

Paws to Dance



The Newsletter of the Canine Freestyle Federation, Inc.
May, 2012

Tennille's Earn Prestigious Awards

At the American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club (ACKCSC) national specialty in Wisconsin in April of this year, during a break in the selection of Best in Breed the ACKCSC for the first time in its history presented the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award to Joan Tennille.

According to the AKC, "The AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award program was established in 2006 to provide each member club with an AKC Medallion to award to one of its own on a yearly basis. The award honors those individuals who deserve special recognition that have made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs, embodied the AKC Code of Sportsmanship and have been an active and valued member of an AKC member club. Medallions are awarded solely at the club's discretion."

Joan has been the chair of the national performance committee for 16 years, overseeing all performance events at the national specialty for the ACKCSC. Prior to that Joan was also actively involved with the CKCSC in the performance area. She first became involved with the breed in the early 1970's. Carl reports that Joan was totally surprised and speechless, yes, totally speechless!

Then at the ACKCSC Charitable Trust Banquet the Trust honored Carl by awarding him the Patricia Kaman Award, given for outstanding contributions to the Charitable Trust. The Trust raises funds for health research relating to Cavaliers and other breeds and Carl has served as its Treasurer for a number of years. The Trust has raised over \$ 400,000 for health research and has funded more than two dozen research projects directly or through the AKC Canine Health Foundation.



Joan and Carl

AREN'T WE PROUD OF THEM?!

Cajun Rebel Pipsqueak, CD RE ThD CFF-IV CFF Hall of Fame

My introduction to freestyle happened ten years ago, at a seminar in Jacksonville, Florida. Among the truly memorable participants that weekend were a small flock of tiny poodles and their tall, self-possessed handler. It didn't take long for the youngest to rise, like cream, to the top. Exploding into the midst of the newly formed First Florida Freestylers Guild came Pippin and Ann. They have been at the center of our organization ever since.

Pip is quite a character, full of fun, mischief, and creativity. He showed us *all* the ways freestyle can be done; the good, the bad and the ugly! Well, not ugly exactly, but certainly at times he frustrated Ann. In doing so he stretched her as a trainer and as a freestyler, and they grew together. The rest of our group benefited as Pip and Ann shared their journey with us, as can only happen in a supportive group, the essence of the guild system.

Pip has been part of many a demo, around the state of Florida and beyond. In October of 2009 he and Ann flew to Oakland, California to take center stage at the Association of Pet Dog Trainers conference. He not only shared a freestyle performance at each demo, each day he and Ann presented a skit, specially written for the occasion, like the ones they perform in assisted living facilities in Central Florida. Finally, he finished each demo by choosing and retrieving the winning raffle ticket (as a directed retrieve) for a basket offered at the CFF booth. So much energy and skill in such a small package! Such heart!

You can also see Pip and Ann in her book on the Learning Center, sharing some of the skills and props that go into their therapy skits. Together, over the past twelve years, they have logged around 1800 volunteer hours, divided among an Assisted Reading Education program with second graders, three hospitals, several nursing homes, hospice, adult daycare, special needs children, and a psych unit. Pip also accompanies Ann for educational talks and public rela-

tions programs. So you see, our special Pip is *not* just a pretty face! He is a productive and respected member of our (to him alien) society. We could have no better representative of our sport. Thank you, Pip and Ann. Welcome to the Canine Freestyle Federation Hall of Fame.
Submitted by Gaea Mitchel.



Guild News—Staccato Notes



Sirius Guild

"Where Every Dog Is A Star!"
By Kathy Noble

Sirius Guild has a new Paws to Dance reporter—that's me, Kathy Noble, training companion to Golden Retriever Rosie, CFF IV—and I am going to try very hard to live up to the standards of reporting set by our previous long time reporter, Renee Filep--THANK YOU Renee for the great job!! And "double thank you Renee!" also for serving as our guild president for the past four years! It's the generous and hard working people like you who make the Canine Freestyle Federation what it is. Our Guild has a new Chair, Brandy Clymire, who has previously served as Treasurer (think; collecting and paying out entry, rental and other expenses for all our activities, including trials). Thanks Brandy, for all your work both as Treasurer, and now as our new Chair! Joan Tennille has generously agreed to continue as Training Director (thank you, Joan; we know you already have a more than full plate, so we doubly appreciate your generosity!). Our new Secretary will be Sally Kirschenman, and our new Treasurer is Marge Hetrick (a particularly generous move on the part of Marge, as Josie is retired and Marge is presently not training a dog). Thank you both for stepping up to serve!

In addition to establishing new officers, discussion at our February Guild meeting centered on upcoming CFF activities; specifically anticipation of the retreat and trial in Chattanooga as well as preparations for the November two day trial in North Carolina, which we are looking forward to co-sponsoring and working with our neighbors in the Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild. Following our meeting, Joan generously offered to hold a class for those of us who were attending with our dogs. Thanks again for your generosity and knowledge, Joan!

In attendance at our February meeting was new member Pat Mathews, whose Golden Retriever

Taffy already enjoys agility and flyball. It's always great to welcome new members, and Pat and Taffy are obviously already a committed team; we look forward to watching their progress.

This last minute news just in from Chattanooga; our own Renee Filep and Chili received the Versatility Award! The requirements for this award are a minimum of two individual titles and two multiple dog titles. Chili has a level I team, level II, Level III and level III brace. Congratulations Chili and Renee!

Happy training to you all and we hope to see you in November!

Carolina Guild

by Pat Rapaport



Exciting things are happening with our guild! Congratulations to our newly elected officers for 2012 - Barbara Long, President, Trish Koontz -Secretary, Shari Bryant-Treasurer, and Jeanine Johnson-Brown – Training Director. Barbara sent this super photo of the members attending the April Retreat (see next page). Word has it that the largest contingent at the Retreat was from North Carolina. Attending were Gloria Faley, Diane Holleman, Trish Koontz, Barbara Long, Cheri McAlister, Anne Mercer, Karen Smith, Dee Wallis, Mary White and soon-to-be member Cynthia Ebert. Mary and her Westie represented the Guild in Level II A. In other news, Barbara Long and her pooch, Niamh gave a canine freestyle performance at the North Carolina State College of Veterinary Medicine's Open House on March 31.

Guild News More Staccato Notes

CAROLINA GUILD TAKES RETREAT BY STORM!

From left to right, back row: Trish Koontz and Bella, Cheri McAlister and Lilly, Diane Holleman and Kiwi, Barbara Long and Niamh

Front row: Karen Smith and Scarlett, Cynthia Ebert and Crosby, Anne Mercer and Ginger, Mary White and Misty, Dee Wallis and Onsie, Cammie, Sophie and Sara, Gloria Faley and Teddy.



Canis Major Guild by Julia Gregory



By Marcia Barkley

It's hard to imagine that it is ALREADY time to begin making our plans for our next titling event – didn't we just finish the last one???? But we'll settle on a date soon, and send in our application, and get the ball rolling.

In the meantime, though, we're planning a "Firecracker Showcase" to be held in July. It will be an opportunity for everyone to "test run" the routines in process for the December show, in an environment that looks like the show but with extra time and the opportunity to use rewards if needed.

And as I write this, we are waiting for a report from our Debbie Crain on her impressions of the Retreat, just ended. She was our only California emissary this year, so we are hoping she took good notes. She'll have a chance to share with us at a meeting in mid-May.

THANK YOU! If it were not for the courageous and generous gift of freestylers' time, we could not have had a show on April 20. It takes so many people working together harmoniously to pull this off! Canis Major's thanks goes to Susan Colledge, Barbara Long, Carol Wetzel, Fay Taylor, Dee Wallis, Leila Widgren, Kate An Hunter, Andrea Jones and Verna Allanson. Without these worker bees there would be no sweet honey! As always, we are grateful to Cameron Foster (and Sarah who not only shares him with us, but comes along for moral and administrative support), Jim Moore, Carl Tennille and Jim Poor for gifting us with their very special talents. Judging is a hard job. We are glad that Susan Colledge, Brandy Clymire, Betty Swenson and Kristen Sicotte were willing to complete that artistic labor for us. Last and never least, always first and always the founder ... We owe an un-payable debt to Joan Tennille for creating this sport that feeds our souls.

Retreat was the best EVER this year! Joan's new approach to choreography by thinking inside the box first was a revelation. We'll trot that out for

our students at the very next class and cannot wait to see the results. Plans are underway to devise a class format that is easier for students to attend more faithfully. We're working with the Obedience Club of Chattanooga to make that happen. We had some good suggestions for recruiting guild members and will implement those right away. In that vein, we've been booked to do demos at the Wilson County Fair again this year. Even though it is held in August, a time when we normally refuse to work our dogs outdoors during the afternoon, the organizers care in presenting our sport well and keeping our dogs cool makes us eager to return. We'll be joined this year by Laura George, a new member from the Nashville area (near Wilson County) who showed very well at the titling event and may be starting a freestyle group in Middle Tennessee. We'll keep you posted!



by
Eugenie and
Kasie Podojil

On November 13, 2011, our guild participated in an Open House given by Canine Affair Center, our training facility. After the demonstration of routines by Sue Ann Branstein, Kasie Podojil, and Eugenie Podojil, and an enthusiastic description of canine freestyle by Leila Widgren, several spectators and their dogs joined us for a "try" at freestyle! Their amazement at what their own dogs could accomplish in a very brief instructional period may be bringing new freestylers to our group in the future!

At the beginning of the year, North Coast Canine Freestylers paused and spent time on pondering what our goals for 2012 would be -- goals for our dogs, ourselves, and as a team -- this introspection was indeed a valuable experience that energized each of us to "think" about specific goals to undertake for the year ahead.

Throughout the winter months at our weekly guild practice sessions we have worked on choreographic concepts, continued to build that all-important strong, vibrant relationship with our canine partners, and supported each other with ideas for new routines. Janet Dayton has been a great coach in teaching us new concepts within freestyle, and then she and Leila challenge us with brief exercises to demonstrate and use those concepts. With several pups now becoming "ingénue" dancers -- Lark, Charlee, and Pearl -- we are doing a lot of laughing as well!

On March 17th, Darla Jackson joined us to present a workshop on canine freestyle. Our teams participated in group activities with specific goals -- such as directional choices to showcase our dogs, utilizing energy for movement -- executing the moves always while building that close relationship with our canine partners. It was a totally fantastic workshop and we learned so much, have so many new ideas to incorporate in our sessions and individual routines. A big THANK YOU to Darla for joining us!

Now we are looking forward to joining Pittsburgh freestylers for a July match and September titling event. Hopefully our solid corps of guild members will be able to attend both events.

For the future, North Coast Canine Freestylers have two upcoming demonstrations, PAWS-4-A-Cause: Adopt-A-Thon and Family Fun Day on May 12th and Working Dog Weekend on June 9th and 10th. We are excited about showing our northeastern Ohio area the joy, beauty, and fun of canine freestyle.,

Canine Freestyle Federation Titling Event

Sponsored by the First Florida Freestylers Guild

With the support of Canis Major Guild

Friday April 20, 2012

Level I

First Place Ann Holder's Toy Poodle Nanjac Firestarter **NEW TITLE**

Second Place Lyn Sims' Chihuahua Chu Chu Bean

Level II

First Place Laura George's Shetland Sheepdog Crystalove Rhythm and Blues

Second Place Wendy Keighley's Labrador Retriever Maude

Third Place Mary White's West Highland White Terrier McWrights Misty White

Level II B

First Place Marilyn Hulme's Beagle Lanbur Rosies Are Red **NEW TITLE**

Second Place Lee Kasten's Silky Terrier CH Alfredo's Dancing Bear

Third Place Andrea Jones' Basset Hound Katzmark's Lucy Love Bug

Level III

First Place Marilyn Hulme's Beagle Lanbur Wild Pandemonium **NEW TITLE**

Second Place Lee Kasten's Giant Schnauzer Kenro's Zesty Ziva David **NEW TITLE**

Third Place Amy Sandy's Miniature Schnauzer Lexi

Level IV

First Place Beth Berry's Chihuahua Emma Louisa **NEW TITLE**

Second Place Renee Filep's Border Collie Radiant's Chill Will Do

Third Place Julia Gregory's Pug Wildhaven's Grinnin' Milo

Highest Artistic Score

Marilyn Hulme's Beagle Lanbur Rosies Are Red

Grail Award

Marilyn Hulme's Beagle Lanbur Rosies Are Red

The event was held at the East Ridge Community Center in East Ridge, TN in connection with the CFF retreat. The judges were; Susan Colledge, Kristen Sicotte, Betty Swenson and Brandy Clymire A big thank you also to the First Florida Freestylers Guild with support from the Canis Major Guild for hosting such a fine event.



From the President

Gaea Mitchel

The Potpourri of Freestyle was an amazing experience. I have had the great good fortune of attending every retreat, and this was absolutely the BEST! The classes were all interconnected parts of the whole of conceptual learning, and each led logically to the next as we progressed through the four days. The newcomers are so fortunate to have had the chance to see things come together cleanly and clearly, and those of us who have been at it awhile saw how the conceptual method simplifies and clarifies the entire process.

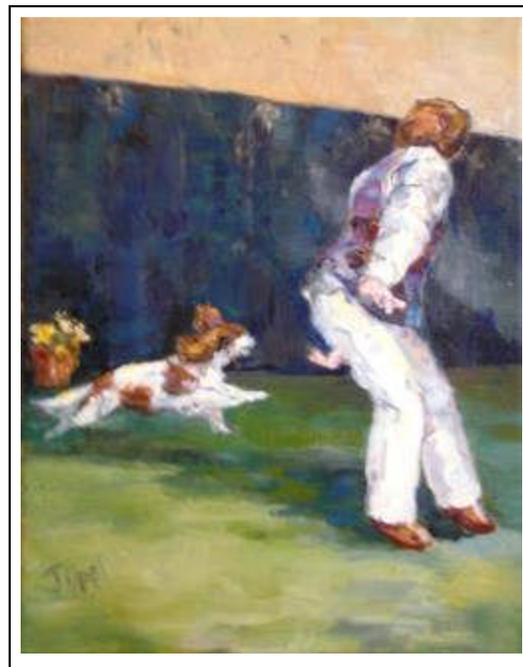
Having the four days allowed for classes long enough to develop the subject material, without rushing, and while we were busy each day there was time to relax and socialize in the evenings.

I especially enjoyed not having the groups divided by experience levels. The mix of seasoned freestylers and newcomers allowed fresh ideas and perspectives to blossom, stretching the envelope for everyone. It also allowed more experienced handlers with new dogs to fit in seamlessly, without slowing the rest of the class because of a youngster's lack of skills. What an incredible and energizing experience!

Joan has outdone herself with this retreat, and her creativity shone through, with help from a carefully selected committee. Ann's boxes, bubbles and bags of potpourri were a visual delight, as well as containing a wealth of information and ideas. And the instructors brought so much information, and so many helpful hints, to their subjects. Kristen, Ann, Betty, Jim Moore et al wove their classes into the rich tapestry of the experience, and while we were sad not to have Elaine with us for the weekend, it was a treat to have Joan fill in for her. Who better to put the icing on the cake? Thank you all so very much.

This inspiring image of Joan Tennille and her heart dog, Claire is available on note cards! The card is a photograph by Amy Leigh Martin of a painting that Dee Wallis commissioned by the artist Joanne Opal. Amy Leigh Martin designed the card. Joanne Opal painted the portrait from a photograph of Joan & Claire as well as from a video of them performing.

A packet of 4 cards is \$6 or two packets for \$10. All the proceeds go to CFF for support of canine freestyle. Order yours by contacting Carl Tennille at CTennille@aol.com.



A Great Dog Gone

Today we said the final goodbye to our dear dog Ansel. He was over 13 years old and suffering from a progressive loss of muscle strength which took from him the ability to continue a normal, happy life.

Ansel was adopted by us from the Animal Humane Society. He had been found as a stray in St Paul and had been returned after one adoption after chewing up everything in the family's house. We were attracted to his sweet face and his beautiful brindle coat. We took him for a walk outside the shelter where he picked up a stick and laid down on the ground at our feet and contentedly chewed the stick.

As expected for a dog owned by Kate An, he immediately began training. Ansel loved classes of any type. He earned a Canine Good Citizen and CD and CDX degrees in obedience. Agility was his forte- his speed and grace made running with him a real joy and he had many admirers among the spectators. In his later years he came to love K9 nosework, preferring to pick up the source tin rather than the associated treat. He was a natural athlete and a perfect team mate; in his first competitions in both Rally and Musical Freestyle, he excelled and completed certificates. Two weeks ago he made a strong impression at a musical freestyle workshop, his attention, grace and willingness defying anyone's assumptions based on his breed or age.

Although generally quiet and shy, Ansel did much in the way of public relations and education. He accompanied Kate An in teaching a wide range of students, from kindergarten to college, about safety with dogs, being a veterinarian and the special place of dogs in our lives. He was featured on product literature for 3M and often participated in training for veterinary staff and students at Kate An's clinic. He worked at a trade show booth demonstrating the Easy Walk harness and Gentle Leader at a national veterinary conference. He often assisted in showing clients how to work with their own dogs for such things as brushing teeth, getting injections, or taking pills. He also entertained children with a game of fetch in the clinic hallway, or provided much needed hugs and kisses to bereaved clients.

Ansel's impact reached many through the media. He was a regular guest with Kate An on Gary's Eichten's Midday show on Minnesota Public Radio. While Kate An answered callers' pet care questions, Ansel scouted for treats and occasionally added his own opinion. He and Kate An appeared regularly on The Dog Show with Jazz, on local cable stations, providing pets owners with information on taking the best care of their pets.

Last February, Ansel was inducted into the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Associations Animal Hall of Fame, recognizing the many contributions he has made to the enjoyment and education of dog lovers in Minnesota.

We are grateful to have had Ansel in our lives for so long. Despite a few bumps in the road, (dogs will be dogs), he has been a perfect companion, a willing and talented partner, a gentle teacher. We knew it would be time to say goodbye to Ansel when he could no longer trot- that light, airy gait that has taken him through his life. We now imagine him trotting with his usual joy and grace among the stars.

Thank you to all of you who have been a part of Ansel's life; who have witnessed, celebrated, taught, loved and shared our beloved boy.

Ansel

My constant companion, my willing and able partner, mi hijo (my son)
You were never tightly bound to the earth
Your trot, suspended in air between light touches down
Your ears gently bouncing with each step
Flying through an agility course
Over jumps, over contacts
Clearing the top of the A frame in a blazing arc
My heart skipped beat, the spectators gasped
And at the finish line, my heart sang with the speed and grace you let me share
In obedience and rally you sailed through degrees
And you danced with me in musical freestyle, the perfect union of movement, you and I and a tune
Like an astronaut whose body misses gravity, your muscles began to diminish
Ever thin, you began disappearing into thin air
We said we knew it was time to let you go when you no longer trotted
That airy gait that defined you happens so seldom today
Although my heart is breaking to imagine my life without you
I will help you finish your journey to the stars
And keep your bones forever.

Kate An Hunter



Benefits of Membership in CFF

- Quarterly *Paws to Dance* newsletter
- Mentor section of the website
- Access to the CFF Forum – a tool for questions, discussion and learning
- The Learning Center
- Music selection services by Kristin Sicotte (benefits CFF)
- Music editing services by Jim Moore (benefits CFF)
- Guild membership or assistance in forming a guild
- Joyful inclusion in a supportive community of freestyle enthusiasts

www.canine-freestyle.org - Can You Help?

What is www.canine-freestyle.org? It is many things to many people. It is an extremely good source of material on canine freestyle. It is the oldest continuous web site on canine freestyle in existence. It has information on where classes are available, where shows and demonstrations are occurring as well as results of shows. It provides access to online copies of the *Paws to Dance* the quarterly newsletter that has been published regularly for 15 years, also the oldest continuous canine freestyle newsletter in existence. It has a members'-only area where, among other useful documents there is a membership directory. There is also a members'-only forum discussion group that addresses all of the various aspects of canine freestyle and where members can exchange ideas without fear of being harassed or otherwise bothered because they asked a question or offered an opinion. In addition to all of this there is a shopping cart where you can purchase CFF material, join the organization, and subscribe to the CFF Learning Center. Entry forms for shows, seminars and retreats are also available through the web site.

NOW the question is what can we do to improve the web site and are you interested in helping us do it. Currently there is a Web Site committee chaired by Brandy Clymire, who may be contacted at heypresto@verizon.net, Carl Tennille who may be contacted at ctennille@aol.com and Jim Moore who may be contacted at jmoore@bettyandjim.info. We are looking for additional members to serve on the committee and help with determining recommendations to the Board for which, if any redesign and improvements should be made to the our web site. If you are interested in participating in this effort and especially if you have experience with web sites please contact Brandy or a member of the committee.

Want to Save Trees and CFF Money?

Request the quarterly newsletter *Paws to Dance* by email. This will save the number of copies printed and reduce CFF's cost of printing and mailing plus you will get your newsletter several days earlier. In addition you will see color photos from events as opposed to the black and white in the printed newsletters. To receive your newsletter by email just send Carl Tennille an email with the subject being CFF newsletter by email. Carl's email address is ctennille@aol.com

Reality Check for the “Rest” of the Family

The following was found posted very low on a refrigerator door.

Dear Dogs and Cats: The dishes with the paw prints are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Racing me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort. You, dogs and cats, can actually curl up in a ball when you sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other, stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out on the other end to maximize space is nothing but sarcasm.

For the last time, ***there is no secret exit from the bathroom!*** If, by some miracle, I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, meow, try to turn the knob, or get your paw under the edge in an attempt to open the door. I must exit through the same door I entered. Also, I have been using the bathroom for years - canine/feline attendance is not required.

The proper order for kissing is: Kiss me first, then go smell the other dog or cat's butt. I cannot stress this enough.

Finally, in fairness, dear pets, I have posted the following message on the front door:

TO ALL NON-PET OWNERS WHO VISIT AND LIKE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT OUR PETS:

- (1) They live here. You don't.
- (2) If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture. That's why they call it 'fur'-niture.
- (3) I like my pets a lot better than I like most people.
- (4) To you, they are animals. To me, they are adopted sons/daughters who are short, hairy, walk on all fours and don't speak clearly.

Remember, dogs and cats are better than kids because they:

- (1) eat less,
- (2) don't ask for money all the time,
- (3) are easier to train,
- (4) normally come when called,
- (5) never ask to drive the car,
- (6) don't smoke or drink,
- (7) don't want to wear your clothes,
- (8) don't have to buy the latest fashions,
- (9) don't need a gazillion dollars for college and
- (10) **if they get pregnant, you can sell their children ..**



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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