Northwest Region of the National Shoot to Retrieve Association (NW NSTRA)

Newsletter

It is our favorite time of the year “autumn” where our dogs hopefully find, point and retrieve birds for our dinner table and, where hunting in the great outdoors is legal. The leaves are falling from the tress and my hunting vest has 12-gauge shells waiting for the opportunity.



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***Trial placements and Results:***

**Great Falls – Golden Triangle Shooting Dog Club Trials, August 27, 28 and 29th, 2021**

Davey Caven and Joey earned 7 amateur points and 2 open Placements  
Donaye Smith and Fame earned 5 amateur points and 1 open placement

**2021 Purina Endurance Trials:** King Colony Grounds Lewistown, MT.

**Pre-Endurance Trials hosted by the NSTRA NW Region, Big Sky and Mid North: September 4-6, 2021**

Please note that the NW Region will host the Pre-Endurance trials in 2022.

September 4, 2021 - Mike Stotts/Stella 3rd place in Open

September 4, 2021 Davy Caven and Joey 2 Amateur placements

September 5, 2021 - Mike Ouchida/Blaze 1st place in Amateur

September 5, 2021 - Meki Porter and Hawk 2nd amateur in B field.

September 5, 2021 - Davy Caven/Joey 2nd place amateur field C Sunday.

September 6, 2021 –\*Meki Porter and Hawk earned 2 amateur placements

September 6, 2021 - \*Meki Porter and Hawk earned 1 Open placement

September 6, 2021 - \*Davy Caven and Joey earned 1 amateur placement

September 6, 2021 - \*Nancy Ceccarelli and Harley earned 1 amateur placement

September 6, 2021 - \*Mike Stotts with Rain and Stella earned open placements

***Officials:*** President/Trial Chair Jeremy Lessmann and Field Marshall Jerry Youmans and Linda Jenkins.  
***Judges:*** Mike Stotts Jr., Meki Porter and Michael Ouchida

**\*Monday, September 6, 2021 –*Region Day – Region Members’ placements will count for NW Region Highpoint.***

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1st place amateur class fld. C. Harli/Nance Ceccarelli

1st place amateur class fld. A. Hawk/Meki Porter (also 4th in open class).

3rd Amateur class fld. A Joey/Davy Caven

**Endurance Trial: September 8-11, 2021**

**NW Region had 11 dogs in Round 1, Advancing 5:**

Mike Stotts: Rain, Purdy and Stella; advancing Stella and Purdy

Jerry Youmans: Jack; advancing Jack

Nance Ceccarelli with Rio and Harley

Davy Caven with Pistol and Joey

Mike Ouchida and Wilson; advancing Wilson

Ross Brown: Indie; advancing Indie

**NW Region Advanced 5 dogs into Round 2, Advancing 3**

Mike Stotts: Purdy and Stella; advancing both

Jerry Youmans: Jack; advancing Jack

Mike Ouchida and Wilson

Ross Brown and Indie

**NW Region Advanced 3 dogs into Round 3, advancing 2**

Mike Stotts: Purdy and Stella; Advancing both Jerry Youmans and Jack

**NW Region Advanced 2 dogs in Round 4, advancing 2**

Mike Stotts: Purdy and Stella; Advancing both

**NW Region advanced 2 dogs in to Round 5, advancing 1**

Mike Stotts: Purdy and Stella; Advancing Stella (Purdy eliminated in Round 6)

**NW Region advanced Stella into round 7, the Championship (1-**Hour)

Congratulations to [**Mike Stotts Jr.**](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100008319639011&__cft__%5b0%5d=AZWDTst-2squstjY3evXVVeCtnH4ecF1jrrrGylS0w_9mnYh2NFQUfQ8VpTBfXyLJVsnAngRr5DNXo8XwZjh-lPvafiq6s93t6whDy9oJMR6bryfHq2tL_SoQdTukbgxHjlOfVPwAbZhb-g1Tx-OJFGj&__tn__=-%5dK-R) and Stella for winning the 2021 Purina Endurance Trial in Lewiston, MT!   
  
  
**CONGRATULATIONS to all of the NW Region handlers and dogs – Amazing representation of skill(s) and talent!**

**Awards for the Pre-trial and Endurance Trial was handmade from our NW Region member Mike Ouchida.**

**Greater Columbia Pointing Dog Trial at the Buckhorn Ranch – September 24-26, 2021**

**2nd Annual three-day chucker trial requested by majority of trialers that prefer three-day events vs. two-day.**

Our major problem is our exceedingly small club, consisting of three people. Fortunately, the one thing the Northwest Region is known for is the willingness of the attendees to help me out, and we are so fortunate this has been the case with our club!

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These last two years, I have not had to put out one border flag or water tub. So many thank you’s go to our faithful helpers, Jerry Youmans, Meki Porter, Nelson Banuelos, Dennis Gagner, George Clark, Mike Smith (NCN), Ed Johnson and others I have missed, make field set up and take down a breeze.

I was lucky to have an abundance of judges, with several working multiple days. Our judges were Meki Porter, Cameron Cole, Mike Smith (NW), Mike Smith (NCN), Deric Fletcher (NCN), Steve Skipworth, Jim Wall (UT), Jeremy Lessman (2 days) and Jim Rienstra (NCN-3 days)!

Bird planting is a critical job in every trial. Bird planters are blamed for uneven, too hard, or not hard enough planting (and even “pointed” expired birds). This year proved normal – “difficult”. Jerry Fitzgerald came to our rescue and planted birds for all three trial-days and did an incredible job! Leaving the trial with blood, scratches, dust and a nice shade of sun kissed red. This region is blessed with Jerry’s talent and dedication to the sport.

Field Marshalls and scorers were Davy Caven, George Clark and Laura McMahon.

Providing quality meals has always been a huge part of our trial(s) – beginning with a Coleman stove in an elk tent to a working out of a fully stocked kitchen. I believe sit-down meals help build camaraderie. A huge thank you to Linda Jenkins for her years of hard work. Our neighbor, Micheala, came to help again this year in the absence of my sister, Mae. Numerous people with trailers and campers helped with the meal prep, also. We could not have done it without them.  
  
Big thank you to the owners of the Buckhorn Ranch, Kara and Chuck Kunde for their wonderful venue.

**Placements**

**Friday, Sept 24, 2021**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Open – Field A  1st - Tucker - Deric Fletcher (NCN) 829.6  2nd - Tito – Steve Skipworth 824.5  3rd - Raven - Mike Smith (NCN) 660.5 | Amateur – Field A  1st – Tito – Steve Skipworth  824.5  2nd - Naya – Steve Skipworth 613  3rd – Annie – Cameron Cole 570 | Open – Field B  1st - Fame – Donaye Smith 956  2nd - Rio – Paul McCawley 750  3rd - Kody – Dan McMahon 721 | Amateur – Field B  1st - Fame – Donaye Smith 856  2nd - Thistle – Randy Oswald 646  3rd - Blaze – Mike Ouchida 622 |

**Saturday, September 25, 2021**

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| **Open – Field A**  1st - Stoli - Steve Skipworth 1022  2nd - Sugar – John Bunn 911  3rd - Tucker – Deric Fletcher 805.5 | **Amateur – Field A**  1st – Tito – Steve Skipworth  1022  2nd- Sugar – John Bunn 911  2nd- Moby – Paul McCawley 741.5 | **Open – Field B**  1st - Bullitt – Jim Wall 916  2nd - Red – Jerry Youmans 805  3rd - Purdy – Mike Stotts/Jerry Youmans 712 | **Amateur – Field B**  1st - Fritz – Dan McMahon 677.5  2nd - Rosie B – Nelson Banuelos 642  3rd - Joey – Davy Caven 611.5 |

**Sunday, September 26, 2021**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Open – Field A**  1st - Odan – Hervey/Dale Ikuta 964.25  2nd - Fame – Donaye Smith 883  3rd - Rio – Paul McCawley 812.5 | **Amateur – Field A**  1st - Fame – Donaye Smith 883  2nd- Reba – Dennis Gagner 652  3rd - Blaze – Mike Ouchida 631 | **Open – Field B**  1st - Pistol – Davy Caven 915  2nd - George – Mike Smith (NW) 788  3rd - Raven – Mike Smith (NCN) 742 | **Amateur – Field B**  1st – Annie – Cameron Cole 681  2nd Fame – Donaye Smith 676  3rd - Rosie B – Nelson Banuelos 527 |

**Hi-Point Honors** *are always awarded last at our trial. Points are awarded by placement points throughout the trial for a dogs first four runs. There are 32 points possible in each trial. First place garners 32, 2nd place gets 31 and on down. This method awards the most consistent dog in its first four runs. There is a possible 128 total points in 4 trials.*

**FIRST: Indie – Ross Brown 107 pts. SECOND: George – Mike Smith (NW) 102 pts.**

**THIRD: Willow- Mike Smith (NCN) FORTH (tie): Tucker-Deric Fletcher and Tito-Steve Skipworth 93 pts.**

Congratulations to you all and thank you for attending our trial

Mike Ouchida (Trial Chairman)

**Social Corner**

Any litters on the ground? We get asked for any leads on pups; if you have some that you want advertised by the club, please let us know [NWNSTRA@Gmail.com](mailto:NWNSTRA@Gmail.com)

Recipe by Jerry Fitzgerald – Thai Chuckar with Spicy Peanut Sauce

*Yes it’s loosely titled in our house as “Thai Chukar With Spicy Peanut Sauce”, which we serve over sticky white rice.   Obviously, you can substitute, quail, Huns, or pheasant.   Keep in mind I’m not a chef by any stretch of the imagination but I will do my best. I work really hard when cleaning the birds to remove 100% of the shot and the damaged areas of the breast, same for the legs.*

**Ingredients**

4-6 Chukar breasts along with the leg meat (boneless and chopped up in bite size pieces)

3-4 teaspoons of olive oil or sesame oil

1-2 Tablespoons of minced garlic (Fresh or bottled)

1-2 Tablespoons of chopped ginger (Fresh or bottle)

½ to whole medium sized onion chopped in small pieces

1 Tablespoon of soy sauce

1 Teaspoon of sugar

Peanut sauce I just buy it pre-made in the bottle add enough so everything is well coated.

Hand full of Spinach (optional)

**Instructions**

Heat a nonstick pan large enough for whatever amount you are cooking on high with the olive oil or sesame oil (My wife says medium but I’m not very patient.) After the oil is hot enough add in the chukar, garlic, onions, and ginger.

I cook it for probably 7-10 minutes until there isn’t any pinkness to the meat (smaller pieces cook quicker). Once the chukar is cooked I pour in the spicy Thai peanut sauce. If you like spinach we’ll usually add in a handful of fresh spinach and cook until it starts to wilt a bit.

Pour this over a bed or white rice and I guarantee you that you’ll make it over and over after that.

*It’s a great recipe because it’s fast and absolutely delicious.  99% of the time I go hunting we eat that meal that evening so the birds never make it to the freezer,. They go straight from the field to our stomachs.*

**What has the NSTRA Officer’s and Board Members being doing?**

* We have regular meeting (weekly) in open and honest dialog about the present and future state of the NSTRA NW Region Club. **How can your voice be heard?** **We’re listening**! Please provide any suggestions and/or concerns to [NWNSTRA@Gmail.com](mailto:NWNSTRA@Gmail.com). If it is of sensitive nature, please feel free to email one of the Officers and/or Board Members.
* Hosted the Pre-Endurance trial including the auction. We are hosting again in 2022 as part of our 2-year bid.
* **Training Opportunities:** 
  + We will be recording judges with in-the-field scenarios and will be posted in our Webpage.
  + Hosting a judging seminar early next year. If you want to be a better handler, a judge or renewing your certificate for judging this course is for you! More information to follow.
* **By-law review:** A committee has been formed including the President and other Members for reviewing the by-laws. Once those by-laws have been reviewed, discussed and, if any of the by-laws differ than previously posted we will share via email and, discuss at the Regionals in 2022.
* **2021 Regional Meeting (annual)** [**minutes**](https://d.docs.live.net/7f974b2bfb4928fb/Desktop/NSTRA/2021%20NW%20NSTRA%20Regional%20Annual%20Meeting%20Minutes.docx.lj.docx) completed by the previous secretary Linda Johnson. One of the changes: You will receive the minutes before the 2022 Regional trial and vote to accept or dispute vs. the Secretary reading them aloud and asking for a vote.
* **Treasures Report:** The NW Region treasures report will be available by January 2022.

What’s New: NW Region website has been updated to include upcoming events, education, recognition and more. NW Region Website [Home - NW Region NSTRA (nw-nstra.org)](https://nw-nstra.org/)

***NW NSTRA Officers as of June 2021***

***President:***Jeremy Lessmann 509-336-9559 [jlessman@icloud.com](mailto:jlessman@icloud.com)

***Vice President:*** Mike Stotts 509-468-4957 [mstotts@nwlbhdd.com](mailto:mstotts@nwlbhdd.com)

***Secretary:***Laura McMahon 360-481-2195 [dnlmcmahon@msn.com](mailto:dnlmcmahon@msn.com)

***Treasurer:***Michelle Coons-Gunter 509-430-2685 [chelle\_gunter@hotmail.com](mailto:chelle_gunter@hotmail.com)

***Board of Directors:***

Jerry Youmans (Past President) 208-734-7585 rdrjerry2@gmail.com

Mike Ouchida (Past President) 503-320-9164 [mgouchida48@gmail.com](mailto:mgouchida48@gmail.com)

We want to thank Jerry Fitzgerald for pitching in and being a Board Member for 4 months. Jerry provided input for logistics in the Pre-endurance trials, 2022 trial schedule(s) and other support to the Officers and Board Members.

**Upcoming Office Notifications:**

**NW Regional 2022 trail (May) is the election of Office positions**:

President and Vice President - If you are interested in becoming a President and/or Vice President, please present a brief biography to the Secretary: Laura McMahon @ [NWNSTRA@Gmail.com](mailto:NWNSTRA@Gmail.com)

**Future Trials**

The NW Region is working on or spring trial schedule working with Trial Chairs and potential new Trial Chairs: Our NW Region is also hosting the Region Challenge***.***

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| ***Sagebrush Shootout***  *Trial Chairman: Donaye Smith*  *Espanola Training Grounds*  *Dbl/Dbl Open Combined*  *April 2 – 3, 2021*  *4727 North Monroe Street*  *Spokane, WA 99205*  *$45/brace, Quail* | ***Three Rivers Bird Dog Club***  *Date: March 5-6, 2022*  *Location: Kennewick, WA*  *Trial Chairman: Meki Porter*  *Dbl/Dbl Open Combined*  *308 Jessica Road - Pasco, WA 99301 Tel: 509-379-0205*  [*Mekstar@msn.com*](mailto:Mekstar@msn.com)  *$55, chukar* | ***Mike Stotts and Jerry Youmans***  *Date: TBD*  *Events: There will be 2 Trials*  *Location: TBD* |

|  |
| --- |
| ***NW Regionals:***  *Date: May 21-22, 2022*  *President: Jeremy Lessmann*  *Location: Reserved for Buckhorn, Condon, OR – Other ground can/will be considered.*  *Note: If there is support, help, interest and enough people; possible second-chance trial on Sunday*  **Out of Region Trials:**  Three Forks: March 26-27, 2022  Kalispell: April 9-10, 2022  Billings: April 23-24, 2022  Great Falls: May 7-8, 2022  Regionals in Lewiston: May 20-22 or 28-30, 2022 |

**ON HANGING PHEASANTS**

By [**Hank Shaw**](https://honest-food.net/about/) on October 20, 2012, Updated November 2, 2020   
[Hank Shaw's Guide to Hanging Pheasants and Game Birds (honest-food.net)](https://honest-food.net/on-hanging-pheasants-2/)

I’ve since done experiments on old roosters and they can be successfully aged for a full week. In fact, if you get an old, wild pheasant, 3 days would be a minimum for proper aging.

This of course with other game birds. Over the years I’ve come to these conclusions on hang time:  
  
Pheasants, grouse, partridges, turkeys and geese I will hang 3 to 7 days, depending on how old they were. If you hang turkeys or geese you must eviscerate them, as they retain too much heat otherwise.  
  
Pen-raised pheasants, all quail, woodcock, snipe and ducks I only age 1 to 3 days, again, depending on size and age. The smaller the bird and the younger the bird, the shorter the hang time.  
  
And, to be honest, I rarely age my waterfowl this way anymore. If I want to age them, I do so in the fridge. The problem with ducks and geese is their down: It causes the birds to retain heat too long, and I end up getting a bit of gangrene on their butts, which is no bueno.  
  
A few things you should know. Don’t try to wet-pluck an aged game bird as I instruct you to [**here**](https://honest-food.net/wild-game/pheasant-quail-partridge-chukar-recipes/how-to-pluck-a-pheasant/). You must dry-pluck these birds because the skin gets looser and scalding did not seem to help one bit with the feathers. It was a major bummer to scald one bird and rip some of the skin. Dry-plucking, you should be warned, sucks. It takes forever but is worth it for the results.  
  
To eat the giblets or not? I’d say go for it for birds up to three days, if they have not been shot up. Any sign of ickiness in the innards and toss them at once. One way to tell if you are unsure is to render the fat [**the way you would with a duck**](https://honest-food.net/how-to-render-duck-fat/). If it stinks, toss it.

* **Keep your birds as cool and as separate as possible in the field**. Use a game strap, not the game bag in your vest. Separate your birds in the truck or put them in a cooler — do not get them wet!
* Hanging your birds by the neck or feet does not matter, as several studies has shown.
* **Hang upland birds between 50 to 55°F for at least three days**, up to a week with an old rooster. Old roosters will have horny beaks, blunt spurs and feet that look like they have been walked on for quite some time. They will also have a stiff, heavy keelbone. Hen pheasants only need 3 days.
* **Do not hang any game birds that have been gut-shot** or are generally torn up. Butcher these immediately and use them for a [**pot pie**](https://honest-food.net/wild-game/pheasant-quail-partridge-chukar-recipes/a-rustic-pheasant-and-pork-pie/).
* **Dry-pluck** any bird that has hung for more than 3 days.
* Wash and dry your birds after you pluck and draw them. Only then should you freeze them.