

Paws to Dance

The Newsletter of the Canine Freestyle Federation, Inc.
February, 2008



But Wait! There's More!

by Julia Gregory



Take a look at the reports of the First Florida and Sirius Guilds. Go ahead. Flip back and read them. It will only take a moment. (tick, tock, tick, tock) Do you see the common thread? Sure you do! Those women are emphasizing the importance of their human freestyle friends to their own advancement in the sport. Yes, it's all about the dog, but we simply cannot do this sport well without the assistance of friends, trusted friends. We create a movement piece with our beloved dogs that exposes part of our hearts and then we bare that to a group of people. In canine language, we have offered them our throats. We have to trust them not to take a death grip. We have to trust them to tell us the truth without hurting our feelings so badly that we quit.

So where do we find these friends? Well, of course we have built a relationship gradually with our guild mates. And perhaps we are most comfortable with them, but there is a whole body of new friends, members of the CFF family, who are waiting to get to know you better and see the message in your movement, and help you and learn from you. I'll bet you know where I'm going with this! They will be waiting for you at Retreat!

Yes, the classes are the driving force of Retreat. That's where we immerse ourselves in new ideas and perspectives that can open doors onto whole new arenas of creativity. But it's the people who teach these classes; it's the people who take these classes who can make up a whole new set of eyes that care about how you and your dog look and are willing to help you and want you to help them. What could be better?

I'll tell you what could be better! You could not only indulge in freestyle with these people, but you could enjoy Tennessee's Scenic City with them. No matter what your other interests beside dogs may be, there's something fun for you to do in Chattanooga. See the CFF website for details about an extra day of fun. There is a very special offer at the Tennessee Aquarium because that's where your newsletter editor works. She has arranged with her elders and betters to give you the most satisfying aquarium experience you have ever had. Particulars for that are also on the website.

Why am I urging you so hard to come to Retreat? OK, I can't fool you. I'm on the planning committee, so I want you to come. I love to show off my hometown, so I want you to come. But most of all, I believe in my heart of hearts, the heart that I offer to my dog on the floor, that Retreat is one of the three most valuable things you can do to excel in the sport of Canine Freestyle. What are the other two? They will be posted at the registration table. I hope to see you there!

The Freestyle Journey

by Shari Bryant

I thought it interesting that the theme for this year's retreat is "The Freestyle Journey". As I was preparing for the upcoming titling event and retreat, I was reflecting on Sky's freestyle journey so far. Sky is a wild, wonderful, nearly 5-year old whippet. Sky learns behaviors quickly, but he does not generalize well. He needs to be shown how to do a behavior in many different locations before he's remotely reliable performing it on cue. Also, although Sky enjoys freestyle, his motto is: Payment is due when services are rendered.

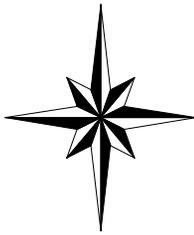
Since Sky doesn't generalize well and it is difficult for me to duplicate the show environment, I entered him in the Sirius Guild's event in March 2006 for fun and experience. When I sent in the entry, he could perform for 45 seconds before getting "paid". So, I entered Level I thinking we couldn't get in much trouble if he was on lead. If he opted out after 45 seconds, I knew the lead would prevent him from jumping in someone's lap, stealing a tasty treat off a table, or otherwise wreaking havoc. He was focused, enthusiastic, and he got his Level I title the first time out. And yes, he got a big paycheck, his favorite, Domino's thin crust cheese pizza with extra cheese!

The Canis Major Guild and First Florida Freestylers Guild events in April were only six weeks away. Based on Sky's Level I performance, I entered Level II. We were off lead now and my only goal was for him to stay with me during his performance. When we arrived, all he wanted to do was go in his crate. So, I knew if he did leave the performance space, he'd go straight for his crate...at least he wouldn't cause much collateral damage. He stayed with me, made it over a minute and a half before getting "paid", and he did it two days in a row! We didn't qualify, but came darned close the second day!

After attending the retreat in June, I learned Sky's Level II music really wasn't the best choice for him. So, I selected new music and choreographed a new routine. We entered Level II in CFF's event in November 2006. We didn't score poorly, but Sky didn't seem to enjoy performing which really disturbed me. I decided to tweak the routine thinking maybe the choreography was too boring for him and try again next year. The opening shape began with him in a stand and moving from there. One day, during practice, as soon as the music started he went into a down. After this happened three times in a row, I realized he was trying to tell me something (yes, I'm a little dense sometimes) – he doesn't like the music. Come to think of it, I never did ask his opinion and maybe that is why he didn't enjoy performing. Note to self: Sky definitely has music preferences.

So, for our next Level II routine (yes, another one, apparently I hadn't learned what I needed to learn yet), I got Sky's seal of approval on the music. I edited the song to a minute and 48 seconds. For most of my routines, I am prepared to modify or change some of the behaviors within the routine because sometimes Sky decides he can't perform a certain behavior on the day of the event. We entered Level II in the Canis Major Guild and First Florida Freestylers Guild events in June 2007. However, the week before the event, Sky decided a minute and 48 seconds was too long to work without getting paid. I re-edited the music to just over a minute and a half. So, I came to the event with two edits of the same music, two slightly different routines, as well as the ability to modify or change some of the behaviors depending on Sky's mood. Besides one minor crash between us at the beginning, he did very well, I remembered the routine, and he got his Level II title. Since we were in FEO the second day, I asked him to try the longer routine. Although he made it through, I felt I lost him for a short period toward the end.

Continued on page 5



Sirius Guild

"Where Every Dog Is A Star!"
Nan Marks

At the end of the harvest season we gathered at the two day Sirius Guild and CFF show November 10 and 11 and celebrated the partnership of the dance. Some celebrated by participating and all celebrated by supporting each team and truly enjoying the wonder of two species coming together as one. Both shows brought us rich, heartwarming and marvelously diverse performances. On the afternoon of the first day of the show we also had our first annual canine games and were treated to a relaxed and fun filled session of amazing tricks (and sounds). With the New Year we come to a time of reflection, renewal and recommitment.

This is no easy task we set ourselves. There is a quote and to my shame I don't know the author. "He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion."

Sometimes I am stunned to consider what this amazing sport of ours asks: to show your dog, your canine partner, to his or her best advantage; to be as one. When I see it achieved, it is a gift beyond measure. For many of us it is still a quest; sometimes tantalizingly close, sometimes remote. It takes love and commitment but also knowledge, skill, and the insight of those who see us and our partners better than we see ourselves. For all these reasons we at the Sirius Guild long for and anticipate rejoicing in the learning, insight and joy that awaits us this spring at the Retreat in Tennessee.

Canis Major Guild

by Julia Gregory
jmg@tnaqua.org



During November and December, the Canis Major Guild members fell prey to the holidays just like so many people. Family get-togethers, travel, parties, benefit events and exhaustion dominated our lives. But we have taken hold of the new year with an energy and optimism that is a delight to be caught up in. The fact that Retreat will be held here gives us added motivation to practice and train so that we can take full advantage of this unprecedented opportunity right in our own back yard. We have scheduled an ambitious line-up of classes and work sessions. We're expecting some new folks to join us at those to prepare for Retreat. At least four of us intend to have one or more entries in the titling event. Oh, it's grand to be freestylin' again!

All of us are involved in some way in the planning and execution of Retreat. It is our fondest hope that many, many of you will come to that event and have the most fantastic time you've ever had with your dog. The potential is certainly there!

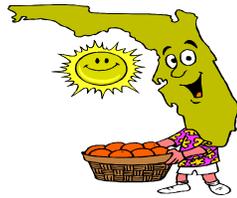
As guild reporter, here's my personal challenge to you ... Let's say that you've decided you "can't" come to Retreat for some reason. Email me and let's brainstorm a solution to your challenge. In the end, I may not be able to help, but last summer I convinced my department head to give me an extra week of paid time off to take my son with me to my bug conference in Arizona! Let's give YOUR sticky wicket a try!



Guild News More Staccato Notes

First Florida Freestylers Guild

by Gaea Mitchel



First Florida Guild is suffering from impending homelessness. Our training facility is being repurposed. We will have one more meeting in our central location (meaning no one has to drive more than three hours each way) and then we will be scrambling to try to get together to share ideas and observations. The guild approach is so important to this sport that I can't imagine how any one person can do it alone. You can't see what the picture is from inside it, and without the kind and honest observations of trusted friends we risk wandering in a fog. Worse, we risk embarrassing our dogs by presenting them as less than they can be. I suspect we will find a way, if we use our creativity, to solve the problem. We are all motivated to continue to expand our horizons within the sport. Wish us luck.

Misha Guild, Utah

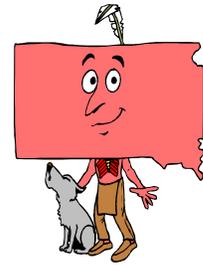
By Susan Colledge



It's winter in Utah! We had to cancel a couple weeks of class because of snow. One day we got over 18 inches. It has been a mess. We can hardly wait for January and February to be over. We're ready for spring.

Two of us are looking forward to coming to retreat. We hope to meet lots of you there and share the joy of freestyle.

Dances With Woofs South Dakota



By Dawn Madge

Hi All!!! Not too much happening out here in the SNOWY west. We are in the doldrums of winter and it's COOOOLLLLLDDDD out here; four degrees below zero to be specific. We continue to meet every other Friday and we are putting on a demo at a local nursing home Wednesday, January 30. We continue to work on our routines in hopes of having a show.



Up-Coming Events

You won't want to miss it!

**April 25-27, 2008: Freestyle
Retreat IV,
Chattanooga, TN**

**Nov 8-9, 2008 Freestyle Shows
Fredericksburg, VA**

CAROLINA CANINE FREESTYLE GUILD



by Shari Bryant

In late 2006, a few of us in North Carolina decided to form a guild. We had been involved with CFF since at least 2002. We would occasionally get together for a training session, and one year, Kay Richards came and taught a class for us each quarter. However, we decided we were interested in having more regular training sessions and possibly holding a titling event in North Carolina. We found several others that were interested in CFF. We applied for provisional guild status and were accepted.

Our seven members have diverse experience in training and exhibiting in a variety of canine sports. A couple of our members have experience hosting seminars, and we're looking to their expertise for fund-raising activities. A couple of our members have experience as show chairman/secretary for canine events, and we're looking to their expertise when we are ready to host a titling event.

We met a couple of times in 2007 and discussed fund-raising events, titling events, and had training sessions. In 2008, we hope to hold several meetings, continue to provide training opportunities for our members, and possibly hold a seminar. Our goal is to host a titling event in either 2009 or 2010. At least two of our members plan to enter the titling event and attend the retreat in Chattanooga in April.

Freestyle Journey
continued from page 2

I entered Sky in Level III at CFF's event in November 2007. Sky's Level III music was 2 minutes and 10 seconds. I was a little concerned about the length, especially since he had difficulty with one minute and 48 seconds for Level II. But, he loved the music and the choreography was complex which holds his attention better. I had five opening shapes. As I doodled with each, a very good friend of mine observed that Sky seemed to have better focus if I didn't ask him to turn away from me in the first 10-15 seconds of the routine. So, I used an opening shape where he didn't turn away from me. He performed his best ever, got his Level III title, and, of course, a ton of pizza!

Now it's on to Level IV, which we plan to enter in April 2008. We're adding another 30 seconds to the time he needs to perform and it will be in a new venue. So, we'll see...at the very least, it will be fun and we'll both gain more experience.

As I was reflecting on our journey so far, I started thinking...does the freestyle journey end after one gets a Level IV title? I don't think it does. I remember my Kung Fu instructor telling me that getting a black belt was not the end. He explained that once you achieved black belt status you now had the knowledge and experience you needed to really learn the ART of Kung Fu. Something tells me that it's very similar in freestyle. Once we achieve Level IV, the journey continues because we now will have the knowledge and experience to really learn the art of freestyle.

Canine Freestyle Show Results

November 10—11, 2007

What a weekend of celebrating our dogs. Many many thanks to the competitors for sharing their dogs with all of us. Thank you to the judges, Susan Allen, Brandy Clymire, Susan Colledge, Kay Richards and Kristin Sicotte who did such a fine job your time and effort is greatly appreciated. We had a number of folks who were scribes, tally scribes. ring stewards and did trophies all of them contributed to this being a highly successful weekend. Special thanks again go to our music man Jim Moore and to our videographer Cameron Foster who had Fred Brown working with him.

Sponsored by Sirius Guild Saturday November 10, 2007

Level I

First Place Renee Filep's Border Collie Radiant's I'll Zig U Can Zag

Second Place Marian Hardy's Toy Poodle Ping

Level IIA

First Place Nancy Sanders' Belgian Sheepdog Signature's Chance

Second Place Renee Filep's Border Collie Radiant's Chili Wil Do TDI, CGC

Level IIB

First Place Janet McBrien's Welsh Terrier CH Brightluck's Double Bonus JE, Therapy Dog **NEW TITLE**

Level III

First Place Sally Kirschenman's Old English Sheepdog Ch Seathwaites's Calamity Jane CD, CFFII **NEW TITLE**

Second Place Gaea Mitchel's Cavalier King Charles Spaniel U-ACH Lewiswood Coppelia Fianna, CD RE, AX, MXJ,CFFII, CFF IIT **NEW TITLE**

Third Place Julia Gregory's Pug Wildhaven's Grinnin' Milo CFF II **NEW TITLE**

Fourth Place Janet McBrien's Welsh Terrier Datawelsh Everlasting Cash JE,CGC, CFFIT, NA OAJ, CFF II

Level IV

First Place Mary Sullivan's Belgian Sheepdog Signature's Carbon Copy CFFIV

Second Place Mary Jane Zarnowski's Norwegian Elkhound Wil-mar's Yankee Clipper CFFIII, CDX, NAP, TDI, CGC **NEW TITLE**

Third Place Joell Silverman's Poodle Edgar Allen Poo UD, CFFIII

Highest Artistic Score Tied

Sally Kirschenman's Old English Sheepdog Ch Seathwaites's Calamity Jane CD, CFFII

Mary Sullivan's Belgian Sheepdog Signature's Carbon Copy CFFIV

Canine Freestyle Federation Show
Sponsored by CFF
Sunday November 11, 2007

Level I

First Place Renee Filep's Border Collie Radiant's I'll Zig U Can Zag

Second Place Marian Hardy's Toy Poodle Ping

Level IIA

First Place Nancy Sanders' Belgian Sheepdog Signature's Chance

Second Place Renee Filep's Border Collie Radiant's Chili Wil Do TDI, CGC

Level IIB

Level III

First Place Brandy Clymire's Cavalier King Charles Spaniel U-G-RACH Busybee
Harlequin's Curlicue CD,C-CD,RN,AX,AXJ,MJF,AXF,RL1,RL2,CFFII

NEW TITLE

Second Place Shari's Bryant's Whippet GraceGift Sky's The Limit, CFFII **NEW TITLE**

Third Place Verna Allanson's Mixed Breed Breezy CGC, CFFI, CFF II **NEW TITLE**

Fourth Place Janet McBrien's Welsh Terrier Datawelsh Everlasting Cash JE,CGC,
CFFIT, NA OAJ, CFF II

Level IV

First Place Mary Sullivan's Belgian Sheepdog Signature's Carbon Copy CFFIV

Second Place Joell Silverman's Poodle Edgar Allen Poo UD, CFFIII

Highest Artistic Score

Mary Sullivan's Belgian Sheepdog Signature's Carbon Copy CFFIV

Important Notice

Check your mailing label on the last page of the newsletter. If the date in the upper right corner of the mailing label is 12/31/2007 your dues for 2008 are past due. This is your last newsletter unless your 20089 dues are paid. Remit your dues (\$ 25.00) to Brandy Clymire; 10603 Seven Oaks Drive; Spotsylvania, VA 22553

FREESTYLE SHOW

A TITLING EVENT

And RETREAT



Friday, April 25, 2008

hosted by CANINE FREESTYLE FEDERATION

Location:

Obedience Club of Chattanooga

244 Lake City Road

Flintstone, GA

THIS IS AN INDOOR EVENT

A complete premium list may be downloaded from canine-freestyle.org or by snail mail by emailing ctennille@aol.com requesting a premium list

Mail all entries with fees to:

CFF, Show Secretary 14430 Overlook Ridge Lane Beaverdam, VA 23015-1787

Entries close at 6 PM Saturday, April 5, 2008 at Secretary's address after which time, entries cannot be accepted, cancelled, altered or substituted.

JUDGES
for the April 25, 2008 Freestyle Show
A Titling Event

Level I Susan Colledge and Marge Hetrick
Level II Ann Holder and Betty Swenson
Level III Susan Colledge and Gaea Mitchel
Levels IV Wendy Ely and Sally Kirschenman

Multiple Dog & Veterans..... To Be Announced

If you want to help sponsor the April 25, 2008 Show consider advertising in the Show Catalog.

CATALOG ADVERTISING

Catalog advertising will be accepted until April 5, 2008,

Full Page	4" x 7 "	\$ 30.00
Half Page	4' x 35/8"	\$ 20.00
Quarter Page	4' x 13/4"	\$ 9.00
Business Card		\$ 9.00
Photo add		\$ 10.00

Payment must accompany advertisement. Please make checks payable to Canine Freestyle Federation. CFF reserves the right to decline any advertising for cause. Please send

To: CFF Catalog Advertising
14430 Overlook Ridge Lane or email ctennille@aol.com
Beaverdam, VA 23015-11787

A Judge Shares

by Kay Richards

I had the privilege of being one of the judges one of the days at the CFF trials in Fredericksburg in November. Note I said privilege. Yes it is an honor to judge any Freestyle competition.

The thing I honestly love the most about judging is the sharing. We are there in a very special moment in time when a dog and person team up. The team shows the audience how they feel about each other—and they do this with music, which is great. I have said it is as if the human is the conductor of the band and the dog is the band. It is as if the music is being interrupted by the human and played through the dog.

There were a lot of really great teams at this event and the judging was hard. But the sharing was there

in most of the routines and the sharing did not stop after the routines were finished. Most of the competitors came up to us after the trial and asked us to give them a little feed back. This is one of the most important parts of a trial, I feel. You have participated and the judges have given you a score. The scribes have been writing down comments from the judges during your entire routines. Often times, the scribes do not even have an opportunity to see your routines because they are so busy writing down the judges comments.

So... please don't let this great opportunity slip away from you when you have participated at a trial. When the judging is completely done and the trophies are all handed out, visit the judges and ask for feed back. They have their scribe sheets handy, it is fairly fresh in their minds and we love to give back and share with you too.

Thanks again for sharing!

The Relationship between Music and Choreography

By Kristin Sicotte

When faced with looking for your next piece of music it is important to understand the music focus for the level in which you are competing. The music focus is the menu of criteria by which your music selection is judged.

The music doesn't stand alone though. As in all of freestyle "everything is related to everything else." The music has a relationship with the choreography and vice versa. This relationship has power and will help communicate your motivation (that something you want the audience to understand about your dog) to the audience. Let's take a look at the music and choreography criteria for each level and find their relationship.

In levels I and II the music criterion is all about suitability. This means that the rhythm or tempo of the music must suit the natural rhythm of the dog's movement at a trot (this is important in all CFF levels but to a lesser degree in level IV). Doris Humphrey, a choreographer in the 1920's – 1950's, said "rhythm is the great organizer". When you watch a freestyle performance your eyes will be drawn to whoever is on the beat of the music. In CFF our focus is on the dog therefore the music should match the dog's rhythm and not the handlers. We develop a powerful relationship between the dog's movement and the music which brings the focus on the dog and allows the handler to support and enhance their dog. This relationship adds artistry to the performance.

The choreography criteria for level I and II are to use space and direction, in relationship to the team's movement designs, to show the dog to its best advantage. CFF wants to see the dog moving forward at a trot using the entire presentation space in a creative and artistic manner. When choosing music for level I and II you must keep in mind the choreography criteria. You want to have a piece of music that supports the heeling patterns and the shapes that you will use to show your dog's movement. The music should not be choppy or have too many pauses, nor should it be too rich or repetitive. The music should have a consistent tempo.

In level III the music criterion is appropriateness. This is what CFF defines as "with the music". The music must balance and support the team's movement and choreography. Now we are looking for a piece of music that supports the team's qualitative movement. Let's say that a Rottweiler and an Azawakh have the same rhythm. The quality of their movement is different. The Rottweiler might look good trotting to a piece of music with a heavy drum beat while the Azawakh would need fingerstyle guitar or Celtic harp.

The other part of "with the music" really ties into the level III choreography criteria. In level III the choreography criterion is about developing phrases which organize the choreography. This creates a very strong relationship between the music and the choreography. Remember building relationships helps strengthen the artistry of your performance.

So what does this mean? We are looking for a piece of music that has more phrasing in it. We want a piece of music that has variation and a bit more complexity to it. It may have a slow section or a crescendo and decrescendo. The music should support the phrasing in the choreography. It's like putting well-written sentences together to create a meaningful paragraph.

The level IV choreography criterion is a balanced performance of the four elements of choreography: design, dynamics, rhythm and motivation. The music criterion for level IV is musicality. Musicality is the music's ability to aid in expressing the motivation artistically and communicate that motivation to the audience. For instance if one of the motivations you're trying to communicate is your dog's drive, then finding a piece of music that has drive or sections that

have drive will enhance the communication to the audience. You will then need to choreograph a phrase that highlights this motivation in your dog. Voila! You've made a strong relationship between the choreography and the music, both of which are expressing the motivation of the dog. People love to make connections. When they understand the relationship you have made they will feel something and you have just created artistry. This is the ultimate goal in CFF to show your dog to its best advantage through training, music, choreography and handling in a creative and artistic manner.

Notes form Your President

This is the biggest newsletter CFF has ever published and it is chocked full of fantastic articles. I was in tears as I read through it.

I want to express my personal and the organization's appreciation to Nancy Smith for all her hard work on the Board and for chairing the Judges Committee for the last several years.. Thank you Nancy!

The following people were elected in the recent election:

Jeanine Brown Vice President
Sally Kirschenman Recording Secretary
Kristin Sicotte Director
Fay Taylor Director

Kristin will be in charge of the Guilds taking over from Ann Holder who has done a great job there and is now chairing the Judges Committee

I hope I will see a lot of you in Chattanooga in April.

Joan

Seminar Distillation

by Susan Colledge

Editor's Note: The article on the facing page is the basis for a seminar conducted by the author in South Dakota in October. What follows is one participant's interpretation of the experience.

Kristen did a WONDERFUL job at the workshop in South Dakota. She talked about the Artistry and Choreography of a performance (the two things I am the absolute worst on).

She talked about music and how to listen to it a different way - you HEAR it, not just listen to it. Music supports what you want to show about your dog. It was really exciting because we had a small group and I think she found at least one piece of music for each participant.

She also spent time talking about Artistry - it's all about relationships; between the music and the dog, the music and the motivation, the music and the choreography. When she talked about Choreography, she reminded us of the emphasis for each level, the importance and power of the space, shapes, etc.

Kristin did a really good job of describing the four elements of movement design:

1. Dynamics - contrast / energy
2. Rhythm - the dog's movement enhanced by the handler's movement
3. Shapes/Design - the dog and handler's shape or design in space, moving or stationary
4. Motivation - what you want to say

She had us do many studies and even I felt a little creativity creep into me (amazing!). After we worked on a few of the studies she had us augment or fragment the phrase. Augmentation is adding movement while fragmentation is breaking the movement down to its smallest parts.

Two of my favorite sayings she used were **KISS** - Keep it Simple, Stupid and **Less is more**. Kristin did a great job of explaining in layman's terms some of the "dance" concepts needed for artistry and choreography.

Raffle for Goodie Baskets

Fund Raiser for CFF and the Guilds

Baskets of goodies are being prepared by individuals and guilds to be raffled off at the April 2008 Retreat. The baskets will contain items from the area where the individual lives or that the guild covers and/or doggie items (for example items might include a hand made leather lead, dog toys, home made goodies, Virginia vine, citrus, freestyle video, CDs, etc). The proceeds will go ½ to CFF and the other 1/2 will be split among the guilds that provide baskets. Tickets are \$ 1.00 apiece or 6 for \$ 5.00. An individual can only win one basket.

There will be a listing of baskets and partial listing of goodies in them on the CFF web site www.canine-freestyle.org in the next couple of days.

In case you aren't familiar with this project, an individual, a freestyle class or a guild puts together a basket of items related to its geographic area, and gets it to the retreat in Chattanooga in April where the drawings will take place. If the winner of a basket is not present, it will be sent to them. Each ticket has an equal chance of winning any basket, but a person can only win 1 basket.

The number of baskets and the number of tickets sold will determine the odds of winning. Drawings will be held at the Retreat, April 25 – 27, 2008. You do not need to be present to win. If you would like a block of tickets to sell contact Carl Tennille at ctennille@aol.com or 804-883-1174. You may also buy tickets any of the following:

Carl Tennille; 14430 Overlook Ridge Lane; Beaverdam, VA 23015-1787

Ann Holder; 945 Indian River; Cocoa, FL 32922

Jeanine Brown, 12 Gatlin Court; Durham, NC 27707

Fay Taylor; 809 Fairmont Avenue; Signal Mountain, TN 37377

Julia Gregory; 222 Parks Road; McDonald, TN 37353

Gaea Mitchel; 2902 Terry Road; Tallahassee, FL 32312-2740

Kristin Sicotte; 2705 Brair Court SW; Rochester, MN 55902-1141

Sally Kirschenman; 5743 N 16th Street; Arlington, VA 22205

Judy Gamet; 437 Manchester Way; Vacaville, CA 95687

Susan Colledge; 3860 Midland Drive C-19; Roy UT 84067

Dawn Madge; 37 Centennial Street; Rapid City, SD 57701-7630

Tickets will also be available at the retreat in April. There is every expectation that there will be many baskets from guilds and/or individuals. Pictures and a partial listing of items in the baskets will be added to the CFF web site as they become available. The drawing will be held as follows: 1. All of the baskets will be numbered. 2. A basket number will be drawn. 3. The winning ticket for that basket will be drawn. 4. This process will be repeated until all the baskets have been won. Once someone has won a basket they are not eligible to win another basket.



Support the Sport!

CFF Titling Event Trophies



It is not too early to be thinking of the April show and the chance to share the joy of Freestyle. It is a very special moment when a freestyle team is awarded a trophy after a placement performance. The prize awarded continues to evoke that feeling of team, pride and joy for years and years. Please pass that feeling on to someone else!

Donating is simple. Just fill out the form below and send it with your check or trophy. You can make a donation to the Trophy Fund or you can donate a trophy for a specific result (e.g. highest scoring terrier). Donations to the trophy fund are used to help cover the expense of the placement ribbons, medallions, pins, and placement prizes. Please consider supporting the sport by donating to the Trophy Fund or by donating a specific trophy.

Please send your trophy and/or check to the following address:

Jeanine Brown
12 Gatlin Court
Durham, NC 27707



Any questions please email jajbrown@nc.rr.com. Please make check payable to "CFF". Donations are due by Friday April 4, 2008

I am contributing to the Trophy Fund in the amount of \$_____

Description of Trophy:_____

Trophy for:_____

Donated by:_____

Contact Information:_____

Canine Freestyle Federation
Gold Coast Freestyle Show a Success!
December 1, 2007
by Chris Bond

The Gold Coast Freestyle Guild's third annual freestyle show was a huge success. The quality of freestyle on the west coast is improving year-on-year. Routines were performed at levels I through III, with interesting variety that included several braces and multiple handler/dog teams. With 21 entries, our club increased participation 25% over last year. Performance quality was also up, with creative opening pictures, attire that complemented each dog, well chosen music and beautiful movement to showcase the dogs' strengths.

We are proud to announce that two of our members earned titles. Kamrin MacKnight and her Shiba Inu, Take, achieved CFF II with a powerful Japanese dance. Judy Gamet and her Rottweiler, Annabelle, achieved CFF II with an inspiring symphony piece that also earned them the President's Artistic Challenge Trophy. Congratulations to both Kamrin and Judy!

Other special awards were also presented. Debbie Gross, Amy Carpenter, Sue Ingalls and Gillian Norris with their Weimaraners, Tory, Calvin, Indy and Sampson won Highest Scoring Multiple Dog Team. Vange Leonis and her Corgi, Radar, won "Rowdy's Sharing and Caring Award" for highest scoring registered therapy dog (donated by Linda Wendorff and the Tri Star Therapy-Bound Teams).

Veteran dogs have a beauty all their own, and freestyle is an excellent way to keep them fit and healthy. The Gold Coast Guild was founded by a very special veteran, a Rottweiler named Bella. In her honor, the Gold Coast Guild is dedicated to including a veteran's class, encouraging senior dogs to participate and enjoy their special day alongside the youngsters. Chris Bond and her border collie, Shilling, won Bella's "Celebrating Life" Trophy for highest scoring veteran dog in any class (donated by Judy Gamet). It will be an honor to have his name etched in a plaque alongside other highest scoring veterans, to be displayed at future Gold Coast shows.

We are very proud of all our competitors. Every one of them put in time and effort creating and training their routines, and then braved the dance floor to allow their dogs a moment in the spotlight. Every one of them deserves an award.

To the audience, freestyle may look like a breeze. But a freestyle competitor knows how difficult the sport really is. It involves honing many talents. There is choosing just the right music, editing it to perfection, then listening to it over and over until you know it so well you spend nights dreaming the melody. There are long hours spent deciding what attire will complement, but not overshadow, the dog. And many more hours, for months or perhaps years, building a foundation of trust and happy attitude in your dog, while you train and practice moves for that perfect routine.

Then there is show day. Some dogs need to come fresh and rested. Others need that all-important morning walk to take the edge off... a walk that may also take the edge off your stage nerves so you can be there for your dog. There are so many things to think about. You need to keep a clear head to remember the sequence of moves at any point in the music, be consistent with your cues, and avoid tripping over your own feet ...or your dog. Alongside all that, you need to remember the most important point of all: Enjoy the moment.

Ideally you will have practiced entry, honoring the judge, honoring the audience, and each of the components of the routine often enough that it has all become second nature. But even if you have, there will be something to throw you off. Perhaps the audience is so impressed by your dog's signature move that they begin to clap mid-routine, and the dog pauses momentarily. You miss a beat, so you need to collect yourself and your dog to flow back into the music – back into the "pink bubble" (as Joan calls it) where only you and your dog exist in the world. If you can accomplish that, you have arrived.

Sometimes it's easy to lose sight of why you dedicate so much time and energy to the sport. But when you are out there on the dance floor, those few precious minutes can be immensely fulfilling. When you meet your dog's eyes during your closing picture, you glow with love and pride seeing how magnificent he is in this moment. Your bond has grown. You come off the floor knowing that your routine has been performed at its best, and that your dog is unique in his character and beauty. During that brief moment in time, you have developed into a true freestyler.

The Gold Coast Guild has enjoyed this year's show, and we are looking forward to the next event!

Canine Freestyle Federation Show

Sponsored by the Gold Coast Freestyle Guild

Saturday December 1, 2007

Level I Team

First Place Debbie Gross and her Weimaraner Ch Rokvils Illusion of Diamonds JH NRD, V
Amy Carpenter and her Weimaraner Calvin IV CD, NA, NAJ, NRD
Sue Ingalls and her Weimaraner Inabas Mac DeLinn RN, NSD, CGC
Gillian Norris and her Weimaraner Rokvils Eternal Light N' Silver RN, JH

Level I Brace

First Place Kamrin MacKnight and her Japanese Kai Ken Tenshi's Sumi of Minimeadow,
TD-ASCA, TD-Ambor and her Shiba Inu Take CD, RA, TD, TD-ASCA,

Level I

First Place Vange Leonis and her Corgi Rosewood Y Radar

Second Place Kamrin MacKnight and her Japanese Kai Ken Tenshi's Sumi of Minimeadow,
TD-ASCA, TD-Ambor

Third Place Gillian Norris and her Weimaraner Rokvils Eternal Light N' Silver RN, JH

Fourth Place Linda Wendorff and her Pomeranian Buffy

Level II

First Place Judy Gamet and her Rottweiler Highland's Anabelle Mon Ami, CFFI **NEW TITLE**

Second Place Kamrin MacKnight and her Shiba Inu Take CD, RA, TD, TD-ASCA **NEW TITLE**

Third Place Cynthia Ellis and her Miniature Schnauzer Lindsay Lady of Sunshine

Fourth Place Debbie Gross and her Weimaraner Ch Rokvils Illusion of Diamonds JH NRD, V

Level IIB

First Place Chris Bond and her Border Collie Spryte

Level III

First Place Chris Bond and her Border Collie Ghostland Sterling Silver,

Second Place Judy Gamet and her Rottweiler Meadowood's Jean-Luc V.Seagawn BH, TD,

Third Place Kathleen Hinds and her Borzoi River

Level III Team

First Place Vange Leonis and her Corgi Rosewood Y Radar

Senta Stewart and her mixed breed Icefire

Rebecca Logsdon and her Shetland Sheepdog Valley View the Mountain Man, CGC,
CD, RA, NJP, NAP

Veterans Brace

First Place Kathleen Hinds and her Borzois Stormy and River

Veterans

First Place Kathleen Hinds and her Borzoi Stormy

Second Place Debbie Gross and her Weimaraner CH Windwalkers Felicity V Gaul

Third Place Stephanie Plunker and her Doberman Pinscher Drucilla

Highest Artistic Score

Judy Gamet and her Rottweiler Highland's Anabelle Mon Ami

CFF, Inc.
c/o Julia M. Gregory
222 Parks Road
McDonald, TN 37353

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Inside This Issue

But Wait! There's More!.....p. 1	Music and Choreography.....p.10
The Freestyle Journey.....p. 2	Notes from the President.....p.11
Guild News, Staccato Notes.....p. 3— 5	Seminar Distillation.....p. 11
November 2007 Shows resultsp. 6— 7	Goodie Basket Raffle.....p. 12
Freestyle Show April 25, 2008.....p. 8 - 9	Donate a Trophy!...p. 13
A Judge Sharesp. 9	Gold Coast Freestyle Show a success!.....p.14
	Gold Coast Show Results.....p. 15

CFF Board of Directors

President

Joan Tennille
14430 Overlook Ridge Lane
Beaverdam, VA 23015
804-883-1174
CTennille@aol.com

Vice President

Jeanine Brown
12 Gatlin Court
Durham, NC 27707
919-489-0013
jajbrown@nc.rr.com

Treasurer

Carl Tennille
14430 Overlook Ridge Lane
Beaverdam, VA 23015
804-883-1174
CTennille@aol.com

Recording Secretary

Sally Kirschenman
5743 N, 16th Street
Arlington, VA 22205
703-536-7450
skirsch122@verizon.net

Membership Chair

Brandy Clymire
10603 Seven Oaks Drive
Spotsylvania, VA 22553
heypresto@verizon.net

Director

Ann Holder
945 Indian River Drive
Cocoa, FL 32922
rxdogs@aol.com

Director

Kristin Sicotte
2705 Briar Court S W
Rochester, MN 55902
kdammen@yahoo.com

Director

Fay Taylor
809 Fairmont Avenue
Signal Mountain, TN 37377
geofay@bellsouth.net