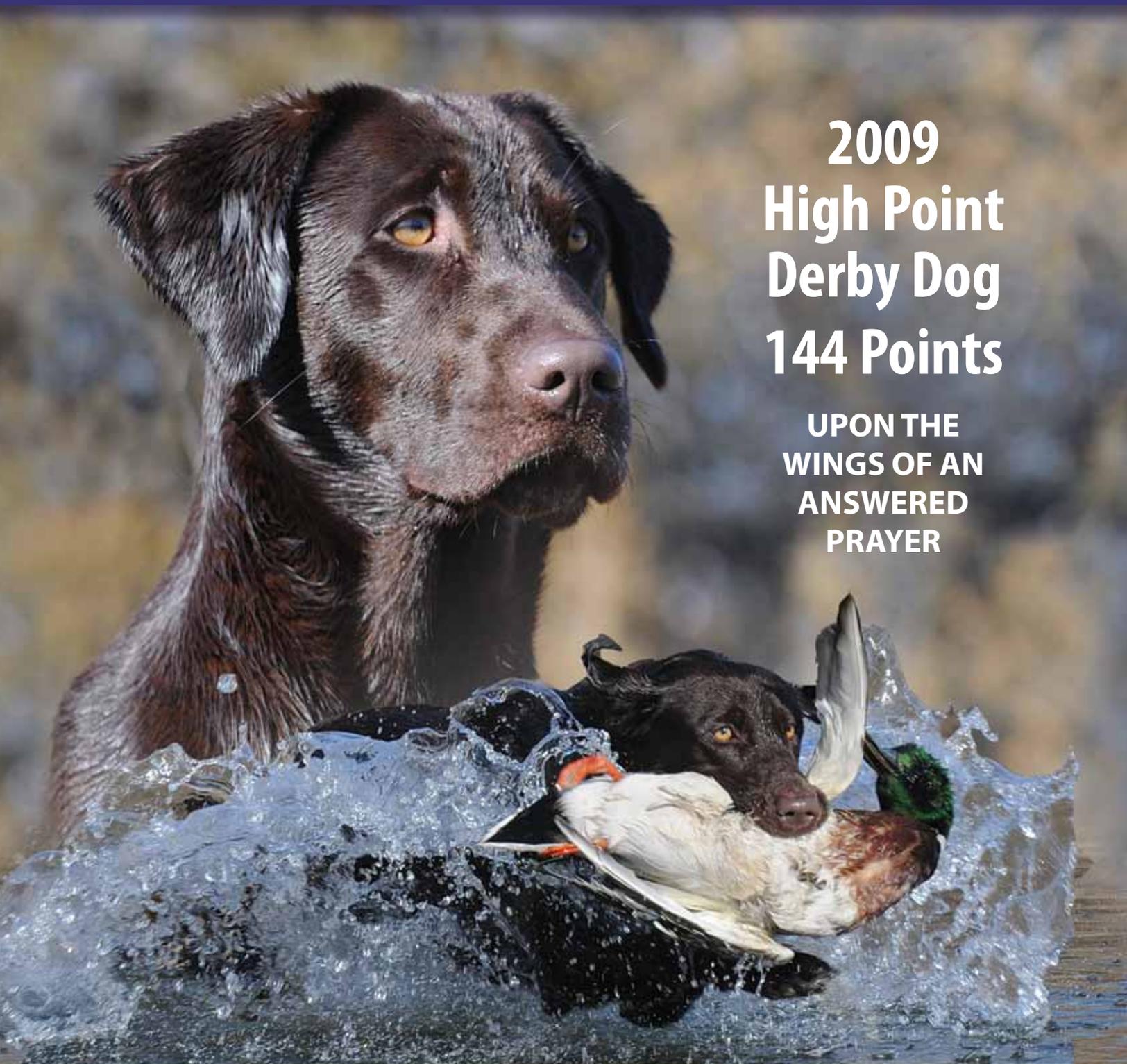


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# retriever NEWS



## 2009 High Point Derby Dog 144 Points

UPON THE  
WINGS OF AN  
ANSWERED  
PRAYER

*Announcing...Retriever E-News...Now Online!*  
AKC 125th Anniversary - The Tenth Series

# 2009 HIGH POINT DERBY DOG

OWNERS/TRAINERS MICKI AND BILL PETROVISH purchased the Chocolate Lab female from Ron and Deb Wehner at Santa Fe Pointing Labs in Springfield, Missouri. Ammo's name was given to her for a purpose. Upon the Wings was retrieved from a verse in the Bible and the Answered Prayer is what she is.

Ammo left her siblings at an earlier age for her first hunting trip in Lewiston, Idaho. She was on her first official quail hunt at 6 weeks old. Much of the time Micki carried her in her coat. After a successful day hunt, Ammo would then get to retrieve a bird thrown at 20 to 30 yards. At 8 weeks old she was brought home to Townsend, Montana, where she would rise early in the morning for a canoe ride across the river to hunt ducks.

As the weeks passed, after the hunting season had ended, her training progressed at a level that was off the charts. Her incredible ability to learn quickly, without repetition and retain it was beyond belief. One of the early signs of her marking ability was witnessed at 2 1/2 months old at a Nightwind Training session held by Bill and Tammy Totten. It was a difficult 280 yard mark in running and swimming water. As Ammo made her way through the flooded field straight to the bird we stood there in awe. Day after day, week after week, she continued to surprise us. By the time she was four months and one week of age we had our minds made up that we would enter her in her first derby at 6 months old.

From day one, Ammo has had a very unique presence about her. I would often make the comment to Bill, "She's a gift from God." No matter what we put in front of her, she would exceed or surpass our expectations. Ammo was very precocious, yet extremely calm and had a heart to please. We knew at an early age she was an exceptional marker. However, we could not have imagined she would become the High Point Derby Dog of All-Time. At first, we thought she could finish a Derby at 6 months. She finished 2. At 8 months she finished 4 Derby's placing 3 times including a win. She is one of few dogs to make the Derby list under a year. At 11 months she had 12 points.

In November of 2008 we decided to winter at Pin Oak Kennels at Scott and Alice Carruth's place in Bonham, Texas. It was one of the key factors to Ammo's success. It was there while watching Ammo learning to take straight lines in the water that we thought that she might become High Point Chocolate Derby Dog. Ammo broke that record at 17 months. As the points started to add up, she was looking more and more like a seasoned field trail dog. She became so comfortable with the routine she would regularly stretch before sitting to survey the test. At 21 months she had become one of only 3 dogs (Lottie, Tug & Ammo) in history to ever go over 100 points. At 22 months Upon the Wings of an Answered Prayer broke the All Time High Point Derby Record of 115 points set in 1997 by Chena River Ripple owned by our friend and retired field trialer, Dr. Leonard

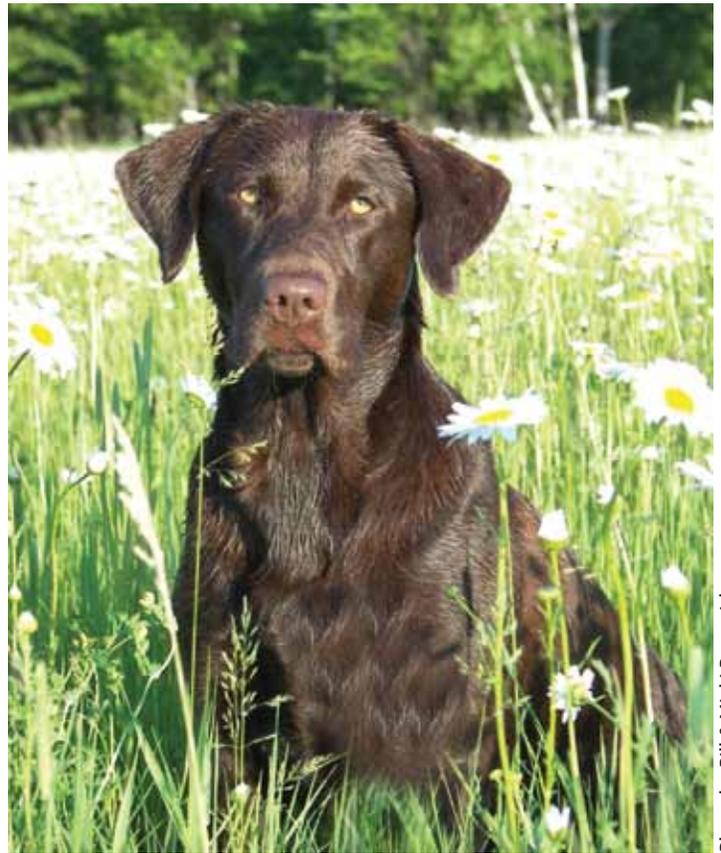


Photo by Bill & Micki Petrovish

## UPON THE WINGS OF AN ANSWERED PRAYER – 144 PTS

Ferucci. The win at the Michiana Retriever Club Trial put her at 119 points. Every weekend from that point she continued to place and set the mark higher.

Ammo finished her Derby career with a win at the Metro Retriever Club Trial on October 31, 2009 in Bonham, Texas, to give her 144 points. Ammo drilled a very difficult third series set of marks. She received a loud cheer from the crowd and someone yelled, "You won't know what to do with a common dog." Ammo is not a common dog. She is a little 48 pound chocolate female, a gift from God. Psalms 119:131 "I opened my mouth and panted: for I longed for thy commandments. Ammo was named to Thank the Lord." Psalm 119:144 "The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live."

Ammo finished her Derby career with a record number of 18 wins including 2 Derby Double Header weekends. In the last 24 trials she won 12 of them. Ammo finished every land series in every trial entered. Bill and Ammo have taken a break from field trials and spent the remainder of the hunting season, hunting chukar, wild pheasants, ducks, and geese in the open fields and big skies of Montana.

May All of Gods Blessing be upon you and yours. Trainers for Christ,

– Bill, Micki and Ammo