

2011

## Fordland's Bored Out Ford

Named after the song "How Fast Can an Ole Bored Out Ford Run? Can you get me to the church on time?" And believe me -- speed was one of his many assets. When he came to the line, style and desire were clearly evident. He ran as straight as any dog I have ever sen; consistent and compliant at all times.

I thank God for sending "Ford" my way, however, as much as I tried, sometimes my mistakes cost him.

My best Christmas present this year was when Fred Kampo called with the news, "Ford" inducted into the Retriever Hall of Fame.

In 2003, Ford was injured in the Uritas Mountains while training. Unknown to all of our group, a BIG rock (in cover) was close to the line of fall from the flyer. Ford got a long flyer -- he hit the rock at full sped, turning several flips and could not walk. I carried him to the truck. He missed a year and a half and had two surgeries. Rehab was tough and took a number of months, even with that he managed to be #4 on the top amateur list in 2004. Missing that much time, in his prime, made me wonder what might have been?

Per the AKC website Ford's record: 241.5 AA points -- 27 AA Blue Ribbons -- Qualified 13 Nationals -- National Finalist -- 2002 Top Amateur Dog -- 2002 Purina Outstanding Amateur Retriever -- Ford has sired 21 champions in the USA, 3 champions in Canada -- And many good dogs with champions to come...

Ford became a Field Champion and Amateur Field Champion while only two years old -- and, so far, the last dog to accomplish this honor. Ford's first National was the 1999 National Open in Oakdale, California. He went out in the 9th series in a BIG rain storm. He was two years old.

Ford gained another title January 8, 2005 -- Certified Therapy Dog --- On January 5, 2005, I had a quadruple heart by-pass. Ford came to see me on January 8th, but first had to be certified by hospital staff. He passed the test and we had a good visit. Cardiovascular surgeon, Dr. Mart McMullen, an avid duck hunter, and close friend, says of Ford, "The most remarkable dog I have ever seen...wonderful companion, great house dog, unbelievable in the duck blind, tremendous field trial competitor and now coming to the hospital. What A Dog!!"

It is a great honor for Ford to be inducted into the Retriever Hall of Fame and I know that today Ford is smiling. Thanks to all who voted for Ford. God Bless.

Sam Milton