

Topknot News

The Newsletter of the Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.

Winter 2017



Art by Mary Ann Giordano

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**The next Topknot News
submittal date is
May 1, 2018**



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Letter from the Editor



This is the final issue of 2017 and it is late. One of my New Year's resolutions is to not have that happen again. There is no good reason for this beyond my getting side tracked by my best friend passing away in his sleep unexpectedly in early November. We were room mates at Michigan State and remained close all these years.

We saw each other only occasionally after Barb and I left Michigan in 1988 but we talked on the phone and in later years did Facebook together. He was an avid Fly fisherman, something I hope to do more of in the coming years. I can still see him standing waste deep in a stream, focused on trying to hook a "Big One". His loss got me thinking about how fleeting our time together is and how much I still want to accomplish. Miss you Alan.

On that note we introduced a new feature in this issue called "The Rainbow Bridge." It is intended to honor our four legged friends who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge in the past year. It will be an annual feature (as long as I am Editor). To have your friend appear, just send along a picture with the call name and we will put it in the last issue of every year.

This issue also highlights our 81st AHCA National that was held at Purina Farms in September. Hope you all enjoy it. Looking forward to seeing you at the Breeders' Cup in Tucson.

Russ Hastings hrh3judge@gmail.com

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President's Message



In my final message as President, I would like to talk about Club Finances. I often hear comments about financial decisions made by the AHCA Board based on the assumption that the Parent Club is wealthy! This is not the case. Just 2 years ago, the AHCA treasury dipped below \$10,000 - less than some local clubs have on hand. This

is not due to mismanagement, it is the fact that our National events (the Breeders' Cup and National Specialty) can easily run into the red and the Parent Club has to pay the bills. If a major problem would arise with the National, the Parent Club has to have enough funds available to settle accounts. This is not about lawsuits - just contract obligations!

The past 4 National events were profitable thanks to Chairs who watched their budgets closely. But if not for the Art Auctions at our Nationals, we would have lost money in 2016 and 2017. The Art Auction used to be an optional event but with today's increased expenses, it is the difference between profit and loss. Hotels and show sites continue to find ways to raise prices on incidentals that really add up! And the entry money we receive at shows just covers the Superintendent's fees and expenses (catalogs, travel, premium lists, etc...) plus AKC fees. We are fortunate to have members who generously donate to our trophy fund each year but with the costs of the AHCA Bronzes we give out, the ribbons, plus the trophies themselves we usually wind up at a loss.

So today our treasury is back over \$30,000. For a National Club, this is a bare minimum. I write this not as a warning or a plea for donations but as an explanation.

One request I would like to make though is for everyone to opt into the e-balloting option on your membership dues notice this year. It costs us between \$300-\$400 each time we mail out ballots for judges, notify results of Board elections and nominations, etc... If there are ties or multiple votes it can cost the club a lot of money. Please take the time to "opt in" and allow your notices and ballots to come by email in the future!

And finally my personal thanks to everyone in the club and on the Board who has helped me in my two year term as President! The past years have been productive:

- A replenished treasury
- A combined AHCA Rescue financial arrangement that will allow the Rescue Trust to combine with the Parent Club Rescue
- Associate membership
- E-balloting
- A recommitment to a separate annual Breeders' Cup event.

Ken Amos, President
Afghan Hound Club of America

Attention AHCA Members

Please remember to notify Sue Busby if your address changes, you hear of a fellow member who is ill or has crossed over the Rainbow Bridge.

Dorma Sue Busby

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81st AHCA National Specialty

“Preserving The Future”

Purina Farms

September 11-14, 2017

By Russ Hastings/Photos Dean Lake

Official activities of the 81st Afghan Hound Club of America National Specialty began Monday, September 11th as the first “Tally Ho” was heard on the coursing field at Purina Farms. Over 20 dogs competed on a sunny, crisp morning in Gray Summit, MO. Judges for Lure Coursing were Ms. Leonore Abordo from Sandia Park, NM, Ms. Sandra Moore from Quebeck, TN and Dr. Anne Midgarden from Wapakoneta, OH. Best in Event and AKC BOB was “Ellie” Kominek’s Electra at Wicked owned by Alice Donoho, Eddie and Dr. Selma Kominek. ASFA BOB was “Ingvar” Kominek’s Ingvar of Synergon owned by Eddie and Dr. Selma Kominek, Ernest Abresch, and Michael O’Neill. As coursing continued during the day conformation exhibitors and vendors enjoyed the beautiful weather and set up around the conformation field in preparation for the activities of the next three days.

Monday night featured a welcome party at the AKC Museum of the Dog, a short distance from Purina Farms. The museum was featuring an exhibition of the work of long-time member and Judge Terry d. Chacon. A very impressive collection of work. The Saint Louis Club sponsored wine and hors d’oeuvres, hosted by Alicia Jones and Tara Richardson, for all the museum attendees.

Tuesday morning started with the Agility Trial held in conjunction with the Ibizan Hound Club of The United States at the Purina Farms Event Center. Agility was Judged by Mr. Geoffrey Nieder from Imperial, MO. High in Trial was MACH Popovs Purrfection at Cayblu owned by Cathy Kirchmeyer. Following Agility, the Liberty Class was held in the main show ring. Always a favorite of everyone as the dogs and owners perform together.

Immediately following, Conformation Judging commenced. Our ring was expertly stewarded all week by Mr. Billie Webb and Ms. JoAnn Jones with announcing by Mr. Allan Reznik. These unsung heroes work tirelessly in the background to keep things running smoothly. Our Sweepstakes Judge, Mr. Robert DiNicola, from Edison, NJ, entered the ring to evaluate an entry of 70. Best in Sweepstakes was awarded to Sura Fabelhaft Candy Crush owned by Christine



Best of Breed: GCh.B Pahlavi Marilyn Merlot



Best of Opposite Sex: GCh. Ecco Dragonfly's Apres La Pluie

AHCA National Specialty

(Continued)



Best of Winners, Winners Dog, Best Bred by Exhibitor, Best NOHS, Award of Merit: Zavin's Captain Fantastic

O'Connor, Suzanne Neill and James Dalton. Best of Opposite Sex was Jolie Show N Tell Sharja owned by Alisa Vickers. Judge DiNicola then proceeded to evaluate 9 in Veteran Sweepstakes. Best in Veteran Sweeps was awarded to Ch. Jovan Cruise Control owned by JoAnn Jones and Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Veteran Sweepstakes to GCh. Jakar Majic Park Avenue SC owned by Susan Weatherhead.

Following Sweeps, it was time for Mr. Lex Robertson from Pittsburgh, PA to begin his assessment of the 40 dog entry. Judge Robertson sorted through an excellent entry, eventually placing as Winners Dog Zavin's Captain Fantastic owned by Steve Cory and Michael Quinn. His selection for Reserve Winners Dog was Xenos Copper Nite Of Polo owned by Lorianne Amadeo. After Dog judging, the Conformation portion of the Triathlon competition was judged by Mr. DiNicola, with

Major Awards at a Glance

Best of Breed: GCh.B Pahlavi Marilyn Merlot

Best of Opposite Sex: GCh. Ecco Dragonfly's Apres La Pluie

Best of Winners, Winners Dog, Best Bred by Exhibitor,

Best NOHS, Award of Merit: Zavin's Captain Fantastic

Select Dog, Best Stud Dog: GCh.S Agha Djari's Fifth Dimension Of Sura

Select Bitch: GCh. Victoria's JP Pallasathena M-Topone

Winners Bitch: Jamna Winsong Martian Starlight At Anamcara

Awards of Merit:

GCh.S Sunlit's Queen Of Everything CGC

GCh. Exquisite Beaujon's Stellar Night CGC

GCh.S Pahlavi Itz Not My First Rodeo

GCh.B Shylo Black And Blue All Over

Reserve Winners Dog: Xenos Copper Nite Of Polo

Reserve Winners Bitch, Best in Sweepstakes : Sura Fabelhaft Candy Crush

Best Puppy: Winsong's Big Bang

Best of Opposite Sex Sweepstakes: Jolie Show N Tell Sharja

Best In Veteran Sweepstakes: Ch. Jovan Cruise Control

Lure Coursing Best In Event: "Ellie" Kominek's Electra At Wicked

High In Agility Trial: I MACH Popovs Purrfection At Cayblu SC RE RATO

Rally Highest Combined Score: She Rides The Short Bus CD BN RAE JC NAP NJP NFP

Obedience - Highest Scoring Dog in Regular Classes

Highest Scoring AKC Champion of Record: Ch. Xzotika's Rik-O-Shay CD RE AX OAJ CGC

Best Junior Handler: Alexis Kendall Jones

After Dog judging, the Conformation portion of



Select Dog, Best Stud Dog: GCh.S Agha Djari's Fifth Dimension Of Sura



Select Bitch: GCh. Victoria's JP Pallasathena M-Topone

AHCA National Specialty

(Continued)



Award of Merit: GCh. Exquisite Beaujon's Stellar Night CGC



Award of Merit: GCh. Sunlit's Queen Of Everything CGC

Swiftwind Classy And Fabulous owned by Laurel Deptuch placing first.

Tuesday also saw the first unveiling of the Afghan Hound silhouettes that had been decorated by various participating Regional Clubs. This was a great fund raising project coordinated by Anna Tyler. The Best of Breed winner would be picked at the awards banquet. See the full article below.

The day turned to night and the activities continued with dinner and Breed Education coordinated by Barb Bornstein. Several of the scheduled speakers were not able to attend due to the hurricane that had devastated the Southeastern part of the country but excellent substitutes were found from among those attending the National. The speakers were Rosemary Sutton, Steven Fisher, Paul Britza, Paul Hewitt, and Julie Roche. It was a night not to be missed with each of the speakers imparting critical breed knowledge to those who were in attendance.

Editor's Note: Pictures of the remaining Awards of Merit GCh. Pahlavi Itz Not My First Rodeo and GCh.B Shylo Black And Blue All Over were not available from the photographer.



Winners Bitch: Jamna Winsong Martian Starlight At Anamcara



Reserve Winners Bitch, Best in Sweepstakes : Sura Fabelhaft Candy Crush

AHCA National Specialty

(Continued)



Reserve Winners Dog: Xenos Copper Nite Of Polo



Best of Opposite Sex Sweepstakes: Jolie Show N Tell Sharja

On Wednesday morning Obedience and Rally were held in the Event Center and Judged by Mr. Russell Hornfisher from Maryville, TN. High scoring in Obedience regular classes was Swiftwind Classy And Fabulous owned by Laurel Deptuch and High in Rally was She Rides The Short Bus CD BN RAE JC NAP NJP NFP owned by Cheryl Helsing. The Regional Club Meeting was also held Wednesday morning as was Judges Education chaired by Mr. Harry Bennett. Conformation judging resumed on the main field after lunch with Judge Mr. Richard Souza from Gridley, CA evaluating an entry of 51 in the Bitch classes. Judge Souza awarded Winners Bitch to Jamna Winsong Martian Starlight At Anamcara owned by Richard Allan, Deborah Allan, Gary Sinck, and Nikki Gardner, with Reserve Winners Bitch going to Sura Fabelhaft Candy Crush owned by Christine O'Connor, Suzanne Neill and James Dalton. Wednesday evening everyone dressed for Dinner and the AHCA Annual art auction. James Donahue and Scott Pfeil were responsible for securing the many beautiful art objects that were all donated by the Afghan Community. This is not only an enjoyable evening but also a critical fund raising function as the National Specialty would not be financially viable without the money raised. The auction was conducted expertly by Mr. Jason Taylor and a good time was had by all.

Thursday, the final day of this year's National, began with the General Membership meeting run expertly by President Ken Amos. For some reason it is always a struggle to achieve a quorum at the General meeting but after waiting awhile and making some phone calls a quorum was achieved and regular business was conducted. Unapproved minutes of this meeting are distributed with Topknot



Best Junior Handler: Alexis Kendall Jones



Best Puppy: Winsong's Big Bang

AHCA National Specialty

(Continued)



High In Agility Trial: I MACH Popovs Purrfection At Cayblu SC RE RATO



Best In Veteran Sweepstakes: Ch. Jovan Cruise Control

News and final approval will take place at the 2018 meeting. The General meeting was immediately followed by an Afghan Hound Club of America Rescue BOD meeting chaired by Martha Powell. After lunch on the main field The Parade of Rescue and Parade of Veterans was held. Then our single Jr. Handler was Judged by Mrs. Elaine Lindhorst from Saint Charles, MO. The winner was Alexis Kendall Jones showing Ch. Sura Spring Fever. This class is the future of our breed and it is a shame we do not get larger entries and do more to encourage our Juniors.

At last it was time for Mr. Lex Robertson to enter the ring again and judge the Best of Breed competition. The weather was very hot and caused some difficulties but the hounds and judge persisted to a grand finish with the final competitors in a beautiful run off. Best of Breed was awarded to GChB. Pahlavi Marilyn Merlot owned by Dr. Patrick Truman, Jeff Bracken, and Karen Wagner. Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed was GCh. Ecco Dragonfly's Apres La Pluie owned by Philip Schafmayer and Lucia Brown. Best of Winners was Zavin's Captain Fantastic. Select Dog was GChS. Agha Djari's Fifth Dimension Of Sura with Select Bitch awarded to GCh. Victorias JP Pallasathena M-Topone. There were five Awards of Merit presented to GChS. Sunlit's Queen Of Everything CGC, GCh. Exquisite Beaujon's Stellar Night CGC, GCh. Pahlavi Itz Not My First Rodeo, GChB. Shylo Black And Blue All Over, and Zavin's Captain Fantastic.



Lure Coursing Best In Event: "Ellie" Kominek's Electra At Wicked

Best Bred by Exhibitor and Best NOHS was Zavin's Captain Fantastic and Best Puppy was Winsong's Big Bang. The final award was Best Stud Dog awarded to GChS. Agha Djari's Fifth Dimension Of Sura.

As the day ended everyone gathered for the Annual Awards Dinner. Master of Ceremonies was Steven Fisher. Awards presented honored top Afghans in conformation and performance events, Top Breeders and the Top Jr. Handler. Lifetime Membership was bestowed on Connie and Dr. Duane Butherus, two members who have made untold contributions to our club over the years. The AKC Good Sportsmanship Award was presented to Linda Shipley. Outgoing President, Mr. Ken Amos, and departing Board Member Anna Tyler were presented awards. Our Show Chairperson, Joy Atkins-Miller, was recognized for her outstanding effort in making this an event to be remembered. It takes a village to make an event like this a success and everyone who helped is to be congratulated on a job well done. It is also important we support and thank our contributors and sponsors, in particular Summerwinds. The evening came to an end and as we said our goodbyes we all committed to meeting again in Greeley, Colorado, September 2-6, 2018 for the 82nd Afghan Hound Club of America National Specialty.

H. Russell Hastings

Judges Critiques

81st AHCA National Specialty

Dog Classes, Best of Breed, Stud Dog

Lex Robertson

After a year of being cloistered, and of much anticipation on my part, the AHCA National specialty was finally here. I can't begin to tell you what an honor this was, and how much I appreciated the members for their confidence in my ability to judge this show of shows. Thanks also to the many committee members who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this an enjoyable experience for all.

Although there were a few bumps along the way, nothing took away from that euphoric feeling when I was in the middle of that huge grassy ring looking at all those outstanding dogs. This was the reason we were all gathered here to celebrate what has been, what is now, and what will be, and the breeders, exhibitors, and owners of this fantastic entry; that was the AHCA 2017 National, have much to be extremely proud of.

Although Russ said I could be as verbose as I wanted, I will keep to the class winners when discussing the dog entry, well at least in specifics.

I found the class dogs and the specials to be of exceptional quality, at times I was forced to split hairs to make that final decision between placements and awards, they were all just that good.

Dog classes

6-9 month – Cynergy's Magical Mystery Tour at Bluhill - This young blue brindle dog had a long neck blending into well set on shoulders, nice strong back, short hocks and a long tail complemented the overall picture. He moved with much purpose, and was quite commanding for a dog of his age.

9-12 month – Windsong's Big Bang - This houndy red dog had it all together in the class. Long head, set atop an equally long neck, flowing into well laid back shoulders, coupled with a good back, leading into big hip bones with a nice open ring at the end of his tail. He did have strong competition in this class, but won out on the detail and loftiness he portrayed.

12-18 month – Xenos Copper Nite of Polo - A commanding black and tan dog that dominated this class. His presence, balanced side gait, lovely long head, equally long neck that flowed into well set on shoulders, coupled with a strong back, nice short hocks, all topped off with a nice tail won him this award.

Bred By Exhibitor – Zavin's Captain Fantastic. As this dog took his first lap around the ring he immediately captivated me. His balance, composure, incredible foot fall and timing were a fantastic sight to see. He was as well made as he was exciting to watch go. Nice head, great length of neck, well set on shoulders, flowing into a great back with prominent hipbones and a nice enough tail. He had it all, and he never let down or disappointed.

Open Dog – Chandhara's Dangerous Liaison Khariz JC Nice black dog of beautiful type. Handsome head and eye, nicely put together from bow to stern. This dog was not over done anywhere, and represented his classic black type well.

Reserve WD was the handsome young dog from the 12-18-month class. A well-deserved win.

WD was the young dog exhibited in the bred by class. An honor to award this beautiful young male who makes so much of himself. Collected is a word not often used these days, and it describes this dog to a T. I understand that both dogs finished their championships on the day, and I look forward to seeing exciting futures for them both.

Best of Breed

As anyone who was there knows, immediately following my initial go through of the dog specials, I got pretty sick. Fast forward to two hours later, when I returned feeling right as rain. Even better than my recovery was the fact that the sun had gone down significantly, and now in the ring what had been unbearably hot, was pleasantly cooler. The dogs were now no longer panting, but were moving with ease, a cool and collected group.

My AOM

GCHS CH Sunlit's Queen of Everything CGC – Beautiful typey bitch , lovely head , beautiful balance on this standard size exhibit. She was more than deserving in this stellar line up.

GCH CH Exquisite Beaujon's Stellar Night CGC – Handsome dog of wonderful proportion. Leggy with good reach of neck and tail. He carries himself well as he moves easily around the ring.

GCHB CH Shylo Black and Blue All Over -Wonderful proportions on this standard size dog. Lovely way of going, lots of detail, coupled with a nice amount of coat, proving less is sometimes more.

GCHS CH Pahlavi Itz Not My First Rodeo – Classic red dog. Wonderfully put together, holds his outline on the move, beautiful carriage and presence.

The WD Zavin's Captain Fantastic

Select Dog

GCHS CH Agha Djari's Fifth Dimension of Sura - A true athlete of a dog. Beautifully put together with a flawless shoulder assembly, deep chest, good back, lovely tail, a moderately bent stifle with strong short hocks. He moves around the ring with great purpose, much deserving of the attention he received this day.

Judges Critiques

AHCA National Specialty

(Continued)

Select Bitch

GCH CH Victorias JP Pallasathena M-Topone – A beautiful standard sized bitch of exquisite type and detail. She moved around the ring with much precision, using all the parts that fit together so well to her advantage. Lovely head, good length of neck fitting well into her back, great ring tail with proper rear assembly made her a top contender. I was pleased to award her this well-deserved win.

Best of Opposite

GCH CH Ecco Dragonfly's Apres La Pluie - A masculine dog of terrific attitude and presence. Handsome head with dark small almond shaped eyes, great reach of neck, good shoulders with a well set on front. Strong back, prominent hipbones, good croup and tail set, with low set hocks, all coupled with a strong desire to win. He was more than a pleasure to watch, and his presence and attitude led him comfortably into the opposite spot.

Best of Breed

GCHB CH Pahlavi Marilyn Merlot – From the moment this classic bitch entered the ring on that first go round, head and tail held high, with balanced collected side gait, it was hers to lose. She did not disappoint. From her beautiful head, to her lovely neck fitting well into her strong hard back, big hip bones that led to that outrageous tail, a great rear coupled with short hocks, she said Afghan Hound bitch loud and clear. Her great attitude of disdain, extraordinary carriage of both head and tail, great timing and balance, put her ahead of the competition on this day. Congratulations to her breeder and owners for exhibiting such a great one!

Again it was my great pleasure to not only judge this great assembly of Afghan Hounds, but equally my pleasure to be able to say the breed I love so much, is alive and well, and thriving in America today.

Bitch Classes

Richard Souza

It was a thrill and an honor to judge bitches at the 2017 AHCA Specialty. As always, the show was beautifully run even with the last minute curve ball Hurricane Irma threw the dog show world. The ring was well set up and the conditions allowed a running hound the venue that suited them. The weather (on Wednesday) showed a little restraint and was warm, but not too. Joy did a great job as Show Chairman, Billy Webb was smooth and efficient as my ring steward, and Ken Amos as president was accordingly and appropriately, presidential. In the absence of the original hospitality committee (Lee and Michael—again, the hurricane), the club did a great job in affording me every accommodation right down to a room full of—too many to be eaten by one person--snacks. My thanks to all!

So, the Winners Class is on the final go around and I am charged with pointing to winner's bitch. What is going through my mind? A brief explanation of my process: I'm doing the individual examinations in each class and there are essentially two tapes running in my head. One is the obvious one--attention to the details of the standard: head, eye, neck, shoulder, upper arm angulation, etc. The other is trying to form an opinion as to what the scope of the, in this case, bitch, is and how she collects herself on the move. When the moment to point that finger comes in the final circle, I've mentally pretty much arranged the class in order of their qualities and it's this second tape that will make the decision for me. I've referred to scope and collection. What are they—exactly? This is what I would say: Scope lies just outside the realm of the written standard and yet is as much a part of it as if it were spelled out in black and white. It is not only what the breed should look like, but act like, be like. How primitive are they? How athletic? How dry? How do they view the world around them? How much do they tolerate? How much of their presence is self-determination and how much is ring training? Then there is collection--how everything comes together on the move—not necessarily having to do with speed or presentation. These two things—scope and collection—are not, to my knowledge written down, per se. But, they are like a well written poem, meaning found between the lines as well as in the written words.

This said, some general comments on the overall entry. I found good depth of quality in the younger classes, namely 12-18 month bitches and the bred by class. It was difficult to form an opinion on the adults as there were only four entries in the open class. After having hands on all the bitches, my general feeling is that breeders need to pay more attention to fore chest, shoulder placement, upper arm angulation and, most glaringly, depth of brisket—several under par in these areas. As to finishing points, tails especially need improvement—a nice ringed tail adds immeasurably to the finished look.

On the brighter side, my class winners were all fine quality and in the Winners class I liked what I saw going around.

Critique of the class winners:

6-9: A flashy black and tan bombshell so full of herself the handler had to spend the majority of his time calming her down. By the final go around she pulled herself together and covered the ground with balanced front and rear movement. She will be an easy one to finish.

9-12: A highly patterned black masked red with all the parts a really good afghan hound should have: pretty head and eye, long, arched neck tapering into a laid back shoulder. She was well muscled, sound coming and going and, off and on, ground covering from the side. She looked like an afghan hound should look. She needs a bit more collection and a pinch of seasoning. That's all.

Judges Critiques

AHCA National Specialty

(Continued)

12-18: One of the two strongest classes of the day with depth of quality throughout. The winner, a nice compact blue brindle, ultimately my Reserve Winner, showed what appeared to be a natural penchant for the ring, was happy to be doing what she was doing and let everyone at ringside know it.

BBE: The second strong class and from which Winners Bitch came, a beautiful typey self-masked cream with lovely detailing across the back and top, prominent hip bones, proper croup and long tail. On the move she showed the best collection of the day, with an attitude partially detached and partially engaged, slightly disdainful of her handler and of being there at all. She was aristocratically tolerant-- which is as it should be. She had what I call "scope".

American Bred: Overall nice quality and just now starting to come together, needing a little more time.

Open: The winner of this class was a nice moving black and tan, showed herself well and covered the ground with conviction and enthusiasm. I would have liked to have seen better detailing.

There are a fair number of promising youngsters coming up. In these days of our diminished afghan population a show such as the National is the one time of the year breeders, exhibitors and judges have the opportunity to see the best possible cross section of the breed as it is in present time and as it will be in the near future. It's a moment of reflection.

As a closing comment, I would like to re-iterate a wonderful remark made by the great judge, Bea Godsot: "All dogs have faults, but the great ones wear them well." I can't go so far as to say I saw "greatness" in the classes on this day, but the good ones wore their faults well and their breeders can be proud of what they are adding to the breed.

Sweepstakes and Triathlon

Robert DeNicola

First, I would like to thank the Parent Club for the invitation to judge this prestigious event.

This was a beautiful entry of quality and great temperament, which made for an easy Judging assignment.

My Best in Sweeps was from the 12 - 15 Bitch class, Sura Fabethaft Candy Crush. She walked in the ring and said "Try to beat me". She was on her game, not only a beauty but sound with a gorgeous side gait.

My Best of Opposite Sex was from the 9 - 12 Dog Class, Jolie Show N Tell Sharja, a beautiful patterned Red Dog. A truly honest, foot sound Dog. A stand out.

Regional Club Contest

Anna Tyler

THE MOST OUTRAGEOUSLY CREATIVE SPECIALTY CLUB CONTEST!!!

The 2017 National in St. Louis was host to a friendly competition to see which Regional Specialty Club was the most OUTRAGEOUSLY CREATIVE! Using the Richmond Club's cut out idea and with the hard work of Mimi and Latane Baker who cut out and shipped the naked Afghan Hounds to the participating Clubs we were off and running.

We want to thank the following Clubs who joined in the fun – Tidewater, Lehigh Valley, Richmond, Tara, Greater Twin Cities, Denver, Southern Arizona, Dallas, Potomac, St. Louis and Finger Lakes.

A Silent Auction was held with the proceeds going to the AKC ReUnite (for Hurricane Harvey and Irma relief) and for the AKC TakeThe Lead program.

Our esteemed Judge Richard Souza found that the Richmond Club cut out resembled the essence of the Afghan Hound and was awarded Best in Show and found that Tidewater was Reserve Best in Show. Each of the winning Clubs were mailed 50% of what the Silent Auction Bid amount was for their cut out. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!!

The artists put their hearts, souls and creativity into their designs need to be recognized:

Potomac – Alexandra Treadaway

Richmond – Mimi Baker and Martinea Mease

GTCAHC – Cynthia Byington

Arizona – Charlotte Bender

Regional Club Contest

(Continued)

Denver – Darla Barbee

Tara – Corinne Joyce and Trisha Adkins

Finger Lakes – Nancy Caswell

Dallas – Billy Webb

St. Louis – Joy Atkins – Miller

Tidewater – Tina McGuigan, Bea Waggoner, Michelle Friesen

LeHigh Valley – Jean Marie Glaser and Jill Miller

I want to thank all the Clubs who entered - fun and good sportsmanship was had by all!!

Anna Tyler



Richmond - Best in Show



Tidewater - Reserve Best in Show



Potomac



Fingerlakes



St. Louis



Lehigh Valley

Regional Club Contest

(Continued)



Dallas



Tara



Denver



Arizona



Twin Cities

Nuggets of Nostalgia
Do you know who this is?
See page 22 for Answer



So how many Afghan Hound obedience schools did you own before you went under?

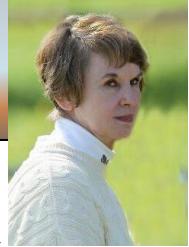


2017 AHCA National In Pictures



AKC Delegate Report

Connie Butherus



Historically the June meetings are the least attended meetings of the four quarterly AKC Delegate meetings. There does not seem to be a detectable reason for this less than optimum turn out yet the tradition remains from year to year. Those who chose to absent themselves from the June 2017 series of meetings missed out on some important and relevant information. One is able to read the minutes and become informed of the meeting content however the flavor of the discussion, the back and forth exchange of ideas and the networking with the other Delegates and AKC Staff are often of equal significance.

On Sunday June 11th I met with a Sub Committee of the Delegate Parent Club Committee working with non AKC member Parent Clubs. As additional breeds are recognized and begin the process of full AKC recognition members of this Sub Committee are available to mentor and assist them in attaining the desired full recognition. Most but not all of these Parent Clubs seek member status. As of the above noted meeting eight of us are working with about 25 Parent Clubs.

There are significant advantages to Parent Clubs (PC) in having member status. First and the most important being the ownership of the breed standard. AKC member Parent Clubs OWN their breed standard. Not so for nonmember Parent Clubs. In addition, member clubs are entitled to a Delegate who has both voice and vote regarding the governing rules, timely access to relevant information, notices, changes and all manner of content affecting the sport. Delegates are able to attend any of the Committee meetings. For a PC Delegate the Parent Club Committee meeting is a must. It is devoted to all matters dealing with the mission, structure, functions and scope of Parent Clubs. An active e-list is available to PC Delegates which enables and fosters exchange of information and ideas. Lastly AKC member clubs are entitled to reduced approval fees for their events.

Monday June 12th began with the meeting of the Parent Club Committee. The Sub Committees reported on their progress over the last quarter. Information was presented by the Rescue Alliance Group, Archives, Self-Evaluation, Future Conferences, Nonmember PCs and Group Realignment Sub Committees. Additionally the Legislative Sub Committee had a presentation by Sheila Goffe who heads the AKC legislative matters area. She spoke of the need for community residents to be keenly aware of local ordinances which can and do impact pure breed dog owners and breeders. These local enactments often make their way up the ladder of regulation to the State legislature for action. At that level the AKC may well be informed and do an e-mail blasts to the dog fancy in the targeted State. A Liaison list for Parent Club legislative chairs is now available on Facebook at doglaw@akc.org.

The Canine Good Citizen (CGC) program continues to grow in leaps and bounds. In March a total of 57,700 A.KC certificates had been awarded. As of June 1, 2017 there were 62,400 on the books. CGC testing is available to any AKC registered dog. Pure bred and CaninePartner

(Mixed Breed) are on equal footing when earning a CGC certificate.

There was a good bit of discussion regarding the AKC Marketplace which will be relaunched in October of this year having been renovated, renewed, refreshed and rehabilitated. It will provide a place for breeders to advertise their breeding program and puppies. Parent Club recognized rescue groups will be able to list available dogs at no charge we have been told. The Parent Club designated breed referral individual will be listed for every breed club having submitted that contact information. It was suggested that each Parent Club designate a liaison to monitor the information published on the Marketplace. For example there have been instances where some of the advertising breeders have falsely claimed Parent Club membership, Breeder of Merit status, etc. Errors of this kind will be corrected if reported but go unchallenged otherwise.

A Puppy of Achievement (POA) pilot program was announced in which puppies between 4 and 6 months of age can earn non championship points toward a POA certificate. It is based on a point system of puppies defeated at shows offering this competition. Last year there were over 600 of these classes offered with nearly 11,000 entries reported. This program will be in place for one year and then evaluated regarding its continuance.

The Canine College is up and running with future Judges and those expanding their approved breeds flocking to be tested. It is to be noted that the content of this on line coursework and testing is not Parent Club approved nor created. It is the produce of the AKC and its Staff. Parent Clubs will be contacted when their breed is to be included. The Parent Club Committee has requested that the breed videos developed by the AKC a number of years ago be included for reference as the content of these videos has the seal of approval of each Parent Club.

The issue of altered dogs and bitches in competition was once again raised. This past year the AKC BOD denied a proposal expanding the existing provisions regarding altered veterans and non-regular classes. The new request would allow the following: Champion dogs and bitches who are veterans and have been altered to make an entry in the Best of Breed class not

AKC Delegate Report

(Continued)

having to have first won the non-regular competitive Veterans class in order to compete in the Best of Breed class. This provision would be limited to independent National Specialty shows. More to follow on this but please do not hold your breath in anticipation of this becoming a reality anytime soon.



At the Dog Show Rules Committee there was a great deal of discussion regarding the need for additional regular classes to be offered for Bred By Exhibitor puppies. The reason for this request being that earning points in the regular puppy classes disqualifies the exhibit for the Bred by Exhibitor (BBE) medallion awarded to those dogs who complete their Championship solely from the BBE class. The addition of an 18 to 24 month class was also proposed. Some of us wondered why the need for additional classes when at least two of the existing classes, Amateur Owner Handled and Novice classes are rarely if ever entered much less adding up to 6 additional classes. The matter was kicked up the ladder to the AKC BOD.

At the Coordinating Committee it was announced that AHCA's own Abbe Shaw was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the Delegate's By Laws Committee.

At the forum the following day Dealing With Misconduct and getting it right the first time was presented by the AKC Staff, Patty Proctor of the Field Staff (AKA as The Rep) and Wanda Forlines the Director of Compliance. The standard used in determining what is and what is not detrimental to the sport of dogs being a family attending a dog show for the first time. Would or would not the action, event, conduct, language or behavior exhibited offend this family or deter them from future engagement with the world of dog events? That is the question to be considered by an Event Committee. The procedures to be followed were reviewed as each Delegate present dearly hoped and prayed that he or she would never be involved in any way in the proceedings being described at the podium. A bit of advice was given for one and all on a show committee and especially those designated to be on the Event Committee "keep the bright blue book, Dealing With Misconduct, with you at all times during the show" and lastly it is not advisable to have the Show Chairon the Event Committee due to the other duties that person must see to.

At the Delegate meeting sixteen new Delegates were introduced and 2 new Parent Clubs were voted into member status, the Hungarian Pumi Club of America and the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club.

The items voted on and passed were 3 amendments regarding field trial rules and one dealing with the Grand Championship points awarded to winning exhibits from the non-regular classes. The points awarded will be the same system used for the regular classes, total number of eligible dogs defeated.

The President's report by Dennis Sprung focused on the legislative and outreach aspects of the organization. Items cited included National Pure Bred Dog Day (May 1st), the AKC Legislative Conference, Responsible Dog Ownership Day, AKC Lobby Day held at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. The report concluded with a video.

The CFO's report was a positive picture of the financial health of the AKC with growth demonstrated in most areas. Increases were reported in registrations of dogs (6.5%) and litters (6.6%). Registrations, the core business of the AKC, have turned the corner from the downward spiral we witnessed which began in the mid-1990s. Entries at events have increased which in turn resulted in increased income from the Event and Recording fees. Investments were reported to have had an increase of 5.2%. With entries having increased in Agility, Rally and CAT and new events being offered such as Scent Work the future looks promising in the performance and companion areas.

Proclamations honoring Alan Kalter and Carl Ashby were read and presented for work they had done as AKC Board members on the AKC Political Action Committee (PAC) Alan having founded the PAC while Chairman of the BOD and Carl for having served as Chair during his tenure.

The next series of Delegate meetings are scheduled for September 11 and 12 which as luck would have it will be in conflict with the AHCA National Specialty!!! Decisions, Decisions, Decisions....



Social Media

Erica Jantos



PROPOSED Afghan Hound Club of America Social Media Policy

Submitted by Erica Jantos, Aug 17, 2017

Purpose

Afghan Hound Club of America (AHCA) social media accounts are designed to promote activities and interest to the Parent Club and to perpetuate an ongoing dialog with the Afghan Hound Fancy at large. Moderators and participants are to remember that participation on social media is a public representation of themselves, The Afghan Hound Club of America, the American Kennel Club and the American Afghan Hound Community.

Accounts

- All social accounts created by, for, or on behalf of the Afghan Hound Club of America are the sole property of the AHCA.
- All social media accounts created by, for, or on behalf of the Afghan Hound Club of America shall be transferable from one social media chair to the next.
- All passwords to social media accounts are the sole property of Afghan Hound Club of America.
- Those entrusted with the passwords are considered account “moderators”. Passwords should only be given to presiding Social Media Chair, upon approval by the AHCA Board.
- At least two people should have access to official AHCA account passwords and act as Social Media moderators/administrators. It is recommended that the Social Media Chair and Web administrator act in these roles.

Posts

- Moderators shall regularly update the Parent Clubs’ social media accounts.
- Participants are invited to share photos, discuss and comment on topics of general interest to AHCA members, including AHCA activities and Afghan Hounds.
- Social media accounts should not publicly post any person’s private information, including home address, telephone numbers, or date of birth.
- All messages and postings by participants must include the full name (first and last) of the posting individual.
- The AHCA may establish reasonable restrictions on length, style, and frequency of messages
- The AHCA social media accounts and their participants will adhere to the AHCA Recommended Practices.

The following types of messages or postings are not permitted:

- Those that contain offensive, abusive, harassing, disrespectful, defamatory, obscene or otherwise unsuitable language.
- Those that are personal attacks, demeaning, derogatory or could be construed as slanderous in nature of any individual.
- Those that disparage any product, company, individual or bloodline.
- Those that are divisive in nature (e.g. religion, politics, social issues, etc.)
- Those that The AHCA Moderator or the AHCA Board of Directors deem harmful to the Parent Club, American Kennel Club, any Regional Specialty Club or individual fancier.

Advertising and posting advertisements

- Classified advertisements by AHCA members are NOT allowed on any AHCA-related social media platforms, unless it is the direct purpose of that social media platform (ie: a “Items for sale by AHCA members” group on Facebook.)
- Classified advertisements or posts may not be placed for soliciting judging assignments.
- Participants may not post advertisements on behalf of their business, company or third party.
- The AHCA and their members are encouraged to post information pertaining to their regional clubs and advertising their events.

Endorsements

The AHCA will not endorse or comment upon services on its social media site. The AHCA will not entertain or allow its membership to discuss the quality of services of any business, person, or entity supporting the Club or its membership.

Posting Information from Other Sources

- When posting information from other sources, all users must ensure that they have permission from the author, photographer, or source to do so. Such postings should credit the author, photographer or source, and should include the source’s copyright notice if required.

Enforcement

- Violations of this policy will be determined by the current Social Media Chairperson and/or the AHCA Board of Directors.

Social Media Erica Jantos (Continued)

- Messages or posts in violation of this policy may be edited or removed to ensure that they adhere to posting standards.
- Members who violate this policy will be given a warning. Repeat offenders may be denied access to all of the Club's social media platforms for a period of 30 days. A violating member's ban can be extended to 6 months with a majority vote from the AHCA board.
- Members who have violated this policy three or more times can be denied access to all social media platforms indefinitely with a majority vote from the AHCA board. Members that have been denied access can apply to be reinstated by appealing to the Board in writing.



Rescue Report Martha Powell



To say that these past months have been a busy one for Afghan Rescue would be the understatement of the year. We have had an unusually large number of dogs from Florida who have come into rescue this year. I don't know what rescue would do without the help of Marta Opsahl in Florida. She has fostered an unbelievable number of Afghans for us (36 at last count). She takes care of all their medical needs, arranges transport, and vets the potential adopters. Marta gets my vote for rescue hero of the year!

Then, late spring there was a seizure of 33 animals in California. Twenty four of those dogs were Afghans. AHCA Rescue, working in concert with Afghan Hound Rescue of Southern California and the assistance of Couches for Afghans, the three groups were able to handle all of the dogs. Sandy Blount did an amazing job of lining up volunteers and fosters for the dogs. Most of the Afghans were in terrible shape. Several were lost due to neglect and malnutrition. They have all found loving homes and are getting healthier and happier every day.

Thanks to hundreds of generous donations, from individuals and regional clubs, AHCA rescue was able to pay all of the bills for those Afghan Hounds. There are so many people to thank for all of their efforts. I'm so grateful for all of those who raised money, contributed money, provided foster homes for the Afghans, and those who transported the Afghans. It was an amazing effort by an enormous number of caring individuals.

Just a few days after I learned of the seizure in California, I was contacted by a family member of an Afghan owner in Georgia who has passed away. We initially got five of the man's dogs, and finally were able to rescue the last two several weeks later. It was an emergency situation... The family was going to take the dogs to a flea market in two days to give away. The Greyhound Adoption Center in Birmingham, Alabama came to my aid. Jenn Boswell sent her truck and two of her employees over at four in the morning on Saturday to retrieve the five dogs. When I got to the adoption center, we realized the horrible shape they were in. Although they had been loved and cared for by the original owner, the family had just turned them out into the backyard of the empty house. They were covered in tiny wires and pieces of screen door wire. In addition to removing the wires and getting them shaved down to the skin, most of them had serious malnutrition and medical issues. They were treated and housed at the Adoption Center for several weeks. Some great volunteers stepped up to help. Chelle Vinson and Nancy Shamblin drove over 900 miles to deliver the three girls to their new homes. Chelle and Nancy also fostered two of the boys, and Linda Shipley and Ken Amos took the last two boys to foster. The last boy will be in the Parade of Rescue at National, and he is going to his forever home from there. I love happy endings!

Rescue has been overwhelmed with dogs from West Texas this summer. There have been six who have come in. It's not a heavily populated area of Texas, so finding Fosters and permanent homes has been very difficult. Dawn Post with Great Dane rescue and Sandy Blount have been a tremendous help in retrieving, fostering, and vetting the dogs.

With the help of some Great Afghan Hounds artists and wonderful people who donated fabulous art pieces and cute items, I had an auction on Facebook several weeks ago. It was very successful, and I hope to do it again in a few months.

Our logo T-shirts will be available for sale at our national rescue table in St. Louis. Angela Carolyn has done another wonderful job for us. Please stop by. There's also a surprise item for sale there that I think you will love.

Our 2018 rescue calendar is almost ready to go to print. Marilyn Danko and Joanne Anderson have put a lot of work into them. Please plan on purchasing several for Christmas and holiday gifts.

Memorial

Members who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge and are missed by us all.

Kent Delaney & Reggie Nesbitt

Regional Clubs

Amy Mero

Show Approvals

I have received packets from & approved shows for 3 clubs:

a. Sand N See Afghan Hound Club of Florida

Nov 17-18, 2017 — concurrent shows w/ the Seminole Dog Fanciers Assoc & the Greater Ocala Dog Club

b. Afghan Hound Club of Omaha

Nov 25-26, 2017 — concurrent shows with the Council Bluffs Kennel Club in Iowa

c. Southern Arizona Afghan Hound Club

Nov 17, 2017 — designated Specialty with the Tucson Kennel Club Mar 23, 2018 — 2 specialties in one day following the Breeders' Cup

While there are 2 shows approved for the same date, I believe the distance between them is great enough so that one show will not impact the other.



Obedience/Rally/ Versatility

Lynda Hicks



I'm sending this submission I sent to Sue to all Board Members so everyone will have as much time as possible to review the proposed clarifications and changes to the P&P's regarding Obedience and Rally prior to the upcoming Board meeting.

Board members are **encouraged** to call me any time prior to September 10th with any questions, or for clarification.

Ken asked that I try to simplify and clarify these proposals, and I have done so by numbering each item, giving an explanation in **BLUE** at the top of each item, and marking proposed changes in **RED**.

I will be travelling to Missouri on Sunday during the Board meeting, and may be able to be reached on my cell phone 512-799-0799 if any questions arise during the meeting. If I don't answer, it will be because I'm out of range. PLEASE leave a call back number, and I will return your call as soon as I am in range.

I have purposely not included the suggestions regarding the Versatility Award in this submittal, but rather will provide it in the future as a stand-alone matter for consideration, as it will require quite a bit of consideration and explanation.

***Editors Note:** Linda submitted a series of suggested changes to the P & P related to Obedience and Rally which the Board acted on. Please see enclosed minutes for details.*

Agility

Mikki Razor

The AKC is changing jump height rules. Starting January 2018, they are dropping the 26" jump height in agility and adding the 24" Choice height. The 24" choice is for dogs that are measured to jump 20" but choose to jump higher. This will be a separate group from dogs that are measured to jump 24". This will allow the measured 24" and the choice 24" to both have first thru fourth placements for the qualifying dogs.

The 2017 agility nationals has 7 handlers and 9 dogs entered in the trial. The national has entries from novice/novice preferred up thru master level. This is a very nice entry for Afghans. We also have a ZOOM award that was started in 2016 in Rhode Island. This award is for fun and is given to the Afghan that has the best "zoom" on the course. It is fun to watch and all of us with Afghans that have done agility have gone thru and are still going thru the "zoomies". If you haven't watched Afghans run in agility, you should come and watch the fun.

Junior Showmanship

Alicia Jones



There are a few points regarding the Junior Scholarship I would like to discuss with the Board and possibly refine.

I am working on the Junior Showmanship seminar for the National.

I'm working with a Purina ambassador to acquire items for a goodie bag for each Junior attending the seminar.

Lure Coursing & Web Page

Eddie Kominek



Ran four trials over two weekends, 6/24-25 & 8/12-13:
June (31, 25 dogs) profits: \$723.00
August (34, 34 dogs) profits: \$576.00

Counts for national:

AKC #[2017169316](#):
Open (13), FCh (7), Veteran (2), JC (1)
Highest Champion (11)
Oldest Veteran (2)

AKC #[2017169317](#):
JC (1)

ASFA #20170911
Open (7), FCh (10), Veteran (5)
Singles (5)
Breeder Pairs (2)
Kennel Pairs (4)

2017 AHCA National Report

Joy Atkins - Miller

Chairperson

The 81st National is proceeding surprisingly well...

Compressing the 81st National into only 4 days has been a challenge with the biggest negative being the conflict between performance classes and meetings. Because of the overwhelming amount of entries, they take longer which has led to the overlapping of obedience, rally and the Regional Meeting. I regret that but what a problem to have!

Entries overall are up across all disciplines of our National. The unique venue (especially for our performance exhibitors) and the judges slate are the only out of the ordinary factors that I can identify. Ease of travel, except for bringing hounds in by air, to a less populated area and moderate costs may also be a factor.

As the 81st National progresses, we'll see if it is too fast paced to be enjoyable to our exhibitors. Monday, our ASFA and AKC Lure Coursing Field Trials will have been held on the Herding Field. The Komineks donated the use of their equipment gratis. Food and drinks through Purina Farms with exhibitors helping defray the cost. Nestlé Purina Petcare has provided us with transportation, gratis, from Purina Farms to the host hotel and then on to the St. Louis suburb where the Welcome Party will have been held, at a cost of \$350.00 for rental of the whole AKC Museum of the Dog. Drinks and food were donated by AHCStL.

Tuesday will provide feedback on whether my decision to use the IHCUS Agility Trial as the AHCA National Agility was a good one or not. Since AHCA had zero cost for a judge or building rental, financially it was a sound decision but feedback from our exhibitors is paramount. Tuesday also started the non-regular and regular classes, as well as the all important AKC education requirement. I was extremely lucky that Barb Bornstein volunteered to Chair and organize this event. That she was able to get a financial donation to defray the cost was genius. That, in turn, will help defray the money lost from subsidizing dinners for the event. In my opinion, if AHCA continues to keep Breed Education with the National instead of developing it with the Breeders Cup, it needs to be held out of a hotel banquet/buffet setting because of the outrageous cost of hotel food. Or, the \$20 fee needs to be more realistic and reflect the actual cost of the food. Even selecting the most frugal hotel food (and it not be sandwich trays and chips), the \$20 fee is less than half of the actual cost of meals for each participant.

Wednesday will have seen AHCA "stand alone" Obedience and Rally Trials, again no cost for judge or venue courtesy of IHCUS. Parent clubs work together to save costs at Purina, an enviable position for me as Chair and unique to this venue. Judges Education will have been in the Large Meeting Room with Harry Bennet in charge at a cost of \$125. The Regional Meeting held in the Founders Room was \$150 for the day or hour. To pay this pained me, especially since obedience and rally exhibitors might miss it, but here is where downsizing to 4 days effected the schedule and it could not be helped. The regular conformation classes will have taken place on the Main Show Field along with the Junior Showmanship seminar. It was disappointing to me that we only had one entry! Perhaps having the National over a weekend would encourage parents of Juniors to let them participate. The Art Auction and Dinner will have been last night. It determined if this National made a profit.

Although I am extremely proud of chairing the National that chose sculptures and pottery by Julie Roche as trophies, it is expensive. Going forward, either artwork needs to be donated free and clear as a labor of love for our hounds to have additional trophies, status to have been selected with no monetary compensation or just rosettes and medals need to given as the norm. I contracted with Ms. Roche to pay \$5,000 for all of her artwork: including logo, pots, sculptures, pen and ink which brings each piece to approximately \$150, a bargain. I was advised when I became Chair that I should allot \$5,000 for trophies and \$1,200 for bronzes and medals. I would not recommend that to the next Chair especially if you have to pay for a venue and equipment.

Thursday, the annual General and Rescue Meetings; cost of Founders Room, shared with another parent club, \$75.00. Cost of water and soft drinks, \$48.00. The Parade of Veterans and Rescues, Breed and non-regular classes finish up the National at Purina Farms. The Awards Dinner at the host hotel brings to the conclusion the 81st Annual AHCA National.

Major costs have been outlined above. Other costs have been: items for the 250 goodie bags Purina gave us (their norm is only 100); judges' care and feeding; judges' contractual fees; rental, delivery and pick up of 30 tables and 20 padded VIP chairs; tablecloth rental (appr \$82.XX); electronics rental (appr \$106.XX); Foy Trent Dog Shows contractual agreement; rosettes; and miscellaneous. A detailed accounting will be presented upon close of the National.

Credits/income include: strong vending response; strong entries; donations; sponsorships.

Editors Note: This report was submitted prior to the National actually occurring but it contains information that I believe to be important for the membership to have.

Save the Date: Afghan Hound Club of America National Specialty
September 2-6, 2018 — Greeley, CO

Canine Health Report

Eileen Laundermilch



AKC Canine Health Foundation
Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc. Donor Advised Fund
Mid-Year 2017 Statement (12/31/2016-6/30/2017)

12/31/2016 Balance \$2,526.63

Contributions \$.00

PPCPP Contribution \$488.52

**Investment Earnings/
(Losses) \$40.14**

MOU Grant Support \$.00

Management Fees \$.00

Research Support* \$2,500.00

6/30/2017 Balance \$555.29

*To obtain a history of your organization's research support or to learn about research areas in need of sponsorship, please email chfgrants@akcchf.org

Dear Dorma,

Thank you for your continued and generous support of the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF)! Your donations, club fundraisers, and regular participation in the Purina Parent Club Partnership Program enable CHF to award research grants that make a true impact on the lives of dogs through better health.

CHF is pleased to announce that there are more ways than ever to **double your impact** for canine health research. In 2017, the American Kennel Club (AKC) will generously match all donations and donor advised fund disbursements made in support of [tick-borne disease and epilepsy research](#), up to \$250,000 each.

Additionally, in 2017, the AKC will continue their match of donations from new and lapsed (last donation made on or before 12/31/2014) donors up to \$500,000.

We hope you will take this opportunity to double your donation or donor advised fund disbursement and join CHF to *meet these important match challenges*. CHF's [2017 Research Grants Portfolio](#) details our newest and active research projects. You can also search all our active grants by research program area on [our website](#). Please [contact us](#) to learn more about these grants, or to receive a list of grants of special interest to your breed or organization.

We look forward to seeing some of you soon at the upcoming 2017 National Parent Club Canine Health Conference, August 11-13 in St. Louis. Thank you for your unfaltering commitment to dogs, to CHF, and to our mission to help all dogs live longer, healthier lives. We appreciate your continued partnership!

Sincerely,

The Staff and Board of Directors of the AKC Canine Health Foundation

For questions please contact:

Dr. Diane Brown, CEO: deb@akcchf.org or Linda Black,
Finance Director: linda.black@akcchf.org

Chylothorax Update

Dear AHCA BOD,

I would like to follow up on the progress of the Afghan Hound Chylothorax Research Study at the University of Missouri. Last June the Board recommended that I talk to Eileen Laundermilch of Canine Health. I did, and after some discussion with Eileen and emails to Dr. Liz Hansen things started to fall into place.

Dr. Liz Hansen and Dr. Gary Johnson are the two in charge of DNA Research at the U of MO Research Facility. They will be attending the AKC Canine Health Foundation held in Missouri in mid-August 2017, and as it turns out so will Dr. Jerry Klein and Eileen Laundermilch. Eileen mentioned that she and Dr. Klein have arranged to meet Dr. Liz Hansen and possibly have dinner to discuss the Afghan Hound Chylothorax Research Study.

Dr. Klein may discuss this more at the General Membership Meeting.

The Study needs DNA from affected dogs and their siblings, if possible. I have the forms people will need to submit their dogs' DNA. They can email me at lnis-free@Charter.net and I will email the forms to them. The DNA samples are mailed to Dr. Gary Johnson at the U of Missouri.

Fund raisers need to be started to help those who submit DNA as it is expensive. \$2,500. Per dog.

One day I hope there will be a test for this terrible disease. There are several diseases that affect our dogs, but this one is a killer.

Thank you for listening. I think it is very important that the AHCA Board be aware of the progress with this study.

Thank you,

Anna Tyler

Outreach Committee Stir Greer

Member Outreach Committee Report
Chair: Stir Greer

Committee Members: Neva Johnson, Joanne Sternhell



Archives/Library Helen Stein



I am sorry to miss attending this year's National Specialty—I had looked forward to seeing the large entry and the beautiful dogs!

The Member Outreach Committee received three membership lists (for Regional clubs Omaha, Southern Arizona & Sand N Sea) from new Regional Specialty Chairperson Amy Mero on August 15th. (Regional Clubs submit these lists as part of their package when applying for their specialties)

We're in the process of creating the database and invitation packet for prospective/potential AHCA Member Applicants. Of note, in the three Regional clubs, there were (if math serves me...) 48 members, only 11 of whom are already AHCA Members. This is very exciting, because at cursory glance (and we'll suss out eligibility for each prospect), most of Regional members are names recognizable from years of participation with Afghan Hounds.

AHCA Members may be contacted by the Member Outreach Committee to assist with individuals in their areas who are interested in applying for AHCA Membership. We're very excited at the prospect of increasing the number of interested and participating Members, adding to the depth of knowledge and experience already held by the Membership as a whole. All Afghan Hound experience would be a welcome addition to our Club (to include, but not limited to, and in no particular order, performance, conformation, rescue, judging, breeding, etc).

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind fellow Members that the individuals and families with whom they place dogs (puppy sales, adult dogs, rehomes, etc) are also potential AHCA Member Applicants. These Afghan Hound owners would benefit from the fellowship of others with a common interest, just as the Club would benefit from their inclusion. I dare say that if they are fit enough to have one of your dogs, then likely they'd be a valuable addition. Your sponsorship is especially important for individuals living in areas not served by a Regional Club. And remember, if a club isn't actively growing it's membership, it's shrinking.

Think on it.

Awards Report Barb Hastings



Report was submitted to Board which detailed the expense related to Bronze awards given every year at the National. Total cost for these awards is just over \$2,400 per year.

Also submitted proposal to change P & P's to reflect a new award for Best Junior Handler at regional specialties.

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life" - Steve Jobs

I am sorry to miss attending this year's National Specialty—I had looked forward to seeing the large entry and the beautiful dogs!

In keeping with the theme of the 2017 National Specialty, "Preserving the Future", Joy Atkins-Miller asked me to do a slideshow-style quiz for attendees, that could be broadcast during the days of the event.

It is titled "Preserving the Future...by Honoring the Past". The photos include breeders and their Afghan Hounds from the 1920's, 1930's, 1940's and 1950's—and you would be surprised at the number of people shown in the presentation who are still members of the Afghan Hound Club of America today—some of them still exhibiting dogs. What a wonderful tribute to our breed, to say that the Afghan Hound has captivated so many hearts for nearly a century!

Please take the time to watch the slides, and be brave and answer the questions as well!

Best wishes and good luck to everyone this week—I will miss seeing you!



Answer to Nuggets of Nostalgia From Page 13

♦♦♦♦♦

**Ned Kauffman and Bob Stein
Circa 1974**

The Rainbow Bridge 2017

Just this side of heaven is a place called the Rainbow Bridge.
When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here,
That pet goes to the Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of
our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food,
water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable. All the ani-
mals who had been ill and old are
restored to health and vigor; those
who were hurt or maimed are
made whole and strong again, just
as we remember them in our
dreams of days and times gone by.
The animals are happy and con-
tent, except for one small thing;
they miss someone very special to
them, who had to be left behind...

~Missed by all who loved them ~



“Hayley”



“Chevy”



“Sky”



“Sevion and Chica”



“Thumbelina”



“Rohan”



“Flex”



“Kazoo”

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEW BREED JUDGES

By Allan Reznik

Rev. C. R. (Rick) Martin, Ricmar Afghans, Lufkin, Texas



Did you grow up in a doggy household?

Yes. I grew up with a love for animals. My mother always made sure we had a family dog for me and my two sisters to enjoy. As a young boy I came across a copy of Dog World magazine at a local store and was immediately enamored with the world of show dogs. I became obsessed with reading that magazine every month and began to relentlessly beg my father to buy me a show dog. After a few years he finally relented, and a Great Dane joined the Martin household. Later a Basenji joined the household, and then, as a young teenager in the late 1960s I got my dream dog...an Afghan Hound!

When did you see your first Afghan Hound? Was it love at first sight and did you know this was the breed to which you wanted to devote your life?

I was 13 years old when I encountered my first Afghan Hounds. And yes, it was love and devotion at first sight! I spotted a lady and her son walking their two Afghan Hounds down the sidewalk of a shopping center in our small town. I ran across the street to get a closer look at these stunning creatures. I was mesmerized by both the dark blue brindle male and the beautiful white female in full show coat. I will never forget the pleasant scent coming from the head of the female as I bent down to pet her! I was hooked! Betty Young (the lady walking her dogs) and I became fast friends. She taught me so much about the breed.

Where and when did you get your first Afghan Hound?

In 1972 Betty Young and I made the long drive from Arkansas to Colorado to pick up a lovely twelve-week-old puppy bred by Marian Robertson. She would later become my foundation bitch. Her name was Kashmiri's Rillah (Ch. Summerwind's Pisco Punch x Ch. Bonanza's Matishah). She was linebred on Ch. Akaba's Top Brass.

What are the defining characteristics of the breed for you?

The defining characteristics of the breed are those qualities spelled out in the standard that are unique to this aristocrat and that must be preserved and rewarded. Those characteristics include: peculiar coat pattern, large feet, long silky topknot, a long, refined head, exotic or eastern expression, very prominent hipbones, long tail with ring or a curve on the end. Movement is so important in the functioning hound. I want to see balanced reach and drive while maintaining proper carriage and outline along with effortlessness, elasticity, and spring of stride. The Afghan should move around the ring with great style and beauty! "His whole appearance one of dignity and aloofness with no trace of plainness or coarseness".

What qualities do you worry we might be losing in the breed?

I am basically optimistic about the breed. This year at the National Specialty in St. Louis I thought the depth of quality in both dogs and bitches was more evident than in recent years. The Best of Breed competition was deep in quality and style! That said, there are some areas of concern. I would like to see more Afghans with that effortless, ground covering floating gait. I am also noticing a few too many exhibits without prominent hipbones. Loose, straight tails with improper carriage are bothersome. I hope we don't lose those beautiful bowed rears. Some eyes are too large and round creating an incorrect expression. Good fronts (set under with good length and return of upper arm) have always seemed to be hard to get and so easy to lose.

Name two or three dogs and two or three bitches that were most influential in your breeding program?

I always had a very limited breeding program considering my 40-plus-year association with the breed. My first breeding was an outcross in the mid 1970s. All subsequent breedings were linebred. I worked primarily with the Abashagh/Mecca bloodlines. I am proud of the Ricmar champions that have been produced with those few litters. The bitch that started it all for me was a substantial, lovely black/tan bitch, Kashmiri's Rillah. When bred to Ch. Abashagh's Mishewah Khan (a leggy, good moving black masked red) she produced my first homebred champion, the ultra-elegant black/tan bitch Ch. Ricmar's Rona Rhinestone. Everything else that I bred comes down from Rona. When bred to SBIS Ch. Abashagh's Mahabharata, she produced our Ricmar's Magical Maggie. Maggie was then bred to Ch. Abashagh's Snowstorm resulting in three lovely champions. One of those was Ch. Ricmar's Naomi who was bred to Ch. Camri's Black and Tan Rebellion. A bitch from that breeding became the dam of the stunning black/tan bitch Multi BIS and Multi SBIS Ch. Oriana Bombay Sapphire.

Who do you consider the greatest Afghan Hound you ever saw?

This is a difficult question for me to answer as there are several dogs from different lines that I consider "great" and for different reasons. I was fortunate to begin in Afghans in what many consider the heyday of the breed. The decades following would prove to be a highly competitive and important era. I feel privileged to have seen and professionally handled some truly great hounds and to have known their owners, breeders, and handlers. Several Afghans of that time stand out to me as being unsurpassed in their classic style, regal temperament, outstanding movement, and depth of quality. Their contribution to the breed is now a matter of record. **Ch. Coastwind Axinitra**, I only saw her once, but I will never forget the way she moved. It was as if she was floating on air! **Multi BIS Ch. Khayams Ares** was the ultimate show dog. He and Carl Sanders were a force to be reckoned with! Ares was a dog who just kept on getting better with age. I'll never forget the all-breed BIS he won as a veteran. Billie Hill Taylor's Gandharra son

Getting TO KNOW YOU: SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEW BREED JUDGES (Continued)

Ch. Shangrila Pharaoh Sardullah simply because he had the most beautiful head and expression I have ever seen on an Afghan Hound! **SBIS Multi-Group Winning Ch. Abashagh's Mahabharata**, "Jason" was a dog close to my heart as I was his exclusive handler throughout his specials career. He had many great qualities (proper size, beautiful eye and expression and the sweetest of temperament) but it was his tremendous movement that made him great (effortless but powerful, just the right amount of spring in his far-reaching strides, totally sound coming and going, proper carriage). He was, for me, the template on how an Afghan should move! Because of their sireng ability I would have to include: **Ch. Coastwind Abraxas** for his stunning beauty and **Ch. Meccas' Falstaff** for the houndiness he gave the breed. They both gave me goosebumps the first time I saw them. I could go on as there are current dogs that I think will go down as "greats" in our breed. But I will refrain from naming them now.

Who were your mentors in the breed and in the sport?

I have been so blessed to have had such incredible mentors in those early years. Betty Young started me in the breed teaching me the importance of breed history, pedigrees, temperament, and conditioning. Bonnie Visser and Claudia Visser Cochrane (Abashagh) treated me like family and helped shape and refine my breed concepts. They allowed me to breed to their stud dogs, and afforded me the privilege of handling many of their lovely dogs. Bill Liles was a handler extraordinaire and close friend and traveling partner. Carl Sanders was another talented handler/breeder that I had the privilege to assist and learn so much from. Tim and Billie Taylor (Sephira/Karzak), such great breeders and friends. Bruce Clark and Stephen Fisher (Shylo) whom I have known for over 40 years.

Would you ever withhold awards?

Yes, If I absolutely felt that it was necessary. Judges should not be ribbon dispensers. I concur with Ed Gilbert who said, "As a judge I have a responsibility to the breed, AKC, the exhibitors and the Parent Club and the dogs evaluated to award breeding stock based on their quality."

What advice would you give an exhibitor showing to you for the first time?

First, please know how glad I am to have you and your dog in my ring! I want us all to have a good experience so try to relax and have a good time! I am looking for Afghans that are in peak condition with lovely breed type that can MOVE!

REGIONAL CLUB SPECIALTY SHOW DATES

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

Afghan Hound Club of Greater Portland (Two Shows, One Day) Portland, OR Judge AM Show: Helen Haas Sweeps: Nancy Shandre Judge PM Show: Lewis Bayne Sweeps: Jennifer Bridges Juniors Judge: Lewis Bayne Wednesday - January 17, 2018	Afghan Hound Club of Greater Phoenix Tucson, AZ Judge: Rachel Irvin Sweeps: Robert Chuchey Sunday - March 25, 2018
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Phoenix (Two Shows, One Day) Phoenix, AZ Judge AM Show: Shelley Hennessy Judge PM Show: Joanne Buehler Thursday - February 1, 2018	Afghan Hound Club of Austin Lewisville, TX Judge: James Donahue Sweeps: Meredith Kline Sunday - April 29, 2018
Tara Afghan Hound Club (Two Shows, Two Days) Atlanta, GA Judge First Day : Robert Godfrey Judge Second Day: Richard Albee Sweeps: Sandy Nelson Juniors: Michael Koss Friday and Saturday - February 2 & 3, 2018	Afghan Hound Club of Northern New Jersey Erwinna, PA Judge: Betsy Hufnagel Sweeps: Christine Pinkston Friday - May 4, 2018
Potomac Afghan Hound Club York, PA Judge: H. Russell Hastings Sweeps: John Arvin Saturday - March 17, 2018	Afghan Hound Club of Greater Chicago (Two Shows, One Day) Joliet, IL Judge AM Show: Dr. Jerry Klein Judge PM Show: Lex Robertson Sweeps: Michael Liss Friday - June 8, 2018
Southern Arizona Afghan Hound Association (Two Shows, one Day following AHCA Breeders' Cup) Tucson, AZ Judge First Show: Gill Ullom Judge Second Show: Helen Haas Sweeps: Greg Headrick Saturday - March 24, 2018	Monterey Bay Afghan Hound Club Vallejo, CA Judge: David R. Miller Sweeps: Bunny Kelley Juniors: TBD Saturday - June 9, 2018

Popular Shrub Linked to Rising Rates of Lyme Disease in Ticks

By Shyang Puri

Published at 5:04 AM EDT on Sep 27, 2017—Updated at 11:33 PM EDT on Sep 26, 2017—New England Cable News —NECN.com

A state scientist says a popular shrub sold at some nurseries and big box stores across Connecticut is being blamed for a rise in the tick population, which is causing an increase in Lyme disease cases in the state.

State scientists reported the rate of Lyme Disease infection in ticks tested so far this year is up by 40 percent compared to 2016. They also allege that the increase is related to the popular landscaping shrub Japanese barberry, also known as *Berberis thunbergii*.

Darrel Phillips, of Griswold, told the NBC Connecticut Troubleshooters that he and at least six other relatives have had Lyme Disease multiple times. His youngest son, Liam, was diagnosed with Powassan (POW), a rare tick-born disease, at just 5 months old. According to the Center for Disease Control, approximately 75 cases of POW virus disease were reported in the U.S. over the past 10 years.

Liam's diagnosis was the first confirmed case of Powassan in the state, and had the boy's mother, Desiree Phillips, scared to let her two young sons out of the house for a while.

In the woods outside the Phillips' home, the family said they have found acres of Japanese barberry growing wild. It is recognized by the state of Connecticut as an invasive species, but is a shrub in home gardens and commercial landscapes, such as those outside malls, gas stations, and restaurants.

The bush is a haven for ticks according to Dr. Scott Williams, the lead researcher on Japanese barberry for the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), who said "the ticks are astronomically high abundances, incredibly high."

Dr. Williams' team has found dense thickets of Japanese barberry all over the state and said it has invaded ecosystems including forests and wetlands. Their research showed an acre of forest containing Japanese barberry averages a Lyme Disease-carrying tick population that is 12 times higher than forest without it.

The spread of Lyme Disease in barberry thickets is due to white-footed mice, common carriers of the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease, which take shelter amongst the barberry's dense and thorny branches. One infected mouse passing through can transfer bacteria to any number of ticks, which then pass the infection to their next host. Japanese barberry thickets are also warmer and more humid than is normal, making it easier for ticks to survive.

Taken together, these characteristics compelled Dr. Williams to warn that the Japanese barberry is a threat to public health. He calls it "the ecological perfect storm for tick-borne diseases."

Dr. Williams' research has shown controlling barberry in the woods can reduce the infected tick population by as much as 60 percent, welcomed news to the Phillips' family. They cannot be sure if the barberry thickets surrounding their home contributed to their son's bout with Powassan, but Desiree Phillips decided to take action. The Phillips' plan to clear-cut as much of it as possible.

"The more we can get rid of it, the better off we will be," Desiree Phillips said.



FOR SALE



**The Afghan Hound Club of America Topknot News is now offering business card size
(approximately 2.5" x 3.75")**

For Sale Ads

Ads are to be for Afghan Hound related items which are for sale or services. **No "Win" ads or other animal ads** will be accepted. Acceptance or rejection of ads is at the sole discretion of the Afghan Hound Club of America BOD.

Cost is \$50/issue or \$125/3 consecutive issues. Ads must be submitted camera ready.

Submit to Editor, Topknot News
hrh3judge@verizon.net

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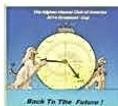
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Breeders' Cup Items

2014 Breeders' Cup

Travel Bags Royal Blue 14 \$5.00



2016 Breeders' Cup

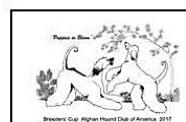
Catalogs 12

\$5.00



2017 Breeders' Cup

Black T-Shirts S-2 M-1 XL-1 \$5.00
S-2 M-1



2015 National Sales Items

Ladies full zip Jacket/embroidered logo
Beige (sm)-2 \$5.00
Catalog 12 \$5.00



Purple exhibitor tote bags

\$1.00

2016 National Sales Items

Rolled Posters 5 \$1.00
Framed Posters 3 \$5.00



2017 National Sales Items

T-Shirts White Silk Screened	S-4 M-6 L-17 XL-15	\$10.00
1/4 Zip Shirts Raspberry (embroidered dark blue)	S-3 M-1 L-3 XL-2	\$25.00
1/4 Zip Shirts Green (embroidered dark blue)	S-4 M-8 L-9 XL-14 3X-4	\$25.00
Catalogs marked	10	\$20.00



Parent Club Logo Items WAYS & MEANS

Ways & Means

PC Lapel Pins 14K gold plated

Tie Tac or Safety Pin catch

\$15.00

Christmas Ornaments

\$5.00

White/Gold Logo 1

W/Parent Club Logo Items

Teal Bath Towels 5

\$10.00

Base Ball Caps Black Dr Blue 1ea

\$10.00

Prices do not include postage

The Afghan Hound Club of America
Proudly Presents
The Thirtieth Annual
Afghan Hound Breeders' Cup

March 23, 2018

Hotel Tucson City Center
475 N. Granada Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85701
Phone: (520) 622-3000



This event is held in conjunction with:

Friday, March 23, 2018 – AHCA Breeders' Cup (Judge: Teri Tevlin)

Saturday, March 24, 2018 - AM – Southern Arizona Afghan Hound Association (Judge: Mr. Gil Ullom)

Saturday, March 24, 2018 - PM – Southern Arizona Afghan Hound Association (Judge: Ms. Helen Haas)

Saturday, March 24, 2018 - PM – Southern Arizona Afghan Hound Association (Sweepstakes Judge: Mr. Greg Headrick)

Sunday, March 25, 2018 – Afghan Hound Club of Greater Phoenix (Judge: Mrs. Rachel Irvin)

Sunday, March 25, 2018 – Afghan Hound Club of Greater Phoenix (Sweepstakes Judge: Mr. Robert Churchey)

Visit the AHCA Website at
afghanhoundclubofamerica.org
Rescue Hotline: 1-877-AF-RESCU
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