

2007 Annual Picnic Report and Weekend Activities

The weather on Friday was sunny and bright, but there was a strong wind blowing the tail end of a storm that took place a couple days earlier in the area. Several picnic goers set up their crates and chairs behind the pavilion wall for protection against the wind and several of them looked like they received a touch of *color* from the sun. The rest of the weekend weather worked with us and was really gorgeous.

Judge Roger Bennett was so impressed with the breed, how far it has come, and with AKKAOA, that he joined AKKAOA's membership. He had even made trophies that he handed out when he was judging and said he will do the same in future shows where he is our judge.

We heard marvelous comments that the picnic was so much fun with all the games, contests, yummy food and great company. Everyone was eager to play and join the games and to enter the different contests. Here are the contest and game winners:

The waggiest tail - Hiatt - Debbie Clifton

The best trick (the push-ups) - Tinsel - Cindy and Rahe Clancy

The best costume - Tied: Lacey - Patty Ramsburg and Ivan Nunez with Molly

The best howler/talker/singer - Lacey - Patty Ramsburg

The quickest sit - Kiki - Denise Johnson

The quickest down - Kiki - Denise Johnson

The Leader of the Pack (blindfolded) - Carolyn, Patty and Ayla

How many doggy treats - Alan Wiebelhaus

Who's got the dog toy - Carolyn Zinnser

Puppy/Adult picture game - Mary Jones, 10 out of 25

At 3 pm on Friday, Mary and Tim Cunningham of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America presented the Weight Pull Clinic/Demo to the picnic attendees. Kristi Dushek made the introductions and presented Mary and Tim with thank you gifts. Everyone who wished was given the opportunity to put their AKK in one of the pulling harnesses and to drag one of the different kinds of starter weights. The whole presentation, discussion, Q&A and WP took about 1 ½ hours. Photos of this event will be posted to the WebShots Album.

Also during the picnic Lo's dog Ruby was decked out in her pet therapy vest and they were passing out handouts on pet therapy, Love on a Leash. More information at: <http://www.loveonaleash.org/>

The AKKAOA Specialty and Multi-Breed Shows were a huge success. There was a lot of talk heard among the exhibitors and participants that they felt the same and they loved the location for a Midwest event.

Not only did they love the city but they loved the show site at the Boys and Girls

Club. Tammy, the Show Secretary and Show Committee Chairman did a great job, as usual, on her contribution to this event to make it so successful. She found the great location that had ample room for crates and parking. The RV folks are hoping that next time she will sway the people next door into letting us stay overnight on their lot.

After the Specialty, it was wonderful to see Kristi Dushek and Lo Binkley receive their well deserved Awards. Kristi received the * Showmanship Award for an outstanding job showing and handling her two dogs, Kona and Storm. Lo was awarded the ** Gail Compton Sportsmanship Award for her way of making people feel welcome and her sportsmanship attitude in and out of the show ring. To refresh everyone's memory on what the two awards represent...

* Showmanship Award is selected by the Judge from amongst all of the exhibitors in the Specialty for the person demonstrating outstanding showmanship.

** Gail Compton Sportsmanship Award is voted on by all those present at the AKK Specialty for the person demonstrating the greatest sportsmanship qualities. The winner receives a plaque to keep for one year. After one year it is replaced by a personal plaque for the winner to keep and the winner's name is engraved on the traveling plaque which will be awarded to the winner next year.

Both awards were first introduced at the 2nd AKK Specialty in '04, in Lexington, KY.

Again CONGRATS to Kristi and Lo!!!

It was a happy and tearful moment seeing Terry Wright being recognized at the Specialty with a Lifetime Membership Award for all the hard work and time she has contributed to AKKAOA and the breed. The moment was made even more special by the fact that Terry's 80 year old father, Rex, was present. He had driven down from the Kansas City, KS area to see his daughter, attend his first AKKAOA picnic, and his first dog show.

Lenor, as usual, was clicking away with her camera and that is always appreciated by those that can not come to these events. The photos that Lenor took will be posted to the WebShots album as soon as she has a spare moment. Terry will get some posted with this report on the website as soon as time permits.

During the weekend, Terry, Mary and Lenor put in most of their time at the 4 great raffle tables which held so many wonderful donated prizes. The newest raffle game, the straw raffle, which offered close to 100 big and small prizes on its own tables, was a big hit! People kept coming back to try their luck and weren't dissuaded when they drew the dreaded *Sorry, please try again* straws. That's actually what they would do... try again!

The winners of AKKAOA's \$5 raffles went to the following: #5 the *Kool Kooky K-9s* handmade lap quilt made and donated by Lenor Lynas, valued at \$100 was won by Sharon Hari. #4 the Doggy Tent and all the wonderful doggy items donated by Mary Jones, valued at \$200 was won by Denise Johnson. #3 the Canine First Aid Kit donated by Lo Binkley, valued at \$50 was won by Kristi Dushek. #2 the Handmade Alaskan Native Doll with Husky shadow box donated by Terry Wright, valued at \$155 was won by Mary Jones. #1 the beautiful handmade quilt made and donated by Lenor Lynas, valued at \$200, and available ONLY to AKKAOA members was won by Lo Binkley. Congratulations to all the winners! And a big thanks to those making this raffle so successful!

It was very much appreciated that Patricia Zengel, Carolyn Zinnser and Matt Dushek were helping out this weekend, especially with being ring stewards. We would also like to thank Braden McWilliams who is one of our junior members for all his help during the weekend; he was always there when needed. And KUDOS to Tammy Martin and Patty Ramsburg for all the time they contributed to making this event possible and such a huge success.

It was unfortunate that there wasn't time set aside during this busy weekend for the group photo to be taken, but we hope everyone enjoys all the photos that were taken during the weekend.

The AKK Specialty Show Catalog has been sent for printing and distribution. Thanks to everyone who have submitted their Ads, orders, show entries and photos.

The picnic committee wishes to submit a suggestion for future picnics and AKK Specialties that are held on the same day. It is recommended that the Specialty take place in the morning around 9 or 10 am. This suggestion comes after seeing how tired the exhibitors and the dogs were at the Specialty that was held at 7pm after the picnic and the fact that we felt rushed and that time run out for many other planned activities. Having the Specialty in the am will start everyone refreshed and lead into the picnic and all of its activities without people being rushed.

Mark your calendars for the next Annual Picnic and In-Person Annual Meeting, which will take place in Sunny California in July 2008... **this will be a big celebration!! It's the 20th Anniversary of the formation of AKKAOA.**

The 2007 Annual In-Person Meeting portion will be given by the new Secretary, Matt Dushek, in his Secretary's report to the BOD.

Each person attending the annual meeting was presented with a gift of thanks for attending. The gift was a specially printed neoprene velcro beverage insulator that was made by PhotoArt Plus, <http://www.photoartplus.com/> PhotoArt Plus also made our show prizes and award mugs for the Specialty and MB shows.

Thanks Linda!

This report was written by the 2007 Picnic Committee, Mary Jones, Tammy Martin, Lenor Lynas and Terry Wright. And a major contributor to the report was Debbie Clifton.