

2004

## Ray Bly

In 1962 a close friend who had a female Labrador retriever invited Ray to go dog training, and then suggested that he attend a field trial in the Denver area. Ray was so overwhelmed by the performance of the dogs and the friendliness of the people that he decided to purchase a puppy. He initiated a very dedicated training program with the help of friends and the guidance obtained from several good books.

In 1964 Ray entered his female Labrador in her first field trial and was awarded 1st place in the Derby stake. He continued to compete and acquired 33 points in a limited number of trials. Subsequently, upon the advice of John McAssey, Ray became involved with Rex Carr. Since that time he has been blessed to have 5 back-to-back FC & AFC Labrador females, has won 2 Double Headers, has been a finalist in both National Open and Amateur Championship Stakes and had the coveted honor of winning the 1997 National Amateur Stake. Ray trains his dogs almost every day, but he is quick to point out that several excellent trainers, including Don Remien, Jim Gonia and Mark Henry, have contributed significantly towards his success. During this time period he has been an active and very successful breeder of championship Labradors, he has been a member and officer of several retriever clubs, and is currently the president of the Spokane Retriever Club.

Ray has enjoyed the privilege of working and/or judging many field trials and is especially pleased to support National Championship Stakes.

Early on, Ray recognized that the success and future of this sport was directly attributable to the extra effort and support provided by a select number of people. He has endeavored to contribute in any way that he could towards the continuing success of this sport. Many of his closest friends are also actively participating in, and supporting, field trials.