



2021 Hall of Fame Inductions Grand Junction, TN – The Bird Dog Capital of the World

By: Diana Kubitz

The induction ceremonies were held on June 12 this year at the Bird Dog Museum. Thank you to our sponsors Nestle Purina, Garmin, Ainley Kennels and Avery Outdoors.

Every year on Friday evening before Saturday inductions, we gather at the Hampton Inn in Collierville, TN, for fellowship and a fund-raising auction! Scott Johnson is our fabulous auctioneer! Mary Crawford is the hostess with the mostest and Rick Smith, our fearless leader, helps ensure that every item donated goes at the best price possible. This year we made \$1850.00 for our endowment fund! A huge thanks to everyone who contributed to this wonderful evening!

Saturday morning, following the morning inductions, a luncheon sponsored by Purina was held. Me & My Tea Room Catering has catered the induction ceremonies for several years. We lost the owner, our friend, sponsor, and supporter Catherine Bowling Dean last January and, just 2 days later, we also lost Jean Holmes, Catherine's head cook. But Catherine's family and friends worked tirelessly to keep the company going and they provided us with a wonderful light lunch, excellent desserts, and great food for the afternoon reception. Our condolences to the Dean and Holmes families and our thanks to those who worked so hard to provide for us.

The afternoon session began at 1:00 p.m. We were welcomed by Tonya Brotherton, the Executive Director of the Bird Dog Museum. Four plaque presentations were read by Directors Dave Fletcher and Mary Crawford, with friends and relatives standing at the podium. The plaques were for recently deceased Bill Norvell, Linda Faye Milam, Cecil Duncan and Bill and Fran Gorman. Funding plaques for worthy people is a great way to honor them and contribute to our endowment fund.

Al, better known as **4xCH, 3x RU CH, DC/AFC Bourbon XIII**, was proudly owned by Joe Jung and handled by trainer Al Gorrow. Al was a front running, all age bird dog that could win no matter who had the whistle and gun! He lived his life in the house all of his sixteen years as Joe's faithful companion and was so much more than anyone imagined! Joe conditioned Al and brought him to trials where he asked whoever was available to run him. Joe's heart condition prevented him from running Al himself and Al had a dozen handlers over his career. On the brandy wagon at the nationals, someone mentioned my Kid and Joe said: "I have a dual champion grandson of Kid's that's running in the next brace!" When Joe got him out of the box for his brace there was not a doubt in my mind about his pedigree! He ran in the last brace and was named Runner-Up!

Al finished his trial career with 14 hour All Age wins, 1 Gun Dog hour win and 45 placements. He won the Prairie Chicken Championship in 2004 (57 starters) and in 2005 (58 starters). Only one other dog has been able to repeat as Champion in the 41-year history of this event. Al won the Purina All Age Brittany Dog of the Year in 2005 and was LaSalle Brittany Club Field Dog of the Year in 2004 and 2005.

Al's production record includes many Champions, best-known HOF 17xCH/19xRU/NFC/DC/AFC Ru-Jems A Touch of Bourbon (58-hour placements, amateur owned/handled, Top 1-hr winning dog in our breed history, 3x Purina All Age Brittany of the Year) and NGDC/FC/AFC Celebration's Two of Hearts (Over 40 amateur/owner handled field trial placements)

Charles "Bernie" Crain For nearly 50 years Bernie has been devoted to the Brittany, supported the American Brittany Club and field trialing. He has maintained continuous memberships in many regional clubs and his dedication to our breed, field trialing and the dual concept is still strong a half century later.

Bernie grew up hunting behind Setters but changed to Brittans when a co-worker offered him a Brittany. He joined the ABC in 1972 and over the next four decades his dogs made their presence known on all the major circuits except the east coast. Over the past years he entrusted his Brittans to six pros and always handled his dogs in amateur stakes until he was sidelined 8 years ago due to heart problems. Despite his disability, Bernie has continued to field trial his latest dog.

Bernie has been president of the Missouri Brittany club since 2011 and Neosho Valley club serving as field trial chairman/secretary as well as judging trials. He served the ABC as Treasurer and is on the Board of Directors. He and Mike Boydston initiated the Mo-Kan Brittany Championship in the mid 80's and he has judged and scouted many dogs as well as judging other breeds' championships. He owned and campaigned 2 dogs, both National Champions, and both in our hall of fame NFC/FC/AFC Jim de Bob's Sparks A Dan D and NFC/FC/AFC Shambo's Dark Shadow.

Bernie has attained a record unmatched for accomplishments and has gone out of his way to encourage newcomers to the breed and field trialing. Over the years he has also accumulated a storehouse of historical data on the Brittany and has begun donating it to our museum.

Ken Jacobson has been a doer and a giver his entire life. He has excelled in his pursuits and supported our breed since 1965 as an owner, breeder, trainer, show handler, field trial handler, club official, field trial judge, reporter and author for over 50 years - always promoting the Dual Brittany. His love, passion and commitment to our breed has spanned three quarters of his life.

Ken bought his first Brittany in 1964 as a hunting dog. Ken and wife Erin joined the Washington Brittany Club and decided to get into trialing to keep his dogs in shape for hunting. In 1966 he bought a pair of pups from Dr. Ralph Bolton in Kentucky, Pacolet Cheyenne Sam and Pacolet Sam Dingo, and began running them in puppy/derby stakes. Ken gave Sam the opportunity to excel – Ken doing the show handling and Rick Smith the field handling. In 1971 Sam became the only dog of any breed to ever win a breed's National Field and Bench titles. He was elected to the ABC and BFTHF and is the only dog other than Pointers/Setters to win a 3-hour championship in field trial history.

Ken served as ABC 1st VP and organized the first ABC Chukar Classic. He judged over 100 field trials, served as officers in Washington and Whid Isle Brittany Clubs, lobbied to remove "Spaniel" from our AKC breed name and is a member of the ABC Hall of Fame. Ken's dedication didn't stop there! Using his phenomenal artistic skills he created, commissioned and donated the following to our Hall of Fame at the Bird dog Museum:

- Life-size Brittany Bronze Sculpture of Sam installed in the gardens of the Bird Dog Museum and co-authored with Rick Smith creating the "SAM" book, a pictorial history of Sam
- Flushing quail Bronze Sculpture, "Records Live", mounted on walnut, of Pacolet Cheyenne Sam, Jacolet's Wandering Star & Tiger's Jocko, on an antique myrtle wood table

Now, 50+ years later, Ken is still dreaming up projects and funding ideas for the BFTHF ! Ken believes that the greatest achievement of the ABC is "Keeping the Brittany a Brittany".

Diana Kubitz Diana has given a lifetime of service to the Brittany breed. She has worked almost non-stop for almost 50 years for the Brittany, the Western Michigan Brittany Club, the Nat'l All Age Championships, the Nat'l Gun Dog Championships and the ABC. A local & nat'l club officer, championship supporter, field trial handler and scout, advocate for grounds improvement, breeder, show handler – Diana has done it all.

In 1972 Diana & Gary acquired their first Brittany, joined WMBC, helped at club trials and began trialing in 1974. She served as VP, secretary for 35+ years, field trial secretary/chair for 12 years and served as the only show chair the club has had. As the club's rep to the Ionia Field Trial Grounds Committee. Diana held banquets, applied to the 20th Century Fund & was editor of the Gun Dog Championship Books; each project raised money for the clubhouse, grounds and fence fund.

Since 1979, Diana has served the ABC, attending the nationals every year, yearbook editor for 13 years, hospitality chair for 21 years, 2nd VP for 2 terms, co-authored the ABC Code of Conduct, membership chair twice and served as chair of the JEC from 2008 thru 2020. As a breeder, mentor and show handler, Diana has handled numerous Brittanys to their Dual Championships and written many articles for publications regarding the breed, its standard and other topics

Diana purchased a pup from Lyle Johnson in 1983 and named him Renegade's Kansas Kid. Lyle campaigned Kid and finished his FC in April of 1986 and Diana finished his show title 5 weeks later in Nebraska. Bob Burchett took over as Kid's trainer in 1988. Diana developed her handling skills by scouting her own dog and all the dogs on Bob's string. The highlight of her career was handling Kid to the National Amateur Championship in 1992 and his induction into the ABC Hall of Fame. Kid has produced many show and field winners over several generations.

Since 2012, Diana has been on the Board of Directors for our hall of fame. She and Gary have contributed to and supported our Hall and museum with their time, energy and contributions. In 2019 Diana contacted a well-known artist in Michigan, Herbert L. Park, and commissioned him to do a painting of four past national champions from an old b/w photo. This painting hangs in our museum. Diana had large prints made and note cards that are sold with funds going to our endowment fund.

DID YOU KNOW

The Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame is one of the largest contributors to the Bird Dog Foundation and Museum?

Our Brittany museum in the Bird Dog Museum has some of the best things our breed has to offer?

Our wing in the museum is updated every year and plans are always being made for new ways to increase revenues. Save that 2nd Saturday in February and find out what you've been missing !!!



Inductee Bourbon XIII, Al Gorrow, Joe Jung & Ken Windom



Inductee Bernie Crain with Barb Crain



Inductee Ken Jacobson and Bill Norvell Plaque
Dave Fletcher, Jena Jacobson, Ken Jacobson, Lora Crone, Rick Smith,
Mary Crawford and Delmar Smith, front



Inductee Diana Kubitz with Nelson Sabin, Travis and Hunter Sabin,
Angel and Reed Sabin, Wendy Sabin, Bill Stimer, Gary and Diana Kubitz,
Chris and Carole Alff, Nancy Clendenen



Linda Milam Plaque - Shelley Smith, Darrell Smith, Trey Harris, Kathryn Milam Harris, Tom Milam, Bob Rankin, Mary Crawford



Plaque for Bill and Fran Gorman