

Retrievers of the Past...

By Joule Charney

Homage to the Legends

One Bird at a Time

— That is what we say to remind ourselves when it looks like there's a tough time ahead. Whichever game we play, field trials or hunt tests, and no matter whether we are rank newbies or in the top rankings, our dogs still can get only 'one bird at a time.' Whether we are amateurs or pros, calm, cool and collected, or nervously quaking in our boots, it is up to our partners, our dogs, to go where we've sent them, and come back with that precious commodity – the bird.

We go to the Line, dogs by our side. Bird by bird, we complete a series. A trial or a test. We are consumed by Lines – lines to the birds. And we hope that they lead us to the ultimate destination: A placement, a title, a trip to one of the Nationals.

When we look back, our years are filled with triumphs, and tears. Tears of joy. Tears of loss, as our partners leave our side and do not return, except to inhabit the holes in our hearts that their presence left behind.

We remember each of our own, in our own special ways. And, then there are those dogs whose lines led to the high-

est echelon of accomplishment – a National Win, a record number of Points, a Master National completion. We have recognized them with special trophies, special awards, inclusion in the Hall of Fame, and, usually, generations of progeny.

This series takes us back in time and allows us to revisit the dogs whose triumphs ensconced them in the history books of our sport – dear to a select few of us personally, dear to all of us historically.

Amidst the triumphs of today's dogs, Retriever News rekindles our memory of these special dogs. They have graced our magazine's covers several times a year, in posthumous prominence. Beginning in July 2009, we also have been commemorating their special place in history by showcasing them in feature articles, one dog at a time. Collectively, our homage to these legends is known as our 'Retrievers of the Past' series. In 2009, two such dogs were featured. In 2010, we increased the number to three. This year, our plan is to include 'Retrievers of the Past' in four of our monthly issues.



Top 30 HIGH-SCORING DOGS OF ALL TIME BY POINTS

Dog's Name	Lifetime Points	Owner	Birth Date
1 NAFC-FC-CNFC River Oaks Corky (LM) Featured in a three part series: Oct, Nov, Dec 2010	505.5	Mike Flannery	3/26/66
2 FC-AFC Trumarc's Zip Code (LM)	444	Judy Aycocock	3/30/78
3 FC-AFC Creek Robber (LM) <i>(Not deceased)</i>	421.5	Ken Jackson	9/2/98
4 NAFC-FC Kannonball Kate (LF) Featured in a two part series: July & Sep 2010	410.5	Peter Lane	2/8/72
5 FC-AFC Dust Devil's Shoot The Moon (LM)	375	S. D. Bechtel Jr.	5/13/93
6 NAFC-FC Dee's Dandy Dude (LM)	362.5	Mike Paterno	2/16/67
7 NFC-NAFC Super Chief (LM)	354.5	August Belmont	6/27/62
8 FC-AFC Glengarven's Mik (LM)	353	Roger Vasselais	8/23/59
9 CNAFC-CFC-FC-AFC Aces High III (LM) Featured in July 2009	349.5	Bob & Marge Beck	12/12/85
10 FC-AFC Hiwood Piper (LM)	347.5	Mrs. Roy McFall	8/7/70
11 FC-NAFC Ray's Rascal (LM)	342.5	Ray & Dorothea Goodrich	10/2/67
12 FC-AFC The Marathon Man (LM)	329.5	Charles & Yvonne Hays	10/31/82
13 FC-AFC Candlewood's M.D. Houston (LM)	314	Newt Cropper	12/4/84
14 NFC-AFC Euroclydon (LF)	289	Don Strait	6/18/73
15 NAFC-FC Carbon Copy Of Horn Creek (LM)	286	Frank & Christine Kashevarof	9/14/97
16 NFC-AFC-CFC Risky Business Ruby (LF)	278	Mr. & Mrs. Clint Swingle	4/12/76
17 NAFC-FC Topbrass Cotton (GM) Featured in May 2010	274	Jeff & Bev Finley & J. Mertens	7/6/78
18 NFC-AFC Dolobran's Smoke Tail (LM)	269	Richard Hecker	9/18/51
19 FC-AFC-CFC-CAFC Westwind Jemima Super Cake (LM)	269	Eva Proby	5/1/77
20 NAFC-FC Adams Acres Cherokee Rose (LF)	264.5	John & Martha Russell	11/4/93
21 FC-AFC Volwood's Mollie (LF)	261	Jack & Florence Vollstedt	3/7/96
22 FC-AFC Tigathoe's Mainliner Mariah (LF)	254	Alanson Brown	8/23/65
23 FC-AFC Code Blue (LM)	248.5	JJ Heneghan	8/7/90
24 FC-AFC Rocky Road Of Zenith (LM)	245.5	Andrew Pruitt	2/9/66
25 FC-AFC Stone's Throw Marion's Choice (LM)	245.5	Mr. & Mrs. David Stone	5/21/82
26 FC-AFC Dairy Hill's Night Cap (LM) Featured in May 2011	244.5	A. A. Jones	8/27/55
27 FC-AFC Machipongo's W.A. Nappy (LM)	243	Richard Roberts Jr. & D. Metcalf	4/7/76
28 FC-AFC Hawkeye's Dandy (LF)	237	Jeff Talley	7/9/87
29 FC-AFC E-Lynn's Super Strike Lucky (LM)	234	Carl Ruffalo	12/16/73
30 NAFC-FC Candlewood's Super Tanker (LM)	233	Joyce Williams	7/26/84

Please note that any dog that is featured alone on the cover is required to be a deceased Field Champion or Amateur Field Champion.

Retrievers of the Past

In the Beginning...

The sport of retriever field trials dates back to the late 1920's "when a small group of avid hunters devised a sport in which they could evaluate the performance of their hunting retrievers in a competitive environment and obtain Championships along with bragging rights," according to the AKC. "It is hard to believe that the still burgeoning popularity in Retrievers began only some eighty years ago in America." Although the first Chesapeake was registered in 1878, six years before the AKC was founded, Labradors were not accepted into the AKC Stud Book until 1917. For Golden Retrievers, the year was 1925.

Only 64 retrievers were registered in 1926, a statistic the AKC calls "startling." Wealthy estate owners began to import Labs from the British Isles in the late 1920's, initially to serve only as hunting dogs. For this reason, the owners saw no reason to register their imports with the AKC. Along with the imported dogs, the owners also imported gamekeepers to train them. One of the most influential was Dave Elliot, who trained sheep dogs as a boy in Scotland. Elliot was the first trainer that "succeeded in teaching a string of Labradors to accept hand and whistle signals in picking up difficult fallen birds," according to *The Working Retriever* by Tom Quinn. "Elliot's work was pivotal, leading to the demanding, sophisticated blind retrieves that are mastered by American retrievers today." Elliot was inducted into the Field Trial Hall of Fame in 1994, in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to the sport.

In 1931, The Labrador Retriever Club was created and conducted the first retriever field trial in America that same year. "The trials that followed continued through the 1930s in the hunting tradition of the British rules until increased entries and the development of sophisticated training methods assured the impracticality of British trialing procedure in America," per the AKC. "Controlling

dogs by whistle, voice, and hand commands (handling) revolutionized the sport, starting in the 1940's."

Despite this radical change of their nature, the popularity of field trials in the U.S. grew. The first Field Champion Chesapeake, Labrador and Golden were designated in 1935, 1936 and 1939, respectively. The first National Championship Stake for Retrievers was held in 1941. Amateur Field Championships were first available for Retrievers in 1953. The first National Amateur Championship Stake for Retrievers did not occur until 1957.

Meanwhile, retrieving breeds remained popular as hunting companions, both for waterfowl and upland game. It wasn't until 1983, however, that the desire of non-trialers to participate in an organized activity to test their retrievers under simulated hunting situations led to the creation of the North American Hunting Retriever Association. The current AKC Hunting Test program dates back to 1984 when, utilizing regulations and field procedures developed by NAHRA, the first AKC-sanctioned 'Hunting Retriever Field Test' was held.

In this issue, Retrievers of the Past returns to the decade of the 1950's, spotlighting a High Point All-Age dog who was a pivotal influence on field trial training.

FC-AFC Dairy Hill's Night Cap

Born in 1955, the Labrador male called 'Cappy' accumulated a record 244 ½ All-Age Points, 148 in the Open and 96 ½ in the Amateur. He was ranked third in all-time total points and fourth in all-time Open points, at the time of his death. "This record is a great one, but even more, he was a devoted friend and shooting

companion. All in all, he was a pleasure to watch and to run," said his owner, A.A. Jones.

"Cappy was an extraordinary marker, both on land and water and was very fast, but it was for his fantastic lines that he was truly famous," according to Jones. "He came on the scene at a time when the extreme diagonal lines of today were unknown, but he soon made it apparent that they would have to be learned for a dog to remain competitive. In this regard, I think that it is safe to say that he revolutionized field trial training."

While recounting his dog's career, Jones proudly emphasized that, in his first trial, Cappy won the Derby and the Qualifying, with a JAM in the Open, and that he won

his first Open two days after his second birthday.

Most of Cappy's points were earned in his early years. He was plagued by illness later in his life, Jones sadly has stated. Still, Cappy qualified for five National Championships in 1958 through 1962, excluding 1959, and seven consecutive National Amateur Championships in 1958 through 1964. He was a finalist in 1960.

Cappy is listed in the 1956-1961 Labrador Retriever Club Supplement as having multiple 'Outstanding Campaigns' achieving twenty or more points in a year. He acquired top billing in 1960 and 1961, with 32.5 and 40 points, respectively. ■



Photo of Dave Elliot and "Cappy's" Induction Scroll courtesy of the Bird Dog Foundation, Inc.

Top 30 HIGH-SCORING DOGS OF ALL TIME BY DECADE

Dog's Name	Lifetime Points	Owner	Birth Date	National Championship Wins
1950's				
18 Dolobran's Smoke Tail	269	Richard Hecker	9/18/51	1960 NRC
26 Dairy Hill's Night Cap	244.5	A. A. Jones	8/27/55	
1960's				
8 Glengarven's Mik	353	Roger Vasselais	8/23/59	
7 Super Chief	354.5	August Belmont	6/27/62	1968 NRC 1967-68 NARC
22 Tigathoe's Mainliner Mariah	254	Alanson Brown	8/23/65	
24 Rocky Road Of Zenith	245.5	Andrew Pruitt	2/9/66	
1970's				
1 River Oaks Corky	505.5	Mike Flannery	3/26/66	1972 NARC 1975 NARC
4 Kannonball Kate	410.5	Peter Lane	2/8/72	1978 NARC
6 Dee's Dandy Dude	362.5	Mike Paterno	2/16/67	1971 NARC 1973 NARC
10 Hiwood Piper	347.5	Mrs. Roy McFall	8/7/70	
11 Ray's Rascal	342.5	Ray & Dorothea Goodrich	10/2/67	1974 NARC
14 Euroclydon	289	Don Strait	6/18/73	1977 NRC
29 E-Lynn's Super Strike Lucky	234	Carl Ruffalo	12/16/73	
1980's				
2 Trumarc's Zip Code	444	Judy Aycock	3/30/78	1984 NARC
9 Aces High III	349.5	Bob & Marge Beck	12/12/85	
13 Candlewood's M.D. Houston	314	Newt Cropper	12/4/84	
16 Risky Business Ruby	278	Mr & Mrs Clint Swingle	4/12/76	1980 NRC
17 Topbrass Cotton	274	Jeff & Bev Finley & J. Mertens	7/6/78	1985 NARC
19 Westwind Jemima Super Cake	269	Eva Proby	5/1/77	1987 NARC
25 Stone's Throw Marion's Choice	245.5	Mr & Mrs David Stone	5/21/82	
27 Machipongo's W.A. Nappy	243	Richard Roberts Jr & D. Metcalf	4/7/76	
1990's				
3 Creek Robber	421.5	Ken Jackson	9/2/98	
5 Dust Devil's Shoot The Moon	375	S. D. Bechtel Jr.	5/13/93	
12 The Marathon Man	329.5	Charles & Yvonne Hays	10/31/82	
21 Volwood's Mollie	261	Jack & Florence Vollstedt	3/7/96	
23 Code Blue	248.5	JJ Heneghan	8/7/90	
28 Hawkeye's Dandy	237	Jeff Talley	7/9/87	
30 Candlewood's Super Tanker	233	Joyce Williams	7/26/84	1992 NRC 1990 NARC
2000's				
15 Carbon Copy Of Horn Creek	286	Frank & Christine Kashevarof	9/14/97	2006 NARC
20 Adams Acres Cherokee Rose	264.5	John & Martha Russell	11/4/93	2003 NARC