course 1. After crossing Lick Creek, the duo showed infrequently. Levi was out of pocket through the Cotton Fields and Old Corral. Nearing the narrows to the Double Gates the judges asked to see the dogs, At 40 Joe Williams pulled his Garmin for Levi, Sonny was spotted by the gallery coming in laterally and noticeably slowed by the freezing water and icy morning. He was picked up by the handler leaving his legacy to 8 off-spring in the stake.

**Brace 2 Wild Wild Willie (Willie), Owner/Handler Steve Cosgriff and Ss Rig's Colorado Gun Runner(Rigs), Owner: Tom and Linda Milam and Harlan Gerardy**

Willie and Rig's started at the double gates as the sun began to win the battle with the frost. Rig's the 2018 NFC showed championship form to start and Willie the first timer matched his strides. After the first Old 109 crossing things got confusing. Willie's scout called point and rode out to fetch handler and judges. When we arrived at 32, it was Rig's standing and Willie came in from Parish Field. We sorted out the handler's and Tom fired on a single after a relocation. We were 200 yards into the fish hook, when Rig's scout hollered point, we rode out to the fish hook exit to find Willie on point. Steve was absent, and the judge asked the reporter to work the bird, I did with all in order. Willie finished the hour at Old 109 while Tom pulled his Garmin and went into the fish hook to fetch Rig's.

**Brace 3 Maxwell's Heavy Hitter (Gabe), Owner Kevin Rogers-Handler Joey Rogers and Ru-Jem's "Last" Penny (Penny), Owner Jerry McGee-Handler Steve Ralph**

The weather turned pleasant during the morning donut break before Gabe and Penny started in Parish field. At break-away Gabe set the tone for his run with powerful moves, Penny did likewise with snappy, fast casts where a bird dog should be. At 9 minutes entering the 540 loop at the food plot to the left Penny's early efforts earned her first find. She cast again and rimmed the loop, heading for the horse bridge and whirled to a stop in a roadside ditch. Steve's flush set an explosive covey to flight making several horses and by-standers flinch or gasp respectively. Handlers gathered their dogs and crossed the horse bridge.

At 23 on the left side of course 3 in the standing water of the flooded Petite St. Jean river bottoms Penny pointed again and once more her handler produced a remarkable covey while she watched mannerly. She continued down the river side of the course while Joey had Gabe moving forward to the right. At 30 minutes, the pair had near simultaneous finds in the Old Corral area; Penny in a left tree-line and Gabe across the road

on the same tree-line to the right. With all in order we moved to Mario Hill and just past it, on the food plot left, Penny pointed mannerly for the fifth time at 39, seemingly determined to find every covey on the course. Just after the second Lick Creek crossing Joey found Gabe standing. Penny catching up with the gallery from her last find, came in for the back. After Joey searched extensively he chose to relocate. Steve held Penny aside while Joey finished his work but came up non-productive.

The pair released at the Pavilion field to finish in the sweeping meadow near Lover's Bend and the cut-off to camp on course 3. They set the standard early in the stake and after four days, a field of many previous National and Classic winners watched Penny take a champion's place for the second time on the podium at the ABC National Amateur Field Championship under the experienced whistle of Steve Ralph. Joey and Gabe earned their way back in 2020 with an impressive showing and a well earned 3rd place.

**Brace 4 Spanish Corral's Sonny Patch (Patch), Owner/Handler Joe Gower and Driving Miss Daisy II (Daisy), Owner/Handler Burton Wice.**

Patch and Daisy broke away in a warmer start after lunch. At 15 I called point before the Barking Dog House. Handler's and judges approached as birds took flight. Daisy was moving in the cover. Patch stood through the shot with all in order. Daisy's handler picked her up to end her day. Moments later before Lick Creek Patch pointed again but it was non-productive followed by a second just over Lick Creek at the pond to end his bid.

**Brace 5 Just Call Me Eli (Eli), Owner Tom Ettinger-Handler Kent Patterson and Spanish Corral's Big Iron (Colt), Owner/Handler Joe Gower**

Eli had a pleasing race with some rough spots. He took his lines nicely and responded well to his handler. Colt ran hard on his first trip to Booneville. He had all-age range and showed power. His application was immature. At 48 a divided find at the mott before the horse bridge got dicey when Colt self-relocated and drew Eli into the melee.

**Brace 6 Farm Girl Pearl (Pearl), Owner/Handler Bruce Heiter and CVK's Spartan King (Leo), Owners Jack Alexander and Dr. Bob Rankin/ Handler Jack Alexander**

Pearl and Leo broke away at the start of course 2. They had different ground application to start; she more moderate in range but hunting promising cover, and he wider in casts in all-age application. In the Fish Hook at 35 Leo came in behind the new pond and pointed. Jack flushed a bunny and Leo made a short pursuit earning Jack's ire and a trip to the wagon. At 37 on the road edge out Pearl had a clean stop to flush. Followed by finds in the 540 loop at 50 minutes and a finishing one at time before we turned back to the bridge.

**Posted Dogs: Ru Jem's Last Penny, Maxwell's Heavy Hitter**

**Brace 7A Rusty Ridge Where You Been (Been) , Owners Claude and Jan Kilpatrick/ Handler Joe Gower and KJ's Irish Whizky (Mickey) Owner/Handler Ken Windom**

Been and Mickey broke away on a warm southern morning with the humidity hanging in the air promising a better morning for birds and potential challenges for dogs and horses later. Both dogs took lines at the Pavilion gates and moved forward through the turns to start course 1. Been was found by the scout on point in the corner before the barking dog house. Running birds were seen and took cover difficult to flush, one finally took flight and Been was moved on with all in order. After Lick Creek both dogs made big moves. Been was on a tree-line right toward course 3 at the Cotton Fields and wasn't seen again under judgment. Mickey appeared forward after the double gates and he had a non-productive at time but ended his hour without birds.

**Brace 8 Just Call Me Lucky Ned Pepper (Ned) Owner/Handler Frank Campbell and MTB Louree's let's Have a Fee-Esta (Esta), Owners Tom White/Margaret Horstmeyer- Handler Tom White**

Ned and Esta made very nice opening moves on course 2. Frank pointed Ned out heading left on a tree line between Ward Bottoms and the 540 loop.



He made game at 9 minutes and on self-relocation bumped a covey. Esta's race was erratic into the fish hook, coming out she pointed in a tree-line at the right. During Tom's flushing attempt an armadillo scurried into the covey. The birds flushed while Esta was in armadillo pursuit and her day came to an end.



**Brace 9 Roustabout's Eustace (T), Owner Dave Capstick -Handler Tom Milam and Mk's Magificent Bandito (Chico), Owners Bill and Mary Lynn Oliver- Handler Dave Lincoln**

"T" and Chico broke away from the fishhook exit taking different lines. T ran a textbook rim of Parish Field to the right while Chico went through the heart of the field and they met at the second Old 109 crossing. Handlers and dogs navigated the horse bridge and Chico pointed in the first mott at 22 minutes, the find proved non-productive. The lateral lines of course 3 kept grabbing both dogs, Tom called for the Garmin at Mario's Hill as humidity turned to sprinkles. Dave looked for Chico until 55 minutes at the Pavilion and then he too had the Garmin in hand as we headed for lunch.

**Brace 10 Alleycat's Drought (Drought) Owner/Handler Stan Williamson and Brigadoon's Hi Proof Moonshine (Hooch), Owners Paul and Virginia Snyder-Handler John Perry**

Drought and Hooch started the afternoon races with a strong start. Both appeared at the Big Oak making swift moves toward the first Lick Creek crossing. Hooch pointed a covey at the Barking Dog House right of the road. John flushed, fired and moved on. After the first Lick Creek crossing Hooch had a nifty stop to flush at 23 on birds he moved running with the wind. At 30, in the line to the right after the Old Gates Drought had bird trouble and his handler picked him up. At 38 Hooch was deep in a brushy area on a hidden food plot, John made extensive attempts to flush but moved on with a non-productive. At 56 minutes in the last feedline before the narrow chute to the double gates Hooch was again in thick brush, this time an extensive flush produced a big covey with all in order and time expired.

**Brace 11 MTb Louree's V-O-2 Max (Max) , Owners Tom White and Margaret Horstmeyer-Handler Tom White and Turning Points Shenanigans (Shandi), Owner/handler Julie Nelson**

This brace broke away from the double gates and headed toward the bridge. They brought a thundershower with them. By the time we crossed, rain was falling too heavily to see. The judge's marked time at 18 minutes and the handler's options were waiting out the storm or picking up and moving to the last brace. They chose to go on when the rain subsided. Shandi was quick and animated in her movements. She hunted lines and objectives with purpose with moderate range and stretching it where the course allowed. Just before the first 109 crossing on course 2 in a heavily wooded area to the right we found her standing picturesque in the trees. A vine tangled trek led to a clean flush with all in order. Julie gave Shandi a lift out of the tangle. She continued her pleasing ground speed and kind handling through the remainder of course 2 and finished far forward heading toward Paris field showing no sign of slowing down. It was a notably consistent bird dog performance. Max moved at moderate range with good speed and power. He had a find at the very end and could not produce after several relocation attempts. After picking up the birds flushed behind where the dog and handler were working.

**Brace 12 JWB Arctic Cat (Kimber), Owners Jack and Crystal Alkexander-Handler Jack Alexander and Blew Me Away (Bud), Owners Norm and Terry Ahl-Handler Norm Ahl**

This brace broke away just outside the fishhook. Kimber took the lines nicely and moved through the horseshoe. Bud was ranging as well taking a bite out of Paris Field. As rain started to return point was called for Kimber at 22 just at the course 2 entrance of the Horse bridge. It was a non-productive and after a few moments the rain subsided and we moved on. Both dogs moved forward on course 3 with liberal employment of scouts. Kimber scored a find to the right side of course three at 45 with all in order. At 51 on the low left side of Pavillion field Bud had a find with Kimber coming in on a back, the pair showed great style in a difficult flush with all in order. Just past the Pavillion the pair shared a divided find on a spread-out covey, finishing a stylish intense brace.

**Posted Dogs: Turning Point's Shenanigans, JWB's Arctic Cat  
Brace 13 A Trace of Bourbon With Diamonds (Trace) Owners Rick and Becky Hastings-Handler Rick Hastings and MK's My Lil Ammo (BB), Owner/Handler Nick Blasi**

We broke away to a cool sunny day. Trace ran a good race on course 1 and was still running in fine form through the hour. He turned back at the bridge and was still going away when he ran out of time without bird contact. BB ran a nearly flawless race on course 1. She started lines and finished them. If she was gone she showed to the front and handled the twists and turns kindly. She made the bridge with time to spare and turned back down the river. I don't believe it a stretch that most of the gallery, and probably the judges were hoping for a find from a dog that made an outstanding effort all morning.



**Brace 14 Lambach's Blew by You (Blue) Owner Kevin Rogers-Handler Joey Rogers and Sniksoh Little Diamond (Kate), Owners Tom and Jane Wonderling and Handler Bruce Heiter**

Blue and Kate broke away on course 2, and Kate scored an early find at 4 minutes on the outside of Horseshoe Bend with all in order. After the find the pair continued an animated race, Blue was wider while Kate showed more to the traditional front. At the Pine entering the Fishhook we had some dog identity confusion that took sorting out. At 36 just above the New Pond the dogs shared a divided find with all in order. As we exited the area and entered Paris Field Blue was on the timber's edge to Old 109 where the string broke and Joey pulled his Garmin to fetch his charge. Kate had one last find on Old 109 deep in cover with a tight holding covey. She finished her hour.

**Brace 15 ANJ's Ohio Hellion (Hank), Owner/Handler Mike Poehler and Campbell's Razz-Ma-Tazz (Razz) Owner/Handler Frank Campbell**

Hank and Razz broke away at the bridge with different agendas. Razz moved forward to the river side. Hank had course 1 on his mind and went hard right. Mike stuck with him bringing him to the front where he showed his speed and animation until Mario's Hill where we lost contact. Mike and his scout searched until the pavilion where Mike rode to the top sitting in the bright sunlight hoping his voice would bring last years NAFC in. It did not, and moments later he pulled the Garmin. In the area, at 25 Razz had a find in the lower Pavilion field, Frank wrestled the thick mott until he flushed with

all in order. Razz moved through the rest of course 3 at moderate range and finished his time just as we got to the beaver pond.

**Brace 16 High Lonesome Sage(Sage), Owner/Handler Jim Hammett and Crescent City Girl (Nola), Owners Petra and Barry Steinmetz-Handler Barry Steinmetz**

Sage and Nola started the day leaving the old Cartnell place on course 1. Nola ran difficult lines well and rewarded her handler with a well handled find at 18 before the turn to the Barking Dog House. At 30 near the S turn Barry decided Nola was out of pocket and asked for his Garmin. Sage was strong and powerful on the ground. His application was erratic until the crossing of Lick Creek. After the crossing he lined out and when found was well down on the line between course 2 and 3 for a non-productive. Sage took a tree line on the left of the course before the narrow gap and Jim called point. During the flush he self-released to end his day.

**Brace 17 Firestarters's Crossed the Line (Ty), Owners Andi Christensen and Vicki Rankin-Handler Dr. Bob Rankin and Marjo's Leftover (Haley), Owner Danielle Cook and Handler John Perry**

With the early pick-ups, we broke away at the double gates. Both dogs drove left with powerful moves down the river line. They appeared the front, at the bridge and the handlers guided them across. After the bridge, Ty went left around the big island. We rode around into his path, and found him standing far forward at the edge of the 540 bend at 25. Dr. Rankin flushed a covey with all in order. Haley was more moderate in ground application. Entering the fish hook the handlers lost contact. Haley had a find with all in order at 42 near the fish hook exit and then worked into the fishhook toward us. Ty caught the gallery and returned to the forward course. His second find came at 52 in the area of Haley's find exiting the Fishhook. The pair finished half way across Paris field.

**Brace 18 SR's Blew By Typhoon (Ty), Owner Dan Doiron – Handler Joe Gower and Arrow's Tequila Rustler (Rusty) , Owner Sandy Becker – Handler Richard Beaver**

Ty and Rusty cast off on the 540 loop on course 2. They ran with all-age application that kept the judge's attention and earned them an hour on the ground. Unfortunately, neither dog could garner a find. They searched most of course three until time ran out on them just past the cut off to camp on course three.

**Brace 19 Kj's Darlin Darcy (Darcy) Owners Ken and Jane Windom – Handler Ken Windom and Zip's Count Me In (Zip), Owner/Handler Patti Van De Coevering**

Darcy and Zip cast off on the wettest coldest morning of the trial. The pair worked cover at moderate range to start. Darcy's searching paid off at 19 with a covey prior to the barking dog house. They held type and deep to the cover in the cold and wet, Ken managed to get a bird in limited flight and fired. Zip was struggling with the terrain on her first time down but gained confidence as we moved on. Zip was lost just after Lick Creek and Darcy was last seen in the "Demon Mott" near the Cotton Fields. Both dogs were out of judgment at 35 and the handlers rode off with their Garmin's.

**Brace 20 Marjo's Fille De La Bretagne (Brie), Owner Robert Goldman – Handler John Perry and Piney Run Jake (Jake), Owner/Handler Kent Patterson**

This brace broke away from the double gates as the wind and rain threatened to take the fun out of field trials. They pushed forward across the horse bridge on course 2 with admirable application; Jake a bit wider than Brie. At 22 minutes along Riblin Knoll Road Jake pointed a covey in the tree line vines. Brie came in and backed nicely on her own. As Kent dismounted to flush, Brie was leaning against the wind and cold and she sank on her haunches and John picked her up. Kent relocated after an extensive flushing attempt only to have birds start running and Jake made a small lunge to end his bid.

**Brace 21 Brendi Brooks Cowboy Up (Tuff) Owners Ray and Mary Jo Trimble – Handler Ray Trimble and Sniksoh Windtuck Willy (Willy),**

**Owners Charles and Mary Schaefer – Handler Charles Schaefer**

This brace cast off on course along Riblin Knoll Road before the first Old 109 crossing. Conditions continued to get difficult as rain continued, and the temperature was dropping. Tuff and Willy were using the lines and often encountered freezing deep water in low spots. At ten minutes just past the Riblin Knoll Road junction Willy had a find in the food plot with all in order. We traversed the fishhook to Parish Field, Willy made a beautiful right-hand cast along the trees and finished it forward down old 109. Unfortunately, he was not seen under judgment again. Tuff and Ray powered on in an inspirational display. They ended their hour on course three birdless but with the admiration of many.

**Brace 22 Tequila Scorcher (Lincoln), Owner Charles Crain-Handler Richard Beaver and Sparky's Prairie Wind Gypsy (Gypsy), Owner Barry Koepke and Karen Fulikawa – Handler Steve Ralph**

Lincoln started fast and athletic, as did Gypsy, she being the handler of the two. Lincoln's race was right of the course prior to Lick Creek, he had a stop to flush parallel the barking dog house with all in order. Lick Creek had risen to 3 feet or better in the heavy rains. The horses waded belly deep, and the dogs made valiant efforts to swim the current but were swept downstream. We loaded them on saddles and ferried them across. Just after Lick Creek, Lincoln headed to the corner pond. He had a find on a nice covey at 23 on the water's edge.

Gypsy was slow to back and her handler picked her up. Lincoln moved through the remainder of course 1 at moderate range. Though he refused to quit, the chilling rain and wind took a toll on the animated gait he began with.

**Brace 23 Waypoint Chancey's Big White Cooper (Big White), Owner Vic Williams and Joyce Roberts – Handler Kent Patterson and Hehi's Slim Chipley (Slim), Owner/Handler Mathew Healey**

Both dogs had a nice race beginning at the start of course 2. They threatened the order that had stood since the second day of the trial. They had a divided find at 6 to the right in Ward Bottoms with all in order. Slim was inside the line and Big White the outside. Slim had a second find at the last tree line on the right before the first crossing of old 109. The pair struggled through the deep water in the fish hook but lined out before the new pond, Slim was just below the dam and put a covey to flight. Moments later to the left just past the old pond Big White pointed, his movement during the flushing attempt ended the trial.

### **2019 ABC National Amateur Championship Grand Amateur Limited All Age 1hr(46S)**

**J: George Hill & Kipp Linard**

- 1 - NAFC/GAFC/GFC/FC/AFC RU-JEM'S "LAST" PENNY (B), by FC Trademark's ATM x Red Bud Zipper; o Ruth & Jerry McGee, h Steve Ralph
- 2 - GCH/DC TURNING POINTS SHENANIGANS (B), by DC/GCH Masked Jack Of Diamonds x CH Copley Wincrest Grand Theft Auto; o/h Julie Nelson
- 3 - MAXWELL'S HEAVY HITTER (D), by Maxwell's Blew By You x Maxwell's Quick Silver; o Kevin Rogers, h Joey Rogers
- 4 - JWB ARTIC CAT (B), by Maxwell's Outer Limits x Chancey's Frozen Asset; o Jack & Crystal Alexander, h Jack Alexander

