

2008 National Amateur Championship

The 2008 Amateur Championship broke away on Wednesday morning. The 15 braces were watched carefully for two and half days by the judges, Will Langley and John Chokran.

Brace 1:

Amsel (Aline Scharpf) and **Chesty** (Mary Brown)

The dogs broke away on a cold clear and quite windy morning. Handlers, judges and gallery were buried under multiple layers of clothing. Amsel had multiple finds and ran a medium and busy race to the front with finds at 12, 16, 36 and 49 but had some trouble after her last find and was picked-up. Chesty made a wrong turn about mid course and it took some convincing by Mary to get him going the right direction. He finished the hour with finds at 24 and 57 and stops to flush at 46 and at time.

Brace 2:

River (Roger Schlachter) and **Leyna** (Rodney Moon)

River ran a forward race, hugging the tree lines. She had a nice honor and many mannerly finds throughout the hour; an overall pleasing and consistent performance. Leyna ran a medium, energetic race with a find at 7, a non-productive at 39 and honors at 21 and 26, but was ordered up for failure to honor River's point at 50 minutes.

Brace 3:

Chevy (Nikolaus Scharpf) and **Dolby** (Kevin Jahr)

This pair was fast off the line. Dolby had his scout working early with a quick wrong turn up a tree line. He was brought around in short order and both dogs showed great ground speed and energy hunting the objectives at medium range. Chevy had lovely, stylish finds at 27, 30 and 55. His last find was full of excitement. First, a huge buck got up out of the thicket he was pointing and charged away, evoking oohs and ahhs from the gallery. Then shortly thereafter, Dolby came charging up the hill towards Chevy ignoring the hollers of his handler. As he came closer, Nikolaus took matters into his own hands and whoa'd Dolby within just a few feet of Chevy. The pressure forced Chevy to take some small steps but he worked the bird well once he was settled. Dolby finished the hour hunting hard. He ended with two non productives and a brief deer chase, but unfortunately no birds.

Brace 4:

Sport (Gene Mason) and **Blitz** (Lance Fargo)

Blitz ran a good, forward race sticking to the objectives but appeared to tire somewhat in the closing minutes. He had mannerly finds at 45 and 51. Sport was not pleasing his handler today and was picked at 39 after two non-productives.

Brace 5:

Rocket-B (Joe Fingerlin)

Running alone because his bracemate was in season, Rocket applied himself well to the tree lines at medium range and groundspeed. He was ordered up at 15 for moving after

the flush on his first find. However his brace is memorable for an impressive armadillo catch at 9 minutes. Apparently unharmed, the armadillo ambled into the undergrowth after being released.

Brace 6:

Blue-B (Rebecca Kuban) and **Mongo** (Mary Brown)

This was the last brace of the first day and the weather was warming a bit but the wind was still brisk. Both dogs charged off the line showing power across the ground. Blue was ordered up at 5 for bumping a bird. Mongo had a stop to flush at 9 but was picked up by Mary at 51 as he was not pleasing her today.

Brace 7

Sirius (Joe Fingerlin) and **Sampson** (Holly McKnight)

For the first brace of the second day the weather was slightly warmer and wind much calmer. The riders shed some of their many layers from Wednesday. Sampson ran into trouble at 12 on his first find when he helped Holly flush the birds. Sirius ran a nice forward race but ended the hour with two non-productives and no birds.

Brace 8

Ali (Wayne Cowgill) and **Rocket-A** (Jack Potter)

After an energetic break away, Ali was ordered up at 11 for failure to honor. Rocket ran a huge and impressive race. He kept his handler and scout busy with two deer chases, two non-productives and two nice finds. Unfortunately Jack got into some trouble on a find at 51. He whistled Rocket to move on after seeing movement in the grass and assuming the point was for an armadillo. To the disappointment of the handler (and judges), Rocket pushed up birds on Jack's whistle and the pair was ordered up.

Brace 9

Zoom (Nikolaus Scharpf) and **Bleu-A** (Stephanie Tsantes)

Zoom ran a huge race keeping the scout very busy. Unfortunately, she ended the hour birdless. Bleu ran a consistent hour with medium range and good ground speed. He had two mannerly finds at 27 and 40 and a non-productive at 17.

Brace 10

Rogue (Tim Carwile) and **Lily** (Lance Fargo)

Rogue ran hard and fast hitting the objectives. He had stylish finds at 11 and 14 and stops to flush at 38 and 40. He nearly made the hour but bumped a covey at 54 and was ordered up. Lily was ordered up after a find at about mid hour.

Brace 11

Caymus (John Bonner) and **Chap** (Mary Brown)

Both dogs broke away working hard with Caymus running at eye-catching speed. A deer chase ensued at 10 that had both handlers and both scouts kicking their horses into high gear. The dogs were rounded up after a few minutes but the wind was out of Chap's sails after that and he slowed significantly for the balance of the hour. Caymus continued her aggressive search and had a stylish find at 29 but was ordered up for failure to honor

Chap's wild covey find at 34. Chap stood another bird at time and after the shot the gallery was treated to an owl flying past at close range.

Brace 12

Gypsy (Phil Letzo)

As the oldest entrant in this stake, Gypsy hunted the edges and stayed busy for the hour but appeared to tire at about the half way mark. She had a stylish, staunch find at 25.

Brace 13

Getty (Dick Wilbur) and **Bo** (Duane Yoder)

First brace of the third and final day breaks away with sunshine and a light breeze. Both dogs ran very hard off the line. Bo stayed to the front but was ordered up on his first bird at 15. Getty drifted off course to the right and was missing for 20 minutes despite the efforts of the handler and scout to locate her. The judge called time as he hadn't seen her since the break away. The scout later finds her standing birds.

Brace 14

Redi (Phil Letzo) and **Diesel** (Anne Tyson)

Both dogs ran fairly short through the heavy cover at the start of the brace but opened up as the course opened up. Diesel stuck to the edges and objectives at medium range. He ended the hour with two stops to flush, a non-productive, a stylish find at 57 and a last second u-turn point on a single quail at 60. Redi worked the edges well at somewhat shorter range. She had a stop to flush, a non-productive, a mannerly find at 57 and an honor at 60.

Brace 15

Mohawk (Aline Scharpf) and **Tilly** (Duane Yoder)

Both dogs broke away fast and hard for the last brace of the stake. Mohawk was ordered up at 4, when she pointed then hopped and pushed up birds. Tilly continued on and finished the hour with a consistent, forward run at medium range sticking to the objectives. She had a non-productive at 14, and mannerly finds at 23, 26 and 40.

Judges called back Chevy, Tilly, Bleu, River, Diesel and Chap. All came through clean except Tilly, who chose to chase her bird today. The placements were as follows:

- 1) NAFC/AFC Aztec's American Pie (NAFC/FC/AFC Northernlights ThisBudsForU x FC Grau Geist's True Love Way) b: Tom and Eileen Ingala O/H: Nikolaus and Aline Scharpf
- 2) Axel's Bleu Bayou of Reiteraln (CH Axel Reiteraln of Weimar's Joy x Reiteraln n Snakebreaks Bonnie) B: Virginia Alexander O/H: Stephanie Tsantes
- 3) FC Snake Breaks Run Wild Idaho (NAFC/FC/AFC Snake Breaks Sgt Schultz x FC Briarmeadow Sunshine Abigail) B: Jay and Dubose Fleming O/H: Roger Schlater
- 4) TC Regen's Rip Stop, UDX\$ TDX MH AX SDX RDX VX5 (NAFC/FC/AFC Northernlights ThisBudsForU x TC/AFC Regen's Summer Blaze UDX2 MH SDX RDX VX6....) B: Shirley Nilsson and Judith Voris O/H: Anne Tyson

JAM) Chapter Two v Saga (NFC/NAFC/DC/AFC Snake Breaks Saga v reiteralm x
Reiteralm's Absolute Point JH) B: Virginia Alexander O/H: Mary and Jeffery
Brown