

# *Paws to Dance*



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

## **Sometimes You Need to Say “I’m Sorry!”**

by Gaea Mitchel

I made a bad mistake at the Titling Event in Ohio this month. I failed to trust my dog, and then I disrespected her. Her performance on Saturday was, from my perspective, wild and a bit out of control. She loves DogWork, and at times expressed way more energy and enthusiasm than I had choreographed. Then came Sunday. I had taken her on two long, brisk walks before we settled in to wait our turn. Things were going as planned at first, though Lyra was distracted by a couple of light spots on the floor. (In her dream world it could have been cheese!) She recovered quickly and we moved along through our performance until the slow pace grew through a normal trot and on toward a gallop. This morphed into wild cavorting, with no relationship to any reference position known to DogWork. Intended as a send-away along the diagonal toward the far corner of the space, she instead went to dead center, turned, and began backing in huge athletic leaps. She seemed ready to launch into her signature “Rottie Rips”, tearing around with great abandon as if rounding up a flock of rogue sheep, or perhaps gazelles. At this point I lost my trust in her, sure that she would run wild until I lost my

place in the music and the choreographic plan, and that she would have learned this fun could be had at her whim in any performance space before spectators forevermore. I gave her a stern “lie down”, bowed to judges and spectators, and marched her out in a tight heel position to her crate.

I had a delayed realization as I zipped the crate. Her face. What had been a bright, open and totally engaged expression turned to confusion as I literally put her down in front of everyone, then to total disappointment that I hadn’t responded as expected to her invitation to play a new version of our game. It took awhile for the full impact of my actions to sink in, and the shame of it to settle in my heart. I had tried to become the dominant force, demanding subservience. Everyone was telling me how much they had enjoyed watching her (how could they; she was out of control!) and how much fun she was having (but what about my choreographic plan?) I almost skipped the opportunity to get the judges’ remarks, but whatever they might say I had earned. Actually, they were very supportive, of both Lyra and me. Joan, who several years ago pointed out that I didn’t trust Lyra, has helped that trust grow over time. Until now. I know she was disappointed for Lyra.

So how do I tell my dog I’m sorry? Will walks on the mountain let her know I’ll try to do better? DogWork games in the basement? Hugs? I don’t know, but she is getting them all.

In a partnership trust must flow both ways, and I will continue to work to repair the damage and regain Lyra's trust in the team. More than anything, I want to continue to pursue DogWork with this amazing and creative partner. Lyra, I'm sorry. Please give me another chance.

## Sirius Guild Photo Contest!

Have you taken a wonderful photograph of your dog? Sirius Guild is looking for some really great photographs of dogs at work or play, so we are having a contest. Ten lucky winners will be chosen to be used to create note cards which will be sold to dog enthusiasts everywhere. As an added bonus, winners will also receive a pack of five of the cards with their winning photograph.

### Rules:

The contest is open to all Canine Freestyle Federation Members.

All photographs submitted must have been taken by you.

The main subject should be a dog or dogs, not limited to doing freestyle.

Photographs must be submitted in digital form, and be a minimum 300dpi and 5 by 7 inches...the larger the better. Photos submitted in a smaller size will not be considered. Color or black and white photos are acceptable.

If there are recognizable people in the photograph, you must be able to submit a signed model release if your photo is selected.

The photograph should not have your name, a kennel name or other identifying information visible.

A maximum of five images can be submitted by each person. By submitting your entries, you are giving us your permission to reproduce and sell your image(s) with no further remuneration to you.

Submissions will be judged by a panel of three judges.

Deadline for submissions August 1st, 2018.

Submissions to be made via email to [siriuscontest@gmail.com](mailto:siriuscontest@gmail.com) and must contain the following information;

Name

Street

Address\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\_\_\_\_\_

Total number of photographs submitted\_\_\_\_\_

Please attach only one photo per email.



## North Coast Canine Freestylers

By Bridget Telencio  
and Janet Dayton

We did make it to the nursing/rehab facility in February. It was a very rewarding experience and we have been invited back.

At our Trick Dog evaluation in February, we drew a ticket for the afghan raffle. Barbara Long of the Carolina Guild was the lucky winner. Congratulations Barbara! We were so happy a freestyler won.

**Barbara and**

**Ambrose**



We were pretty busy this spring preparing for our joint titling event with the North Star Guild. All our hard work paid off as the event ran smoothly and was quite successful. We had entries from Minnesota, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, and Ohio. It was great to see so many competitors and reconnect with friends. The DogWork® was fabulous and inspiring. Many new titles were earned and achievements made. Congratulations to all. Thank you to our judges for making the trip and giving your time. We appreciate it.

It is not easy to put on a titling event and the members of North Star and North Coast should be proud of a job well done. Way to go Ladies!

Well I think we deserve a bit of a rest. Winter finally let go of the choke hold it had on spring. YEAH! Summer here we come!

From Left: Sherry and Rio, Leila and Charlee, Sue Ann and Patti, Alison and Quincy, Bridget and London and Lava. On floor: Janet and Lark, Diana and Willow



## North Star Notes Guild

By Kate An Hunter

Spring is FINALLY here! After a very long, cold and snowy winter, we are starting to see green. Another CFF event will be the perfect way to kick off our summer! So we are practicing nearly every week and our performances are really coming together. We are looking forward to sharing our dogs with everyone in Ohio in May. All of our dogs are multitasking, so we continue to take classes in Barn Hunt, Nosework, Obedience, Rally and Agility. I love the way the various sports overlap in what the dogs are learning and how they learn. As expected, we see the characteristics of our breeds highlighted in the

different sports. Cooper, the Border Terrier, rocks Barn Hunt. Blake, the Welsh Springer Spaniel, is all about hunting pheasants. Iko, the Labrador Retriever, is eternally happy doing scent work and was a star earning his Trick Performer title. Kady, the spaniel/shepherd mix, is learning agility and practicing for her Level 2B CFF premier sometime in the near future. Snickers, the Welsh Pembroke Corgi, keeps everyone in line and is a perfectionist. But DogWork is where every dog, of any breed, excels. It is the only sport where the breed, personality and unique movement of each dog finds its best expression as shown by the person who knows and loves him or her best. As much as I enjoy all the different sports that Keegan and I train and compete in, DogWork has the most heart. See you all soon!



**For Maureen, Blake and Snickers, the great outdoors is the perfect place to practice.**



## **Sirius Guild** by Mary Sullivan

Sirius Guild has been busy. For the first time ever, in mid-April, we held a very productive guild meeting by conference call, thanks to Joan and Carl. We discussed a new fund-raising idea: a photo note card contest. Details appear elsewhere in this issue (page 2.) Also on the agenda was planning our November 2018 joint trial(s) with the North Carolina guild. Based on our past experiences, we strongly recommend joint trials! They are a great way to split the work, share expenses, and encourage more entries AND spectators. Of most value, however, is the opportunity to learn more about each other, develop camaraderie, enhance communication, and socialize together. All this, while working toward a common goal. These values can only strengthen CFF, and, joint trials are fun! Most recently, at the request of Capital Dog Training Club (where we hold our freestyle classes) and in support of our local humane society, five of our guild members practiced DogWork in an exhibition ring at an event called "Paws in the Park." The 40 miles-per-hour wind, carnival atmosphere, and milling crowds were ideal distractions for proofing the dogs. We decided an occasional freestyle class outdoors will help prepare our dogs for working in a variety of situations.

## First Florida Freestylers Guild



The report from Florida:  
"Not much news, is there?"

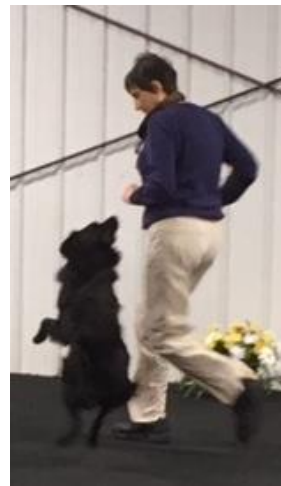
However, we have recently heard credible rumors about a titling event being planned for spring of 2019. I hope they are true; we miss our southern-most friends, and would love to see them join the fun! Meanwhile, why don't you come join us in Winston Salem in November?

## Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild



by Gaea Mitchel

The Carolina Guild is looking forward to another combined Carolina and Sirius Guild titling event in November, and plans are well under way. They began in earnest with a fundraiser in March. The guild hosted a seminar presented by Joan Tennille, focused on moving from Technical Execution to Artistic Expression. The goals were twofold; fundraising and advancing the understanding of handlers to support their success in Levels III and IV. The weekend was enjoyed by one and all, and we left energized with ideas and a greater understanding of our sport. Thank you Joan, and to the guild members who worked to make it happen "great job!"



At the seminar, top to bottom:  
Adele Monroe and Max,  
Judy Arnold and Starla,  
Laurie Sue Eakay and Lonnie.

**Canine Freestyle Federation  
North Coast Canine Freestylers and North  
Star Notes Guild  
Saturday May 12, 2018**

**Level IIA**

**First Place** Alison DeBroux's Shetland Sheepdog Quincy earned a Level II Patch

**Level IIB**

**First Place** Kate An Hunter's Brussels Griffon Keegan, Status Quo of Legends Heart earned a Level II Patch and a NEW TITLE

**Second Place** Sue Ann Branstein's Papillon Domino's Peppermint Patti Sealed with a Kiss earned a Level II Patch and a NEW TITLE

**Third Place** Diana Simpson's Greyhound Willow earned a Level II Patch and a NEW TITLE

**Fourth Place** Sarah Jinnah's Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Princess Charlotte Of Wellington At Tanbrit earned a Level II Patch

**Level II Brace**

**First Place** Bridget Telencio's Belgian Tervurens G'Lava Du Fosseret and London Du Musher earned a NEW TITLE

**II FEO**

Sherry Gedeon's Bernese Mountain Dog Hidn Oaks I Am the Master of My Fate

**Level III**

**First Place** Gaea Mitchel's Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Rainbow the Babe at Fianna earned a Level III Patch and a NEW TITLE

**Second Place** Maureen Behrens' Pembroke Welsh Corgi Lakeways Snickers Behrens earned a Level III Patch and a NEW TITLE

**Third Place** Brenda Lee Jameson's Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Rainbow Dolcetto earned a Level III Patch and a NEW TITLE

**Level III FEO**

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

**Level IV**

**First Place** Janet Dayton's Greyhound Lark

**Second Place** Jeanine Brown's Labrador Retriever Iko Brown earned a Level IV Patch and a NEW TITLE

**Third Place** Leila Widgren's Standard Poodle De La Passion Charlemagne I Hope You Dance

**Fourth Place** Kristin Sicotte's Border Terrier Meadowlake Cooper Can Dance: earned a Level IV Patch and a NEW TITLE

**North Coast Canine Freestylers Award**

(highest teamwork score in regular class)  
Janet Dayton's Greyhound Lark

**Brightluck Brace Award**

(Highest Scoring Brace Team earning a title)  
Bridget Telencio's Belgian Tervurens G'Lava Du Fosseret and London Du Musher

**Highest Artistic Score**

Janet Dayton's Greyhound Lark

**Sally Kirschenman Award**

Janet Dayton's Greyhound Lark

**IN THE MOMENT**

Pass/Fail class

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

Pass Maureen Behrens & her Welsh Springer Spaniel Trystyn's Radio Flyer

Pass Kate An Hunter & her Brussels Griffon Keegan, Status Quo of Legends Heart

Pass Betty Swenson & her Border Collie TBC Seren

Pass Julia Gregory & her Mixed Breed Wildhaven's Nina de Milo

Pass Jeanine Brown & her Labrador Retriever Iko Brown

Pass Shari Bryant & her Silken Windhound Siendo's New Hope River

Pass Betty Swenson & her Border Collie Vickie

Pass Kristin Sicotte & her Border Terrier Meadowlake Cooper Can Dance:

Pass Sarah Jinnah and her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Princess Charlotte Of Wellington At Tanbrit

**Sunday May 13, 2018**

**Level IIA**

**First Place** Alison DeBroux's Shetland Sheepdog Quincy earned a NEW TITLE

**Level IIB**

**First Place** Sue Ann Branstein's Papillon Domino's Peppermint Patti Sealed with a Kiss

**Second Place** Diana Simpson's Greyhound Willow

**Third Place** Sarah Jinnah's Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Princess Charlotte Of Wellington At Tanbrit earned a NEW TITLE

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**Second Place** Maureen Behrens' Pembroke Welsh Corgi Lakeways Snickers Behrens

**Level III FEO**

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

**Level IV**

**First Place** Betty Swenson's Border Collie Vickie

**Second Place** Janet Dayton's Greyhound Lark

**Third Place** Jeanine Brown's Labrador Retriever Iko Brown

**Fourth Place** Kristin Sicotte's Border Terrier Meadowlake Cooper Can Dance:

**North Coast Canine Freestylers Award**

(highest teamwork score in regular class)  
Betty Swenson's Border Collie Vickie

**Highest Artistic Score**

Betty Swenson's Border Collie Vickie

**Sally Kirschenman Award**

Betty Swenson's Border Collie Vickie

The event was held at the Canine Affair Center in Chesterland, OH. The judges were Julia Gregory, Betty Swenson and Joan Tennille. A huge thank you goes out to members of both the North Coast Canine Freestylers and the North Star Notes Guilds that help put on this event.

Wow what a weekend! Presenters from Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, Minnesota and Ohio. Dogs from small Papillon, Brussels Griffon and Pug to large Bernese Mountain Dog and Rottweiler; a total of 14 different breeds were represented at the event. A total of ten new titles were earned in Levels II, III and IV. Betty Swenson's Border Collie Vickie earned a third score of 80 or better and was awarded her Championship. Betty has now earned a Championship on four different dogs!

**Paws to Dance  
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## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**

### **Inside This Issue**

Sometimes You Have to Say "I'm Sorry!" .....1  
Sirius Guild Photo Contest.....2  
Guilds.....3  
Results May Titling Event.....6

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