

Hunt Diary 16 Sep 2006

Danielle "Geminite" Haney

We had five dogs with us--My 14 month old female, Gem, my 5 month old pup Jack, my friend Tyler's 3 year old walker female Hope, my friend Jake's B&T 2 year old female Sadie, and his 1 year old male, Sloppy.

We (when I say we I mean my mom, my little sister Kellie, our 13 year old friend Tyler, his step-dad Branden, and Jake and Natalie Burdette) cut'em in a corn field on our property and Gem struck within the first five minutes. Then Jack, then Hope, then Sloppy and finally Sadie. They tracked it for a quick 10 minutes or so and Gem treed first. Then the other four seemed to come up treed at the same time. We hurried there because we knew we had pups that needed petted up and praised at the tree so they knew that was what they were supposed to be doing. Well, we got there and Sadie and Sloppy had left the tree and were just kind of milling around (they aren't used to hunting with that many other dogs and they were both abused by their previous owner at the tree) and Gem, Jack, and Hope were all TREED SOLID. They wanted that coon more than anything.

So we tied them all back and started shining. We found two coon, one enormous boar which we squalled out to them, and a smaller one that we left to run another night. The boar must've weighed a good 20 lbs or so. Gem and Jack were first to get him once he bailed out and man are they awesome kill dogs. We had to leave Hope tied back because if she gets too many coon she slicks trees. She is a very nice dog, a UKC Nite Champ, and a PKC Silver Champion. She was the top third female of the state in PKC last year. She is a very good tree dog, and her only flaw is that her voice runs out quick lol. Tyler is expecting a very nice litter from her in about a month. I thought Gem and Jack did an excellent job on that track, out striking and treeing Hope.

We made one more drop that night, this time in Tyler's neck of the woods. We cut em once again in a corn field, but we left Jack in the box, we figured he'd had enough action for one night. Anyways, Gem, Sloppy, and Sadie went in one direction and Hope went another. The three all struck in this order, Sadie, Gem, Sloppy as Hope was striking a different track about a quarter mile into the woods that border the corn. She treed in about 10 minutes, so Tyler and Brandon walked to her. The other dogs were moving fast, and out of hearing range. So we walked about 100 yards and turned the tracker on. We kept moving, through a big swamp. They were getting pretty far away, and we knew there was an old back road they were nearing. We decided to walk back to the trucks and drive around. So we drove back there and we could here them and they were wanting to tree, throughing locates all around. Sadie finally treed and then we heard Gem and Sloppy backing her up. We were picking them up on the tracker pretty close. This track took them close to a mile and a half and around 45 minutes to complete. We decided to walk in and man, they had to track that ole coon through a big swamp, a big bean field and some of the biggest boulders and briars I've seen. We got to the tree and it was an ENORMOUS den, I wish I had my camera. We looked for a coon, but not very hard because we figured

we'd never find a coon with all those branches and leaves. Sadie was doing a really nice job as well as Gem. Sloppy was kind of nervous, but he was doing okay.

We led'em out and walked out to the truck. Branden and Tyler were just pulling up with Hope, she had a nice big one treed that they seen. All the dogs did a really nice job, especially the younger ones. I was very proud of Gem, she is really getting going good. Jack also did an awesome job as he is only five months old.

We decided to call it a night, it was only about 2 am, but we were tired and the dogs did above well enough for the night. Too bad every night can't be as smooth, but without the trials and tribulations it wouldn't be coonhunting.