

2011 Trial Season

2011 was a banner season for Pioneer Kennels. This spring, Quail Trap Max got our year off to a nice start with two first place wins in the open shooting dog class. My wife Tammy handled Autumn Snow to first place in the Michigan Puppy Classic. In the derby trials, Max's Pioneer Catey and Meredith's El DeGuello took home some impressive placements. We qualified three dogs for the National Grouse and Woodcock Invitational Championship held in New York. They were Moss Meadow Traveler, Quail Trap Max and Autumn Moon, with Traveler making it to the finals. We decided to run the US Complete Great Lake Regional Championship and won it with Autumn Moon with a great entry of 55 dogs. It was quite an accomplishment as he had never run or practiced for this type of trial before.

One of your highlights for the year was going to South Dakota to train for 5 weeks beginning August 1st. I saw between 100 and 500 pheasant and sharptailed grouse every single day. What a training experience! I think the benefits from this were our tremendous championship run in the fall trial season. I also ran Autumn Moon in the All American Shooting Dog Championship on the prairie and he showed well with 2 nice finds, one on a pheasant and one on a sharptail in the first 20 minutes, but 2 unproductives on a running pheasant ended his bid.

We began our fall season by running in a couple of walking quail trials. We were happy to get placements on Sunkissed, Max's Pioneer Catey, Quail Trap Sadie and Autumn Snow. We started our championship trial season at the Wisconsin Coverdog Championship. We took both placements in this 56 dog entry with Quail Trap Sadie being named champion and Moss Meadow Traveler the runner-up. Traveler followed this up a few days later adding another runner-up placement with a stellar performance in the Minnesota Grouse Championship. Next we came back to Michigan and Autumn Moon won the prestigious Lake States Grouse Championship. This was the 5th time this brilliant performer has been named champion. Autumn Snow also took a 2nd place in the derby classic. Next we ran in the Grand National Grouse Championship and won runner-up with Quail Trap Sadie in a large field of 71 dogs. This capped off a great season for Sadie and her proud owner Dave Hawk.

This fall we ran in 6 cover dog championship and were rewarded with 5 championship placements.

I want to thank all of the owners of Pioneer Kennel's string of competitors for entrusting us to train and campaign their dogs this year. It's been a great year and I look forward to this coming year with enthusiasm and excitement.