

**“Doing My
Part!”**



fieldcockers.com

Vicky Thomas

FTC Chair & Western Region
gigvicky@aol.com

Pete Rizzo

Eastern Region
workingdogs10@yahoo.com

Deb Strohl

Central Region
debstrohl@gmail.com

Keith Meissner

Secretary & Member At Large
pkjmeissner@yahoo.com

Dennis Joannides

Member At Large
djoannides2@gmail.com

Terry Reckart

Member At Large
osblc@roadrunner.com

Mike Schroeder

Member At Large
besbeam@hotmail.com



FC Aikane Hokulani "Lani"
Owners: John M. Bishop &
Susan Takemoto
Handler: Paul McGagh

ECSCA Field Trial Committee

Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, January 26, 2016
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

Members Present: Mike Schroeder, Vicky Thomas, Keith Meissner,
Pete Rizzo, Dennis Joannides, Terry Reckert Absent: Deb Strohl,

- I. **Call to order** A Call to Order was made at 8:01 pm Eastern Time
- II. **Approval of Minutes** A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Dennis and seconded by Terry, all were in favor.
- III. **Approval of the agenda** The minutes were approved unanimously
- IV. **Unfinished Business**

Judging Criteria

The 2015 FTC had approved language to alter the current Judging Criteria to require a Judging seminar be completed prior to apprenticing a field trial. However, during that amendment, language was added to require a test. Since there is NO test for our Green Book, this amendment would not be acceptable. It was recommended that the 2016 FTC re-address this amendment changing the wording from: "New Cocker Field Trial Judges must also attend a Spaniel Judging Seminar" to "***The Spaniel Field Trial Judging seminar must be completed prior to apprenticing at a field trial.***" (The Judges Criteria follows these minutes in redline form.)

There was a motion and second to adopt "***The Spaniel Field Trial Judging seminar must be completed prior to apprenticing at a field trial.***" The motion was approved unanimously. This will now be forwarded to the ECSCA BOD for approval.

After approving the above, the committee began a general review of the entire Judges Criteria and qualifications to judge the Cocker National. Several topics were addressed.

Choosing Trial Judges

Pete stated that the responsibility of selecting our best quality Trial Judges for our Cocker Trials ultimately falls on the hosting clubs and on the individual Cocker Trialers within those clubs. Without quality judges, whether they are local or brought in from a distance, our Cocker trials will suffer. We as a group need to strive to continue putting on the best quality trials we can.

Green Book Requirements

The FTC felt that while there should be no differences in the job of a spaniel, there are certain aspects where Cockers & Springers differ. Dennis felt that it would be beneficial for Judges to get information and a prospective from the Green Book about Cockers and Cocker Trials.

Dennis reminded us that at the 2015 NCC General Meeting, there was a comment that we should be distributing our "Green Book" to every individual that would be judging a Cocker Field Trial. There was a general discussion on how we could be assured those judges would actually review it before their assignment. A suggestion was to have the judge sign an affidavit, but it was determined that most individuals invited to judge would have enough integrity to be prepared without any requirement. We felt the bigger issue was to be sure the potential judges were in fact provided the Green Book.

There was a motion to add the following language to our Judging Criteria:

All judges wishing to judge Cocker Spaniel Field Trials shall receive a copy of the most recent addition of the "Green Book" A Guide to the Conduct and judging of Cocker Spaniel Field trials. They shall be asked to become familiar with its contents and address any questions they may have to the field trial chair person or committee. The most recent copy of the Green Book shall be supplied by the FTC Committee at no cost to the judge.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Pending response from the field trial community as to how they feel about this change, we will vote on adopting this requirement at the next FTC meeting.

NCC Judge Qualification process review

Right now the NCC judging requirements include judging a minimum of 3 Cocker Field Trials. Mike and Keith would like to see the minimum number of Cocker Trials judged raised and/or include different venues. Today, a judge could judge one venue including 3 or more trials and be qualified to judge an NCC. If that trial had low numbers of entries, a judge could be NCC qualified after only seeing 10 or so cockers. Keith, Pete, Terry and Dennis also agreed that we should have a requirement of at least 2 venues and 3 trials.

There was a motion to add the following language to our Judging Criteria:

A NCC judge must have judged at least 3 United States Cocker Trials at 2 or more venues.

Pending response from the field trial community as to how they feel about this change, we will vote on adopting this requirement at the next FTC meeting.

NCC Judge Nomination process review

There was a discussion as to how we currently nominate NCC judges. The current process is to allow any trial club that has hosted a Cocker trial in the previous year to submit a NCC Judge nomination. In addition, the chairman/committee of any parent club trial may also send a NCC Judge nomination. We recognize that in some clubs, the entire club generates the nomination and in other clubs, it may be a single person making that choice.

Keith stated that the current system allows any trial club member to get a vote on who to nominate for the NCC whether they run a Cocker or not. He pointed out that in some clubs individuals that had never entered a field trial were expressing opinions. Dennis thought that the nomination process should be expanded to allow individuals who have NCC qualified dogs to also be able to submit a nomination. With that idea that only one

person within a club is selecting a prospective name, there was a discussion if it would be in parity to allow individuals to submit a candidate's name.

We weighed the benefits and drawbacks between continuing with our club system or changing to allow individuals with qualified dogs to nominate NCC candidates. Terry made a motion to keep the nomination system for the NCC the way it is. Mike seconded the motion and a vote was taken. All were in favor.

NCC Judge Election process review

Along these lines, we discussed changing our NCC election process as compared to the process used by the Springer Spaniel Clubs. The Springers have every qualified judge's name on a list. Those on the list are sent a letter asking if they would be willing to judge next year National Championship. If they do not respond yes, their name is removed from the list. Those that respond yes are placed on a ballot that is mailed to each qualified dog owner. They are allowed to vote for 6 (that number may vary). The totals from that election are reviewed and a second ballot may be sent asking each to vote for two judges.

The FTC decided not to alter our voting process.

Dawn Schuster

The FTC would like to express its sincere thanks and appreciation to Dawn Schuster for developing a listing of all NCC qualified judges with their information and the amount of trials that they have judged. Dawn spent countless hours searching thru the AKC database for the information and compiled it in a format that we could easily view. Without her effort we would not be able to verify the qualifications of our 2015 NCC judges.

Creation of a Judges Spread Sheet

The FTC feels it's difficult for trial committees to select judges for their trials to meet our criteria. For example, a trial club has selected a judge that has judged 6 events. They now need to find a second judge that has judged 6 events. They can by trial and error select names and then verify on the AKC site. But, it might be easier if there was a list created and posted, akin to the Qualified Gun Captain and Gunners list. But, the creation of that list might prove to be difficult. Dennis volunteered to investigate getting this done.

V. New Business

Review Field Trial Application Format and Procedures

The Field Trial application form that field trial clubs have to submit to the FTC for Cocker Trial approval has been clarified and updated to include more information about the trials and the people putting the trials on. Due to the fact that FTC members are scattered across the country many of us have never heard, been to the trials of people we are approving. Including more info on the approval form would allow the FTC to better understand the club and its members that are hosting the trial.

ECSCA Benefits

In order to attract more ECSCA members, Vicky would like an exploration of possible benefits received for being an ECSCA member. One idea was to lower the NCC entry fee for ECSCA members, but that would not be approved by the AKC. The idea of giving a free lunch to ECSCA members at ECSCA hosted field trials

is being considered including the NCC. The hosting club would receive a minimal monetary compensation for this lunch from ECSCA. Also under consideration would be to give hats for ECSCA Field members. Another opinion was to save up money for a larger project that would benefit Cockers in the long run.

Letterhead

Vicky will work on getting a letterhead created for the FTC so that we can send out a monthly Minutes/Newsletter. Mike made a motion and Pete seconded that Vicky proceed with having a letterhead developed for the FTC. A vote was taken and all were in favor.

VI. Unfinished Business

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a) 2017 NCC Bids | Tabled until the next meeting |
| b) Gunning Topics for Agenda 2/9/16 | Tabled until the next meeting |
| c) Mentoring 20-30 year old trailers | Tabled until the next meeting |
| d) FTC interests and concerns | Tabled until the next meeting |

VII. Adjournment at 9:57pm eastern time

VIII. Next FTC Meeting February 9th, 2016 7:00 pm CST

Attachment

~~(Revised 6/05/2012)~~ Revised 1/26/2016

Judging Criteria for

Judging Cocker Spaniel Field Trials

The following criteria are necessary requirements for judging AKC Member or Licensed Cocker Spaniel Field Trials.

1. Trial judging experience between the two Judges combined must meet a minimum of twelve (12) AKC Championship Stake judging assignments. The twelve (12) Championship Stake judging assignments must be AKC approved judging assignments and have occurred in at least 5 different venues. Championship Stakes are those that award points toward an AKC Field Champion title or AKC Amateur Field Champion title.
2. All judges wishing to judge Cocker Spaniel Field Trials shall receive a copy of the most recent addition of the "Green Book" *A Guide to the Conduct and judging of Cocker Spaniel Field trials*. They shall be asked to become familiar with its contents and address any questions they may have to the field trial chair person or committee. The most recent copy of the Green Book shall be supplied by the FTC Committee at no cost to the judge.

3. New judges wishing to judge Cocker Spaniel Field Trials must complete two (2) Apprentice Judging Assignments under different judges, prior to judging. The Apprentice assignments shall be completed at an AKC Member or Licensed Spaniel Field Trial with prior approval from the local Field Trial Committee. The Apprentice Judge must be assigned to an AKC Senior Judge, an AKC spaniel field trial judge with 12 points of their own, with the Senior Judge agreeing to the assignment. The standard AKC Apprentice form must be filled out and approved/passed by the Senior Judge and submitted to the AKC for recording purposes. **A copy should also be supplied to the FTC Chairman.**

The Apprentice Judging Program is an excellent way to develop prospective judges. It is also recognized and encouraged that local clubs take full advantage of mentoring new judges or judges with less experience and pairing them with Senior Judges that have had extensive field trial experience. The idea being to grow and develop new prospective judge's numbers and knowledge while we have the opportunity to benefit from those experienced judges.

- ~~3. New cocker field trial judges must also attend a Spaniel Judging Seminar.~~ **The Spaniel Field Trial Judging seminar must be completed prior to apprenticing at a field trial.** (Motion approved 1/26/16 pending ECSCA BOD approval.)

Judges with prior AKC Field Trial Spaniel Championship stake judging experience will be grandfathered in and only new or prospective individuals interested in judging are required to complete an Apprentice Program and attend a Spaniel Judging Seminar.

NCC Judges selection criteria is as follows:

In addition to the judging criteria for Cocker Spaniel Field Trials, individuals being considered for NCC Judges must:

- Have judged a minimum of twelve (12) AKC Championship Spaniel Field Trial stakes, of which at least three (3) must be AKC Cocker Spaniel Field Trial Championship stakes **in at least two separate venues.**
- Have Field Championed or, shared by handling the earning of points toward the FC or AFC title of a spaniel.

Has actively handled a spaniel in an AKC field trial in the past three (3) years prior to the NCC they would be judging.

Cocker field trial judges should have experience and knowledge in Cocker Spaniel handling, training, or prior judging assignments to enhance the judging panel.

It is essential that judges be of the highest standard possible, active in all phases of Spaniel training, trialing and handling.

Prior revisions: 6/5/2012

Original document: 3/5/2011

~~Respectfully Submitted,~~

~~Kim Wiley Field Trial Committee Chairm~~