



Sun Photograph by LISA YANICK-JONAITIS

Clare resident Scott Chaffee with one of his champion bird dogs. Chaffee has trained bird dogs at his home for the past 30 years and has consistently turned out champions at Pioneer Kennels.

## Chaffee has champion bird dogs

By JIM LAHDE  
Sun Sports Editor

Scott Chaffee has a unique skill, one that keeps him in demand.

For the past 30 years the lifelong Clare resident has been training bird dogs at his home, consistently pumping out champion after champion at Pioneer Kennels.

For Chaffee this passion, which began in his youth while hunting pheasants with his father and brothers, has turned into a full-time business as his training services are sought out by bird dog owners from coast to coast.

In short Chaffee is one of the best at what he does and people search out

his services because of the results he produces.

Through the years Chaffee, who also coaches the Clare High School girls varsity basketball team and runs a plumbing supply company, has handled and trained 34 grouse and woodcock championship placements which is the most by any Michigan trainer ever. His dogs have also won dozens upon dozens of shooting dog and derby classic honors as well as taken home dog of the year honors from this association or that.

Thus whatever it is Chaffee is teaching the dogs up at Pioneer Kennels has been working and working well dating back some two decades.

"It comes from being competitive

and this was another outlet for me to compete in," Chaffee said of what drives him to produce the best hunting dogs that money can buy. "I played basketball and baseball in high school and after I graduated college in 1977 I came back home and started working with our dogs."

Just over a month ago he claimed what is perhaps his biggest honor to date as he won the 2008 Grand National Grouse Championship at the Gladwin Game Refuge in Meridith, Chaffee and his dog Autumn Moon, which is owned by Jack Harang, finished top amongst a field of 77 dogs that hailed from all over North America.

(See Bird Dogs, Page 2A)

