

Across Canada

saskatchewan

The big event on the show front was the National in Calgary, but that is covered elsewhere in the newsletter, so all I'll say is that the Saskatchewan contingent consisted of Jolene Denzin, Jan Buchanan and me, with Jolene's 'Uno' doing very well, picking up BB at the Alberta Sporting Hound Association Specialty and I think a group placement at one of the AKC all-breed shows.

My 'Zara' made her lure-coursing debut at Calgary, where she greatly enjoyed her speedy tour of the Spruce Meadows All Canada ring, and finished in a tie for second with Cathie Hays and Marlene Nixey's 'Asja,' behind the BB winner, Catherine Williams' 'Danae.' She then won the toss for second-place points, to start her lure-chasing career off with a bang.

As far as shows in Saskatchewan go, I don't have much news to report because I've hardly been to any of them. Most of them are now multiple limited-entry shows in one-day affairs, which I hate (don't get me started), and that leaves only a very few weekends of "real" shows still surviving in the province. Since shows for me are a social occasion more than anything else – an excuse to visit with friends and enjoy an outing with a Saluki or two in tow – these two shows in one day, in and out of the ring twice and go home events leave me absolutely cold. (There, I did get started, but I'll stop now, before it's too late.)

Anyway, the season began in March in Prince Albert. I believe new member Eroca Batty showed her Windstorm puppy there to a Puppy Group or two (haven't had an official report from Eroca), and Jan Buchanan entered her young Specials 'Torc' in two shows, picking up a Group 1st and a Group 2nd. Claire Thorseth and I supplied the only Saluki entries for the Saskatoon and Regina shows in May, with

Zara snaring the points. The show year wound up for Zara and me Labour Day weekend in Saskatoon; we were thrilled to have Starr White out to judge and I was even more thrilled when Zara went on to place fourth in the group. Mind you, that leaves her at the "fatal nine" and she'll have no opportunity to finish her title before next spring. It was great to be able to visit with Starr after the show, if only for a little while; Jan kindly invited us out to her place, which is only a 10-minute drive from the show site, and we were able to catch up on all the news from points east.



Lure coursing has returned to Saskatchewan, after an almost four-year hiatus. The first SSA weekend of lure trials since 2006 was held at Balcarres, an hour's drive east of Regina, in mid-August. Since the Saskatchewan Sighthound Association had lapsed into the category of "non-event-holding club" after three years without a trial, the CKC demanded we first stage a weekend of sanctioned trials, which took place in June. That worked out very well; I was able to get Zara certified to run (enabling me to enter her in Calgary), and Zara's sire 'Django' had a

chance to run some courses by himself, which served to improve his focus greatly (earlier in his career he'd been inclined to indulge in some playful interference on occasion). As a result, when the real trials came along in August, he was ready to run cleanly with his daughter, though she showed the superior turn of foot and was BB both days. Claire was pretty pleased with him, nonetheless, as well she should be. In June, Claire had brought out 'LuLu,' another of Django's daughters, but unfortunately she showed no interest in chasing lures. Claire's third Saluki, 'Pala-

Lure coursing has finally returned to Saskatchewan. That's good news for 'Zara,' who has taken a shine to the coursing game. Photo: Mike McGann

din,' is a spectacular runner who has yet to follow Django's example as far as running in company goes, but we all enjoyed watching him in Singles.

With her total of three qualifying scores, Zara has now earned her first title – Novice Courser. This is a new title, introduced just this year, and corresponds to a CD in obedience, in that three qualifying

scores are required but no placements. The proposal to offer this title came from the west, and for some reason it met with considerable opposition from a few members of the Lure Council. In fact, the first time it came before the council it was voted down. The idea behind it was to give new participants in lure coursing a clearly achievable goal, which still required a degree of accomplishment, with the hope that they would be encouraged to continue their involvement with the sport, especially if they didn't happen to start out with a really top-class running dog, or if they had a dog of a relatively rare breed who might never meet enough competition along the way to attain its field championship. This is a significant issue on the Prairies in particular, where the travelling distances are long and the trials few and far between. Why this should be even remotely controversial I'm sure I don't know, in these days when many lure-coursing clubs are struggling to stay afloat. In any event, quite a few dogs earned the first two legs on their NCs at the SSA trials, and a couple more, like Zara, were able to gain their titles. (If you're at a trial and your dog gets its first, second or third qualifying score and you don't get an orange qualifying score ribbon, it might be the club isn't offering them. The score still counts toward the title, but the actual awarding of ribbons is optional. Or the trial secretary might just have forgotten to hand them out, since all this is still very new.)

Both the sanctioned and actual trial weekends also served to attract some new running hounds from both the Regina and Saskatoon areas, along with their enthusiastic owners, so I hope we've now got enough manpower that we can get back to having annual trials once more, either at Balcarres or here at my place.

With the 2010 National in Calgary in the books, we are now looking forward to next July and the 2011 Western Regional

in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. The plan is to have lure coursing in conjunction with that event as well. And Zara doesn't know this, but I've told Steve Hazelwood that I'm going to sign her up for training class this winter in the hope of getting her ready for either Rally or Obedience at the show. It's so long since I've trained a dog in obedience (except for the occasional puppy or fun class) I'm not sure I remember how. This could be interesting.

Correction for the Western Specialty:

First and second in Open Dog for the 2009 Western Specialty were reversed. Alan Ewles described the right dogs in the right order (points out why it's nice when the judge notes things like colour in his writeup), but somewhere along the line the dogs' names got reversed. It should have been Iroki Taos, owned by Claire Thorseth, first and Iroki Scatter the Gold, owned by Alison Currie, second.

– Robbie Pattison

alberta

Well, summer came and went pretty fast, as usual. The highlight of the summer was the National, held in Calgary over the August long weekend. We all had a great time and a full report can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Besides the Calgary weekend, 'Raffi' and I took in the Pacific Specialty, along with the Western Gazehound Club Show and the Sighthound Club of BC Specialty. The weather was great again, and Raffi came away with a Best of Breed win at the Sighthound show. It was fun seeing everyone again and I especially enjoyed visiting with Mark Webster, who was the Sweeps judge, as I hadn't seen him in 35 years and got my very first Saluki from his parents, Richard and Barbara. We also had our sailing trips over the summer and Raffi, once again, proved that desert hounds are just as comfortable on

the water! On one particularly windy day, he almost ended up "in" the water. Fortunately he was wearing his life jacket with a nice big handle on the back. Enough said – I was certainly more scared than he was.

Nicole Gray writes that she finished Denali's Canadian Championship all owner-handled, with a Group 4th placement from the classes. Congratulations to both of them! She and Dean have added to their canine family by importing a Doberman from Latvia, named 'Prada.' They are doing Schutzhund training with her, as well as their other Doberman, 'Moka.' They are also looking forward to some more lure coursing with 'Bree' and 'Denali,' and are almost half way to a coursing championship title with both of them.

Carmen Lundy is off on another globe-trotting adventure, this time to Viet Nam, Cambodia and Hong Kong. Her dad is once again doggy-sitting with 'Giddy,' so we will wait for the report to see if he has been able to keep pace with her on her daily walks. Carmen says the upside of her being an only dog is that she gets the run of the house and the whole bed (except for the little slice Carmen gets to sleep on – we can all relate!).

It was great seeing **Leslie Bartlett** in Calgary at the specialty. She had her Veteran girl, 'Iraphina,' entered and she was just coming into season. This caused quite a ruckus when Raffi got wind of it and I wouldn't let poor Leslie into the tent! He seemed to be the only boy bothered by her, as all the others were very well behaved. So we had to be sure to keep our distance. Leslie also has a black Standard Schnauzer who won a Group 2nd at the NACA shows in Edmonton in June, one week after finishing his championship. That same weekend he won the booster at NACA.

We have a new member in Alberta, **Bonnie Meikle**. She came out to watch the specialty with her daughter, and they



He may have made a mad dash for freedom, but eventually Bev was able to wrangle 'Dash' at the coursing event at Spruce Meadows. Photo: Mike McGann

stayed for the supper, so we all got acquainted. She sends this report.

"I'd like to give my thanks to Jan Phelps for inviting me to write a little piece for such an excellent publication. I don't have Salukis yet, but my husband had a couple of smooths when he worked in Qatar. I met one of those hounds when I'd visited him a few years ago, and the breed has left a real lasting impression on me.

"So, if I don't have Salukis, then what can I offer to the club? Well, I know that many of you are interested in learning more about some of the lands where their favourite hounds originated. My husband, Sheane, still works in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and is there

most of the time. Since he isn't granted much home time, I've found myself visiting him! I was pretty hesitant to at first, after knowing about the restrictions women have in that country, but now that I've visited twice, I'm really glad I had the opportunity.

"I went there in November 2009, and also recently returned from a visit there this past August. I wasn't a complete stranger to the Middle East since I'd visited Dubai, UAE and Doha, Qatar a few years ago to see Sheane. Now, those places are considerably more liberal than KSA is, but at least I'd become comfortable being around

men dressed in dishdashas and thobes, and seeing a lot more abayas on women than I see in Alberta.

It was overwhelmingly hot when I visited this last time, and my husband was busy with work. As a result, I didn't get out and about much, but on one night we did dine with Sheane's friend, Khalifa, and Khalifa's second wife of two, Husa. The four of us have become quite fond of one another and like to give gifts to each other. As it turns out, Khalifa's ancestry is of Bedouin falconers, though he doesn't hunt with them. He knows of some fine Salukis so I hope that one of these days I'll get the chance to see them!

Well, I won't ramble on further, but I hope to have some (somewhat) interesting tales to share with you."

And, last but not least, this report from Cathie Hays: This season started in May with the Foothills Gazehound Club lure trial. Since I'm a member of FGC, this

event is always somewhat of a marathon, starting the week before. With the arrival of spring, the gophers also pop up and dig, dig, dig. And the badgers arrive to dig out gopher meals. So much field prep ensues to ensure the safety of the dogs.

Bev Creed's Dadaelis T'Cai Aswan was also running. 'Dash' always adds favour to the field with some sort of antics.

In July, on the way to B.C., Fred and I stopped off in Edmonton to take in the ALCA trial. Dean and Nicole also attended with Bree and Denali. A good time was had by all hounds, although the grass was extremely long. I suppose you could say it was a great training course for those hounds that want to cut corners. When I asked Fred if he enjoyed the weekend, his only remark was that he felt like a pithed frog. Hmm, I think I will have to leave him home for a while!

Onto to Vanderhoof, B.C., where we visited and talked endless "Saluki" with Shelley and Brett Work, and Joan and Bob Hunt. We left with puppy "Cari." Joan and Bob picked the little white boy and took another little girl home to Catherine Williams. These kids are from Shelley's Burydown Violane Gem and sired by Marcel's Enayat Nika Hadi el Basher. How much fun it is to have a puppy again. The floor area is riddle with toys, which she never puts away (typical kid) and of course, we think she is very bright!

The National came and went. I am sure there is a report elsewhere so I will be brief. The weather was wonderful, the ground at Spruce Meadows immaculate, and nearly all managed to bench together on "Saluki Street."

The latter led to lots of visiting and conversations. Monday, we lure coursed in the pristine All Canada Ring. Bev's Dash entertained spectators with his great escape, run for joy and ability to evade Bev's beck and call. Of course, he was finally captured – poor Dash.

– Jan Phelps

british columbia

From the EnAyat Pack, Marcel says: Although we did not show much – at the Sighthound Show in July and one day in Kamloops – ‘Nika’ was Winners Male at the SCOBC show and picked up two more points. Dude retired with a Best Veteran in Sweeps under Mark Webster at the Pacific Saluki Specialty.

Rah was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy, but is doing well on medication, all things considered.

The boys have all adjusted well to their new friend Tobias from Switzerland who is here in Canada for the winter as their dog-sitter.

Roberta Parish reports: Spring was a very busy time for us. In March, I visited Felix van der Drift (Canapus) and Joanne Mahon (Jazirat and Diamond Dog Collars) in Holland. Joanne’s Ch. Timaru Valkyrie at Jazirat, Elle’s grandsire, was – and is – still going strong at 13 years of age. I had an opportunity to see and photograph Elle’s dam and granddam. What a great family occasion with good Dutch hospitality! Then it was on to Crufts for four days. At the Saluki ring, I briefly saw Margaret Coe and Marcel as we all spent the day watching and photographing the entry. On the other days, I watched and studied breeds in the Working Group that are rare here but on my permit.

On April 17th, Elle (Ch. Canapus Galadriel) whelped her litter by Ch. Burydown WinterHaefen, my own ‘Tux.’ This litter of nine puppies (three boys and six girls) fulfilled the dream I had ever since Tux and Elle came into my life. Actually, Elle overachieved the dream – four or five would have filled it! To add to the mayhem, I broke my foot just before the

whelping. Despite the banging and rattling and lack of foot hygiene (no, I didn’t remove or wash the cast), the puppies grew into stable, healthy youngsters. It seemed like no time before they left for their new homes, although the red boy, ‘Titian,’ stayed until 6 months old before he left for Felix in Holland, taking with him a big chunk of my heart. I am keeping, for the time, two Irish-marked, black-fringed red girls.

The puppies are scattered throughout the world now. I have always felt a responsibility to share the genetic potential that Hope amassed during her lifetime with those who have her vision of the Saluki. It is one of my great delights when Carole Adley visits to hear her compare Tux to Burydowns long gone.

That’s not the end of my adventures – on the way to catch the ferry to attend the Regional Specialty, a deer jump the highway barrier right in front of my van. The result was much damage to the car but, fortunately, none to the three adults and three puppies travelling in it. The car was mended within the week but I cancelled plans to attend the National in Calgary – the injury to my mind took longer to heal!

The puppies have brought new friends into my life and renewed old friendships.

Some Faaridat updates: We’re still all alive and kicking up here in northern BC. The summer saw a bit of travel and excitement for the humans and hounds of Faridaat. We kicked off the season with a trip to Vancouver in April to pick up our beautiful chocolate import from Dagmar Bischoff of Pari-was Salukis, Germany. Pari-was Rafee’ah, otherwise known as ‘Truffle,’ has joined the crew here and even though she stands out with her unique solid chocolate colour, she fit right in the moment we arrived home.

In early May, the Faridaat F litter was born. Six beautiful pups out of our Burydown Violane Gem by EnAyat Nika Hadi el Basher, owned by our very own Marcel Nussbaumer. They all hit the ground running and have gone to various points throughout North America. In July we trekked off to Calgary for the SCOC National Specialty Show where we had a wonderful time, even bringing home a couple ribbons to hang on the wall, but best of all we got to meet up with old and new Saluki friends, many of whom we’ve known on-line for years but never met! Also in July, an accidental litter was



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 Could that be the “F” word coming from the mouth of one of Roberta Parish’s precious “F” puppies? Photo: Susan Schroder

born to Chris Collignon in Idaho out of Faridaat Eo Xena ex Karnak Reigns Barakah. I brought two darling males home once they were weaned – Faridaat Ghazal who will be staying at Faridaat, and Faridaat Gahn Doolahli who is still looking for the right home. The rest have found wonderful homes in the U.S. and Canada. On a slightly sad note (for us), Faddaat Eo Boodikka ('Freckles') has gone to Washington to live with her co-owners Megan Robertson and Mike Freeman. We miss her greatly, but I know they're thrilled she's there pulling her sneaky Saluki stunts on them now! I'm pretty sure she has them wrapped around her little dewclaw!

Georgie Paone has some brags regarding Ch. Sadik Sansar Wind's trip to Montana. Sansar's friend and handler, Fred Haywood was taking his Afghans to Montana and asked if he could take Sansar. Of course I trusted Fred and thought it would be a good experience. Sansar loves being in the ring. Besides, my precious 'Kalaya' (Blue Nile Special Kalaya Sunshine) and I could stay home. I knew Sansar was the only Saluki entered, but optimistic Fred said that he could always get a group placement. I just smiled. Sansar won a Group 2nd under Lester Mapes, a Group 3rd under Monica Canestrini and a Group 4th under Monica Dempsey Alderman. Sansar was in fine company. The Hound (Whippet) who placed first every day had also placed first in the Hound Group at Westminster this year. Sansar knew he had done well because when he got home he was High Stepping!!

The Mitchell's contribution: So far, 2010 has been a blur of activity for the Mitchell pack. Somehow in the midst of complete mayhem (probably because of it) we escaped to southern California for a long weekend in April attending the Western Hound Association's show in beautiful Santiago Canyon. It was a gorgeous venue with huge oak trees, great company and hospitality and we

were rewarded with a 4-point major for 'Chance' who went Best of Winners under David Miller the first day. The next day he earned Reserve – an honour considering the lineup of fine hounds he was with. Our opportunities to show were limited this summer, but we once again enjoyed our Pacific Saluki Specialty. So many friends that we'd otherwise never see in the flesh. It was especially sweet to meet Catherine Williams' new puppy from Shelley. She had only arrived hours before, but she was entirely comfortable parking herself on top of anyone's foot and "settin' awhile" – a true femme fatale! 'Alabama' managed to win Best of Opposite under Jackie Harrington despite her obvious desire to be anywhere but in the ring that day. We puffed with pride when our six-year-old grandson took 'Zelda' – a very accommodating Whippet – round the really large ring in Junior Handling. The judge very kindly pointed out that he could go around her just a little way out. Tristan, however, had his mind made up and went around the entire perimeter of the ring about three inches from the chain ensuring that he would have the judge's attention for at least one of his two-and-half minutes.

Chance, Alabama and I are committed to getting the hang of agility. I'm long over the embarrassment of Saluki antics and am now determined to develop that wonderful communication you see between so many agility handlers and their dogs. I just hope I live long enough!

Our favourite time is still spent free running at Pitt Lake. It is the largest tidal lake in North America and is surrounded by high mountains and drains into a system of marshland controlled by wide, grassy dykes initially built by Dutch settlers, but now managed by our municipality. It is the local dog lovers' best-kept secret. The longer city-folk don't know about it, the better. We cherish our time there.

One more item to share. Chance has

been struggling with the aftermath of a torn gracilis for about two years (acquired playing on the grassy banks of the afore-mentioned dykes.) The regular run of Metacam and laser treatments by our local doggy physiotherapist yielded a prognosis of: he's about as good as he's going to get and will probably tweak (a new medical term?) it frequently. Hmmm. I'm a dance teacher and it suddenly dawned on me that I should treat Chance the same way I would treat myself or would recommend any of my dancers to. We spent an entire year doing a ritual of heat, massage, stretching, ice and arnica gel every night during the late news and Letterman. I had a fairly bad case of Achilles tendonitis at the same time, so we did our treatments together. Chance improved a lot – he was running again, but he occasionally experienced a tweak. We suspected his hips were out of alignment and were fortunate to have the name and number of a chiropractor recommended to us, Dr. Shaun Patterson. He and his wife run a family-oriented chiropractic office, but they also treat animals (including horses.) After one visit with Dr. Patterson, Chance made an amazing transformation to his former self. At subsequent appointments he actually went into the treatment room with happy anticipation. Nine months later he rarely needs to see Dr. Patterson. I do, however, always give him a snack with honey about 15 minutes prior to a run and give him a good stretch just before he runs (check out Care of the Racing Greyhound by Blyth, Graham & Craig). The moral of the story is: before deciding a Saluki's running days are over, you might consider finding a good chiropractor who is trained in the treatment of animals. It is a small price to pay for allowing our hounds to continue to do what they love to do most. We are sincerely grateful for Dr. Patterson's gentle and effective approach.

– Susan Mitchell