

## **Just An Old Trophy**

It was a great win. More than we had really counted on. When the placements were given out, we were very pleased. Congratulations were received, the traveling trophy was handed out, pictures were taken. The trialers started packing and heading home. We weren't in a hurry. I guess we wanted the moment to last a little longer. That is when we started to take a closer look at the old trophy. It was a silver tea set, not really too impressive, a bit tarnished. No doubt it had been around a long time.

We read the names of the past winners. Some were recognizable, great dogs of their day. Others were perhaps lucky at the right time. As we read the names and thought about those that had gone before us, a shiver ran down my back. The perspective of time made me feel a little humble.

As we drove home, I wondered about the future field trailers that would read the names. No matter how great we feel our accomplishment, the passage of time would put it in context. In the end, the importance of the sport becomes personal – pride, fellowship, enjoyment of the moment and a sense of contribution to a greater good. The only lasting contribution we can make is to provide for the future of the sport so that others may also enjoy it. Looking back at the tea set, I realized it was much more than just an old trophy. It was a window to the past. A trigger to our imagination. It provided an understanding of the depth of the sport and a greater appreciation of its importance.

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