

2009

Fishtrap Calamity

In the spring of 1990 while attending the Northwest Field Trial my good friend Harvey Peterson suggested that I get a pup from a recent breeding that he believed was excellent. I always valued Harvey's dog savvy so I had a new pup.

After returning home I needed to come up with a name. I had been naming my pups alphabetically at this time and I was at the letter "C." During the early months, this pup literally destroyed my picnic table, two garden hoses and a chair, so I chose Fishtrap Calamity as her name.

Don Remien did Cali's basics and warned me that she was going to be a handful. The proved to be an understatement@ I was not satisfied with the progress that I was making with her as a young dog, so I solicited the help of Jim Gonia. He advanced her rapidly and soon made her a Field Champion. I then resumed her training and quickly earned her AFC. After that, we enjoyed a lot of success while incurring several injuries. She had two cruciate operations (both legs at separate times) and also suffered an overextended carpus on her front leg. This required a very delicate operation, and the rehabilitation took over a year. In spite of these setbacks, Cali still accumulated over 150 All-Age points, qualified for 9 Nationals, was the winner of the 1997 National Amateur and a finalist in 2000. She ran her last National when she was 11 years old with 3 legs plated or wired.

In my 47 years in the game, I have never owned a retriever with so much heart . She shared my home and the wonderful memories will last forever.

Ray Bly

-From the 2010 Inductions to the Field Trial Halls of Fame program