

# AMERICAN FIELD

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## THE SPORTSMAN'S JOURNAL

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### Field Trial Hall of Fame

#### *Election Committee Members Voting for 2009 Honorees*

**T**HE final vote count for nominees for the Field Trial Hall of Fame appeared in the issue of July 25. The names of the leading (top ten) candidates in the two categories — *Dogs* and *Persons* (see page 4) — were sent to the members of the Election Committee on July 17.

The membership roster of the

Committee is appended. Each has been asked to vote for two *Dogs* and two *Persons* for Hall of Fame membership.

As the roster is perused it will be noted that the names of some Committee members appear more than once in the appended listing; that person, however, received only one ballot.

The two *Dogs* and two *Persons*

receiving the highest number of votes from Committee members shall be the newly elected Hall of Fame members for 2009.

#### **Members of Field Trial Hall of Fame Election Committee**

John D. Milton, Jacksonville, FL;  
President, Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America.

Preston A. Trimble, Norman, OK; 1st  
Vice-President, Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America.

**Hall of Fame Election Committee, Page 4.**

### GPS Recovery Device Approved by *Field Dog Stud Book* and Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America

**I**N December, 2008 the *Field Dog Stud Book* gave conditional approval for the use of GPS devices in recognized trials to aid handlers in recovering lost dogs or those out of judgment. A limited time frame (January-April, 2009) for the use of the GPS technology was put in place so that subsequent feedback from the field trial community would enable the sanctioning body (*FDSB*) to make an informed decision regarding the permanent approval of this type of technology in recognized trials.

The Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America prohibited use of the GPS devices for its 400 or so member clubs, offering that the AFTCA Trustees would examine the matter at their annual meeting in June and then issue their determination.

In her overview of the Trustees' annual meeting, AFTCA Secretary Linda Hunt reported in the July 4-11 issue that the Trustees had approved the use of the GPS recovery unit.

Herewith are the guidelines/regulations for the use of GPS devices in recognized trials as approved by the *FDSB* and the AFTCA.

1. Only approved recovery devices (*FDSB* and AFTCA) will be allowed for use at recognized pointing dog events. The collar and receiver must be used as received from the manufacturer. No modifications may be made to the collar other than a name tag may be added. The

collar must have a flat surface against the dog's neck.

2. No receivers are to be carried by the handler. The handler and scout may not carry a receiver. If they choose to bring their receivers on course, they must give the receivers to the judges or someone the judges have designated to carry the receivers.

3. Receivers in the gallery must be turned off. All receivers carried in the gallery, including those in the judges' possession, must be turned off. No one in the gallery shall track the dogs while the dogs are under judgment.

4. No "outside" communications. No one shall communicate in any manner with the handler, scout, judges or gallery any information obtained through the use of a recovery device while the dogs are under judgment.

5. A dog's receiver may only be used once the dog is no longer under judgment. A dog's receiver shall only be activated once judgment has concluded. If the dog is gone at time, the dog is still under judgment until the judges indicate otherwise or the handler requests the recovery unit.

6. Dogs lost from previous braces. If a dog is lost from a previous brace, the handler or the designee may use the receiver during the next brace solely for the purpose of locating their dog. Once the dog is located they must immediately turn off their receiver. They must not communicate any information they

obtain through the use of their receiver concerning the dogs currently under judgment.

7. The use of a recovery collar is an elective by the handler and it is the handler's responsibility to furnish the device. The running of a stake shall not be held up due to the lack of a dog recovery device.

8. Two Collar Rule. A dog may wear no more than two collars. All collars shall be worn on the dog's neck. If the handler elects to use a recovery collar, it shall remain on the dog during the entire time the dog is under judgment.

9. The use of a recovery device is at the discretion of the host club.

10. The judges, at their discretion, have the option to select the receiver frequency.

11. Any recovery unit placed on the dog's neck, including components and collar, shall weigh no more than 9 oz.

Sanctions for the abuse and/or misuse of the GPS devices are the same as those already in place — misuse shall disqualify the dog and the offender(s) shall be disqualified from field trials.

The foregoing set of regulations is all well and good; but there is more. No set of rules will work without the underlying sense of ethics and values at its core. No matter what regulations are put in place, without common sense, good judgment and an ethical standard they will prove inadequate.