

Trial Results

2008 National Cattle Dog Finals, Torrington, WY



by Lana Rowley

I was blessed to have been able to attend the 8th USBCHA National Cattledog Finals. The trial field was in the same place as last years Finals, little moon lake outside of Torrington WY. This property was generously offered again by Georgene Lebar. The camping area was set in the trees, and there was plenty of room to walk your dogs around the lake, or take them for a swim. The all Black Angus Heifers were provided by Bryan Rice. As it was last year, the cattle were very even, and it was difficult to tell one from the other. I thought they were a tad lighter than last year, weighing around 550-600lbs. The cattle were very lightly broke, and tough. For me the most important part of a trial is even stock, even easy or even tough, but even.

The first day the calves were set at 200 yards. This was to see how they cattle were going to run, as 1/2 the dogs did not get cattle down the field last year. This year 63% made the fetch on the first day, still tough. The drives were 100 yards each with a Y chute and a 3 sided pen with a wing.

The second day the distances were pushed out and the drive were changed to help accommodate the wind. The wind blew ALL the time we were there. It blew strong and not so strong, and from every direction. It wore me out. I don't think my dogs could hear on any of the fetches until they were almost to the fetch gates. By day two I did not even try

to whistle until the cattle were close.

The local committee did a wonderful job and the trial ran VERY smoothly. There were trade booths and food all four days. The set out and exhaust cowboys were WONDERFUL, really top notch.

There was an announcer all four days, and he kept the banter going with stories on handlers (some true some funny and maybe true). The cattle dog committee worked together very well with Herbert Holmes leadership, and Red Oliver's wisdom and humor. John Doyle and Gerald Bunny did a fantastic job, and 2 judges is the way to go. It is too much pressure for one person, as the sheep side found many years ago. The course was clean with no posts at the panels, and the handlers meetings were short, and sweet.

The final day the outrun was around 350 yards, we had an L chute that was tricky to load, and the 3 sided pen stayed the same size (no wing) for the 6 calves as it had been for the 3. The back panel was 16 foot and the sides were 12 feet...not much room for 6 calves, you had to load the pen very quietly. It had been cool for the first 3 days, but the final day it was quite warm...And oh yes did I mention the wind!

The first outrun was to the left, and the turn back outrun was

to the right, and tricky. The wind made it difficult for the dogs to hear the verbal look back if the dogs did not have a look back whistle. The cowboys did a great job of getting the 2nd set out, and nobody had to wait for cattle.

I was very proud of husband Marty and his good dog Duster; they ran very well especially on their second run where the cattle wanted to split. Duster is only 5 so they will be a team to watch for a few years. I was happy with both of my boys, this was Blue's 6th and final cattle finals, and I really wanted to make the top 20 one last time. Kell was very consistent, and we just had all the stars align on the last day. Kell read the cattle well, I did not make any major mistakes, and we had nice cattle.

I am so blessed to have wonderful early mentors in Angie Untisz, Lynn Leach, Lee Lumb, Gayle Cochlan, Kathy Rose and Karen Child. Moving to the state of Jefferson I was lucky to be guided (advice, sheep setting, cattle drives and all round you go girl encouragement) of Geri Byrne, Ellen Skillings, Elizabeth Baker, and Amy Coapman.

My husband Marty has been a rock and my biggest fan, and my kids were angels on a long (2,500 miles) hard trip. I am so proud of Marty and Duster; they are such a great team. I could not train, and trial, without the full support of my family.

There are no words for my gratitude to the dogs. Blue and Kell have taught me so much, and carried me through times that I would have quit had I been run by me. I surely did nothing to deserve these dogs.

So many people helped me along the way, I hope I can give back 1/2 as much as I have been blessed to receive. ★

Lana Rowley & Kell, Malin, Oregon



THE PA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SBT HOP BOTTOM, PA.

June 14-17, 2008

In loving memory of Walter Jagger

Memories, friends, strong competition, good weather mixed with some rough thunder storms, good food, lots of camaraderie, good sheep, bad sheep, great runs, some not so great runs, all add up to a great dog trial.

This year's trial was one of the best ever in the twenty-seven years of its history. The handlers were greeted with bags filled with samples of Dad's dog food and cat food, running order booklets, and a very special gift of a mug made by Border Collics Anonymous with a picture enclosed of Walt and Kitt, his dog. The inscription was "What's the good word?" (One of his favorite greetings).

Dean Holcomb from NC had the difficult job of sorting out the open runs this year. The sheep had not been worked this spring so the open trials were first on Saturday and Sunday. The sheep proved to be very challenging especially with the famous maltese cross. This was a favorite of Walt's and he would have been disappointed if it wasn't at the first trial after his passing. The shed after the cross was even more difficult. Lambs were added to the mix in open to add to the effort.

Sunday morning started with a few runs before the church service. The service was well attended. The pastor celebrated life and reminded us where our priorities lie. As we sang, "How great thou art" Walt's favorite hymn, we were reminded of the blessings we have experienced knowing and loving this man and his God.

The second day of open was a straightforward course with a shed and pen at the end. These sheep are always a struggle to shed and this year was no different. A coin toss decided the Reserve spot, as the scores were exactly the same on all aspects of the course.

Monday brought out the young dogs. Enthusiasm was the name of the game. Jim Murphy from Canada was the young dog judge. He was very helpful to the novice handlers as he reminded them of the various items they should be watching as they ran their dogs.

A special award for the most promising young handler and most promising young dog is given every year by Denise Maui in loving memory of her brother Williams Radzwich. This year the most promising young handler was Vickie VanderVere and the most promising dog was Cynthia Schmitt's Jill.

Consistency was the name of the game as throughout all of the weather, good and bad runs, reruns, etc. Dawn Boyce and her assistant J.P. Lalonde from Ontario set out sheep for all four days.