

Retrievers of the Past...

By Joule Charney

1974 NAFC-FC Ray's Rascal

YOU DON'T BECOME A NATIONAL AMATEUR FIELD CHAMPION, hold a position on the Top 30 High-Scoring Dogs of All Time by Points list, and earn a place in the Retriever Hall of Fame by being much of a rascal. Often defined as 'playfully mischievous or badly behaved,' 1974 NAFC-FC Ray's Rascal had a very intriguing name; but, fortunately, he did not live up to it!

Born in 1967, and owned by Ray and the late Dorothea "Dede" Goodrich, Rascal was named by the couple's daughter Janie. He did have one very memorable rascally moment, and it did involve Janie. "The first Double Header that Rascal won was on the California Coast at a big wildlife area north of San Francisco. That night, Rascal crawled into Janie's sleeping bag. She didn't mind sharing. She was really proud of it," Ray reminisces. Janie was the youngest of the couple's five children. She went to some of the weekend trials and all the National Amateurs she could. "She couldn't go to the Opens

Ray with NAFC-FC Ray's Rascal at the 1974 National Amateur, Sacramento, CA

because of school going on." Son Paul also went to field trials with Ray quite a bit.

Rascal is #11 on the High Scoring Dogs of All Time List. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1993. His Hall of Fame plaque summarizes his voluminous accomplishments:

- Winner of the 1974 National Amateur Championship, Qualified for 7 Nat'l Ams, Finalist in 2 besides 1974
- Qualified for 7 National Open Championships, Finalist in 2
- 342.5 All-Age Points - 170.5 Open and 172 Amateur
- High Point Dog: Derby - 1969; Open - 1973 and 1975
- 5x Double Header winner

Ray's Rascal should not be confused with the other very famous retriever with the callname 'Rascal:' 1977 NAFC-FC River Oaks Rascal. River Oaks Rascal lacked a rascally quality as well. On the



1974 NAFC-FC RAY'S RASCAL

1969 NATIONAL DERBY CHAMPION

OPEN	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	TOTAL:
Starts	20	17	16	15	14	13	7	102
First	1	3	4	5	2	4	2	21
Second	3	2	2	3	6	4	0	20
Third	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Fourth	2	3	1	0	2	0	1	9
Places	6	8	7	9	10	8	3	51
Jams	4	3	4	0	2	0	1	14
# Finished	10	11	11	9	12	8	4	65
% Finished	50%	65%	69%	60%	86%	62%	57%	64%
Open Points	15.0	22.5	26.5	35.0	29.0	32.0	10.5	170.5
Cumulative Pts	15.0	37.5	64.0	99.0	128.0	160.0	170.5	170.5

AMATEUR	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	TOTAL:
Starts	17	15	15	14	13	13	7	94
First	3	3	2	4	7	1	3	23
Second	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	16
Third	1	2	0	0	2	2	0	7
Fourth	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	4
Places	6	9	4	9	10	7	5	50
Jams	3	2	8	1	1	3	1	19
# Finished	9	11	12	10	11	10	6	69
% Finished	53%	73%	80%	71%	85%	77%	86%	73%
Amateur Points	19.5	29.0	16.0	30.0	40.0	16.5	21.0	172.0
Cumulative Pts	19.5	48.5	64.5	94.5	134.5	151.0	172.0	172.0

ALL AGE	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	TOTAL:
All Age By Year	34.5	51.5	42.5	65.0	69.5	48.5	31.5	342.5
Cumulative Total	34.5	86.0	128.5	193.5	262.5	310.0	342.5	342.5

Owner: Ray Goodrich

Birthdate: 10/2/67

64 Derby Points (H)

From "Retriever Field Trial Statistics 1941-1995," by Sue Reynolds.

Avg. Open pts per year: 24

Avg. Amateur pts per year: 25

Avg. All-Age pts per year: 49

contrary, his National Amateur win at the age of nine, despite not having been trained as vigorously as in previous years, was in part attributed to his 'all business attitude.' Nor should Ray's Rascal be confused with his many progeny who have 'Rascal' in their names or the unrelated Rascals. Rascal was a rather popular name for field trial retrievers.

A marvel himself, Ray Goodrich is now 95 years old and he still trains every day! He lives in Santa Cruz, CA, where he has since 1950. He says he is the only field trialer in the area; so, he trains these days, every day at 7:15 am, with a couple of hunting buddies. Ray and his late wife owned property with the late Joe and Marilyn Boatright in Oakdale, CA that was sold last year. One of the professional trainers who utilized that property is Bill 'Billy' Sargenti and Ray has a standing invitation to train at 'Billy's Place' in Oakdale. Ray's current dog Jet hadn't seen much water for quite some time; so, Ray suggested we meet at Billy's - for his interview about Ray's Rascal - and to train. The property became famous when it was

Ray and his late wife Dede at the moment of announcement for the winner of the 1974 National Amateur (Source: Ray's daughter Janie Snowden, Boston, MA)



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owned by Rex Carr, 'the father of modern retriever training,' and was called CL2. It is known for its outstanding technical ponds.

I met Ray and one of his training partners, Ray Leonard, at Billy's one day last May when Billy was away for a trial. It was quite the treat for me, for multiple reasons. It was my third time interviewing an owner of a *Retrievers of the Past* dog in person, as opposed to the phone. It was my first experience training with the owner of a *Retrievers of the Past* dog. I didn't even think of it at the time, but my two Labs have Ray's Rascal on both sides of their pedigrees. I got to train with a person who is in the retriever Hall of Fame, and that was a first for me. (I'm not counting working for a pre-National Open training group that included at least one Hall of Fame person.) Last, but not least, I got to train with a 95-year old, which is something not very many people anywhere, of any age themselves, and of any retriever background, get to do!

I discovered that Ray is a wonder of nature, as well as of the retriever world, past and present. If I didn't know his age, I wouldn't have believed the man is 95. He is an inspiration of much greater magnitude than I could possibly have anticipated. More about Ray

will be told in an upcoming *Retrievers of the Past* feature article about his other Hall of Fame dog.

How Ray got his Rascal.....

To fully appreciate how Rascal entered Ray's life, it helps to understand how Ray entered the world of field trials.

Ray had a cocker spaniel with whom he hunted mostly quail. "My hunting buddy got me into Labs. He left his first Lab, Smoky, home when his buddy asked him to shoot pheasants for a couple of amateur field trialers, Wayne and Chuck Crook, who were heading to a National Amateur. Afterward, "I invited them to stop back by the house for a drink. Chuck said, 'Show me what this dog can do.'"

"I had canvasback bumpers. Nobody uses them anymore. I grabbed three of those, and went up a hill, which was steep shale. It was hard to walk on, and had high cover. If you tried to walk that hill, you'd slide half the way. I threw each bumper as far as I could. It was a tight triple. Smoky went roaring down the hill, shale and dirt flying in a big trail behind him. He pinned two of the marks and had about a two foot hunt on the third one."

"I turned to Chuck and expected him to say, 'That's not bad.' Instead, "He grabbed me by the shoulders and shook me and said,

Rascal on the winner's table 1974



'You stupid son of a bitch! You're about to ruin a good dog!' Smoky was five months old. After that, I was invited to go training with them. They showed me what to do, not to let him break, and a few other things. My dog did well." Ray's first dog ended up with eight Derby Wins and became an FC-AFC. "What really got me into field trials was the eight Derby Wins." Smokey also had one 2nd and five 3rds. He was #3 in points, which, at the time, were only counted in the year the dog turned two. Tragically, Ray's astounding success with his first retriever ended abruptly. Smoky died during foxtail surgery at the age of only three years and two months.

Ray's next Lab, "Major," was a "deadly marker," according to Ray. "He could do a triple and a blind at seven months. I wasn't devoting time to anything else (other than this one dog). Then, all of a sudden, he couldn't jump on the tailgate any more. When he was about a year old, his hips gave out. It broke my heart, but I gave him away as a pet." For a while, Ray was without a dog.

Ray's mentors, Wayne and Chuck Crook, eventually turned pro. One of the handlers in Wayne's training group was Harold 'Budgie' Mack who, in Ray's opinion, had "a fantastic dog" named Carnmoney Spud. Ray decided he wanted a pup out of the "same sire and any good bitch." Spud's sire was Canadian Field Champion Bandit of Carnmoney, out of the Carnmoney kennel in Canada.

Eventually, the Crooks called Ray to tell him that a dog out of Bandit and a bench champion had become available for sale. The Spud son, Carnmoney Brigadier, was sent to Ray at age fourteen months for \$2,500 'on approval.' After the first month, Ray told Carnmoney's owner he would keep "Brig," with a condition. As part of the deal, "I made him throw in a seven-week old puppy" out of Spud.

The full story of "Brig" will be told in a future *Retrievers of the Past* feature article.

"And, then, I looked around for a local litter because I wanted to have two pups of the same age. I didn't intend to keep two. I intended to keep only one. I found out that Marianne Foote had pups almost the same age, with the same sire, born October 2, 1967. Marianne had a female ruined by a pro. She was burned to death by the electric collar."

Spud had been bred to a bitch named Miss Fiddlesticks, callname "Georgie," who was sired by AFC Black Mike of Lakewood. Neither was titled. It made a big impression on Ray that Miss Fiddlesticks was a full sister to Michelle, who "was the best bitch in the country." Michelle was the #3 dog on the 1964 Derby list, became an FC and was admitted into the Hall of Fame in 1994.

"Miss Fiddlesticks came from Budgie Mack," Marianne elaborates. She also used to train with Budgie. "Fiddlesticks was so terrified, she stayed under the bed for the first month. She had some heavy-handed training when e-collars first came out. She eventually came around and became a good family dog. It took a year. We (Marianne and her husband Lynn) acquired her with a breeding agreement. Budgie wanted Fiddlesticks bred to Spud. We would breed her, and raise the litter, and he would pick. Budgie gave his pick to Ray. He had second pick of the litter after our pick."

"There was a close association between us and Ray and Dede," Ray's wife of 71 years who passed away last October. Ray was very concerned with getting his puppy at seven weeks," recalls Marianne. "I remember the sleeping bag story because it was a contemporary thing at that time that these dogs should be kept in kennels and not with the family. That was not Ray's interpretation. Ray was a big believer in separating littermates at seven weeks, and so were we, based on scientific research. We still do that with our puppies.



Ray and Rascal

He was very much an advocate of that early training where the emphasis is on shaping behavior instead of force training. So many retriever trainers at that time weren't taking dogs on until they were older."

"It rained a lot, and Ray couldn't pick the pup that he was going to take. Although we gave him an opinion about which one we thought was appropriate, he asked me to bring two puppies to the airport that we thought would be of interest." Ray was a pilot and had his own plane.

"I liked two pups from the litter," explains Ray. "I had a tennis ball with me. Marianne threw it. I held both pups and sent them. Both did a nice job. One got the ball and got back to me before the other dog. So, that's how I got Rascal. I paid \$125 for him."

"This was before we had the registered kennel name Winroc," adds Marianne. You have to have a history and so many years of breeding. We decided after Rascal's progress, it was time. We're now into the 10th or 12th generation of our breeding program, fifty years later."

Rascal and the pup from Canada, named Drambuie, were "equal on land; but, Rascal was better on water." Ray sold Drambuie to a former classmate from Stanford Law School.

How Rascal got Ray.....

"Rascal wanted to please me more than any other dog I've had," Ray states unequivocally. Those include Ray's three other titled dogs, Smoky (FC-AFC Goodrich's Smoky Bear), Brig, and FC-AFC Rascal's Double Trouble, a Rascal son born in 1976 who was a finalist in the 1981 National Amateur. Ray doesn't recall the number of untitled dogs he has had. Ray took home Smoky's sire, Toro, and hunted him. "Crooks never got him under control as a field trial dog." Ray had one field trial dog with points but no Win, and one with a Win but not enough points. Ray also ran Rascal Two Thousand, who died last year. He presently has Jet Blue 111, age 5, who ran Derby and Qualls through 2013.

"Rascal's biggest strength was his desire to please. You didn't have to get on him. He really wanted to do it the way you wanted to do it. He was a tremendous marking dog."

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"I was the sole practitioner in a law firm. It was hard to get away." Being a pilot with his own plane helped. "I couldn't have run as many trials if I didn't fly my own airplane. I flew from age 22 to 82." Ray trained all his retrievers himself. He never used a professional trainer for any of his dogs.

"I ran as many Derbies as I could. We won around five or six Derbies. Rascal had 64 Derby points and was the 1969 Derby Champion."

"Toward the end of his Derby career, he developed a problem with spinning, if he was unsure of something, like whether to go right or left around an obstacle." Ray vividly recalls a diagonal ditch where there was a pivotal moment between man and dog. Ray had a quirt. "Rascal got a major whipping. He never spun again. He never saw a collar (e-collar) in his life." Other than the temporary spinning issue, Ray says he cannot identify a weakness in Rascal's work, and he doesn't regard the spinning as a weakness. "It was a problem I had to correct."

"Rascal won the only Qualifying he ran. That same weekend, he ran the Amateur."

"Rascal won five Double Headers. He was always better in the Open and Briggie was always better in the Amateur. If he didn't have his own dogs competing against one another, 'I'd probably have had nine or ten Double Headers,' Ray jokes.

"Rascal was a finalist in two National Opens, and two National Amateurs, besides the one he won in 1974. "Rascal was a finalist in his first National Amateur at two years, eight months, completed his FC on his third birthday, and six weeks later was a finalist in the National held in St. Louis," it is written in his Hall of Fame bio. "His competitive career was a tribute to his marking excellence and handling consistency."

There were some matters of great importance to others, that were not to Ray. "The most trials I ran in a year was fifteen. I didn't pay attention to points," he says. "I focused on the two Nationals."

Ray also did not let comments about hunting nor breeding impact his decisions. "I started hunting Rascal when he was just a year old. He hunted wild pheasants, not planted birds. I only hunted him once the first year to get him familiar with it. I believe in hunting field trial dogs. I hunted Rascal quite a bit as he finished his Derby career. People told me I was crazy. They said I'd never teach him to run a straight line if he flushed wild

birds because dogs have to do a lot of weaving in and out. But, I'm certain he ran better lines than any dog I've ever seen." In subsequent years, Ray took Rascal and Brig pheasant and duck hunting, alternating between the two of them.

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Somehow, Ray managed to train Rascal and his other dogs with no nearby water, and without the competitive equalizer of a widespread drought. "I live 133 miles from the Boatright property. Rascal died before I had it. The Crooks turned pro and built some water by the ocean. I used the property; but, I was never a client of theirs. I went to Barbara Ornbaun's, which was 100 miles away, occasionally on the weekend. There's one irrigation pond down here that's pretty good. One place in a Brussel sprouts field where the water accumulated. It wasn't very good. There wasn't much of it. I went to Jones Lake quite a bit, which is another ten minutes above the Crook's place. A lot of Rascal's early training was there. There was not a great place to train. Mostly Crooks' water and Jones Lake, both on the same road."

Rascal was always a house dog, but slept in the kennel. We had a seven or eight foot diagonal rug in front of the fireplace. Rascal and Brig on it were a back-to-back blob. Once, a young vet who had a female out of Rascal came over to meet him. He was a very hard-going dog. He'd been known to break. The vet couldn't believe this lazy blob was Rascal!

During trials, "Rascal would sleep by Dede's side of the bed. Brig would be on mine. Rascal would sliver up onto the bed and get next to Dede. As soon as I'd stop snoring, he'd plop off. I never did catch him on the bed!"

"The Fall before one of the last trials, he was running off a spit. It was a water triple. A Chessie kind of slid and didn't make a big entry, knocking a stump loose. Rascal made this big leap. He flew in and hit a sharp piece

of the stump. I slid down and helped him out. The vet on the grounds cleaned and stitched his groin and belly. I thought he was ok."

"I started running him again in the Spring. He was slower. He wasn't that much slower. I could tell he wasn't quite right. I didn't think anything about the stump incident. I thought it was behind me. Then, one leg started swelling. It looked like a ham." The vet put him on an antibiotic, pending tests.

Rascal died at the age of only eight years and six months, on April 15, 1975. Ray believes that Rascal died from an infection that was left over from hitting the stump. Despite how early in the year it was, and running with a dormant or festering fatal infection, he was qualified for both the National Amateur and the Open. "That was awful early in the season for two Open Wins," Ray says wistfully.

Ray's Rascal lives on through countless generations of successful offspring. He is the sire of 1979 NFC-AFC McGuffy and grandsire of 1987 CNFC, 1992 CNAFC Waldorf's High Tech, who is the sire of 1995, 2000 NAFC, 1998, 1999 CNAFC-AFC Ebonstar Lean Mac (2003 Hall of Fame) "I bred Rascal early. Under age two. People thought I was crazy to breed him; but, it never really bothered him. He made a lot of field champions. Tom Quinn's Anny (FC-AFC Nakai Anny, 1995 Hall of Fame) was a Rascal granddaughter." 1980 NFC-AFC Risky Business Ruby (1993 Hall of Fame) is an Anny daughter. "Rascal produced field champions out of most lines I ever bred him to." ■

Tenacular Dogs – Joule Charney



Ray Goodrich & Joule Charney at interview-training on 05/20/15. Photo taken by: Ray Leonard

Joule resides in Paradise, California. She has been a contributing writer for Retriever News for seven years. *The Retrievers of the Past...* feature series is published four times a year: May, July, September and October. Visit Joule Charney online at www.tenacular.com.