

14 dogs were drawn in the All Age and 12 would come to the line. It rained steadily throughout the first four braces of the stake, soaking all competitors. By the fifth brace the rain slowly died and the clouds parted so that the last two braces were completed under pleasant conditions. Topping the field was `Carley', black and white pointer female for Dr. Jim Steitler. `Carley' was run in the third brace as a bye due to the scratch of her brace mate. She utilized her situation well and covered the ground in a forward well directed manner on this course with a more open first half. Showing lots of drive and speed throughout and making some nice casts to the front, she moved smartly to objectives always handling well. At about the 35 minute mark after the course crosses the field on the back side, it turns for the home stretch and climbs a small ridge filled with grape tangles that often hold grouse. `Carley' was working the ridge bottom deep to the right side for some time and her bell heard returning when it stopped suddenly. After several minutes of searching she was found amongst the grape tangles standing nicely with a grouse directly ahead as she indicated. All steady for the flush and shot. Carley also had three unproductives. However, the judges felt her display of style, drive and a smartly directed and very forward ground race combined with an excellently handled and stylish find left her the clear winner.

Taking second was another black and white pointer female `Sparky' for Robert Ecker. `Sparky' was braced with the setter male `Shiner' and Booker Groy in the fifth brace. Both dogs directed to the course well and continued to handle despite a good bit of confusion as to where the course was meant to be in essentially what amounted to a wild goose chase searching for our way. But it was a fun time hunting the woods non-the less. At about the 55 minute mark `Sparky' moved across a side ridge thick with grapes and came to a stop. She was searched for and found as the small brood of four grouse blew out in front of her one at a time in slow succession, the dog standing steady throughout. A nice piece of bird work with a nice race for a well earned second place.

Third went to Bill Wolf and his handsome black and white pointer male `Jack'. `Jack' ran in the fourth brace with Gardner Stoker and the setter female `Kate'. `Jack' hunted smartly throughout, making some big casts gone for an eight minute spell at about the 35 minute mark while the gallery searched for their directions. At about the 50 minute mark `Jack's' bell was working the front just to the left of the course. Shortly after his brace mate came into the area stopping. Her bell was then heard to stop and start several times until the handlers gained her position. At that point `Jack' was spied about ten feet off the path standing tall. As the brace mate moved around him to the front the grouse lifted beside the course and `Jack' held steady under the testing conditions for a nice find. A slowing last 20 minutes and bit less drive the only thing keeping him from a higher placement. But a very handsome and stylish animal for those that fashion a pointer.

Also finishing with bird work and a nice effort was the setter male `Shiner' with Booker Groy. He was braced with the second placed dog `Sparky' in the fifth brace. At about the same time `Sparky' had her bird work `Shiner' was off having a nicely dug up find of his own. However, as the bird lifted directly back over the dogs head in the tight cover, he spun to mark the bird and took a few too many steps which was enough to knock him out of the placements. Throughout the stake birds were moved on every course, were plentiful and available to all contenders giving them each a fair shot at placement despite the wet conditions.