

Topknot News

*The Newsletter of the Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.
Spring 2015/Winter 2014*



Art by Martial Robin

Martial Robin

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**The next Topknot News
submittal deadline is
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Letter from the Editor (Pro Tem)



This is a combined issue of Topknot News covering our National in Belton, TX and the Breeders Cup in Phoenix, AZ. We need a permanent editor for Topknot News but in the meantime I have volunteered to act in that capacity. If you have information you want included in future issues send it to me for now and I will be sure it is passed along once the new editor identifies themselves. I want to extend a special thank you to the other members of the Topknot News Team., Doris Horton, Perry Rooks, and Allan Reznik. Without their help this issue would never have been what it has become. Errors or omissions in this issue are mine.

Please be sure you look at the information on the National this year in Atlanta and the World Congress next year in Ohio. They both have the promise of being outstanding events. The Atlanta show committee has dedicated themselves to making this be a fantastic event that will delight us all at every turn. Make your arrangements to attend now as rooms are filling fast.

The World Congress gives us the opportunity to showcase our dogs to the world. More important it gives us the opportunity to showcase our hospitality to the fanciers from the rest of the world. It has been over 20 years from the last World Congress in the US. Let's all turn out and make it the best ever.

Special thanks to Dogs In Review for allowing us to reprint their article on the National authored by Connie Butherus.

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AHCA CLASSIFIEDS

AHCA currently has a Great Opportunity for a Topknot News Editor. Please consider volunteering to fill position as head of a dedicated production team. Skills with Microsoft Publisher helpful but not a requirement.

**Interested candidates please contact
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Submitted by
Tony Saia
President



Dear Fellow AHCA Members, I would like to formally express sincere regrets for the lateness of Topknot News. The current Board and I recently had some major hurdles to overcome and

we hope that we are now over this unfortunate state of affairs. Mr. Russ Hastings who recently joined the Board has very courteously accepted this temporary assignment for putting together our Fall and Spring Newsletter so that all can be informed on the latest and greatest AHCA News.

We have lots of exciting affairs coming to our organization. We recently had a very nice Breeders Cup in Phoenix AZ and I would like to publicly thank both Eileen and Denise for once again putting on a nice friendly affair. We also had a Meet and Greet the AHCA Board which resulted in some nice good feedback. We are also planning on yet another Meet and Greet the AHCA Board during the weekend of the "Summer Splash Specialties". So if you are there in attendance stop by and give us some advice. Additionally the Next Big Thing is our National in Atlanta Georgia, and I can promise another Stellar event. Max Ross also has some Regional Lure Coursing Events which are fun for all. Also many of you heard that the Afghan Hound World Congress is coming back to the Good Old USA. See You in Ohio March 2016. More to Come !

Finally one last comment, the AHCA Face book was placed forth for announcements and information, not Bashing any AHCA Club and Non Club Member. This Forum is for Education, Announcements and not for publicly humiliating any individual. So I hope that this can come to a close in this Forum.

Fondly, Tony Saia
President 2015

THE AFGHAN HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA NATIONAL SPECIALTY

AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR

By Connie Butherus | Photos by Malinda Julien

Reprinted with permission from *Dogs in Review* magazine. This article first appeared in the January 2015 issue.

The Afghan Hound Club of America held its 78th National Specialty show at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton, Texas, from October 19 to 22. Although it was, of course, held in the United States, the international flavor of the event was an added attraction with no fewer than 12 foreign countries represented by either dogs or people (and often both). The American Afghan Hound National Specialty has become very much an international event over the years, and this year was true to the tradition.

The four days of activities came under the leadership and direction of Lynda Hicks, the Show Chair. She was ably assisted by the energetic and creative fellow Texan Nicci Von Broembsen, Nicci's husband, Max, and Lynda's husband, James, who is also the President of the AHCA. This quartet of Lone Star State Afghan Hound enthusiasts were the ones who coordinated all aspects of the event and provided special added touches that gave the show its Texas flavor. From the profusion of yellow roses, à la *The Yellow Rose of Texas*, to barbecue and Tex-Mex, there was no mistaking where we all were.

In keeping with the theme "The Stars Are Big and Bright," many of the vendors saw to it that there were items to tempt shopaholics to part with their assets and take home items such as sparkle-studded cowboy/girl hats. In addition to the sales booths, there was a silent auction table benefiting the national rescue effort and one featuring all manner of donated Afghan Hound collectables put up for auction, benefiting both rescue and the specialty show.

Over the years, the AHCA has expanded its scope of competition from conformation only to now include multiple events in which Afghan Hounds generally participate. The National Specialty has become a multi-day celebration as additional events have been included to better appreciate the abilities of these versatile dogs. Obedience and Lure Coursing were first offered in 1980; in 1998 a Triathlon competition was added in which the participants must earn qualifying scores in two events and be judged in a third, conformation. Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Agility and Lure Coursing (AKC and ASFA) were all offered at this year's event. Club President James Hicks stated that Afghan Hounds are "incredible athletes" and "can accomplish anything they put their minds to, so it's interesting to see the creative antics they can come up with."

Agility, Coursing, Sweepstakes And More

The action began on Sunday with the Agility trial judged by Alan Arthur. The Highest Scoring Dog was a petite bitch, Tabitha, owned by Jerry and Sharon Pearson of Glendale, Ariz. Remember the name Tabitha. This was not her first — or last — rodeo.

At 8 a.m. on Monday, inspection and roll call began for the Lure Coursing events, which were held at a ranch off site. The judges were Garry and Dr. Judy Newton, both of whom have had substantial experience in sighthounds and coursing. AKC and ASFA tests and trials were held. Nicci Von Broembsen chaired the event. Best of Breed in the AKC event was El Zagel's Arcadian Colors, owned by Vicki Fagre-Straeta. In the ASFA event, the winner was Kominek's Maid Of Sapphires, owned by Eddie and Selma Kominek. In the run off between the two winners, the Komineks' bitch was also declared the Best in Event.

Meanwhile, back at the Expo Center, the activity level was moving into high gear. The vendors were setting up their wares, and the auction tables were groaning under the load of tempting items. The trophy table was readied for the Sweepstakes competition and was accented with yellow roses along with bronze trophies created by Terry d. Chacon. At 5 p.m., a welcome reception began with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. It happened to have been the 50th wedding anniversary of Barb and Lee Bornstein. Barb is the AHCA Recording Secretary, and friends had arranged for a celebratory cake in their honor.

The Sweepstakes competition began with the Veterans. These dogs were all 7 years of age or older with one noted to be over 11 years of age. Floyd Gale of Gulfport, Fla., had been selected by the AHCA membership as the judge. He and Tony Saia are the breeders behind Beachbrook Afghans. As he took the ring and called the first class of Veterans, folks were in awe at the energetic performances these supposed old-timers demonstrated. The Best Veteran was a 9 year old male, GCh. Abaca Shacone Native Spirit, owned by Abbe R. Shaw and Terry d. Chacon, and shown by Abbe. The Best Opposite Sex Veteran was Ch. Pahlavi Ain't No Other owned by Ellen Klosson and Karen Wagner, and shown by Ellen.

Between the Veterans and Puppy Sweepstakes, the judge evaluated the conformation class of the Triathlon competition. The judge scored each dog and presented his record to the Triathlon Chair, Claudia Jakus, to be added to the scores for each dog. The winner was to be announced before Best of Breed on Wednesday.

The conclusion of the Sweepstakes judging was the youngsters from 6 through 18 months of age. It was encouraging to see the future of the breed in these promising youthful exhibits. Floyd Gale appeared calm, yet full of joy as he assessed each dog. With the lineup of the class winners competing for Best in Sweepstakes in place, his was a daunting task. The Best in Sweepstakes came from the 6 to 9 Month Puppy Dog class, Shylo Black And Blue All Over, owned by Kirlyn Fouts, Eric Whitney, Bruce Clark and Stephen Fisher, shown by Stephen. Best Opposite Sex was also from the 6 to 9 Month class, the puppy bitch Spice Hill Genesis, owned and shown by Teri Tevlin.

Meetings, Seminars And Conformation Judging Begins

Tuesday morning was devoted to conducting the business of the AHCA with the Annual Membership Meeting. A complimentary breakfast was provided for those early risers in attendance. The meeting was chaired by President James Hicks. The reports of the various committees

were presented, discussion occurred as is usual, and the agenda items were addressed.

There were additional meetings and sessions held during the balance of the morning. Harry Bennett, Chair of Judges Education, led the Judges' Study Group and hands-on assessment for those intending to become approved to judge the breed.

The Rescue meeting was under the leadership of the Rescue Chairs, Barb and Russ Hastings, and a Juniors' Seminar was scheduled with Anna Stromberg.

With the meetings concluded, it was time to begin the conformation judging of the class dogs and bitches. David Frei and Jane Sheppard, having been selected by the membership, were to be center stage the balance of the afternoon. David, the well-known canine commentator, broadcast personality and past breeder of Afghan Hounds, began with the dog classes. From this lineup of class winners deep in quality, David selected the Bred-by-Exhibitor dog for Winners, the brindle Zircus Of Dega Afghans, bred, owned and shown by Jaime Ganoza of Peru. Reserve Winners Dog came out of the 12-18 Month class, Elevate Ur Game Cynergy Of Meadow Valley, bred by Ria and Toni Wagner of Germany, owned by Janice Butler and Ria Wagner, and shown by Bobbi Kinley-Blewett. The international flavor of the AHCA was once again to be noted.

It was then time for the bitch classes. Jane Sheppard of Afghans of Province renown took over the ring. The Winners Bitch, Kingsleah Blue Heart, came from the Open class. She was bred by Gunilla Holmgren of Sweden, owned by the breeder and Sharon Ferraro, and shown by Teri Tevlin. Chalk up another win for our international contingent. Reserve Winners Bitch was also from the Open class, Blu Hill's Girl On Fire, bred and owned by Darla and Larry Miller. The day concluded with a cocktails-and-dinner Breed Education Seminar featuring presenters from around the world. The speakers were Jennifer Atkinson of Afshari Afghans from New Zealand; Harry Bennett of Wanderin' Afghan Hounds from the US; Lotte Jorgensen of Kennel Boxadan from Denmark; Susan Rhodes of Shadowfax Afghan Hounds from the UK; and Terrence Wilcox of Alaqa-dar Afghan Hound Kennels from Australia.

The evening took on the spirit of an international breed conference with the thoughtful and at times amusing presentations followed by a question-and-answer session. It was an informative and entertaining seminar, coordinated by Barb Bornstein, attended by nearly 100 breed enthusiasts and funded by no fewer than 25 sponsors.

Rally and Obedience, Juniors And the finale

Wednesday began with the Companion events of Rally and Obedience with Cathleen Caballero judging. Obedience Chair Dianne Kroll saw to it that everything ran according to plan. The Highest Scoring Dog in Obedience was Tabitha with another win in addition to her Agility success for owners Jerry and Sharon Pearson.

At the conclusion of the Obedience competition, the Junior Showmanship classes were judged by Jane Sheppard. Best Junior Handler was awarded to Alexis Kujawa from the Open Intermediate class. Following Juniors was a special feature termed the Liberty class. In this demonstration, the handler and dog performed a variety of tasks, movements, skills and tricks accompanied by music. *Dancing With the Stars* has nothing to top this event! Laurel Deptuch of British Columbia did two routines with two different dogs, Swiftwind's Classy And Fabulous and Ch. Swiftwind Midnite Moon Shadow. It was a joyous and outstanding demonstration of agility, athletic ability and the human-canine bond.

The morning concluded with the announcement of all the Companion and Performance events winners, each taking a lap around the ring to thunderous applause. The final announcement was that of the Triathlon placements, with the winner being none other than the multi-titled Tabitha CDX, SC, OA, NAJ, AXP, OJP, NFP. Her registration number is an ILP. Her sire and dam are recorded as "Unknown." Her owners, Jerry and Sharon Pearson, have accomplished much with the help of this rescue girl. Congratulations!

Right: Best of Breed under judge David Frei was GCh. Tells Matrix Reloaded. Trophy presenter James Hicks, AHCA President.



Left: Best of Opposite Sex under judge David Frei was GCh. Criston Enchanted. Trophy presenter James Hicks, AHCA President.

Prior to the Best of Breed judging, David Frei ably presented the Parade of Rescue and the Parade of Veterans. He read the history of each as they were presented with medallions and inscribed personal rosettes. These parades always ruin the eye makeup of the women and boost the sales of Kleenex. Once eyes were dry, it was time for the finale... the Best of Breed competition. David assumed control of the ring and began the selections and cuts with dispatch. As he winnowed down the entry, the excitement increased among the exhibitors and spectators. The dogs handled the situation with spirit and style as befitting their status. When he asked the stewards for "the hard-ware," we knew he had made his selections.



Best Bred-by-Exhibitor and Winners Dog Zircus Of Dega Afghans. Trophy presenter Lynda Hicks, Show Chairman.

Best of Breed went to GCh. Tells Matrix Reloaded, owned by Missy Ann Galloway, bred by Jorgen Colling, Marie-Louise and Camilla Tell-Collinge of Scandinavia, shown by Christian Manelopoulos — another major award to a foreign-bred dog.

Best of Opposite Sex was GCh. Criston Enchanted, bred by C. Pinkston,

M. Friesen and T. Elwess, owned by Christine Pinkston and Nancy J. Shaw, and shown by Anna Stromberg.



Winners Bitch and BOW Kingsleah Blue Heart. Pictured with owner Sharon Ferraro and James Hicks.

Select Dog was GCh. Thaon's Wallstreet, owned by Jay T. Hafford, James Blanchard, Debbie and J.W. Rogers, Beverly and Jae Moore, and shown by Jay Hafford. Select Bitch GCh. Agha Djari's Eye Candy Of Sura is a German import owned by James Dalton, Dr. John Turjoman and Suzanne J. Neill, and shown by Alicia Morrison Jones. Best of Winners was the Winners Bitch previously noted. The five Awards of Merit were Ch. Jakar An Affair Most Wicked, owned by Beverly Warren; GCh. Jolie Orion, owned by Jason and Jennifer Taylor; GCh. Polo's Air Force One, owned by Lorianne Amadeo; GCh. Abaca Shacone Native Spirit, owned by Abbe Shaw and Terry Chacon;

and Ch. Fashionista Of Damos, owned by Juan Miranda and Rosa Miranda. The judging concluded with the awarding of Best Puppy, Best Bred-By-Exhibitor, Stud Dog, Brood Bitch and Best Brace. For a complete list of the major award winners, see the “AHCA’s Major Awards” sidebar.

It was now party time, and party we did at the Annual Awards Banquet, complete with a Texas band and barbecue. Those in attendance got into the spirit of the evening, donning their best Western attire. Jason Taylor, the Master of Ceremonies, announced the award winners for the previous year, as well as a number of special recognitions and awards. The AKC Good Sportsmanship medallion was a well-deserved honor given to Barb Hastings, who has been the Rescue Chair along with her husband, Russ, for many years. As the evening concluded and the goodbyes were said, we knew we would gather again next year in Atlanta, Ga., to celebrate our breed and the friendships developed through our canine connection, the Afghan Hound.



Select Dog GCh. Thaon’s Wallstreet.



Select Bitch GCh. Agha Djari’s Eye Candy Of Sura.

AHCA’s Major Awards

Agility High Scoring Dog: Tabitha
Lure Coursing, AKC: El Zagel’s Arcadian Colors
Lure Coursing, ASFA: Kominek’s Maid Of Sapphires (also Best in Event)
Obedience High Scoring Dog: Tabitha
High in Triathlon: Tabitha

Best in Veteran Sweepstakes: GCh. Abaca Shacone Native Spirit
Best Opposite Sex in Veteran Sweepstakes: Ch. Pahlavi Ain’t No Other
Best in Sweepstakes: Shylo Black And Blue All Over (from the 6 to 9 Month Puppy Dog class)
Best Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes: Spice Hill Genesis (from the 6 to 9 Month Puppy Bitch class)

Best Junior Handler: Alexis Kujawa

Winners Dog: Zircus Of Dega Afghans
Reserve Winners Dog: Elevate Ur Game Cynergy Of Meadow Valley
Winners Bitch: Kingsleah Blue Heart
Reserve Winners Bitch: Blu Hill’s Girl On Fire
Best of Breed: GCh. Tells Matrix Reloaded
Best of Winners: Kingsleah Blue Heart
Best Opposite Sex: GCh. Criston Enchanted
Select Dog: GCh. Thaon’s Wallstreet
Select Bitch: GCh. Agha Djari’s Eye Candy Of Sura
Awards of Merit:
 Ch. Jakar An Affair Most Wicked,
 GCh. Jolie Orion,
 GCh. Polo’s Air Force One,
 GCh. Abaca Shacone Native Spirit,
 Ch. Fashionista Of Damos
Best Puppy: Spice Hill Rising Sun
Best Bred-By-Exhibitor: Winners Dog; Zircus Of Dega Afghans
Best Stud Dog: GCh. Alphaville Shylo Here I Come
Best Brood Bitch: GCh. DC Suni Magenta Maid in Bakura
Best Brace: Eyes of Whisper Dega Afghans and Zircus of Dega Afghans

AHCA 2014 Additional Pictures



AHCA 2014 Judges Critiques Conformation

**Afghan Hound Club of America
National Specialty October 2014**

**Critique by David Frei
Class Dogs and Best of Breed**

I was humbled and honored to be selected to judge the 2014 AHCA National Specialty. All my years in the breed, all those Nationals I attended, all those years serving on the board, and a year as parent club president were flashing through my mind as I stepped into the ring. I thought about Zoomie and Rader and Frosty and all of the rest of my own wonderful Afghan Hounds through the years, and I took that as my inspiration for my assignment.

To jump ahead for a moment, when the specials were first assembled as I checked them into the ring, I found myself mentally paraphrasing Roy Scheider from the movie, "Jaws" – I'm gonna need more ribbons.

It was exactly what I wanted, and what we all should want at our National Specialty. There have been some moments in previous judging assignments where I ended my judging with concerns about my beloved breed. This was certainly not the case here.

More about that in a minute.

I was impressed with the class dogs and happy to see a bright future there. But I would say this: how does the National Specialty only draw two entries in the Bred By Exhibitor class? Really?

That said, my eventual winner did come from those two entries in BBE and was a foreign-bred dog. Of course, neither of those things should be a factor in judging, and they were not. My WD (#11 Zircus of Dega Afghans) was lovely and balanced, with a beautiful head and eye, a great outline, the right angles in the right places, beautiful neck, shoulder, and top-line. Proper size, proportion, and nice moving, expertly presented, he is a dog for any breeding program in any country.

He was pushed by my RWD (#69 Elevate Ur Game Cynergy of Meadow Valley) from the 12-18 class and also by my Open Dog winner (#25 Jorogz' Here for the Party). I would guess that they have probably both finished by the time that you are reading this critique.

At this point, Jane Sheppard came on to judge the class bitches and ultimately sent me a beautiful WB. To be continued.

And now for the Specials.

Wow. What a collection. I liked them all as they walked in. I was able to sort out some favorites in the judging process, but as I said in the ring, I cut a lot of them that I would have loved to have seen in any assignment. But then, after that cut, when I looked around I still had more dogs than ribbons. But in the National Specialty, isn't that the way that every judge and spectator would want it?

I think every exhibitor got their money's worth of me – examination, movement, a few more looks, movement, free stack, movement ... I certainly had a great time, I hope everyone else did, too – exhibitors and spectators alike. I was thrilled to be able to share this wonderful entry with everyone at ringside (and watching on streaming video).

There were only a couple of dogs in there that I had judged anywhere previously, another of those deals that makes no difference on the day. But I had canceled a couple of regional specialty judging assignments that I had scheduled in advance of the invitation for the National so that I could be fresh and unencumbered.

So here we go.

AHCA 2014 Judges Critiques Conformation Continued

My BOB winner (#121 GCH Tells Matrix Reloaded) pretty much had it all for me, starting with the outline and balance and a pretty picture to satisfy the artist in me. The parts were all there to satisfy the engineer in me ... beautiful head and eye, great neck, shoulders, topline and proper size and proportion, correct angles, good feet. Moved perfectly, at the right speed, wonderfully presented. He went to the front of my mental line the moment I put my hands on him.

My BOS and my two Selects could have won on any other day. I loved my Select Dog (#53 GCH Thaon's Wallstreet) as well, another beautiful brindle pretty similar to the breed dog. Beautiful head and outline, too, and a lovely mover. How lucky was I to have these two dogs in my ring, this one and the winner.

The bitches, BOS (#100 GCH Criston's Enchanted) and Select (#92 GCH Agha Djari's Eye Candy of Sura), are visibly different in type but both beautifully presented and up to the competition. I could have easily switched their positions. I would take any of these four home with me in a moment.

My Award of Merit winners admittedly did not all come out of a cookie cutter, but I liked them all, so there should have been something in there for everyone.

I especially wish I had something more for the black-and-silver bitch (#104 Ch. Jakar An Affair Most Wicked) and for the brindle dog (#49 AM GR CN Chex Polo's Air Force One, CGN). The two cream dogs (#37 GCH Jolie Orion and #133 Ch. Fashionista of Damos) and the red dog (#75 GCH Abaca Chacone Native Spirit) were all deserving as well, as were a number of others that I had to send away empty-handed after making them work so hard in the ring. One note: I did not make AOMs in any order, although I would put the first two AOM dogs that I mentioned ahead of the three other males.

Best of Winners: Close call, similar dogs, but the WB (#102 Kingsleah Blue Heart) had a slight edge. I think perhaps the WD was running out of gas near the end, while the WB never let up. I would have taken either of them.

In closing, I want to thank the AHCA membership for electing me to judge. Repeating: humbled and honored. The highlight of my Afghan Hound career.

Special thanks to the mentors who helped me get here: Wally Pede' and Gini Withington and Sandy Frei. There is no way I would have been standing in the center of that ring without all that I learned from them.

Thank you to Lynda and James Hicks for their hospitality, and thanks to my ring stewards and ringside help for their efforts.

I want to add that I was also thrilled to be able to MC the Parade of Veterans and the Parade of Rescue, and I hope everyone gave the right kind of thoughts and respect to the dogs and the people who participated. It will always be important to work hard and give the proper respect to rescue as well as conformation and performance events.

From what I saw in my ring, the breed is thriving. Thanks and Godspeed to all. See you somewhere down the dog show road.

David Frei

AHCA 2014 Judges Critiques Conformation Continued

AHCA 2014 BITCH CLASS JUDGES CRITIQUE

Jane Sheppard

It is with profound appreciation that I offer my thanks in being given the opportunity to judge Bitches at the 2014 Afghan Hound Club of America Specialty. This honor is the culmination of a life-long involvement with this magnificent breed. Winning the National back in 1982 with Ch. Province Applaus Resolution (Scooby) was an experience beyond words. 2014 brings, yet again, an experience I will hold deeply in my heart.

Understanding the immense effort there is to hosting a National event, kudos to all those who worked so tirelessly to make the show a success. The hospitality and accommodations were wonderful and there is no doubt a fun time was experienced by all. Thank you for making us feel so very welcome!

How moving to see so many of my peers, who have been a part of this "journey" for nearly five decades, continuing to breed and exhibit the ideals they have maintained over the years. Equally impressive were the newer exhibitors and breeders who are showing such promise in maintaining the integrity of the breed.

Despite the many wonderful bitches that I had the joy to examine, I would be remiss, if I did not comment on some of my concerns. Although I have seen much improvement of front assemblies, with beautiful shoulders and upper arm, I am still seeing a lack of lower hocks and the moderate angulation and bow to the rear. I would award an exhibit, with a slightly straighter front, if it balances the rear assembly in angulation. No surprise, it's all about balance. Although several of the exhibits had the exquisite "Eastern expression" we seek, a few rounder and lighter eyes were evident, and detracted from the overall look.

Lastly, since the Afghan Hound IS a sighthound, we do sometimes see the dog exhibit caution and reluctance when being approached, but shyness is something breeders need to address. One will forgive a puppy that has not had much exposure, but it is not too difficult to determine if the temperament goes beyond "cautious". Having said all this, I was elated at the quality presented and several classes were extremely difficult to place. I would be thrilled to own many of them.

6-9 Puppy Bitch was probably one of the most challenging to judge, due to the wonderful, overall quality of this class.

1st place (Spice Hill Genesis) went to a gorgeous, square blue brindle with a "diva" ring presence. Balance in movement with the clean action coming and going. Nice, level topline both standing and on the move moving. Superbly handled, she stopped herself "spot on".

2nd place (Gabriel's Don't Squeeze Me) was a very sound black-masked red bitch with an exquisite head and expression, nice depth of brisket, beautiful topline and the nicely bowed rear, I so appreciate. Easy gait and true on the down and back. Although lacking in confidence, she was a joy to place your hands on.

3rd place was awarded to Shylo the Black Swan of Dayspring, a beautiful, rangy black bitch with a beautiful long head and pleasing expression. She possessed a lovely neck and shoulder placement and strong level topline.

4th place (Genesis Debutante of Spice Hill) was an attractive leggy brindle with wonderful angles and easy, flowing gait. On top of her game while being gaited around the ring, she exhibited a bit of "I think I've had enough of this" on the examination and by no means showing true shyness.

9-12 Puppy Bitch

1st place (Shylo Maybelline) was a striking black bitch with wonderful shoulders, a superb front and rear assembly and strong level topline. She possessed the natural muscling I love, combined with elegance and grace. Balanced gait and lovely coming and going.

2nd place (Enarki Fairest of Them All) was a stunning cream girl with wonderful ring presence. Beautifully angled front and these attributes resulted in her beautiful side gait. Although not as polished in presentation, one could see she was enjoying herself. This bitch was a very strong contender to win this class.

3rd (Swiftwind's Classy and Fabulous) was a pretty cream bitch with a lovely front assembly, a well angulated rear with well let down hocks. With the amount of angulation she had front and rear and relatively shorter back, there was a bit of interference under the body as compared to the other exhibits.

AHCA 2014 Judges Critiques Conformation Continued

12- 18 Bitch

1st place (Kuhl Breeze Designer White House Black Market) was a nicely balanced Black and Silver with a level topline, both standing and while gaing. She possessed a love head and expression. She moved with ease and her movement was equally clean on the down and back.

2nd place was awarded to Can. Ch. Vanity Blue Diamond of Polo. This dark blue bitch possessed a lovely long neck flowing into nicely laid back shoulders. Her movement was effortless and she exhibited a wonderful ring presence.

3rd place (Kuhl Breeze Dancing in the Dark Jakar) was a pretty black and silver bitch nicely angle front and rear. She had a lovely topline but did not cover ground as efficiently as the first and second place bitches.

4th place (Victorias JP Catherine M-Topone). This bitch again was a delight to examine with her correct front, nicely angulated rear and correct topline. Her head carriage detracted a bit from her ring presence, however, despite her nicely balance gait.

Bred by Exhibitor Bitch

1st place (Sharja Stratosphere) was a stunning, leggy masked silver bitch with a drop dead gorgeous head and expression. She possessed a wonderful front assembly, nice layback of shoulder and level topline. Her rear assembly balanced her front resulting in an easy, ground covering gait. A bit taller than my ideal, she possessed a classy elegance.

2nd place, Pahlavi Marilyn Merlot, a rangy black masked red bitch, had a ring presence that would knock anyone's "socks off"! She moved with confidence and a "you better be watching me" attitude. A pleasure to go over with a stunning head and although possessing a bit less angulation fore and aft, she nevertheless was balanced.

3rd place was Shante Prime Time Diva, a pretty domino bitch with a well set under front assembly and balanced gait but a bit lacking in rear angulation

4th place was a flashy red brindle with wonderful ring presence and superbly presented by her handler. She possessed a lovely head and expression, and strong topline. I would like to have seen her have a bit more length of upper arm.

American Bred Bitch

The single entry exhibit (Oriana Milan Eaze), possessed a pleasant head and expression, a very nice shoulder assembly, and level topline. I would have liked to have seen her cover ground more effectively.

Open Bitches

1st place, (Kingsleah Blue Heart), was a breathtaking blue bitch with a long ground-covering gait and elegant ring presence. With her wonderful shoulder assembly, long neck and level topline she presented a vision of elegance. Legs well set beneath her, a nicely angulated rear enabled her to cover ground effortlessly.

2nd place (Blue Hill's Girl on Fire) was a striking tall patterned red bitch with a lovely head and expression. Examining her was a joy as she was so nicely put together and balanced in front and rear assemblies. She too had a wonderful natural muscling. This bitch moved with ease and although she did not cover ground as well as my first selection, possessed control on the down and back.

3rd place (Sharja Scandalous Rumour) was a leggy self masked red with nice proportions. I would have liked to see a bit more shoulder layback and she was taller than my ideal for a bitch.

4th place (Kamy Queen of Fancyfloral) was a black and tan with a nicely balanced gait. Could have exhibited more attitude in the ring.

In the final lineup for Winner's Bitch, I felt a wonderful sense of pride in the quality of the splendid bitches in front of me. No doubt that some, perhaps many of them will be the outstanding producers years to come. What pleased me on this day, is the overall improvement in toplines, which has been a long standing issue for me. Kudos to the breeders, who are taking this structural element seriously.

My heart went to the little 6-9 month "diva", Spice Hill Genesis, who possessed a wonderful maturity in presence despite her tender age I expect big things from this lovely girl.

AHCA 2014 Judges Critiques Conformation Continued

My eventual decision was the splendid Open bitch, Kingsleah Blue Heart who on the last go around, rose to the top. Her silhouette was nothing short of spectacular. I am indeed honored to have had her in my ring.

Reserve Winners Bitch was the houndy second place winner of the Open bitch class, Blue Hill's Girl on Fire. She possessed so much of the "look" I love with all the elements of a functioning sighthound.

I would also like to comment on the skills of the two young women in Junior Showmanship. Polish, skillfulness and outstanding sportsmanship was exhibited by both. It was an impossible decision to award Best Junior. This award went to Alexis Kuja-wa, and was determined on the final "self stack". Congratulations to you both. You did a remarkable job!

Thanks again to the Afghan Hound Club of America for this memorable experience and mostly to the exhibitors, who traveled long distances and made many sacrifices to be a part of this event.

I am truly humbled and grateful.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Sheppard

Sweepstakes Critique Floyd Gale

First, I would like to thank Lynda and Nicci for all their efforts in putting on the 2014 AHCA National. Also, a Big Thank You to the Members and the Exhibitors for bestowing on me the honor to judge this prestigious event.

For my Veterans Class, this was not only fun, but a real treat to see some of our senior dogs in great shape and showing off their best attributes. My final decision was between two very great representatives of our Breed, both excelling in structure, movement and correct breed and gender type.

Best in Veterans Sweeps: Ch. Abaca Shacone Native Spirit. This dog was not only great to go over, he was a pleasure to watch move as he soundly floated across the ring. His structure was almost flawless: perfect topline, great lay back of shoulders and a fancy headpiece to top off his textbook balance. When watching the Breed a few days later, I personally felt that this dog was one of the convincing contenders for winning the top award. My Best of Opposite in Veterans Sweepstakes, Ch. Pahlavi Ain't No Other, was also another fine representative of our breed. She excelled in type, great movement, both from the side and coming and going, and in addition also was good to go over, with an exceptional body.

My Sweepstakes Winners:

6-9 Mo. Dog Class: Shylo Black and Blue All Over. This puppy had EVERYTHING that all breeders should look for. He was perfectly square, had a good head, nice shoulders and was faultless when he floated around the ring.

9-12 Mo. Dog Class: Jhanzi T' Silver Aquaeon. This dog was not my type but could not be denied when he moved. I preferred the 2nd place dog in breed type, but he was not moving as soundly as the first place dog.

15-18 Mo. Dog Class: Elevate UR Game Cynergy of Meadow Valley. Won clearly on his movement, very macho when moving and commanded your attention.

6-9 Mo. Bitch Class: A very strong class, with all the puppies having a nice future. I loved both my 1st and 2nd place class winners - both have so many good attributes and I am sure will contribute to the future of our breed. The winner, Spice Hill Genesis, won out because she was almost perfect in every way. Loved her flawless balance, great body, and again was so impeccable to watch move. Her timing was precision when floating around the ring.

AHCA 2014 Judges Critiques Conformation Continued

9-12 Mo. Bitch Class: Shylo Maybelline. A very nicely balanced bitch.

15-18 Mo. Bitch Class: Pahlavi Marilyn Merlot. A very lovely red bitch that was great to go over and also had a wonderful neck into her shoulder. This bitch had probably the best headpiece of the day and everyone knows I appreciate a pretty head.

For my Best in Sweeps, I made it very clear that it was between my 2 junior puppies - both excelled in type, soundness and correct Afghan Hound movement. I loved both, but the puppy dog won out because at the very end he caught my eye and actually knocked my socks off.

Respectfully submitted,

Floyd Gale

AHCA 2014 LURE COURSING

The AHCA hosted the National Lure Coursing Championship trial at the Double H Ranch, home of President James Hicks and Show Chair Lynda Hicks, on Monday October 20th 2014.

Our judges for the day were Garry and Judy Newton, Afghan Hound breeders and Conformation and Lure Coursing Judges.

The opening ceremony was a poignant moment in the day's event. It started with the National Anthem followed by Garry Newton reading "The Fourth Dog", a poem written for our coursing hounds who have crossed the bridge. This was followed by the music "The Last Post", also known as "Taps".

James Hicks walked his coursing dog Sevion to the line for the Memorial Dog run. To honor our beloved hounds who had passed on, exhibitors had helium filled balloons, personalized with their dog's names, to be released at the sound of "Tally Ho", a symbolic release for another run.

Sevion, wearing a rainbow colored blanket was released by James, ran the course to the sounds of "Pomp & Circumstance". Sevion seemed so proud to be representing his breed and old friends. After a perfectly executed run he was collected by James and the National Championships were up and running.

The AHCA hosts both an AKC and an ASFA (American Sighthound Field Association) Lure Coursing Trial every year at our Nationals. The two organizations alternate annually which organization runs first. This year the AKC Trial was scheduled first.

At the conclusion of the AKC Trial and AKC prize giving, a brunch was served under the trees. Lynda Hicks had made a wonderful Texas Ranch Chili which proved to be very popular !

Following the break for brunch the trial was moved to another section of the ranch for the running of the ASFA course. The two best of breed winners of AKC (**Sienna - El Zagel's Arcadian Colors**) and ASFA trial (**Brienne Kominek's Maid of Sapphires**) took to the field for the final event of the day - The Best in Event run off. Interestingly both dogs were from the Open class.

"WOW" ... is all you could say about this run off. Two amazing Afghans ran their hearts out. It was breathtaking. The winner was the ASFA dog, Brienne, who score a perfect 100 points with the AKC winner, Sienna, being awarded a 99 point total.

This years Nationals had a perfect finish So many thanks for all the people who helped with all the work load. It was SO greatly appreciated.

Nicci von Broembsem
Trial chair.

AHCA 2014 LURE COURSING CONTINUED

Lure Coursing Critique

Garry & Dr. Judith Newton

Judy and I were both honored and privileged to Judge the 2014 Afghan Hound Club of America National Lure Coursing events. The individuals putting on this event were outstanding. They made sure that the two fields were such that the Afghans competing that day were not only challenged in all aspects but were able to exhibit the functional attributes that make our hounds so special to us all. The field committee was one of the best we have had the privilege to work with. They made sure that the trials were run efficiently while making sure that the exhibitors, dogs and the judges had everything that was needed to make this trial one to be fondly remembered. The hospitality and food was just what one would expect from Texas. (It's always bigger and better in Texas).

As with any trial, some of the hounds showed the independent thinking that we know so well from living with Afghans. It was still a pleasure to watch these Afghans and only one that has lived and loved Afghans can truly appreciate the equal parts of pride and exasperation of a truly independent canine.

The morning course was the ASFA trial. It was generally a speed course. It challenged and highlighted the agility of our hounds while the longer speed sections truly were spectacular in showcasing the athletic ability and velocity of these hounds.

The afternoon course was the AKC trial. This trial showcased the agility of our hounds with darting turns and twists. The Afghans of this trial also had chances to exhibit wonderful examples of speed as well. Both trials were on excellent fields and the expert lure operation brought the best out of the hounds.

While some of the coursing was innovative, many of the courses throughout the day were outstanding. In fact, the final course of the day was between the winner of the morning ASFA trial and the afternoon AKC trial. I have personally been judging lure coursing since the mid 1970's and this course is only the second time I have awarded a perfect score of 100 to the dog that was the winner for both Judy and myself. The other Afghan in that run received a score of 99 and was only separated by a point by Judy as well. I will always remember that course fondly. It matched two excellent running Afghan Hounds and the performance I observed was picture perfect. It showcased the agility, speed, endurance and overall coursing ability of the Afghan Hound. It was a privilege just to be on the same field as these two exceptional functional Afghans.

Garry Newton

Lure coursing winners

BEST OF BREED AKC: Sienna El Zagel's Arcadian Colors Breeders: Bonnie Schulz & Vicki Fagre-Stroetz

By: Ch. Chaos Dalton at El Zagel x Noblewinds Go For The Gold

Owner: Vicki Fagre-Stroetz

BEST OF BREED ASFA: Brienne Kominek's Maid of Sapphires 04/14/2013

Owners: Eddie & Selma Kominek

BEST IN EVENT: Brienne

BEST IN BREEDER STAKE: Flyer/Myra

bred by Marion Roby

BEST IN KENNEL STAKE: Quinn/Tariq

owned by Deann Britton

HIGHEST SCORING CHAMPION: Paco (DC Sebring Elan Carumba SC) from AKC Veteran Stake

OLDEST DOG WITH A QUALIFYING SCORE: Tabitha SC CDX RE AO NAJ AXP OJP NF NFP (ILP158060 09/02/05)

Breeder: Unknown

Sire x Dam: Unknown

Owners: Jerry & Sharon Pearson
from AKC Veteran Stake

AHCA 2014 LURE COURSING CONTINUED



Best in Breed AFSA & Best in Event: Brienne with owner Eddie Kominek & Trial Chair Nicci von Broembsem



Best in Breed AKC: Sienna with owner Vicki Fagre-Stroetz & Trial Chair Nicci von Broembsem

AHCA 2014 Agility

Agility Critique

Alan R Arthur

It was an honor to be asked to judge the Agility competition at the Afghan Hound Club of America National Specialty. I have always felt that it is important for a National to include as many events as feasible, and I commend the Show Committee for including Agility 2014 in the activities.

We had a small, but enthusiastic entry, with participants in every class that was offered. The venue was very nice and many people stayed late to help put on this trial. That was very much appreciated. It was gratifying to see so many spectators, as well.

The exhibitors varied in experience from the Novice level up through the Master level. All of the dogs were happy and well trained and continued to work throughout the entire course. I was impressed with their performances and really enjoyed watching these breathtakingly beautiful hounds strut their stuff. All of the handlers should be very, very proud of their accomplishments.

The High in Trial winner, Tabitha CDX RE SC OA NAJ AXP OJP NF NFP, owned by Sharon Pearson of Glendale, Arizona came from the Master Preferred Standard class. Tabitha was flawless in her run and serves as an example of Beauty and Brains in one magnificent package.

Many thanks to Sharon and the other exhibitors for allowing me to see their beautiful hounds work. WELL DONE!!

AHCA 2014 LURE COURSING
Photos



Membership Info and Trivia

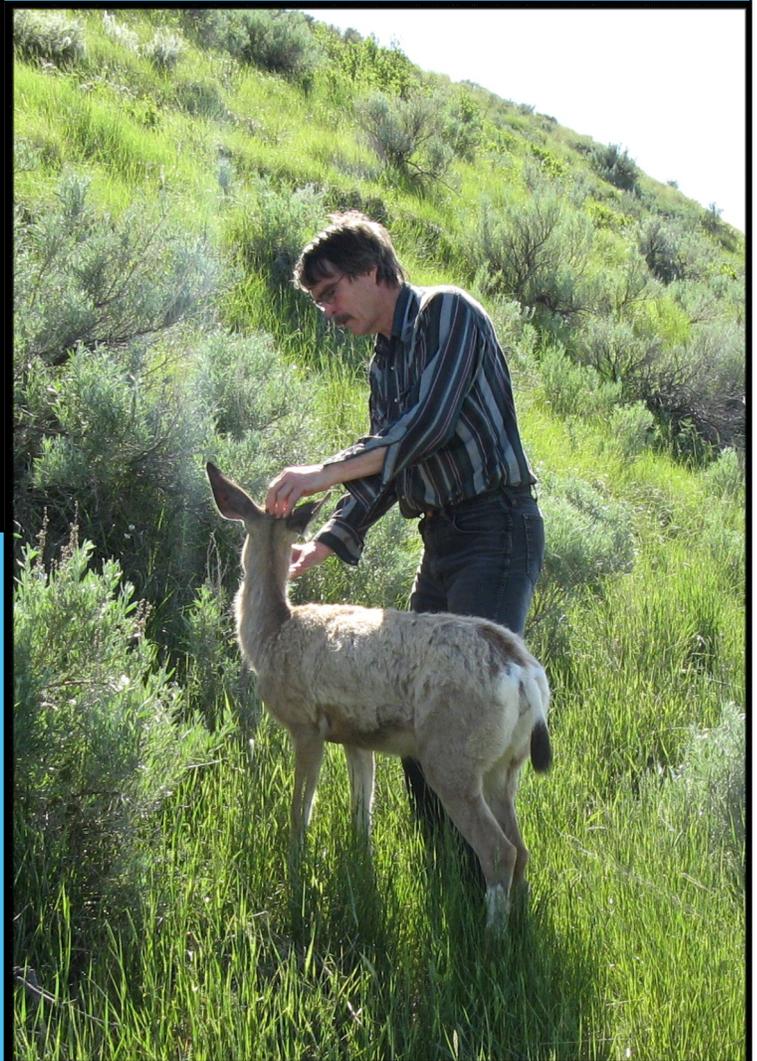
MEMBER
AFGHAN HOUND CLUB
OF AMERICA INC.

A note from Karen Armistead included this interesting sign (written as stated by Karen):
“This used to be given to new AHCA members to display at Benched Dog Shows to show you were an AHCA member — you usually had a sign stating your name — not given since...1971?”



Left: New Rescue Chair, Martha Powell

Below: New member, Brian Wood



ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS:

The Topknot News team respectfully requests that you send us a “Selfie” that is suitable for publication. All the other members like to know what the new members look like so we can properly greet you and welcome you to the club.

You can send to
Russ Hastings
hrh3judge@gmail.com

Thank you for your help and welcome!

AHCA 2014 Education Seminar

The International Stars Breed Education Seminar in Belton, TX was a great success. There are many people to thank for this. First, I must thank the generosity of the Seminar Sponsors who made this Seminar possible. It was their contributions who covered the basic cost of the Seminar. Next, I must thank the Speakers who were so entertaining and informative on our breed.

Lynda Hicks and Nicci von Broembsen were wonderful to work with. What I couldn't handle they did. Quite often Nicci took me by the hand and lead me through the ins and outs of working with the catering department, and Nicci and Max worked tirelessly with Lee on the audio visual equipment portion of the Seminar. Nicci is one very classy lady and I thank her for what became her never-ending assistance.

And of course I thank Lee. He is always there for me and spent countless hours proofreading, working and speaking internationally with the International Speakers before any of us arrived in Texas so we would be sure their presentations would work with few glitches.

Doris Horton was instrumental in assisting me with the Seminar Sponsor Brochures and the "Thank You Cards" which she beautifully designed for our Sponsors. There were so many comments from our Sponsors on how nice it was to be thanked for their contributions. Thank you Doris!

Mary Blacker, Perry Rooks and Michele Trifiro were three special contributors to this Seminar who deserve special recognition. These three AHCA members submitted art that was available to the Seminar Sponsors to assist me in giving back to them for their financial contributions. We placed each Seminar Sponsor's name in a hat and Harry Bennett drew the winning names during the Seminar. Pat Warner won the Perry Rooks print that Perry signed and dated with the Seminar date, making his print one special piece of art! Sandy Nelson won the Michele Trifiro Estelle/Kabuki cartoon that Michele graciously hand drew and colored just for this event! Mary Blacker contributed an Afghan Hound Lladro statue valued up to \$650 that was won by Ray Sylvia!

There were over 100 people in attendance. The only problem was getting attendees to leave the Seminar so we could close it down when we were finished with the Question and Answer portion of the Seminar. Not a bad thing at all!

Thank you one and all!

Barb Bornstein

be part of the solution.....

Volunteers needed for National Specialty show site selection

and Show Chairperson. We want to hear from you.

Have your say!!!

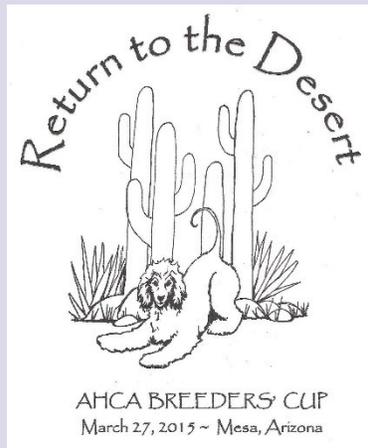
**Contact: Abbe R Shaw @ abaca101@aol.com or
Tony Saia @ beachbrookaf@yahoo.com**



**AFGHAN HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA
(Member of the American Kennel Club)**

**Twenty-Seventh Annual
Breeders' Cup**

Friday, March 27, 2015



**Windemere Hotel
5750 E. Main St.
Mesa, AZ 85205**

Show Hours:
7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. EDST

JUDGE: Mr. John Fahey

**Show Chairman
Eileen Laudermilch**

**SHOW SECRETARY
DORMA SUE BUSBY
11950 Plumbrook Rd.
Sterling Hgts., Mi 48312
barakiafs@peoplepc.com**



*This show is dedicated in the memory of
Sharon Watson*



Sharon and Hagar Watson with their first two Champions Circa 1965.
Afghan Ch. Holly Hill Witch Hazel
Italian Greyhound Ch. Hound Well Nita Derobe

Sharon Watson was the first Search Engine before we knew what that was. Anything and everything related to the Afghan Hound could be accessed by merely asking Sharon for the information. Her record keeping precision was the "Right Stuff" that many of us envy.

In the late 1980's when Duane (Butherus) was on the AHCA Board he presented the idea of a futurity type event to them. Bud Ledbetter was President at the time and the Board approved going forward. I remember Bud proclaiming the "AHCA has a futurity at last!" Sharon was the logical person to be involved in the establishment of the new event. Sharon was the first Show Secretary and together they came up with the idea of including pedigrees in the catalog. Protocols were gathered from other Parent Clubs for the futurity policies and procedures and the AHCA procedures were then developed. It was termed the Breeders Cup. The rest is history.

Sharon was the glue that held those first few years together as the Breeders Cup moved around the country with new chairs at each new venue. Her record keeping skill, adherence to process and attention to detail kept everything on track and going forward.

She also served as the Recording Secretary for the AHCA for several terms. In her usual style everything was accomplished with precision and competence. Sharon was also Editor of Topknot News for a number of years, always keeping us up to date on statistics.

Her archives of breed information on index cards with pedigrees, show wins etc. are legendary. A priceless collection and a labor of breed love to be sure.

Connie Butherus

2015 Breeders' Cup

BEST IN BREEDERS CUP

Ch. Shylo Sassoon of
Enigma Dreams

Judge John Fahey
Presenters :Eileen
Laudermilch, Tony
Saia

Breeder: Bruce Clark,
Stephen Fisher,
R. Ungar

Owner: Bruce Clark &
Junniva Hrud
Snorradottir



GCH Alphaville's Shylo Here I Come X Ch. Shylo SarS The Blue Djinn



GCH Gwichinz Paparazzi Visions of Summerwinds x GCH Kingsleah Fire Queen

BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX IN BREEDERS CUP

Summerwinds Dark
Secrets Of Paparazzi

Judge John Fahey
Presenters :Eileen
Laudermilch, Tony
Saia, Rosemary Sutton

Breeder: J. Pendency,
R. Sutton,
T. Richardson

Owner: Jacqueline
Pendency

2015 Breeders' Cup Results

Dorma Sue Busby

Best In Breeders' Cup - Ch. Shylo Sassoon of Enigma Dreams owner: Bruce Clark & Junniva Hrund Snorradottir

Best Of Opp Sex In Breeders' Cup - Summerwinds Dark Secrets Of Paparazzi owner: Jacqueline Pendygraft

6-9 Months Dogs

- 1 Sura Mickey Finn owner: Suzanne Neill, Christine O'Connor & Alicia Jones
- 2 Hassan's Reach For The Sky owner: Charlotte Bender, Bob Hassan, Janice McClain & Rita Hendricks
- 3 Hassan's The Perfect Storm owner: Kath Lean Perrier, Charlotte Bender & H. Hirtz

9-12 Months Dogs

- 1 Summerwinds-Wynsyr Markers Mark owner: Rosemary Sutton
- 2 Agha Djari's In The Mirror owner: Sandy Blount
- 3 Wynsyr Hashtag Summerwinds owner: Jacqueline Pendygraft & Rosemary Sutton
- 4 SarS Sweet Memories owners: Terri Grimm, Steven Klein & Billie Wilson

12-15 Months Dogs

- 1 Ch. Shylo Black and Blue All Over owner: Kirlyn Fouts, Eric Whitney, Bruce Clark & Stephen Fisher

15-18 Months Dogs

- 1 Ch. Shylo Sassoon of Enigma Dreams owner: Bruce Clark & Junniva Hrund Snorradottir
- 2 Sunlit's Lites Camera Action Summerwind owners: Rosemary Sutton

18-21 Months Dogs

- 1 Boanne-Burrllom's Thunder N' Lighting O'Jamocha owner: James & Janice McClain & Anne Evans

6-9 Months Bitches

- 1 Sura Ondine Daisy Mae owner: owner: Christine O'Connor, Suzanne Neill & Alicia Jones
- 2 Hassan's Love The Rainey Night owner: Charlotte Bender, Bob Hassan
- 3 Sura Ricmar I Only Have Eyes For You owner: Rick & Terri Martin & Susanne Neill
- 4 Hassan's Jamocha Rain Dancer owner: Janice McClain & Charlotte Bender & Bob Hassan

9-12 Months Bitches

- 1 Summerwinds Dark Secrets of Paparazzi owner: Jacqueline Pendygraft
- 2 Agha Djari's I'm So Fancy owner: Colleen Brown & Alexis Jones
- 3 Wynsyr Summerwinds Butterfly Kisses owner: Jim & Debi Thompson & Rosemary Sutton

12-15 Months Bitches

- 1 Enarki Fairest Of Them All owner: Marilyn Domoff
- 2 Shylo Sunset Boulevard owner: Bruce Clark & Stephen Fisher

15-18 Months Bitches

- 1 Winsong Jamna Heavenly Halo At Maja owner: Sherri Meyer, Nicole Newkirk, Nikki Gardner & Gary Sinck

18-21 Months Bitches

- 1 Boanne-Burrllom Trilogy's This Girl Is On Fire' owner: Kath Lean Perrier, Helen Hirtz & Anne Evans

2015 BREEDERS' CUP JUDGE'S CRITIQUE

John Fahey

AFGHAN HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA 27TH BREEDERS' CUP

Mesa, Arizona; March 27, 2015

John Fahey, Kisma Kennels, Sherman Oaks, CA

When I first heard I was chosen to judge the 2015 AHCA Breeders' Cup, I was so honored and humbled. I first would like to sincerely thank the AHCA members and fine breeders who voted for me. I must also thank the Breeders' Cup Show Committee for having done such a wonderful job putting together a smooth-running show and making me feel so welcome. We are all so lucky to have hardworking people like Eileen Laudermilch, Sue Busby, Denise Ross, Linda Jackson and Tony Saia making our AHCA events so special.

On March 27 at 8:50am, I walked out of my hotel room to find great weather at the show grounds of the Windemere Hotel in Mesa, Arizona. There, I found a large, grassy show ring with President Tony Saia and Co-Chairman Denise Ross ready to ring steward for me. I was also greeted by Sue Busby and Eileen Laudermilch and saw the beautiful trophy table with fantastic Southwestern Afghan artwork done by Eileen and Denise. There were also fabulous painting by Mimi Baker for top awards.

Starting with my 6-9 month dog class, I could already see this was going to be a day filled with top quality.

First in 6-9 dog was Sura Mickey Finn, a blue brindle boy with the look of old Akaba. He has a solid, sound body, good topline and very together for his age. A super stylish young man.

Second was Hassan Reach For The Sky, an elegant, rangy black with lovely type. Pretty head. His handler fell early on, but both dog and handler recovered well.

Third was Hassan The Perfect Storm, black brother to the second-place pup. Very close in look to his brother with his leggy balance. Moves smoothly around the ring but needs to get his tail up. I do think all 3 in this class are quality animals.

First in 9-12 dogs was Summerwinds-Wynsyr Makers Mark, a B&T that has a fantastic side gait, strong topline and great pride of race. His head is refined and of good shape with very dark almond eyes.

Second was Agha Djari's In The Mirror, a well-angulated, leggy SM cream with lovely body. He sports a good topline and substance.

Third was Wynsyr Hashtag Summerwinds, litter brother to 1st place, another handsome B&T with good leg and square balance. This male moves well but needs more training on the stack and on the move.

Fourth place was Sars Sweet Memories. This SM cream had one of the most beautiful heads and eyes of the day. His coat felt like silk with a nice body underneath. Not collected enough in his movement at this young age to move himself up in this very strong class. Others that did not place in this class were of nice quality but need more socialization and training.

2015 BREEDERS' CUP JUDGE'S CRITIQUE — *continued*

First in 12-15 months was Ch. Shylo Black And Blue All Over. His color is in his name! A good-sized male of quality with great substance. Sound coming and going with springy, stylish movement. This boy is all male and ready to win.

First in 15-18 months was Ch. Shylo Sassoon Of Enigma Dreams. This ice blue brindle male with ink-black almond eyes and pigment has beautiful expression. Refined head, long neck that flows into well laid back shoulders into a level topline with nice croup and ringed tail. He comes off his feet with spring, moving forward with powerful smooth strides. His footing and timing were perfect.

Second place was Sunlit's Lites Camera Action Summerwind. A classic BM light red with a high order of style. Long head, neck and leg with square balance. Light on his feet. Would like a little more curl in his tail.

First in 18-21 months was Boanne-Burrllom's Thunder N Lighting O'Jamocha, a tall, exotic B&T with nice angles front and rear. He is rawboned and elegant with ground-covering movement. However, he needs a lot more training and work to become what he could be. The quality of the young males at this show was some of the best I've seen in years.

Moving on to bitches, I felt all my 6-9 bitches were of good quality.

First in the 6-9 months class was Sura Ondine Daisy Mae. This blue brindle bitch has great spirit and a mind of her own. She allowed me to see her movement with light-footed elasticity and soundness. Her body is all there with nice angles.

Second place was Hassan's Love The Rainey Night. A gorgeous B&S who is so elegant at this young age. Pretty, whether standing or moving. I wanted to see her give more effort in her showmanship. Loved her head. Nice body. Third was a litter sister to the first-place bitch, Sura Ricmar I Only Have Eyes for You. I like her outline better than her sister's. She is also more elegant but I felt her timing was a little off in her movement at this young age. Nice body, topline and typey.

Fourth place was a black sister to the second-place bitch, Hassan's Jamocha Rain Dancer, lovely to look at and elegant in type. Good balance, topline, with smooth movement. Only saw her tail up at the very end.

First in 9-12 bitches was Summerwinds Dark Secrets Of Paparazzi, a B&T beauty of exotic type with good hip-bones and croup. She has a pretty ring tail and is standard sized for a bitch. Her movement was lightfooted, springy and smooth.

Second was Agha Djari's I'm So Fancy, a flashy SM cream with lots of coat, substance and energy. She has a large side gait but was out of control and too much for her young handler. This bitch will do well with more training. Pretty expression.

Third place was a BM red, Wynsyr Summerwinds Butterfly Kisses. This is a very nice bitch but today, she did not want to be touched and did not want to move. It was a shame. Handling class, PEOPLE!

12-15 class first was Enarki Fairest Of Them All, a stunning SM cream with floaty movement that looked so nice going around the ring and moved soundly, coming and going. Standard sized. The problem was when she stopped, her handler would stack her poorly, spoiling her front and topline.

Second place was Shylo Sunset Boulevard, a blue with substance and body. Good angles and sound. Nice quality coat and in good condition. Nice size.

First in 15-18 months bitches was Windsong Jamna Heavenly Halo At Maja, a lovely bitch with tones of blue, cream and gold running through her heavy coat. Very refined head, lots of leg, with head and tail held high standing or moving.

2015 BREEDERS' CUP JUDGE'S CRITIQUE — *continued*

18-21 months first was Boanne-Burrllom's Power Of Love, an elegant, standard-sized black bitch. Very Mecca in type and movement. Moved around the ring covering ground with good footing and timing. Needs conditioning, training and work to get her tail up more.

As I went into the ring to choose a Best in Breeders' Cup, I had it in my mind that it would be one of four class-winning males. The brindle boy from the 6-9 class, or maybe the powerful B&T from 9-12. I was also thinking about the handsome black&blue from 12-15 or the impressive ice blue brindle from 15-18. I try to judge on positives and not negatives. Because of this, I knew it had to be the beautiful Ch. Shylo Sassoon Of Enigma Dreams. He has so much going for him, a wonderful star quality about him. He was the cleanest dog coming and going and had the most beautiful expression, with such easy movement coming off his feet. I also love his "peculiar coat pattern" (as required in the first paragraph of our breed standard) and flow of body. Best of Opposite Sex was awarded to the B&T beauty, Summerwinds Dark Secrets of Paparazzi. The reason she won was she looks like a bitch. Not too big, standard sized, with refinement and soundness. Her exotic type and tail also helped.

I thank all who showed to me and the AHCA for a fun and delicious dinner.

Sincerely,
John Fahey
Kisma Kennels

Attention: Regional Club Rescue



Barb Bornstein has graciously volunteered to donate one of her hand made Afghan Hound "Toys" to any regional club rescue fund raising effort. The only requirement is that you request the donation on club letterhead signed by a club officer. You can send your request to Barb via e-mail at DancingTree@Trims.com or by snail mail at 9622 N 52nd LN, Glendale, AZ 85302. A picture of Barb and her beautiful creations is shown above. Thank you so much to Barb for this generous offer.

RESCUE REPORT

Submitted by Martha Powell, Rescue Chair



AHCA Rescue Committee Report
March 5, 2015

It's been a busy two months for Rescue. Four girls, all littermates, and eight years old, were surrendered to a shelter in Tacoma Washington by their breeder. Two amazing

fosters stepped up, Karen Irazabal and Tracy Faith, with each taking a pair of the girls. We have spent a lot of time trying to place them as pairs, since they had been through a lot of trauma and had been together their whole lives. We are in the midst of making home visits now, and it looks like we will find good new homes for all four of the girls, and that they will be able to stay together.

I was able to place an Afghan who was being fostered in Tennessee by a breeder, with a veterinarian in Birmingham, who had filled out an adoption application.

Last weekend, with three volunteers helping, we transported a rescue in Jacksonville Florida to an awesome new home in Nashville Tennessee.

A couple of days ago, we placed a boy in Georgia who was being fostered, into his forever home, with a longtime member of the Tara Afghan club.

We have three Afghans in Texas who are looking for homes. I have a good adoption application from someone in Texas, who is interested in one of them. I am waiting on photos from the foster, so that we can put the information on our website.

I have just been notified that a shelter in Iowa has two Afghans that were surrendered by their owner. I'm going to contact the shelter tomorrow, and see if they will let national rescue take them.

Bryan Ungard has been doing an awesome job of updating our website for rescue. He has now added a PayPal button which will take someone directly to our site for donations.

Barb and Russ Hastings are continuing to man the hotline for rescue. This is been a tremendous help to me.

We have received two donations for the Hendrix fund in January. I have received two adoption fees for placements. This week, in addition, I received a cash donation for a Rescue.

Hope Leedom, who assisted in the transport from Florida to Tennessee last week, and an amazing artist, has donated a gorgeous piece of artwork to be auctioned for rescue. It is a large 2' x 3' original watercolor of a black masked red Afghan. It is triple matted and double framed and really spectacular.

Next week, I will be putting it on eBay for auction and will be sharing the link on Facebook and in several Google groups as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Powell
Rescue
Chair



Rescue Charitable Trust

JoAnne Buehler



Upon her death, Judy Fellton generously left the AHCA \$40,000 with the stipulation this money be placed in a "tax free" investment instrument in case it was ever needed for an extreme rescue situation. The sole purpose of the AHCA Charitable Rescue Trust and Trustees is to protect and judiciously authorize use, if necessary, of this money per Judy Fellton's wishes and instructions.

To this end, in 2005 the AHCA had a 501C3 Trust established with the IRS for Rescue—this is NOT for our general rescue use. Unfortunately even at its inception, Judy was long gone and incapable of being a part of the AHCA Charitable Rescue Trust. The trust was established for her funds. Her money does and yet at the same time does not belong to our membership in that it was stipulated for rescue use only if absolutely necessary at sometime in the future. The AHCA general membership is not supposed to have control of these monies, but they are there to be saved and protected in case of an outstanding Afghan Hound rescue need sometime. We all hope a rescue of this scope never occurs. The Trustees are charged with determining when and if this occurs.

Currently the Trustees are working through a transition of the AHCA Treasurer, who for the last ten years has served also as Treasurer for the AHCA Charitable Rescue Trust. This dual seat is not stipulated in the actual Trust document.

The quarterly Delegates Meetings were held March 9 and 10, 2015 at the Doubletree Hotel, Newark Airport, NJ. This was the Annual meeting and thus the election for the AKC Board of Directors. This is usually the most well attended meeting of the four. However this year the attendance was somewhat less than in years past.

AKC Delegate Report

Connie Butherus



One is always certain to receive a warm greeting from the candidates running for election to the Board at this meeting.

Day one of the session was devoted to the various Delegate Committee meetings. The Parent Club Committee of which I am a member addressed its usual full agenda. One topic however dominated the meeting, that of the newly launched AKC web site and specifically the Breed Pages. Chris Walker the chief AKC media expert attended the meeting. He started with an apology for the " poor execution " of the roll out of the site. He went on to note the number of hits per month and that only 8% of those accessing the site are from the fancy....us. The vast majority are from the general public. Many of those are seeking " the right breed, the right breeder and the right activities ". The Breed pages he noted are heavily accessed.

The Delegates present were off to the races at that point. Comments, complaints and issues were laid out very clearly. The posting of pictures submitted by the pet owners and unknown entities was a very hot topic. Chris stated the goal was to show the AKC as " inclusive " and not "exclusive ". That response was also cited at the Delegate meeting on the following day, Tuesday, as the reason for this new practice. Multiple examples were given as to reason this was not embraced by the Delegates. He stated that each Parent Club will be requested to designate a liaison to work with the AKC staff regarding the content of their respective Breed Pages. It will be essential for the Parent Clubs to follow through in this corrective action.



AKC Delegate Report – continued

Corrections are to be sent directly to Chris Walker's attention. They are working on corrections daily he stated.

Other matters of importance were:

A list of the Breeders of Merit for each breed will become available soon. The Parent Clubs will need to request it once it becomes available.

The contact information was not given but will be provided later.

A new program "Bred with Heart" is to be launched shortly. It will feature those breeders who do all of the Parent Club recommended health testing/screening. Verification of this having been accomplished will be one component of the program. I have been working with the sub-committee in gathering this information from each Parent Club.

Susan Lilly the new CEO of the AKC/ Canine Health Foundation (CHF) attended the meeting and announced the upcoming CHF Parent Club bi-annual health conference to be held August 7-8-9, 2015 in St.Louis, Mo. Each Parent Club's Health Representative will be given a reduced registration fee. The conference is held with the support of Purina, a corporate donor to the foundation.

The Delegate Caucus was given over to the five candidates running for the AKC Board. It was a Q and A session with each of the 5 responding in turn to questions posed by the Delegates. The elephant in the room was for whom would these individuals support for Board Chairman. Finally the question was asked and three of the five in the running stated their support for Ron Menaker. (Steve Gladstone, Tom Davies and Carmen Battaglia). The election results the next day speaks clearly in that regard. (See below)

Tuesday morning the first item of business was the election which to the surprise of many required only one ballot. The results left little doubt as to the wishes of the 358 Delegate present and voting. To be elected 180 votes were

required.

The CPA firm reported the results as follows:

Robert Amen-151 votes

Carmen Battaglia- 209 votes

Tom Davies- 211 votes

Steve Gladstone- 201 votes

Greg Paeveza- 118 votes

Elected to the AKC Board of Directors Class of 2019 were Carmen Battaglia, Tom Davies and Steve Gladstone.

Following the Delegate meeting the Board met and elected the following officers.

Chairman- Ron Menaker

Vice Chairman - Carl Ashby

President- Dennis Sprung

Exc. Secretary- James Crowley

CFO- Joe Bafuto

We learned later that Robert Amen resigned his Delegate seat.

Alan Kalter delivered what turned out to be his last Chairman's Report. He presented an overview of AKC progress during his tenure as Board Chair. Specifically cited were the following benchmarks.

- 2010 - \$400K operating loss contrasted with
- 2014 - \$6M operating profit
- Dog registrations were greater in 2014 than in 2013. This being the first time in 10 years that there has not been a decline. He noted however that litter registrations were down slightly in 2014
- Events – 3 million entrants in 2010, 3.2 million entrants in 2014. The caution being that events do not make money for the AKC they are funded by other income producing services.
- AKC's core constituency consists of 105,000 households, compared to 57 million households in US who have at least one dog. The AKC needs to increase its relevancy to this larger constituency, and is depending on Social Media to change this situation.



AKC Delegate Report – continued

- AKC's social media reach is to about 35.6 million contacts
- AKC's old website had 150 contacts per day. The newly launched site is showing about 3,000 contacts per day
- New Chief Veterinary Officer position is to be filed shortly
- 2015 Club Support – i.e., publicizing club events to newly registered dog owners in the area will be expanded.
- He concluded by noting the great progress accomplished in the last 5 years and vowed that the AKC will do even better in upcoming years

Dennis Sprung followed with the President's Report. He also focused of the AKC accomplishments and highlighted the success of the recent Meet the Breeds held before the Westminster show in February. In addition he noted:

- The AKC Humane Fund was the recipient of Westminster donation from the official poster proceeds of \$10,000.
- The office space in Raleigh was rearranged and will result in a \$1.8 million savings over the next 5 years
- The AKC now has 46 employees are working from home – telecommuting. It is a big hit with employees, plus increasing effectiveness of services and operations.

The newly appointed Chief Financial Officer Joe Bufato delivered the Financial Summaries for the fiscal year. He was to the point and presented actual numbers in a factual manner.

Total Revenue was reported to be

- 2013 – 59.9 Million
- 2014 – 59.7 Million

Investments realized an increase of 1.1 Million (2.3%)

Operating Reserve: \$32.5M

Long-Term Reserves: \$83.8M

Karl Ashby delivered a report of the AKC PAC. There was \$32,800 raised last year. That money was used to support 56 candidates running in State and Federal races having compatible views regarding legislative matters with the AKC. Of those supported 92% won their races and were elected in 2014.

The new AKC web site again generated a good bit of discussion. Several Delegates noted the great difficulty in launching a project of this magnitude while others pointed to difficulty of access, breed pages and their content. The concern was again referenced regarding the posting of pictures submitted by pet owners, the inappropriate advertising on these pages and misinformation regarding some of the breeds. It is necessary for each Parent Club to communicate with the AKC staff responsible for the site to see to it that the changes and corrections are made.

Respectfully Submitted,
Connie Butherus
AHCA Delegate to the AKC

**OBEDIENCE/
RALLY/
VERSATILITY**

Debbie Petersen



WINNERS CROWNED AT THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB AKC RALLY AND OBEDIENCE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

New York, N.Y. - The 2015 Obedience and AKC Rally National Champions

were crowned this weekend at the American Kennel Club National Obedience Championship and the AKC Rally National Championship, held at Purina Farms just outside of St. Louis, Missouri. The Championships, sponsored by J & J Dog Supplies, RB Rubber Products, Inc. and Purina Pro Plan, drew a combined entry of more than 500 of the most highly trained dogs in the nation.

OBEDIENCE/RALLY/VERSATILITY – continued

"We congratulate our new Champions for triumphing over some of the best dogs in the country in the sports of Obedience and Rally," said Pamela Manaton, AKC Director of Obedience, Rally and Tracking. "We're proud to celebrate the accomplishments of these talented dogs and dedicated handlers; and thank our sponsors for their support to showcase these wonderful companion dogs and their handlers."

The 2015 Obedience and Rally Nationals were dedicated to Patricia Scully. Ms. Scully was an AKC Board member for 16 years, had judged the Obedience Nationals on four occasions and was the 2012 AKC Companion Events Lifetime Achievement Award winner. She was a tireless advocate for the sport and most importantly, a friend to all.

The 21st AKC National Obedience Championship

The purpose of obedience trials is to demonstrate the dog's ability to follow specified routines in heeling, jumping and retrieving as directed by the handler. All contestants in a class are required to perform the same exercises in essentially the same way, so that the relative quality of the various performances may be scored.

The top obedience dogs in the country were invited to this event based on the number of Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH) points earned throughout the year or placements at AKC Obedience Regional Qualifying Events.

The 2015 AKC National Obedience Champion is: NOC OTCH High Times Instant Soup UDX2 OM4 SH NA NAJ, a Golden Retriever owned by Bridget Carlsen of Yorkville, Illinois.

1st Runner-Up:

NOC OTCH High Times Ris'N Above The Tide UDX23 OGM RE, a Golden Retriever owned by Kathleen Rasinowich-Platt of Papillion, Nebraska.

2nd Runner-Up:

OTCH Goldenloch Makin' A Statement UDX15 OGM, a Golden Retriever owned by Gary J. Platt of Papillion, Nebraska.

3rd Runner-Up:

OTCH Sunsplash No Free Time UDX26 OGM RE OA OAJ NAP NJP, a Golden Retriever owned by Helen Smith of Newalla, Oklahoma.

The 2nd AKC Rally National Championship

AKC Rally combines elements of Obedience and Agility. The dog and handler move through a course of numbered exercises, all while the handler is communicating with and praising the dog. Rally demonstrates a sense of teamwork and provides an excellent introduction to AKC Companion Events for new dogs and handlers. The sport can also provide a challenging opportunity for competitors in other events to strengthen their skills. AKC Rally promotes a fun and enjoyable atmosphere for dogs at all levels of competition.

Dogs and handlers competed for the top spot in the Novice, Advanced, Excellent, and Rally Advanced Excellent classes at this national championship.

The 2015 AKC Rally National Champion (winner of the Rally Advanced Excellent Class) is: RNC OTCH Dd's Slice Of Pie VCD3 UDX2 OM5 RAE TDX JH AJP NFP, a Golden Retriever owned by Dee Dee Anderson and Billy Anderson of Lodi, California.

Rally Excellent: Duq'wood's Brand New Start BN GO RE NJP, a Belgian Tervuren owned by Gail Brown of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Rally Advanced: Sunchase's Simply Lightning Strikes Twice UDX RA MX MXJ NF CA CGCA, a Boxer owned by Tracy Hendrickson and Rhonda Brouillette of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Rally Novice: Rite Of Honor Vom Kraftwerk BN RN, a German Shepherd Dog owned by Luann Vuckson of Elizabeth, Indiana.

For complete results, visit the Obedience and Rally pages on the AKC website.

AWARDS REPORT

Barb Hastings



I would like to remind all Regional Clubs that the Parent Clubs offers a silver plated medallion for BOW. All any Regional Club needs to do to receive this medallion is to list the description of the medallion in your premium list. The exact wording can be found under Awards on the Parent Club web site or a sample copy of the application form can be found in the pamphlet sent to every Regional Club to follow to obtain PC approval for your show. The application needs to be signed by Sharon Pearce, the Regional Club Advisory Chair, then sent with a copy of your Clubs premium list to Barb Hastings, Awards Chair. I will then ship the medallion to your club approximately 1 week prior to your show. We also offer medallions for Parade of Rescue and the form for that can also be found in those places.

Barb Hastings,
AHCA Awards Chair

MENTOR PROGRAM

Chris Pinkston



The Committee had several requests for breeder referrals and one request which was actually seeking information for a ringside mentor in Colorado.

I feel that many, outside and inside the Committee, do their part on a daily basis to guide and help the newcomer to the breed.

As AHCA members, we all act to support those interested in Afghan Hounds. Most contacts and referrals are not documented and are resolved successfully.

Christine Pinkston

CANINE HEALTH REPORT

Eileen Laudermilch



I had received the 3rd quarter report after the last board meeting. The 3rd quarter of 2014 had 12 new CHIC numbers and 6 updates. The 4th quarter had 7 new and 2 updates. The 1st quarter of 2015 has had 9 new CHIC numbers issued.

I also received information regarding the upcoming AKC Canine Health Foundation's National Parent Club Canine Health Conference to be held on August 7th through August 9th. I am looking forward to hearing about all the progress that has been made regarding canine health.

Our Donor Advised Fund from 01/01/2014 to 12/31/2014 had a beginning balance of \$2,188.57 with additional funds from the Purina Parent Club Partnership Program of \$604.73 allowing our club to be a full donor for the bloat initiative! The Afghan Hound Club of America was listed in the Canine Health Newsletter as one of the clubs donating 100% to health. Our ending balance is \$388.07

As always I wish to remind you all of the Afghan Hound on line survey. Go to OFA, click on surveys and then afghan hound. All the information is anonymous and will also allow researchers to see the data. All Afghan Hounds are encouraged to be in the database. Please share with pet owners and performance dogs also.

CANINE HEALTH REPORT — continued

Genetic Giants. A staff writer for the magazine “Sight and Scent” wishes to do a series that will highlight the stud dogs and brood bitches who have had a profound genetic impact on the Afghan Hound. The highlighted animals must be deceased within the past 10 to 20 years so that their genetic influence is still present in the breed. In discussion we felt that the membership should have some input. Numbers are not the only factor involved. Bitches should also be considered. A post will be made on Facebook for AHCA membership input. Anyone interested in helping should contact Tony Saia.

These articles on Canine Influenza were compiled by Margret Pough AKC Delegate from Finger Lakes Kennel Club and included with her permission.

CANINE INFLUENZA 17 April 2015

Compiled from various sources by Marg Pough, delegate Finger Lakes Kennel Club checked for accuracy by Dr Edward J Dubovi, Animal Health Diagnostic Center at Cornell

Dr. Dubovi confirmed to me today that an isolate from the current influenza outbreak was sequenced at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, IA and the isolate is identical to the strain that has been circulating in Asia since 2007. It is an Influenza A H3N2 virus and is different from the Influenza A H3N8 virus which had been responsible for earlier US outbreaks.

Canine Influenza Virus – risk factors & precautions

From the 2009 release from the AHDC at Cornell that apply today:

Risk factors for the infection are having dogs in closely confined conditions such as in boarding kennels, day care settings and animal rescue shelters. Animals being relocated from the rescue shelters seem to be a main source of the movement of the virus to new locations. The clinical signs associated with the infection are indistinguishable from the traditionally defined “kennel cough” now more appropriately referred to as acute respiratory disease in dogs. The morbidity rate in normal populations can be very high (60-80%) while the mortality rate due exclusively to CIV is very low. The significance of a CIV infection is that it compromises the normal defense mechanisms of the canine respiratory tract so that secondary bacterial infections are common sequelae. Dogs may cough for several weeks after infection, but they are not contagious at this time. Dogs are generally free of CIV by 7 days post onset of clinical signs.

Those involved in the breed rescue organizations should not be moving dogs from affected areas without vaccinating the animals that will be coming in contact with the rescued animal. It should be noted that the approved vaccine is a killed product that requires two doses of vaccine three weeks apart to achieve maximum protection.

The question of survival on/in the environment is always complicated by the exact conditions of the environment. Virus on a solid surface at 70F in the sunlight is dead within a few minutes. Virus in a cool, moist, and dark environment may survive for several days and at 4C it might be weeks. If one has cleaning procedures that take care of parvovirus, then there will be no influenza surviving. Transmission through fomites (saliva on hands or clothing) is certainly a possibility. It may be a major route of transmission in the shelters where workers go from one cage to another without changing gloves if they have them. Common sense would dictate that if one is around a dog that has clinical signs of a respiratory infection, then at a minimum one should go through the hand washing recommendations suggested to prevent spread of H1N1.



CANINE HEALTH REPORT — continued

From the CDC Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/news/canine-influenza-update.htm>

April 13, 2015 – A canine influenza A H3N2 virus is responsible for an outbreak of dog flu reported in the Chicago area according to a press release issued by Cornell University, home to the New York State Animal Diagnostic Laboratory. Dog flu is a contagious respiratory disease in dogs. Two canine influenza viruses have been identified worldwide: an influenza A H3N8 virus and an influenza A H3N2 virus. No human infections with either of these canine influenza viruses have ever been reported.

Previously, canine influenza A H3N8 viruses have been identified in U.S. dog populations. However, testing at the New York State Animal Diagnostic Laboratory and the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory identified the dog flu virus responsible for the current outbreak in dogs as an H3N2 virus similar to Asian H3N2 dog flu viruses that have been detected in dogs in parts of Asia since 2007.

Signs of dog flu infection in dogs include cough, runny nose and fever, but not all dogs will show signs of illness. The severity of illness associated with dog flu in dogs can range from no signs to severe illness resulting in pneumonia and sometimes death in dogs. Tests are available to determine if a dog has been infected. CDC recommends that people concerned about dog flu in their pets speak to their veterinarian.

Almost all dogs can be susceptible to infection with canine influenza viruses, and illness tends to spread among dogs housed in kennels and shelters. A vaccine to protect dogs against canine influenza A H3N8 has been available in the United States since 2009. It is not known yet whether the H3N8 dog flu vaccine will offer protection against the H3N2 dog flu virus.

To date, there is no evidence of transmission of dog flu viruses from dogs to people and there have been no reported human infections with the canine influenza viruses. Animal studies suggest that neither virus transmits well to other companion animal species [308 KB, 10 pages] with the exception of H3N2 dog flu, which has been known to infect cats. CDC considers the human health risk posed by this dog flu

outbreak to be low at this time. Once available, full genetic sequencing information on this virus will further inform the human health risk assessment. CDC will continue to watch this situation closely and provide updated information as it becomes available.

Two Dog Flu Viruses

Canine influenza A (H3N8) virus is closely related to an influenza virus found in horses for more than 40 years. Experts believe this horse influenza virus sdxweqw3achanged in a way that allowed it to infect dogs, and the first dog flu infections caused by these viruses were reported in 2004, initially in greyhounds. This virus is now considered a dog-specific lineage of influenza A (H3N8) virus.

In 2007, a canine influenza A H3N2 virus was detected in dogs in South Korea. This virus seems to have been an avian influenza virus that adapted to infect dogs. This canine H3N2 virus has since been reported in China and Thailand, and reportedly can affect cats as well as dogs. It is different from human seasonal H3N2 viruses.

FAQ from CDC:

What are the signs of this infection in dogs?

The signs of this illness in dogs are cough, runny nose and fever, however, a small proportion of dogs can develop severe disease.

How serious is this infection in dogs?

The percentage of dogs infected with this disease that die is very small. Some dogs have asymptomatic infections (no signs), while some have severe infections. Severe illness is characterized by the onset of pneumonia. Although this is a relatively new cause of disease in dogs and nearly all dogs are susceptible to infection, about 80 percent of infected dogs will have a mild form of disease.

How does dog flu spread?

Canine influenza virus can be spread to other dogs by direct contact with aerosolized respiratory secretions from infected dogs, by uninfected dogs coming into contact with contaminated objects, and by moving contaminated objects or materials between infected and uninfected dogs. Therefore, dog owners whose dogs are coughing or showing other signs of

CANINE HEALTH REPORT — *continued*

respiratory disease should not expose other dogs to the virus. Clothing, equipment, surfaces, and hands should be cleaned and disinfected after exposure to dogs showing signs of respiratory disease.

From the AHDC at Cornell. <https://ahdc.vet.cornell.edu/news/civchicago.cfm>

Influenza virus infection in dogs follows a similar pattern to infections in other species. The onset of clinical signs will be 2-3 days post infection. Peak of virus shed is 3-4 days post infection and the presence of infectious virus declines rapidly with the onset of an immune response. Dogs coughing for greater than 10 days are not infectious as the cough is due to damage to the respiratory tract epithelium. While in the past CIV infections in and of themselves have not shown a significant mortality rate, CIV infections as well as other respiratory viruses compromise the normal defenses of the lung permitting secondary bacterial pneumonias.

VACCINATIONS

Vaccines do exist for CIV. Both of the products offered are killed vaccines and two doses of the vaccines are necessary to develop an effective immune response. While the vaccines may not prevent an infection, they do reduce shed of the virus and the severity of clinical disease

CANINE INFLUENZA PRECAUTIONS

Canine Influenza and acute respiratory disease (kennel cough) have been in the news in the past two months.

If you have a dog that develops signs of any respiratory disease you should isolate it, and other dogs that have been exposed to it. AKC rules prohibit the exhibition, or the presence on the premises of a show, of dogs that exhibit

signs of any contagious illness. Have your dog examined by a veterinarian.

ALL exhibitors should follow routine precautions that they would with any human influenza outbreak, or canine parvovirus outbreak. Wash your hands after handling dogs and before handling a different group of dogs.

Show the judge your dog's bite. If handling other people's dogs, wash hands between dogs.

Maintain sanitary conditions at your set-up and on the grounds. Keep surfaces clean. You should pick-up and dispose of dog feces in appropriate containers. Wash your hands before handling other dogs.

There was much panic with the H3N8 Canine Influenza outbreak in 2009, yet there were no cases reported from dogs at shows, or from handlers with strings of dogs. Animal Shelters, boarding

kennels and dog daycare centers were the prime reservoir for that strain of the flu, and appear to be so with this strain. It is believed that the source of this H3N2 strain may have originated from rescue dogs imported from Korea, and the virus then circulated in the US shelters and among rescue dogs in transit.



JUDGES EDUCATION

Harry Bennett

In conjunction with the December Orlando shows, the AKC held an Advanced Judges Hound Institute. I made a presentation there and the turnout was almost overwhelming for the situation. On one hand it is good to know that there is that much interest. It is the next best opportunity for these prospective judges to attend if they do not attend our National Specialty. However, what is provided for a hands-on portion and movement observation is less than adequate in consideration of the building assigned to the event.

I appreciate the time those individuals took to provide me with some good examples of the breed for these student judges to see. Among those who brought dogs were AHCA members Darla Hichborn and Ray Sylvia.

Thanks,
Harry

AGILITY

Lynda Hicks



In 2014, Afghan Hounds earned 34 Agility titles. These titles were earned by 12 dogs.

The top Agility Afghan in 2014 was Zinger-CH MACH12 Stormhills Red Zinger JC MXB5 MJG5 FTC1 MFB2 TQX T2B owned by Robin Cohen & Robin Kletke & Sandra Frei. In 2014 Zinger set a new record of 12 MACH (Master Agility Champion).

The Afghan Hound Club of America will host two all-breed Agility Trials at Lane Events Center in Eugene, OR on May 18 and 19, 2015. Thanks go to Debbie Petersen for coordinating and chairing these events.

Respectfully Submitted
Lynda Hicks
Agility Chair

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

Anna Stromberg



We have been chatting with a new group developing promoting/assisting/supporting juniors in the United States. The inaugural meeting is going to be held in New York during Westminster. I hope to have more to report on this matter for the next board meeting.

I am unsure if we will see any juniors showing Afghan Hounds at Westminster this year. But if they do appear I will report on that too!

BREED & PUBLIC EDUCATION

Domenick & Marcia Morelli



Our Meet the Breed booth at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship at the Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL, Dec. 13-14, 2014, was again a huge success. We expanded on the theme "The Afghan Hound – More Than Just a Pretty Face" to include additional history of the breed. The photo displays again drew lots of spectators and featured both conformation and performance pictures of lure coursing, agility, obedience and therapy work. The lure coursing videos are always popular and generate a lot of interest, as does the photo display of famous people/actors with their Afghan Hounds. One photo in particular that many commented on was of Gary Cooper with his Afghan who he described as "the smartest dog I ever owned". The booth was well staffed by members of the local Afghan Hound clubs with dogs of all ages and drew hundreds of spectators. We were able to interact with the public, answer lots of questions, and let the dogs do their magic as only they can do. We were thrilled to have our hard work recognized when the booth was awarded Hound Group Two.

2014 AHCA – Meet The Breed Booth AT Eukanuba



Special thanks to Dom and Marcia Morelli for a beautiful presentation

2014 Statistics

Carol Rivette

The Top-Winning Dog in breed competition - 1,000

GCH CH Exlysta Aries Ciel Noir
Owner: P Rooks, C Smith, P Schafmayer and S Ferraro
Breeder: Perry Rooks and Christine Anderson Smith

The Top-Winning Bitch in breed competition - 706

GCH CH Agha Djari's Eye Candy Of Sura CGC
Owner: J Dalton/S Neill/J Souza
Breeder: Stefan Boieck

The Top-Producing Sire - 7 Champion Offspring

GCH CH Polo's Air Force One
Owner: L. Amadeo
Breeder: L. Faro & M. Thompson & L. Amadeo

The Top-Producing Dam - 5 Champion Offspring

GCH CH Countrywinds Courtesan JC
Owner/Breeder: C. Harker

and

GCH CH Rustic Title Paige Of Spirit Ridge
Owner: W. J. Mines, E. Wolfe and K. A. Larsen
Breeder: E. Wolfe, K. A. Larsen and L. Schanzle

Top Junior Handler – 235

Libbie Flanagan

Top Lure Coursing dog AKC- 99 pts

GCH DC Bakura Suni Formula One SC LCX CGC
Owner: Lynda & James Hicks
Breeder: Toni King

Top Lure Coursing dog ASFA - 71 Hounds Defeated

El Zagel's Centuries of Youth, FCh,GRC,SOR,ORC
Owner: Vicki Fagre-Stroetz
Breeders: Bonnie Schulz

Top NOTRA Racing Afghan Hound - 17

El Zagel's Centuries of Youth SOR ORC
Owner: Vicki Fagre-Stroetz

Top LGRA Racing Afghan Hound – 15.50

Desert Sedona Van Oranje GRC
Owner: Koscinski

Highest Point Total in Obedience – 577.0

Sabrina BN RN
Owners: Suzanne Harvey

Top Agility Afghan Hound

CH MACH9 Stormhill's Red Zinger JC MXB5 MJG5 FTC1
MFB2 TQX T2B
Owner Robin Cohen, Robin Kletke & Sandra Frei
Breeder: Mary Offerman, Terri Vanderzee & Sandra Frei

Top AKC Rally Afghan

She Rides The Short Bus, CD BN RAE JC NAP NJP NFP
Owner: Dr. Cheryl A. Helsing

Best in Novice Rally - 291

Popovs Purrfection At Cayblu RA JC AX AXJ RATN
Owner: Cathy Kirchmeyer
Breeder: Faye Tromp

Best in Advance Rally - 290

She Rides The Short Bus, CD BN RAE JC NAP NJP NFP
Owner: Dr. Cheryl A. Helsing

Best in Excellent Rally - 305

She Rides The Short Bus, CD BN RAE JC NAP NJP NFP
Owner: Dr. Cheryl A. Helsing

2014 Regional Specialty Results

Murray Anderson, Tazi Tourist, NZ has compiled a detailed spread sheet listing Regional Specialty BOB and BOS winners for 2014. Unfortunately we were not able to print this list in a legible format. Anyone wishing a copy can obtain one by e-mailing Topknot News at hrh3judge@gmail.com or contacting Mr. Anderson at tazitourist@hotmail.com

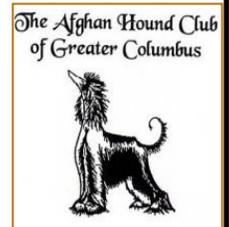
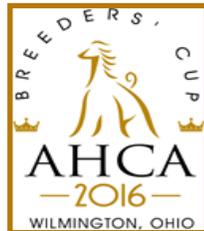


In the Company of Kings



“an International celebration of the Afghan Hound”

2016 Afghan Hound
World Congress



WHAT: Afghan Hound World Congress, AHCA Breeders' Cup, Regional Specialties & more!

WHEN: March 30 – April 2, 2016

WHERE: Eukanuba Hall at the Roberts Centre, Wilmington, Ohio, USA

- Reservations accepted beginning **June 2, 2015**. Phone: +1-800-654-7036.
- **Use code **AHC** for the group rate.** (\$115/night, \$35 1-time pet fee)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (Other events to be added as planning progresses):

- Wednesday, March 30-Thursday, March 31: Afghan Hound World Congress
- (Agenda TBD)
- Thursday, March 31 (PM): Judges Education: *A Study of the Afghan Hound & International Standards*.
- Thursday, March 31 (Eve): *In the Company of Kings* Reception
- Friday, April 01 (AM): AHCA 2016 Breeders' Cup
- Friday, April 01 (PM): AHCSWO Regional Specialty Show
- Friday, April 01 (Eve): AHCA 2016 Breeders' Cup Annual Banquet
- Saturday, April 02 (AM): MAHC Regional Specialty Show
- Saturday, April 02 (PM): AHCGC Regional Specialty Show

EVENT CHAIRMEN:

***In the Company of Kings* Event Coordinator:** Jason Taylor

2016 AHWC: Ulf Jorgensen/Willem Buitenkamp/Michael Canalizo

- Program Committee:
 - Jennifer Taylor, Chair jolieafghans@gmail.com
 - Tony Saia beachbrookafs@yahoo.com
 - Stephen Fisher steve@shylo.com
 - Christine Pinkston criston@aol.com
 - Allan Reznik areznik@i5publishing.com

AHCA 2016 Breeders Cup: Jason Taylor

CALL FOR WORLD CONGRESS TOPICS!

You may submit ideas for topics to one of the Program Committee members. When submitting topics, please include the topic and the objective to be accomplished at the AHWC. All topics must be received by June 15, 2015 to be considered.

REGIONAL CLUB SPECIALTY SHOW DATES

See AHCA National Information for Regional Specialties around that event

**Note: This information was gathered by TN Editor from other sources, and accuracy cannot be guaranteed.*

Please refer to <http://www.akc> or <http://afghanhoundclubofamerica.org/> for more detailed information.

<p>Afghan Hound Club of St. Louis Gray Summit, MO Judge: Mr. Stephen P Fisher Saturday - May 30, 2015</p>	<p>Afghan Hound Club of Southwestern Ohio Oberlin, OH Judge - Lex Robertson Saturday - August 08, 2015</p>
<p>Afghan Hound Club of Greater Chicago (2 shows) Joliet, IL Judge: Patricia Franklin Judge: C. Gill Ullom Sweeps: Sandy Nelson Friday - June 5, 2015</p>	<p>Afghan Hound Club of Greater Columbus Oberlin, OH Judge: D Scott Pfeil Sweeps: James Blanchard Sunday - August 09, 2015</p>
<p>Monterey Bay Afghan Hound Club Vallejo, CA Judge: Pamela Bruce Sweeps: Rosemary Sutton Saturday - June 6, 2015</p>	<p>Greater Twin Cities Afghan Hound Club, Inc. Lake Elmo, MN Judge: Chris Kaiser Sweeps: Jimmy Prosapio Friday - August 21, 2015</p>
<p>Colonial Afghan Hound Club Windsor Locks, CT Judge: Honi Reisman Sweeps: Kai Kramer Friday June 12, 2015</p>	<p>Afghan Hound Club of Greater Denver Greeley, CO Pending Thursday - September 3, 2015</p>
<p>Nutmeg Afghan Hound Club Windsor Locks, CT Judge: Joanne Weatherly Sweeps: Ann Sterner Saturday June 13, 2015</p>	<p>Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club (2 shows) Whitmore Lake, MI Judge First Show: Barbara Arndt Judge Second Show: Micky Koss Sweeps: Jody Gardner Friday -September 4, 2015</p>
<p>Afghan Hound Association of Long Island Windsor Locks, CT Judge: Jan Reital Sweeps: David Giordano Sunday June 14, 2015</p>	<p>Potomac Afghan Hound Club Broad Run, VA Judge: Chris Kaiser Friday - September 25, 2015</p>
<p>Evergreen Afghan Hound Club Auburn, WA Pending Friday - July 31, 2015</p>	<p>Finger Lakes Afghan Hound Club Romulus, NY Judge: Dr. Eric Liebes Sweeps: Linda Jackson Saturday - September 26, 2015</p>
<p>Evergreen Afghan Hound Club Auburn, WA Judge: Mrs. Monica Canestrini Saturday - August 1, 2015</p>	<p>Lehigh Valley Afghan Hound Association (2 shows) Frenchtown, NJ Judge: Nancy Edgington Judge: Susan Hamlin Sweeps: Melinda Rumpf Sunday - October 4, 2015</p>
<p>Midwest Afghan Hound Club Oberlin, OH Judge: Jay Hafford Sweeps: Leslie Stoffels Friday, August 7, 2015</p>	



AHCA INVENTORY ITEMS AVAILABLE

To order any of the inventory items contact:

Sue Busby

PAYPAL/VISA/MC ACCEPTED

Inventory 2015

TOP KNOT NEWS

Submitted by Dorma Sue Busby
barakiafs@peoplepc.com or 586-264-4292



2008 National Items

Catalogs "MEMORIES"
marked - Featuring all past winners
from 1940 to current, all events



2012 National Items

T-Shirts Blue 1 (m) 1 (xl) \$5.00
Catalogs FREE



Top 20 Invitational

Catalog & DVD FREE

Baseball Cap (peach logo) 1 \$5.00



2009 National Items

Posters 18 x 22 (unframed) \$5.00
Catalog FREE



2012 Breeders' Cup

Catalogs FREE



2010 National Items

Posters 18 x 22 (unframed) \$5.00
Tote Bags canvas shoppers \$5.00
Catalogs FREE



2013 National Items

Grey Sleeveless vest 1 (2x) \$10.00
(no catalogs left)



2010 Breeders' Cup Items

T-Shirts Beige 2 (sm) \$5.00
Catalogs FREE



2013 Breeders' Cup

Stainless Steel Travel Cup 8 \$10.00



2011 National Items

Catalogs FREE



2014 Breeders' Cup

Tote Travel Bags Royal Blue 20 \$20.00
(no catalogs)



2011 Breeders' Cup Items

T-Shirts Carolina Blue 2 (sm) \$5.00
Catalogs FREE



2014 National

Charcoal T-Shirt 1-2xl \$10.00
Denim Shirts 2-xl \$20.00
Catalogs FREE



2015 Breeders' Cup

Sapphire Blue T-Shirt 1-m \$15.00
Lime Green T-Shirt 3-xl \$15.00
(no catalogs)



Breeders' Cup catalogs have all pedigrees for those entered

Ways & Means

6-Pak Coolers Grey 6 \$5.00

Parent Club Logo Items



W/Parent Club Logo Items

PC Lapel Pins 14K gold plated
Tie Tac or Safety Pin catch \$15.00

Prices do not include postage

The Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.
Proudly Presents
The 79th National Specialty Show
Sunday, October 18th 2015 - Thursday, October 22nd 2015
Atlanta, GA
Sheraton Atlanta Airport Hotel



Tony Saia, Show Chairman

727-289-2095

Linda Jackson, Assistant Show Chairperson

770-898-0286

Chuck Milne, Assistant Show Chairperson

678-493-2257

Dorma Sue Busby, Show Secretary

586-264-4292

Judges

Terry d. Chacon

Dr. Edna Martin

Bruce Clark

Midge Martin

TBA

Donna Richards, Dean Wright

Connie Parrish

Regular and Non-Regular Dog Classes and Best of Breed

Regular and Non-Regular Bitch Classes

Sweepstakes Classes (All), Triathlon

Junior Showmanship Classes

Agility Classes

Lure Coursing

Obedience & Rally

Sheraton Atlanta Airport Hotel

1900 Sullivan Road

Atlanta, GA 30337

Reservations: 800-325-3535

Front Desk: 770-997-1100

Room Rate \$105/night — Call Reservations and request Group Rate "Afghan Hound Club of America"

Visit the AHCA Website
afghanhoundclubofamerica.org
Rescue Hotline: 1-877-AF-RESCU
(1-877-237-3728)

<i>Thursday, October 15, 2015</i>	<i>North Georgia Hound Association</i>
<i>Friday, October 16, 2015</i>	<i>Douglasville Kennel Club</i>
<i>Saturday, October 17, 2015</i>	<i>Atlanta Kennel Club</i>
<i>Friday, October 23, 2015</i>	<i>Carolina Afghan Hound Club</i>
<i>Saturday, October 24, 2015</i>	<i>Kennesaw Kennel Club</i>
<i>Sunday, October 25, 2015</i>	<i>Kennesaw Kennel Club</i>