

Checkerboard Times

Tuesday, April 2nd 2024



“There’s not a word yet, for old friends who’ve just met.”

—Jim Henson

Happy Tuesday, Friends!

Monday included warnings about the weather, the word “tornado,” and instructions about what to do if we hear sirens. Multiple people asked that we include warnings about ticks (consider yourself warned). Those who live in the area are probably used to this kind of thing but for the rest of us, an unusual element of danger was added to the fun of Monday at the National Specialty.

This danger got real when the storm settled in on Monday night. Hail and thunder roared around us, terrorizing dogs and humans alike. It was so loud that many of us did not hear the notice to evacuate. The security folks went around shortly after 1:00 a.m. to make sure everyone was evacuated, and we sleepily convened with our confused dogs in the tornado shelter (aka Event Center). Once the danger passed, we headed back to our RVs. This must be a Specialty first, right?!

Earlier on Monday, the first draft test of the 2024 Specialty finished with nary a raindrop and plenty of passing teams. Agility was indoors and so weather was not a factor, but we did have sound checks going on so that added some spiciness to the day. Gratitude to the judges, trial secretaries, chairs, and the many volunteers who make it possible for the rest of us to have fun with our dogs.

The Raffle Peeps were busy getting all that set up yesterday and WOWZA! So much stuff. You can start buying your raffle tickets today. The drawing for the Best Seats in the House will happen just before conformation gets underway today so hurry over and buy some tickets. Ways and Means and Berner Garde are all set up — and the vendors! Don’t miss all the wonderful vendors.

The Breeder Symposium was well attended and full of information. There are promising treatments for histio that are currently in clinical trials — let’s keep our collective fingers crossed that results point to effective treatments.

Conformation gets started today with Puppy Sweepstakes. We also have more Berner U, Draft Test #2, and Scentwork today. The evening event is the Welcome Party, featuring the first ever Studs and Suds. This should be interesting!

Tuesday Happenings

Puppy Sweepstakes at 8 am

Draft Test #2 at the Working Dog Field

Scentwork at the Service Center

Welcome Party/Studs and Suds in the Event Hall at 5 pm

You can access an interactive daily schedule by clicking [THIS](#) link.

High in Agility Trial



Congratulations to Kris Osojnicky and Allie!

Results for Herding, Farm Dog, Agility, and the Draft Tests can be found at [HERE](#).



Thanks to all our many volunteers, including 11-year-old Thomas who worked all day at the Farm Dog Tests.

We appreciate all of you!

Make new friends but keep the old. One is silver, the other is gold.

It is easy and wonderful to be together with old friends. But it is also easy for others to feel left out when we gather in our happy friend groups, handing our friendship bracelets to people who are already part of the fabric of our lives.

After the newsletter team received an email reminding of that, I loaded up with friendship bracelets and set out to find — and welcome -- new friends. It worked and it was so fun! I met wonderful people, handed out bracelets, and introduced some of them to other people. Thanks, Val Horney, for helping with my little project!

I want to again welcome my new friends Charles, Lotta, Chris, Claire, Marcie, Ken, Lex, Brody, CR and Beth to the National Specialty. All are first timers, some of now sporting Sparkle friendship bracelets, and we are so glad they are here with us.

How many new friends can you make today?

Ready, Set -- SHOP!

The 2024 Ways and Means shop is open from 8:30 — 5 today.

There are some new items available, and the inventory has been increased with more sizes.

The newest item is this wonderful tee shirt. It features the Rhinestone Pick Puppy and comes in a marble green color. These are in women sizes, small to 2XL.



Stop by and view all the great,
high-quality merchandise for
2024.

Raffle ticket sales begin during Conformation today!

REMEMBER

The Service Center is being used for Scentwork today. This means it is unavailable for bathing dogs or taking showers today until the Scentwork Trial is over.

The fenced-in Play Yard area is fine to use, but please be considerate of working teams during the trial.

Questions or concerns about Scentwork? Contact the Trial Chair (Denise McClure) at 615-480-8049.

RESCUE Gallery

The Rescue Gallery is set up at Purina Farms. There are 53 stories this year, from most of the national rescues and many from new people with new rescues because of the historic increase in rescues.



Those of you at home can use this QR code or click [HERE](#) to read the stories.



Check out the results of the Photo Contest [HERE](#)

Our very own Annie McDannold is taking beautiful performance photos this week — she was at agility yesterday. Check out Annie's wonderful work [HERE](#).



A look at the Draft Test site

The Newsletter Team welcomes photos, announcements, suggestions, etc.

Send to Mary-Ann Sontag at Sontag.ma@gmail.com or text to 406-369-5293.