

2020 Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame Ceremonies

Grand Junction, TN

By: Diana Kubitz

The Hall of Fame's purpose is to honor individuals, past and present, both human and canine, that have made significant contributions to the field trial sport and to preserve their legacies so that others can remember and be inspired.

Rick Smith & Bob Fleury had visited Barbara Rokas during the year as she had many more priceless items to donate to our wing. Our deepest appreciation and thanks to Barbara for making sure that our breed history is well documented and sustained by her generosity! Mere words of thanks can't do justice to Barbara's contribution to our Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame.

We held our now "annual" happy hour at the Hampton Inn in Collierville, TN on the 7th of February. We are so grateful for their allowing us to usurp their entire dining area for our gathering and making all of us feel so welcome! Mary Crawford reserves a block of rooms for our group and I'm happy to report that she has to increase that number every year! It's always enjoyable to greet old friends and give everyone a chance to spend some money! Scott Johnson "volunteered" to be our auctioneer for evening and we made about \$2000.00 through his efforts. Mary Crawford kept Lisa Pollock apprised of the bid on items over their cell phones, thank you Lisa for your support!

The HOF inductions took place on February 8th and since our portion was after lunch, it gave visitors a chance to tour our wing. We had a few additional items with prices on them that were purchased by the Brittany community at that time. We'd like to thank everyone for their personal and club contributions throughout this past year; every penny goes into our endowment fund to ensure our breed history will always have a home! A fabulous lunch was served to everyone after the morning session! The luncheon was sponsored by Purina, Garmin, Ainley Kennels & Fabrication, and Avery.

We missed Dave Fletcher this year as he had to have surgery, but we'll look forward to having him back next year! Dave has been our master of ceremonies, our plaque presenter (which he makes!), and since he's a printer, he also prints the programs for the morning and afternoon sessions. Surgery didn't stop him from completing his tasks ahead of time and making sure everything was in Grand Junction on time! Rick Smith presided over the Brittany portion of the afternoon. The first plaque presented was a Patron Plaque for Marge Johnson, accepting was Scott Johnson as Marge had broken her arm and was unable to attend. We missed you, Marge & Lyle! The second plaque recipient was kept as a well-guarded secret! Rick asked Mary Crawford to come up and join him and then he asked me to come up and join them. As I was walking up, I glanced at the easel and there on the plaque was my picture! Gary said I had a "deer in the headlights" look! Mary started reading the plaque as I was trying to hold back the tears. Thank you, Mary & Willo Barfield, for this lovely surprise and to my sneaky husband for supplying Mary info on my "spa" days!

Our first HOF recipient was Ray Gorman from New Hampshire. Ray has been a supporter of the Brittany for 20 years as a field trialer, breeder, local club official and an ABC director for 12 years from 2000 - 2012. As a Director he served on several committees, including the nominating,

ethics and judges' committees. Ray worked hard for the National Gun Dog Championship and the grounds in Ionia, MI. His two main projects were the grounds and the fence fund. Ray supported the proposal to have an ABC National Amateur Gun Dog Championship and was instrumental in ensuring the ABC Classics and Championships were AKC and American Field sanctioned. While President of northern New Hampshire Brittany Club for 15 years he helped secure the Kilkenny trial grounds and took the lead in securing the Hill, NH grounds.

Ray judged many events for NE bird dog clubs' trials and hunt tests. He judged the AKC Nat'l Pointing breed Gun Dogs at Branched Oak in 2004, the International Amt. Woodcock Championship in Moncton, NB in 2008 & 2009, the Grand Nat'l Grouse Invitational on 2010 and Grand National Futurity twice.

Ray and wife, Martha, have bred Brittany's for over 20 years and live in Coos County, hence their kennel name "Coos." They have finished and produced many AKC FC/AFC and FDSB Champions. Dogs owned or co-owned: 4XCH/4XRU/FC/AFC Suemac's Sky King, 1XCH/3XRU/FC/AFC Ray's Pride of COOS, 1XRU/FC/AFC TBF's Hot Roddin Howser, and 3XCH/2XRU/FC/AFC Coos Rylee.

6XCH/6XRU/DC/AFC/NBOB Tequila with A Twist – is our first canine recipient this year. "Taryn" was owned & loved by Jessica Carlson and Ed Tilson, her trainer. Taryn was a "lucky find" for Jessica. She was sired by HOF/NFC/DC Tequila's Joker and Taryn changed Jessica's life in so many ways! She found a co-owner in Canada who had his friend Vern Brunen start her in the field. After he handled her to her juvenile points, Jessica was excited about her potential as a serious field trial competitor. When she came home at 11 months of age, Ed Tillson saw her for the first time and became a co-owner, trainer and handler. Together they won the 2004 Texas Derby Classic among others that spring. Ed trained and ran her in Open and Amateur stakes until turning pro in 2007, when Jessica became her sole owner and went on to run her in Amateur stakes. Taryn had breaks in her career for actinomyces treatment, 2 litters of puppies and a ligament injury in 2009 that ended her career.

Despite all this, she had 25 hour all age placements with 8 firsts. She placed in the Nat'l All Age Championship twice and was RU in the 2008 U S Open Championship. She finished 2nd in Purina Award points in 2008 & 2009 and is the #1 all-time female point earner for the Purina Award with 4488 lifetime points. Taryn received the 2007 Christy Feather Duster Award for highest placing female at the Nat'l All Age Championship, was BOB at the 2008 Nat'l Specialty Show and was the ABC Nat'l Dual Award Winner in 2005 & 2007.

Her 2 most accomplished progeny are 3XCH/1XRU/DC/AFC Tequila Tryst with 5-hour wins and 8XCH/DC/AFC Tequila Scorcher with 13-hour wins. She has kids and grandkids still out there getting it done!

DC/AFC Grand Junction "Jake." Jake was owned and loved by Dick & Carol Pulliam. In his derby season he only competed in hour stakes. He finished his career with 30 All age hour placements and was RU for the Purina Dog of the Year in 2011. Jake had a wonderful temperament and was an affectionate companion with impeccable manners, who lived in the house when not on the trial circuit.

Chad Holman, Jake's trainer, told Dick to "never look back" when running Jake in Amateur stakes, because he'd always be out front! Even as a young dog, Jake liked to stay out front on the edges, needing only a blast of the whistle and a horse turned in the right direction to keep him on course. Jake won the 2008 Chicken Championship in 90-degree heat over 74 dogs. John Kline, one of the judges, remarked that he was the biggest running dog he'd ever seen. Jake was 3rd in the Nat'l Open All Age in 2010 and again in 2012. He won the U S Open Brittany Championship in 2011, the ABC Prairie Chicken Championship in 2008 and was RU in 2009.

To date Jake has produced 12 young dogs with field placements. His most accomplished progeny is 4XFC/NAC/FC/AFC ANJ's Ohio Hellion! Hank won the 2018 ABC Nat'l Amt Championship with owner/handler Mike Poehler, trainer Bob Burchett (of Mike & Hank)! Hank likes the front just like his dad!

Our hearty congratulations to Ray, Taryn & Jake on their election to the BFTHF! Hope to see even more of you at the 2021 induction ceremonies! For more information contact Mary Crawford or check out the Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame website!



Inductee Tequila With A Twist, Jessica Carlson & Ed Tillson



Scott & Harlene Johnson with Marjorie Johnson's Plaque



Inductee Grand Junction Jake, Dick & Carol Pulliam



Gary & Diana Kubitz with plaque, Mary Crawford



Inductee Ray Gorman with Martha Gorman