

The Freeland Kennel Club ran it's annual fall walking trial the weekend of August 8th and 9th at the club grounds. This was a U.S Complete trial as well as an AFTCA event. The weather was hot and wet, but was not a deterrent from entering or competing in a quality trial. Robert Ecker and Art Bruno dominated the open entries, and a large group of amateur handlers from all over the north east competed for the coveted Peter Ecker amateur trophy. Many people stepped up and pitched in where ever needed to make this trial run to a logical conclusion on sunday afternoon.

Winning the open shooting dog was a young pointer male who is starting to make a name for himself on the walking circuit. Elhew Signature was fast, forward, and flying all around the course. He hammered two birds and slammed a back right off the breakaway. He was the clear-cut winner, so say the judges. In the 2nd spot was a young flashy setter male named Grousewoods Reese. Reese had three poker straight tailed points and one back to secure his win. His owner, Jack Brobsts, sat out his run so as not to jinx him. It worked!

Third place was given to the fancy running pointer female Urban's Wicked Tina. She was quite a winning derby last season and she is now is poised to continue in the adult stakes. She had two nice limb finds and a hard race.

The open derby was dominated by pointers. Grousewoods Erin's Duke, sired by Erin's Tin Soldier was first. He nailed one bird with shooting dog manners. His race was the biggest of the stake. Tenacious D was second. He is sired by Chasehill Little Bud. Three broke finds and a smooth race where what got him the nod. Third was another Tin Soldier dog named Kate. She had multiple finds with good derby manners and a shorter, but classy race.

The prestigious Peter Ecker amateur shooting dog stake was won by Lansdale Mike. Mike is owned Larry Craig and was capably handled by Carl Bergen. Carl ran him in the open the day before. The practice paid off for both of them! Mike ran a huge limit testing race. He always showed up to the front, and When called upon came in willingly. He was found standing on two picturesque points. He had style and composure to spare. Nice win for a nice young dog.

Last years winner almost made it back to back wins. Foxfire owned by Doug Harris took second. Chris Rarich handled Foxy to the win. She made him work, with a big race and limb finds on tight sitting birds. Peter Kazic and his big setter male, Mask of Zorro rounded out the placements. Zorro had four finds, ran big, and finished really well to nail a placement.