

2012

Steve Bechtel

Record as a Field Trialer

Steve has had at least one dog qualified for 15 National Opens, with multiple dogs competing in more than half of them. Steve has personally handled at least one dog in almost every National Amateur since 1996.

Steve's dog Shooter (FC-AFC Dust Devil's Shoot The Moon) was a four-time Purina Outstanding Open Retriever and a four-time High Point Open Dog. Shooter has been inducted into the Retriever Hall of Fame and has 295 Open points and 91.5 Amateur points. Shooter competed in 15 National Championships (Opens and Amateurs) and was a finalist 6 times.

Ten of Steve's retrievers have earned their FC titles, with 6 of those also holding AFC titles.

Steve is a member of the Double Headers.

Steve is a member of three local retriever clubs, as well as serving as a Board member and was the founding President of the CRTA.

Now in his mid-80's, Steve is still actively trialing retrievers. Steve competed in the 2011 National Amateur with two dogs, and has dogs qualified for the 2011 National Open.

Accomplishments in Creation of Retriever Training and Trialing Grounds

Steve is the originator, founder and driving force behind the California Retriever Training Association (CRTA). Steve served as the President of CRTA from its inception in 2000 through 2008, and continues to serve on the CRTA board.

CRTA reflects Steve's vision that a fiscally sound, self-supporting organization successfully operating training and trialing grounds is an achievable goal. CRTA makes over 1,500 acres located in northern and southern California available both for membership training, and for over a dozen licensed trials, hunt tests, breed working certificate tests, and other retriever club events each year. CRTA has an active membership base of approximately 180 individuals and 17 retriever clubs.

Steve and his family made the family's Mead Ranch available to host the 2006 Master National and the 2007 National Open.