



## ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR THE RMVC!!

Though unplanned as we entered 2011, our first mounted field trial was an incredible success thanks to some very hard working club members and individuals of the greater pointing dog community. Hats off to RMVC Members:

- Jane Cook/Chair
- Janice Branam/Secretary
- Mick Cheshire
- Aaron Davis
- Heather Jackson
- Ken Koebel
- Randy Sullivan

The opportunity to host a mounted field trial arose less than two months before the event was to happen. The BOD discussed the opportunity and determined we could, with the guidance of several seasoned field trialers from the greater pointing dog community, put on a well-run event. Though the majority of our members don't compete in horseback trials, the BOD saw that our event would benefit the greater pointing dog community--of which we're a part--and provide valuable knowledge in running field trials. Given the 105 entries, there is no doubt the field trialing community appreciated our efforts!! And, though our members who volunteered to run the trial were exhausted for days following it's conclusion, they gained valuable experience. We very much appreciate the mentoring we're receiving from the many experienced "trialers" in our community and are pleased to now be able to contribute to the local "field" event calendar (beyond just hosting hunting tests). Go to [www.fieldtrialnews.com](http://www.fieldtrialnews.com) for information on upcoming field events.

## Dates to Reserve:

- 4/30/11-5/1/11 - Walking Field Trial & General Membership Meeting
- 5/12/11 - BOD Meeting
- 5/28/11-5/29/11 - Agility Trial & General Membership Meeting
- 6/9/11 - BOD Meeting
- 6/26/11 - Spring Olympics & General Membership Meeting
- 8/6/11 - Summer Picnic & General Membership Meeting
- 9/19/11-9/22/11 - VCA Nonfield National Events
- 9/23/11 - RMVC Specialty Show & Sweepstakes

**Go to [www.rmvc.org](http://www.rmvc.org) for details!**

RMVC Inaugural Horseback Field Trial -- March 19-20, 2011



Staked out--waiting for their turn to compete in the RMVC's Inaugural Horseback Field Trial

## ANOTHER MILESTONE cont'd

Following are pictures of the RMVC's inaugural horseback field trial. Big congratulations to fellow club members and their placements:

- Chet & Jody Beckley & "Kota" - 2nd place in Amateur Puppy (walking)
- Mick Cheshire & "Vin" - 2nd place in Amateur Derby (walking) and 3rd place in Open Derby
- Heather Jackson & "Gunnar" - 4th place in Open Derby
- Chet & Jody Beckley & "Kinze" - 4th place in Open Gun Dog
- Eric & Jane Cook & "Joe" - 2nd place in Amateur Gun Dog
- Eric & Jane Cook & "Hooch" - 2nd place in Open All-Age

Next up--our inaugural **walking** field trial scheduled for April 30-May 1 at Rocky Mountain Roosters in Calahan, CO. Get more information about the trial from the premium, [http://www.rmvc.org/documents/RMVC\\_WFT\\_Premium\\_Apr30May1\\_2011.pdf](http://www.rmvc.org/documents/RMVC_WFT_Premium_Apr30May1_2011.pdf). Hope to see you there!

RMVC Inaugural Horseback Field Trial -- March 19-20, 2011



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Awarding the Placements --  
RMVC Members Janice Branam (Field Trial Secretary) and Heather Jackson bring out the ribbons.



RMVC Inaugural Horseback Field Trial -- March 19-20, 2011



*Upper Left:* RMVC Members Chet Beckley and Ken Koebel chatting about one of their favorite subjects--pointing dogs

*Upper Right:* Never too young to start learning about trials!

*Bottom:* Exhibitors enjoy each other's stories as the placements for the day's stakes are awarded





RMVC's Inaugural Horseback Field Trial --  
Accepting a 1st place ribbon!



RMVC's Inaugural Horseback Field Trial --  
RMVC Members Jody and Chet Beckley  
show off their lovely red ribbon, a 2nd  
placement for "Kota" in Amateur Puppy.



RMVC's Inaugural Horseback Field Trial --  
RMVC Member Mick Cheshire and Vin with their 2nd  
placement in Amateur Walking Derby



RMVC's Inaugural Horseback Field Trial --  
Trial Chair, Jane Cook taking a  
well-deserved break!

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT! CHECK OUT THE AD  
WE RAN IN THE VIZSLA CLUB OF AMERICA'S  
2011 NATIONAL GUN DOG CHAMPIONSHIPS**



**Thank you for renewing your dues!! We look forward to a very busy and successful year with you, our dedicated members!**

**Tips for new or inexperienced field trial/hunt test exhibitor:**

**#1 - Make Sure You Say "Thanks!"**

It's customary and polite to thank the judges after your brace is finished. Don't forget to thank the "host" club and it's members for running an event you participate in. They volunteered much of their time to ensure the event would run as smoothly as possible.

**#2 - Congratulate the Winners!**

**#3 - Practice Good Sportsmanship!**

Just like we learned as kids--play well with others, be a gracious winner AND loser.

**#4 - Mind Your Manners!**

**Clean UP!** After yourselves and your dogs. And, keep your dogs from approaching other dogs unless permission is given.

## WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS “FIELD TRIAL” BUSINESS ALL ABOUT ANYWAY?

**What is an AKC “field trial”?** AKC licensed field trials are events in which dogs *compete against each other for points* toward their Field and/or Amateur Field Championships. There are field trials for pointing, retrieving, and flushing breeds. The abbreviation for a “Field Champion” is FC and AFC for an “Amateur Field Champion”. Because these are championship titles, they precede the dog’s registered name. An example is: FC AFC Random’s Best. As you can see from the example, a dog can be awarded both an FC and an AFC title.

**What is the difference between an FC and an AFC?** A dog who earns all of her points from the “open” stakes in a field trial is awarded a “Field Champion” or “FC” title--with the exception of 4 points which are allowed to carry over from winning points in “amateur” stakes. A dog who earns all of his points from the “amateur” stakes is awarded an “Amateur Field Champion” or “AFC” title.

**What is a “stake”?** A “stake” is a category in which dogs, based on their eligibility, compete in. Eligibility is determined by things like a dog’s age, breed, level of training, and who the dog’s handler is. There are “Puppy”, “Derby”, and “Gun Dog” stakes, with variations of each. All dogs entered in AKC field trials must be registered with the AKC.

- **Puppy stakes** – Are open to dogs 6 months of age and under 15 months of age on the first advertised day of the trial. Though it is permitted, birds generally are not released in puppy stakes. This decision is to be made by the host club. Dogs in Puppy stakes who locate and point game birds are not to be given additional credit by the judges as this is not considered a requirement for this category. Though it is permitted by the rules, generally blank/starter pistols are NOT fired in Puppy stakes. The event premium will state if blank/starter pistols in Puppy stakes are to be used.
- **Derby stakes** – Are open to dogs 6 months of age and under 2 years of age on the first advertised day of the trial. Dogs competing in Derby stakes must locate and point a game bird in order to fulfill the requirements of this category. Blank/starter pistols ARE fired in Derby stakes.
- **Gun Dog stakes** – Are open to dogs 6 months of age and over on the first advertised day of the trial. This category is intended for “finished” gun dogs. A “finished” gun dog is steady to wing and shot (meaning the dog must wait to be released by her handler and CANNOT “break” or self-release at the flush of a bird or at the shot of a starter/blank/shotgun). In order to fulfill the requirements of a Gun Dog stake, a dog must locate and point a game bird and must demonstrate absolute steadiness. Dogs competing in these stakes must also honor their bracedmates if the situation presents itself during the course of the brace. Unlike in AKC hunting tests (Senior and Master levels), “call backs” for honoring are not done. Also unlike AKC hunting tests (Senior and Master levels), retrieving is not a requirement for a dog to “win” a Gun Dog stake unless the stake is specified to be a retrieving stake in the premium. Of the AKC recognized pointing breeds, German Shorthaired Pointers (GSPs), German Wirehaired Pointers (GWPs), Vizslas, and Weimaraners are required to have won at least 4 points in retrieving stakes in order to be awarded an FC or AFC title. The requirements of a retrieve in a Gun Dog stake are the same as those in an AKC Master level hunting test: “After the shot, the handler shall not command or signal the dog to retrieve until the dog’s steadiness to wing and shot has been positively demonstrated. The dog must retrieve promptly, tenderly and absolutely to hand in all retrieving stakes.”

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## WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS “FIELD TRIAL” BUSINESS ALL ABOUT ANYWAY?

**What is the difference between “open” stakes and “amateur” stakes?** All handlers and trainers are allowed to compete in “open” stakes (including professional handlers/trainers) while only *non-professional* (amateur) handlers/trainers are allowed to handle in “amateur” stakes. A person considered to be a “professional” handler/trainer is one who accepts “remuneration (money, goods, or services)” in exchange for the training/handling of dogs.

**How many points are needed to obtain an FC or AFC?** The basic answer is “10” points. It gets more complicated but the total points must come from at least 3 different licensed trials and at least 3 of these points must come from a “major stake”—a stake worth 3 or more points. And:

- No more than 2 points each from Puppy stakes and Derby stakes for a total of 4 juvenile points can come from the Puppy/Derby stakes.
- No more than 4 points won from the Amateur stakes can be also counted toward a Field Championship title

**What is a “Limited” Gun Dog stake?** A “Limited” Gun Dog stake is for dogs who have won a 1st-4th placement in any Gun Dog stake, or have won 1st place in an Open Derby stake. Dogs who have only won 1st place in an Amateur Derby stake are only eligible to enter Amateur Limited Gun Dog stakes. Only dogs who have won placements in Amateur Gun Dog stakes or have won 1st place in an Amateur Derby stake are allowed to compete in Amateur Limited Gun Dog stakes.

**So what is a “Dual Champion” or a DC?** A Dual Champion (DC), is a dog who has obtained both a Conformation (bench/show) and a Field Championship title. An example of this is: DC AFC Random’s Best.

**How do AKC field trials differ from AKC hunting tests?** The simplest answer is that AKC field trials are *competitive* events in which dogs defeat each to *win* points toward a *championship* title. In addition to fulfilling specific requirements in Derby and Gun Dog stakes (pointing game birds, proving steadiness, etc.), dogs are *also competing against each other* in order to be considered for a placement. AKC hunting tests are *non-competitive* events in which dogs are *judged against a standard* in order to qualify for a title. Titles obtained in AKC hunting tests are recorded after a dog’s registered name. There are 3 different levels of AKC hunting tests: Junior, Senior, and Master Hunter. The titles are recorded as: JH, SH, or MH. An example: Random’s Best JH.

### A few more tidbits:

- Judges have the right to “withhold” placements if they feel the dogs they judged did not put up performances worthy of a placement. This includes withholding the placements worth points toward a championship title. Just because a dog “makes it around clean” does not mean s/he will be awarded a placement.

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## WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS “FIELD TRIAL” BUSINESS ALL ABOUT ANYWAY?

- There are “mounted/horseback” trials and “walking” trials. If a trial has been identified as such in the premium all handlers must handle from foot. Handlers are allowed to handle from foot in horseback trials. “Gun Dog Championships” indicate an event in which competing dogs will be handled from foot only.
- Perhaps one of the of the *primary differences* between AKC hunting tests and AKC field trials is the amount of consideration field trial judges give to a dog’s independence, style, intensity, drive and range. Field trial judges look for many things when deciding which dogs they’ll “put up”—award placements to—but they’re particularly drawn to dogs who move with purpose, are bold, show a lot of style, and exhibit “a keen desire to hunt”. Hunting test judges look for these same qualities but because they are judging *each dog against a standard* and NOT against each other, this gives them the ability to “*qualify*” *many dogs that run under them*—as long as the dogs *meet the standards* for the levels they are testing in.
- When trying to keep the differences between field trial “stakes” and hunting test “levels” straight in one’s mind it’s easiest to remember them this way:
  - o There is not an equivalent hunting test level to field trial **Puppy** stakes
  - o Field trial **Derby** stakes are similar to the **Junior Hunter** level in hunting tests in that both categories require the dogs to find and point game and have a blank/starter pistol fired. Hunting test rules require a dog to point at least 50 percent of the birds it encounters. And, dogs can “age out” of Derby stakes—dogs older than 2 years are not eligible to compete in Derby stakes.
  - o Field trial **Gun Dog** stakes are similar to the **Master Hunter** level in hunting tests. The primary similarity is both of these categories require a “finished” performance by the dogs running. Differences include non-retrieving Gun Dog stakes whereas dogs testing in the Master Hunter level are required to retrieve every bird downed in their brace/call back. Master Hunters are also required to honor in order to qualify whereas Gun Dogs must honor their bracemate if the situation presents itself. Gun Dogs, on the other hand, are shown virtually no tolerance when it comes to “stop to flush” situations, movement at flush/shot, delayed chase, nonproductive/false points. Non-retrieving Gun Dog stakes can be a good place to run a “green broke” dog because all birds encountered on course are “blanked”. Green broke dogs are often in a “transistion” phase as they learn absolute steadiness to all shots fired from a shotgun (there is a big difference to the dog between shots from a blank pistol and a shotgun--especially when a bird in flight is hit).

For the AKC’s “official” description of field trials go to their website and download the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds* booklet, <http://www.akc.org/pdfs/rulebooks/RFTPNT.pdf>.

*The above was written by Mel Reveles of Fusion Vizslas. All content is original with the exception of key words/phrases as quoted from the AKC’s Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds. Mel is a proud founding member of the Rocky Mountain Vizsla Club, Inc., and also a member of the Vizsla Club of America. Note from the author: I understand the use of “who” in reference to a dog is grammatically incorrect but I’m just not able to refer to dogs, our beloved companions as inanimate objects or “things”.*



### “Cowboy’s Dream”

The “Cowboy’s Dream” traveling trophy will be awarded to the winner of the Amateur Walking Derby stake in the RMVC’s walking field trial. Thank you Mick Cheshire for generously donating this beautiful limited edition Dannyquest sculpture. This trophy will be enjoyed by winners for many years to come.

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN VIZSLA CLUB, INC. INAUGURAL SPECIALTY/SWEEPSTAKES SHOWS -- FEBRUARY 19, 2011 PHOTOS TAKEN BY BILL KOHLER & ASSOCIATES, THE OFFICIAL SHOW PHOTOGRAPHER



RMVC’s Inaugural Specialty/Sweepstakes Shows -- February 19, 2011  
RMVC Members “strike a pose”! Notice the “Best of Breed” sign--I would agree! :-)

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN VIZSLA CLUB, INC.**  
**INAUGURAL SPECIALTY/SWEEPSTAKES SHOWS -- FEBRUARY 19, 2011**  
**PHOTOS TAKEN BY BILL KOHLER & ASSOCIATES, THE OFFICIAL**  
**SHOW PHOTOGRAPHER**



RMVC's Inaugural Specialty/Sweepstakes Shows -- February 19, 2011

*Above:* Our "Meet the Breed" display

*Below:* Our "table of loot" -- the wonderful trophies!

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PHOTOS TAKEN BY BILL KOHLER & ASSOCIATES, THE OFFICIAL  
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*Above:* Best in Sweepstakes, Boulder's N Fusion's Rockies Ramblin' Boy, Breeders/Co-owners - Judy Hetkowski, Aaron Davis, Mel Reveles, Jim and Cindy Mueller (owners)

*Below:* Best of Opposite in Specialty, "Gaia", GCH Nyircsaszari Szilva Palinka JH, Breeder/Owner - Dr. Sylvia J Kerr

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RMVC's Inaugural Specialty/Sweepstakes Shows -- February 19, 2011  
*Above:* Award of Merit-Specialty, CH Nyircaszari Igazanyag JH, Breeder/Owner - Dr. Sylvia J Kerr  
*Left:* Best In Specialty Show, "Copper", GCH Woodlands Copper Scout  
*Right:* Award of Merit-Specialty, "Hardy", CH Designer's Ed Hardy

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*Left:* Winners Bitch/Best of Winners-Specialty, "Hannah", Grousebend's Mountain Sun JH

*Right:* Winners Dog-Specialty, Cruiser's Lock S'Tok and Two Smoking Barrels

**2011 RMVC Officers and Directors**

President - Mel Reveles  
Vice President - Dr. Sylvia Kerr  
Secretary - Ginger Sammonds  
Treasurer - Neeta Cope  
Director - Erica Sparrow  
Director - Janice Branam  
Director - Randy Sullivan

**A New Logo for the RMVC!**

We're working on finalizing a new logo. Keep an eye for an announcement to review the logo submissions and vote on the one you like best.

It's not too late to submit your design. Send it to Mel, mel@fusionvizslas.com, right away!

**DONATIONS!!! DONATIONS!!! DONATIONS!!! WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS!!!**

**We need donations for our upcoming raffle (in conjunction with our All-Breed Agility trial, May 28-29, 2011. Please put your "creative caps" on and come up with some good ideas. Contact ginger Sammonds, gingers@lpbroadband.net or Randy Sullivan, sully8731rs@msn.com for details about our raffle.**

**Thank you for your generosity!!**