



Gayle Riggins, Bruce Riggins and Hiways Spit N Image, RD

Family Affair

As Road Trials become more and more popular we can see that it is for everyone. My husband accompanies me at each Road Trial. He enjoys the beautiful rides after the obedience course is complete. He has become the time keeper. Bruce makes sure that we take all of the 3 hours that is allotted for the Road Dog course (12.5 miles). With all the excitement of completing the obedience course it is hard to think. You have a tendency to ride too quickly at the beginning of the trail. He keeps me at the correct pace.

Each site is different and they have their own individual challenges. This allows us to present in a realistic world of trail riding. Each time that you ride a trail it is different. Even if you have rode that trail numerous times. Road Trials are made to demonstrate that realism. Each obedience field is different. Some have mowed fields and some have tall grass. Some fields are very wet and others will be a gravel parking lot. You will be asked to ride in rain or shine in a Road Trial. Weather is no distraction for this group. This means that your dog could be asked to sit/down in tall grass, wet grass or even while it is raining. The first two exhibitors may be asked to complete their obedience during a drizzling rain, while the next two will see no rain and the last exhibitor could see sunshine. You will also be asked to pass all kinds of distraction dogs. The distraction dog can be as small as a Sheltie or as large as a Great Dane or Standard Poodle. The distraction dog can even be another Dalmatian. The order of the obedience will change with each judge. There is no set order except that they like for the speed to be last. As you can see it is the unknown that makes this performance event so exciting.

The outcome of the obedience is all about the Dalmatian. They have good days and bad. Bruce and I have been riding in Road Trials for five years.

