

NOHS (NATIONAL OWNER-HANDLED SERIES)

#2 - 2015 OWNER-HANDLER WEIMARANER

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My NOHS Journey actually started a bit by accident. I had been doing conformation with my Weimaraner "Pretzel" since he was a puppy, finished him at 15 months, and then just dabbled occasionally in conformation while I concentrated on agility training. We spent a year doing mainly agility trials and encountered some success

and a large amount of ups and downs in training. Last spring I decided to take 6 months off of trialing to re-train all the mistakes I had inadvertently trained into him (the downfall of a newbie agility handler and a newbie dog!). I have shown horses for 30 years, so the addiction of competition was well ingrained in me, so I had to keep doing something. So I



went back to the conformation ring in June and decided to pursue the National Owner-Handled series.

My only goal was to see if I could finish in the top 10 of owner-handled Weimaraners. I was getting a rather late start, so I wasn't too optimistic. Right at the start I had some big successes early on with some owner-handled group placements (and even a regular sporting Group One!) and I was officially hooked.

While I love the competition, what really kept me going were the friendships that I made on my journey. Owner-handlers are very supportive of each other, and I was seeing a lot of the same people every weekend in the NOHS sporting group. It became more fun than competition, and I loved that! It really makes the journey enjoyable when your fellow competitors are genuinely happy to see you do well, and vice versa. This isn't something you generally see in any competitive sport, especially a sport as personal as showing your family member/best friend/dog. Let me tell you, friendships are much more addictive than the thrill of winning!

Amazingly, even after our late start, Pretzel and I ended



up #2 NOHS Weimaraner for 2015. What a thrill it was to go compete at the NOHS Finals in Orlando, and receive the BOS ribbon. The NOHS program got an occasional exhibitor like myself to hit show after show

all summer, and seek out the shows that offered NOHS. The most difficult thing for me this upcoming year will be trying to fit in NOHS conformation shows and agility trials!