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Sundowner's Stockdog Association hosti

This Week's Journal



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The Sundowner's Stockdog Association based in soul 2002. From the very beginning, this organization stri setting. Their competitions are designed to mimic rea To a few of the original members, what strikes them evolved. "When we started, a pretty good ranch dog could win a trial" according to Darrell Cook, who has we are, a little over five years later, and now it takes win."

A good dog is a hard worker, never asks for time off a person can have. The Sundowner's Stockdog Assoc with at least one good dog in their lifetime. To acco some of the best breeders and handlers from across are not just from Oklahoma; SSA has members, han well as Kansas and Missouri.

According to Jan McBride from Caney, Okla., who is competitive handler, the SSA "is breeding a very pow the most stubborn cattle, but the brains and finesse versatile." Every November, this group hosts one of t promote and show off these breeding programs.

The Sundowner's Stockdog Association aspires to pro organization. It's this desire that makes this truly a fa hired to work at the trials. College students are empl college students work the course and/or cattle. These youth, instilling responsibility and building a good wc confidence, patience, and good sportsmanship.

What makes Sundowner's Stockdog Association succ



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events by the SSA Board of Directors and the Secreta cooperation, there would be no Sundowner's Stockdog Wapanucka, Okla.; Randy Reed, Overbrook, Okla.; Bl Okla.

The course of action

Along with the November Puppy Futurity, the Sundown year. The mission of the SSA is to promote the trained competition called a trial. The trials are timed and po The timekeeper and a SSA director observe all runs f The trial course is constructed to challenge the dog a move the cattle on its own through the course. The c down alleys, into pens, and loading them into a traile course that is not only challenging and real-life situat

The actual course layout will vary from trial to trial, b Herding three head of cattle, there are obstacles the course. Fifteen points are awarded for each obstacle competing team is given a time limit. This time limit limited to eight minutes. The winner is the handler a amount of time.

To succeed in attracting a large variety of competitor Ranch, Novice, and Beginners. In stockdog competi experience and age of the dogs. In the Open class, t competitions under their collars, although any dog ca experienced handlers and trainers, or professionals, if

The Ranch class dogs are either late developing dogs handlers/competitors are more experienced than Beg competing in the Open class. In the Ranch class, the qualifies them for the Novice class, but they are new

Dogs in the Novice class are 30 months of age or yo Beginner class is open to dogs of any age; it's the ha among the veteran handlers. The SSA prides itself or in a dog trial the opportunity to do so. They even ha

Dog vs. cattle

More often than not, the cattle used during this type before. And herein lays the true spirit of this competi of where your dog is directing them to go, they have handler and trainer from Atoka, Okla. The cattle are t

everything you've asked of him, and then some, but nothing you can do."

Most of the working dogs that compete are border collies, some are kelpies, but all are athletes in the truest sense of the word; they're asked; no complaints, no whining. They work hard and fast at times. Yet, their only desire is to please the handler. They are bred to work stock, and this natural stockdog/handler team, and not just a 'trained dog.'

The time these trainers/handlers devote to their craft is four hours or more a day working with their dogs. Each dog but all accomplish the same end: a dog that exhibits the ability to handle cattle wherever their handler needs them to go. Yet a dog is not a dog. "Dogs can get cuts, bruises, and sometimes gets hurt," according to Randy Reed.

Where we play

This organization succeeds in providing a safe, well-kept facility courtesy of the Crossfire Arena, which is owned and operated by the Sundowner's Stockdog Association. The arena is very well-placed and easily accessible. There is plenty of seating available; but, if you prefer, there is a large open area for competition as well as the friendliness among all the participants. The fun and fellowship, with well-maintained restrooms and a roof with wind-breaks on the sides. It's this attention to detail for competitors and observers, allowing them a comfortable day.

The cattle are handled by individuals who are experienced and knowledgeable as well as the safety of all those present. With all the care taken, the cattle are safe.

2008 Events Schedule:

September 13 and 14;

October 11 and 12;

November 8 and 9 (Fall Futurity).

Plans are in the works to make the November 8 and 9 a great day with door prizes, good food, great handlers and dogs, and

Some of our sponsors

Tri-tronics has been a longtime sponsor of the Sundowner's Stockdog Magazine. Several more sponsors have recently come on board. This sponsorship allows the Association to sponsor several events. SSA has been able to continue offering their member benefits, paying out larger purses and awards at the Futurities.

Come join us

Sundowner's Stockdog Association is a family-oriented organization. Visit www.sundownersstockdogassociation.com to view the website and many other topics. Soon to come will be a "Hanging Out with the Dogs" event. The Sundowner's Stockdog Association encourages all competitors, and newcomers to the sport, to come join us. According to Jan McBride, "We'll treat you so many c

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