

FLUSHERS



Name: Mike Stickler

Family members: Wife, son, daughter and six grandchildren (4 boys and two girls)

State of residence: Minnesota

Dog's name: Lefty (turns 4 on October 21, 2008)

Breed: Black Labrador

How would you best describe your dog: Big, determined, capable and loves to hunt

How did you acquire your Lefty: He is the grandson of 3X National Champion Brown's Go Getter Gus (Brown's Lab Kennels)

What is your dog's favorite spot in the house: Lefty likes to sleep in his bed, right next to mine and my wife's

Proudest accomplishment while competing: Winning the M.U.G.S. Master Flusher Dog of the Year Championship (photo above)

What is your most vivid competition memory: Lefty and I leave the gate and as he so often does, bolts right to the gate bird. It hits the air and I pull up to make the shot - "click". I forgot to load my gun. As I am loading it, I see Lefty, head down and focused on some cover in front of him. Before I can get my gun loaded, sure enough, he flushes another bird. We did not win that day, but we could've.

What events do you most frequently compete in: Top Gun Main and Masters

If you could say one thing about a fellow competitor who would it be: Rusty Haglund

What would you say: Here is a friendly guy that understands that winning is not possible every time. He accepts his losses as he accepts his wins - graciously. I enjoy competing against a guy like that and wish that there were more like him.

What others say about Mike: "Stickler shows up and competes as hard as anyone else. He truly enjoys his time in the field with Lefty. Yet, in spite of all of his competitive spirit, Mike is nothing if not a gentleman in every essence of the word. I wish he were around more often and others had the opportunity to get to know him better. He is as principled a man as I have ever met." - Dave Northamer