



# 2022 ABC National Amateur Gun Dog Championship

J. Perry Mikles Wildlife Demo Area

Booneville, AR

November 21-23, 2022

by Jessica Carlson



**L-R: Lisa Pollock Chair, Cindy Findley, judge Trasa Fowler with B & T's Sonndance Kid Rock, Richard Beaver, Mike Poehler with Tequila Chica Bonita, Rebecca Walters with Ru-Jem's Grand Touch of Bourbon, Howard Burbach, judge, Bob Bakas with Hurricane Banjo**

The 21st running of the American Brittany Club's National Amateur Gun Dog Championship, and its fourth renewal as a horseback stake in Booneville, took place over three clear days at the J. Perry Mikles Blue Mountain Special Use Area. A crisp chill in the mornings led into sunshine throughout each day, making for good riding for all to watch the performances of twenty-nine fine Brittanys vying for the NAGDC title. Dry conditions on the ground and sparse cover (compared to most years) made it a challenge for dogs to come up with birds and handle them well, but the winners proved themselves well suited to the task.

Our judges for this event were Howard Burbach coming from Missouri, and Cindy Findley from Iowa. Both are well known and highly experienced competitors and judges of Championship stakes, including many of our Brittany Championships in the mid-west. Howard and Cindy pair well

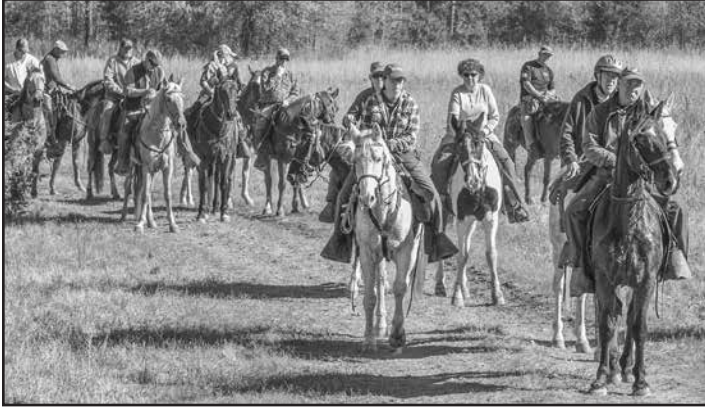
together as a judging team, both bringing a light hearted, positive attitude and attentive eye to the assignment that contribute to the enjoyment of the event by all involved.

Lisa Pollock chaired the event this year with Darlene Dow serving secretarial duties. We are as ever thankful to Purina and Garmin for their sponsorship of our national events, as well as to The Saddle Guy for his fabulous work that we're pleased to present to the Champion of this event. Contributing to the event on the grounds were Ed Tillson as course marshal, Teresa Richmond heading up the gallery marshals, Ed Kostka manning the dog wagon, Richard Beaver, Linda Thomas with the always sought-after coffee and snacks. Brad Wells and crew had the grounds prepared and groomed to perfection and we sincerely thank them for their ongoing work.

The 2022 Champion came from the first day's running. Coming five-year-old handsome orange roan FC/AFC B & T's Sonndance Kid Rock, known as Rocky was handled by his owner, Trasa Fowler on course 2, Monday afternoon. Rocky put down a smooth, forward ground race finding the objectives and handling, when called for. His first stylish point was at the back turn of the fish hook on a promising edge at 30 minutes, but while his head and tail were high, flushing did not produce birds at this location. Exiting the fish hook into Parish Field, Rocky pointed with great intensity and tail stuck up like a spike. This time Trasa flushed a small covey that few across in front of him as Rocky remained staunch. He continued on, making a nice move along the right edge of Parish field and into the cover, where he located another small covey. We rode to him as he stood just inside the brush line, same style and intensity on point, and Trasa found a small covey just in front of him, some of which flew forward on course. Rocky went on and finished his hour as strong as he'd started, still hunting forward with no sign of slowing, and earned himself



the Championship title. Rocky is a third-generation National title winner, being a son of 2015 NAFC Spanish Corral's Sonny Patch and grandson of 2011 NAFC Spanish Corral's Sundance Kid.



This year's Runner-Up was Rocky's aunt, CH Tequila Chica Bonita, a 4-year-old daughter of NAFC Spanish Corral's Sundance Kid. Chica is owned by Richard & Amanda Beaver, trained and handled by Richard. Chica ran in the last brace of the second day. After taking a few minutes to figure out the cover, she showed strength and determination in her manner of covering the ground. She sought likely cover and maintained a good forward pattern, building as she progressed in the hour. As we came around the bend from Mario's Hill, both dogs were found standing with Chica in a position that looked most likely that she had backed her bracemate, and it was so determined by the judges. She held steady through the flush and shot, crossed Lick Creek and continued with intent to the front. Though she maintained a strong hunting manner and sought out likely cover, Chica's efforts were not rewarded until after crossing the beaver pond, where both dogs took a line to our right front, through a tree line, and crossed out of sight. Chica did not show herself again and as we passed by the left end of the tree line, her scout called point at the other end. We rode to find Chica standing in tall cover with birds perfectly located in front of her, and she stood mannerly through the flush and shot. Sent forward, Chica reached the end of course 3 with a few minutes to go, was sent into the tall cover and she charged forward, still hunting hard when time was called.

Third place was claimed by a first timer to these grounds, FC Ru-Jem's Grand Touch Bourbon, a coming 7-year-old handled by Rebecca Walters for owner Jerry McGee. Jerry is no stranger to the winner's circle here in Booneville, but is now retired and handed the reins over to Rebecca for handling Touch in 2021. They have made a great team in the past year, finishing his Field Championship this spring. Touch ran in the second brace of this stake, on a cold morning when the birds seemed unwilling to move. Touch didn't even make it past the first field before his scout called point at 3 minutes on the edge of the feed strip that rims the right edge. Rebecca rode to him and after some effort, finally located one bird that merely hopped up in front of Touch, who remained steady. After taking a few minutes to get lined out, Touch settled into a hard-driving pattern, occasionally hung up briefly, but often disappearing into cover and punching through to show himself at the front again. As we approached Parish Field, Touch took the left line along Old 109, out of sight to the front while we made a turn to the right. Trusting her dog and scout, Rebecca rode on and was rewarded by finding Touch standing on point to the front after several minutes, apparently having made the turn out of view and ending up exactly where he should have been. Unfortunately, only a large pile of feathers could be located at this spot. Touch scored a second find at a deadfall as we came out of the fish hook, and finished his hour at the end of Parish Field.



Taking the fourth spot this year was the 2019 winner, NAGDC/DC/AFC Hurricane Banjo. Banjo's owner Rodger Fiorito was unable to attend this year due to health issues, and very sadly passed away following these events, but Banjo was able to get home in time to see him again. Kindly stepping in and piloting Banjo like one of his own was Bob Bakas. Banjo gave Bob a challenge right at the start. Breaking away from the bridge onto Course 3, Banjo took the right side and hot-footed it down the right fork that leads back to Course 1. His scout was dispatched, but Banjo made his way back to Bob's calling, and continued on forward. His application was fast, powerful, forward-reaching, and occasionally pressed the limits of the judges' comfort for the stake. In the process, Banjo carded the most finds of the stake, having his first at 12, standing stylishly on the other side of a tree line to the left side of the course. At 22 he was found standing on the line of cedars between Mario's Hill and Lick Creek, with birds lifting as Bob approached, but more left to flush after the judges arrived. Again, Banjo maintained good style and manners throughout. After crossing Lick Creek, Banjo covered both sides of the course, ending up on point near a brush line below the Pavilion. His bracemate happened to point in another spot just ahead and her birds were flushed quickly, while Banjo held one that had burrowed itself in so well that Bob had to spend some time flushing all over and around, eventually asking Banjo to relocate, but Banjo refused. Bob tried again and finally found the single and coaxed it out of its hide-hole. Banjo finished out the second half of his hour continuing in a consistent forward manner, shortening slightly from his early ambitions, but hunting well until time was called.



**The Running**  
**Brace 1: Diamond Hill Dangerous Big Bang (Leonard) – Pollock & Over Under Reign The Field (Reign) – Anderson.** The first brace



out on a chilly morning, these two took a few minutes to get themselves warmed up. Vince Anderson had stepped in to handle Reign for her owner who was not able to attend. Reign handled well for Vince, but was not able to come up with any birds during her hour. Leonard was credited with a stop to flush near a feeder at 13, after which he continued increasing his range and determination. He took a line out of view to our right after the road crossing and was soon seen pointing along the tree line. Lisa located a single running in the trees, as Leonard stood steady. Leonard seemed to find his groove in the latter half of his hour, figuring out how to work the course and find the front on his casts.

**Brace 2: Diamond Hill Dangerous Dark Side (Borden) – Pollock & Ru-Jem's Grand Touch Bourbon (Touch) – Walters.** Touch's performance was recounted above. Borden had some difficulty staying to the front. She had a clean find in the large grove at the beginning of Parish Field, but was picked up by her handler before entering the fish hook.

**Brace 3: Hurricane Banjo (Banjo) – Bakas & Copley-Shelttany Echo of Angels (Zoie) – St Clair.** Banjo's hour was described above. Zoie had a find just before we passed the Pavilion at 29, but as we made turn at Lover's Bend she pointed in a tall stand of grass and went with the flush of a small covey.

**Brace 4: Nalko des Sentiers du Ramier II (Nalko) – Hutwagner & Sigbrit's Evil Side of the Road (Ren) – Manifold.** Nalko was just getting warmed up when he ran into a bird right in the horse path at 15, thought about stopping, but then tried to go with it. Ren and his handler were both first-timers to these grounds, taking a few minutes to get lined out, but after Lick Creek Ren began showing some strong moves along the brush lines and feed strips. He pointed inside the hedgerow just before the road crossing, with a solid find there, then took the left edge and was called out



on point by his scout in a promising spot that got the judges' attention, but it was called off before we arrived. He continued making some very pleasing casts, though slowing somewhat towards the end of his hour.

**Brace 5: Magnum's High Velocity Top Gun (Gunnar) – Anderson & B&T's Sonndance Kid Rock (Rocky) – Fowler.** Rocky's winning performance has been covered above. Gunnar completed his hour in a consistent manner, with moderate range and a single bird pointed in a perplexing spot, tucked tightly into an open grass area before the old bridge. He pointed at the right edge of Parish Field just before Rocky carded his second find, but no birds could be found where Gunnar stood.

**Brace 6: Sniksoh Evolution (Eve) – Hoskins & Firestarter Born Among The Stars (Glory) – MacLeod.** Glory started us off with a stop to flush in a thicket at 4. Her range was moderate, but with an attractive way of going. She pointed at a cedar tree before Mario's Hill, but no birds could be located. Eve stretched out some, but had some difficulty navigating the turns. Both dogs were seen standing just as we reached Lover's Bend, with a deer carcass in front of Glory and nothing found on relocation for Eve. Eve's hour ended with a second non-productive shortly thereafter at the far right tree line, and Glory failed to stop to flush at 45.

The judges opted to post their top two dogs for each day. Posted for Day 1 were Ru-Jem's Grand Touch Bourbon and B&T's Sonndance Kid Rock.



**Brace 7: My Lil Classic Mercedes (Cedes) – Beaver & Starlight's Callisto Moon (Cal) – Richmond.** Breaking away on a frosty morning, both dogs started with moderate range, Cedes a bit more consistent with a snappy way of going. She pointed near a feeder, as we neared the turn to Lick Creek, and Cal honored. Birds were flushed for Cedes, as she maintained her style and manners. She continued in the same manner on the ground, with Cal carding a find in a tree line at 45. Cedes continued forward and was found pointing high and tight, birds flushed for her at 47. Both dogs finished the hour as they had begun.

**Brace 8: Atos – Hutwagner** ran as a bye due to his bracemate coming in season. He exhibited a pleasing gait, kind handle and hunted with enthusiasm. His first point was at 31 just as we came into the fish hook, but he let up a bit during the flushing attempt and no birds could be produced. As we exited the fish hook, Atos pointed at a large deadfall and his handler was able to locate birds running underneath. They were eventually coaxed to fly and he continued on, having a stop to flush at 58 and finishing his hour in an easy manner.

**Brace 9: Sovereign's Legendary Cowboy (Duke) – Weldele & Pretty Blue Eyes A Sweet Touch of Charlie B (Charlie) – Bakas.** Duke pointed at 4 in a spot where birds had been seen, but they could not be located this time. Both dogs worked well for the hour but were not able to come up with a find this time.



**Brace 10: Saradac's Dangerous Diamond Caper (Caper) – Pollock & Magnum High Velocity (Gauge) – Anderson.** Both dogs pointed on separate sides of the path at 3, but no birds were located for either. Both were standing again near a feeder at 15, with a large hawk kill spotted by Pollock. At 21 as we started making the turn towards Lick Creek, Gauge pointed at a large cedar. Caper was making a move around the left outside edge and came in to back, but was taken on when Gauge was relocated. Gauge was up with a second unproductive and Caper was also taken up after Lick Creek.

**Brace 11: Jowill's Sir Walter Raleigh (Raleigh) – Williams & Sovereign's Judge N Jury (JJ) – Droel.** An altercation at the breakaway resulted in the judges asking for JJ to be picked up. Raleigh continued on his own, showing some good power and hunting during his hour, but not coming up with a find. He pointed in a feed strip on the right side of Parish Field, but no birds could be found for him. He had a stop to flush at 55, then pointed again along the tree line at the end of Parish Field within the last 30 seconds of his hour. It was a place where we'd expect to see birds, but none would show themselves this time.

**Brace 12: Starlight's Mercury Out Ryder (Ryder) – Richmond & Tequila Chica Bonita (Chica) – Beaver.** Chica's performance was recounted above. Ryder made some good moves and scored a find along the line of cedar trees after Mario's Hill, with Chica backing. He lost some steam near the end of his hour.

The top two dogs posted for day 2 were Atos and Tequila Chica Bonita.



**Brace 13: It's 5 O'Clock Somewhere (Cooper) – Walters & Diamond Hill Ain't My Fault (Scout) – Pollock.** Cooper was snappy going, but had some difficulty maintaining a forward working pattern on this course. He pointed in some tall cover at 55 minutes, but no birds could be located. Scout took a bit to get warmed up, but later made some promising casts, unfortunately not turning up a find this morning.

**Brace 14: Knine Finale's Way To Go (Allie) – Beaver & Red Granite's Henry Will Be A Star (Henry) – Bakas.** Allie was last seen going around the first turn from the bridge and did not return to judgement. Henry showed outstanding early speed and range, hunting hard along the edges while keeping in contact with his handler. To our great disappointment, he found a big covey in sparse cover just before we got to the fish hook, and gave a hearty chase.

**Brace 15: Miss Behavin' (Ivy) – St Clair & Romence's Life of Riley (Riley) – Romence** were both off to a good start, and as we neared Mario's Hill both scouts called that they were pointed in cover to our left. Both stood with intensity as their handlers flushed birds through the brush in front of them, and both remained staunch throughout some serious temptation. However, Ivy encountered a small covey sunning themselves outside of a feed strip after Lick Creek and gave chase, taking Riley along with her for the fun. We rode back to camp to gather and await the announcements.



### 2022 ABC National Gun Dog Championship Grand Amateur Limited Gun Dog 1hr (29S)

**J: Howard Burbach & Cindy Findley**

- 1- FC B&T'S SONNDANCE KID ROCK (D), by NAFC GFC GAFC Spanish Corral's Sonny Patch x Janee's Dirty Dancer; o/h Trasa Fowler
- 2- CH TEQUILA CHICA BONITA (B), by NAFC GFC AFC Spanish Corral's Sundance Kid x Sniksoh Tequila Caliente; o Mary Amanda Beaver & Richard Beaver, h Richard Beaver
- 3- FC RU-JEM'S GRAND TOUCH BOURBON (D), by GFC Touch Of Bourbon Little Chug x FC/AFC Bark River Queen Of Diamonds JH; o Jerry McGee, h Rebecca Walters
- 4- NAGDC/DC/AFC HURRICANE BANJO (D), by FC Ringo Rascal x Dogwood's Haley; o Rodger Fiorito, h Bob Bakas