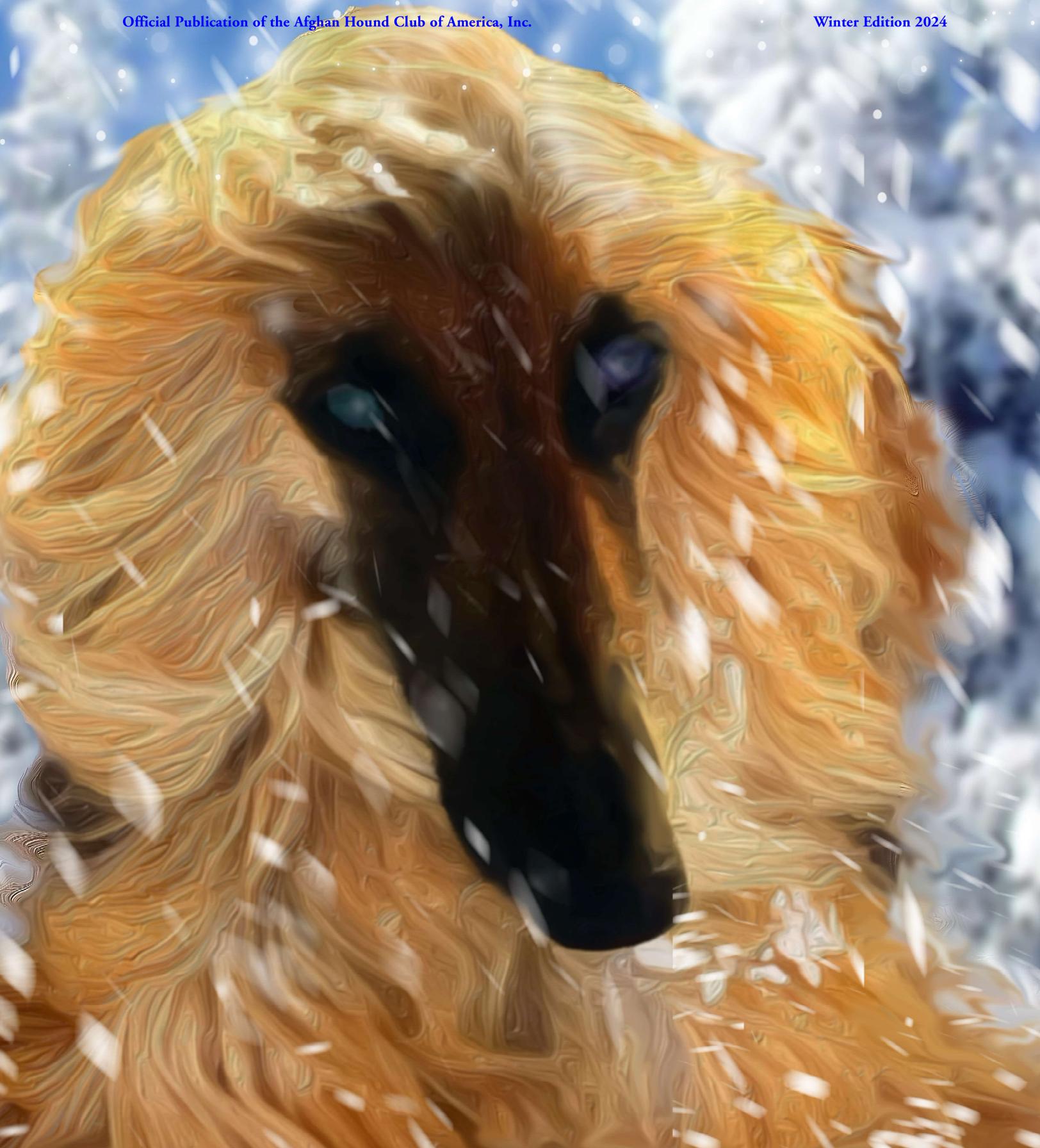


TOPKNOT NEWS

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

Winter Edition 2024



Windigo

Windigo On The High Seas and Windigo Whisper My Name

GCHS Shylo Black And Blue All Over x Ch Windigo When Stars Align



*Thank you to judge James Donahue for awarding our kids
Best Brace at the 2024 AHCA National!*

Bred and Owned by: Deb Peters

Handled by: Jennifer Pearce

Photo Courtesy of Christine O'Connor

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ON THE COVER

The ethereal, mystical "Snow Queen," courtesy of our own artistic and creative Ms. Beth Anne Hall.

"The first snow of the year seems to bring out the puppy in all of our Afghan Hounds. Violette turned from playful jester to benevolent ruler the movement her puppies were born. But on this day, we were treated to a glimpse of her younger, carefree side as she got ready to frolick in the fresh fallen snow."

From the Editor

Virginia Katilus



In 2024,
o u r
b r e e d

demonstrated remarkable success and international prestige, highlighted by two extraordinary achievements. At the World Dog Show in Croatia, the stunning Zaida Bint Muti Von Haussman, owned by Ramon Podesta from Chile and handled by Willy Santiago, claimed the coveted Best in Show title *defeating nearly 20,000 dogs!*

Similarly, at Westminster, Louis, GCHP Sunlit's King of Queens triumphed by winning the Hound Group, showcasing the Afghan Hound's continued excellence and elegance.

And our own National showcased spectacular dogs - hearty congratulations to all the winners! Photographed beautifully might I add, by our own **Warren Cook**. Check out his brief bio on page 8

Let us raise a glass; not only to "famous" Afghan Hounds but in honor of the true stars of our lives—our own beloved dogs.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season! Health, happiness and lots of blue ribbons in 2025!

See you at the shows!

In Memory:

It is with heavy hearts we acknowledge the passing of the following Member:

Sally Meuler

We will miss her and remember her contributions to the breed and the Club.

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Payment to: Paypal@afghanhoundclubofamerica.org

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Amy Mero



Darla Miller



Christine O'Connor



Christine Pinkston



President's Report

By: D. Scott Pfeil

Happy Holidays everyone! I hope you are all enjoying some time with family and loved ones. It is a time to be thankful for all our blessings and celebrate another great year with our beloved Afghan Hounds.

As I finish my third year as president I am so grateful for your continued support and encouragement. Our community may be smaller than in years past but we remain committed to the preservation and continued success of the Afghan Hound!

Cheers to a fabulous 2025 🐾



Reminder to Pay your 2025 AHCA Dues!

The deadline for club membership dues is February 1, 2025.

Yearly dues are \$50. Please remit via the club website at <https://dues.ahca.club.org>. This secure website will allow you to pay directly with a credit card, no need to have a PayPal account.

To remit by check please mail to our Treasurer, Ann Nicholson at:

Ann Nicholson
13915 Kennard Drive
Glenelg, MD 21737

Voluntary contributions to other club accounts are also welcome. Please be specific on the fund distribution, i.e.:

- AHCA Rescue
- 2025 National Specialty Trophy Fund
- 2025 Breeders Cup Trophy Fund
- AHCA Canine Health Fund; or
- Other

Note: In addition to the 2025 dues payment, the AHCA has introduced the new code of Ethics (COE) which members must sign each year. A copy was mailed to each member household. The COE may be mailed or emailed to Ann.

Any questions please contact Ann directly at annaf@comcast.net or 301-502-7217

... LEGENDS LIVE ON ...



AFGHAN HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA 2025 BREEDERS' CUP

May 2, 2025

Frenchtown, New Jersey

December 5, 2024

Breeder Ballots deadline

March 1, 2025

Entries due - \$25 per entry

March 2-April 11, 2025

Late entries - \$50 per entry

Billy Webb

Show Chairman

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Marla Capozzi

Show Chairman

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Amy Mero

Show Secretary

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Moyock, NC 27958

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Formerly educated and employed as a marine biologist, Warren got his first dog ever, in 1969 — an Afghan Hound.

Not knowing any better, and with the hubris of youth, Warren showed and trained that Afghan Hound to be a Top Ten, Best In Show, and High In Trial dog, a racing dog, and a lure courser.

A wonderful breed. A strong breed. Great dedication is required. It was a confluence of fates when he met and is currently happily married to, Vicky Cook, former co-owner of Coastwind Abraxas,

Warren was one of the founders of ASFA, was the first All Breed ASFA All Breed Lure Coursing Judge, and an All Breed Open Field Coursing Judge. Along the way, he became enthralled by the Saluki.

In Open Field Coursing, he ran his Desert Bred Salukis to considerable success while concurrently showing Third Generation Desert Breds, which are part of the pedigrees of some significant show Salukis today, thus illustrating his theory that the Saluki is a successful hunting dog that may show.

He sometimes shoots photographs.

Warren Cook

talks about

Warren Cook

Our 2024 National photographer is the very talented Warren Cook . Warren is a Member of the AHCA and has been since 1990. TKN wondered how he started. Here is his short story. Be sure to check out his photos at www.mydogphoto.com

*Thanks Warren!
- Editor*





'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that Santa Paws soon would be there.

The Affies were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of chasing squirrels danced in their heads.
Outside of their window, the moon shone so bright,
What a perfectly beautiful Christmas Eve night.

Then out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
They sprang from their beds and barked, "What was the matter?"
They raced to the window and started to growl,
What they saw out there in the dark made them all howl.

Suddenly the dogs stopped their barking, and a silence fell.
Then there was a noise a soft jingle bell.
Outside stood a man, who was dressed all in red,
With him he brought toys and treats in a sled.

The Afghan Hounds were all quickly filled with cheer,
Because they knew that Santa Paws was finally here!
With a bundle of presents to put under the tree,
The pups wagged their tails, "Oh, what could it be?"

Santa Paws hopped out with a big giant grin,
With a bag full of gifts for the Hounds within.
He put all the presents right under the tree,
A squeaky toy, bones and a treat or two or three.

Santa turned, smiled and wiggled his nose,
And in a flash up the chimney he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh and started to fly
Furry heads ran to the window to look to the sky
As Santa Paws vanished what did they hear?
"Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year!"

*An AI creation with actual human editing.
Apologies to Clement C. Moore*



AFGHAN HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.
87TH NATIONAL SPECIALTY
OCTOBER 14-17, 2024



BEST OF BREED PAHLAVI ONE NIGHT IN BANGKOK



Breeder: Karen Wagner By: GChB Pahlavi II'Il Have Another x Ch Pahlavi Winx
Owner: Katheryn Murray

Judges' Critiques

Our sincere appreciation and thanks to those judges who took time to submit a critique.

Regular/Non- Regular Dog Classes and Best of Breed

Judge: James Donahue

Judging the AHCA National Specialty has been the greatest thrill of my judging career. I am deeply grateful to the membership who selected me for this honor.

I was very pleased with the entry, both in numbers and quality. It was a wonderful show, and I would like to thank **Dorma Sue Busby** and **Becky Morissette** as well as everyone who volunteered their time to make this a special week. My wonderful stewards, **Russ, Barb,** and **Rachel Hastings** as well as **Helen Stein** kept everything running smoothly.

In reflecting on my winners, and looking at the win photos, I feel that my priorities are clear. I am looking for a square dog who is up on leg, well balanced, with a strong topline, and a silhouette that stays consistent whether standing or on the move.

When gaiting I am looking for dogs that are light of foot, ethereal, and balanced with no wasted movement. I am always looking for proper footfall—a dog who has the appearance of placing the hind feet directly in the footprints of the front

feet. Before I talk about my placements, I will share a few general observations.

The dogs that were present in my ring generally had good temperaments. There were more strong front assemblies than I expected to find—maybe a good indicator that we are improving in this critical area. I do think we need to continue working on breeding a proper eastern expression, but some were truly exceptional in this entry.

I have two major concerns in the breed: sickle hocks and bites. Both are functional issues for our Afghan Hounds. Sickle hocks have become so prevalent in the breed that we are losing the beautiful side gait that our breed is known for. If the hock can't flex on the move, it creates a complete look of imbalance.

This bite issue has been troubling me for a few years now, as I am seeing more and more dogs being shown (and finished) with incorrect bites. Maybe I am old school in this thought, but, as a breeder I do not feel that we should be putting dogs with incorrect bites in the ring. For me it is something that immediately designates a dog as a companion animal, and I cannot award them when presented to me. There were a handful of bite faults in the ring ranging from wry to undershot. I implore breeders to think twice before using dogs with faulty bites in their programs.

On Wednesday I judged class dogs and bitches. The dogs were stronger than I expected. Both my winners dog and reserve winners dog came out of the 12-18 class. This class was not only the largest (9 in competition), but the strongest

of the day. This surprised me as adolescent males are not always at their best developmentally in the breed, but there were some VERY difficult choices to make. All four of my placements were deserving dogs, and several left out of the ribbons should finish very easily and go on to have good careers.

Winners Dog: #23 Pahlavi One Night in Bangkok. DOB 10/13/2023. At just one year of age this young stallion black and tan dog caught my eye immediately. Type wise he checks all the boxes: beautiful almond eye, profuse topknot, level topline, prominent hipbones, with correct croup angle and a perfect ring tail that balances his long neck. His topline is rock stolid, and he holds his outline impeccably on the move. His yearling coat made it so easy to see what to me is one of his best features: "Great length between elbow and pastern...and hip to hock." While there were times when he wanted to get a bit overly exuberant, when he hit his stride, his foot timing was flawless. He is so well balanced and absolutely floats around the ring.

Reserve Winners Dog: #29 Windingo On the High Seas. This incredibly stylish domino dog, also from the 12-18 month class, just screams breed type, and gave the winner a strong run for his money.

He has many of the same qualities as the winner, and is perhaps a bit more elastic on the move. He wasn't hitting his ideal stride 100% of the time but when he did it was beautiful and effortless. I particularly appreciate his ability to carry himself with great dignity and pride on a completely loose lead.

I would like him to have darker pigment and a more piercing

continued on page 20

CONGRATULATIONS!



Winners Dog/Best of Winners
Pahlavi One Night in Bangkok
Bred By: Karen Wagner
Owner: Katheryn Murray



Best of Opposite Sex
GCh Singh Shekinah Paisley Stockings
Bred by: Toni Richmond and Leslie Stoffels
Owners: Toni Richmond, Linda Stoffels, Linda Shipley, Jody Gardner



Winners Bitch
Ruzka Mav's Gift from Heaven "Ghostina"
Bred by Darla Hichborn and Robert Godfrey
Owner: Darla Hitchborn



Reserve Winners Dog
Windigo on the High Seas
Bred by: Deborah Peters
Owner: Deborah Peters



Reserve Winners Bitch
 Singh Shekinah Spider Lilly
 Bred by: Toni Richmond and Leslie Stoffels
 Owner: Toni Richmond, Leslie Stoffels, and Patty Kageals



Select Dog
 Ch Mihdian-Nor Mystic Dimension
 Bred by: Rosemary Marie Johansen and John Schoolcraft
 Owner: Debbie Fertitta Rogers



Select Bitch
 GCh Agha Djari's Water Colors
 Bred by: Stefan Boieck and Nico Kersten
 Owner: Bradley Phifer



Award of Merit
 Ch Dragonfly Ecco's Lip Service
 Bred by: Lucia Brown and Philip Schafmayer
 Owner: Lucia Brown



Award of Merit

Am. Ch Choice Love Actually
 Bred by: Bodil and Mirabel Arlander
 Owner: David Torres and Bodil and Mirabel Arlander



Award of Merit

GCH Criston A Thousand Splendid Suns
 Bred by: Christine Pinkston, Patricia Warner, Anna Stromberg
 Owners: John McKiernan, Elaine McKiernan and Christine Pinkston



Award of Merit

GCH Countrywind's Cuppa Joe
 Breeder: Catherine Harker
 Owners: Carol Chapek, Catherine Harker Cindy Litz
 Agent: Maddie McCue



BOB Owner Handled

GCHB Spice Hill I'm A Hoot NA, NAJ, CA, BCAT, TKN
 Bred By: Teri Tevlin
 Owners: Dr. Ulrike Reinisch and Teri Tevlin



Best Bred By

Belexander's Shantay You Stay
 Bred by: Christopher Belt, Chad Alexander, PJ Derringermatteo, and Agnese Della Rocca
 Owners: Christopher Belt, Chad Alexander, PJ Derringermatteo, and Agnese Della Rocca



Best Puppy

Caymiko's Practical Joker of Spice Hill
 Bred by: Ulrike Reinisch, Teri Tevlin, Christine Pinkston, Karen Reinisch
 Owner: Dr. Ulrike Reinisch



Best Veteran and Best Veteran - Sweeps

GCHS Exquisite Sign of the Mermaid, SC, DCAT, CGC, TKN
 Bred by: Beth Anne Hall, David Hall, Hartley Hall
 Owners: Beth Anne Hall, David Hall, Hartley Hall
 Agent: Teri Tevlin



Best Opposite Sex - Veteran

GCHS DC Jorogz' Ember 'N Ashes at Liebran CGC
 Breeder: Jorogz and M. Schember
 Owners: Karen and Kent Shaver, Juli Szymanski



Best Puppy Sweeps
 Pahlavi One Night in Bangkok
 Bred by: Karen Wagner
 Owner: Katheryn Murra



Best Opposite Sex Puppy Sweeps
 Spice Hill Perfect Journey
 Bred by: Ulrike Reinisch, Christine Pinkston, Teri Tevlin, Paul Da Silva, Karen Reinisch
 Owner: Teri Tevlin



Best Junior - Riley Dean
 GCHS DC Jorogz' Ember 'N Ashes at Liebran CGC
 Breeder: Jorogz and M. Schember
 Owners: Karen and Kent Shaver, Juli Szymanski



High in Triathlon and BOS Veteran Sweeps
 GCHGDC Suni Sir Viveur, RM, MC, LCX2, BCAT,
 CGC, TKN, FITG, UKC GCH URO1
 Bred by: James and Lynda Hicks
 Owner: Lynda Hicks



Breeders Class

GCH Countrywind's The Ice Cream Man
 Bred By: Catherine Harker
 Owners: Catherine Harker
 Agent: Ryan Wolfe



High in Agility/High Score Opt. Obedience

Cayblu Coquette, CD, BN, GN, RE, MX, AXJ, MXP, MJP
 Bred By: Cathy Kirchmeyer
 Owner: Cathy Kirchmeyer



High in Non-Reg Obedience

Cayblu Venus My Huntress
 Bred By: Cathy Kirchmeyer
 Owner: Cathy Kirchmeyer



High in Rally/High Combined Rally

GCH DC Suni's Prarie Rose at Stardift, CD, BN, RAE2, FDC, SC, BCAT, CGC, TKN, ATT, FITG, ASFA FCH, UKC CH
 Bred By: James and Lynda Hicks
 Owner: Claudia Jakus and Lynda Hicks



First Place - Obedience / Beginner Novice A
 Ch Kominek's Hawthorn JC BCAT CGCA CGU TKN
 Bred By: Eddie and Selma Kominek
 Owner: Bibin Varghese, Eddie and Selma Kominek



First Place - Rally / Intermediate
 Eximius Lilies 'N' Pearls, RN, SC, BCAT
 Bred By: Beth Erisman-Thomas, Steve Cory,
 Michael Quinn, Tabitha Thomas
 Owner: Beth Erisman-Thomas



First Place - Agility / New AX
 GCHB CH Spirit Ridge Some Kind of Wonderful Celebre,
 JC, OA, OAJ, CA, FCAT, ACT2, ACT2J, CGC
 Bred By: Gary Alligood, Shery Kinley-Alligood,
 Bobbi Kinley-Blewett, William J. Mines
 Owner: Gary Alligood, Shery Kinley-Alligood,
 Bobbi Kinley-Blewett, William J. Mines



AKC Best of Breed
 Kominek's Isabella "Isabella"
 Bred By: Eddie and Selma Kominek
 Owner: Eddie and Selma Kominek



ASFA Best in Field

DC Kominek's Helenium "Rosie"

Bred By: Eddie and Selma Kominek

Owners: Lisa Killian, Eddie and Selma Kominek



ASFA Oldest Qualifying Veteran

FC Kominek's Maid of Sapphires MC LCX2 BCAT "Brienne"

Bred By: Eddie and Selma Kominek

Owners: Eddie and Selma Kominek



AKC First Place Veteran

CH Zavin's Fast Love RA SC BCAT CGCA CGCU "Peanut"

Bred By: S. Cory, M. Quinn

Owner: Beth Erisman-Thomas

The following award winners did not take official show photos.

Stud Dog

GCHP Exquisite Royal Majesty of Elation BCAT
Breeder: Bonnie Peregoy, Beth Anne Hall, Hartley Hall, David Hall

Owners: Beth Anne Hall, Mary Bass, David Hall and Sara Bass

Agent: Teri Tevlin

Brace

Windigo Whisper My Name

Breeder: Deborah Peters

Owners: Deborah Peters

Windigo On the High Seas

Breeder: Deborah Peters

Owner: Deborah Peters

Agent: Jennifer Pearce

continued from page 11

expression, but overall, he is of the highest quality.

When he came in for reserve, he almost sabotaged himself as he started pacing. However, his expert handler knew to just get out of his way and let him settle. I was very pleased that the entry was large enough for this dog to earn a major for his reserve.

While there weren't as many bitches as dogs, I still had my choice of lovely examples to put through their paces.

Winners Bitch: #6 Ruzka Mav's Gift From Heaven, was the lone 6-9 month puppy. When she came in for her class, she melted my heart at first sight. For such a young inexperienced puppy (I later learned this was her first show), she handled the large ring with great aplomb! Her jet-black pigment and dark almond eyes make a striking contrast to her ice white coat.

She is wonderfully built, with proper shoulder lay-back and front legs set well underneath her. Her rear is perfectly matched with the front, which is why her gait is so effortless and balanced. In my remarks at the awards banquet, I said that this girl is a dream to go over. A true hands-on lesson for how an Afghan puppy should be put together. I look forward to watching her mature with great interest.

Reserve Winners Bitch: #36 Singh Shekinah Spider Lilly. The winner of the 12-18 month class was this ultra feminine black masked silver girl. She has a beautiful head and expression, feminine and well chiseled with a strong under jaw. Excellent detailing through the hip bones and croup. She is well up on leg and balanced front to rear. I would like a smoother neck into shoulder transition, which is where the puppy

edged her out on this day.

Thursday was best of breed judging, and the Specials did not disappoint.

Sorting through the champion entries was no small task. It's not easy having to leave dogs out of cuts that are very deserving, and that I would be thrilled to have in my ring in a regular sized entry.

In the end the ultimate winners were those that most closely fit my ideal vision of the standard, and I feel every dog that was in the ribbons this day has much to offer the breed.

Best of Breed & Best of Winners: #23 Pahlavi One Night In Bangkok. At the end of the day, it was the winners dog who rose to the occasion and I could not deny him.

I want to be very clear that my decision to give the highest award to a class dog should not be taken as a commentary on my opinion of the champions. There were many beautiful and deserving champion dogs entered.

Once I made the final cuts, my mind was leading me in a few different directions. Before I started working the final cut of specials, I asked the WD and WB to go around together, back to their spots.

Upon completing this task this young dog went to his spot, stood his ground, turned his head and looked right through me. In that moment it gave me chills... something that hasn't happened in a long time. At that moment I knew I needed to consider him further.

A great Afghan Hound has a quality that should make you have an emotional reaction. This dog has it. As I moved him around with champion after champion, I kept expecting him to falter. He only got better. He really is the complete package with all the critical elements of breed type, total balance, impeccable foot timing and

sound movement, and that extra "it" factor. It was my pleasure to award him Best of Breed.

Best of Opposite Sex: #76 GCH Singh Shekinah Paisley Stockings. This black and silver bitch immediately caught my eye with her light, effortless movement. She floats around the ring without a shred of wasted motion, and all the ethereal lightness of foot the breed should have. She is upstanding, balanced, and without exaggeration. I especially love her long legs, neck, and tail, coupled with tiny little, short hocks that flex properly on the move. She is a bit larger than I would prefer but this does not keep her from being entirely feminine. She was beautifully presented by a handler who knows how to use a loose lead and get out of the way. Indeed, I never noticed the handler, who always let the dog shine.

Select Dog: #97 CH Mihdian-Nor Mystic Dimension. This exotic blue dog is right up my alley. Every time I looked at him in the lineup, he presented a perfect picture. For a blue, he has wonderful dark eyes. I would like him to have a slightly stronger under jaw, and smoother shoulder layback, which is how the WD tipped the scales for Best of Breed. That said, this dog excels in peculiar coat pattern (to me his amount of coat is ideal), prominent hipbones, large feet, and a perfect long ring tail. On the move he is easy and balanced, with sound footfall. He is not as flashy and extreme in movement as we have sometimes become accustomed to, but to me he is so classic and correct.

Select Bitch: GCH Agha Djari's Water Colors. A very typey red brindle girl, with an exotic coat pattern. She has a lovely head and expression, good topline, and tail, and the length of leg that I insist upon. Her coat is moderate in

amount with a beautiful texture. While I prefer the front angulation on the BOS bitch, this girl uses what she has to full advantage. She is all Afghan!

Awards of Merit: #81 GCHP Exquisite Royal Majesty of Elation BCAT. A handsome black masked red dog. I love his classic head piece that is well chiseled and refined, yet still masculine and strong of jaw. I would like him to be a bit shorter in body, and perhaps with a little more breadth. Where he really excelled is on the move. He has a wonderfully athletic and elastic side gait, with proud carriage. A very deserving dog.

#89 GCH Criston a Thousand Splendid Suns. This is a wonderful domino dog. I love his size, and he is so good to go over. Dominos often get a bad rap for their heads and expression, but this dog has a correct head, with a lovely dark almond eye. His movement was flawless, and I knew from the minute I examined him that he deserved to be in the ribbons.

#101 GCH Countrywind's Cuppa Joe. This handsome brindle dog is of an ideal size and balance. He is a gorgeous picture on the stack. His head is handsome, and his expression piercing. His overall outline is difficult to fault. On the day he was moving just a tad high in the rear. I have seen this dog on other occasions when he did not do this, but we are judging on the day.

#73 CH Choice Love Actually. This is a classic black and tan male. In a time when we have become accustomed to extreme refinement in the breed, I feel that it is important for dogs like this to be seen. He is strong and masculine, with excellent strength of underjaw and strong bone throughout, yet he is not coarse. He is square and unmistakably Afghan. He is reminiscent of the older

Scandinavian dogs, and I think dogs like him being shown and recognized can help to keep the pendulum from swinging too strongly toward the other extreme.

#86 CH Dragonfly Ecco's Lip Service. A beautiful red bitch. Her head is classic and proof positive that "much refinement" and "strong and punishing" are not mutually exclusive! Her neck flows smoothly into her shoulders and her front is set well under her body. The rear is nicely matched to the front. I would like her to be a little shorter in body, and with a tad more length to her croup, bringing the tail set slightly lower. But overall, she is a beautiful girl, that should be an asset to a breeding program.

Sweepstakes/ Triathlon Conformation Classes

Judge: Connie Butherus

The 87th Afghan Hound Club of America had a wealth of excellent Afghan Hounds in competition. It was a pleasure to participate in the event and have the opportunity to judge the quality entry.

Overall Impressions of the Entry: The temperaments were sound overall which is so important for the breed. There was also the haughty aloofness quality so representative of the Afghan Hound.

The arch of the neck is important. If this is compromised the strength of the neck is diminished. This strength is an essential component of our primitive breed;

The angle of the croup needs attention. This angle goes to top line,

prominence of the hip bones, tail set and movement.

Musculature of the thighs was soft in a number of the entries.

The bowing of the rear aka "Cowboy Rear" was compromised. The bowing which is stated in the breed standard was not observed in some.

The breed characteristics, as specified in the standard, were frequently found in the entry - e.g. top-knot, prominent hip bones, ringed or curved tails, prominent occiput, large feet, refined head structure with strong under jaw, eyes with dark color and shape, LARGE dark nose-leather and the desired elite, royalist expression.

And lastly, movement. Reach and drive were at times compromised by less than soundness of structure especially in the rear. The neurological timing and carriage are essential qualities in overall movement as is ease of movement. The dogs should not appear to be struggling to get around the ring.

It was very nice to see the handlers moving with their dogs and not forcing the dog to move with the handler at top speed.

Prior to the Sweepstakes classes I graded the conformation portion of the Triathlon competition.

A score of 70 to 100 was to be assessed for each entry based on the breed standard. As there is no perfect dog known to exist, my scores ranged up to 90 in conforming to the Afghan Hound standard. The dogs are not judged against other dogs but rather against breed standard.

The Classes: Best Veteran Sweepstakes. A black masked red bitch was well put together and moved with style and soundness. She was very feminine and carried her age well.

Best Opposite Sex Veteran An older male dog who was a pleasure to go over. He was well made

and moved with soundness and proper carriage. He was the winner of the Triathlon events as well.

Sweepstakes 6-9 Months - Dog and Bitch: The dog and bitch entries were mirror images of each other. Both were white, not cream, with jet black pigment. They were well built and used their structure well when moving.

The bitch had the edge on the movement and expression on the day. She was strongly considered for best bitch in the final assessments.

9 - 12 Months Dogs The dog winning this class was well structured and moved with ease maintaining his carriage . His reach and drive were correct with soundness of foot placement.

12 - 15 Months Dog This black and tan yearling was a stallion. He entered the ring with the attitude of a challenger looking to takeover the event if not the entire country given the opportunity!

He covered ground with reach, drive and soundness of foot placement. His expression was haughty as befitted his attitude. His make and shape were well structured and pleasing to the hand with smoothness and placement.

15 - 18 Months Dog. Another black and tan male with good movement and carriage. He was well put together and had the desired breed characteristics. He was nicely presented and showed with the desired pride of the breed.

9-12 Months Bitch The first placed bitch looked through you not at you. She screamed Afghan Hound Bitch in every sense of the term. She had length of leg and was very feminine, moved soundly with ease and correct carriage. She was pushed hard for the first place by the second place bitch who had the same make, shape and movement. But it was the expression denoting the Look of Eagles coupled with her elitism attitude that carried the day. I later discovered that the two bitches were littermates.

12 -15 Months Bitch This red brindle young gal was very well structured and used it with ease when in action. She moved well with sound foot placement and had the desired characteristics so important in defining the breed.

15 - 18 Months Bitch A highly colored domino bitch who moved with grace and style. She was well put together in structure and had the desired very feminine breed

presence

Best in Sweepstakes The eight class winners were exciting to have in the final placements.

The **6-9 month bitch** could steal one's heart. She moved around the ring with seriousness of purpose not missing a step. She was clearly in the final considerations.

The **9-12 month bitch** continued to move with the desired carriage, reach, drive and soundness. She prevailed and was Best Opposite Sex in the Sweepstakes.

The **12-15 month dog** remained the dominant force in every way. He was not to be denied and was rightly the Best In Sweepstakes. A well deserved win.

I thank the AHCA for the pleasure and honor of judging the entries at this National Specialty show.

The Stewards **Helen Stein** and **Rachel Hastings** were attentive to details and facilitated the process. My thanks to them!

I would also like to congratulate the breeders of the entries. Breeders will ensure the future our breed. Preservation of our breed is essential . In honoring the breeders we recognize and support the contribution they make.



Wishing everyone a very

Merry Christmas



Shannon Griffin, Dale Boyd and Ted

Multi group placing

GCH CH Exquisite Always Be a Mystery of the Sea

CGC, TKN, TK1, DCAT, BCAT



Let it
Snow!