

On October 24<sup>th</sup> CCA was once again represented at the Hartford Pet Expo and took part in the Meet the Breeds portion of the show for the third year. Our area was decorated with some of the posters from the New York



*In the ring with the Working Group-Patti Richards, Nancy Bartol and Forever Greene Qannik and Talis at Hartford Meet the Breeds*

City event and was definitely the most colorful and informative display there. The attendance seemed to be smaller this year, but many of the people that visited us said they came back to see the Chinooks again and to get their Chinook fix.

In December the plan is to attend the AKC show in Providence, RI to take part in their Meet the Breeds event. This show has in the past been the Bay Colony Cluster, but be-

cause the Bayside Convention Center is being renovated the show has moved to Providence for this year. It is always a fun time and we will again visit with Mari-Beth O'Neill. If you would be interested in participating in this event please contact myself or Nancy Bartol.

As we move closer to AKC recognition, now is the time to get involved! Steward at a show, an Obedience trial, volunteer at an Agility Trial, or join your local AKC club. You will have the opportunity to see the pros handling at a show and to watch some amazing dogs at Obedience and Agility Trials. I hope that many of you will enter some of these events this year. It is fun and you have the opportunity to form an even closer bond with your Chinook.

I hope to see you somewhere soon.

*Patti*

## 2009 CCA Specialty: A "Match" Made in Heaven

The leaves had already begun to turn colors and the air was crisp and clear on the eve of CCA's 2nd annual Specialty. Those of us staying at the Red Roof in Nashua, NH got together before dinner to meet and greet. Local girl, Janine Johnson, dropped by with Intervale's Odin and Sorrin. While breeders and owners offered observations, the dogs did their own version of meet and greet which entailed a lot of sniffing and tail wagging! Later, dinner was at LiuLiu's, where pizza and drinks were quickly eaten while the topic of conversation was dogs, dogs, dogs! Then it was back to the hotel and gearing up for Sunday.



*Jared Crouch with Intervale's Luna, Emma, Nancy Bartol, Intervale's Odin, Sorrin and*



*Patti Richards, Deb Meese, Debbie Premus, Candace Mizell, John and Leslie Donais, Perry Richards - Dinner at LiuLiu's*

silly colts chased each other around the paddocks. But dog owners of all sorts were busy setting up rings, tables, crates and tents. Show Secretary Patti Richards took care of the entries while Match Chair Nancy Bartol and other committee members worked on the ring. Doreen Palmer set up her rally course and tables loaded with t-shirts, ribbons and gift bags, murals and pictures seem to magically appear.

Peter Richards, Perry Greene's grandson, his wife, Brenda and son, Perry set up an impressive display of historical memorabilia that focused on the early years of the breed, and in particular, Perry Greene's legacy.



*Perry Greene Grandson Peter Richards with his wife, Brenda*

Getting the day started, Debbie Premus, took off her Vice-president's hat, donned her judge's cap and conducted a handling seminar to get the participants in the groove of showing in the breed ring. Then AKC Judge Ed Hall arrived and the Specialty got down to business. Mr. Hall has been an AKC judge for over 30 years and is approved to judge the hound group as well as Siberians, Dobermans, Malamutes in the working group, Bouviers des Flandres (herding), and all breeds in Jr. Showmanship. The results from Mr. Hall's judging, and his comments are as follows:



*Chinook Central*

## PUPPY CLASS:

PUPPY DOGS 3-6 MOS.

1ST - LAKESIDE RUN'S LITTLE BEAR

**BEST PUPPY DOG:** LAKESIDE RUN'S LITTLE BEAR

PUPPY BITCH 12-18 MOS.

1ST - FOREVER GREENE QANNIK

**BEST PUPPY BITCH:** FOREVER GREENE QANNIK

**BEST PUPPY IN MATCH: FOREVER GREENE QANNIK**

## OPEN DOG

1ST - GRANITE HILL ENATAI RAIN

**\*BEST OF BREED: FOREVER GREENE TALIS\***

**BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX TO BEST OF BREED:** GRANITE HILL ENATAI RAIN

## OPEN BITCH

1ST. - FOREVER GREENE TALIS



*A well-stacked dog, Best Puppy in Match, Forever Greene Qannik and owner handler Patti Richards*



*AKC Judge Ed Hall and BOB Forever Greene Talis and owner Patti Richards*

## AKC JUDGE ED HALL COMMENTS

First of all I want to thank the Chinook Club of America for asking me to judge their Specialty in 2009. It was indeed an honor to do so and to have such a large entry of Chinooks of good quality for a breed that has so few specimens.

I found your new standard to be quite clear as to what you wanted and after studying it, I was able to come up with what I felt was needed for this sled dog who also serves as a family dog when not pulling a sled.

Both my Breed Dog and my Best Of Opposite Sex were in the size range I determined would serve best in these two functions. Their length of leg, length of neck, color, head shape, and disposition fulfilled what I was looking for. Their bodies had the right amount of chest without being overdone with nice bone to match. Since I also judge other sled dogs, I found these specimens to meet the criteria for easily pulling a sled with the difference specified in your standard..

There was also one young dog that I would like to see as an adult as I feel he contains a lot of potential. As breeders of your

beloved breed you need to watch these young ones develop to help you determine early on which ones that are bred will add to your line. I would also recommend your having 'parties' to go over litters so everyone can learn as much about picking puppies as possible. Taking early measurements, viewing profiles, and watching young temperament will help you to more easily pick the right dog for 3 years down the road. Doing so just before their 8 week departure has worked well for us. In Elkhounds we find that the profile they have at that time is the one they eventually return to after going through all their awkward stages. If they do not move well then or have good angulation, they never will in spite of all our wishes and hopes. It would be my pleasure to be part of one of these sessions. I have done this with so many breeds as a method of learning about the breed and have become much more knowledgeable about such breeds as Ibizan Hounds, Pharaoh Hounds, English Foxhounds, Finnish Lapphounds, Greyhounds and other rare breeds by doing so. I also recommend you go and view other breeds at that stage also - you will surprised how much you learn from a knowledgeable breeder, even if not a breeder of Chinooks. Viewing pictures via the Internet at intervals can also be helpful with this after the initial session.

Do watch the length of leg you maintain as I found too large a percentage of my Chinook entry with short legs - I know that is not the end all for the breed, but it is an important part of a sled dog to have legs of good length. You do specify a deep chest and a dog of shorter leg will give that appearance, but I do not think that is your intention. In Elkhounds we specify that the 'distance from brisket to ground appears to be half the height at the wither'. Because of this I spend a lot of time explaining that with 1 to 1 ½ inches of hair on the underside we actually want about 54% leg to 46% chest and not 50% leg to chest .

I very much enjoyed the temperament of your breed as presented by my entry - just be aware of the stages that are important in most breeds and read up on same so you develop your Chinooks to be steady and loving when the need it the most. As a judge the eyes reveal a lot about this and I saw great things there as I did my hands-on examinations.

What would be especially nice is if the bitch I put up was line bred. If so, she could be bred to many different males as similar to her as possible and then the offspring bred to one another to firmly develop the breed. Progeny from the best of her offspring bred together could be used to develop numerous foundation bitches for other kennels to develop from and they could follow the same procedure. You will also quickly find out the faults which dominate your breed and can work to eliminate them.

You probably wonder how I know this works - well that is how we started our own kennel and now in the 13th generation



*AKC Judge Ed Hall with BOB Granite Hill Enatai Rain and owner John Donais*



we are still producing Best In Show winners. Back in 1960 we did not have many more Norwegian Elkhounds in New England than the number of Chinooks you have.

I want to wish you the best in continuing to develop the Chinook Dog - they are a breed I have very much enjoyed judging and will continue to do so once they are in the miscellaneous class.

P.S. You may be intrigued by how quickly word of the New Hampshire State Dog is spreading across the country - hold on - you may be surprised at what this does if people found out what a great breed this is!

*Ed Hall*

## **SWEEPS AND JR. SHOWMANSHIP**

Judge Susan Parsons took the ring. Susan is a CCA member, former board member, and has 30 years experience as an AKC judge (Terrier Group, Jr Showmanship), breeder and handler. She has judged Chinooks in various matches over the past 6 years.

### **VETERANS SWEEPSTAKES**

#### **VETERANS 7-10 YEARS OLD**

1ST - LIGHTHOUSE MYSTIC SEAPORT

**BEST VETERAN: LIGHTHOUSE MYSTIC SEAPORT**

### **PUPPY SWEEPSTAKES**

#### **PUPPY DOGS 3-6 MOS.**

1ST - LAKESIDE RUN'S LITTLE BEAR

**BEST PUPPY DOG: GRANITE HILL HOWLET**

#### **PUPPY BITCH 12-18 MOS.**

1ST - GRANITE HILL SUZIE B

**BEST PUPPY BITCH: GRANITE HILL SUZIE B**

**BEST PUPPY IN SWEEPS: GRANITE HILL HOWLET**

### **JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP**

1ST - ASHER ST GEORGE

2ND - BENJAMIN CRAIG

**BEST JUNIOR SHOWMAN: ASHER ST. GEORGE**



*Chester Holleran and Best Puppy in Sweeps Granite Hill Howlet*



*Jr. Show, Ben Craig gaits Balsam Ridge Lincoln around the ring*



*Jr Show, Asher Crouch and Intervale Imp Face wait their turn in the ring*



*Jr Show AKC Judge Susan Parsons with Asher Crouch and Intervale Imp Face and Ben Craig with Balsam Ridge Lincoln*

## **AKC JUDGE SUSAN PARSONS COMMENTS:**

Firstly, I would like to thank the Specialty Committee for inviting me to judge the sweepstakes and Junior Show entries.

Juniors judging is always fun and this assignment took the cake. I had two PeeWee entries (ages 4 and 5). The dogs were extremely patient with the boys...especially when one of the exhibitors slid into home coming back to the judge. Since neither child had any experience, I kept the instructions simple. Go out to that post, turn around and come back to me. The boys did VERY well and it was a tough decision on placements. I wish I had two firsts!

Veterans judging is always emotional. The old ladies and gentleman were out there, strutting their stuff, remembering when they were young and taking on all comers in the ring. Some didn't move as rapidly as they used to, some came back to the judge and sat down. That's all right with me! Each one of my entries deserved the huge round of applause they received from the gallery of spectators. This was their day and they looked like they were enjoying themselves. My Best Veteran in Sweeps was a bitch I have loved since I first saw her years ago.

Puppies. What can you say??? I have a LOT of fun with them...always do. The babies in the 3-6 months class showed a lot of promise. Nice headpieces, good movement (when they wanted to). GREAT attitude.

The older "pups" (actually they were juniors) were starting to pull their acts together. This is an awkward stage (think of a 14 year old boy!!), the stage I refer to as the Gawd Awfuls. But my single male entry was a knockout despite a novice handler.



*Veterans, Lighthouse Mystic Seaport owner handler Patti Richards*



*Nancy Bartol with Veteran Intervale Imp Face*

If I didn't have so many males myself, I would have taken him home. Lovely head, steady, mile-eating gait, a very balanced pup. This one should finish his championship in quick order.

All in all, it was a beautiful day spent with friendly people and happy dogs.

*Susan Parsons*

Last up was the Brace and Sled Dog Classes. These were judged by long-time breeder and CCA Vice-President, Debbie Premus. Debbie has been involved with Chinooks since 1990 and Siberian Huskies since 1982 and is one of the longest tenured breeders in Chinooks.

## BRACE

### 1ST. - INTERVALE BROWN EYED GIRL AND INTERVALE ONCE IN A BLUE MOON

## SLED DOG

### 1ST - BALSAM RIDGE LINCOLN



*Sled Dog, Balsam Ridge  
Lincoln owner handler Ann  
Eakin*



*Brace, Judge Debbie Premus  
examines the brace class*



*Jared Crouch with Best  
Brace Team Intervale's  
Brown Eyed Girl and  
Once in a Blue Moon*



*Brace and Sled Dog  
Judge Debbie Premus*

## SPECIALTY JUDGE DEBBIE PREMUS COMMENTS:

As a breeder-judge for the Sled Dog and Brace classes, I felt that the 2009 National Specialty had a remarkably nice entry with more uniformity than is typical of specialties in our breed. This was especially encouraging considering that the Open Registration drew many entries this year who were not previously listed or eligible for AKC FSS.

I am in concurrence with Ed Hall's comments about proportions and felt

that the winners all exhibited good leg length and length-to-height ratios without being extreme. In addition to the shorter leg lengths already noted as a point of caution, I would also guard against allowing the breed to become too square and overly leggy to the point where it affects pulling power and the ability to cover ground efficiently. Although the majority of entries exhibited fairly good proportions, I felt that there were also a small handful of dogs that were closer to square than the slightly rectangular proportions specified by our standard.

It does surprise me that there was some question about the proportions as stated in our new standard, but it is good feedback. Having been involved with the breed for some time and with a numerical ratio given, I would not have expected this to be the most difficult part of our new standard to interpret. However, as it was pointed out, the wording differs from what judges may be familiar with in standards for other sled pulling breeds and we should probably be alert for similar comments from other judges.

My breeding advice would be a little different than suggested by our regular class judge and it probably comes from a more in-depth knowledge that I have of our gene pool as a senior breeder. The things that I see least consistently in our breed are typey heads, chest development, bone, size, and substance, all features often remarked about when discussing the difference between historic and modern Chinooks. While I most definitely feel that the BOB and BOS winners would positively contribute to our gene pool, I also think it would be a mistake to overlook these qualities when they occur in other exhibits, especially in a very rare breed where as many good dogs as possible need to be kept in our gene pool to prevent inbreeding levels from climbing too high.

With the above in mind, I felt the winner of the Sled Dog Class that I judged had best overall combination of proportions, type, bone and substance in his class and demonstrated that he could cover ground efficiently and soundly. His excellent front and rear angulation along with a sound topline were why I placed him first; two inches more of wither height would have been ideal. Another exhibit that placed lower was a substantial dog with a somewhat overdone chest. Although his placement was the result of having "too much of a good thing," this kind of dog could be carefully bred and used to improve weak fronts that are still common in our breed. Two Chinooks that I faulted most for short leg length also had particularly typey heads and, if bred to mates with better proportions, have the potential to produce especially typey offspring with more bone than is typical of mod-



ern Chinooks. So, I would encourage future exhibitors and breeders to strive for the best, but not become so fixated on wins that they miss the merits of other dogs that could prove valuable to their breeding programs.

Also essential to a breeding program is the ability to produce type and quality consistently. I felt that the brace class winners both conformed to the standard and demonstrated uniform type and soundness, qualities important for a breed developed to work in matched teams.

Many thanks and congratulations to all who participated in the 2009 CCA specialty!

*Debbie Premus*

Trophies, ribbons and gift bags were given out and CCA would like to thank the generosity of John & Leslie Donais, Peter & Brenda Richards, Wendy St. George and Jared Crouch, Al Peed and Nancy Bartol, Perry & Patti Richards, Candace Mizell, Carie Taylor and KJ and Scott Krammes.

## RALLY OBEDIENCE

We finished the day with a Rally workshop. Doreen Palmer, noted trainer, shared her expertise and her demonstration dog, Eastern Waters' Sea "Zephyr" \*VCD2\*, RE, CDX, TDX, CGC, \*OA\*, OAJ, \*NF\*, \*WD\* showed why he has all those titles!

Trainer and dog worked as a unit showing what patience, fun and consistency can accomplish – and not just in the ring! Rally is a more relaxed version of obedience where dog and owner go from station to station following written instructions. Some instructions are strictly obedience – sit, stays and heeling – while others incorporate tricks. All the while, you can talk to your dog and exact obedience is not required. After the workshop, owners and dogs had fun trying their hand at the mini-course Doreen set up.



*Doreen Palmer with Zephyr shows how to do Rally*

Late afternoon, the match and show ended about the same time and as the facility was closing, there was a mad rush to clean up, load, purchase one of Nancy Bartol's beautiful tie-dyed specialty T-shirts and run through the brewery and gift shop.

Somewhere in there, we squeezed in a very abbreviated annual meeting (since there was no business, it was a short meeting!). The quiet returned to Merrimack as we all headed home.

The committee would like to thank the Judges, Ed Hall, Susan Parsons, Debbie Premus and Rally Instructor Doreen Palmer who donated their time and expertise to our Specialty. We'd also like thank all those who participated that day. Kudos to the Specialty committee whose hard work paid off! Show, Trial and Trail Chair, Candace Mizell wins the prize for most travel – all the way from Texas! Debbie Premus was second, coming from Ohio. Photo galleries are courtesy of KJ Krammes, Nancy Bartol, Leslie Donais, Deb Meese and Jude Griffin. Best food ever at a dog show was provided by JoAnn Smith and husband, Tony Duarte!

The committee is looking for other venues to hold events and would like to rotate the Specialty location so more people can be involved. If you have comments, questions, suggestions or would like to get involved, contact Candace at chinook4me@windstream.com. For the Specialty results and full pictorial experience, go to the club website, [www.Chinookclubofamerica.org](http://www.Chinookclubofamerica.org) and click on the banner or menu button about the Specialty.

*KJ Krammes*



*Specialty T-shirt*



*Chef JoAnn Smith and husband Tony Duarte provided wonderful food*



*John Donais, CCA Health Chair Nancy Bartol, JoAnnSmith, Jude Griffin, Wendy St.George, Jared Crouch, Joann Powell, Donna Canfield, Judge/CCA VP Debbie Premus, CCA Registrar KJ Krammes, Judge Susan Parsons, Tom Goldthwaite, CCA President Patti and Perry Richards, CCA Show, Trial & Trail Chair Candace Mizell, Deb Meese, Chester Holleran, Syd and Ben Craig, Ann Eakin, Leslie Donais*