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Carbon, Inducted into Retriever Hall of Fame

by Mary Glover



Carbon Copy of Horn Creek pauses for a photo not long after taking home the 2006 National Amateur Retriever Trials Championship.



Frank and his wife, Christine, along with Carbon celebrate their victory.

The Spotlight today is about Carbon (officially "Carbon Copy" but named "Carbon") because Seldovia is a town that just loves dogs and the Kashevarofs have history here. The predominant breed of dog in Seldovia is a Black Labrador. Frank and Chris Kashevarof are no strangers to Seldovia as they have grown up here, have family here and often come for the 4th of July (see photo below). Carbon was recently inducted into the Labrador Hall of Fame. Unfortunately, the dog has to be deceased to gain this title, but I'm sure you will agree with me; he is a magnificent animal! Below is an historical account of Carbon's achievement. The link (in blue below) shows the accreditation webpage. Congratulations Frank and Chris! It is quite an achievement to raise a great champion! Carbon also left a legacy because his pup, Chopper, has also won in National championships.

Frank Kashevarof's Dog - Carbon Copy

In the end, though, all the hard work pays off. "Carbon is a special dog," he said. "He's always been there and he's never doubted our relationship and neither have I."

October 2006 - Meet Carbon Copy of Horn Creek winner of the 2006 National Amateur Retriever Trial in Klamath Falls, Oregon, sponsored by Nestle Purina.

The 2006 National Amateur Championship was held at Klamath Falls, Oregon, June 18-24.

Read how this Lab and his owner/handler, Frank Kashevarof, teamed up to come out on top in this competitive and demanding field trial to finish first and become National Amateur Champions. This Lab was born to retrieve.

The event featured 98 competing teams and 26 other teams that qualified and did not compete. Ten separate tests were conducted in series' of one or two each day. The dogs were required to navigate a series of obstacles in each test, including stumps, logs, tall grass and portions of the tests that required swimming.

The competition is comprised of ten challenging series that is sometimes called "the Super Bowl" for retrievers and just like the Super Bowl, it's an exclusive game. "To qualify, you have to have a win and a second, and that's eight points," explains Frank. The same goes for the National Open." In the ten series Carbon had to retrieve either a duck or a pheasant from a variety of different and challenging tests. In a process similar to retrieving ducks during a hunt, Carbon would leave his handler's side to seek out and retrieve a bird. To add to the difficulty, Carbon wasn't always allowed to see where the bird fell. Each series presents its own set of difficulties for the dog, but Frank says the water marks were among the most difficult of all the series.

Of the 98 competing teams there were 17 finalists. Among those finalists, there were six male black Labs, nine female black Labs and two male yellow Labs. There were 13 male handlers and four female handlers.

For a complete report on the Championship with diagrams of each test, check out the August issue of Retriever News. For more information on retriever trials and equipment, log onto <http://www.working-retriever.com/retriever-trials/index.html>

"There are long marks and short marks and they can screw the dogs up. There were seven tests of marks, along with water blinds and land blinds. Water is the toughest. It's much slower, the dog has to deal with the water and

swim hard” said Frank.

“It was duck hunting that first got me into field trial competing,” said Frank. “If you’re lucky, you shoot so many ducks that you just don’t know where they are. It really helps to have a dog with you to go get them. I went to a couple of hunt tests and watched some people run their dogs. I got hooked on the competition.”

The nine-year-old Lab has racked up a long string of accomplishments. His appearance in the 2006 National Amateur Retriever Trial Championship netted him his first win in this competition; it was his fifth appearance in the title round of which he was a finalist 3 times.

Carbon’s name is a little unique. “Carbon is from a repeat breeding,” he explained. “So that’s what he was, a Carbon Copy out of Horn Creek Kennels. Cosmo was a special dog and so was Sparkle,” he said of Carbon’s parents. “Carbon really is something too; he has a great personality, excellent marking ability and a real field presence.”

Not only is Carbon a Champion Retriever, but one of his pups, Chopper, also owned by Frank, is already making waves in the world of retrievers. “Chopper won the 2005 National Open at age 3,” said Frank. “I think that’s quite an accomplishment, both for Chopper and for Carbon. It’s definitely something to be proud of.”

Training and preparing Carbon for competitive retrieving was not an easy task, even though he was quick to learn. “It takes a lot of work but it also takes a lot of trust,” Frank said. “You have to trust the dog and he has to trust what you’re sending him after. It takes a lot of faith both ways.”

It also takes an intelligent Lab like Carbon that can count. “It takes a dog you can hold steady and one that can count. Four is as high as you can take him and that takes a long time to build.”



Here is the impressive listing of Carbon's achievements, a list any Lab would find hard to copy!

Carbon Copy of Horn Creek has had a very successful career in competitions. In just six years, Carbon has laid claim to more than his share of titles, including his most recent win at the National Amateur Retriever Trial Championship in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

- A National Amateur Finalist by age 3 (2001)
- Amateur Field Champion and Field Champion by age 3 (2001)
- Double Header Winner & National Amateur Finalist at age 4 (2002)
- Qualified for Amateur Nationals in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006
- Open National Finalist 2003. Carbon also qualified in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005.
- Winner of the 2004 Purina Award for Outstanding Amateur Field Trial Retriever
- Amateur high point Field Trial Retriever, 2004
- No. 2 Open high point Field Trial Retriever, 2004
- Carbon and son, Chopper both National Amateur Finalists, 2005
- Sire to 2005 National Open Winner, Chopper
- Winner of the 2006 National Amateur Retriever Trial



"We were very humbled to be in such a prestigious setting to witness our Carbon receiving the highest honor in the retriever world...the induction into the Hall of Fame". Christine & Frank Kashevarof

(This ceremony took place Feb. 7, 2009 in the [National Bird Dog Museum](#) located in Grand Junction , TN)



Above is a photo taken of Frank and Chris Kashevarofon the 4th of July, 2007, Coming Home.

Photo taken at the Seldovia Conference Center by M.Glover. (click on image for larger size)

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