

Paws to Dance



The Newsletter of the Canine Freestyle Federation, Inc.

June 2022

Filming for a PBS Special

By Trish Koontz, Judy Arnold, and Michele Meloy

Trish Koontz writes:

Imagine multiple spotlights hanging from the rafters and shining down from the top of a huge stepladder, dogs working in the stage lights with a totally dark room surrounding them. Oh, and equipment and cameras everywhere plus cameras on gimbals chasing teams around the performance area. It was a long, tiring, and most unusual day but the dogs were super STARS! Never would I have predicted how challenging the filming process would be on the day or how many phone calls and emails and meetings it would take ahead of time. Of course, if I'd had a clue about the total effort involved, I'd never have committed to the project. <smile>

I definitely never would have predicted how freely and happily the teams would perform throughout the craziness of the day. They performed in those never-before encountered circumstances over and over with beautiful movement and outstanding joy thanks to the patience and positive handling of their human partners. I think the happy, rather astonished attitude of the production crew and Shane, the documentary mastermind, helped a lot. They were truly thrilled with what we were doing and how it tied in with Dr. Brian Hare's research they filmed at the Duke Dog Cognition Center. Shane told me he learned some very surprising and unexpected things yesterday.

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Boon wearing a camera for a dog's eye-view of freestyle

Definitely could not have done this without the help of Michele. She not only put in hours of practice help, was there for all the heavy set up and break down work, she kept me sane throughout all of it plus specifically reminded me to let Boon lead the play every time we went out on the floor. Michele also performed beautifully many times with both of her dogs JoJo and Cowboy. Cowboy was just unbelievable! Thanks so much to Adele and Barbara who both supported with practices, ideas, and great focus reminders during the planning phase.

Judy and Starla were awesome many times over and Judy jumped onto the spotlight stage (was dragged onto it, lol) with her puppy Pearl with zero notice to fill in for our missing folks. Beth and Flora were champs and soooo gorgeous on the floor all the many times they went out. Nothing was more beautiful during the day than Flora's gaily waving tail. She also entertained us with her snoring during the lunch break. We had eight different breeds of dogs participate from age 7 months to our veterans, Cowboy and Boon, both 9. Starla performed so sweetly in her pearls even though she has had two major back surgeries. They clearly saw the wonderful thing about our freestyle - that each team designs their own choreography for performance to uniquely fit each dog, with a great amount of the dog's input.

Just have to say, Dr. Shane Campbell-Staton, Ph.D., Princeton University, the mastermind behind the research for this documentary as well as the members of the film production company, Days Edge Productions, were amazed at the creativity of the dogs and the level of inter-species

communication demonstrated by the teams. Visit both of their websites for a look at some fascinating research and documentaries. The 6-hour series will air in summer 2023. I'll post the schedule when it's set.

<https://www.campbellstaton.com/>

<http://www.daysedge.com/>

Judy writes:

This was a wonderful experience for both human and dog! I am still amazed at how wonderfully all the dogs performed. The stage lighting put us all in the mood, the dogs dug it the most. The lighting suppressed distractions even though there were many to be had. What could have been an upsetting and terrifying experience for some dogs, turned out to be uplifting. I am so proud of all of our dogs and can't wait to see the documentary. I hope each dog is highlighted in some way.

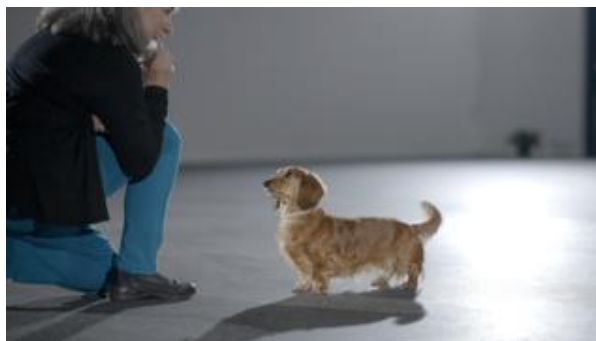
Michele writes:

What an amazing experience yesterday at Durham Kennel Club with the crew from Days Edge Productions. When else will I get a chance to play with my dogs and show them off under dimmed lights, special filming lighting, etc.? Those of you who know Cowboy will appreciate it when I say he was amazing!!! No shutting down, no slowness, just head up, ears up, bouncy happy man.

A collage of photos from filming. Special thanks to Days Edge Productions for providing the photos.



Trish and Boon



Judy and Starla



Michele and Cowboy



Beth and Flora



Trish and Boon



Michele and JoJo



Beth and Flora



Judy and Starla

Sirius Guild

By Mary Sullivan

Marge Hetrick, long-time member, competitor (with Standard poodles), judge, and two-time co-creator of the first two CFF Retreats recently passed away. Below is her obituary.



Marjorie C. Hetrick

Ellicott City, Maryland

October 22, 1937 - February 24, 2022

On February 24, 2022 Marjorie C. Hetrick, beloved wife of John Murray Hetrick, Jr., loving mother of Malinda J. Hetrick and John M. Hetrick, III (wife Karen,) and cherished grandmother of Caitlyn Morgan Hetrick, passed away. In addition to her husband, Marjorie was preceded in death by her parents, Lloyd Wesley Clark and Jane Currie Clark.

With a landscape design degree under her belt, and a short stint as a professional landscape designer, she spent hours planning her own garden and helping friends design theirs. She was always ready to share her knowledge.

Marge was also an avid traveler. She went from having to ferry her two children back and forth to South America with a real fear of flying, to grabbing every chance she could to explore the world. During her trips she made both lasting friendships and many colorful memories. Her true passion was her dogs. Over the course of 50 years, she spent hours grooming and training her standard poodles for both obedience and freestyle shows and competitions.

Marge was very active in the Catonsville Presbyterian Church.

Marge died of complications from a broken leg.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. The family requests that contributions in her memory be made to the National Audubon Society.

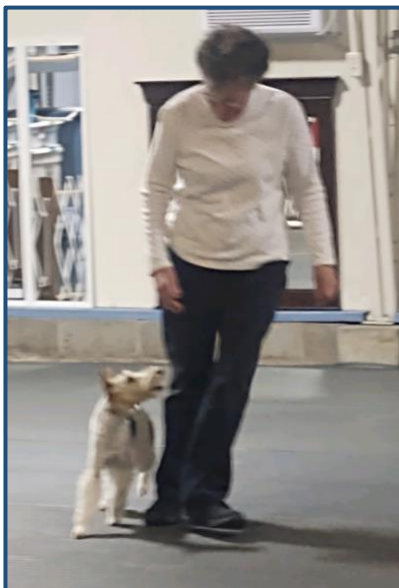
To plant a tree in memory of Marjorie C. Hetrick, please visit our [Tribute Store](#).



North Coast Canine Freestylers Guild

By Janet Dayton

We have had a busy winter and spring. Our beginner class wanted a titling event. We decided we could make that happen. Everyone is working hard on their routines, tweaking and polishing. We are also fundraising. There is excitement in the air as the show draws near. We still have much to do, but everyone is pitching in and we will get it done. It is a privilege to be part of this guild. Each one of you is appreciated and I am honored to be a part of NCCF.



We were invited to do a freestyle demonstration at the Ashtabula Kennel Club. Thank you, Deb for making the contact and setting the wheels in motion. The space was half of a CFF performance space, but we made do. The demo was well received and appreciated. It is always fun to introduce our sport to people who have no idea what we do. Karen/Wink, Deb/Raphael, Bridget/Lava/London, Janet/Airy, and Leila participated. It was a valuable experience for newbie Karen to perform in front of a new audience. She and Wink looked like pros. It was also good for puppies Raphael and Airy to work in a new environment. Deb was able to keep Raphael engaged for the most part and he did a very nice job. Airy was comic relief when she saw herself in the mirrors and decided she needed to check

that new dog out. Laughter and chuckles all around. Bridget worked her dogs in a brace, which impressed the audience. She also worked Lava in a Level IV routine. It is always a treat to watch Bridget work her dogs. Leila, as always was spot on with her AV presentation, explaining our sport, and introducing the teams. Way to go, Ladies!



“Remember Me,” the name of the hosta given to everyone at our titling event in 2019 in memory of Joan, reappeared in my garden, healthy and bigger than ever. Thanks, Joan for introducing this sport to us. My life is enriched because of it.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Canine Freestyle Federation
North Coast Canine Freestylers Guild Titling Event – Saturday June 4, 2022

Level II A

First Place: Karen Grettler's Wire Haired Fox Terrier, MACH RATCHXWire Winking At Life earned a Level II Patch and a **NEW TITLE**

Second Place: Susan Klein's Smooth Collie, CH Deep River's Beltane earned a Level II Patch and a **NEW TITLE**

Third Place: Mary Moodey's Airedale, Eaglebluff Droffats Rumi earned a Level II Patch

Level II B

First Place: Debra English's Standard Poodle, Devin's Purple Broken Hart MNDR, earned a Level II Patch and a **NEW TITLE**

Second Place: Janet Dayton's Greyhound Airy, earned a Level II Patch and a **NEW TITLE**

Level III Brace

First Place: Bridget Telencio's Belgian Tervurens, G'Lava Du Fosseret and London Du Musher earned a Level III Patch

Level IV

First Place: Janet Dayton's Greyhound, Lark

Second Place: Diana Simpson's Greyhound, Willow

For Exhibition Only Level IV

Leila Widgren's Standard Poodle, De La Passion Charlemagne I Hope You Dance CFFIV, CGC

First time competitor with the highest score given by Deb English In Memory of Malachi.

Karen Grettler's Wire Haired Fox Terrier, MACH RATCHXWire Winking At Life

North Coast Canine Freestylers Award

Awarded to the highest teamwork score

Karen Grettler's Wire Haired Fox Terrier, MACH RATCHXWire Winking At Life

Highest Artistic Score a tie

Karen Grettler's Wire Haired Fox Terrier MACH RATCHXWire Winking At Life

Debra English's Standard Poodle, Devin's Purple Broken Hart MNDR

Sally Kirschenman Award

Karen Grettler's Wire Haired Fox Terrier, MACH RATCHXWire Winking At Life

IN THE MOMENT

Pass/Fail class

Pass Julia Gregory's All American, Wildhaven's Nina de Milo

Pass Diana Simpson's Greyhound, Willow

Pass Debra English's Standard Poodle, Raphael

Pass Karen Grettler's Wire Haired Fox Terrier, Wink

Pass Gaea Mitchel's Rottweiler, Caileann

Pass Mary Moodey's Airedale, Rumi

Canine Freestyle Federation
North Coast Canine Freestylers Guild Titling Event – Sunday June 5, 2022

Level II A

First Place: Susan Klein's Smooth Collie, CH Deep River's Beltane

Second Place: Karen Grettler's Wire Haired Fox Terrier, MACH RATCHXWire Winking At Life

Third Place: Mary Moodey's Airedale, Eaglebluff Droffats Rumi earned a **NEW TITLE**

Level II B

First Place: Debra English's Standard Poodle, Devin's Purple Broken Hart MNDR

Second Place: Janet Dayton's Greyhound, Airy

Level III Brace

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

Level IV

First Place: Janet Dayton's Greyhound, Lark

Second Place: Diana Simpson's Greyhound, Willow

For Exhibition Only Level IV

Leila Widgren's Standard Poodle, De La Passion Charlemagne I Hope You Dance CFFIV, CGC

North Coast Canine Freestylers Award a tie

Awarded to the highest teamwork score

Debra English's Standard Poodle, Devin's Purple Broken Hart MNDR

Janet Dayton's Greyhound, Lark

Highest Artistic Score a tie

Susan Klein's Smooth Collie, CH Deep River's Beltane

Bridget Telencio's Belgian Tervurens G'Lava Du Fossieret and London Du Musher

Sally Kirschenman Award

Susan Klein's Smooth Collie, CH Deep River's Beltane

The event was held at the Canine Affair Center in Chesterland, Ohio. The judges were Julia Gregory and Brenda Jameson. A huge thank you goes out to the Canine Affair Center and members of the North Coast Canine Freestylers Guild that help put on this event.

Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

October 28, 2022

Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild and Sirius Guild Titling Event

The two guilds are planning host a one-day trial at the Winston-Salem Dog Training Club in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Regular classes, PhraseWork, and In The Moment will be offered. More information will be available soon.

October 28-30, 2022

Canine Freestyle Federation DogWork® Jamboree

The Jamboree will be held at the Winston-Salem Dog Training Club in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Registration brochure and form is available on the CFF website.

Paws to Dance
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Upcoming Events

Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild & Sirius Guild Titling Event, Winston-Salem, NC, October 28, 2022
Canine Freestyle Federation DogWork® Jamboree, Winston-Salem, NC, October 28-30, 2022

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