

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2008**



Good morning and welcome to the final day of the 2008 National Retriever Championship!

Temperatures this morning are quite chilly in the low 40s. Many gallery members are bundled in jackets, hats, and blankets. The winds are very gusty and coming out of the North, making for a windchill in the 30s. Last night, the area had wind gusts of up to 70 mph.

**Complete Test 9**

The first test dog team of Jim Cope and Chief were on the line at 6:45 am. Shortly after, at 7:00 am, the second test dog team of Wendall Williams and Bayou Bay's Bodago were on the line for the final test run. By 7:14 am, the first running dog, #56 FC Mad River's Maggie McBunn with handler Michael Cicero, was on the line at testing was underway. By 8:25 am, 7 of the 20 dogs had run the test, calculating to approximately 10 minutes per dog. At this pace, we should move on to the next test around 10:30 am.



Buck and Bill Eckett on line at the 9th Series

**Afternoon Update**

After much speculation and many rumors, it has been made official that what was previously called the 5th Series (the water blind and shot flyer) is actually a combined 5th/6th. The water blind is considered the 5th Series and the shot flyer is considered to be the 6th Series. Thus, every test moves up in number and all daily reports will be updated to reflect this announcement. All reports have now been updated, as of 11:38 pm Nov. 14, 2008

The 9th Series came to a conclusion when dog #53, FC-AFC Hawkeye's Red White and Blue with handler Mark Mosher, returned to the line with his final bird at 10:35 am. By 10:45, the callbacks came in, revealing the 15 dogs that would be invited to run the 10th and final series of this year's National. Those 15 dogs are:

- #10 - FC Emerald Bay's Miss Abbycadabra, LF, with handler David Rorem
- #20 - FC-AFC Bayou Teche Miah, LF, with handler Stephen Ritter
- #22 - FC CK's Rabbit Rabbit, LM, with handler Mark Mosher
- #36 - FC Fish River's Out of the Park, LM, with handler David Rorem
- #39 - FC-AFC Trumarc's Stormin Norman II, LM, with handler Danny Farmer
- #49 - FC-AFC Close-Hauled to Windward, LM, with handler David Rorem
- #53 - FC-AFC Hawkeye's Red White and Blue, LM, with handler Mark Mosher
- #56 - FC Mad River's Maggie McBunn, LF, with handler Michael Cicero
- #58 - FC Fen Wizard, LM, with handler Eric Fangsrud
- #66 - FC Two Rivers Lucky Willie, LM, with handler David Rorem
- #70 - FC-AFC Weezer Retreezer, LM, with handler Bob Johnson
- #77 - FC-AFC Marsh Prairie Quick Pick, LM, with handler Mark Smith
- #82 - FC Westwoods Sunday Silence, LM, with handler Bill Eckett
- #90 - FC-AFC Ebonstar Gotta Zoom, LM, with handler Al Arthur
- #97 - FC-CFC-CAFC Seaside's One To Many, LM, with handler Ray Voigt

After the callbacks were announced, everyone moved to the site of the final test. This was to the right of the site of the 8th test (the land quad) and utilized a large pond with many points. Number 90 will be the first dog to run.

**Test 10 - Land/Water Quad**

The final test of the 2008 National Retriever Championship is a Land/Water Quad with two shot flyers and two dead birds. The left gun station throws and shoots a live hen pheasant. This throw is back and slightly right, with the bird landing 170 yards from the line. The left-middle gun station is located on an island. They shoot and throw a dead hen mallard from left to right, landing on the shore of the island 304 yards from the line.



Test 10 - view from the line

The right-middle gun station is also on an island. They shoot and throw a dead mallard drake from right to left, landing on the shore of the island 177 yards from the line. The right gun station throws and shoots live mallard drake from left to right, landing 81 yards from the line. The order of the throws is left-middle, left, right-middle, then right. The two middle gun stations retire once the dog is sent; the line is once again perched on a mound. The test is facing to the Southeast with the winds continuing to enforce their presence out of the North.



The judges look out over Test 10



Jim Cope runs test dog Chief in the 10th

The first test dog team of Jim Cope and Chief were on the line of the 10th Series at precisely 11:25 am. They did a nice job and did not require any handling. At 11:35, Chief returned to the line with his 4th bird. Next, it was Ty Rorem and Jazz's turn. They did a nice job and only had to handle once (their first handle of the entire week!). It took both teams 10 minutes to complete the test. At 11:53 am, the first running dog, #90, stepped up to the plate. By 3:00, the winner of this year's National should be determined.



The remaining handlers mingle as they wait for the test dogs to run the 10th Series

Immediately following the final running dog, #82, the gallery and contestants will gather to hear who is pronounced the winner and given the title National Retriever Champion of 2008!

**Evening Update**

The 10th Series progressed nice and steady. The final running dog, #82 FC Westwoods Sunday Silence with handler Bill Eckett, came up to the line at 2:57 pm. At 3:10, Buck had returned to the line with his last bird and the testing at the 2008 National Retriever Championship had come to a conclusion.



The gallery watches the 10th Series

The following dogs handled in this final test: #s 20, 22, 53, 58, 70, 77, 82, and 97. This means that #s 39, 56, 66, and 90 are the only clean dogs once everything was said and done. Many suspected that one of these 4 dogs would be named the winner, though it seemed that the gallery was split on who exactly it would be.



Mark Rosenblum, Lisa and Danny Farmer, and David Carrington in the gallery at the 10th



Brenda Little of Lucky Lab Pins with shop set up at the 10th

The winner's table had been set up out of the harsh wind inside a barn on the Kammerer property. The table was covered with the blue table cloth bearing the NRC logo that so many winners had been placed upon. There were large bouquets of flowers flanking the ends of the table, next to each was the large Championship Trophy on one end and the Professional Handlers' Trophy on the other. At the ready were green ribbons and silver NRC pins for all the finalists and in the middle sat the coveted blue and gold ribbon, reserved for this year's winner.

Marshal Steve Karr took the mic and thanked all the workers and the three judges who made this National possible. He then wasted no time and named all the finalists one-by-one as NRC President Mike Kammerer presented each with their green ribbon. After everyone had been acknowledged, it was announced that the winner of this year's event, and the newly deemed National Retriever Champion of 2008 was.... FC Two Rivers Lucky Willie with handler Dave Rorem!!



FC Two Rivers Lucky Willie, handled by Dave Rorem, is announced as the winner

The crowd gave a loud cheer and Dave raised his arm in victory! Dave has won a number of Canadian Nationals, but has longed for this American National win.

Congratulations, Dave and Willie! You certainly deserve it.

