



# ALASKAN MALAMUTE CLUB OF AMERICA

*Newsletter*

*Volume 68, No. 4*

*September/October 2020*

## *The Foundation Dog of Tru North Kennels*

*BVIS GCH. Snow Drift's Arctic Nomad  
CGC, CD, TDI, WWPDX, WTD*

*'Lakota'*

# AREA REPORTERS



The Alaskan Malamute Club of America Newsletter is the official publication of the club. The Newsletter is published monthly. Information is printed in this newsletter to inform those interested in Alaskan Malamutes and represents the opinion of the author and is not necessarily endorsed by the Alaskan Malamute Club of America (AMCA) nor by the Newsletter staff and Newsletter Committee. Neither the staff nor the AMCA is responsible for the contents of any advertisement or any claims made therein.

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Area Reporters send all Area Reports, howls, show reports and info to  
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**Area Reporters note that their submission dates are the  
5th of January, March, May, July, September and November with  
publication the following month.**

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# AMCA Newsletter

Official Publication of the Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc.

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The AMCA Newsletter (ISSN 0199 1310) is published bi-monthly for the members of the Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc. and other persons interested in the Alaskan Malamute Breed. Published via BC Publications, Inc. 2044 E Cumberland Street, Dublin, IN 47335 in cooperation with Alaskan Malamute Club of America c/o Shari James, 3021 Ridge Rd, A255, Rockwall, Tx 75032 (972) 722-4873. Periodicals postage paid at Dublin, IN and additional mailing office of 99 W. 2nd Street, Fond Du Lac, WI 54935-9998. POSTMASTER; Send address changes to Newsletter, c/o Stacey Moore, 3812 Tumbleweed Trail, Midland, Texas 79707 (432) 413-1985.

The subscription cost to members is \$30.00, the non-member subscription rate is \$45.00. E-Version is available for \$10. The Newsletter is mailed as a Periodical unless the subscriber pre-pays First Class costs. Newsletter Coordinator and Publisher reserve the right to edit all copy including advertising. The Newsletter assumes no responsibility for false claims made by advertisers; but will not knowingly print erroneous copy. Permission is granted to reprint any material through the office of the Articles Coordinator, with the Newsletter given as the source.

Publisher: BC Publications, Inc. – 2044 E Cumberland St, Dublin, IN 47335 (PO BOX 309) - Phone: (765) 277-1203  
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**ATTENTION MEMBERS: If you have a change of address....In order for you to receive your Newsletter without interruption, you must notify your Corresponding Secretary as soon as possible of any change of address. AMCA is not responsible for missed Newsletters if we have not been notified in sufficient time of your change of address. Missed Newsletter? Contact Stacey Moore, stacey.culaw@yahoo.com.**

*“Advertising shall be factual.”*

# We Are Very Proud of Lakota's Granddaughter *GCH. Tru North's Violet Flame, 'Violet'*



Violet wins her Championship!



At home after a long weekend of shows



Violet's 1<sup>st</sup> show at 4 months old



Violet wins her GCH. with a BOB and NOHS Group 4!

**In her first 3 weeks as a Special, Violet earned her GCH. Title  
with 6 BOBs, 2 BOSs and NOHS Group 3 & 4!**

**TRU NORTH KENNELS**

Northern Colorado

[www.trunorthkennels.com](http://www.trunorthkennels.com)

Paid Advertisement

OFA/Cerf: Not provided

# OFFICERS REPORTS

## President's Report

Pam Fusco  
presamca@gmail.com

This month started out slowly, but things have gotten crazy busy.

Preparation for the Annual Meeting has started. While I have held many online meetings and events, the possibility of having so many attendees contributing and speaking is new. I'm sure it will all work just fine, it will just take time to keep things organized. You must attend via your computer in order to be counted towards the quorum. It has been suggested by several to have a practice Zoom meeting. While I don't mind holding a practice session, I need to find several hours to do small sessions, so if people need help, they can get help connecting.

I would like to formally thank Tricia Till for her many years of service as the Electronic Communications Chair. It is not easy to be a volunteer and we appreciate her service. Justin Scofield has volunteered, yah!, to be the EC Chair. Welcome Justin!

We have several areas without Area Reporters. Your areas will not have reports without an Area Reporter. We need some volunteers! Contact Holly Levinter for more information.

Ballots are out. Don't forget to vote!

## Recording Secretary

Steve Anderson  
[sta111@verizon.net](mailto:sta111@verizon.net)

Motion 22 2019-20: Rename and expand the Agility Committee to Companion/Performance Event Committee, to encompass Fast CAT and other events. [Corr]

FOR: Anderson, Colman, Corr, Fusco, James, McMahan-Howen, Moore, Rogowski, Willhauck  
ABSENT: Croft, Effler-Leveille

Motion 21 2019-20: New Standing Rules A-21: AMCA shall use a member's latest published address to

determine their state of residence for club purposes. [Anderson]  
FOR: All

Motion 20 2019-20: Rescind Motion 13 [5-year Cycle for Judges Selection on the 2020 membership ballot]. [Anderson]  
FOR: All

Motion 19 2019-20: The 2023 National week judging panel for conformation events shall be the same panel from the cancelled 2020 National week. [Fusco]  
FOR: Anderson, Colman, Corr, Croft, Effler-Leveille, James, Willhauck  
AGAINST: Fusco, Moore, Rogowski,  
ABSTAIN: McMahan-Howen  
Colman: These are exceptional times and I am voting in line with the wishes of the majority of members who expressed an opinion.

Moore: This motion is in violation of Standing Rule H-5, and I cannot vote for a motion that does not adhere to the Standing Rules.

Rogowski: I feel this is a violation of our standing rules.

Willhauck: The purpose of my vote is to reinforce the acceptance of membership input which has been gratifying.

Motion 18 2019-20: Before releasing the Judges Selection 1<sup>st</sup> Round poll the Board will survey the membership for their preference regarding giving the 2020-contracted judges the corresponding assignments for the 2023 National Week. [Fusco]

FOR- Colman, Corr, Croft, Effler-Leveille, Fusco, McMahan-Howen,  
AGAINST- Anderson, Moore, Rogowski  
ABSTAIN- Willhauck

Rogowski-- I would prefer to have the names put back into the balloting list with an \* indicating they were chosen previously.

## Corresponding Secretary

Stacey Moore  
3812 Tumbleweed Trail  
Midland, TX 79707  
[stacey.culaw@yahoo.com](mailto:stacey.culaw@yahoo.com)

### New Regular Members

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Hernandez & Antonia Nunez Zamudio  
Hermenegildo Acoltzin  
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(Antonia)  
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### Associate Members Applying to Convert to Regular Membership

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Phone: 303-513-1152 (day)  
720-854-4465 (cell)  
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Sponsors: Claudia Hess & Robin A. Hug

### Regular Member Applicants

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RM Justin Scoffield (6/14)  
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 snowybleu@gmail.com

WC Dorothea Ragsdale (9/95)

**Deceased Members**

NY/NJ Elmer John Snyder, III (12/17)  
 – August 2020

ME Bonnie Ferianc (2/84) –  
 September 2020

**Junior Member Applicants**

RM Mackenzie Phillips  
 12407 W. Arkansas Avenue  
 Lakewood, CO 80228-3818  
 Phone: 303-513-1152 (day)

PNW Gidget R. Hagan (8/92)  
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 snowybleu@gmail.com

WC Dorothea Ragsdale (9/95)

NY/NJ Elmer John Snyder, III (12/17)  
 – August 2020

ME Bonnie Ferianc (2/84) –  
 September 2020

**AMCA Calendar of Events**

(Prepared by Jan Croft, Vice President & Specialty Events Coordinator)

**AMCA Specialties & Affiliated Club Specialty Events**

	Dates	Location / Closing	Supt / Event Contact	Judging Panel	Competition
SO AMCA Area Concurrent Specialty with Atlanta KC	10/17	Atlanta Expo Center South 3850 Jonesboro Rd Atlanta, GA  Closes 9/30	Onofrio Dog Shows Box 25764 Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0764  Edie Thomas et963@aol.com	Ms Dawn Hitchcock Marilyn Curtis	C PS/VS
SO AMCA Area Independent Specialty Event with Combined Specialty Clubs of Atlanta	10/18	Atlanta Expo Center South 3850 Jonesboro Rd Atlanta, GA  Closes 9/30	Onofrio Dog Shows Box 25764 Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0764  Edie Thomas et963@aol.com	Sherry Webster James Taylor	C PS/VS
SO Alaskan Malamute Club of Greater Houston Specialty Event	11/27	Lone Star Convention Center 9333 Airport Rd Conroe, TX  Closes 11/11	Onofrio Dog Shows Box 25764 Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0764  Marilyn Richards, Show Chair marilynrmrice@yahoo.com	Jon Cole TBD	C PS/VS

**HELP WANTED**

**Newsletter: Area Reporters for  
 IL/WI, Mid West and West Coast.  
 Contact Holly Levinter, hlev@rogers.com.**

# Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc.

## Profit & Loss Statement

January - August, 2020

	Total				Total		
	Jan - Aug, 2020	Jan - Aug, 2019 (PY)	Change		Jan - Aug, 2020	Jan - Aug, 2019 (PY)	Change
<b>Revenue</b>				<b>Expenses</b>			
Advertising	1,203.00	970.00	233.00	AKC	91.44	673.32	-581.88
Affiliate Clubs	209.90	969.07	-759.17	AKC Delegate	424.24	1,113.61	-689.37
Committee Income			0.00	AKC Show App Fees	55.00	65.00	-10.00
Agility Committee Income	1,000.00	3,075.00	-2,075.00	Awards	1,945.37	1,510.39	434.98
Futurity/Maturity Income	865.00	692.17	172.83	Bank		242.57	-242.57
Top 20 Income		3,912.17	-3,912.17	merchant account	106.55		106.55
Ways & Means Income	460.04		460.04	PayPal service fees	834.18	633.29	200.89
Working Dog Income	803.95	563.00	240.95	QuickBooks Payments Fees		18.66	-18.66
<b>Total Committee Income</b>	<b>\$ 3,128.99</b>	<b>\$ 8,242.34</b>	<b>-\$ 5,113.35</b>	<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>\$ 940.73</b>	<b>\$ 894.52</b>	<b>\$ 46.21</b>
Dividends	541.41	623.73	-82.32	<b>Committee Expenses</b>			0.00
Donations-Renewals			0.00	Agility Committee Expenses	519.04	5,100.00	-4,580.96
Donations-AMAL		3,297.00	-3,297.00	Futurity/Maturity Expenses	752.84		752.84
Donations-AMCA CHF		1,416.00	-1,416.00	Health Committee Expenses		934.28	-934.28
<b>Total Donations-Renewals</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,713.00</b>	<b>-\$ 4,713.00</b>	JEC Committee Expenses	48.55	-201.94	250.49
Interest	40.12	334.78	-294.66	Public Education			0.00
Memberships			0.00	Meet The Breed	1,416.43	624.74	791.69
Affiliate Clubs	315.00		315.00	<b>Total Public Education</b>	<b>\$ 1,416.43</b>	<b>\$ 624.74</b>	<b>\$ 791.69</b>
Junior Members	56.00		56.00	Top 20 Expenses		363.77	-363.77
Membership-Late Fees	380.00	420.00	-40.00	Working Dog Expenses		616.28	-616.28
New Members	237.00	300.00	-63.00	<b>Total Committee Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,736.86</b>	<b>\$ 7,437.13</b>	<b>-\$ 4,700.27</b>
Regular Members	6,234.00	5,285.00	949.00	Dues & subscriptions	780.92	631.31	149.61
<b>Total Memberships</b>	<b>\$ 7,222.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,005.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,217.00</b>	Election/Surveys	694.72	694.72	0.00
Misc Income		122.50	-122.50	Fund Management Fees	583.94	565.80	18.14
National Specialty Income			0.00	Insurance	714.00	714.00	0.00
2019 Natl Specialty	-408.63	20,642.41	-21,051.04	Membership Directory	0.00	2,354.17	-2,354.17
2020 Natl Specialty Income	5,228.23		5,228.23	Misc Expenses	50.00	388.42	-338.42
<b>Total Natl Specialty Income</b>	<b>\$ 4,819.60</b>	<b>\$ 20,642.41</b>	<b>-\$15,822.81</b>	National Specialty Expenses			0.00
Newsletter			0.00	2018 Natl Specialty Expenses		-773.43	773.43
Electronic Only	1,535.00	1,450.00	85.00	2019 Natl Misc Expenses	1,187.65	9,270.78	-8,083.13
Foreign Postage	810.00	822.00	-12.00	2020 Natl Specialty Expenses	4,342.17		4,342.17
Misc Newsletter Income	50.00		50.00	2021 Natl Specialty Expenses	150.00		150.00
Newsletter 1st Class Postage	620.00	650.00	-30.00	Natl Spec Misc Expenses	176.73		176.73
Non-Member Subscription		135.00	-135.00	<b>Total National Specialty Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 5,856.55</b>	<b>\$ 8,497.35</b>	<b>-\$ 2,640.80</b>
Print & Electronic Copy	8,095.00	8,220.00	-125.00	Newsletter Expense	8,097.64	7,718.53	379.11
<b>Total Newsletter</b>	<b>\$ 11,110.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,277.00</b>	<b>-\$ 167.00</b>	Office Supplies	1,159.93	221.16	938.77
Purina Partnership	371.66	1,597.62	-1,225.96	<b>Office Expenses</b>		129.90	-129.90
Website-Breeder List	2,115.00	2,185.00	-70.00	Postage/Shipping	81.06	110.47	-29.41
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 30,761.68</b>	<b>\$ 57,682.45</b>	<b>-\$26,920.77</b>	Prior Period Income Tax	135.00	135.95	-0.95
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 30,761.68</b>	<b>\$ 57,682.45</b>	<b>-\$26,920.77</b>	Sales Tax	8.75		8.75
				Website	565.65	3,127.00	-2,561.35
				<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 24,921.80</b>	<b>\$ 36,982.75</b>	<b>-\$12,060.95</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH</b>	<b>Aug-20</b>	<b>Aug-19 (PY)</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 5,839.88</b>	<b>\$ 20,699.70</b>	<b>-\$14,859.82</b>
AMCA Main Accounts	54,154.41	60,718.67	-6564.26				
Reserve Funds	61,136.04	56,057.69	5078.35				
Committee Funds	32,783.87	41,469.90	-8686.03				
	<b>148,074.32</b>	<b>158,246.26</b>	<b>-10171.94</b>				

# Committee Reports & Special Reports

## **Breeder Education Committee** **Joyce Osborne**

Another issue, another season for Breeder Education. As always, be sure to follow our AMCA Breeder Education Facebook page for new articles and submissions and be sure to go back through older topics that are always interesting, informative and educational.

Exciting news, from here forward, we will be posting in the Newsletter (and subsequently on our BE Facebook group) extensive interviews with senior Malamute breeders, their thoughts and paths to success... interspersed from time to time with other material such as last issue's article by renowned veterinarian/researcher Dr. Jean Dodds. We hope you enjoy them.

## **Dog Paw Inflammation:** **More Important Than You Know** *(Reprinted with the permission of Hemopet.org)*

Oftentimes, when dog companion parents notice something a bit odd about their companion dog's paws, they assume the dog stepped in, walked through, or got something lodged in the paws. This very well could be the case. However, paw inflammation in dogs can also be a sign of a more complicated problem.

### **Definition**

The medical name for paw inflammation in dogs is canine pododermatitis.

### **How Confusion Can Start**

Paw inflammation ranges from reddened paws to interdigital furuncles.

Interdigital furuncles are often referred to by the misnomer of "interdigital cysts". Furuncles are actually a type of boil. We know it is a furuncle because that is how it looks under a microscope. However, one or more follicular cysts in the paw exist as an actual syndrome that could be a subtype of interdigital furuncles or a separate disease.

But, that is just one example to demonstrate why diagnosis and knowing the potential factors for paw

inflammation are clinically important.

### **Causes**

The causes of paw inflammation can be due to multiple diseases and conditions. However, veterinarians have broken these down into several categories.

**Microbial:** You may think paw bacterial, fungal or parasitic infections are from contact. This could be true, but sometimes the microbe is systemic and the manifestation on the paw has occurred by other means.

**Blastomycosis,** a potentially serious fungal infection, is a good example. The fungus causing blastomycosis lives mainly around the area of the United States and Canada surrounding the Great Lakes, and the Ohio and Mississippi River Valleys. The fungus normally enters the body from inhalation from the spores. Dogs also can get blastomycosis through contact, but this is rare. From there, the fungus spreads around the body and can cause skin or paw lesions.

Breed type pre-disposition is very important with this condition. Dogs with a short and coarse hair coat may be more likely to have inflamed and ruptured follicles. Breeds with this type of hair coat include English bulldogs, Great Danes, Basset hounds, mastiffs, bull terriers and boxers.

Dogs with wider paws can be more likely to bear weight on the haired skin between the pads because the paws splay out upon standing. Breeds with this type of paw shape, or conformation, include Labrador retrievers, English bulldogs, German shepherds and Pekingese.

### **Other Examples of Causes of Paw Inflammation**

Seasonal or environmental allergy  
Food sensitivity and intolerance (e.g. NutriScan)  
Contact dermatitis  
Immune-mediated – Signs are typically crusts (scabs), ulcerations and occasional blisters. All four feet are commonly involved, especially the footpads and nailbeds.

Hypothyroidism and thyroiditis  
Cushing's disease (hyperadrenocorticism)

Tumors – Squamous cell carcinoma, melanoma, mast cell tumor, keratoacanthoma, inverted papilloma  
Environmental – Trauma from concrete and gravel dog runs, excessive exercise and running on hard surfaces, clipper burn, grass awns, foreign bodies like foxtails

Obesity (a sign of chronic cellular inflammation)

### **Signs**

Presenting signs can help veterinarians narrow down what diagnostic tests to run on the affected animal.

As a pet companion caregiver, please pay attention to excessive paw licking; the best thing to do is to check your dog's paws daily for:

Reddened inflammation

Swelling

Scabs

Ulcers

Lesions

Blisters

Itching

Discharge

Reddish brown staining of the paw fur

Thickened and crusty paw pads

Nodules

Tumors

Abscesses

Cysts

Boils (furuncles)

### **Treatment**

Clearly, treatment depends upon the diagnosis.

As we have expressed concern in previous articles, many conditions are often misdiagnosed as bacterial because the proper tests were not run or a bacterial infection is secondary to a larger systemic issue. So, please also include full diagnostic laboratory testing if your companion is diagnosed as having a bacterial or other infection.

### **References**

Bajwa, Jangi. "Canine Pododermatitis." The Canadian Veterinary Journal, vol. 57, no. 9, Sept. 2016, pp. 991–993, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4982575>.

“Interdigital Cysts in Dogs.” VIN – Veterinary Partner, 10 Sept. 2018, <http://veterinarypartner.vin.com/default.aspx?pid=19239&id=8713573>.

“Overview of Interdigital Furunculosis – Integumentary System.” Merck Veterinary Manual, <http://www.merckvetmanual.com/integumentary-system/interdigital-furunculosis/overview-of-interdigital-furunculosis>.

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## **More Need-to-Knows About Raw Pet Food Diets**

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Dr. Dodds and many veterinarians advocate feeding raw pet food to companion dogs and cats. We have discussed this topic numerous times before as in our article, Pet Foods: Raw Vs. Cooked Food Diets and Bacteria Concerns. We have noticed that the health and vigor of pets improve immensely when they are given these diets. Here is a quick list of what you need to know.

### **Less Processed**

Raw pet food is less processed than kibble. It is what basically fed as is in the “raw” state. This, in part, means that dogs and cats are absorbing and assimilating more and unaltered nutrient ingredients from the food as compared to kibble diets.

However, some of the raw commercial diets available – that meet the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) minimum standards for a “complete and balanced diet” – are not in fact complete and balanced. These foods may actually exceed the amount of vitamins and minerals dogs and cats actually need and cause an overload and toxicity because the AAFCO provides few maximum standards.

To put it into context, kibble is overly processed by cooking and so the manufacturers must add vitamin and mineral coatings to supply the missing nutrients. Some manufacturers appear to add the vitamin/mineral pack without accounting for the nutrients coming from the raw food.

What should you do? Please carefully research the food before you give it.

### **Moisture-Rich**

Raw pet food is moisture-rich and this is a good thing. Moisture helps dogs and cats digest foods to receive optimal nutrition and this can reduce the chances of kidney, urinary and liver conditions. For instance, cats are prone to urinary tract infections (UTI), and one of the best ways to prevent UTIs is to give a moisture-rich diet to help ‘flush’ the kidneys and bladder.

### **Causes Less Reactions**

It has been said that raw diets cure food sensitivities, which is an overstatement, although adverse food reactivities have been shown to be lower when the same food is fed in a raw vs cooked and processed diet. An actual food sensitivity is a specific reaction to a protein in any state – whether raw or cooked. If a pet’s health reactions are eliminated or significantly improved by switching to raw, it could be due to the effects of food processing which exposes more surface reactive antigens to the bowel.

### **Are You Worried About Bacteria**

Due to a few contaminated and unsanitary raw food products, all raw pet foods have been getting a bad rap. But, remember: kibble, too, has been recalled for Salmonella, Listeria and Campylobacter spp. contamination and some poisonings. Food is never a sterile commodity!

We suggest avoiding any pet food product or company that has had multiple recalls, and please definitely stay alert. You can research if a company continues to have, and has not rectified the, problems. You can keep up-to-date with [foodsafetynews.com](http://foodsafetynews.com) and [petfoodsafetynews.com](http://petfoodsafetynews.com).

The main thing is: just like the sanitary measures you take to prepare your foods, they should be followed when giving your pets raw diets.

### **Don’t Worry About the Poop**

If you switch to raw, you will notice a remarkable difference in your pet’s feces. Don’t worry about it. This is normal. Your pet is actually absorbing the nutrients and food.

Raw food diets generally produce small, hard balls of poop that are easily passed, turn white and may even crumble.

If you feel a bit uneasy about it, you can add healthy treats like bananas, pears, apples or carrots to help things “move along.”

### **Defrosting**

Most raw pet foods come in frozen patties. Many pet companion parents think that they might forget to defrost the raw food patties in the refrigerator or they might defrost it for too long.

Choking is the reason defrosting is necessary. Technically, dogs can eat the raw food frozen. So long as you can get a knife through it to cut it up into bite size pieces, it is defrosted enough.

Now, many raw pet manufacturers are producing smaller, bite-sized pieces in case you forget to defrost. However, these options are significantly pricier than the patties. Nonetheless, it might be good to have a bag on hand as backup. Another option is to keep freeze-dried or dehydrated raw food as a backup plan.

### **When Not To Feed Raw**

Very young puppies

Households with individuals who may have severely immune-compromised systems

Dogs with liver or bowel cancers should be eating homecooked foods or possibly freeze dried or dehydrated raw foods. This is because bacteria in the food could multiply – especially if the contractions and relaxations (peristalsis) of bowel segments are irregular – thereby producing pockets of bowel stasis and promoting bacterial growth. The bacteria can then travel up the bile duct and further damage the remaining liver tissue.

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## **Working Dog Committee**

Michelle Podolak and Chari Erickson

Greetings Fellow Malamute Enthusiasts! We hope everyone had a safe summer and found some time to hit the trails for some adventures. The Working Committee has been busy reviewing title applications and doing research as we look to clarify some elements of the title rules and tracking down that one remaining missing dog from our Working Dog Hall of Fame. We have yet to get a lead, so if anyone has any information on this missing dog, please let us know. Michelle wrote a detailed report that you can find in the previous issue of the newsletter.

The thing we are most excited to share with you this month are eight new nominations to the Working Dog Hall of Fame. It has been ten years since a new dog was included, the last being **Northpaw's Bouncing Bogie CGC TDI HWF WWPDX IWPA-WDS** in 2010.

Earlier this summer, David and Shilon Bedford compiled materials outlining the exemplary accomplishments for eight dogs who they consider the most outstanding dogs of their 30 years in the breed and submitted them to the committee for review. After extensive review, the Hall of Fame subcommittee and the Working Dog Committee co-chairs all unanimously agreed to nominate these dogs for inclusion. It is the feeling of the committee that each dog showed outstanding working ability over their lifetime, served as influential ambassadors for the working malamute and stand as great examples of the breed as a whole. The formal nomination will be presented at

the annual meeting this year. Fun fact, many of you may remember seeing some of these dogs in the movie Iron Will.

Nominated to the Working Dog Hall of Fame:

### **Whisper Pine Northland Sitka WWPDX WWPDX "Sitka"**

#### **Working Weight Pull Dog**

Sitka competed against some of the best IWPA and ISDRA pullers in the country. She trained by hauling wood uphill to the Bedford's first home every week and she loved the job. And she pulled a 16" truck tire with the rim and never balked at the exercise. She was a dog that never thought she could fail.

### **Can CH Black Ice's Shear Force WTD WTD WPD WWPDX "Atlla"**

#### **Working Sled Dog**

David describes Atlla as having unlimited endurance and strength. He always gave 100%. He was a strong weight pull contender but even more memorable was his ability as a lead dog. His line was always tight and he always drove as hard as he could.

### **Black Ice's Persuasive Force WWPDX WWPDX "Tekla"**

#### **Working Sled Dog**

#### **Working Weight Pull Dog**

Tekla was a member of the Bedford's first freight racing team and she accompanied David on many of his long distance camping trips. She excelled in weight pulling.

### **Am/Can CH Black Ice's Aleutian Dream WWPDX WTD WTD WLD WLDX "Leusha"**

#### **Working Sled Dog**

#### **Working Weight Pull Dog**

Leusha was a great all around working dog. She competed well at weight pulls, was a solid team dog and as she matured she became a strong obedient lead dog. She was smart and well accomplished at leading long distance sledding trips.

### **CH Black Ice's High Speed Chase WTD WTD WLDX WWPDX "Chase"**

#### **Working Sled Dog**

David and Shilon agree that Chase was the best Malamute they ever owned.

He was the motor that made their best team run. He had an amazing "willing to please" temperament and that made him an exceptional lead dog. He was famous for his performance in the Disney production of "Iron Will".

### **Black Ice's Driving Force WTD WTD WDX "Diesel"**

#### **Working Sled Dog**

Although he was an excellent weight puller, Diesel was most valuable to the Bedfords on the team. He was a strong puller and never caused any issues. He dutifully did his job and was an important component of the David's long distance sled trips. His calm gentle nature was a valuable attribute and made so much of what David did with his team possible.

### **Black Ice's Dazzling Gem WTD WTD WDX "Gema"**

#### **Working Sled Dog**

Gema was always a hard working team dog, never causing any issues or problems. She was on most of David's long distance trips and was a steady reliable working dog.

### **Am/Can CH Black Ice's Sudden Impact WTD WTD WPD "Dash"**

#### **Working Sled Dog**

Dash's most outstanding accomplishments were his performance on David's main team as they traveled in the BWCA and the trip to Hudson Bay. Dash was also among the last of the Bedford's weight pull competitors. He competed predominately at National Specialties and has an outstanding record.

This nomination was sent to the AMCA Board at the beginning of September. If there are no objections to the nomination, The Working Dog Committee would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to David and Shilon Bedford.



# TOP TWENTY

Standings through August 26, 2020



Hey, everyone!

Well....after three months, AKC shows are back on!! Beginning June 27, shows have been slowly working their way back onto the AKC schedule. Now that we have more shows happening, I can get back to my routine of providing y'all with a new Top 20 Standings Report each Newsletter (yay!!).

We are in a new Top 20 qualifying year—running from May 1, 2020, through April 30, 2020 (same, traditional qualifying period). Any dogs qualifying for this Top 20 Event will be invited to participate in the Top 20 Event held in conjunction with the 2021 National Specialty in Gettysburg, PA. As a reminder, Top 20 points are awarded only to the Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex. One point is earned for each Malamute defeated through the Best of Breed competition. Below you'll find the Top 20 Standings through August 26, 2020.

Now, when I mentioned shows were slowly coming back...I meant SLOWLY. For the first report, I only have 28 shows worth of results to post for you (compared to the same time span last year, I had 401 shows worth of results to tabulate). So, this will (hopefully) be the shortest Top 20 Standings Report I ever have. Also, the AKC is still processing show results while working from home, so results are trickling in much later than the delay I am used to. So, in order to not hold up the Newsletter publication, I am publishing this first set of Standings with an incomplete set of August shows. Hopefully, we will be back to "reporting normally" by the end of the qualifying period.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, worries or concerns regarding your dog's points or the Standings, please don't hesitate to contact me. All other inquiries should be directed to the Top Twenty Chair, Suzanne Bedell, at malamutetop20@gmail.com

One final note: 2020 Top 20 Qualifiers...we have not forgotten about you! The Top 20 Committee is working on plans to honor all of you at the next National Specialty. In order to help us notify you of those plans—once finalized, please provide Suzanne with a designated contact person for your qualifying dog, as well as a phone number and e-mail address.

Congratulations to the winners!

Stacey Moore  
Top 20 Statistician  
stacey.culaw@yahoo.com

Rank	The Top 20	Points	Owner
1	GCH Onak'Stouch Of Gold (D)	63	J Corr/R Caprio/W Corr
2	GCH Onan's Passing The Torch (B)	31	A Becker/P Hazelwood
3	GCH Vykon's Every Mile A Memory (D)	12	C Jones/V Jones
4	GCH Aria De Kabluna (B)	11	J Iglesias Rodriguez/E Kelley
5	GCH Storm Sky's Forever Etched In Time At Stormkloud (D)	7	S Czarapata/J EIDissi/J Gonzalez
6	GCH Skyblue Pale Moon'N Qavvik's Moonlight Reflection (B)	6	D Lemire
7	Lueldar Tomorrows Another Day (B)	4	A Ross/A Ross/E Flores/A Butler/M Reeves
8	GCH Adair'N'Hug Fair Winds And Following Seas (D)	3	C Hess/R Hug
9	Strong Waters The Cold Never Bothered Me Anyway (B)	1	A Ross/K Schireman/A Butler/E Flores/A Ross

## 2020 Companion Event/Performance Rankings: First Quarter

### AGILITY

#### Novice Standard (Regular and Preferred)

1	Hallstatt "X" Marks The Spot	14	L Maffei & N Snyder	PNW
1	Powderhound's Blaze Of Glory (p)	6	J Effler-Leveille	IL/WI

#### Open Standard (Regular and Preferred)

1	Sno Quest's You'Re My Only Hope (p)	8	M Timko	GL
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#### Masters "B" Standard (Regular only)

1	Mountain Home's Mad Hatcher Of Wild Ones	29	L McDonald & M Mead	PNW
2	Mountain Home's I'M A Real Wild One	25	L McDonald & M Mead	PNW

#### Novice Jumpers With Weaves (Regular & Preferred)

1	Powderhound N Arcticthunder's Light "Em Up (p)	6	J Effler-Leveille & L Leutner-Boese	IL/WI
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#### Open Jumpers With Weaves (Regular & Preferred)

1	Sno Quest's You'Re My Only Hope (p)	9	M Timko	GL
2	Hallstat "X" Marks The Spot	8	L Maffei & N Snyder	PNW
3	Snowhollow Hawk's Rest On Tosi Peak (p)	6	E McKee	RM

#### Masters "B" Jumpers With Weaves (Regular only)

1	Mountain Home's Mad Hatcher Of Wild Ones	27	L McDonald & M Mead	PNW
2	Mountain Home's I'M A Real Wild One	14	L McDonald & M Mead	PNW
3	Arcticdawn's Midnight Sun	1	R Hinman	GL

### OBEDIENCE

#### Beginner Novice

1	Vykon's Every Mile A Memory	10	C Jones & V Jones	SO
2	Teton & Wintuk's One More Ride	8	R Robinson & L Anderson	IL/WI
3	Wintuk & Gryphon's Positive Traction	3	S Kalous & L Kalous	IL/WI

#### Novice

1	Snobuc's Watching Over Me	3	M Dinwoodie & R Dinwoodie & E French	NY/NJ
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#### Open

1	Arcticdawn's Midnight Sun	7	R Hinman	GL
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#### Utility

1	Arcticdawn's Midnight Sun	6	R Hinman	GL
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### RALLY

#### Novice

1	Arcticcircle N Kai's King Koopa	15	L Lamb & J Olson & D Honore	MW
2	Sno Quest's You're My Only Hope	8	M Timko	GL

3 Lucy's Sky Of Diamonds  
 4 Jude VI

5 C Murray & T Murray SO  
 4 C Murray & T Murray SO

**Intermediate**

1 Snocreek's Big Shoes 2 Fill  
 2 Onak's Arctic Tundra  
 2 Poker Flat's Ironman

5 E Rogers NY/NJ  
 4 S Carnall WC  
 3 R Haggard & J Kuehl & N Onstad IL/WI

**Advanced**

1 Arcticdawn's Boots R' Made For Mushin'  
 2 Powderhound's U Can'T Handle The Truth  
 3 Illusion's One Man Show  
 3 Amaqqut On The Pull  
 5 Istari's Th' Plot Thickens  
 6 Powderhound's Over And Over Again  
 7 Istari's Winterchilled Snow-Spren

63 R Hinman GL  
 25 J Effler-Leveille IL/WI  
 9 P Fusco & J Fusco GL  
 9 J Effler-Leveille IL/WI  
 8 H Schultz & J Schultz IL/WI  
 7 J Effler-Leveille IL/WI  
 5 H Schultz & J Schultz IL/WI

**Excellent**

1 Arcticdawn's Boots R' Made For Mushin'  
 2 Powderhound's U Can'T Handle The Truth  
 3 Vykon's Ixa Heart Of The Matter  
 4 Powderhound's Over And Over Again  
 4 Amaqqut On The Pull  
 6 Illusion's One Man Show  
 7 Istari's Winterchilled Snow-Spren

53 R Hinman GL  
 20 J Effler-Leveille IL/WI  
 14 V Jones SO  
 9 J Effler-Leveille IL/WI  
 9 J Effler-Leveille IL/WI  
 6 P Fusco & J Fusco GL  
 4 H Schultz & J Schultz IL/WI

**Master**

1 Arcticdawn's Boots R' Made For Mushin'  
 2 Canamarok's Angel's Taizen  
 3 Powderhound's Over And Over Again  
 4 Powderhound's U Can'T Handle The Truth  
 5 Amaqqut On The Pull

63 R Hinman GL  
 23 L Maffei & N Snyder PNW  
 17 J Effler-Leveille IL/WI  
 14 J Effler-Leveille IL/WI  
 10 J Effler-Leveille IL/WI



# AREA REPORTS

## GREAT LAKES

Colleen Belanger  
Hauntedhowlkennel@charter.net

No Report

## ILLINOIS/WISCONSIN

### NEW REPORTER NEEDED

## MID-EAST

Michael McGuire  
amca-mgm@comcast.net

No Report

## MIDWEST

Cindy Foster  
snocubmals8@msn.com

### NEW REPORTER NEEDED

## NEW ENGLAND

Jane Palinkas  
janesmals@aol.com

No Report

## NEW YORK / NEW JERSEY

Eileen Rogers  
dabronxmick@aol.com

Even though it's been slow in the NY/ NJ area we do have some news to report thanks to Amy Novak. Amy writes that ENDA, **Artic Dawn's Wild Night BN RN AX AXJ OF CGCA TKN**, received a round one invitation to the 2020 AKC Agility Invitational in Orlando, FL. Unfortunately, they won't be able to attend this year. What would keep them from attending, the hope that they will be very busy with a litter of puppies. It is their favorite event and they hope that the malamutes that do go will love it as much as they do.

More news from Amy, TILLY, **Wild Night's Cup of Stars BCATACT1 CGC TKN**, her homebred Singleton shot a commercial in Brooklyn in September. She is not able to talk about the details until it airs but if you see a commercial with a malamute in it around Nov/Dec, it's probably her. Amy will share details on Facebook when she finds it.

I have some news to report. I drove out past Buffalo for the first time- all the way to WI to pick up the newest addition from Jen Effler-Leveille. Her call name is SEELEY and I'm working on AKC name. She is a doll and the hit of the neighborhood. Thanks, so much Jen for this "little" bundle of joy. She has some big shoes to fill.

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Cindy Carriegan  
Blumoonmals@comcast.net

For those impacted by the fires I sincerely hope that you remain safe and are not severely damaged.

Kathi Fraser shared the following news. It is hard to believe that it is already September and has been six months since their last trials. She and Dan have been keeping the dogs busy with private agility lessons and private barn hunt lessons. The dogs really enjoy their time playing at these sports. They decided to take advantage of the Virtual Rally Program and they taught REBEL to sit, down and to sit still while Kathi walked around him. Kathi said that she and REBEL completed three different Rally Novice courses, and to her amazement he PASSED each one on his first try. REBEL has now completed his Rally Novice title. Kathi said that she decided to do the final two courses that GIGI needed to get her RI title and her videos were just sent off. She and Dan are excited to finally have some barn hunt and agility trials to look forward to. (Please see the Howls).

Laura Maffei also had some news to share this month.

TAKARA, **GCH Hallstatt 'X' Marks the Spot BN RE NA OAJ NF NFP RATN CGC WTD**, and Laura have been fortunate enough to attend several agility trials this summer. Their local clubs and trial secretary did a great job of developing well-organized safety protocols to keep the participants healthy. Laura said that she was pleased to state that TAKARA earned her Open Agility Jumpers title on August 1 at the German Shepherd Dog Club of Oregon's trial in Eugene.

In addition, TAKARA attained her first Excellent Jumpers leg the next day, much to Laura's surprise. Laura explained that in order to achieve the Excellent Jumpers leg you must run "clean" at the Excellent level (no refusals). She and TAKARA are having a lot of fun with agility while all our other favorite dogs' sports are on hold. Laura said that she hopes we can all get back to those activities soon! (Please see the Howls).

Thank you both for sharing and best wishes in the months to come. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to get through this and stay safe and healthy.

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Pat Jenkins  
[pmj16@msn.com](mailto:pmj16@msn.com)

Hello everyone from the Great Rocky Mountain Area. We are excited to have some news from our area. The following items were sent in by Rocky Mountain Area members of the Alaskan Malamute Club of America.

Caroline Watson sent this in.

"My Bred By puppy bitch, **UNA, WhiteHawk Unalakleet**, went back-to-back RWB at the two Peak to Peak Working Dog shows in Greely Colorado September 2 and 3. Congratulations to WB and to Linda Cathey on her Best of Breed wins both days."

Barb Cannon shared this great news\_

"I have some good news to share with the members. **CH Northern Exposure Barkley's Fair Maiden Madison, RATS CGCA TKN**, picked up her Crazy 8s Bronze Barn Hunt title on August 22, 2020, at the Rebel Ratters Barn Hunt trial in Castle Rock, Colorado. To obtain this title MADISON needed to acquire 500 points in Crazy 8s-- she had two minutes at each trial she participated in to find 8 rats, tunnel and climb to get points toward the title. A Crazy 8s Barn Hunt participant obtains 10 points for every rat she/he finds, plus additional 10 points each if she/he tunnels (crawls through a dark long tunnel with up to

five turns) and climbs up on a bale of hay during the two minute run. If she/he finds rats but doesn't climb or tunnel during the two-minute run, she/he is deducted 20 points each from her score. AKC recognizes the C8B title. MADISON is currently working toward her Master title in Barn Hunt"

Nancy Russell sent in this quick note and congratulations

"Our RISER finished his Championship at the show in Racine, WI. Jeri showed him. **CH Storm Kloud's Ccreme Rises to the Top.**"

I had about a two minute conversation with Claudia Hess in Cheyenne, She was running and trying to get things done and we were packing up to leave but she was able to send in this report of her activities

"...it continues to be an interesting summer of how to stay busy, plus keep TART, **GCHB Adair'n'Hug Surprisingly Tart FDC BCAT TKA \*pending\* CGC.** TUFF, **CH Yetieska's Dream Within A Dream SD WPD FDC BCAT BN RI TKA \*pending\* CGCA,** and occasionally BISMARK, **GCHS Adair'n'Hug Fair Winds and Following Seas WWPDP WPD FDC BCAT BN RI TKI CGCU CGCA,** when he's home, entertained. The summer heat had driven us to daily breakfasts as well as dinners on the deck. When BISMARK was home for two weeks back in May, he and I used the time to successfully complete and submit the videos for his TKI (Trick Dog Intermediate). AHAAAAAaaa! So after breakfast and dinner throughout the summer TART and TUFF worked on whatever the 'trick of the day' was deemed for that day/mealtime. Two or three attempts for the kids after each meal. Not a big deal or much time spent. It worked well as both TART and TUFF have successfully finished their TKIs and their TKAs. TART and TUFF have also made progress on their DCATs. On to a few more FastCat weekends this fall and we'll see what the cooler weather brings. Howdy to one and all....."

The following was sent in by Linda Cathey. We had the chance to have a short visit in Cheyenne, Wyoming this last weekend. The visit was short as

she was juggling dogs in and out of the ring and I had a few dogs to juggle myself.

"The Cheyenne Kennel Club shows were really lovely. Our first show after a long Covid-19 break was tremendous fun. It was fantastic once again to show dogs and see old friends. On Saturday and Sunday 8/30/2020 and Sunday 8/31/20 **TRU NORTH'S Kali Lark Sparrow** was Winner's Bitch both days earning two majors that completes her championship. KALI moved up to the breed ring for the final day of the show to earn points towards her grand champion title winning select. We are very proud of this special girl.

Saturday and Monday, **TRU NORTH'S Violet Flame** won Best of Breed. VIOLET was Best of Opposite on Sunday.

SUSIEQ, **Tru North's She's my Lucky Charm** earned a Reserve on Monday while out of coat and wildly energetic. Thank you Cheyenne kennel club for putting on a wonderful dog show weekend."

I also had three dogs entered in the Cheyenne show

First Day: **AGGIE, Catera's Shenanigans at Wolfmountain** went Reserve Winners Bitch from the puppy class. She was handled by Lauryn Christensen, a junior handler, who also co-owns her.

Second Day: **RIZZO, Kasaan's Kool Party Queen at Wolfmountain,** earned Reserve Winners Bitch from the puppy class. She was handled by Megan Christensen, a junior handler, who also co-owns her with Catherine Loft and Myself. Megan also did great with RIZZO in the Junior Handler competition, taking a third place ribbon out of a very tough Open Senior class with a puppy that was six months and two days old.

Way to go MEGAN.

**ROY, CH Kasaan's Patriot at Wolfmountain,** ROY won Best of Breed on Saturday.

The third day we showed, we packed up and drove home with the girls doing their homework on the way

I look forward to announcing great news from our Rocky Mountain Area Specialty that is going to be held in two weeks. Hope everyone has a great time and we spread around the winning ways.

Good luck out there and stay safe

## **SOUTHERN**

Lynne Nappi  
[sleddog@centurylink.net](mailto:sleddog@centurylink.net)

Here we are—already September and certainly well past the half way point for this year. It is still just as hot in Tallahassee, Florida and pretty much nothing going on with training or trialing.

I have heard from a few of you: Beverly Vics did tell me about her new pup (although not a malamute, but a Manchester terrier) at nine months old is ACEING agility.

Amber Ross wrote to tell me that pending AKC approval, we have a new champion, SCARLETT, **BBPIS Am. CH Lueldar Tomorrows Another Day!** She completed her championship today 8/16 under judge John P. Wade at the Jesse James KC show, Topeka, KS going WB/BOS.

And this from Julie and Ric Edwards: Our MAYA had her pups on August 12, so we've been busy enjoying watching them grow. Still no shows for us, sadly, but we're about to start the dryland mushing and hiking seasons, so quite excited about that, as usual.

As I reported last time, **HOPE, Summerlce Hope Springs Eternal** was taking me for a walk every morning and every evening. And because I kept track of our walks, I was able to submit it to AKC and their Fir Dog Program. In return, I received a rather large magnet for my car and a really nice AKC Fit Dog tee shirt which I paid for. We still walk twice a day, even with the heat, but only go half the distance that we used to do. We are still working on Rally and I have started her on Scentwork.

From Stacey Moore

**BLACK RIBBON** for my SASHA, **GCH Catoico's Grand Slam Adventure WPD.**

I posted the tribute below on my

Facebook page, but I know not everyone is on Facebook. So for those that didn't see it, here it is:

To my dearest Sasha...

How do I share with the world, your story? The story I want to tell cannot be found in the pages of a book...

You lived life by your own set of rules, from how you chose to come into this world, to when you chose to have your litter, to how you chose to leave.

You are my princess, my beautiful girl, my big girl, my Sashy, and countless other nicknames bestowed upon someone so loved.

Your personality was larger than life. You lived life with such intensity, passion, and immeasurable joy....and some mischief too. In the countless pictures I have of you, it's hard to come by one where your happiness isn't apparent. You never did anything half-way. You gave it your all, 100% of the time. And you enjoyed every minute of it.

You felt your place was literally "at" the dining room table or snuggled in my lap. I'll never forget watching you chase down a fox across our big yard, your amazing prey drive on glorious display. And it always fascinated me to watch your pack leadership at the house, the respect you commanded in the most subtle of gestures.

Your energy was tangible. I don't know that I could've accurately described your vibrancy in life, other than to remark about how utterly noticeable your absence has become. There's stillness in the house now, that wasn't there before.

You are the most beautiful Malamute I have produced. You finished your AKC Championship before you turned two, and you became my first home-bred AKC Grand Champion too. You followed that up with multiple Best of Opposite Sex wins at specialties. But you also showed me you could work, like you were bred to do, earning your Working Pack Dog Title last summer, with your daughter by your side.

You didn't tell me anything was wrong until Saturday night, August 15. And true to Malamute form, by the

time you let me know, it was most likely already too late. I did everything I could for you, and I'm sorry it wasn't enough.

I am angry that I have been robbed of the privilege of watching you grow old. But now, your indomitable spirit will never be subdued by the infirmities of old age. You will forever be "in your prime".

Your fierce love was my greatest treasure from you. Your daughter Addison, your greatest gift to me. I don't know if I will ever be able to find the perfect words, to share with the world, what you meant to me. So, I will conclude your tribute with a quote from the John Green novel "The Fault In Our Stars"...

"I cannot tell you how thankful I am for our little infinity. I wouldn't trade it for the world. You gave me a forever within the numbered days, and I'm grateful."

I love you so, so much...

**GCH Catoico's Grand Slam Adventure WPD SASHA**

January 9, 2015 — August 17, 2020

I am so sorry for your loss, Stacey—what a beautiful tribute!

Remember: Mask and social distancing—stay safe and well and we will get through this!

## **WEST COAST**

Mary Swinyer  
maryswinyer@gmail.com

### ***New Reporter Needed***

Many thanks to Jean Say for sending me some news to share. Jean says:

"HOWIE, **CH Vykon's How Dare You CGC TDI**, will soon be 12 and we are celebrating three years with the successful mandiblectomy. He is even back now to chewing antlers with his remaining half-mandible. I'd be glad to answer anyone's questions, this surgery is not for everyone."

Wow, that is amazing and happiest of birthday wishes to HOWIE. If anyone is interested in talking with Jean about this procedure, her email address is: sayjean57@yahoo.com .

**COMET, UCH UWP ARCH Modar's**

**Yule Pied Comet BN PCDX RE MX MXJ MJB CGC TT SWN TKP BCAT WTD WPD WWPDL RL1X RL3 NW2 ATD AAAM**, had a physical in July and everything looked great on her blood panel. I started brushing both dogs' teeth daily at that point, in hopes of maintaining gum health and avoiding any dental procedures as they age. They were surprisingly accepting of this addition to our daily routine, especially at their ages. Of course we all know you \*can\* teach an old dog new tricks, it's humans that are the challenge.

As **TURBO, ARCH Mtn Home's Modar Turbocharged BN RE OA OAJ SWN SCA TKP RATN WTD WPD RL1X RL3 NW1**, fully recovered from his keratotomy procedure on both eyes for corneal ulcers, a growth popped up under his left upper eyelid. It was irritating and had to be removed. My vet took off three other growths while TURBO was under anesthesia (one on eyelid, leg and tail), so back into a cone he went for 12 days until the sutures and staples were removed. Hopefully he won't need to see a vet again until his annual exam in January.

TURBO got mail in August. He received an AMCA Annual Special Award in recognition of earning an AKC SCA (scent work containers advanced) title and received a 2019 Scent Work Award of Merit. Many thanks to AMCA, Laura Heft and the Performance Committee for the lovely certificate.

TURBO celebrated his thirteenth birthday on Sept. 3. I had learned that his last two littermate sisters crossed the rainbow bridge on the same day a week earlier, so he is the last of his litter. He enjoyed his usual 2 mile morning trot and got a few extra treats.

Currently I have a handsome seal and white 'Alusky' (Malamute/Siberian mix) puppy as a Virtual Training student.

No other exciting dog news. Because I've not been to a restaurant since March and haven't even done take-out/fast food yet, I started cooking some different foods I miss... like pizza, enchilladas, chinese, stroganoff...

I gave myself a Covid haircut and got the back surprisingly even... I must have inherited the 'self-haircutting' gene from my mom.

CA wildfire season started a couple months early this year after a couple unusual lightning storms in August. Many large fires in both NorCal and SoCal left many of us with smoke and poor air quality for weeks. Hopefully our fall will be quiet and uneventful.

### **AT LARGE – N HEMISPHERE**

Nicola Singh  
+44 (0)1406 331244  
info@sledog.com

No Report

### **AT LARGE – S HEMISPHERE**

Michelle White  
michelle@tsawakemals.com

No Report

Happy Howl-o-ween!



## **SOMETHING TO HOWL ABOUT**

### **AMCA WORKING TITLES**

#### **Working Lead Dog [WLD]**

##### **CH Obsidian's Dark Fantasy WTD**

Sire: Mountain Home's Wild Buckwheat WTD WPD  
Dam: GCH Obsidian's Dark Magic WTD WLD WPD  
Breeders: Ben & Chari Erickson  
Owners: Ben & Chari Erickson RM  
Date: 4/2/2020

### **RALLY**

#### **Rally Novice [RN]**

##### **Icicle Creek's Revolution CA TKN RN OFF NJP**

Sire: SnoRidge Black Ty'N Tails CGC  
Dam: GCH Icicle Creek's Calamity Jane WTD WPD  
Breeder: Kathleen & Daniel Fraser  
Owner: Kathleen & Daniel Fraser PNW  
Date: 8/24/2020  
Judge: Bob Withers

### **AKC TITLES**

#### **CHAMPION**

##### **Storm Kloud's Ccream Rises To The Top**

Sire: CH Quinault's Born to Run WTDX  
Dam: CH Storm Kloud's Just Like My Dad WTD WWPDX  
Breeder/Owner: Nancy C. Russell RM  
Date: 8/8/2020  
Show: Racine K.C  
Judge: Ed Fojtik

### **CANINE GOOD CITIZEN [CGC]**

##### **Awanuna & Thundercloud's Secret Sauce**

Sire: GCHB ThunderKloud's I'm No Secret  
Dam: CH Snokist I'm No Knock Off at Awanuna  
Breeders: Bev Pfeiffer & Pat McGovern  
Owner: Pat McGovern IL/WI  
Date: 4/21/2020  
Show: Janesville-Beloit Kennel Club  
Judge: Katie Becker

### **AGILITY**

#### **Open Agility Jumpers [OAJ]**

##### **GCH CH Hallstatt 'X' Marks the Spot BN RE NAJ NF NFP RATN CGC WTD**

Sire: GCHS Peace River's Gathers No Moss At Sunstra CGC  
Dam: GCH Peace River's Dream Girl At Hallstatt BN RI WTD  
Breeder: Laura Maffei & Michele S. Coburn  
Owner: Laura Maffei & Noel Snyder PNW  
Date: 6/28/2020  
Show: PNW Shetland Sheepdog Club Agility Trial  
Judge: Jim Primmer




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# **Breeder Interview with Rita Liebrand**

## **STORMCHASER ALASKAN MALAMUTES**

**Q:** Where do you reside?

**A:** My name is Rita Liebrand and I live with my partner Tonny van leest and our Alaskan Malamutes in Weurt Netherlands. I am also a judge for the Alaskan Malamute, Samoyed, German Spitz and the Icelandic Sheepdog. Our lives revolve around our dogs.

**Q:** What is your kennel name and how did you come by it?

**A:** Our kennel name is StormChaser. My Tonny came up with the name.

**Q:** How many years have you been in Alaskan Malamutes?

**A:** We have had Alaskan Malamutes for over 2 decades.

**Q:** Who / where did you obtain your first Malamute from?

**A:** We got our first 4 malamutes from Lynda Ste. Jhourre, we are still grateful for them.

**Q:** How did your interest in breeding and showing Alaskan Malamutes begin?

**A:** My partner Tonny van Leest had been breeding and showing Irish Wolfhounds for years before we met. He shared his passion and knowledge to help start with the majestic Alaskan Malamutes. He is always very interested in pedigrees and line breeding.

**Q:** Name a breeder or mentor who had a significant impact on you when you were first starting out and how they helped shape your ideas, views and direction moving forward.

**A:** Again, Tonny was my biggest influence in the beginning. But also Lynda Ste. Jhourre had a big influence, as we fell in love with her CH Windchaser's the Seventh Son. We were able to buy him at the age of 6.5 years old. He was 11 years old in this picture. A true teddy bear with fantastic movement.

**Q:** In your breeding program do you have a vision that you strive for, which you follow a particular

methodology to achieve this goal?

**A:** We do have a certain type we love, but the most important thing has always been breeding to the Standard and not changing this fantastic breed or following the 'flavor of the month' trend or excessive traits which might do some winning. To try and achieve this, the first thing you need to know IS the Standard and understand it. So you can see what you would like to improve. I follow a lot of courses and try to get all the knowledge I can find, from structure to genetics, movement, hormones, health problems etc.

**Q:** What are some traits or breed proponents that you feel strongly about and others that you are more flexible on in your breeding program?

**A:** Balance, correct structure and fit for function are very important to me. I am flexible if by getting new information I need to look at things in a different way. You need to keep evolving.

**Q:** What do you feel is the basis of your success over the years?

**A:** Staying true to my beliefs in following the Standard and having a certain type we love.

**Q:** How did/do you deal with the unexpected or any disappointment over time in breeding?

**A:** Like everyone, sometimes things don't work out as planned. Even the most fantastic breedings on paper can disappoint or not take. I admit I've had a good cry sometimes. But then shake it off and learn from your mistakes to move forward.

**Q:** Who were the foundation dogs that were the beginning for you?

**A:** CH Windchaser's the Seventh Son and Windchaser's Rising Phoenix. Both strong dogs with correct structure and gorgeous temperaments, My Phantom, who became a multi CH and 2 times a National Specialty winner was out of their first litter.

**Q:** Name one dog and one bitch you did not own or breed that you admired and share what it was about them that made them exceptional.

**A:** As we first looked for Alaskan Malamutes on the internet we found and adored Ch Staghorn's Snow Bunny from Cheena Villano and CH Storm Kloud's Qquest for Glory from Nancy Russell and Gloria Urbani. I had never seen either of these Malamutes in real life and only knew from pictures on the internet, but they made a big impression.

**Q:** In your opinion, name some traits or qualities described in the breed that you feel are generally missing in today's dogs.

**A:** I can only talk about what I see around me in Europe, but feel we are missing the larger snow feet, and some dogs are lacking in length of leg. Structure also is not always correct which influences the movement. I do love a waving plumed tail and good bone. In general, there really are some lovely dogs around.

**Q:** Consider your best dog, then describe what traits you loved most about he/she and how this particular dog impacted your breeding program and possibly the breed's gene pool.

**A:** I have had more than one great dog, for which I've loved their correct construction, ability to work, type and temperament. One dog in particular, Multi CH BISS Sno Quest Limited Edition bred by Andrea and Matt Sautbine had a big impact. He has many champion offspring worldwide and his kids have great temperaments.

**Q:** Who are some of your most significant dogs both in the whelping box and the show ring?

**A:** CH BISS Stormchaser the Saint, CH BISS StormChaser Phantom Menace, CH BISS Sno Quest's Limited Edition (aka Diesel), CH RES BISS Windchaser's the Seventh Son and one female especially, CH StormChaser the Seventh Heaven who produced 9 multi champions and 3 multi BISS winners. Seven and Diesel especially played a big part in type and great temperament. Phantom will hopefully have his first litter next year. I have never had a female which I found good enough for him, but now I do and we look forward to finally using his semen.

**Q:** What breeding philosophies do you adhere to?

**A:** Again this sounds very boring, but the Standard is the guideline! Then I follow what is my personal preference in type. I do like line breeding to some degree.

**Q:** What is the most detrimental health concern facing our breed today?

**A:** For me, excluding whole lines because one dog has an issue. I am a bit afraid that when we move forward with testing for everything, we might exclude dogs that could be very important for the genetic diversity of the breed in general. It must not happen that a dog who is tested for everything you can test for and is cleared but totally lacks breed type will become what you end up with. Test for knowledge and go from there.

**Q:** In your opinion, are there currently any trends in the breed that bear watching which you believe should continue and any that should be avoided?

**A:** I believe exaggeration in any form should be avoided.

**Q:** Have your dogs participated in or received titles in any working or performance events?

**A:** Sadly, we do not have working or performance events in the Netherlands.

**Q:** Is there one thing, (or more), that if you could go back you would do differently, additionally or NOT do?

**A:** Hindsight is always a great thing ;) I believe you can only learn from mistakes and try to understand them and move forward. So every decision we have made had its purpose. What I would not do again is try to replicate and reproduce a specific dog. It will not happen. BUT, by trying I've bred some other awesome LOL.

**Q:** Of your own measure, what is one of your most prominent accomplishments?

**A:** Although we have over 70 champion titles on our own or bred dogs, their love for working and their owners is the most important. The impact they have on people's lives is great and they give it all.

**Q:** What is one of your most memorable moments?

**A:** Winning a National Specialty is always very special. I have had the honour of winning 7 Nationals in 3 different countries, the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.

**Q:** In your opinion, what is one of the most important merits for a Judge to keep in mind when judging the Alaskan Malamute?

**A:** I find Fit for Function very important, an Alaskan Malamute who can do what he was bred for.

**Q:** What is the one piece of advice you'd give a new person starting out in the breed today?

**A:** Read the Standard ;)

And just for FUN 😊🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

**Q:** Please share one of your most amusing dog moments.

**A:** I was at a show in Rotterdam, and normally we don't have a carpeted ring at this show venue, but this time it was. After winning with Saint in his class, I knew I could not run on the carpet in the slippery shoes as I had nearly fallen a few times already. As I did not want to lose because I could not run properly, I asked the judge if I could run on bare feet. The judge approved of this request so I ran with bare feet and was awarded Best of Breed. Someone snapped a picture of me in the ring in bare feet with Saint and the Judge. It was amusing for sure.

**Q:** Choose three words that describe the Alaskan Malamute to you.

**A:** I find it hard to describe them in 3 words, as I could talk about them all day long. But if I must try, I would say powerful, proud and efficient performance.

**Q:** What is your favorite registered/call name of all time of any dog or any breed?

**A:** The Saint, as in my Saint. He is a true gentleman and loves to work, but was also such a big comfort when I lost my Mum last year.

**Q:** Have you had or do you have any other breeds?

**A:** We started out in Irish Wolfhounds and Tonny even bred a female that twice won World Winner and was the first Irish Wolfhound not bred in the UK to win UK National Specialty. At the moment we only have the Malamutes, but the Irish Wolfhounds will be back someday for sure.

**Q:** What do you do outside of dogs, professionally or other hobbies?

**A:** I work as an independent consultant for a big company to solve problems dog owners might have with food etc. My hobby is learning everything I can find about dogs and following seminars. So I guess it is still all about the dogs.

**Q:** What is on your 'bucket' list in the dog world?

**A:** After taking care of my Mum for the last years, which I was blessed to be able to do, I would now love to travel to shows all over Europe with a lovely boy / girl. Become a Judge of some other breeds as I love to learn about their history and purpose. I enjoy judging very much and would love to also attend the USA National someday with my own dog.

**Q:** What is the most endearing Malamute trait to you?

**A:** I love our dogs' loyalty. They stand next to us in our lives.

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## Modar Dog Training

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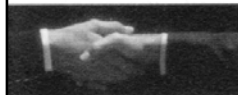
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# BACKPACKING WITH YOUR DOGS

By Sue Fuller

Taking your dog backpacking is a fabulous way to bond with your canine best friend. It's a great training opportunity that doesn't require a lot of expensive equipment. You can take packing trips by yourself or enjoy the great outdoors together with others as a group or club activity. Spring and Fall, when temperatures are moderate, are optimum times of the year for backpacking with our Malamutes.



The Working Pack Dog requirements state that the trips must take place on natural terrain. So parks and forest trails are ideal. Make sure you check in advance to be sure that the area where you want to hike is dog-friendly. Many U.S. National Forests will allow dogs on their land and on wilderness area trails, but there are a few exceptions. On the other hand, most American National Parks don't allow dogs. So it is a good idea to check first before making your plans.

Though not always required, I highly recommend keeping your dog on a leash at all times. We do have Malamutes and their curiosity can get them in real trouble with the various kinds of wildlife you may encounter. There are rattlesnakes, porcupines, skunks, raccoons, bear, wolves and mountain lions on our local

forest land. I don't want the dogs to have close encounters with any of these animals. Every area doesn't necessarily have all of these, but most parks are home to deer and squirrels, that dogs will chase if given the opportunity. You'll minimize problems and prevent your dog from being a nuisance to other trail users by keeping your dog on leash at all times. Good canine manners will go a long way towards creating good will and increased tolerance of our Malamutes in backcountry areas.

Likewise, always be friendly and courteous to other people you meet on the trail. Most people get a kick out of seeing a dog working under a backpack. So let's keep those impressions and experiences positive! Which brings up another point. Even though you may feel like you are out in the wild, take the time to stop and clean up after your dog. Stoop to scoop applies out in the woods too.

Before hitting the trail in your quest of a Working Pack Dog "leg", make sure that your dog is in good health and structurally sound. And that you have taken the time to do some serious conditioning. Training should begin with walking your dog with a lightly loaded pack to get him used to the feel of it, and to ensure that the pack is fitted correctly and is comfortable. As with people, dogs need to be in shape for the trail. It's not fair to a couch potato Malamute to put a backpack containing 30% of their body weight on them and expect the dog to walk 10 miles or more. Build up your dog's strength and endurance by gradually increasing the weight in the pack and the distance of your walks. And don't ever put "certification weight" on a young dog. An older puppy can come along on backpacking trips just for fun; they can carry a few lightweight items. Younger puppies can even be accustomed to wearing a pack by carrying a load of crumpled up newspaper. But until their growth plates close, at around 14 months, you risk doing structural damage to your pup by putting a load on developing bones and joints.

Obviously you will require a sturdy, quality backpack which is sufficiently large to hold the required 30% weight needed for certification. There are many brands of dog backpacks, don't skimp on this important piece of equipment. If you purchase a quality backpack, it should give you many years of service.



When loading the pack it is important for your dog's comfort to load each side evenly. You want the weight to be equal on both sides so the pack rides smoothly and doesn't hang to one side. Pack softer items on the dog's side of the pack to act as extra padding. You will want the heavier items in the front, toward their shoulders, and lighter items in the back. This way the Mal's shoulders support the weight and their back won't bear the burden of the load. If you need to add a few extra pounds to reach the certification weight, you can use something that is dense such as bags of rice or damp sand. Water can make up a good portion of the weight in a dog's pack. If you freeze some in plastic bottles it will provide ice water as the day goes on and the ice melts. A 1 or 2 quart stainless steel pail with a handle can be clipped onto your dog's pack making it easily accessible.



Frequent watering is necessary, so this convenience is quite handy. Even if natural water sources are plentiful on your hike, the water could be contaminated with Giardia (a protozoan parasite, also known as beaver fever) or other harmful bacteria or chemicals. So carrying our own clean drinking water is a smart practice. Common sense suggests that you avoid hiking in the heat of the day and walk instead during the early morning or evening for the dog's comfort and safety.



Backpacking is a great way to get out and spend some quality time with your Malamute, earn an AMCA Working title and in the process you might just shed a few unwanted pounds yourself; which is a welcome benefit to most of us! You might even be inspired to pursue the more advanced AMCA titles, the Working Pack Dog Advanced and Working Pack Dog Excellent for your dog. All of the certification rules, as well as the application forms can be found on the Alaskan Malamute Club of America's web site ["http://alaskanmalamute.org/working/working-dog/"](http://alaskanmalamute.org/working/working-dog/)

If you are interested in reading a nuts and bolts book to help get you started and inspired, you might pick up a copy of AMCA member and author, Charlene LaBelle's "A Guide To Backpacking With Your Dog". Happy trails





# AMCA



## *Annual Meeting*



**12NOON EDT**

**Oct 24  
2020**

The 2020 AMCA Annual Meeting will be held using Zoom. A meeting link and instructions will be provided 7 days prior to the meeting. The link will be posted on FB, on the web site and will be sent by email to all members.

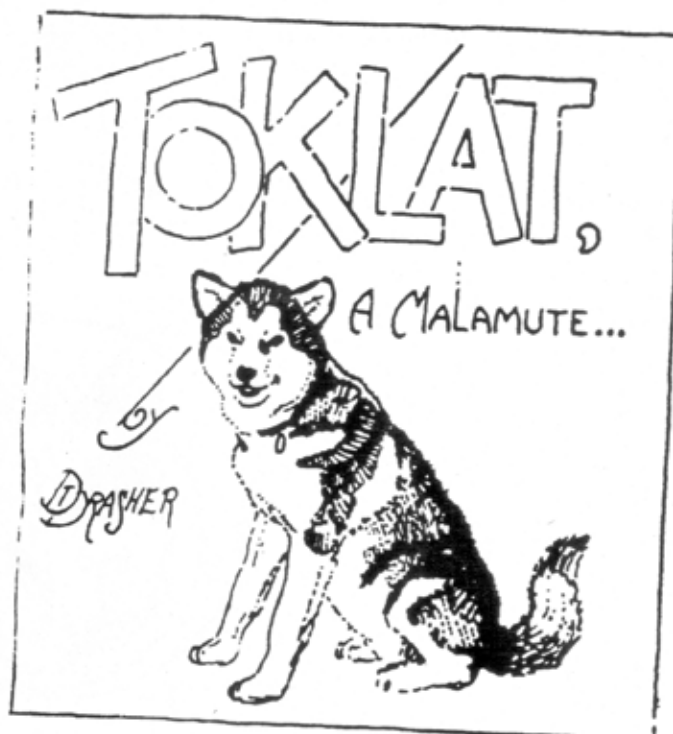
*Drew Drasher's "Toklat" last appeared in the Newsletter in 1974. Special thanks to Nicola Singh for making Toklat's "return" possible.*

# The ALASKAN MALAMUTE



*by Drew Drasher*

*"From puppyhood,  
thru maturity to old  
age, the Mal' is a  
magnificent animal..."*





My only formal training in art was with a correspondence school, and after about a year or so of that I was interrupted by military service in World War 2. When I was discharged at the end of the war I somehow never picked up where I left off with the school, but just did what I could on my own. I had been drawing since I was a young boy and I was always observant as to lines and planes and light and shadow and I just somehow learned on my own.

I drifted through mediums until I came to pen and ink, and there I did my best work, I think. There were years of doing work for individuals, not very lucrative, but finally magazine illustration --- all free lance stuff. It was fun. I never got rich on it, and supplemented the income with construction carpentry, which I was good at.

Living in the woods, the weather had a big say in what I could and what I could not do from time to time.

It was a good life. I always enjoyed a romance with animals and wild country ..... and my dogs!



1 wk old

# TOKLAT

A MALAMUTE....

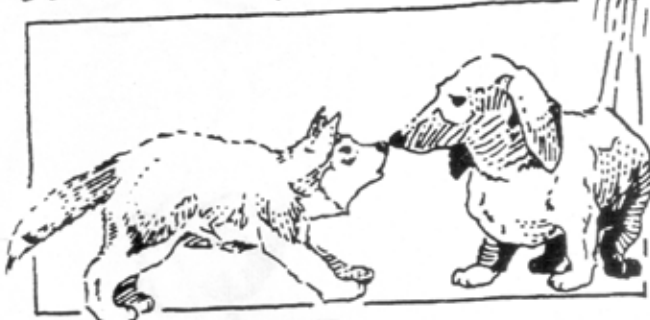
by *Dorner*



Puppies are the nicest "people"!

DO ALL PUPPIES, LIKE MAL'S, SEEM TO...

GROW INCHES, OVERNITE...?



AND, AT DIFFERENT TIMES, SEEM....



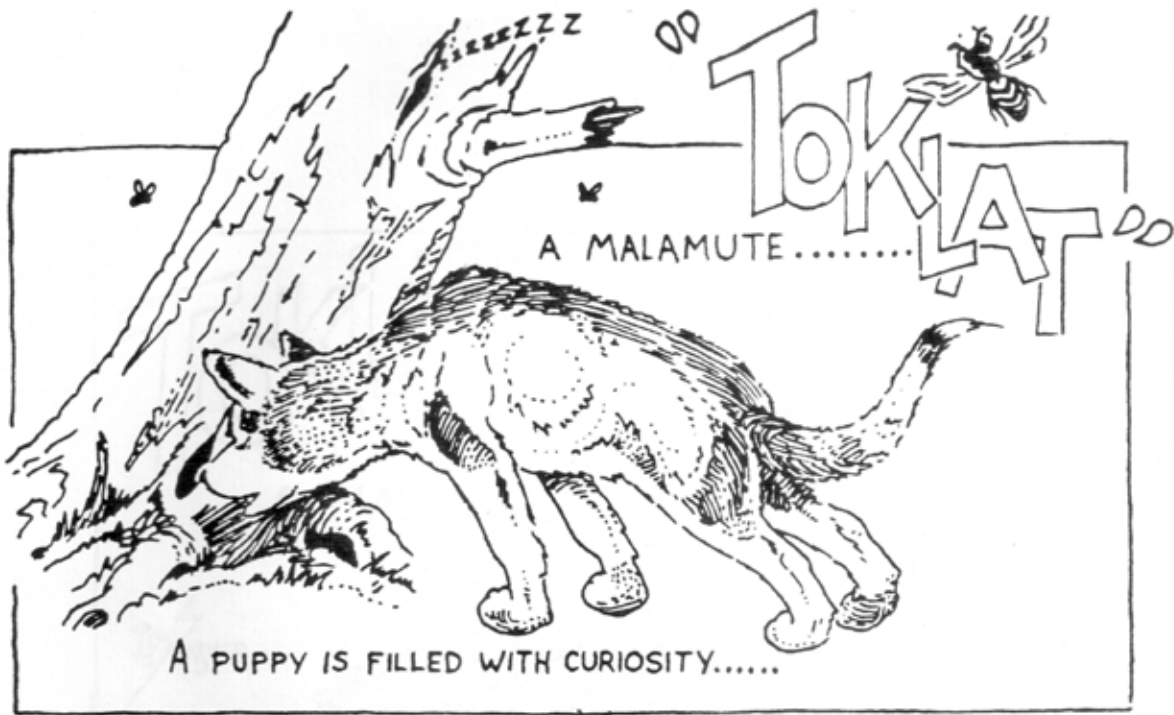
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100% ANGEL - ?!



14



AND, SOMETIMES,.....



... LUMPS!

TO BE CONTINUED...

# Ribbon Wheels and A Walk Down Memory Lane

By Lynne Nappi

Over the years I have been saving all of my dogs' ribbons in a box, never quite knowing what to do with them. I have trained and shown my Alaskan Malamutes in Performance and some Conformation for many years and cherish all of their ribbons because I know the work that went into earning them. Now, thanks to Julia Stege, a member of my dog training club in Tallahassee, I can finally display them as ribbon wheels.



LEYAH



SKI



RYDER



SKI



SNOW



SNOW IABCA

Many years ago we were fortunate to have another venue for trialing in Florida in addition to UKC and AKC—the World Wide Kennel Club. At that time they were headquartered in Ft. Meyers and only offered Obedience and Conformation. I started LEYAH, **Wayeh's Adisi Getleah** in Obedience and did manage to show her in Conformation once or twice before they pulled out of Florida. But, thanks to some influential people in the dog world, the organization came back to the Tampa Bay Area and Obedience Trials were held at my local club the Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg and at the Dog Training Club of Tampa.



LEYAH

LEYAH's breeder, Billie Stewart owner of Wayeh Kennels at that time, picked her for us and she truly was a special dog. She didn't excel in the breed ring and she didn't set the obedience world on fire, but she knew her people friends from a distance and left the ring on more than one occasion to visit. However, her reputation in obedience did precede her—the crowd always wanted to see the Malamute that chased her tail in the ring—she always caught it and then stood there with a big grin on her face as if to say “are you proud of me, Mom?” I can remember the very first time LEYAH did this. It was at the Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg trial in Clearwater, Florida. LEYAH was coming in on a recall—she stopped just out of reach, looked at me and ran into the middle of the ring and chased her tail! I was so embarrassed; but when one trains Alaskan Malamutes, it is a humbling experience and you soon get over it. And I do remember the very last time she did this—it was a trial at Ketch in Tampa, Florida. We did the heeling pattern and just when the judge called the last halt, Leyah ran into the middle of the ring to chase her tail as usual. When she came back to me I said “oh, Leyah, we were so close.” However, when we were getting ready to do the stays, the judge came up to me and said “I qualified her.” Wow! I couldn't believe it. It took LEYAH almost four years to get her CD in the WWKC because of her antics. But she also got her CD's in AKC and UKC in the same year, 2004. She was having fun and what more could I ask for? In addition to obedience,

I did show LEYAH a couple of times in WWKC conformation. She always took her breed and even got a Group 1.

Although LEYAH had a short life, she did have enough ribbons for Julia to make a ribbon wheel with all of her Obedience and Conformation ribbons from WWKC, AKC and UKC.

With the World Wide Kennel Club coming back to Florida, this gave me another venue to show my SNOW, **Wayeh's Last SnoFall of Summerlce**. When I received the WWKC's Premium List for an Obedience Trial at the Tampa club, I noticed they were also having something called Rally-O. This was new to all of us and I had no idea what it was until I remembered a very good friend of mine sent me something about Rally-O, as it was called then. I read over what my friend and SNOW's Aunt Liz sent us and said to SNOW “We can do this”.

The Rally signs today in AKC and UKC are pretty much what SNOW and I did in WWKC Rally-O back in 2002. The levels were Novice, Advanced, Masters, Masters Excellent and Champion. A perfect score was 200 and the first time any of us earned a perfect score, we were presented with a special rosette that said WWKC and Rally 200 Club. A club member from my local club was the first to receive one and I think SNOW was the second dog to receive one. One of the main differences between WWKC's Rally exercises and today's Rally exercises is that WWKC had something called the Ad Lib Box. Somewhere on the course was a 15x15 square foot area. The dog and handler entered this “box” and did seven different exercises, exited and continued with the rest of the course



LEYAH 3<sup>rd</sup> Leg



SNOW RALLY

One of the exercises I remember very well was the figure 8 around the “food bowls” with food in all four bowls. The very first time SNOW did this exercise, we were waiting for the judge to say forward and I already knew where SNOW was looking—directly at the food bowls! The judge said forward and before I could even take the first step, SNOW was checking out the bowls. I was able to call him back to me and we continued to complete the course. I decided after that, that we did need to practice that particular exercise.

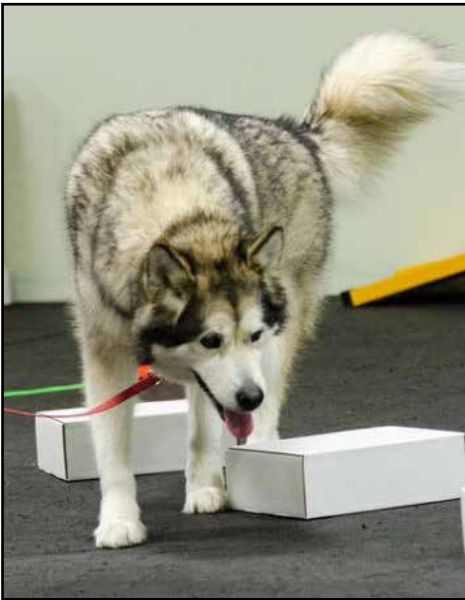
That was the beginning of SNOW's Rally journey—he went on to get his WWKC Rally Champion Title—being the very first dog and the very first Alaskan malamute to accomplish this. SNOW got his Champion Title in October 2004 before AKC and UKC even started Rally, so he really was the very first Rally Champion titled dog.

While getting SNOW's WWKC ribbons together for another ribbon wheel, I realized I did not have a rosette for the middle of the ribbon wheel—WWKC did not give out rosettes. I called my very good friend who just happens to be the owner of a ribbon company and told her my story. She said to pick one out and she would make it for me. So, SNOW's ribbon wheel includes all of his WWKC ribbons—for Rally and

Obedience and my friend's rosette. As usual Julia Stege in Tallahassee did a superb job in creating another ribbon wheel for me.

In 2005 AKC started their version of Rally and SNOW started all over again in another venue. At that time, AKC Rally levels only went to Rally Advanced Excellent—with a designated number indicating how many times that level was achieved. He did achieve his Rally Advanced Excellent 3 Title and just when I thought I would retire him, UKC started their version of Rally in 2009 and called it Rally Obedience. Of course, we continued doing UKC Rally Obedience which was a little different than AKC and a little harder. They had more levels of achievement—RO1, RO2, RO3, RO Excellent and Rally Obedience Champion. So, my SNOWMAN ended up with not one but two Rally Champion Titles from two different venues. Again, Julia took all of SNOW's AKC and UKC Rally ribbons to make another ribbon wheel for me.

At the same time I was showing SNOW in AKC and UKC Rally, I was also showing RYDER, **Wayeh Sleigh Ride of SummerIce** in AKC and UKC Rally. She did get her titles in both venues—AKC Rally Excellent and UKC Rally Obedience 3. But this was not Ryder's thing—she did not enjoy rally to the extent that SNOW did, so she retired at an early age. But, UKC came up with something new for us to do and much more fun—Nosework.



**RYDER** Scent work

Nosework involved first passing a pre-trial test, proving that your dog could detect the five different odors that were offered. There were four different elements—vehicle, interior, exterior and container searches. This was much more to RYDER's liking— instant treats reward. She did earn her UKC Nosework Title, which included titles from all four elements. And of course, when AKC started Scentwork, this was something else for her to title in—which she did.



**RYDER** Rally

And again, Julia took Ryder's AKC and UKC Rally ribbons for one wheel and her AKC and UKC Scentwork/Nosework ribbons for another wheel.

At this same time, I was also working with my new puppy—SKI, **Wayeh Ski Flyer of SummerIce**. He too was excelling at UKC and AKC Rally and AKC Scentwork. Although Ski's life was way too short, he had UKC and AKC Rally titles, UKC Conformation Titles—Best of Breed and many group placements and his AKC Scentwork Title which included the four elements—interior, exterior, containers and buried. Julia combined SKY's AKC and UKC Rally ribbons for one wheel, Conformation ribbons for another wheel and his Scentwork ribbons for still another wheel.

The next one I asked her to do was SNOWMAN's ribbons from the International All Breed Canine Association (IABCA).

First, let me explain what about IABCA. It is a European style conformation show with its headquarters in Germany, but with shows held throughout the United States. You and your dog go into the ring and the judge gives you a written critique of the dog. There are several ratings, but the highest rating is a V1 for adult dog and SG1 rating for puppies. You are allowed to talk to the judge and discuss his or her judgment of the dog. After the dog is critiqued, you receive a copy and then go back into the ring to compete for placements the same



**SKI** Scent work



**SKI Conformation**

as AKC conformation. All the dogs being judged individually can get a V1 rating, but only one can be Best of Breed, go on to Group and then to Best in Show. There were usually four shows over two days with three different judges from the U.S., Canada and Germany. It takes showing under the three judges to get a title. Once that title is achieved, there are three levels under that title—Bronze, Silver and Gold. For example, when SNOW earned the Honors Champion title, the next Honors title was Bronze, then Silver and then Gold. Each one of these required a show under three different judges. The information



**SKI Rally**

was submitted each time and the title certificate usually came from Germany. Counting SNOW's puppy titles, he earned ten titles from IABCA—from National/International Champion to World Beauty in Bronze. Although we traveled to Kentucky and Georgia for these shows, many were held in Orlando, Florida. And since I was living in St. Petersburg, Florida, Orlando was an easy trip.

One of the IABCA shows we went to in Orlando offered a new "Gold Cup" series for dogs with a particular title or higher. This was something new that I was not aware of so I entered SNOW. SNOWMAN won the Gold Cup Best Runner Up at that show and again at another show.

After moving to Tallahassee, Florida, SNOW and I did go to Conyers, Georgia for a show. This was a very memorable show because one of the judges was Mrs. Maxwell Riddle (Lenore). She awarded one of SNOW's four Best of Breed and Best in Show Veteran ribbons. The next show we went to was in Marietta, Georgia where we met his breeder, Sidney Sachs, who acquired Wayeh Kennels after Billie's death and brought two of SNOW's littermates. TOM-T took Best of Breed and Best in Show Veterans at three shows and SNOW took one Best of Breed and one Best in Show Veterans. At that time, our dogs were nine years young and the judges could not get over how fit and trim they were.



**SNOW BIS -Veteran's win**

Since most of the shows were in Orlando, it was not that easy and convenient for me to get there from Tallahassee; I decided it was time for the SNOWMAN to retire from Conformation. But that did not mean he was retired from AKC and UKC Rally and Obedience. He did go on to win many more ribbons and titles in AKC and UKC Rally Obedience.

After getting SNOW's ribbons together for Julia, I realized all I had were his Best in Show Veterans rosettes and his two Gold Cup rosettes because all the "ribbons" were snippets attached to his certificates. Julia

was able to use his Best in Show rosettes which were black and white and one of his Gold Cup rosettes to fill in around the other Gold Cup rosette.

Going through the boxes and looking for all of my dogs' ribbons was so much fun and brought back such wonderful memories and some bitter-sweet—memories that will never fade. And just as writing this and remembering what a wonderful journey it has been, the memories will always remain. Julia ended up doing a total of nine ribbons wheels for me! What amazes me is that no two are alike. They will hang on the wall close to my dogs' plaques and bars where I will be able to enjoy them and not just have them boxed away.



## **7 KEY FACTS ABOUT GREENLAND DOGS**

*Thanks to Nicola Singh for sending us some information on your mals' kennel mates.*

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***Greenland contains the largest population of sled dogs (huskies) in the Arctic and is unique in maintaining its traditional dog sledding culture. Read on to discover 7 key facts about this remarkable animal and its importance to the Greenlandic people.***

The Greenlandic Sled Dog (a type of husky) is a national icon and an important part of the Greenlandic identity. Brought to the island almost 5,000 years ago, they were instrumental in enabling the Inuit to explore and survive in the harsh Arctic environment and continue to play an important role in the daily life of many Greenlanders.

### **1. Where are sled dogs found in Greenland?**

Greenlandic sled dogs can only be found North of the Arctic Circle and on the East Coast. It is prohibited to bring another breed of dog into these areas and if a Greenlandic sled dog leaves this restricted zone, it is not allowed to return.

The reasons for this are:

1. the lack of sea ice South of the Arctic Circle during winter. This makes traditional forms of hunting - especially those that use sled dogs - almost impossible
2. the desire to keep the Greenlandic sled dog race pure and disease-free. By limiting the range of the Greenlandic dog, sheep farmers in South Greenland are able to use border collies and other breeds more suited to working with animals, and many Greenlanders are able to keep other types of dogs as pets.

The only exception to this rule is in Kangerlussuaq, which lies very close to, but just South of the Arctic Circle.

### **2. How many sled dogs are there in Greenland?**

There are now about 15,000 sled dogs in Greenland.

While this might sound like a lot (after all, the human population of Greenland is only 56,000), it is almost half the number that existed just 20 years ago. This is partially due to:

1. climate change. The lack of sea ice (particularly South of the Arctic Circle) means that hunters and fishermen can no longer use dogsleds. They now use boats - even during Winter.
2. the higher costs of keeping dogs compared to a boat or snowmobile. Dogs must be raised, fed and tended to all year round, while boats and snowmobiles only require fuel and a small amount of maintenance. The cost of dog food has also increased in Greenland, and catching enough meat to feed a team of dogs requires a significant amount of time.

The result is a very uncertain future for this unique breed, but one that is acknowledged and taken very seriously in Greenland.

### **3. Why are Greenlandic sled dogs so special?**

The Greenlandic sled dog is a very specific breed of husky found nowhere else in the world. Like all other kinds of sled dogs, they have been bred for stamina, hardiness, and intelligence under Arctic conditions (for example, they are very good at reading ice conditions), and over the millennia of working with humans, they have developed a special relationship with us. Watching a trained musher (dog sled driver) negotiate obstacles with the team is a highlight of any visit to the Arctic.

### **4. What commands are used to control the dogs?**

In Greenland, mushers generally use the words **IJU** to instruct the dogs to go left and **ILI** for them to go right. But this isn't universal. It simply depends on what words the musher uses to train the dogs.

Mushers also use a dogsled whip as a guiding tool, never for punishment. The musher cracks the whip in such a way that the dogs run away from the sound. ie. if the dogs should go left, the musher cracks the whip to the right, and visa versa. This is sometimes much more effective than voice commands.

Fun story: A renowned dogsled racer who taught his dogs the words in reverse - ILI for left and IJU for right. He was apparently able to influence the other dogsled teams he was racing against to go the wrong way!

## 5. Dog sled racing is a national sport

Every year there is a national competition for dog sled racing called **Avannaata Qimussersua**. It is held in a different town each year, and because the distances between the towns are so large and there are no roads in Greenland, the teams of sled dogs are often flown in with a big Sikorsky helicopter.

Interesting snippet: The Greenlandic sled dog was never bred for racing. It was bred to hunt polar bears and pull heavy sleds on a long hunt. For this reason, when racing against other sled dog breeds, it often doesn't do well.

## 6. Should I go on a dog sled tour in Greenland?

Yes! Dog sledding is a way of life in Greenland and an important part of the cultural heritage. By going on a dog sledding tour, you will help to keep this tradition alive and supplement the income of the musher who finds it more and more difficult to maintain the dogs.

The dogs themselves are bred to run and relish the opportunity to pull. They are not whipped or harmed in any way (the dogsled whip is struck beside the pack, not on it) and it is the best way to experience the silence of the Arctic winter in an authentic way.

Important fact: You must never approach a Greenlandic sled dog unless given permission by the owner. Although dogs older than 6 months must be chained by law, puppies are allowed to roam freely. If they approach you or follow you, that is fine. But keep your distance from the adult dogs.

## 7. Can I go dogsledding during the Summer?

Yes! But, there is only one place in Greenland where you can do this - Disko Island.

High above the settlement of Qeqertarsuaq, is the Lyngmarksbræen (Lyngmark) Glacier. This is "dead glacier" that no longer moves or calves, but is a great place to find snow at any time of the year. It is a fairly steep climb to the top of the 900m tall mountain to arrive at the glacier and the hike can take anywhere between 2 and 4 hours, depending on your fitness and how many photo stops you have. But the effort is totally worth it.

From the top, the views over Disko Bay and its enormous icebergs are incredible, and it is a unique experience to go dogsledding with a proper sled (rather than with wheels underneath) during the Summer. There are also 2 very comfortable "huts" near the glacier, and we highly recommend staying overnight if possible.

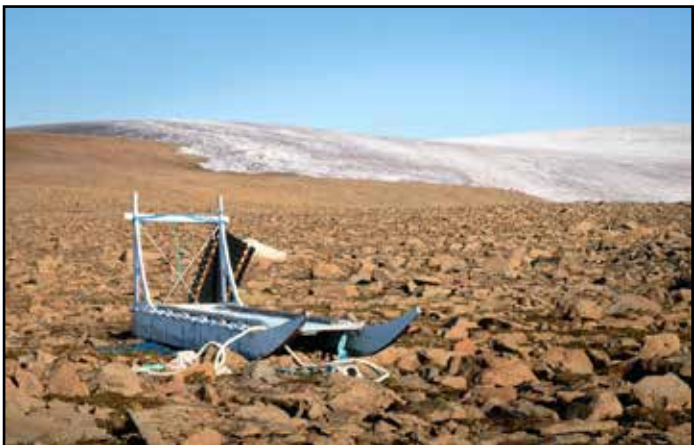
## The uncertain future for the Greenlandic sled dog

Fewer and fewer Greenlanders see dog sledding as a viable means of hunting, so less of the skills and techniques associated with this tradition are being passed down to future generations.

It has now reached a point where some prominent hunters and mushers have called for the government to embed this cornerstone of Greenlandic culture into the education of young people, and it may end up being tourists looking for an authentic Arctic experience who save the sled dog and this heritage.

*Thanks to Lasse Inuk Kyed for the original article on which this is based.*





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