

TOPKNOT NEWS

Official Publication of the Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.

Winter Edition 2022



Jenny d'Arcon

DEVERAUX

(Singh Shekinah Deveraux)



AFGHAN HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA WINNERS DOG AND BEST OF WINNERS FROM THE 6-9 PUPPY CLASS

"A lovely balanced black dog with beautiful head and eye, correct size, balanced both standing and on the move, which he did effortlessly and with perfect timing and foot placement." RACHEL IRVIN

"A very striking black puppy male. Beautiful head and eye. Fluid movement with great timing, well balanced, very confident and sound. Lots of style with no drama or exaggeration." HELEN STEIN

(Dev was also Winners Dog and Best of Winners at the Afghan Hound Club of Greater Columbus under Judge Jan Swayze-Curry, where his sister, Singh Shekinah Scarlett Ribbons was Winners Bitch)

Special thanks to Judges Helen Stein, Rachel Irvin and Jan Swayze-Curry for the honor. Thanks to the Afghan Hound Club of America for your hard work in putting on another successful National Specialty. Lastly, thank you to Milton Lopes for his superb handling of our youngsters.

Leslie Stoffels - Shekinah
Toni M. Richmond - Singh

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On the Cover....

It was a difficult choice between two lovely holiday paintings by Terry Chacon. Even Terry couldn't choose! But we finally decided on this cutie pie and her Afghan Hound. According to Terry: "The painting is of my granddaughter Kourtney and our Sally. I do a special painting every Christmas to send out for our Christmas cards. I asked Kourtney what I should paint, she said a snow man. I saw her outside my studio through the glass walking Sally around and thought I would paint her and Sally window shopping. The best was when her dad brought her by when the painting was on the easel, she came running out to tell him "Granny painted me and Sally in the Christmas painting!" You can see more of Terry's work on her website www.terrydchacon.com.



An Editorial Word



December already. Where did the year go? Year end is a good time to pause and reflect. The highs, the lows, the wins, the losses, the good the bad. Welcoming new life and cherishing the memories of those we lost.

How about you? Is there something you did this year that you think you will remember for the rest of your life? What is something you accomplished in 2022 that you are proud of? What was the nicest thing someone did for you this year? Or, what was one of the nicest things you did for someone else? You might have made a difference and not even realized it. If you think about it I bet you have lots of reasons to be thankful and grateful.

Here's hoping you have a happy, healthy, holiday season and wishing you and yours all the best for the new year!

Don't forget- suggestions, comments are most welcome. Reach out to me at editortopknotnews@gmail.com

See you at the shows!

Virginia Katilus



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KRISSY

CH WYNSYR CRYSTAL BLUE PERSUASION



KRISSY HAD A WHIRLWIND CLASS CAREER IN 2022, FINISHING WITH MULTIPLE SPECIALTY MAJORS, AND BREED WINS OVER SPECIALS.

WATCH FOR HER AT A SPECIALTY NEAR YOU IN 2023 AS WE BEGIN HER SPECIALS CAREER.

OWNED AND BRED BY D. SCOTT PFEIL, JAMES DONAHUE, FRAN DONAHUE

CO-OWNED BY JEFF WINTON, ROSEMARY SUTTON



wynsyr1@gmail.com

www.houndsofwynsyr.com

President's Message

D. Scott Pfeil
AHCA President

Dear AHCA Members:

As I type this, we have just finished a wonderful Thanksgiving. I am sure that we can all agree that among the things we can all be thankful for are our precious Afghan Hounds and the friendships that have enriched our lives as a result of being active in this amazing breed. It is my sincere hope that everyone in our community has the very happiest of holiday seasons and I wish you all the best going into the New Year.

The recent National Specialty show in Wilmington, Ohio was a success. Thank you to **Jason and Jennifer Taylor** for stepping up and chairing this event, and thank you to the committee chairs, volunteers, and exhibitors for making the 2022 National one to remember.

If you weren't able to join us in Ohio, be sure to check out the specialty report and photos in this issue. Start making plans for next year as we return to the Roberts Center once again. While the restaurant was under construction when we were there, it is now open, and I've had great reports from friends who have attended specialties there over the past month. Something extra to look forward to!

Full information about the 2023 National will be coming shortly. I know that **Russ and Barb Hastings**, our fearless 2023 co-chairs, have exciting plans for the show.

Chairing a national specialty is no small task. Let's all give Russ and Barb our thanks, and a helping hand when needed.

Erica Jantos and **Amy Mero** have been hard at work preparing for the Breeders' Cup to be held in York, Pennsylvania next March. At last reporting I heard we have 19 litters nominated!



With the Breeders' Cup, associated regional specialties, and five all-breed shows, it looks like York will be a fantastic chance to celebrate the breed, catch up with friends old and new, and get a sense of the exciting rising stars that will be carrying our breed into the future.

Lastly, I want to thank **Virginia Katilus** and her team for another fabulous issue of Topknot News.

Please remember to support the newsletter with your ads showcasing your current show dogs, planned litters, and memorials.





Philosophy from Faial

**Richard Souza distills his
breeding approach into
three key elements**

By Richard Souza

This is not a travelogue. But it begins like one.

Faial is one of nine islands in the Azorean chain situated 900 miles off the coast of Portugal. On a world map the small, irregular shapes are barely noticeable in the vastness of the Atlantic Ocean, where they show as tiny dots in the sweeping currents of the warm Atlantic Gulf stream. As a result, the archipelago's semi-tropical climate and temperate water provide fertile breeding grounds for scores of sea life and is a favorite destination for oceanographers and marine biologists. The Azores are often referred to as "Europe's best kept secret," and legend has it that they are the last, lingering traces of the Lost City of Atlantis. Romantics, like me, like to believe this.

It is a magical destination that has had an unexplainable effect on people who go there for the first time. Personal experience bears this out.

Years ago, on a whim, a close friend of mine from New York, Helen Siemers, joined me on a trip to the Azores. (Some of you will remember Helen, if not for her Afghans, then certainly her gravelly voice and ball-busting persona; also as the woman Bob Stein referred to — even in the present — as "the blast from the past" and/or "Helen the felon.") The third day on the island she bought an old stone house in desperate need of repair, pulled up stakes in East Moriches, and moved to Faial lock, stock and Popov, accompanied by a semi-psychotic brown Lab named Zelda (after the institutionalized Zelda Fitzgerald) and a nefarious black cat named Bill — a wily, elusive creature who, for all of his nine lives, endured one of his owner's less inspired animal names.

At the age of 50-something Helen had never been, let alone lived, outside the United States, spoke no Portuguese, and thrived for years on the

island in spite of it. As I said, an unexplainable effect. Juliette de Bairacoli Levy, the famous breeder of Turkuman hounds I've mentioned in other articles, was another dog person who made the Azores her home.

She had become seriously concerned about the contamination her Greek island was suffering when the drift from Chernobyl's nuclear fallout settled over the area. In a letter to me during that time, she wrote about the distressing signs of environmental damage — the bees were dying, the olive trees were stressed and heavily compromised, the skies were continually gray with particulate, etc., and she wanted, needed, to move. "But to where?" she asked.

I suggested she investigate the Azores — a place she'd heard of but one of the few places she'd never been. She moved to Faial with her gypsy-like wardrobe, her manual typewriter and a domino Afghan bitch from what was her final litter.

The air and the water and the soil on Faial are pristine.

Faial is known as "the blue island" by virtue of the fact that hydrangeas grow in proliferation, in gardens and public places, along the roads, across the sloping hills to divide individual plots of ground for farming and for grazing cattle and goats. The vibrant color appears at every turn, within every vista. The island population (about 15,000) has remained virtually the same for as long as I can remember; the main city of Horta, as well as the many small villages, are much the same as they were when I first visited some 40-odd years ago. One stoplight regulated the traffic then. The same one regulates the traffic today. That same one will probably be stopping and starting traffic 40 years from now. And it still amazes me how many people have never heard of the Azores.

I'm on Faial now, as I write, in the small village of Pedro Miguel, where our Villa Beyonda sits, perched securely on the banks of the river — the Rebeira — that runs from the mountains to the sea. The house is a 100-year-old stone structure, very small and much less grand than the name suggests.

The English dictionary describes a villa as "a country estate." The Villa Beyonda is more like a country cottage. For a number of years before the restoration, local cows routinely took up residence in it. Old houses here commonly have names.

It is the beginning of our — Chris and my — annual two-month hiatus, 6,000 miles from home. From California and the dogs and dog shows. Although Faial makes for an idyllic vacation, I always miss my Afghans, and as I sit here enjoying the tranquil beauty and the manana-like pace of Azorean life, I find myself reflecting on the more than 50 years of breeding and showing these wonderful, unique creatures.

Being 6,000 miles from home often offers new perspective. The result is this article and the philosophical path it takes. If you're not in the mood for a clearly subjective, somewhat abstract and moderately obtuse observation on breeding dogs, turn the page now. (Eddie, this will be too vague and flowery for you. Just so you know.)

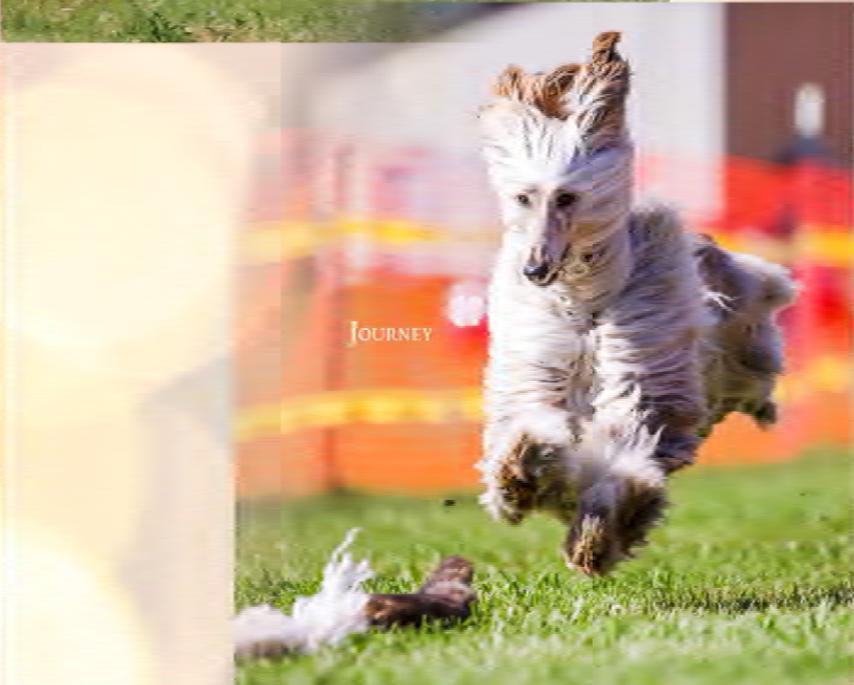
When I think about how to articulate how we — Mike Dunham and I, as Coastwind Kennels — have gone about our breeding program, I can distill the "philosophy" into three elements, joining the company of other subjects that are also considered in threes. Like World War II — Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union. Or the executive, the legislative and the judicial — branches set up for balance in government.



ORZO

Michael Caputo

3 SHINING MOUNTAIN RELATED DOGS ARE CURRENTLY IN FAST CAT TOP 15 AFGHAN HOUNDS*



JOURNEY



TEMPI

#10 CH PURE JOY'S SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS JC CA DCAT CGCA CGCU TKN (ORZO)

THE HIGHEST RANKING AKC SHOW CHAMPION IN FAST CAT

[CH BRIGHT MOON AT DAWN OF SHINING MOUNTAIN X CANINE LEGEND SEPHORA DCAT]

#12 SHINING MOUNTAIN'S LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT DCAT

[GCH Prophecy's Command Performace-Jaada X GCH SHINING MOUNTAIN'S RHYTHM OF THE RAIN]

#14 SHINING MOUNTAIN'S TEMPEST CDX BN RE BCAT

[SHINING MOUNTAIN'S TREASURE OF THE SUN X GCH SHINING MOUNTAIN'S RHYTHM OF THE RAIN]

TEMPEST AWARDED #1 IN OBEDIENCE AT 2022 AHCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY - CONGRATULATIONS MEGAN JOY RICE, CAROL LOVEKIN, AND GISELA BAILEY.

SHINING MOUNTAIN AFGHAN HOUNDS | BRIAN AND LAURA WOOD | LOMA MONTANA

*As of OCT 15

Mult. SBIS GCH. Abaca Shylo Santiago

Sire: CH. Shylo Thunderball • Dam: CH. Abaca Shylo Margarita Rita



Carlos

Carlos finished quickly at **14** months with **4** Majors including **2** Specialty Majors,
After being held back from Shows for nine months to mature, Carlos was awarded **SBIS** at back-to-back Dallas Specialties and achieved his **GCH** in just two weekends shown this year.

*Bred and owned by Abaca, Dayspring, and Shylo
Handled by Bruce Clark, Shylo*



(At this point in time, it could be argued they are dramatically unbalanced. Don't get me started.) Also: protein, fat and carbohydrate in the right combinations for balanced nutrition. And so it is in breeding dogs: the right ingredients and the right combinations for the right results.

We've pursued this philosophy from the early 1960s to the present day. I say "pursued" because, as breeders know, the process is never finished. Not really. It evolves. You never get entirely where you want to go. You are in a perpetual state of pursuing. Occasionally, as you evaluate a newborn litter and watch the pick of that litter grow, your heart beats faster. You think you've finally bred that perfect dog. In time, if you're honest with yourself, you'll know you haven't. And you continue.

So, what are they, these three? Concept, Priority and Vision. Other factors come into play, but for us, these are the primaries. Preaching to the choir? Probably, to some. But, for those folks not on this wavelength,

you may find something you can apply to your own efforts. As always, feel free to take exception. Agree or disagree. Or just flip to another page.

I've touched on the notion of concept and priority before, but from a different angle — from the world of the dog show as an entity, a competition — mainly in terms of my breed, the Afghan Hound, and where the result is transitory — one day, one judge, one opinion, one moment in time. It's a valid premise, but actually puts the proverbial cart before the horse. Apply the same notion to the "before" of the show ring and you come up with — breeding the dogs. Apply these principles to any breed. They still would work.

The heaviest lift for me is putting into words my concept of "concept" — if you'll pardon the redundancy. Why? It's more abstract than the other two. "Priority" is a bit easier in that it results in the visible measure of what a breeder prefers. Individual values become recognizable — how a dog, or line of dogs look, emerging as it

has, for example, as the look of Kay's Crown Crest dogs, of Sunny's Grandeurs, Reigh's Dureighs, Lois's Akabas, etc. All recognizable and the result of the breeder's priorities.

What about "vision"? Scores of books have been written on vision in every walk of life: politics, philosophy, the arts, etc. Your "vision" as a breeder takes shape once you've digested your breed standard and embraced it. After you've grasped the essence — or believe you have. After you understand how your breed is supposed to function — or think you do. At the same time, the fact is, everything you do from that point on will be a derivative of somebody else's work. Of some other person's vision. Other breeders will have created pedigrees you will use to build your own on. In doing this, you might find that you are out of the mainstream of what is going on around you, what is "popular" in your breed, and you do what you do anyway, pushing against the tides and criticisms. At the same time, you are in head-on confrontation with your genetic demons, the faults and weaknesses, as they appear in your litters. All pedigrees have them. But in dealing with the problems you will also discover the strengths and move those strengths forward, doubling up on them with each new, linebred generation.

Vision is a breeder's lighthouse, and, if you're lucky, it creates something that transcends the ordinary. Recall what was said of John D. Rockefeller: "His vision let him see farther down the street than other people. Not just down the street. Down the street and around the corner."

Concept. Defining it in breeding dogs is tricky because it is a term both overused and misused, and therefore, often misunderstood. It can easily be substituted for "idea" and "premise" — terms that are fairly generic and

interchangeable. And while that may be inconsequential in a casual conversation, it takes on more weight for breeders seeking to truly understand and establish the core of their breeding program, their story, if you will, starting with what they see in the physical elements of the dogs they are working with and how they elect to use and combine them.

"What we see depends upon what we think we see," Nobel-winning biologist Elizabeth Blackburn says. One of the most difficult hurdles for breeders to ignore is what they think they see by looking, in favor of what they actually see. Consider the difference in these two small words. They take on vastly different meanings when applied to breeding. To see, not look at. To look is instinctive. To see is not. To see takes practice and is not necessarily intuitive. The mind prefers what it can easily

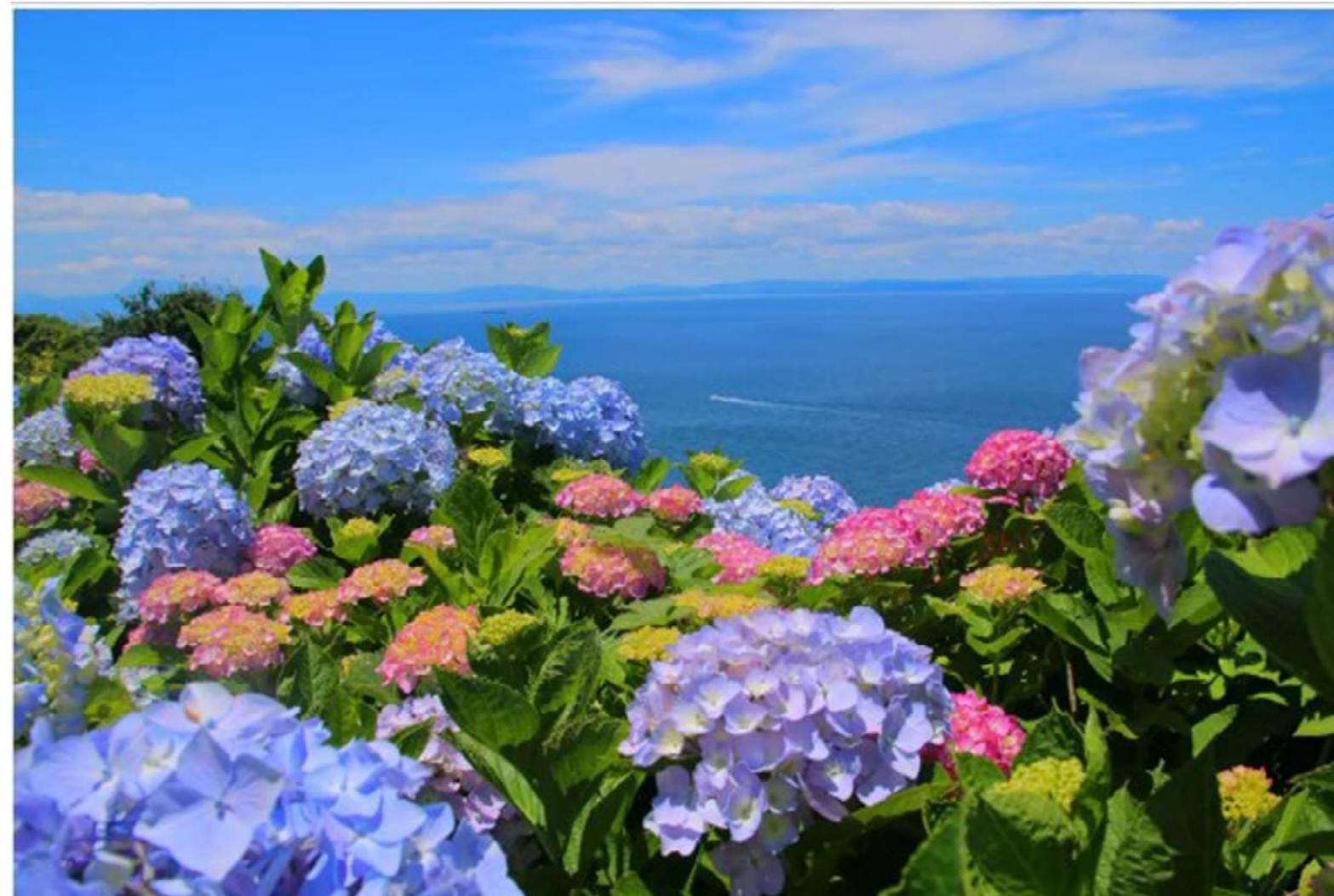
access — looking versus seeing. It's like hearing, but not listening. (I know this is heady stuff if you're talking dogs. Vague and flowery. Eddie, you were warned.)

Confusion can stem from the fact that concept is, sometimes subtly, a different essence than an idea or even a premise. If you argue that a concept is actually an idea or a premise by another name, it is like saying that a piece of bread and the world's most delicious brochette are the same thing. Bread, yes. But brochette is bread on steroids, bread dressed to kill, which is precisely how the essence of a concept distinguishes itself from the other two. It's important because concept is an idea that has evolved to the point where a breeding program takes shape and becomes possible. The concept becomes the platform, the stage, upon which a breeder's story unfolds. Con-

cept is the beginning on which the end will depend. And, among other things, it is what asks, and keeps asking, questions.

The questions play into the story, and the answers evolve out of an ongoing curiosity, whether through conversation with other breeders or solitary study or just mind-wandering that continues to ponder the why and the how. Also, trial and error. The errors are lessons in themselves. They challenge the concept.

Within the why and the how is the expectation of what your dogs will be. What they will look like. Your concept has given you your "voice." What your direction will "say" about the breed. But, remember. Breeding over the long haul is a process. It evolves. As you progress, you take risks. You take a step forward. The bitch doesn't conceive. You take a



step back. She conceives but the perfectly bred stud dog doesn't give her what you expected. What he should have. What she needed. What you needed.

What do you do? You make changes. Sometimes voluntary. Sometimes because you're behind the eight ball. You're forced to. But you adjust. You're patient. You wait for the next generation, or the next, to get what you want. Genetics, no matter how well thought out, can be madly fickle. They sometimes let you down. You may have to go to a Plan B. (You should always have one.) With careful line breeding you eliminate as many variables as you can. Not all. And, like it or not, some of it is, sadly, out of your hands. As bitter a pill as it is to swallow, some of it involves nothing more than plain old good luck.

Babbie Tongren was a great one for prostituting the English language for dramatic effect or to make a point. She once said to me when we were kvetching over cocktails on this very subject, the subject of breeding, "And if you ain't got lady luck on your side, you got a whole lot of nothin'." I couldn't agree more.

Still, in face of every adversity, of every setback, of every loss in the ring, your concept keeps you going. You can make adjustments, refine it, but you never let go of it. It's the breeder in you. You've set your priorities. Your vision steers you — down the road and, maybe, if you're lucky, around the corner to one dog or, hopefully, a whole family of dogs that transcend the ordinary.

Just a little philosophy from Faial to think about. Socrates signing off. See you back in the States in August. 🐾

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Lehigh Valley Afghan Hound Association

Results from 26th & 27th Specialties
October 9, 2022 - Frenchtown, New Jersey

Sweeps Judge: David Giordano

Puppy Dog - 9 months and under 12 months

Sunlit's I want it All By Sunset
Owners: C. Capozzi/M&M Capozzi

Puppy Bitches - 9 months and under 12 months

Gold Phoenix One Love Bria
Owners: J. Garcia/M. Ruiz

Puppy Dogs - 12 months and under 18 months

Dragonfly Ecco's Wild Thoughts
Owners: L. Brown/P. Schafmayer

Puppy Bitches - 12 months and under 18 months

- 1 Jabir Coupd'e'tat Doja Kat
Owners: C. Farrar/G. Cassarino
- 2 Dragonfly Ecco's Cold Cold Heart
Owners: L. Brown/P. Schafmayer
- 3 Willowmor Dreams of the Spirit KaVrab
Owners: K. Vrabel/P. Clark

Best in Sweeps

Jabir Coupd'e'tat Doja Kat
Owners: C. Farrar/G. Cassarino

Best Opposite Sex in Sweeps

Dragonfly Ecco's Wild Thoughts
Owners: L. Brown/P. Schafmayer

Regular Classes AM Judge: Gill Ullom

Puppy Dog - 9 months and under 12 months

Sunlit's I want it All by Sunset
Owners: C. Capozzi/M&M Capozzi

Bred By Exhibitor Dogs

- 1 Coastwind Jack O'Lantern
Owners: S. Philips/R. Souza
- 2 Dragonfly Ecco's Wild Thoughts
Owners: L. Brown/P. Schafmayer
- 3 Coupd'e'tat Let's Hear It For the Boy
Owner: G. Cassarino
- 4 Holdwin's Frankenstein BCAT
Owners: T. & H. Holderman

Open Dogs

Holdwin's Howling Good Time V
Mazshaina JC BCAT
Owners: D. Bates/H. Holderman

Winners Dog

Coastwind Jack O'Lantern
Owners: S. Philips/R. Souza

Reserve Winners Dog

Dragonfly Ecco's Wild Thoughts
Owners: L. Brown/P. Schafmayer

Regular Bitch Classes

Puppy Bitches - 9 months and under 12 months

Gold Phoenix One Love Bria
Owners: J. Garcia/M. Ruiz

Junior Bitches - 12 months and under 18 months

- 1 Jabir Coupd'e'tat Doja Kat
Owners: C. Farrar/G. Cassarino
- 2 Willowmor Dreams of the Spirit KaVrab
Owners: K. Vrabel/P. Clark
- 3 Baraki's Poison Ivy of Obsession's
Owners: B. Davis/D.S. Busby

Bred By Exhibitor Bitches

- 1 Coupd'e'tat Sissy That Walk
Owner: C. Cassarino
- 2 Dragonfly Ecco's Cold Cold Heart
Owners: L. Brown/P. Schafmayer
- 3 Holdwin's Trick or Treat
Owners: T & H. Holderman

Open Bitches

- 1 Pahlavi Winx
Owner: K. Wagner
- 2 Not Guilty We Have a Problem
Owner: L. Wilt/J. Johnstonbaugh
- 3 Phillmar Spice Hill Lucy in the Sky
Owner: L. Dufresne

Winners Bitch

Pahlavi Winx
Owner: K. Wagner

Reserve Winners Bitch

Jabir Coupd'e'tat Doja Kat
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Winners Bitch:

Jabir Coupd'e'tat Doja Kat
Owners: C. Farrar/G. Cassarino

Reserve Winners Bitch

Pahlavi Winx
Owner: K. Wagner

Best of Breed

CH Sunlit Elan The Monarch At Sunset
Owners: R & C Irvin/T. Richardson

Best of Winners

Jabir Coupd'e'tat Doja Kat
Owners: C. Farrar/G. Cassarino

Best Opposite Sex

GCH Charteroak Tralala of Grandeur
Owners: E. Rechler/G. & S. Vaccaro

Select Dog and BOBOH

CH Amavi's Cicero's Love
Owners: L. Hatez/V. Baker

Select Bitch

CH Spice Hill I'm A Hoot CA
Owners: U. Reinisch/T. Tevlín

Award of Merit

SBIS GCH LaFara's Rockin on the River
Owner: M. Falkenheimer

GCH MyWays Let Freedom Ring
Owners: D&M Giordano/J&D Pedersen

Best Puppy

Sunlit's I Want It All By Sunset
Owners: C. Capozzi/M&M Capozzi

Best Bred By Exhibitor

Dragonfly Ecco's Cold Cold Heart
Owners: L. Brown/P. Schafmayer

Thanks to Teri Holderman, Vice President of Lehigh Afghan Hound Club Association, for submitting the results.

Best of Breed
GCH Charteroak Tralala of Grandeur
Owners: E. Rechler/G. & S. Vaccaro

Best of Winners

Pahlavi Winx
Owner: K. Wagner

Best Opposite Sex

SBIS GCH LaFara's Rockin on the River
Owner: M. Falkenheimer

Select Dog

CH Sunlit Elan The Monarch At Sunset
Owners: R.&C. Irvin/T. Richardson

Select Bitch and BOBOH:

CH Aqua's Written In the Stars
Owner: J. Casola

Award of Merit

CH Ziv Hii Dragon's
Shadow@DragonFire
Owner: M. Morris/C. Helm

CH Ziv Hii's Dragon Dog
Owner: A&C Mero/C. Helm

Best Puppy

Sunlit's I Want It All By Sunset
Owners: C. Capozzi/M&M Capozzi

Best Bred By Exhibitor

Coastwind Jack O'Lantern
Owners: S. Philips/R. Souza

Regular Classes PM Judge: Joseph Buchanan

Puppy Dog - 9 months and under 12 months

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- 2 Coupd'E'tat Sissy That Walk
Owners: C. Cassarino
- 3 Holdwin's Trick or Treat
Owners T. & H. Holderman

SEAN

MULT. SBIS CH. SHYLO THUNDERBALL

SIRE: BIS/SBIS CH. SHYLO BLACK AND BLUE ALL OVER

DAM: CH. GOLDDRAGON SHYLO SPANISH LULLABY

CO-BRED AND CO-OWNED BY LESLIE FARKAS (LORD OF RINGS) AND SHYLO



CONGRATULATIONS

TO MSBIS CH. SHYLO THUNDERBALL "SEAN"

AND HIS SON

MSBIS CH. ABACA SHYLO SANTIAGO.

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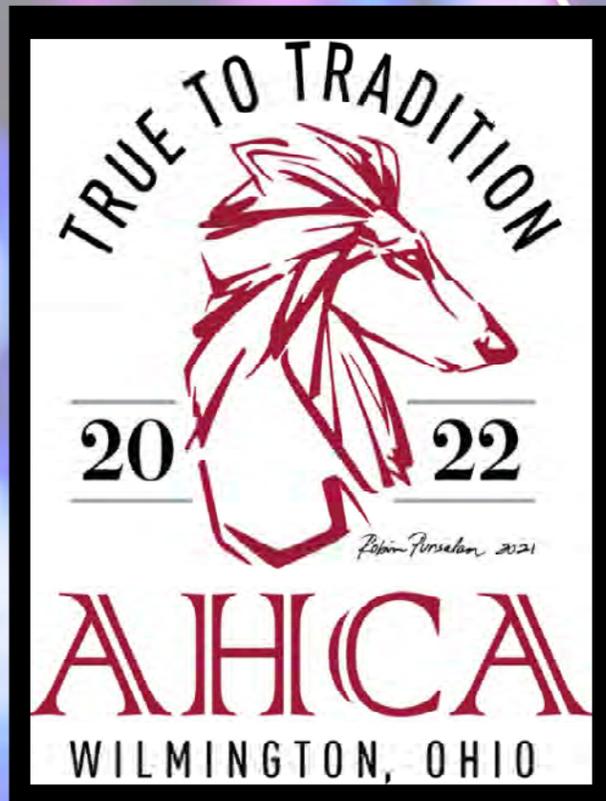
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and several notable Producers...*

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stepping up to help. More details regarding positions we will need to fill will be available soon.

For regional clubs interested in joining the national, we are reviewing current AKC rules and policies. Amy Mero will be sending a notice to regional clubs who qualify in the near future.

Stay tuned for more complete information, including our proposed condensed schedule.

Sincerely,
D Scott Pfeil
President



National 2022

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2022 AHCA National Specialty. We had a fantastic week celebrating our breed, proving once again why the Afghan Hound is the king of dogs. A special thank you goes to Jason and Jennifer Taylor and all of their committee chairs and members who worked tirelessly to make the national specialty a success. Thank you as well to our wonderful panel of conformation, performance, and companion event judges.

We now look forward to the 2023 National! The dates will be October 18-21 and we will once again be returning to the Roberts Centre. Russ and Barb Hastings have selflessly volunteered to co-chair this event. Chairing a national is no small task. There are going to be many opportunities for our membership to volunteer their time and talents. Please consider



Best of Breed

GCHS Jolie Show N Tell Sharja

Owners: Alisa Vickers, Beth Collins & Corinne Joyce



Best of Winners/Winner Dog/Best Puppy
Singh Shekinah Deveraux
Owners: Leslie Stoffels/Toni M. Richmond



Best of Opposite Sex
GCH Charteroak Tra La La of Grandeur
Owners: Evelyn Rechler/Gene & Michelle Vaccaro



Select Dog
GCH Charteroak Traxx of Grandeur
Owners: E.&B. Rechler/G&M. Vaccaro/M. Canalizo



Select Bitch/ Best in Sweeps
CH Taza Pixie Dust
Owners: B. Collins/A. Vickers/P. Silverman/D. Hafner/W. Mines



Award of Merit
GCH Zaida Bint Muti Von Haussman
Owners: J. Milano/W. Santiago/A. Sobrado



Award of Merit
GCH Ziv Hii's You Blinked First
Owner: Lucy Langlois

Judges' Critiques

Best of Breed
Judge: Helen Stein

I am most appreciative that I was elected to judge this entry, and I thank the members of the Afghan Hound Club of America for affording me this honor.

This show was beautifully run and I want to thank those who helped to make it so, in particular Show Chairman **Jason Taylor** (greatly helped by **Jennifer Taylor**), and **Scott Pfeil** and **James Donahue** for keeping things running smoothly and timely.

Scott and Jamie, **Linda Jackson** and **Russ** and **Barb Hastings** were wonderful ring stewards and I thank them all. My thanks to Hospitality chairmen **John** and **Elaine McKiernan** for finding interesting dinner spots and for entertaining Bob and me.

I can't go without mentioning the life size Afghan Hound topiaries created by Jason and Jennifer — they were very cool! If you watched judging from ringside or online, you may have noted that the ring fencing contained the kennel names of breeders of National Specialty winners - a lovely tribute to breeders of today, and to those of ages past!

Special thanks to **J W Taylor** for providing entertainment during my downtime and at the Awards Dinner. He's fun to be around!

There were many fine Afghan Hounds shown and I applaud all of the owners and breeders responsible for them. The following are my comments on the entry — I have copied dogs' names from the catalog and corrected what I knew to be typos, but please forgive any misspellings. I have not included the title of Grand Champion but did include Ch. where listed.

BEST OF BREED and BOBOH
#247 Ch. Jolie Show N Tell Sharja

Elegant and houndy, this dog is well balanced, square and moved with good reach and drive without exaggeration. He has a beautiful head and eye and exotic expression. Large feet, prominent hipbones, silky coat texture with a pleasing coat pattern, long low-set tail, natural effortless carriage — these are some of the distinctive characteristics of an Afghan Hound. He also displayed the Afghan's sense of humor by leaping into the air once or twice. Really looked like he was enjoying himself at this show, and he and his handler made a great team particularly on the final go-round.

BEST OF WINNERS
#111 Singh Shekinah Deveraux

This is a stunning puppy! He has a beautiful head and eye, lovely square outline, long low set tail and the most exciting part of judging him was watching him move. He has very good timing and is really sure footed — went around the ring with confidence and attitude. An eight month old puppy! I noticed in watching the video of this day that he didn't behave at the very beginning of the exam. He wanted to stand on his own terms, which his handler wisely allowed. This puppy was most beautiful going around the ring, moving freely on a loose lead and covering ground with great reach and drive without being overdone in front or rear. Beautiful breed type. I considered giving him an Award of Merit. He was also **BEST PUPPY**.

BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX
#234 Ch. Tralala of Grandeur
Elegant square typey bitch in exquisite coat, nice low hocks, just beautiful from



her head to her long, low-set tail. Strong topline, elegant head, eye, expression. Balanced movement showing great reach and drive without being overdone, and is very light on her feet. Exemplifying breed type and elegance, she was a strong contender for Best of Breed.

SELECT DOG
245 Ch. Charteroak Traxx of Grandeur

In beautiful coat and condition (wonderful coat texture), this dog has nice details - well angled croup with a long, low-set tail, moves smoothly and with purpose. Fluid ground covering movement with great timing and no drama, no bouncing, no hanging in the air. He has a classic look: With his beautiful kingly carriage and his "memory of ages past" expression, he was very reminiscent of so many dogs in the past that I wish I could have seen...and of some that I did see. So very "Afghan".

SELECT BITCH
#240 Ch. Taza Pixie Dust

This young bitch is eye catching both standing and moving. Her coat pattern accentuates her pretty shape and her good angles front & rear. So stylish! With her dark eye and pigment and the fancy coat pattern, she has a very striking and appealing look. Easy and balanced moving, and very proud of herself, she was fun to judge.

AWARDS OF MERIT
294 Ch. Zaida Bint Muti Von Haussman

A very striking red bitch who is a bit on the taller side, but very feminine and balanced with a square outline. She carried herself with great confidence and moved soundly and freely. Her coat is in beautiful condition; I noted when watching the video of judging that her saddle looks a bit different, but in "hands on" it was fine, and her coat texture in all areas was very nice. She has a lovely head and expression.

#227 Ch. Ziv Hii's You Blinked First

This very happy dog has a square outline, pretty head & eye and a coat pattern that accentuates his angles. He moves out with enthusiasm — has good timing and carriage and good balance front and rear.



Award of Merit
CH Mansur Ebn Jaysito Von Haussman
 Owners: E. Levin/S. Westerblad



Award of Merit Best Opp Sweetps
CH Spirit Ridge CSomthjng Special of Celebre
 Owners: S. Kinley-Alligood/B. Kinley Blewett/J. Moses



Award of Merit
CH Spice Hill I'm a Hoot
 Owners: U. Reinisch/T. Tevlin



Winners Bitch
Boanne Prestige We Belong Together
 Owners: T. Rakes/A. Evans



Reserve Winners Dogs
Celestian Jethro Tull at Kryslaur
 Owner: K. Hones/K. Stone



Reserve Winners Bitch
Marquis Diode La Nymph
 Owners: J. Plani/M&C Capozzi

229 Ch. Mansur Ebn Jaysito Von Haussman

This is a very nice dog who covered lots of ground when going around the ring. Good reach & drive without being exaggerated. He has a beautiful head and eye with aloof confident expression. A very nice dog to go over, with good shoulders and a strong rear, good croup and tail set; solid topline standing and moving. Beautiful breed type.

#284 Ch. Spice Hill I'm a Hoot

This bitch is very nice to go over - balanced front & rear, has a nice long croup and low tail set, low hocks and is in great physical condition. She has a pretty look about her, and just standing on her own she keeps a very nice outline. Moving, she is very easy and light on her feet.

#225 Ch. Spirit Ridge Something Special of Celebre

A young white dog with beautiful head and eye and striking black pigment. Nice square outline, stands confidently on his own, nice low hocks. Moving, he had great carriage and attitude without being too fancy — Very stylish.

POSTSCRIPT

There were several other specials that I liked very much and could have easily used in this lineup. I'm very impressed with the quality of the entry at this National; even in making my original cut I left out some dogs that were very nice. In my judging, I was very pleased to note that temperaments were quite good with all exhibits. I had only one or two that weren't interested in being examined, but they quickly recovered and acted fine — sometimes even playful — when moving.

This is a big improvement over what I have seen in some other years, and I commend the breeders and owners for working to produce a steady, confident temperament. I was happy to note that there were dogs in the Best of Breed ring, including at least one Dual Champion, that had earned titles in Lure Coursing, Obedience, Rally, Agility, Trick Dog and Canine Good Citizen. Which reminds me to congratulate the Triathlon winner, #508 **GCH DC Suni's Prairie Rose at Stardrift, CD BN RAE FDC SC BCAT CGC TKN ATT** — she is also a UKC Champion!



Regular and Non-Regular Dog Classes
 Judge: Rachel Irvin

It is always an honor to be selected to judge and especially so when invited to judge dog classes at your own breed's National Specialty. Although the numbers were not high I was pleased to see quality in every class.

6-9 MONTH PUPPY DOGS
Singh Shekinah Deveraux

Two lovely puppies that were obviously litter mates. Both were unsure of themselves but continued to improve as judging progressed. They were quite similar but ultimately the winner edged out his brother with his stunning carriage and movement going on to be awarded **Winners**

9-12 MONTH PUPPY DOGS
Baraki's the Mentor of Obsessions

Consisted of a single entry. His performance didn't do him any favors. He was not shy at all, just untrained and too thin. Despite this he is a beautifully made puppy. Gorgeous head and eye, level top line, perfect ring tail and four good legs. If the handler can get him under control and put some weight on him he will be very competitive.

12-18 MONTH JUNIOR DOGS
Celestian Jethro Tull at Kryslaur

Consisted of 6 young dogs. This was a very competitive class and ultimately the class winner was a patterned dark brindle dog. His temperament is outstanding, nice head and eye, balance, perfect ring tail, clean coming and going and of proper size.

PUPPY- BRED BY EXHIBITOR
Taza Field of Dreams

Next was the puppy BBE class with a single entry. A very promising black masked red puppy. Beautifully trained and presented although a bit sizey for my taste. Love the shiny natural saddle and his great temperament.

ADULT- BRED BY EXHIBITOR
Coastwind Jack O'Lantern

The adult BBE class consisted of two very different type young dogs both of quality. My class winner went to a very houndy patterned black masked red dog that took me back in time with an effortless easy gait and far away look.

OPEN DOG
Kominek's Hickory FDC BCAT CGC TKN ATT

The next class was the open dog class of five. The winner was a young black masked red dog. A very well built, compact and well conditioned dog of proper size. A close second in the class was also a proper sized black dog with a beautiful front assembly.

WINNERS DOG
Singh Shekinah Deveraux

My WD was ultimately awarded to the 6-9 month puppy who started out a bit shaky in his class but ultimately rose to the occasion getting better and better as the judging went on. He carries himself well with effortless movement and perfect timing that is impossible to deny. His proportions and structure are pleasing. He has a lovely head and expression. His tail is carried perfectly although I wish it had a ring. He is a promising puppy that will no doubt have an impressive career.

RESERVE WINNERS DOG
Celestian Jethro Tull at Kryslaur

My RWD came from the 12-18 Junior class. He is a proper size patterned dog with excellent temperament and structure. Very stylish without being overdone. I would like to see him looking forward more consistently on the move rather than up.

VETERANS 7 yrs and under 9 yrs
GCH Mahali Windfal High Flyer

Lastly I was thrilled to have a competitive veterans class. Both males were worthy competitors and I awarded the class to the dark brindle male.



Best Veteran in Sweeps
GCH Windsong Enchanted
Owners: N&Z Kueffer



Best Bred By
FC Kominek's Freya MC LCX2
Owners: E&S Kominek



Best Brace
CH Spice Hill I'm a Hoot/CH. Spice Hill The Wise One
Owners: U. Reinisch/T. Tevlin and T. Tevlin



Best in Breeder's Class
James & Lynda Hicks



Brood Bitch
GCH Spirit Ridge Something Royal of Rustic
Owner: G&S Alligood/B. Kinley-Blewett/W, Mines



Stud Dog
GCH Jolie Show N Tell Sharja
Owners: A, Vickers/B. Collins/C. Joyce

My overall evaluation of the entry is that although there was plenty of quality many of the dogs could have been better prepared for a show that was broadcast all over the world. Don't we all want to present our dogs so they can be judged accurately on the day but also to show off our best to the fancy? Maybe the lack of preparation is a side effect of Covid but judges can only judge the dogs as they are presented so I would strongly encourage attention to ring preparation and socialization.

Many thanks to the club and committees for their hard work and hospitality putting on a first class event. I thoroughly enjoyed my day. See y'all soon!

Regular and Non-Regular Bitch Classes

Judge: Helen Stein

PUPPY 6-9 MONTH BITCHES

In this class of four beautiful puppies, each one deserves mention. All had beautiful heads and dark, almond eyes. From one second to the next, a different one would look the best.

1st - #150 **Singh Shekinah Scarlet Ribbons**

Very sure of herself, very sound balanced movement with a good strong (not overdone) rear, good foot timing, carries herself with pride.

2nd - #148 **Singh Shekinah Chateau Margeaux**

Lovely silhouette, balanced front & rear, light and easy moving

3rd - #146 **Singh Shekinah Paisley Stockings**

Elegant attitude and carriage, lovely square outline and light moving

4th - #152 **Singh Shekinah Blackberry**

A leggy bitch but balanced, long nicely set tail, makes a nice picture when standing but was definitely less ring wise than the others.

PUPPY, 9-12 MONTH BITCHES

One puppy in this class

1st - #158 **Baraki's Poison Ivy of Obsessions**

Very pretty breed type, silky coat texture, beautiful head and eye. Definitely not ring wise, she wasn't willing to put up with much hands on exam, but she was very pretty moving and happy about it.

12-18 MONTH BITCHES

Two in this class

1st - #160 **Boanne-Prestige We Belong Together**

Pretty head and eye, nice tail set, low hocks, very balanced moving. Can sometimes make herself look a little long on the stack; it seems as if she has her own ideas about how to stand.

2nd - #170 **Exquisite Enchanted Making Waves**

A nice leggy bitch with very smooth neck/shoulder assembly and a good topline. Pretty head and expression, and light and sure-footed when moving.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR (ADULT)

Class of three

1st - #164 **FC Kominek's Freya MC LCX2**
Very patterned square bitch, balanced reach and drive, not extreme. Nice coat texture, what coat she did have. She was also **BBE**.

2nd - #168 **Eximius Lilies 'N' Pearls**

Pretty head and eye, a little longer cast than the other two bitches. Nice attitude and light on her feet.

3rd - #174 **Kayan String of Pearls at Rustic**

A really pretty bitch, beautiful breed type but just was not interested in being examined and didn't always use her tail when she moved. When she was being cooperative she had a beautiful square outline with nice croup and tail set. Nice silky coat in pretty condition.

AMERICAN BRED

Class of one

1st - #176 **Eximius Rootin' Tootin' at Salazar**

Square, nice croup and tail set, pretty head. She was very happy to move and show herself off.

OPEN BITCHES

Class of 15

1st - #192 **Marquis Diode La Nymph**
Absolutely exotic! She had a beautiful square outline, long, angled croup and low tail set, well muscled hindquarters with low hocks. A cream or white bitch,

she had a lovely dark eye and pretty chiseling on her muzzle. Her gait was light and effortless. She was VERY patterned! I was quite sure that this was going to be my Winners Bitch.

2nd - #194 **Pahlavi Winx**

A very pretty bitch, nice shape, nice long tail, moved smoothly and with elegance.

3rd - #172 **Sharja Singapore Majestic**

Balanced, very confident and coordinated moving; pretty on the stack.

4th - #198 **Mijkelh Calima**

Nice lines, good timing when moving and looked nice from all angles.

In this class of many quality bitches, I would have liked to place #162, **Sharja Majestic Songbird** who had very nice balance, was very pretty and really nice to go over. However, she was really uncooperative on the move and just not showing well.

Winners Bitch to the 12-18 months bitch who did stand nicely in the Winners class and moved with good style and attitude.

Reserve Winners Bitch to the Open bitch. She and her (now, new) handler may not have been familiar with one another, whatever the case she looked quite a bit less competitive in the Winners class. Still a beautiful bitch regardless, and I awarded her RWB

VETERAN BITCHES

Class of five

1st - **Ch. Spirit Ridge Something Royal of Rustic**

A very feminine and balanced bitch, she looked great both standing and moving. Lovely head and eye and a showy, spirited attitude. She is in very fit condition and moved around the ring with good natural carriage and a smooth easy stride. She was also **BEST VETERAN**

FIELD TRIAL BITCHES

Class of one

1st - **GCh DC Suni's Prairie Rose at Stardrift SC RA BCAT CGC TKN**

This bitch is nicely balanced, has a very pretty head and expression, nice coat texture and is in excellent fit condition. Carries herself well



High in Agility/High in Rally
MACH Popovs Purrfection at Cayblu CD RM2
RAE SC MXC MJC RATO
 Owner: C. Kirchmeyer



High in Triathlon/High In Reg Obedience/High Scoring Conformation CH in Obedience
GCH DC Suni's Prairie Rose at Stardrift CD BN
RAE FDC SC BCAT CGC TKN ATT
 Owners: C. Jankus/L. Hicks



High in Optional Obedience
Cayblu Coquette CD BN RE JC MXP MJP
 Owner: C. Kirchmeyer



LGRA High in Trial
Kominek's Gabrielle
 Owners: E.&S. Kominek



ASFA BOB & Best In Event
DC Kominek's Helenium
 Owners: L. Killian/E&S Kominek



AKC BOB
FC Kominek's Ingvar of Synergion
 Owners: E&S Kominek

coming and going and on the go-round. Cute attitude.

In the following two classes, only a first place is to be awarded. Truly, all entries were consistent within their respective families and it was up to me to decide which parent I thought had the most influence on their get/produce.

STUD DOGS

1st - **Ch. Jolie Show 'N' Tell Sharja**

BROOD BITCHES

1st - **Ch. Spirit Ridge Something Royal of Rustic**

Also this class, only a first place is to be awarded.

BREEDER'S CLASS

1st - Breeder #319, **Lynda & James Hicks**

BRACE

There was a brace! They were fun!
 1st - **Ch. Spice Hill I'm a Hoot** and **Ch. Spice Hill The Wise One**



Field Trials
Judge: Jeff Leonard

I was quite honored to judge the field trials. The dogs ran well and clean.

The Afghan Hound Club of America put on a great event. It was well run, with outstanding hospitality. It was so nice to see everyone enjoying spending time together and catching up with old friends, even as they were competing against one another. I love to watch the dogs run, and there were some great running dogs that day.

AKC JCs

1 "Delphine" ~ **ExquisiteAvein Make A Wish On A Starfish**
 Owners: Ann Nicholson, David, Beth Anne and Hartley Hall

"Talon" ~ **CH Spice Hill the Wise One CA**
 Owner: Teri Tevlin

"Kazette" ~ **GCH Cayblu Suni Kazette BCAT CGC TKN**
 Owner: Lynda Hicks, James Hicks

AKC OPEN

1 "Siobhan" ~ **CH Spice Hill I'm A Hoot CA**
 Owners: Ulrike Reinisch, Teri Tevlin

2 "Mandar" ~ **Kominek's Hickory**
 Owners: Terilynn Thomas, Eddie & Selma Kominek

3 "Zarah" ~ **Absolut Bombina**
 Owner: Olga Hislop, Alan Hislop

4 "Hamish" ~ **Cayblu Suni Lafayette BN RI JC AXP OJP**
 Owner: Cathy Kirchmeyer

AKC SPECIAL

1 "Ingvar" ~ **FC Kominek's Ingvar Of Synergion MC LCX**
 Owner: Eddie Kominek, Selma Kominek

2 "Blaze" ~ **GCHS DC Suni's Blazin' Saddles at Stardrift RN SC BCAT**
 Owner: Lynda Hicks, James Hicks, Debra Howard, Ruth Booker

3 "Brienne" ~ **FC Kominek's Maid Of Sapphires MC LCX2 BCAT**
 Owner: Edward Kominek, Selma Kominek

4 "Soleil" ~ **DC Watling St. Zarin Sun at D'Vangel FCh MC LCX**
 Owner: Edward Kominek, Selma Kominek

ASFA OPEN

1 "Rosie" ~ **CH Kominek's Helenium**
 Owner: Lisa Killian, Eddie & Selma Kominek

2 "Zarah" ~ **Absolut Bombina**
 Owner: Olga Hislop, Alan Hislop

3 "Mandar" ~ **Kominek's Hickory**
 Owners: Terilynn Thomas, Eddie & Selma Kominek

4 "Rozie" ~ **Suni's Prairie Rose at Stardrift**
 Owner: Claudia Jakus, Lynda Hicks

ASFA FCH

1 "Narcissa" ~ **GCH DC Kominek's Narcissa MC LCX**
 Owner: Eddie Kominek & Selma Kominek

2 "Ingvar" ~ **FC Kominek's Ingvar Of Synergion MC LCX**
 Owner: Eddie Kominek, Selma Kominek

3 "Brienne" ~ **FC Kominek's Maid Of Sapphires MC LCX2 BCAT**
 Owner: Eddie Kominek & Selma Kominek

ASFA VETERAN

"Coco" ~ **Swiftwind's Classy and Fabulous**
 Owner: Laurel Deptuch

ASFA SINGLE

"Gabi" ~ **Kominek's Gabrielle**
 Owner: Eddie Kominek & Selma Kominek

AKC FastCAT

1 "Jack" ~ **FC Holdwin's Jack O'Lantern SC DCAT CGC**
 Owner: Nancy Ebeling, James & Lynda Hicks

2 "Fia" ~ **Kominek's Fia at Kryslaur**
 Owner: Kristi Jones, Eddie & Selma Kominek

3 "Rosie" ~ **CH Kominek's Helenium**
 Owner: Lisa Killian, Eddie & Selma Kominek

LGRA

1 "Gabi" ~ **Kominek's Gabrielle**
 Owner: Eddie & Selma Kominek

2 "Fia" ~ **Kominek's Fia at Kryslaur**
 Owner: Kristi Jones, Eddie & Selma Kominek

3 "Brienne" ~ **FC Kominek's Maid Of Sapphires MC LCX2 BCAT**
 Owner: Eddie Kominek & Selma Kominek

Field Champion Class
Judge: Rachel Irvin

I had the pleasure of judging the Field Champion class. There was only one entry. The class was well represented with a square balanced black masked red male. He did not disappoint. He was in top condition, with excellent muscle tone and an effortless balanced gait. It is obvious this is a dog who can compete successfully in conformation and performance. It's a pleasure to see dual titled dogs doing the job they were designed to do.

ASFA'S GOLDEN



Luka (blue) with her handler Tim O'Neil, ready to be released in Luka's Best in II run
Photo by Phil Fullam

By Vicki Fagre-Stroetz

ASFA (The American Sighthound Field Association) is the original lure coursing organization. ASFA was founded in 1972 and is celebrating its 50th Golden Anniversary this year. ASFA currently has 71 member clubs that are throughout the USA and Canada, and includes the Afghan Hound Club of America.

For those who may not be familiar with ASFA. It was instituted to . . . “promote and further the advancement of purebred sighthounds and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection” by instituting “a system of competitive lure field trials for sighthounds which will attempt to test their historical abilities by providing, as realistically as possible, a simulation of coursing”. Seven original

breeds were included in ASFA's vision - among those breeds was the Afghan Hound.

International Invitational
A big part of the Golden Anniversary celebration was the 44th running of ASFA's premier event, the International Invitational (known as “the II”). The II was held on the spectacular 1,100-acre Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) venue in Muncie, Indiana on Saturday – Sunday, October 22-23, 2022. This year's ASFA II brought together 170 sighthounds from all parts of the USA and Canada. Afghan Hounds were well represented by 14 Afghan Hounds.

The II is a two day competition. Each breed has 3 classes, which are called Open, Field Champion, and

Veteran stakes. The hounds in each stake compete in Preliminary and Final lure coursing runs. The stake winners go on to on compete for Best of Breed.

Best in II Breed
Representative on Sunday, the Best In II competition (referred to as BII



Luka ready for her Best In II run
Photo by Vicki Fagre-Stroetz

competition) takes place following completion of the breed competition. All of the Best of Breed winners from both Saturday and Sunday are eligible to compete for BII. This year there were 18 competitors for BII. Afghan Hound “Luka” won Best of Breed on both days. “Luka” represented our breed in the 2022 BII competition.

Gillette Stake
The Gillette Stake is a unique competition that takes place on Saturday following completion of the Best of Breed competition. The Gillette Stake is for ASFA field champions that are also conformation champions. The highest scoring field champion in each breed that is also a conformation champion is selected to represent their breed in the Gillette Stake. Afghan Hound “Feniq” represented the breed in the 2022 Gillette Stake.

Vicki is the editor of *ASFA Communique* ASFA's online publication. Thanks to her for sharing this anniversary article.

Spice Hill PROUDLY PRESENTS



Talon
CH SPICE HILL THE WISE ONE JC DCAT CA CGC

CH CRISTON ATHENA SHEKINAH ALYDAR

AM GCH CAN CH SPICE HILL GENESIS

Bred and Owned by Teri Tevlin Spice Hill

ttevlin@comcast.net

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PUPPY GO ROUND



2023 AHCA BREEDERS' CUP YORK, PA

CLOSING DATES

Litter nomination	October 31, 2022
Judge nomination	October 31, 2022
Ballots to Breeders for Vote	November 14, 2022
Ballots Returned	December 12, 2022
Individual Get Entries Due	December 12, 2022
Judge Announcement	December 26, 2022
Supplemental Litter Nominations	January 14, 2023
Supplemental Get Entries Due	January 14, 2023
FINAL Get Entries Due	February 25, 2023

Show Secretaries: Amy Mero maxmero@comcast.net
Erica Jantos ericajantos@live.com



Happy Holidays

and

Best Wishes

for the New Year!

From Topknot News Team