

Grand National Turkey Call Competition – Division II
9th Annual Grand National Hunting Call Competition
2007 Rules, Announcements and Categories
(Open to all Call Makers)

I. CHARTER

The basis for this competition is to determine each call's stand-alone merit of how well it performs in the hands of a hunter. The judges of this competition will be a qualified panel of experienced turkey hunters who will grade each call on the prescribed criteria. Please note that this is not a contest to determine who the best caller is, rather it is a contest to determine the best call in each specific category.

While it is expected that call makers can run their own calls with great precision, the question with turkey hunters is, how simple or easy the turkey call is to use and how much does it sound like a turkey. In determining and selecting the best hunting turkey call each year, the NWTF strives to ensure fairness and impartiality without prejudice towards commercial or custom call makers or with the design of any call entered in the hunting call competition. Criteria for determining and selecting the best call places equal emphasis on sound quality and tone, ease of use, versatility and its ability in attaining what is commonly referred to as a break over. (Crow and Locater calls will be judged a bit differently.)

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RULES

The purpose of the hunting call competition is to select the most consistent, user friendly and best sounding calls. Entry into the event is open to commercially manufactured or custom, hand made or hand tuned calls. Special awards named in honor of Henry Gibson, Neil Cost, Jeremiah Stevens, D.D. Adams, Tom Turpin and Charles Jordan will be given. In addition, the 2007 NWTF Grand National Champion Hunting Turkey Call Maker of the Year will be recognized.

All entries will be sold on either the silent or live auctions at a 50/50 split (unless entry fee waiver is elected for 100% donation) at the 2007 NWTF National Convention. The 50/50 split entitles the call maker to 50% of the auction bid and the remaining 50% goes to support the NWTF. Name recognition and competition placement (if applicable) will be displayed with each entry at the auction.

General Hunting Call Competition rules:

1. **All call makers are required to pre-register all calls they plan to enter in the 2007 competition no later than February 1, 2007.** *****Callmakers who are unable to attend the convention or are concerned that their call(s) may sell for less than market value are encouraged to use the Absentee Bid Form. If a call maker uses the Absentee Bid Form, the value of the absentee bid will be the starting value placed on the call. In the event that the call does not get a bid higher than the absentee bid, the call maker will be purchasing the call back at that price.
2. Entries must be original works and must have been completed during or after March 2006. Entries must be signed and dated by the call maker.
3. All call makers are limited to two entries per category.
4. Call makers are responsible for selecting the category in which they wish to enter each call. The NWTF reserves the right to place any call in a different category than the one designated by the entrant if the NWTF believes the call is more correctly suited to a differing category/class.
5. **Pre-registered calls may be sent directly to the NWTF or delivered in person** at the Grand National Custom Call Registration desk on Level 1 outside of the Exhibit Hall on Thursday, February 22, 2007 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. (at the Gaylord Opryland Convention Center). **Entries** shipped to the NWTF **must be received no later than February 1, 2007** at the following address:.....**MAIL TO: NWTF Grand National Hunting Call Competition**
770 Augusta Road, Edgefield, SC 29824

6. **The following procedure is required when sending in your call(s) and the Registration Forms. The form has 2 copies...one copy must be placed in an envelope and taped to the outside of the box and one is for your records. It is very important that this procedure be followed. Please do not put the form inside the box, it must be placed in an envelope and taped on the outside of the box so we can get your call(s) registered without opening the box. This will help us expedite the registration and transporting of the many calls in this competition.**
7. All entries shipped to the NWTF will be opened at the convention site.
8. It is the call maker's responsibility to place an acceptable insurance value on the entry for shipping purposes, as the NWTF will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to entries that are beyond the control of the contest.
9. **All entries will be required to remain at the Convention until Sunday, February 25, 2007. Buyers will be allowed to pay for and pick up calls bought beginning Sunday morning, February 25 at 10:00 a.m.**
10. **ENTRY FEES**
 - a. **The entry fee is \$20 per call** for all entries that the call maker wishes to split half the proceeds with the NWTF, or,
 - b. **The entry fee is free per call** for all entries that are deemed 100% supportive. The artisan will not receive any moneys from the sale of the call under this option.
11. Checks will be mailed out from NWTF Headquarters after the convention.
12. **Restrictions:** Calls made with box turtle or turtle shell are not permitted.
13. Call makers wishing to place business cards near their pieces may do so after judging is completed and ribbons have been placed.

III. DISTINCTION OF CLASSES AND CATEGORIES FOR DIVISION II – HUNTING CALLS

Entries are limited to (2) two calls per category and should be the original work of the entrant and completed during or since March 2006.

Class I

Category 1 – Short Box: Hinged-lid design; traditional double-sided design e.g. (Cost, Lynch, Turpin).

Category 2 – Long Box: Hinged-lid design; long paddle design e.g. (Eminence fence post caller style, Cost style boat paddle).

Category 3 – One Sided Box: Hinged-lid design e.g. (Lynch fool proof).

Class II

Category 4 – Slate and Striker

Category 5 – Glass and Striker

Category 6 – Other Friction Call and Striker (i.e. aluminum, copper, rock, etc.)

Class III

Category 7 – Turned Trumpet Call: Turned or machined barrel with mouthpiece, mouthpiece is not required to be turned.

Class IV

Category 8 – Wing bone, cane and other material: Two or three wing bones, cane or other materials such as wing bone/rubber tubing/cow horn are permissible.

Class V

Category 9 – Scratch Box Design

Category 10 – Push-Pin Call

Category 11 – Trough Call and Striker: e.g. (Ray & Ira Chisholm, Pap Nelson, Ben Lee).

The following Categories are not part of any Class:

Category 12 – Champion of Champions Box Call: Stand-alone category (Limited to past Gibson Award

Winners, limited to Hinged-lid design calls only, short, long or one sided or combination). Category 12 is not eligible for the current year Gibson Award or Best in Show (Neil Cost) Award.

Category 13 – Crow Call

Category 14 – Locater Calls (any locating call other than a crow call. This can be any kind of call that could be used to locate turkeys (i.e. Owl, Woodpecker, Coyote, Hawk, Train whistle, etc.) Please see notes below:

IV. JUDGING

A. Categories 1-12

- Only the following characteristics of each call will be scored.
- a. Ability to produce turkey like sounds. (Examples include but are not limited to: yelp, cluck, kee-kee, cackle, cutting of the hen, purr, putt, gobble, tree call).
- b. Ease of use to produce turkey like sounds. (i.e. how simple or user friendly is the call to use).
- c. Tone, pitch, and sound quality.
- d. Break over or roll over.
- e. Versatility (i.e. the ability to obtain a vast range of turkey like sounds e.g. Both Spring or Fall type calls, gobbler or hen sounds including the ability to sound like more than one turkey).

B. Categories 13 & 14

- Only the following characteristics of each call will be scored.

Ability to produce the sound of the animal or object the call is meant to mimic.

- a. Ease of use to produce the sound of the specific animal or object.
 - b. Tone, pitch, and sound quality.
 - c. Projection quality....that is to say how loud and clear the produced sound really is.
1. A panel of five (5) judges will individually rate each entry.
 2. Scores of each call are totaled following the removal of the high and low score. The winner of each category will then be determined by the highest score.
 3. A sample score sheet is attached for informational purposes. However, the NWTF reserves the right to make changes (to the scoring sheet) it deems necessary prior to judging.
 4. All judges are required to be available at the hunting call display area in the exhibit hall on Friday, at 1 PM. Judges will be issued special badges to the exhibit hall at the time of registration. The preliminary round of judging will begin at 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 22nd. The lead Regional Director will serve as facilitator. Judging normally takes about 4 hours.

5. The process of how calls are judged are as follows:

Step 1 – Based on the five (5) criteria, the panel of five judges will individually select a minimum of three (3) calls with a maximum of five (5) calls per category during the preliminary rounds. These selected calls will advance to the final round.

Step 2 – For the final round, **each judge will individually score each entry** in each category.

Step 3 - The calls with highest six (6) scores in each category will be declared: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th H.M., 5th H.M., and 6th H.M.

Step 4 – In the event of a tie score, the calls in question will be re-scored by the judges to determine the winner.

Step 5 – The call scoring the highest score in the final round of the Categories 1 – 3 box calls (Class I) shall be recognized as this year's winner of the Gibson Award and Best of Class winner.

Step 6 – The call scoring the highest score in the friction call and striker Categories 4 – 6 (Class II) shall be recognized as this year's winner of the D.D. Adams Award and Best of Class winner.

Step 7 - The call scoring the highest score in the turned trumpet category 7 (Class III) shall be recognized as this year's winner of the Tom Turpin Award and Best of Class winner.

Step 8 – The call scoring the highest score in the wing bone category 8 (Class IV) shall be recognized as this year’s winner of the Charles L. Jordan Award and Best of Class winner.

Step 9 – The call scoring the highest score in Categories 9 – 11 (Class V) shall be recognized as this year’s winner of the Jeremiah Stevens Award and the Best of Class winner.

Step 10 – Next the judges will independently score the five (5) Best in Class winners. The call with the highest score shall be declared the Best of Show in Hunting Calls and have earned the title “Grand National Call Maker of the Year” for Hunting Calls. The winner will be provided a Grand National Championship ring by the NWTF and recognized at the convention.

Step 11 – Once judging is completed, all trophies and awards will be placed.

The “Gibson” award is named in honor of Henry Gibson, the man who patented the first box call in 1897. The “D. D. Adams” award is named in honor of D.D. Adams, a pioneer friction call maker. The “Turpin” award is named in honor Tom Turpin, a call maker and innovator renown for among other things his turned trumpet calls. The “Jeremiah Stevens” award is named in honor of Jeremiah Stevens, a former slave from Virginia who was known for his turkey hunting skills and the making of “gun stock” or scratch box callers around the turn of the century. The “Charles L. Jordan” award is named in honor of Charles L. Jordan, an outdoor writer, wildlife conservationist and call maker. All trophies are engraved with the name of each year’s winner and the contest sponsor for permanent display at the National Office in Edgefield, S.C.

6. Winners will be announced Friday, February 23, 2007 at approximately 2 p.m. in the exhibit hall. Further recognition will be given to all Best of Show winners during the awards program.

V. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. A Special Live Auction will be held on SELECT CALLS. This prestigious event will start at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, February 24th.
2. Bidding on ALL Silent Auction Calls will begin on Friday, February 23, 2007. The silent auction on the hunting calls will begin to close following the closing of the decorative calls on Saturday, February 24th. All calls will be sold to the highest bidder or will be considered sold when the “Buy it now” price is utilized.
3. Call makers may place absentee bids by filling out the bidding form and including it with their registration form.

VI. AWARDS – DIVISION II – Hunting Calls awards will be as follows:

**Best of Show – NWTF Grand National Champion Call Maker of the Year
Grand National Championship Ring (from Best of Class winners I – V)
Sponsored by: Kanati Calls**

Best of Class I – Box Call Categories 1-3

\$250, Gibson Award, Trophy, Award medallion w/ribbon

Best of Class II – Friction Call Categories 4-5-6

\$250, D.D. Adams Award, Trophy, Award medallion w/ribbon

Best of Class III – Turned Trumpet Call Category 7

\$250, Tom Turpin Award, Trophy, Award medallion w/ribbon

Best of Class IV – Wing bone Call Category 8

\$250, Charles L. Jordan Award, Trophy, Award medallion w/ ribbon

Best of Class V – Scratch box, push pin, Trough Call Categories 9-10-11

\$250, Jeremiah Stevens Award, Trophy, Award medallion w/ribbon.

Champion of Champions

\$250, Neil Cost Award, Trophy, Award medallion w/ ribbon

1st Place for each category

\$50 Cash Award, medallion w/ ribbon

2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Place for each category

Award medallion w/ ribbon

NOTE:

- The Best of Class winners are determined by judging all the 1st Place calls of each category within each respective class. The one call that receives the highest score wins the Best of Class Award. The NWTF Grand National Champion Call Maker of the Year will be determined by the judges in comparing all the Best of Class winners.
- When submitting calls for Category 14, “Locater Calls”, please also submit what animal or object this call is designed to mimic. Additionally, please include any instructions on how to blow or play the call.
- Due to the overwhelming popularity of this contest, we urge you to ship your pre-registered calls in ahead of time. As we are starting the judging on Thursday, we must physically have all of the calls at the convention center by the end of registration...No exceptions will be made. If you can't be at registration before 1 p.m. on Thursday, February 22nd, please make arrangements to ship your calls to our National HQ in Edgefield SC at the address stated above in section II.