

Paws to Dance



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

What CanineFreestyle DogWork® Means to Me

By Adele C Monroe

I trained my first dog in 1972, and I discovered dog training clubs in 1983. In those days, compulsive training techniques were used, and the overriding philosophy seemed to be “it’s called obedience for a reason, by golly! The dog MUST obey!” I remember one seminar instructor defining a correction as “something that the dog does not want to have happen again.” At the time, I bought into that philosophy—it was what everyone was doing. However, I came to realize that I did not like what my dog’s body language said about our relationship, and I quit training for a while. I was also open to new information.

In 1990, I read the book, *Don’t Shoot the Dog: the New Art of Teaching and Training*, by Karen Pryor, and that changed forever the way I view the training relationship with my dogs. I also read *Lads Before the Wind: Diary of a Dolphin Trainer*, also by Karen Pryor. After reading that book, I remember thinking, “If people can train wild marine mammals to do complex behaviors for exhibition, surely I can figure out how to train my dog, a domestic animal with whom I have a personal relationship, without using coercion, pain, or fear of pain

I downsized” from Rottweilers to whippets in 1998, and I participated in whippet running

sports (straight and oval-track racing and lure coursing) for a number of years. However, I realized that those sports did not develop the one-on-one relationship that I wanted to have with my dogs. So I started training my young whippet bitch, Journey, in rally obedience.

In November 2007, Shari Bryant, a good friend and owner of one of the whippets from my 2003 litter, invited me to attend a Canine Freestyle Federation titling event where she would be exhibiting her whippet, Sky. The relationships I saw between dogs and owners at that event and the creativity of the presentations struck a chord, and I knew that this sport was what I had been seeking. I never showed Journey in rally, but I took movements that we had developed for rally and, with Shari as a mentor, choreographed a presentation. In November 2008, Journey earned her CFF II title, and I think anyone watching the routine could probably see that we were both having the time of our lives. Journey earned her CFF III title in 2010, but the most important outcome for me was the relationship we developed along the way.

Over the years with my dogs, I have explored other dog sports—obedience, tracking, protection work, agility, scent work, and sighthound lure sports. However, DogWork added a depth to my relationship with my dog that I had never found with any other sport. I attribute this to the fact that, in DogWork, the dog is a full partner and the foundation around

which a presentation is choreographed. The music matches the tempo of the dog when the dog is trotting and the movement style of the dog; for my dogs, the dog must like the music. In my day-to-day life with my dogs, they can suggest activities, but I have “veto power.” When choreographing a DogWork presentation, I make suggestions based on the movement vocabulary we have developed in partnership, but the dog has veto power. When I step into the presentation space to exhibit, I have the choreographed presentation in my mind. However, I am open to the dog’s “last-minute edits,” and my goal is to have a strong enough relationship with my dog that I can take whatever the dog gives me in that moment and continue on with joy in a seamless presentation.

Having had such a relationship with one dog, I will never settle for less. For me, DogWork is not about the titles, it’s about the relationship I develop with my dog. The titles are the thinnest glaze on the top of the cake; the relationship is layer upon layer of scrumptious flavor and richness.

The leap in this photo taken at the beginning of Journey’s Level IIA presentation was not trained or choreographed. I see it as a pure expression of the joy that Journey was feeling in the moment. Photo by Jim Poor, November 2008.



Guild News

North Coast Canine Freestylers

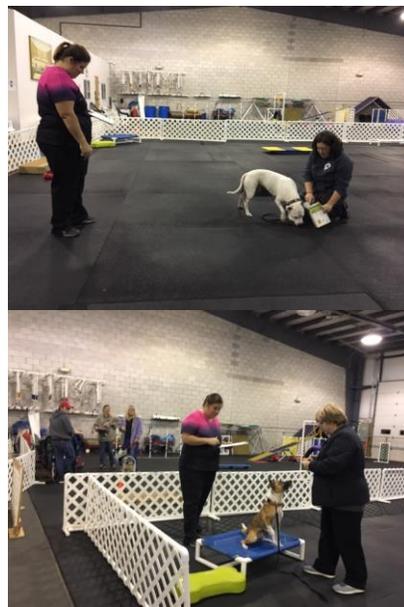
By Janet Dayton



Winter is settling in here on the north coast. Holiday preparations are beginning. November started out with a Trick/CGC evaluation for a fundraiser. We had fun watching the dogs performing their tricks and enjoyed talking with each other. Tuna fudge, candy, and snacks were indulged by all. A big “Thank you” goes to Bridget and Barb for judging and David too.

We have worked through some interesting lessons and have explored possibilities with Puzzle Cards. NCCF plans to host a titling event in late April or early May. So to that end we are working on choreography, music and technical skills.

Wishing each of you a wonderful Thanksgiving, a joyous Christmas, and a happy New Year.



Bridget Telencio judges a Trick Dog

Evaluation. Sirius Guild



By Kathy Noble

On November 10th and 11th Sirius Guild and the Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild shared another wonderful weekend for our joint trial held at the Winston-Salem Dog Training Club, a terrific facility which is perfect for a freestyle event. It was delightful to see our North Carolina friends again, and the weekend ran very smoothly, thanks to everyone's willingness to jump in and get things done! We have found that doing a joint trial weekend is a positive thing in many ways; we are sharing the duties and expenses, which is really nice, but more importantly, we are forging friendships within CFF through our cooperative efforts. Bottom line, it's great! The weekend also featured some very exciting performances, and we can't wait to get our DVDs of the event so we can see them again! At the end of the weekend, we drove back "north" with warm feelings of friendships renewed and jobs well done.

The trial weekend also marked the launch of Sirius Guild's fund raising project, with the introduction and first sales of our photo note cards, a result of our dog photo contest held this past summer. Seven winners were chosen by three independent judges, and the cards turned out beautifully and were quite popular with attendees. The plan is to continue to offer the cards we have, and also repeat the contest next year and add more photos to be printed for a further variety of images.....so be thinking ahead; most of us have one or more FABULOUS images of our dogs, past or present, looking especially beautiful or cute or funny. **We want those photos** so we can have more note cards printed! All the photos submitted must be taken by CFF members or "friends and family", so you can't use a professional's photo of your dog. Winners will receive five of the cards featuring their winning

image. The cards are approximately 4x5 inches in size, and with the CFF logo on the back, and the printing is high quality, so be thinking ahead. Take more pictures (high resolution and great focus please!) or find that special image that's already stored on your computer! If you need technical help (resolution, sizing, cropping, sending, etc.) we can help; email Kathy Noble at kathyninmd@aol.com for assistance.

Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild



By Gaea Mitchel

I think it's safe to say that everyone present at the November DogWork® Titling Event in Winston Salem had a wonderful time. The room was filled with a sense of fellowship, teamwork and anticipation. A lot of the teamwork involved the co-operative efforts of members of Sirius Guild, from Virginia and Maryland, and Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild, all from North Carolina. Especially appreciated were those members and friends who worked all weekend (as well as preliminary jobs, set-up and clean-up) and didn't even present their own canine partners. Our support folks came from VA, MD and OH, and support us they did in fine fashion. The teamwork shown in the actual performances wouldn't have been possible without these heroes.

Congratulations to all our guild members who celebrated with us, and especially to Chip and Rickie, who took all the top honors both days. What a joy to watch!

The celebration of DogWork® was the icing on a beautiful cake of shared friendships and goals, spiced with creativity, mutual respect, freedom and joy palpable in the performances. I

North Star Notes Guild

Our Minnesota friends are on hiatus, though of course dog work continues in a variety of forms. They are looking forward to returning to DogWork with new energy and creativity.

**Canine Freestyle Federation
Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild and Sirius
Guild Titling Events
Saturday November 10, 2018**

Level I Brace

First Place Sherrie Johns' Japanese Chins Helzbetz Meadowland Tori and Tanzen's Kukiko Yoko in the Moonlight earned a Level I Patch and a **NEW TITLE**

Level II

First Place Ruth Hoffman's Miniature Wirehair Dachshund Goose Creek Tournesol Sprite earned a Level II Patch and a **NEW TITLE**

Second Place Eva Mazza Scottie Glencoe's Henryetta

Level II B

First Place Julie Gregory's All American Wildhaven's Nina de Milo earned a Level II Patch and a **NEW TITLE**

Second Place Sarah Jinnah's Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Caroway Tanbrit Prancing Pollyanna earned a Level II Patch and a **NEW TITLE**

Third Place Marian Hardy's Toy Poodle Denjo's Silver Dust Linwin earned a Level II Patch

Level III

First Place Rickie Morrison's Border Collie Cyclone's Chips Ahoy earned a Level III Patch and a **NEW TITLE**

Second Place Robin Tower's Border Collie Eyespy Molly earned a Level III Patch and a **NEW TITLE**

Level IV

First Place Shari Bryant's Silken Windhound Siendo's New Hope River earned a Level IV Patch and a **NEW TITLE**

Second Place Gaea Mitchel's Rottweiler Chubasco Lyra Fianna

Level IV FEO

Mary Sullivan's Belgian Sheepdog
Morningstar's Ready Rumble

Veterans

Katheryn Noble's Golden Retriever Lycinan's
Noble Yellow Rose

Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild Award

(highest scoring 1st time exhibitor in regular class)

Ruth Hoffman's Miniature Wirehair
Dachshund Goose Creek Tournesol Sprite

Brightluck Brace Award

(highest Qualifying score in all Brace Divisions in memory of Cash, Carry, Mischief and Nicholas donated by Janet McBrien)

Sherrie Johns' Japanese Chins Helzbetz Meadowland Tori and Tanzen's Kukiko Yoko in the Moonlight

Highest Artistic Score

Rickie Morrison's Border Collie Cyclone's
Chips Ahoy

Sally Kirschenman Award

Rickie Morrison's Border Collie Cyclone's
Chips Ahoy

IN THE MOMENT

Pass/Fail class

Pass Marian Hardy & her Toy Poodle
Denjo's Silver Dust on Linwin

Pass Betty Swenson & her Border Collie
TBC Seren

Pass Julia Gregory & her All American
Wildhaven's Nina de Milo

Pass Sarah Jinnah & her Cavalier King
Charles Spaniel Caroway Tanbrit Prancing
Pollyanna

Pass Gaea Mitchel & her Cavalier King
Charles Spaniel Rainbow the Babe at Fianna

Pass Barbara Long & her Gordon Setter
Albannach Almost Famous

Sunday November 11, 2018

First Place Sherrie Johns' Japanese Chins Helzbetz Meadowland Tori and Tanzen's Kukiko Yoko in the Moonlight

Level II

First Place Eva Mazza Scottie Glencoe's Henryetta and **NEW TITLE**

Second Place Ruth Hoffman's Miniature Wirehair Dachshund Goose Creek Tournesol Sprite

Level II B

First Place Sarah Jinnah's Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Caroway Tanbrit Prancing Pollyanna

Second Place Marian Hardy's Toy Poodle Denjo's Silver Dust Linwin

Level III

First Place Rickie Morrison's Border Collie Cyclone's Chips Ahoy

Second Place Robin Tower's Border Collie Eyespy Molly

Level IV

First Place Shari Bryant's Silken Windhound Siendo's New Hope River

Second Place Gaea Mitchel's Rottweiler Chubasco Lyra Fianna

Third Place Patricia Koontz's Doberman Pinscher Mercurys Prince of the Universe earned a Level IV Patch and a **NEW TITLE**

Level IV FEO

Mary Sullivan's Belgian Sheepdog Morningstar's Ready Rumble

Veterans

Katheryn Noble's Golden Retriever Lycinan's Noble Yellow Rose

The Pepper Guzman Trophy

(Highest teamwork score in Level I, II, IIB or III)

Rickie Morrison's Border Collie Cyclone's Chips Ahoy

Highest Artistic Score

Rickie Morrison's Border Collie Cyclone's Chips Ahoy

Sally Kirschenman Award

Rickie Morrison's Border Collie Cyclone's Chips Ahoy

The event was held at the Winston-Salem Dog Training Club in Winston-Salem, NC. The judges were Julie Gregory, Brenda Jameson, and Betty Swenson. A huge thank you goes out to members of the Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild and the Sirius Guild that helped put on this event.



Rickie Morrison and Cyclone's Chips Ahoy captured the Sally Kirschenman Award, (High Score in Event), High Artistic Award and Pepper Guzman Trophy for High Teamwork Score on Saturday and Sunday!

What I Saw Last Weekend

by Julia Gregory

This past weekend, I had the privilege to judge at the DogWork® titling event held in Winston Salem, North Carolina. Now I'm a "baby judge", far less experienced than most of my colleagues and certainly less so than Betty Swenson and Brandy Jameson with whom I so recently served. So it was particularly gratifying to learn that I shared their opinions and eye for many things and oh, my, the things we saw!

The weekend opened with a Level I brace about which I have to admit I had some anxiety. Would the handler be entangled in leads and strangled? But, no, the performance was all deliberate grace and attention to one another and ended in a perfect symmetry that made me think of Victorian porcelain dogs on a mantle.

This was followed by a high-stepping Dachshund (yes, I said "high" and I mean it!) with a tail beating the rhythm of her music. No doubt about the joy in that performance! Now came a Scottie whose animation combined with her impeccable grooming reminded me of the proverbial duck ... smooth and calm on top and paddling like hell underneath. It may not sound respectful, but it was a pretty picture!

Sadly, on the first day, I missed the Level IIB's because I was one of them but on Sunday I was treated to the sight of a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel who flowed and dipped with her handler and their music, and a Poodle who made a spirited come-back from having a paw accidentally stepped on. And, oh, the veterans class! It restores my faith in the power of love to watch two old friends

moving smoothly, precisely, even comfortably together with gentle music.

When I finally got to see Level III it was exciting! The Border Collies had taken over the neighborhood and were tearing it up! There was flash and dash and a slingshot maneuver that sent strong, athletic dogs flying wherever their handlers sent them.

Everyone looks forward to the most advanced work that we see in Level IV and on Saturday they did not disappoint. The contrast of the Rottweiler's barely controlled power and the silken windhound's athletically flowing grace was a treat. I'm sorry that I didn't get to see the Doberman perform on Sunday, but I was trapped in the crate room and saw only fragments of his dramatic performance.

And my dog? Nina? What did I see there? Mostly big eyes and a swishing rear end, and both ends working hard for me. She is a dog in whom I didn't allow myself to have an emotional investment until my former dog, Milo, who was a part of myself died. Now Nina has salved my grief and asked if we might not do some work together that involves cookies. She has also made it plain that she is very much her own person still.

And how is it that I was privileged to see and feel so much on this weekend? It's because we have been given a great gift ... the gift of DogWork. Thank you, Joan! This sport opens us to experiences and relationships with our dogs and other dogs that are simply not possible in other disciplines. For this to happen, we must let go of what we think we know and let DogWork take us by the heart.

We have another responsibility to the sport. If we want it to continue, we must work at our craft to constantly improve our technique

and deepen our understanding. We must learn to instruct and to judge. We must share our experience with others and invite our friends (or total strangers) to class. In all your DogWork endeavors, in the words of Betty Swenson I say, Good Luck and God Bless the Founder!



2019 CFF Annual Dues Notice

Dues are \$ 25.00 Please renew today!

(Your membership expires on the date shown in the upper right corner of the mailing label of the newsletter)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Please make checks payable to CFF, Inc and mail to Carl Tennille, Treasurer CFF 14430 Overlook Ridge Lane Beaverdam, VA 23015 or you can go to the CFF web site and pay using paypal.

In May 1998 CFF filed an Application for Recognition of Exemption under 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code with the IRS. The IRS granted CFF's request in 1999 as exempt from federal income taxes. CFF dues are not deductible for federal income tax purposes as a charitable contribution.

**Paws to Dance
c/o Gaea Mitchel
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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