

Paws to Dance



The Newsletter of the Canine Freestyle Federation, Inc.
February 2018

Finding Artistry

By **Bridget Telencio**

Hello, my name is Bridget and I am a member of the North Coast guild. I have been involved with CanineFreestyle DogWork® for 3 years. I own a Belgian Tervuren, a French import named Lava. She has a CFF III title. One of my goals for her is to compete in a protection sport called Mondioring. Mondioring is a bite suit sport which consists of exercises performed by the dog/handler team in the categories of obedience, jumping, and protection (bite work). Trials are held and each trial has a theme. Any new or strange thing can be present on the field, such as a blow up bunny, a filled kiddie swimming pool, hot dogs strewn on the field, a van, or leprechauns. Anything that can cause a distraction may be present. In bite work the decoy (the person the dog bites) plays the most important role. They are responsible for catching the dog as the dog “attacks”, keeping the dog safe, and making sure the dog bites correctly. Decoys come in all shapes and sizes. Some are fast and some are slow. I have watched over 20 different decoys. All were from the United States. A few of our club members were preparing for the world championships in Belgium. They decided to have a decoy, Tommy, come over from Belgium to the USA and work the dogs to prepare for the trial. Although I was not going to nationals, I was able to work Lava with him.

As I sent Lava to bite Tommy I was in awe at how gracefully he caught her. I thought “maybe I am seeing this wrong”. After I watched other dogs being worked, I was still in awe of how smoothly and easily he caught dog after dog. Tommy was fun to watch. He was dynamic and kept my attention. I was fascinated. Why did it look like a dance when a dog worked with Tommy, but not the other decoys? I wondered why his style was so different. As I reflected, my mind turned toward freestyle. I was thinking Tommy had the elusive artistry we are all searching for in our freestyle movement. He had the untouchable, invisible thing that evokes a response from a spectator. The “I know it when I see it” reaction to a performance. Artistry. From the Definition of Freestyle, Tommy’s work with the dogs demonstrated “the grace, beauty and intelligence of the dog working in harmony with the handler.” Tommy had balance. He complimented and enhanced the dog’s movements. Just as in CanineFreestyle DogWork®. Who knew?





Editor's Cluttered Desk

The February edition seems the hardest to put together, I think because of the distraction of the holidays and the subsequent winter weather that keeps us huddled hearthside. Thanks to all who were able to send reports, photos, etc.



Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild

By Gaea Mitchel and Judy Arnold

We are excited that Joan Tennille will be coming to Winston-Salem, NC to hold a seminar on Artistry for advanced teams. We hope many of you can join us at Winston-Salem Dog Training Club on March 17-18 for what is sure to be an informative (and creativity-stretching) day and a half journey into the depths of DogWork.

For more information on the seminar,

Classes are being held at the Durham Kennel Club, one Saturday per month, on a drop in basis. There is also a series of classes, 3 weeks out of every six, that requires registration. Complete info can be found at www.durhamkennelclub.com

Our recent election resulted in a few changes on the Board.

President Judy Arnold
Vice president Michele Meloy
Secretary Adele Monroe
Treasurer Shari Bryant
Training/Education Barbara Long

CanineFreestyle DogWork® Seminar Execution to Expression- The Relationship

Presented by Joan Tennille
March 17-18, 2018
Winston-Salem, NC

Sponsored by
Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild
FMI: Barbara Long
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Guilds



Sirius Guild

By Betty Swenson

Ugly weather, flu viruses, and world travel have all presented challenges for guild activities in the past two months, but at least our heads are in the game. We are still trying to come up with a date for a 'business' and/or training meeting. A Richmond area private training facility has made an inquiry about adding freestyle classes, which Joan and Betty are interested in pursuing, both as a means of adding to our numbers and as a potential trial site for 2019. Jo Downing and her talented Aussie have joined Joan's class in Beaverdam. Jo is an excellent trainer and a quick study who may very well have a presentation ready to go for the Ohio titling event. Betty has another fund-raising idea, which we hope will be a bigger success than her last one :-). What does the membership think about a photo contest, with the winning entries being made into a calendar to sell? Sales would not be limited to CFF members, which could potentially broaden our fund-raising base. Would anyone enter or purchase a calendar?

(Editor's note: Please respond to Betty on this one. What a great idea for a fundraiser!)



North Coast Canine Freestylers



By Bridget Telencio and Janet Dayton

Winter has set in and will be staying for quite a while. Just ask Shari Bryant. She spent Christmas under five feet of lake effect snow in Erie, PA. Jace was not amused. Here on the North Coast we had our share of cold and snow too. Guild sessions have been a casualty of the weather. Several have been cancelled.

North Coast and North Star guilds are busy planning our titling event for May 12/13, 2018 in Chesterland, OH. It would be great to see you here. We are having another Trick Dog evaluation as a fundraiser in February. On the same night a ticket will be drawn for the afghan raffle. We will let you know who wins. We are also going to a nursing and rehabilitation center to visit and share our dogs in February. I guess all that should keep us busy for a while.

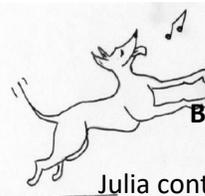


Rain in the Snow
Janet Dayton

Lava and London
Bridget Telencio



Bunny Diane Simpson



Canis Major Guild

By Julia Gregory and Gaea Mitchel

Julia continues to offer DogWork classes at Obedience Club of Chattanooga, and the Freedom Dog group, military veterans and their dogs, continue working together at the club, though their emphasis has shifted from DogWork to therapy and assistance dog skills. Gaea has enjoyed working with a student she and Julia share, helping her to prepare for the Ohio competition. (In addition, this gives a critical eye as Gaea, Lyra and Babe look to Ohio.)



North Star Guild

The North Star Guild had a busy quarter, but took time from a hectic holiday and weighty snow season to share a few pictures of their partners ready for the Super Bowl.



Jeanine Brown's boy Iko is suited up and ready to do his part.

Kady prefers to snuggle up on the couch in hers.

Titling Event
Hosted by North Coast and North Star Guilds
May 12-13, 2018
Chesterland, OH

We hope you will make plans to attend, entered or not. Time spent in the company of fellow DogWork enthusiasts is time well spent. The host guilds will have prepared a comfortable and supportive venue. The camaraderie, energy and inspiration freely shared among the participants, spectators and workers is sure to energize your creativity and your training. Come on up and join us!

**Paws to Dance
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Inside This Issue

Finding Artistry1 Guilds.....2

Coming Events

Seminar: Execution to Expression- The Relationship with Joan Tennille
Winston-Salem, NC March 17-18, 2018

North Coast/North Star Titling Event Mentor OH May 12-13, 2018

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