

TOP 2011 PERFORMANCE WINNER

PURINA®
OWNED BY WESLEY BARR AND GREG WOOD
WEST TEXAS REGION
HANDLED BY WESLEY BARR

Tomoka's Smokin J.R.

West Texas handler Wes Barr and 15X NSTRA Champion, English setter Tomoka's Smokin J.R. hit the road with determination and fervor this year pocketing win after win; all the while remaining calm, cool and collected. An unsuspecting pup that ran his first trial at 10 months old placing first in Ohio and then heading on to one of the toughest regions in the country taking 4th place in the Kentucky Regional Elimination just a mere month later. Clearly this was a pup that would have people talking.

When people come in contact with J.R., whether they're actively engaged in the sport or completely removed, they all walk away with the same opinion: what an amazingly calm dog. All involved in the sport can admit to the chaos and anticipation that a trial can bring, but among the eagerly awaiting dogs and handlers, J.R. can be found in his usual relaxed state. Barr claims this laid back trait allows him to "reserve his energy and helps keep him focused". This mannerism has been passed onto his puppies which can be misleading and interpreted as a passive nature rather than just a composed and relaxed dog.

J.R. made his debut on the National trial scene at Dog of the Year when he was only 17 months old winning his qualifying round on the B field with an impressive 1039 points. His next National trial was the 2007 Quail Forever in Elberton, GA where he won the field in his first qualifying run and took home 2nd place in his next qualifying run, ultimately making the final Four and finishing 3rd runner up at 20 months old. J.R. then headed south to Texas and ran in the WTX Region earning Derby Dog of the



Article and photograph by the Merritt Girls

Year honors and finishing the WTX Region points race as runner up High point just behind Tomoka's Smokin Blu. J.R. has been the runner up High point in WTX two times and High point winner three times. He has also won the WTX Region elimination trial two consecutive years in 2010 and 2011. In the 2010 WTX Region he won Champion with his son Cutter finishing as 1st runner up and daughter Barr's Smokin Sassy finishing as 2nd runner up. In 2008 he finished as 1st runner up in the Purina Endurance Classic in Lewiston, Montana and in 2010 Trial of Champions he won 1st runner up in Amo, Indiana.

West Texas is somewhat removed from the rest of the regions making long distance travel a necessity but also extremely difficult. In order for J.R. to win the Performance Award they would end up traveling fifteen weekends (excluding National trials). Of the fifteen weekends J.R. ran and competed for the Top Performance honors he placed in all but one of them. Obviously not for the faint of heart, but by tackling each trial with tenacity and vigor Tomoka's Smokin J.R. earned 77 points and the Top Performing Dog of 2011. Jamisen Hancock contributed to J.R.'s success by handling him for 9 of the treasured points.

Wes Barr is no stranger to the sport having handled dogs for twenty plus years in NSTRA. Wes and J.R. have an uncanny sense of trust between them and Wes states with pride that "J.R. has been by far the most fun and exciting dog. He does his work every time, runs like the wind but is always in control and super competitive". J.R. creates a picture of stoicism but be careful, "he goes to the line with intention" and when he does "a major explosion happens". It's like the calm before the storm.

Congratulations to Wes and J.R. on a well deserved triumph.



Premier's Fancy Trail Blazer O/H by Adam Fellers – Mid West Blazer was no stranger to Top Performance competition. As the top dog for both 2009 and 2010, he had trialed all over the county and proved himself to be a consistent competitor with Adam Fellers handling. This year Blazer accumulated 69 points and every weekend we watched the points add up between him and J.R. The competition was so close that you never knew who was going to end up at the top of the list from week to week. His 2011 points, accumulated over a period of 15 week-ends, included 13-1sts, 13-2nds, 4-3rds and 7-4ths. Unfortunately, Blazer passed away unexpectedly on April 18th ending a promising future and wonderful friendship.



Last Dance Lily O/H by Tom Rotundo – N. Illinois A newcomer, competing in her first full year of NSTRA trialing, Lily accumulated 68 points to grab the 3rd spot in this year's top performance award. Stylish and hard-working, no portion of the field was left untouched after Lily ran her brace. In each trial, not only did Lily have to compete with some excellent dogs, but also contend with her kennelmate, Dash (5th) for placements. On numerous occasions Lily and Dash would knock each other down or out of placements. A 2nd place in the 2011 Regional Elimination added to an already great year. With a career just starting, look for this young dog to continue adding wins.



Blaze's Magic Jack O/H by Chad Calicott – Missouri Show Me Jo earned 64 points this year trialing in and around the Missouri area. Along with his 11-1sts, 13-2nds, 5-3rds and 4-4ths he also won the Missouri Show Me Regional and placed in the Performance Classic qualification rounds in 2011. Chad Calicott, his owner/handler should be proud of these additions to the 15XCH resume which include placements at 2 other National Trials and great finishes at regional eliminations.



Ruck's Brockway Mad Dash – O/H by Tom Rotundo, N. Illinois Turning five in May, this is Dash's 4th year in a row in the top performance standings, coming in 3rd place last year. 2011 had Dash battling for placements at every trial against his kennelmate, Lily (3rd), but he was still able to accumulate 58 points to finish in 5th place. With a 3rd in the 2011 Regional Elimination, Dash continues an excellent career, with many years still to come! Dash is sired by 6XCH Brockway's Ruck Runner MH, UD, NA, NAJ and 4XCH Shooting Star's Sassy Sami, MH.



Shawnee Hills Gypsy – owned by Don Kennedy, handled by Brad Ralston – Illinois
This 3 year old female pointer must have had a sense of what she needed to accomplish this year. Owner, Don Kennedy of the Illinois region was in poor health. Handled by Brandon Ralston, she earned 48 points (9-1sts, 7-2nds, 7-3rds & 5-4ths) and won the High Point Dog of the Illinois region. Sadly, Don passed away on June 1st. She will continue to be trialed by Brandon and will surely have some help from heaven.



Bee's Copper Storm – O/H by Rob Brockmeier – Illinois Bee's Copper Storm has a pedigree a mile long. With multiple NSTRA champions like Nolan's Last Bullet and Pete's Second Chance in her background it's no surprise that she showed up in the Top 10 this year. Owned and handled by Rob Brockmeier of the Illinois region, Stormy finished with 10-1sts, 5-2nds, 6-3rds and 5-4ths.



Beckley's Elhew Panic Button – O/H by Harold Smith – Indiana Bee's Copper Storm has a pedigree a mile long. With multiple NSTRA champions like Nolan's Last Bullet and Beeline Wink in her background it's no surprise that she showed up in the Top 10 this year. Owned and handled by Rob Brockmeier of the Illinois region, Stormy finished with 10-1sts, 5-2nds, 6-3rds and 5-4ths.



Bull's Copper Tip – O/H by Rob Brockmeier – Illinois Kennelmate to 7th place Stormy, Rowdy can also trace his bloodline back to the famous Buddy. This year he earned 10-1sts, 5-2nds, 6-3rds and 5-4ths to end up in 8th place with 45 points. These two young dogs are keeping Rob Brockmeier busy trialing throughout Illinois area. It doesn't look like he's going to be slowing down any time soon.



Reroy's Mohawk Rip – O/H by Henry Zeldenrust – Indiana

This year's 9th place dog is owned by Henry Zeldenrust and handled by his son Pete of the Indiana Region. Rip's methodical coverage of the field, stylish presentation and unflappable disposition allowed him to earn 8-1sts, 6-2nds, 2-3rds and 2-4ths for a total of 38 points.



Beeline Bullet's Oxidation – O/H by Nolan Huffman – South Carolina

Rusty, owned by Nolan Huffman of the South Carolina region is getting his name on a lot of lists. Good ones, that is. As a winner of the 2010 Grand National and a top competitor in many National Trials, it was only a matter of time for his name to show up on the Top Performance list. 7-1sts, 5-2nds, 4-3rds and 3-4ths got him started; let's watch where he goes from here!



Barr's Smokin Sassy – owned by Jamisen Hancock and Wesley Barr – West Texas

10th place ended in a tie with 35 points for each dog. Sassy, owned by Jamisen Hancock and Wes Barr of the West Texas region earned 8-1sts, 5-2nds, 2-3rds and 5-4ths. She surely has her eye on the top of this list where her sire took top honors.

**Congratulations
to all and good luck
this coming year!**

