

# Exclusively Afghans

## SPECIALTY REVIEW



The GTCAHC Specialty was held on Friday, August 26, 2011, at the St. Croix Cluster. Once again the show was a successful event that was organized and lead by Lorene French (Show Chair) and Lynn LaBahn (Assistant Show Chair) and a great group of club members.

For the first time, we had a new site—by ourselves—with plenty of nearby parking and lots of space to arrange our canopies. The weather was perfect, there was no mud, and the Afghan Hounds kept a smile on Judge Garry Newton's face all day!

The day started out with Anna Tyler, who judged Sweepstakes. Although the entry was small, it was a nice group of youngsters and Anna selected Gayle Nelson's Wynwood Forever My Sweet Finale for Best in Sweepstakes and Karen Dumke's Polo's High T at Ronas Hill for Best of Opposite in Sweepstakes

In the regular classes and Best of Breed Competition, Mr. Newton selected: Watling St Sunny 1 So True V Valinor, owned by Lola Anderson for Winners Dog, Thaon's Venetian Treazure JC, owned by Lynn LaBahn for Winners Bitch, GCh Wynsyr Taking Chances, owned by Lynn Mercer for Best of Opposite, and Ch Thaon's Mowgli, owned by Jay Hafford for Best of Breed. The judge's critique follows with his detailed show report.

Other highlights of the day included Vicki Fagre-Stroetz who was in charge of the trophies and the trophy table. Cythia Dunahey, Chief Ring Steward, who kept things moving along in the ring. Susan Weatherhead who did a terrific job making everyone feel welcome and organizing a lunch that was rated an A+.

Finally everyone got into the bidding frenzy at the annual auction because of the high-quality items that Janet Williams donated, collected, and beautifully arranged on her table.

The auction was conducted by Professional Auctioneer Darlyn Pfeiffer, who drove all the way from Milwaukee to donate her services. She always adds a lot of fun and enthusiasm to any event.

On Saturday, the GTCAHC held their August Lure Coursing event at Nate's which was well-attended, organized, and fun. The party/dinner took place after lure coursing and the evening was capped off by playing BINGO. Multi-talented Janet Williams, who can now add "Bingo Caller" to her resume, organized the games, called the numbers, and entertained the players. She and Sandy Nelson were responsible for having three tables full of prizes. Nice going everyone...it was a great weekend!!!



## JUDGE'S CRITIQUE

It was my pleasure and honor to judge the Greater Twin Cities Afghan Hound Club Specialty. There are few things as magnificent as the flowing athletic beauty of this special breed.

It takes a special handler to show case this breed. It is the handler's challenge to show off the attributes of these hounds while hiding those small possible flaws. I had the pleasure of judging a young lady in the Junior Showmanship competition that I believe will be a force to be reckoned with in the Afghan ring. Ms Nevena Vukomanovich handled her Afghan as a team, moving as one while show casing her hound to perfection.

While each word of our Standard is important to paint the picture of the Afghan Hound, for me there are words that ARE the Afghan Hound. Words like aristocrat, dignity, aloofness, exotic/Eastern expression, long silky topknot, peculiar coat pattern, appearance of placing the hind feet directly in the foot prints of the front feet, moving with head and tail high.....and the most important.....the whole appearance of the Afghan Hound is one of great style and beauty.

This entry had great depth of quality that put the above words into living, breathing, flowing works of art. Ultimately, my Winner's Dog was WATLING ST SUNNY 1 SO TRUE V VALINOR from the Bred-By-Exhibitor Dog Class. Reserve Winner's Dog was OSHANAMEH'S ICE CLOUD OF AMBELIKE from the Open Dog Class. Both of these Afghans had beautiful outlines and were effortless on the move.

As high as the quality was in the dog classes, the girls stepped it up another notch. The bitch classes were sweet cream and strawberries on a hot day. I could not stop smiling at these Afghans. My Winner's Bitch once again came from the Bred-By-Exhibitor Bitch Class, THAON'S VENETIAN TREAZURE JC. My Reserve Winner's Bitch was THAON'S STARLIGHT from the Open Bitch Class. Both exhibited great beauty and style, especially while on the move. As I said before, this was sweet cream and strawberries and I just could not get enough.

The Best of Breed Competition was something to behold. At a Specialty, one hopes that your peers will think enough of you to bring those exceptional Afghans. This was one of those special times. Each and every Special on the day was of the quality to not only win a Specialty, a Group but also a Best-In-Show.

Ultimately, the Best Of Breed was CH THAON'S MOWGLI who personified the statement in the Standard...."the whole appearance of the Afghan Hound is one of great style and beauty". Best Opposite Sex was the picture of perfection, especially while on the move, GCH WYNSYR TAKING CHANCES. All of my Select Awards and Awards of Merits were just breathtaking on the move. Dog Select was GCH KASSAN WINDWALKER OF SKYVIEW. Bitch Select was CH KRYSLAUR AMERICAS BLUE ANGEL. My AOM were CH MAHALI ARRIVA MEADOWLARK and CH MAHALI ARRIVA RED HAWK.

The people, the handlers, the dogs, the event put Special in Specialty. As I said at the beginning, it was my pleasure and honor to have my peers bring such outstanding Afghans to this Specialty for me to judge. These special hounds were the living, breathing words in the Standard. These hounds were the aristocrat, showing dignity and aloofness. Exotic/Eastern expression under a long silky topknot. The peculiar coat pattern flowing while effortless movement gave one the appearance of placing the hind feet directly in the foot prints of the front feet. Each of these magnificent hounds moved with head and tail high. And the most important, each of these very special hounds gave not only me but each person in attendance the lasting image and memory of great style and beauty that is the Afghan Hound.

Respectfully,

Garry Newton



Best of Breed  
Ch Thaon's Mowgli  
Garry Newton, Jay Hafford, Lorene French, Lynn LaBahn



Winner's Dog  
Watling St Sunny 1 So True V Valinor  
Garry Newton, Lola Anderson,  
Lorene French, Lynn LaBahn



Winner's Bitch  
Theon's Venetian Treazure JC  
Garry Newton, Lynn LaBahn,  
Lorene French



**Best Junior Handler**  
 Ch El Shazaam Jakar Oreo Blizzard JC  
 Garry Newton, Nevena Vukomanovich, Barb  
 Strusinski, Lorene French, Lynn LaBahn



**Select Bitch**  
 Ch Kryslaur America's Blue Angel JC  
 Garry Newton, Scott Kelley,  
 Lorene French, Lynn LaBahn



**Best in Sweepstakes**  
 Wynwood Forever My Sweet Finale  
 Anna Tyler, Gayle Nelson, Lorene French,  
 Lynn LaBahn



**Best of Opposite Sex  
 to Best in Sweepstakes**  
**Best Puppy in Puppy Classes**  
 Garry Newton, Anna Tyler, Karen Dumke,  
 Lorene French, Lynn LaBahn

## COURSING ABILITY TEST

GTCAHC held the first Coursing Ability Tests, or “CAT Tests” in our region on Sunday October 30 at King’s Ranch. CAT Testing is a new non-competitive pass/fail AKC event that is fashioned after the sport of lure coursing. All AKC registered dogs are eligible, including mixed breeds. Each dog runs the timed test singly. Dogs that are less than 12” at the withers and brachycephalic (short nosed) breeds run a short course. All other dogs run a long course. There were over 80 runs throughout the day.

Most of the dogs that ran their CAT Tests had never seen the lure before. This was all very new, exciting and great fun for them, for their owners, and for the rest of us. To everyone’s delight, a trio of lure coursing Afghans demonstrated a competitive course to the group. Their demo was followed by a lively Q & A session lead by lure coursing judge Kathy Nelson. Our thanks to Kathy Nelson, and to Afghans Rio (Lorene French), Parker (Susan Weatherhead) and Kiefer (Meredith Kline Soboda) for demonstrating competitive lure coursing to the group. This event was very well received. We have received many “Thank You” messages from the people that entered. They all had a blast and can't wait for the next event. Dogs of the following breeds were represented:

Australian Cattle Dog (Lorene French’s Jack), a good showing of Samoyeds, Vizslas, Norwegian Buhund, Old English Sheepdog, Irish Terrier, Papillon, Miniature Schnauzers, Cardigan Welch Corgie, Border Terriers, Border Collie, Wire Fox Terrier, Beagle, Catahoula Leopard Dog, Cairn Terrier, Boxers, Airdale, Doberman Pinschers, Brittany, Pomeranian, Maltese, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Bichon-Poodle mix, Jack Russell mix, and an Afghan mix, among others.

Special thanks go to Nate Wattendorfer for hosting this event at King’s Ranch. Kudos for a job well done to: Lorene French - Field Secretary; Al Saiko and Lynn LaBahn - Field Co-Chairs; Rich Hanson - Lure Operator; Al Saiko – Hunt Master; Lynn LaBahn – Paddock Master; Meredith Kline Sobota – Field Clerk; Kathy Nelson & Vicki Fagre-Stroetz – Judges, and Sandy Nelson, Anna Tyler & Susan Weatherhead – Hospitality, and Lois Stanfield - Official Event Photographer.



A Pom Coursing at Nate’s



Kirat Winning Best in Field  
at the Afghan Hound National Specialty

## **BRAGS, BRAGS, BRAGS**

Anna Tyler had a good weekend at St. Croix. Lizzie, not only finished her championship but Lauren became a Grand Champion. Lauren went BOB at Rochester one of the days and was also invited to the Eukanuba National. Way to go Girls!!

Lorene French brags that Rio was High in Trial (Obedience) at the Afghan Hound National Specialty and Khi made the cut at the very same show. WOW!!

Vicki Fagre-Stroetz and Kirat JC, JOR went BOB at the Afghan Hound National Specialty Lure Coursing Trial and eventually took Best in Event when he beat the best ASFA winner. Amazing Win!! Vicki has also earned her Lure Coursing Judging License. Congratulations!!

Susan Weatherhead and Parker have been busy earning Select Bitch points at St. Croix and Rochester. Parker was also BOB at Rochester and Wright County and eventually earned a Group I. She has also been invited to the Eukanuba National. Good job Susan!!

Lynn LaBahn and Monique were thrilled with their GTCAHC Specialty major win. Nice job!!

Janet Williams reports that Lloyd did a great job straight line coursing at Vicki's. He stayed on the lure and finished with ease. Look out everyone...he's ready to hit the field. Keep up the good work!

Steve Cory finished Hayden with a Group I at Green Bay. Super finish!!

Sandy Nelson reports that, just as her name implies, Ledy got off to a "Fast and Furious" start and finished her championship quickly. Ledy's wins include: WB at Eau Claire (1 pt.)- WB, BOW, OS at Cambridge (3 pts.) – WB, BOW, BOB, and a Group 2 at Lake Minnetonka (4 pts.) – WB, BOW at Duluth (1 pt.) – WB, BOW at SCVKC (3 pts.) – WB, BOW at Lincoln (2 pts.) – WB, BOW at Lincoln (2 pts.) She's So Cute!!

Sue Medure brags that Micah earned his Rally Novice Title in Duluth with scores of 94, 95, and 90. Last month, Micah became a Canine Good Citizen and just missed passing the Therapy Dog International test because of test #11. Darn that plate of wieners on the floor that he would not leave alone!! Cha Chi received an Award of Merit at the GTCAHC Specialty. Cool!!

Note: Congratulations to everyone and their dogs for all of your accomplishments! Please report your brags at a meeting or email them to me at [suemedure457@gmail.com](mailto:suemedure457@gmail.com)

## NEW GTCAHC BOARD/OFFICERS

Congratulations to the new Greater Twin Cities Afghan Hound Club Board of Directors/Officers. The results of the October election are as follows:

**Anna Tyler:** President

**Lynn LaBahn:** Vice- President

**Sandy Nelson:** Recording Secretary

**Lorene French:** Corresponding Secretary

**Al Saiko:** Treasurer

## NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The following applications for membership were received and will be voted on at the next meeting:

Nathan Wattenhofer  
17151 Baugh St. NW  
Ramsey, MN

Barb Plum  
1314 N. 18<sup>th</sup> St.  
Bismark, ND

## DECEMBER MEETING NOTICE

Plan to attend the December GTCAHC meeting on:

Sunday, December 18:

Lure Coursing Meeting at 11:00

General Membership Meeting at 12:00

Location: Kips Irish Pub, 9970 Wayzata Blvd., Wayzata, MN

## UPCOMING SHOWS

### GRANITE CITY

(St. Cloud)

December 10-11, 2011

Closes: November 23, 2011

Judges: Dr. Robert A. Indeglia and William Cunningham

### LAND O' LAKES

(St. Paul)

January 6, 7, 8, 2012

Closes: December 21, 2011

Judges: Karen C. Wilson and James G. Reynolds

## SPECIALTY SHOW 2012

Plans are underway for the 2012 Specialty. Sandy Nelson is the show chair and Janet Williams is the trophy chairperson. The judges have been selected (pending AKC approval). They are Dr. Jose Luis Payro from Mexico (regular classes and intersex), Beth Collins (sweepstakes) and Camille Goll (junior showmanship).

The show site will be the same as 2011 and the post-show party will be held right at the ring location after the show rather than on Saturday night. As usual, lure coursing will be held on Saturday at King's Ranch in Ramsey.

The GTCAHC is one of the largest regional clubs in the country and with the talented help from each of you, we should have one of the best specialties in the country! ALL CLUB MEMBERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP with both our Conformation Specialty Show and our Lure Coursing Specialty Trial! Look for future updates and sign up for a committee.