

Checkerboard Times

Thursday, April 4th 2024



“The only way to have a friend is to be one.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Happy Thursday Friends

It is starting to feel like Day 176 of the National Specialty. This is appropriate since we seem to have spanned multiple seasons since we arrived. We had heat and humidity and then it was tornado season and yesterday cold, wind and sleet arrived. If you did not bring appropriate clothing for the range of weather, head over to the vendor area with your credit card and you will find what you need.

Yesterday was another action-packed day here at Purina Farms. The conformation ring spanned the generations from puppies (Futurity) to veterans (sweeps) with the Versatility Showcase in between. Health clinics were happening (and continue today) and obedience was an all day event. The evening event was the Health Auction — we are still awaiting final numbers.

Shout-out to the obedience team that was a memorial to Clark Osojncki. In 2019, he and three friends planned their future Specialty obedience team, but Covid had other plans for Clark. His teammates — Kathy Berge, Val Horney, and Joanne Prellberg — implemented their team plan yesterday with Clark as a member in memory. Thank you, friends, for letting us rest our hearts and minds on our missing community member.

Today is Draft Test #3, Rally, health clinics, and the regular conformation classes begin with the boys. If we can all stay awake that long, tonight's event is the Top Twenty!

Special greetings to those of you following the fun at home. Thank you for your emails! Please know you are missed.

Gratitude to Lisa K for keeping the newsletter in photos. Thank you, Friend!

And speaking of photographers — we have three of them here and photos will be for sale. Tomorrow's newsletter will include all the details so you can order yours.

Have fun today — and good luck!

Best Laid Plans

Well, this is awkward! After we told you how great BaRay is at posting show results we discovered that they are not posting results for this show.

Oh Dear.

As a (sort of) workaround, your extra friendly Newsletter Person met with the nice person who is serving as the on-site show superintendent – she is not able to post results, but she did agree to share the results with me.

I am not able to type out all the names BUT I can list class placements and armband numbers, and you can then look it up in the online catalog [HERE](#). We will do this for the regular conformation classes going forward.

Here are some of the results from the last two days of conformation:

Best Puppy in Sweeps was #8.

Best Junior in Sweeps was #99.

Best in Futurity was # 112.

Best of Opposite in Futurity was #135.

Best In Versatility was #347.

Best of Opposite in Versatility was #456.

The friendly folks at Berner Garde booth are offering a gift if you stop by and update dog info!

Studs & Suds



Obedience!



The 2024 National Specialty obedience trial was so big that an extra judge had to be brought in!



As usual with obedience at a Specialty, flexibility and fun were the words of the day as conflicts with other events and the health clinic were managed with kindness and grace.



Thank you to all the judges and volunteers who made the day so wonderful.



High in Trial (and lots of swag) went to Jennifer Krohn and **STONEHILL'S GLORY OF THE SNOW** CGC TKN. Congratulations!!!!



Mascot Archie helps at the Announcer table!



Your friendly friends at Raffle are ready to sell you some winning tickets!



Best Veteran in Sweeps, Fergie, is the mom of Best in Versatility, Ferguson! Congratulations to the team around these special dogs!

Ms. Dog Show Manners Answers a Question

Dear Ms. Dog Show Manners:

We are not sure if you take questions from dogs but we decided to try. Thank goodness for bark activated software!

The issue is this — while the humans are busy making new friends and exchanging those bracelets, they are ignoring their dogs who are then accosting us left and right! That whole “Bringing Friends Together” thing is fine for humans but some of us dogs did not agree to that. We do not want or need new friends — unless it is Sparkle with her Friendship Donuts. We definitely want to be her friend.



Could you please tell the humans to pay attention to their dogs?! It is not our job, after all, to teach those extra fresh or friendly ones to mind their manners.

Signed,
A Few Snarky Bitches

My Dear Ladies:

Ms. Dog Show Manners sympathizes with your predicament. You are forced to choose between being assaulted by a stranger or unleashing your own version of a manners lesson, and then having your human disappointed in you for being snarky. A very unfortunate dilemma.

You are correct that the issue is inattentive humans and/or those who think that other people’s dogs should be the ones training their dogs to have proper manners around their fellow canines.

Oh dear.

We will publish your letter with this gentle reminder to the humans to please pay attention to what their dogs are up to while friendship bracelets are being exchanged.

Rally + Berner U = Success!



Today is a good day to share the kind of quality classes offered by Berner U earlier this week. Becky Wright provided this informative overview of the Rally Around Rally class:

“Instructor Kris Morrow shared an overview of positive training methods, stepped through the Rally novice signs, and demonstrated and discussed the execution of each sign. The dogs and handlers worked on exercises and then went through two courses. The team asked about specific signs they had questions about, and this led to deeper focus on the more complex signs. Berners from 9 months to 11 years enjoyed working the courses.

Kris has a happy contagious attitude which kept the teams excited and leaving with more excitement for Rally.”

Some of the teams that were in the class are in Rally today — good luck to them and the rest of the Rally teams.



**Specialty Medical
(Human) Response Person
Tami Winner
714-813-9211**

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

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