

2023 HIGH POINT AMATEUR DOG



Photos of "FLEX" by Mark Atwater

FC-AFC FLAWLESS EXECUTION - FLEX - 38.5 PTS

5/6/2014, BLM (FC-AFC Cropper's Get Sum ex FC-AFC Black Magic's Return To Lender)
Johnny and Kathy Armstrong, Winston-Salem, NC

WOW, another accomplishment to add to "Flex's" resume! Before Flex was even born, we had selected his name. Using a book: *Flawless Execution* by James D. Murphy, we determined we would name our next puppy that and call him "FLEX." The book is about using the "Techniques and Systems of America's Fighter Pilots to Perform at Your Peak and Win ..." This book was introduced to Kathy by an employer that adopted it as a companywide philosophy. It is a winning philosophy of continuous improvement working towards Flawless Execution in every endeavor.

Johnny and Kathy did Flex's basics, starting when we picked him up from Wendy Buckler's at eight weeks old. Being our fourth labrador retriever (third field trial dog), early on we could see that he was special. He loved to work and had a knack for figuring things out, as an example: if he was taking a bad line, we could just give him a verbal "no" and he would come back and try again, sometimes he might over correct and if we gave him another verbal "no", he would correct again and be exactly where he should be.

Flex began his Field Trial Career 3/6/15 at 10 months old and placed 4th in his first Derby and two months later Flex made the National Derby List. He went on to earn ninety-five Derby points and gained the title of High Point Derby dog in 2016. On 3/11/16, Flex got second in the Qualifying making him QAA at 22 months old.

He gained his FC title on 9/1/17 at age 3.3 and his AFC title 10/5/18 at age 4.4. In 2021 he was the High Point Open dog and joined the Double Header Club. Now for 2023 he is the High Point Amateur dog and High Point All-Age dog with 67 All-Age points this year, giving him a total of 237 All-Age points. This year, Flex ran 21 Amateurs and finished 14 with 38.5 points for a 66% finish rate. He has Qualified for 13 Nationals and has been a Finalist three times.

Flex is a well-rounded dog, he's a thinker, he loves to please, loves affection, has a high desire to retrieve and is a huge team player (Alan Pleasant, Jason Baker, Hunter Street, Randy Whittaker, Michael Wallace, Kathy and Johnny have all had the honor of standing beside Flex during competition). Flex continues to impress us with his skills and God given talent. Hopefully he can stay healthy and continue his journey on the quest for Flawless Execution.

We owe our appreciation to a multitude of people for helping with Flex's success: Baker Retrievers and Black River Retrievers for all of Flex's training. All the land owners that allowed us to train on their properties as well as the land owners of each of the field trial events, all the Judges and clubs that make the events possible, and our friends and family for all the support and well wishes.

~ The Armstrongs