

Aston Blasters win Duck Classic

Family team scores 105 out of a possible 108 points to win

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JONESBORO, Ark. — There were nearly 40 teams that entered the Duck Classic, an event that raises money for the NEA Clinic Charitable Foundation.

One of the few duck hunting competitions held in the U.S., the Duck Classic broke down like this:

- Duck hunters were allowed no more than four mallards of which only one mallard may be a hen.
- The daily bag limit may also contain one pintail, three mottled ducks, three scaup, two wood ducks, two redheads, one black duck, one canvasback—but no more than a total of six ducks.
- Teams cannot exceed four hunters.
- 5 points awarded for Mallard Drakes/Pintail Drakes.
- 2 points awarded for any other duck including — but not limited to — Black, Gadwall, Merganser, Ringneck, Shoveler, Teal, Widgeon, Wood, et cetera.
- 1 point for Mallard Hens/Pintail Hens.
- All ducks must be retrieved, counted, and scored.
- Individual hunters cannot surpass the daily allowable limit set forth by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission.
- Team with the most points will be awarded as the winner.
- In the event of a tie, the team with the earliest recorded score will be the winner.
- Hosts will not be permitted to hunt.

But perhaps the most important part of the event is the night before the hunt, when each team was randomly selected and as it's stated in the rules, "matched with some of the area's top hunting spots."

And, like in all areas of the country, some "top" hunting spots are a little higher than others. The Aston Blasters, consisting of father Tim Aston, his sons Greg and Brian, and cousin Andy Murphy, knew they had a good chance of winning when Bryan Pope was selected as their host.



Mark Stallings

(Left to right) Tim Aston, Greg Aston, Andy Murphy, Brian Aston and Bryan Pope won the NEA Duck Classic scoring a 105 out of a possible 108 points with sixteen drake mallards, three pintails and five scrap ducks. They hunted near Egypt, Ark.

Pope has land "near Egypt, Ark.," as Tim Aston

"It sure beats losing," he said. "Days like today are what keep you coming back."