



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB™

**Tom Meyer**  
Executive Field Representative

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To: All Spaniel Breed Clubs

Subject: **“Getting There is Half the Battle” - Spaniel Style**

Spaniel field events are currently enjoying increasing numbers both in events and participation. However, there are a number of trends working against us - increasing fuel prices, restricted land use, limitations on the discharge of firearms and a dwindling number of hunters. Since it is reasonable to assume these trends will not be reversed, consideration should be given to how our events can be structured in order to maximize opportunities in the future.

Today more than ever, getting there is half the battle. The following ideas may be helpful as clubs plan future events. It is up to the judgment of the club to determine if it has the resources to make it happen.

- **Clustering of Events** – Two clubs may be able to cluster their field trials, with one trial on Fri/Sat and another on Sun/Mon. Example: Two clubs in Maine are having a two trial (four day) Cocker Spaniel / Spaniel event.
- **Coordination with Neighboring Events** – If there are two field events within reasonable driving distance, coordinating the order of the stakes may allow some participants to attend all or part of both events.
- **Holding a Hunting Test in conjunction with a Field Trial** – The first exposure to the field for many new participants is through the hunting test program. Traditional field trial clubs should consider becoming licensed to hold hunting tests. There are a number of ways these events can be coordinated in order to take advantage of their synergy. Events could be held by two clubs. The events could be on different days or perhaps the events could be run concurrently.

If a Club wants to experiment with an unconventional arrangement, the AKC will allow the Club to preserve their “traditional calendar date” for up to two years just in case the Club decides to return to its previous schedule. Please note this request on the event application form.

Every Club and local situation is slightly different. If there is a unique situation that might work for your club, please feel free to contact the AKC Performance Events Department in order to discuss. The contact person is Tom Meyer, Senior Executive Field Representative, [TFM@akc.org](mailto:TFM@akc.org), or (612) 209-3184.

Social and economic trends are changing the world around us. We need to consider how we might change to better meet the new challenges while still preserving the core elements and rich heritage of our field events.

Best Regards,

Tom Meyer