

## National Rotation Proposal from Gary Wilson

Some thoughts and comments about John Hall's proposal to reverse the National rotation to three rather than five interclubs. John got my attention. I think this concern is twofold. 1) The distance one has to travel from one national to the other is too far. As is demonstrated with the 2015 Amateur and Open Nationals is coast to coast in a three to five day drive between. 2) The quality of the nationals have deteriorated to a very low level, grounds, weather, distance of headquarters to grounds, birds, and gunning has been subpar in many recent nationals.

If we decide to stay with the five interclub rotations the distance is a simple fix. The rotation should be a triple lag formula, and then the maximum distance between nationals would be a maximum Mideast (Ohio) to West (California). Assuming the numbers are assigned (1) east (2) Mideast (3) Midwest (4) Rocky Mountain (5) West.

<u>Amateur</u>	<u>Open</u>
1	4 (2015)
2	5 (2016)
3	1 (2017)
4	2 (2018)
5	3 (2019)

The difficult fix is the quality of the nationals. We all try to provide good grounds and good spaniel weather but Mother Nature has her surprises. Unpredicted early snow and late warm spells can sure hurt the Nationals. We should pick dates wisely. Motels and Headquarters should be no more than one hour from the grounds. The best birds should be provided regardless of cost. Gun captains and guns should be chosen for their merit and not from friendships.

I am old enough to remember when all Nationals were held at Rend Lake, IL. They were high quality nationals with great grounds, outstanding guns, and excellent motel headquarters and banquets. We went to a rotation of three with still some great Nationals in Washington, California, Illinois, and New York. The only problem I saw in that is that Amateur and Open rotated together and often the grounds could not accommodate two Nationals. I personally think that a rotation of five led to subpar Nationals.

No matter if we stay at a rotation of five or revert back to three, we are in desperate need of quality control. I suggest we hire one or two consultants that are no longer running dogs to receive proposals of future nationals. We would pay travel and lodging to get a professional opinion of upcoming proposals. I think all Nationals should be held on neutral grounds (example Rend Lake; Pyramid State Park). Grounds should not be used for local trials or training. I hope these suggestions inspire others to contribute other great ideas.

I have two proposals. 1) I propose that we remain with the five interclub rotations with a triple lag system. 2) That we hire one or two consultants for the purpose of quality control.