

New Dual Champion

Dual Ch./AFC Chaparral XLO Rater XL Lent MH

Wow! To have a dog included in such an elite group is an understatement, to say the least.

Rater came to us from Linda Sanders at 11 weeks old. The little guy arrived to a whole new world, little did we know what plans he had for us! He was from Linda's X litter (FC/AFC Highland's Lucky N A Wizard CD x DC Chaparral Persuade McBen MH). Linda named him XLO Rater and been calling him Rater, we liked it. We had to ask Linda what the XLO was for was for. She said to say it REAL fast, bang accelerator. We've had trouble with the name at every hunt test or field trial!

Being new to organized field events and not familiar with field trials, we started Rater in the AKC hunt tests. He finished his MH at just over 2 1/2 years old. After that we decided to give trialing a shot. Rater was a second/third/fourth place dog under my handling and training. We managed placements in the Open Gun Dog Retrieve stakes at the '96 and '97 NFT's. But it was clear, a trip to Basham's Kennels was in order. It was there, with Jim's expertise that Rater came into his own as a trial dog. Jim handled him to numerous placements in the '98 season but never caught the blue. At Nodrog's fall trial, Rater put down the best course ever for him and it was clear he needed to be entered in some trials. It's like Jim says, "When your dog is ready to win, you better be at a trial!"

Well, the California season was just under way and what the heck, only a 3-day drive! We entered him in 8 gun dog stakes. Rater did well, 1 second, 1 third and 3 blue ribbons. He went

out there with 1 amateur point and came back with 8 open/8 amateur points. In the spring of '99 Rater was entered in two trials, the Nodrog one-day walking trial and the GSCA NFT. Rater won the Amateur Gun Dog in Michigan to finish his AFC and won the Open Gun Dog Retrieve at the '99 GSCA NFT to finish his FC. All his points were owner handled.

Rater is a pretty laid back house dog, you really don't even notice he's there, but put him in front of a horse and look out, he's a bird findin' fool!

Rater's show career was done between field trials, hunt tests or in training. As a sire, he's had three specialty winning kids finish before him! All three

finished before the age of two. None the less, he finished his show career with a major on Sept. 12, 1999.

Campaigning a dual dog is a team effort and we would like to thank the players. Linda Sanders for letting Rater come to our home, Jim & Bev Basham for molding the field dog, Sandy DePottey for putting a bunch of breed points on while Becky was busy finishing Zuke. A very special thank you to Phil & Holly Wachuta, Susan DeSilver, Rob & Jean Webb, and Bill & Jan Holloway for giving us their support. Most importantly to his sire Merlin and his dam Suade for creating such a wonderfully talented boy.

Dan & Becky Voss
Wynd Dancer Gordons
(MN)

