

**“Doing My
Part!”**



fieldcockers.com

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FC Aikane Hokulani "Lani"
Owners: John M. Bishop &
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ECSCA Field Trial Committee

Meeting Minutes

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

Members Present: Deb Strohl, Mike Schroeder, Vicky Thomas, Keith Meissner,
Pete Rizzo, Dennis Joannides, Terry Reckert
Guests: Dave Barto, Tom Calabrese, Dave Proctor, John Leinenger

- I. Call to order: A call to order was made at 8:02pm
- II. Approval of Minutes: Dennis moved to approve and Terry seconded it. Unanimous approval.
- III. Approval of the agenda: Dennis wanted to agenda discussion regarding increasing ECSCA membership by using “high point handler trophies at the ECSCA Trials. Mike moved to amend the agenda, Keith seconded it.
- IV. **Unfinished Business:** (This was tabled until Gun Committee Meeting concluded at 9:34pm)

A. **Judges Criteria:** Mike moved to accept the following changes to the Judges Criteria; Terry seconded. We voted on each section as they were read separately.

1. 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.

Unanimously Approved.

2. **NCC Judges Criteria** 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.

Unanimously Approved.

3. The standard AKC Apprentice form must be filled out and approved and passed by a 12 point Senior Judge and submitted to the AKC for recording purposes and a copy should also be supplied to the FTC Chairman.

Unanimously Approved as amended (FTC reworted adding “a 12 point”).

B. Compilation of Judges List: Dennis Joannides reported that he has contacted the AKC for the compilation of an approved field trial judges. The process is not easy as there are no spreadsheets showing the judges and each judge has to be looked up individually. Vicky reported she had started working on a spreadsheet for judging qualifications to see what content we might want ours to contain. She found that the Springers have a good list of judges in spreadsheet format and we may be able to use their spreadsheet adding a column for Cocker Trials. This would help to serve our purpose, by showing how many Springer and Cocker trials people have judged. Vicky will circulate the list and we can follow up at the next meeting. Terry stated that it's difficult for clubs realize that people have taken the seminar and or apprenticed since there is no list. Vicky stated that hopefully we can work on completing a list, get it posted on fieldcockers.com so clubs can easily pair potential judges for their trials. (See Item D)

C. Approval of Letterhead: Vicky has worked on the FTC Letterhead; Dennis had a concern that depending on what type of device that you are viewing the minutes on, the letterhead won't be properly placed. He is working to get the letterhead finalized so it will work on any device, the cost will be very small. Dennis suggested that we should rearrange the letterhead slightly and he will work on it. Dennis will forward his changes to the FTC for approval.

D. Approval of Trial: The FTC was approached to approve a field trial that, in their opinion, had a very inexperienced Field Trial Chairman. We asked Pete Rizzo to speak with the Club requesting a more experienced Club member Co-Chair the event. The judge selection was also a concern. The quandary was one of the judges had limited experience and was being asked to judge his second trial within a month's time in the same region. Keith stated that judges basic etiquette is not to judge twice in the same season in the same region. The FTC felt there should be some thought given to further amend the Judging Criteria to make some kind of restriction because having the same individual judging trial after trial could allow that single opinion to "mark" the breed. The FTC had no problem with an individual judging more than one event in different regions.

Deb was concerned that we were seeing a trend to invite totally inexperienced Springer people to judge our events over asking a totally inexperienced Cocker person. Given the inexperience level, wouldn't we be better off with selecting one of our several Cocker Judges?

Mike stated that we are seeing an expansion of field trials but we need to have quality trials or it isn't worth attending. The club's Field Trial committees need to work diligently on putting on the best trial possible. Vicky stated that finding new judges is difficult for clubs as there isn't a list of Judges or Apprenticed Judges on the AKC website. We are hoping by developing a list, the trial clubs can make more informed selections. We discussed the role of the FTC in "Micro-managing" Field Trial Events and the extent of our ability to restrict trials that are substandard. Everyone was in agreement this was something we really didn't want to do.

E. Stimulating ECSCA membership: Dennis is suggesting two new trophies for High Point ECSCA Pro Handler and High Point Amateur Handler. He felt this was preferable to offering free lunches at the NCC or ECSCA hosted trials. The FTC is looking for feedback on this idea and we will discuss it at the next meeting.

V. New Business:

a) **Gun Committee Meeting** Mike is Chairing this section of the meeting.

How do we get more representation from Guns on the Gunning Committee? Dave stated that the Gunning Committee has not been approached by people to be on the committee. The current committee has worked well in the past, but now that we have more trials in different regions, we should expand the representation from those regions within the Gunning Committee. Dave & John suggested that the FTC choose 2 people from each region to be on the Gunning Committee. But, the fact that the Cocker Community is organized into 3 regions we might not

obtain proper coverage. So, it was suggested we follow the Springer Interclub boundaries to make it easier to get 8-10 people representing everywhere we have field trials on the Gunning Committee. Dennis suggested the FTC put out an announcement that we are looking for Regional Gunning Representatives for the Gunning Committee and hopefully we will hear from Clubs with nominations.

This expansion of the Gunning committee should help to approve new **QUALITY** guns and gun captains as well as mentoring, sanctioning guns etc. Deb stated having new members on the Gunning Committee every year or so keeps interest active. Dave stated that they are maintaining the program and that the FTC has to work on keeping gunning issues in the forefront of trialer's minds and encourage new gunners to be on the committee. Dave would like to join in more meetings about gunning. Deb stated that in the past the FTC has not met with the Gunning Committee and we need to have more contact. Mike suggested the FTC and the Gunning Committee to meet at least once a year. Mike asked that anyone who has an interest in joining the Gunning Committee to contact the FTC and we will review the nominations. The FTC will then look for the best candidates to be on the Gunning Committee.

How do we develop new Guns? Dave stated that new people coming into Gunning should be mentored and monitored by the clubs and when they are deemed ready to be put forward as both guns and gun captains they can contact the Gunning Committee. The committee isn't in a position to recruit gunners; this should be left to the individual clubs. We discussed the advantages gained when Field Trial Clubs put on Gunning Seminars. It was suggested to pair with another local club to get enough gunners in attendance to justify a seminar. Mike suggested that Hunt Tests would also be a way to recruit new guns as well as club training days. If a gun has met the criteria, he or she can submit a listing of accomplishments to the Gun Committee in order to be moved up to a Gun Captain. Clubs can then pick whatever Gun Captains that they feel will do the best job. Dave stated that a lot of Gun Captains don't like to travel and spend money going to trials when they can shoot in their local area.

NCC Gunning Dave stated that the best of the best guns should be asked to gun the NCC. We should be looking for the most competent guns that can work as a team. Dave reported that it's not as easy as it looks to gun NCC because of some conditions or requests that place a lot of pressure on the Guns. The requests vary from where they can shoot the birds due to safety reasons to weather constraints. Sometimes handlers don't realize the constraints the Guns are under. Mike would like to see more guns rotate through as NCC Guns so that we don't have the same Guns shooting the NCC each year. Dave reported that only 2 of the guns on the 2016 NCC Team were used the previous year. Dave stated that the Guns at an NCC need to be able to trust each other, know each other's timing, in order to be the best team as possible. The host club/chairman for the NCC picks the Gun Captain which in turn picks the gun team that he feels will do the best possible job. We need to have a group of seasoned guns gunning an NCC in order to mentor the newer younger guns that may be gunning their first NCC.

Gun teams for the NCC are picked based on who the gun captain is and who he knows or trusts and for the most part he picks his local/regional guns that he can rely on. Dave stated that in the past Springer National Committees have picked a selection of 15 or 20 guns and have had the Gun Captain pick 8 or so out of that selection. Past Cocker NCC's have used this process as well. The FTC thought this might be a good approach.

Dave further recommended that we use 2 NCC Gun Captains that can work together. Each Gun Captain would have its own team so that one team could rest while the other was out in the field.

The FTC wanted to know if we should get our shells donated or buy them for the NCC in order to get the best quality shells for the event. Dave suggested that we allow the Guns to bring

their own shells and give them an allowance for supplying them. Using the shells that the Guns are used to or shoot best in their guns will bring better results and improve a guns performance.

Issues with Gunning Dave and Mike stated that issues with the Gunning or with Guns at a trial should be brought up immediately with the Gun Captain at the trial or NCC. It's the job of the Gun Captain to handle the issue in a sportsman like manner for resolution. If that doesn't resolve the problem then the issue should be brought up with the Trial Chairman at that time. The issue should not be left till after the trial is over. If the issue is not solved at the trial, then issues can be brought up to the FTC as soon as possible. Mike would like to see guns be able to pull themselves from gunning for missing a bird and not stay in the same gunning position if they continue to miss birds. Dave stated that kill percentages should not be taken into account for gunning. There are too many variables involved including safety, wind direction, etc. for that to be a criteria. Safety is paramount to everything. Dave stated that judging a Field Trial should not be judged on retrieves, it's a whole performance that should be looked at. Vicky was curious about using steel shot as now required in California and how that will affect the gunning in the future. Dave and Mike both stated that shooting steel vs. lead shot will make a large difference in the gunning. Shot Sizes, lead times etc. will be affected. Non Toxic loads will be more expensive and add costs to trials.

The FTC wishes to thank Dave Barto, Dave Proctor, John Leinenger and Tom Calabrese for joining the meeting. We had a good conversation and a lot of questions were answered.

VI. Next Meeting:

- a) 2017 NCC.
- b) 2016 NCC Deb will ask Chris Dartt to join the FTC meeting on March 8th in order to give us more information on the progress of the 2107 NCC
- c) Mentoring 20-30 year old trailers
- d) Improving ECSCA Membership Free lunch program or new High Point Handler Awards.
- e) Other FTC Issues and Concerns
- f) Adjournment – 10:45pm Next FTC Meeting February 23rd, 2016 7:00 pm CST

Final Judging Criteria as Revised 2/9/2016 (approved by FTC, to be submitted to ECSCA BOD)

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. (Paragraph added 2/9/2016 pending ECSCA BOD approval)
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 and a copy should also be supplied to the FTC Chairman. (Amended 2/9/2016 pending ECSCA BOD approval)

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.

The Spaniel Field Trial Judging seminar must be completed prior to apprenticing at a field trial. (Amended 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:

1. 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. (Amended 1/26/16 pending ECSCA BOD approval.)
2. Have Field Championed or, shared by handling the earning of points toward the FC or AFC title of a spaniel.
3. 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, 1/26/16

Original document: 3/5/2011