



Communiqué

2018.05.01

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New Hampshire, New York,
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Region 10 Lori Silvestri
Arizona, California south
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Message from the President

Wow, look at me now, a country bumpkin auto mechanic from Virginia Beach, VA president of the greatest lure coursing organization in the world. I would like to thank everyone for their vote and support. And the work is just beginning.

I would sincerely like to thank Jeff Lipps for his leadership, six years total as the leader of the ASFA. Jeff has served on our board for 14 years and is still on as our past president.

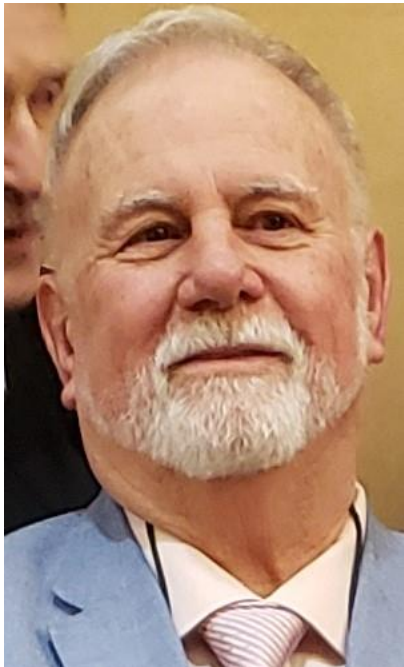
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Message from the President (continued)

I would also like to thank Joe Shoemaker for bringing the Recording Secretary position to a new high. Welcome aboard again, Ping as Recording Secretary. You might eventually be the first person to hold all of the ASFA Board positions.

Thank you, Sally McDowell, for being our Corresponding Secretary for the last 2 years.

Thank you, Rick Wolpin, for serving as the Regional Director and Second Vice President.



Greg Breitbach, welcome aboard as our new Second Vice President and thank you for your years of service as the Region 6 Regional Director.

Holly Hamilton, welcome aboard, to the busiest position on our board: our new corresponding secretary.

I look forward to working with the entire Board. And remember, "Together we will improve our ASFA."

I am now working on the committee appointments and chairs; most of them have been chairs for years and are doing a great job. However, there are many new faces coming on to the committee that I am looking forward to working with. As soon as approved by the Board we will begin working.

I am also working hard on getting the final plans for the 2018 II in Colorado on October 13th and 14th. We are planning on that being a great II with the top hounds of each breed competing for the "Gillette Stake Winner" and the Best in Event or the hound that becomes the 2018 Best in II winner. If you would like to see a list of all of the Best of Breed winners for your breed, drop me an email at HLB2@comcast.net.

Once completing these two items, I will be working hard on scheduling your region's Regional Invitational, along with the clubs in each region and the Regional Directors. I would like to attend every Regional Invitational. That will give me the opportunity to meet with each of you to discuss your concerns and suggestions for our great ASFA.

In closing my first letter from the president, I would like to say that, for my age, I cannot believe the enthusiasm and excitement that I am filled with. I feel like an excited teenager again. And remember, "Together we can improve our ASFA." I need efforts from each and every one of you.

Dean Wright

Dean Wright
ASFA President

Editor's Note

This is the first issue of the Communique' after a hiatus of about 3 years. It is intended to increase the flow of information and improve communication throughout the ASFA family. The current issue features highlights from the ACoD (Annual Convention of Delegates), which was held in March.

Please let us know what you would like to see in upcoming issues. Your thoughts, ideas, stories, photos and the like are most welcome. We intend to publish 4-6 issues a year.

Vicki Fagre-Stroetz

Vicki Fagre-Stroetz
Communique' Editor
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Highlights from the **2018 Annual Convention of Delegates**

March 24, 2018 - Chantilly VA

by Dean Wright

The **2018 ACoD** was held at the Holiday Inn Chantilly Dulles Expo in Chantilly VA, with 62 delegates attending.

- ***Mark your Calendar:*** *The 2018 ASFA II will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado (Region 3) at Pete and Daphane Lowe's field on Saturday and Sunday, October 13-14.*
- ***Mark your Calendar:*** *Next year the ACoD will be held in Colorado Springs, CO at the Hotel Elegante, 2886 South Circle Drive on March 23rd and 24th.*
- ***Mark your Calendar:*** *The 2020 ACoD will be held in Tulsa Oklahoma on March 21st and 22nd at the River Spirit Casino Resort, which offers live entertainment at the Paradise Cove Theater.*

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Outgoing Corresponding Secretary Sally MacDowell reported on the Board's online action between the 2017 ACoD and the distribution of the Delegate Materials for the 2018 ACoD. This includes:

- Two new clubs were APPROVED for membership:
 - **Central Coast Association of Sighthounds**
 - **Potomac Afghan Hound Club**

Welcome to our new clubs!!
- A change to the Questions on the Judges Test was APPROVED.
- Training Provisional Judges for BIF was APPROVED
- SEGC'S request to hold a 2017 Greyhound Specialty Trial was APPROVED.
- Motion to allow for the use of single judges at Regionals, under limited conditions, was referred to Rules Evaluation Committee.

Report of the Chief Financial Officer

CFO Gary Roush reported that ASFA had \$19,387.48 at the end of 2017. Actual income was \$46,653.74; expenses were \$96,204.88 with a ***deficit of \$49,551.14***. Entries were 8,368, down by 599 from the previous year (-6.7%). Average trial size was 33 dogs.

Invitational Committee

- The 2017 International Invitational (II) was held at Bainbridge Georgia (Region 7), with a two-day entry of 259.
- The 2018 ASFA II will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado (Region 3) at Pete and Daphane Lowe's field on Saturday and Sunday, October 13-14.

IT Committee

Sean McMichael reported that the new software for the Records Replacement Program is in production. A representative from the software company demonstrated its use. When it is up and running, ASFA will begin by using double entries to assure that the software is functioning properly.

Awards Committee

Forty-three award plaques were distributed, as follows:

- Seventeen plaques were awarded for the #1 hound in each breed that ran against competition.
- A plaque was awarded for **the highest scoring hound of all breeds, Ibizan Hound Ensign Ch IcyCold Third Mate FCh.**
Owned by Karen Catt & Steve Marshall.
- Thirteen plaques were distributed to Parent Club delegates for the #1 hound of their breed that is a member of the parent club.
- Twelve plaques were distributed to parent clubs for National Specialty BOB awards.



Lure Operator of the Year

LCJA (Lure Coursing Judging Association), an informal organization that meets annually, awarded **2017 Lure Operator of the Year** to Joe Shoemaker of Region 6. *Photo by Tom Cigolle.*

Judges Committee

Greg Breitbach reports that there are currently 104 active all-breed ASFA Judges, 10 Provisionals and 4 Apprentices.

The **2017 Top Ten Judges** (left) are determined by the number of hounds judged.

1. Dean Wright (646)
2. Thomas Christ (414)
3. John Arvin (387)
4. Deann Britton (363)
5. Claudia Miller (343)
6. Kathy Sanders (325)
7. Phil Fullam (310)
8. Francis Byrne (299)
9. Jeff Lipps (287)
10. Mary Frances Miller (284)

Dean Wright

2017 Leigh Littleton Award Winner

The **Leigh Littleton Award** goes to the judge that judges the most dogs in a given year.



Excellence in Performance Award (EPA):

ASFA's *Excellence in Performance Award* recognizes those clubs that go the extra mile in providing enjoyment for those attending the coursing events. The award for 2017 was awarded to the **Indiana Lure Coursing Club (ILCC)** of Region 6.

Incentive Awards:

The **2017 Platinum Award for Trials** went to the **Colorado Lure Coursing Association (CLCA)** of Region 3, which held a total of 18 trials.



The **2017 Platinum Award for Entries** went to the **Upper Chesapeake Bay Saluki Club (UCBSC)** of Region 8, with 547 entries.

Lure Coursing Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame honors those individuals that have donated a great part of their lives to the sport of lure coursing for sighthounds. The ASFA Hall of Fame also honors those hounds that have achieved outstanding performances. This year Janet Lotz was inducted into the Hall of Fame, along with Rhodesian Ridgeback Storm, Basenji Mickii, and Greyhound Maddie.

Janet Lotz

President of OKIGO and ASFA Judge
(continued on page 10)



Storm Rhodesian Ridgeback

DC Aslan's Nor'Easter of Tophat MC, LCX6, LCM7,
VLCM2, HT
(continued on page 11)

Basenji Mickii

BIF DC Zuri's Ti-Tanza Wazi Ajabu SC
(continued on page 12)



Maddie Greyhound

DC GRCH, Can Ch, URX, UCD, UWP, UAGI, OB1, RO3, CCM Lakilanni Love Her
Madly FChX3, LCM7, NACC, NACM, MC, SORC, R.ChX2, LCX, VLCM, GRC, DD,
BPDx, Am/Can CD, Am/Can RE, CARO RA, CNT, VOR, VSR2, SC, CGC, CGN, TT
(continued on page 13)

Gary Forrester Achievement Award

Bob Jordan

The **Gary Forrester Achievement Award** memorializes Gary's exemplary contribution and dedication to the sport of lure coursing. This year ASFA honors **Bob Jordan**, (Region 8).
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2018 ASFA Board of Directors & Officers

President- Dean Wright
First Vice President - Phil Fullam
Second Vice President - Greg Breitbach
Chief Financial Officer - Gary Roush
Recording Secretary - Ping Pirrung
Corresponding Secretary - Holly Hamilton

Front row left to right:
Kent Standerford, Region V Director;
Ping Pirrung, Corresponding Secretary,
Dean Wright; President & Region VIII Director;
Dan Heidel, Region III Director;
Phil Fullam, 1st Vice President.

Back row left to right:
Ben Brodeur, Region IX Director;
Greg Breitbach, 2nd Vice President & Region VI
Director;
Gary Roush, Chief Financial Officer;
Gary Runyan, Region IV Director;
Holly Hamilton, Corresponding Secretary;
Jeff Lipps, Past President.



New Business:

- A motion was passed to start the process of moving limited breeds to provisional.
- A motion was passed to further consider the awarding a limited number of points to hounds winning BIF.

These are the highlights of the ACoD. **Upon approval, the official ACoD Minutes will be posted on the ASFA website.**

The First Sanctioned Lure Field Trial

By Ruth Clevenger Reynolds

What you are about to read is the story of the first sanctioned lure field trial. It is based on a compilation of memories, stories and interviews with those who were there. So, sit back, relax and take a deep breath.

We begin by going back to 1972. Do you remember the date? It was August 13. Now in 1972 tie-dyed shirts, halter tops and bell-bottom jeans were all the rage. The yellow smiley face was plastered everywhere and children were enamored with their new Pet Rocks. The Man with the plan - Jesus in '72 signs were displayed on all the utility poles. President Nixon had just increased the bombing activity in Viet Nam and the papers were reporting a strange story of a break in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters at Watergate. Ms. Magazine debuted, The Godfather (1) and Deliverance topped the box-office charts. At home we were watching All in the Family and Maude and said goodbye to My Three Sons. The radio played American Pie, Knights in White Satin and Sammy Davis Jr.'s Candyman. On the technological front, desk top computers were not in existence. Al Gore had not yet invented the internet, and the only lap top was a Yorkie or Chihuahua.

There was no fanfare or trumpet flourish on the morning of August 13, 1972. What transpired on the athletic fields of Gunn High School in Palo Alto was the natural evolution of events which had taken place over the previous 4 years or so up and down the west coast. What happened on that sun-drenched day was the first attempt to put into practice a standardized set of procedures and running rules by which those hounds that hunt by sight could be judged from coast to coast. It would be first step towards creating a program capable of receiving AKC sanctioning. Lyle Gillette's vision was clear. August 13th was the time to put all of the pieces together and into practice. It was probably best that he got an early start that morning. As the morning sun rose, a slender, once-athletic man, now in his early 60's began the task of laying out pulleys, and stringing line. As he carefully pounded each stake, he silently prayed to avoid hitting the rocks. Lyle's close friends (a.k.a. the first field committee) had collected and assembled an odd mixture of clothesline pulleys, single hitch pulleys and welded hinges. He was trying a newly modified take-up reel fashioned to a Whippet-Racing machine. Most of his equipment resembled high school shop class projects. It wasn't pretty, but it worked for his purposes. Eventually he knew the equipment would get better, but for now, this would simply have to do.

The coursing field would incorporate sports fields as well as a running path which followed the top of a gentle sloping hill. The trick would be to keep the hounds away from the large stand of oak trees, while providing an adequate view from which a judge could evaluate the hound's agility and endurance. Lyle watched the hounds follow the lure in his mind's eye. He saw them lower themselves in the corners and explode on the straightaways. He wanted corners that would mimic the movement of a real hare without causing injury to the hounds. Lyle remembered that the hounds' safety was the number one issue. Safety had to be the number one issue.

And so, it was the *system* that would be tested today. These fantastic hounds would either validate that Lyle's method was an accurate way to measure sighthound ability or they would send him back to the drawing board.

Soon Lyle was joined on the field by his friends and other coursing enthusiasts. The smell of freshly baked orange poppy-seed muffins filled the air and
(continued on p.9)

The First Sanctioned Lure Trial continued from p.8)

announced the arrival of Betz, Tom and little Libby Leone. As was customary, Betz had rolled out of bed early and baked the muffins so they would be fresh from the oven. Soon Don Papin arrived, as well as Nancy Aiken, Fern Lockrem and Walt Mathaney. Walt would be one of the first lure operators and would be the torchbearer for any lure operator who thought that just a little more tinkering might just create a better machine. Nancy and Fern's judging experience would provide feedback as to the suitability of the course and its ability to test the dogs' instincts. The last drop of coffee was sipped, equipment tweaked, judges positioned and the first course was called to the line.

The very first course included a Saluki, a Borzoi named Rosie and an Afghan named Dea Zinga. After the handlers had been given instructions by the huntmaster, blankets were checked, leads adjusted for the last time and finally they were poised and ready to begin. The hounds were walked forward and then released on the command "Tally Ho!" At that moment the American Sighthound Field Association took flight. The winner of the very first ASFA course was a Saluki.

Thirty-eight hounds came to the line that day, Nineteen in each stake. 8 were whippets, 12 borzois, 3 greyhounds, 10 afghans and 5 salukis. Two judges scored all the courses. First place in Stake A went to a whippet named RSK Sexy Sadie, CC, owned by P. Woodruff. The Stake B winner was also a whippet named Blaza.

There was apparently no BIF winner that day. It's really not surprising when you consider that many of the early coursing enthusiasts didn't place much emphasis on the winning. The emphasis was on creating an event which would allow sighthounds to experience the grace of motion and response to instinct which is their birthright. The communion we feel as owners is our reward. The real winners on August 13, 1972 were the hounds.

It was all inspired by a visionary named Lyle Gillette. When you stand on the shoulders of giants you can see over the mountains and beyond. Now, Forty-Six years later, the message from that first sanctioned event rings clear. To allow the dogs to run transcends the humane. Lyle and his friends were committed to preserving and honing the natural attributes of our canine companions. They valued and honored the instinct peculiar to our sighthound breeds. They worked together for years to create a framework which would bring people together who were committed to preserving the ethos embodied in our hounds. The participants on that inaugural field trial day had the knowledge and even a felt sense that they were on the verge of creating something vital and necessary for the long-term preservation of the sighthound breeds. The events which took place August 13, 1972 would not reflect a series of firsts, but rather, an evolution of thought and idea finally put to application. The dream had become reality. And now, lucky us, we get to live that dream.



Author Ruth Clevenger Reynolds



Janet Lotz

2018 Hall of Fame Inductee

(continued from page 6)

Janet Lotz began lure coursing in 1985. Along with her spouse Willa Chambers, Janet raised and trained 8 Afghan Hounds and a Borzoi – all of them were lure coursers. Their most exceptional courser was Olive (FC El Zagel Silver Olive Sunrise LCM4). Olive was spectacular on the field - a multiple BIF winner and an ASFA #1 Afghan Hound. Olive and her kennel mates graced the ASFA Top Ten lists for 5 years.



Janet became an ASFA judge in 1993. She was a popular and well-known as a highly skilled and non-political in her judging. Over her 22-year career, Janet judged a total of 12,165 hounds in 378 trials.

Janet was president of OKIGO (Ohio Kentucky Indiana Gazehound Organization). OKIGO is noted for its consistently large entries and well-run trials. Janet had a lot to do with that. Even as entries around the country dropped due to pressures from other dog activities, OKIGO continued to host 100+ hound trials.



Janet was also elected Region VI Director.

Janet shared her lure coursing knowledge and skills with others in a remarkably generous, patient and effective manner. She thought it was good for the sport for people to share as much knowledge as possible. She also believed in cross-training. Janet held the view, for example, that learning to judge gives lure operators a better perspective on their lure operating, and vice versa.

Janet had many interests. Teaching was a forte, and her day job was as a Science and Chemistry teacher in the Columbus Ohio public school system. She loved all animals. She was committed to reversing the plight of the monarch butterfly - a troubled species with a shrinking habitat. Janet willingly shared her knowledge about monarch habitat. And she was even known to care for rescued monarch chrysalides between programs at lure coursing trials that she judged.

In 2013, Janet was diagnosed with metastasized bone cancer. As she fought the disease, Janet continued to judge and share her lure coursing knowledge for as long as she was able. Sadly, Janet lost her life to cancer on April 4, 2016.

2018 Hall of Fame Hounds

Three hounds were inducted into the ASFA Hall of Fame at the 2018 ACoD. They are Rhodesian Ridgeback Storm, Basenji Mickii and Greyhound Maddie:

Storm

(continued from page 6)

DC Aslan's Nor'Easter of Tophat MC, LCX6, LCM7, VLCM2, HT
(Ch Ridgelea's Vartan the Master x DC Aslan's Dark Silhouette MC, LCX5, LCM6, VLCM2)



Storm was owned by Clay & Sue Ann Leslie of Connecticut and co-owned by breeder Carlee Davies. A friend once told Clay to hesitate before naming his dog Nor'Easter with a call name of Storm - because that name would be hard to live up to. And yet, Storm did just that. In addition to becoming an accomplished show dog, Storm's record of achievement in the field is nothing short of stellar.



Storm won 9 ASFA BIFs and 68 BOBs as well as 7 AKC BIFs and 44 BOBs for a combined total of 16 BIFs and 110 Breed wins. Storm earned her LCM7, LCX6 titles. Twice Storm was the #1 Coursing Dog of the RRCUS (Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States), including the year in which she whelped a litter of 8 puppies and was out for nearly 6 months.

Storm won the Rhodesian Ridgeback National Specialty and Breed at the II. She also won several Regional Invitational BOBs. Following in the paw prints of her mother DC Aslan's Dark Silhouette MC LCX5 LCM6 VLCM2, Storm twice won the Treybeau Grand Prix at Hanover, PA. She also won the Dixie Cup in GA, the Art Idleman BIF Perpetual Trophy, the Jesse Reynolds Trophy in MI, and Tyler Perpetual trophy in NJ.

Sadly, at age 8 Storm was diagnosed with Degenerative Myelopathy, a disease of the spinal cord. Her vets urged Clay and Sue to keep running Storm as it wasn't harming her and was delaying the onset of symptoms. So Storm continued to run. At age 9, in her last year of competition and despite DM, Storm placed in

the ASFA Top Ten, earned her LCM7, LCX6 titles, won 13 ASFA/AKC BOBs, 2 BIFs, and won the Veteran's class at the II twice. Storm was born on 8-31-2002 and died at the age of 13.

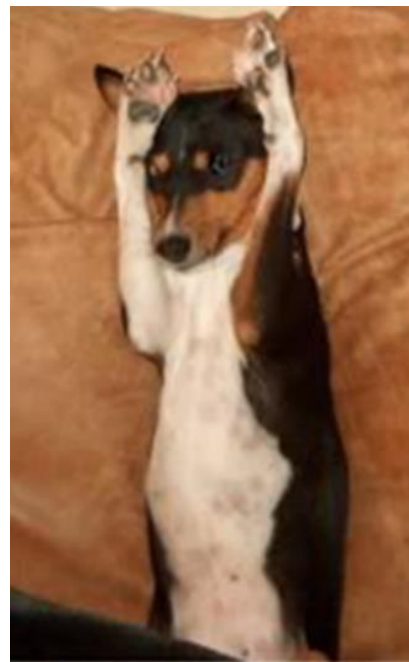
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Mickii

BIF DC Zuri's Ti-Tanza Wazi
Ajabu SC LCM6
(CH Gala All-American JC
X Ch Zuri's Umalitadi)



Mickii was owned by Pat Fragassi of Pleasanton California. She was co-owned by breeder Marilyn Leighton. She was whelped on February 21, 1993 and retired in 2002 at the age 9. Mickii is #2 on the Lifetime Top 20 list, having defeated 742 dogs. She was the first Basenji to earn LCM 4 and LCM 5 titles. She was the second to earn LCM 6. Mickii earned 3 BIFs and 25 BOBs, including 2 ASFA Regional Invitational BOBs.



Mickii was the #1 ASFA Basenji in 1995. In 1996 she had a litter which produced AKC DCs, ASFA FChs, and an ASFA LCM. Mickii's daughter Fatia was the #1 Basenji in 1998. Mickii's grandkids are AKC Ch, AKC DC, ASFA, FCh and Obedience titled. She died on January 10, 2009 at almost 16 years of age.



Maddie

(continued from page 6)

DC GRCH, Can Ch, URX, UCD, UWP, UAGI, OB1, RO3, CCM **Lakilanni Love Her Madly** FChX3, LCM7, NACC, NACM, MC, SORC, R.ChX2, LCX, VLCM, GRC, DD, BPDx, Am/Can CD, Am/Can RE, CARO RA, CNT, VOR, VSR2, SC, CGC, CGN, TT (Lakilanni Scatpak Barracuda x Lakilanni Barbie Doll)

Bred and owned by Laurie Soutar of Princeton, Ontario, Maddie was your classic over-achiever. She earned a total of 70 titles in her lifetime, most of them Championships. She won 12 BIF and BIEs. She went BOB at AKC and CKC National Specialty trials as well as at the II. Maddie was an ASFA LCM7 and VLCM. In AKC, she was LCX. In CKC, she was FChx3. Maddie was an open field coursing NACC and NACM. In NOTRA racing, Maddie was an SORC. In LGRA racing, she was a GRC. And in CARA, Maddie was an RChX2. She was #1 ASFA in 2003 & 2004. One year, Maddie was #1 in all three national lure coursing association rankings: ASFA, AKC and CKC.

Beyond her coursing and racing accomplishments, Maddie excelled in everything she tried. And she tried a lot! She was top ranked in multiple sports. She earned titles in conformation, obedience, rally, agility, weight pull, dog sport (protection) and draft dog (carting). Maddie was the first Greyhound to earn titles in several of those sports. Maddie was featured on the cover of the CKC's official magazine "Dogs in Canada". She also had a long career as a Juniors dog in conformation with Laurie's granddaughter, Caitlyn.

Maddie won the Whitetail Invitational (open field) twice - the only time that has ever happened. She won the Canadian National Specialty AND Specialty Field Trial - also the only time that has ever happened. In 2004, Maddie finished as #1 ASFA Greyhound on December 31 at Dean Wright's trial in PA. Then immediately was transported to NY for the first ever AKC rally trial, which started promptly at midnight. There, Maddie competed in 3 back-to-back rally trials and became one of the first rally-titled Greyhounds.

Maddie is one of only 6 Greyhounds titled in conformation, lure coursing and racing (the Key Club). And Maddie is #2 on the ASFA Lifetime Top 20 - just behind her grandmother, Denim. In conformation, Maddie won Best Veteran in Show for the first time in 2006 and the last time in 2013. She ran in her last competitive trial 2 weeks before her 11th birthday. But she ran her last practice in 2013 at the age of 13.

Maddie's only litter of puppies produced multiple dual champions, including specialty show winners and a Lifetime Top 20 dog. Her legacy continues through her granddaughter Blueberry, who is also a #1 ASFA dog.

Maddie was a joy to live and travel with. She was enthusiastic about everything she tried. She enriched Laurie's life in so many ways. Her nickname was 'MadDog', which came from the signature yammers and screams that she made whenever she could see or hear a lure, and from her single-minded determination to **get the bunny!**



Gary Roush (left), chair of the Gary Forrester Achievement Award Nomination Committee, presenting the Gary Forrester Achievement Award to Bob Jordan. Bob is accompanied by his wife Linda Jordan.

(continued from page 7)

2018 Gary Forrester Achievement Award Bob Jordan



The **2018 GARY FORRESTER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** was awarded to Bob Jordan. Bob has been in lure coursing since the 1980s. Competing with his Afghan Hounds, Bob has had an ASFA #1, and for years Bob's Afghan Hounds have appeared in the ASFA Top Twenty.



Bob is the ASFA Delegate for the AHCA (Afghan Hound Club of America). He runs the ASFA lure coursing trials at their National Specialties. He has kept the AHCA's lure coursing program on track over the years.

Bob has served on the ASFA Board of Directors. He and has been the ASFA Region VIII Director. Bob is the President of DASH (District Area Sighthound Association), and is an honorary member of the three lure coursing clubs in Hanover, PA.

Whenever Bob attends a trial, he arrives early and sets up the field. He works with the equipment, operates the lure, and fills in wherever he can to help make the event run smoothly. Recently, Bob qualified the Potomac Afghan Hound Club to host ASFA trials. To accomplish this, the club hosted a qualifying fun trial. Bob ran the fun trial and, as expected, it was a successful event. But while Bob was performing his usual duties, he was feeling quite ill. He never let on, and no one knew what Bob was going through. When the event was over, and everyone went home - Bob went to the hospital. There he remained for a several days. Fortunately, Bob has recovered completely.

Through Bob's untiring and at times extraordinary efforts, he exemplifies the spirit of Gary Forrester. It was a pleasure to see Bob accept the 2018 Gary Forrester Achievement Award at the ACoD.

(Editor's Comment: This article is reprinted from FAN magazine, Vol.17, No.5, Jan/Feb 1989. "K. Arthur" is a pen name. The true identify of "K. Arthur" remains a mystery to this day.

The "F-Word" of Lure Coursing

By K. Arthur

Field Trial Chairs are sometimes guilty of making gross errors in judgment, and this is true of me. On paper it would probably look good—Bart and Peabody judging, myself lure operating, Misty Field Clerking, Johnny Comelately Huntmastering, and Sherman apprentice judging. All that experience on the field at the same time! However, it is an explosive combination. And so, an eruption occurred.

It all started when Sherman agreed with Bart. This was probably a good idea, since Sherman was apprenticing with Bart. (Sherman is extremely talented. Not his judging or anything like that. But Sherman has a knack for anticipating someone's opinion and agreeing with it until another opinion is expressed.) The eruption started something like this:

"Well, Sherman, which dog did you put up in that course?" asked Bart.

"The pink dog, it was right behind the lure all the way. The other two showed some good speed and agility but they were not behind the lure," answered Sherman.

"Very good, Sherman. Someday you will be a great judge like me if you can keep up that kind of thinking!" stated Bart.

Peabody was upset, "I think he stinks! Sure, the pink dog was behind the lure all the way. Like a plow horse on a hot summer day. Who cares? I put up the blue dog. Blue was wide at times, but very fast—that's what I want from a sighthound."

"But Peabody, how do you know if the dog is chasing the lure if it is not behind the lure? What did you do with yellow? Yellow was all over the field!" poor, puzzled Sherman inquired.

"Now yellow was a different story. Yellow was like a hyperactive kid with a short attention span. Blue may have been wide at times but always had its head turned to the lure and reacted every time the lure changed directions. Blue may not have been right behind the lure, but never lost it either! It was always making moves to push the lure one way or the other, or to actually catch the lure. Yellow was running to different locations of the field, without regards to where the lure was or where it was going. Therefore, I docked points for follow and agility."

"How can you say the blue dog was faster than the pink dog? The only time you can judge speed is when the two dogs are running next to each other like at the start of the course! And you have to consider where the dogs are in relation to the lure when you try to judge agility. The second and third dogs into a turn will always come out of the turn before the first dog into the turn. So how can you judge speed and agility, Peabody?"

"But, Bart, if you can't judge speed and agility, why are you judging?"

"I do judge speed and agility Sherman, but it is not done easily. You must consider perspective, the angles of the dogs are taking because they rarely, if ever, go in the same exact direction. Then you have to be careful about running style. Some dogs look extremely fast because they're pumping their legs very fast, but they are not really covering much ground."

"I agree with your points, Bart, but speed and agility are more important categories than are follow or enthusiasm. The very wise and wonderful people who figured out our judging system knew that and placed more points in the speed and agility categories to give the judges more room to work with in those more important categories."

"Geez, I never thought about it that way. Boy those people were real smart weren't they!" exclaimed an amazed Sherman.

"Well, be that as it may, Sherman, I want to know just how Bart defines follow. I have heard how he defines speed and agility."

"Follow is from pulley to pulley. The dog must be behind the lure to push it. After all, a hare is not going to run away from a dog that is not chasing it."

"Let's be careful about making too many comparisons to open field coursing. We have an equipment limitation. The string can only pull the lure in one direction. A real hare can run in any direction and will run away from whichever hound it feels threatened from, which may or may not be the closest to it."

"OK, Peabody, how do you judge speed and agility?"

"I don't. At least not directly. You see, I try to decide who my best dog is in each course, and then justify the points in each category. Let's take this last course for example. I decided that blue was the best running and really being the one threatening the lure. The reason it was the best was because it was the fastest of the three. I tied pink and yellow because pink was so slow and yellow didn't seem to be affected by the lure. Play the sound of a lure machine and that dog will run itself to death."

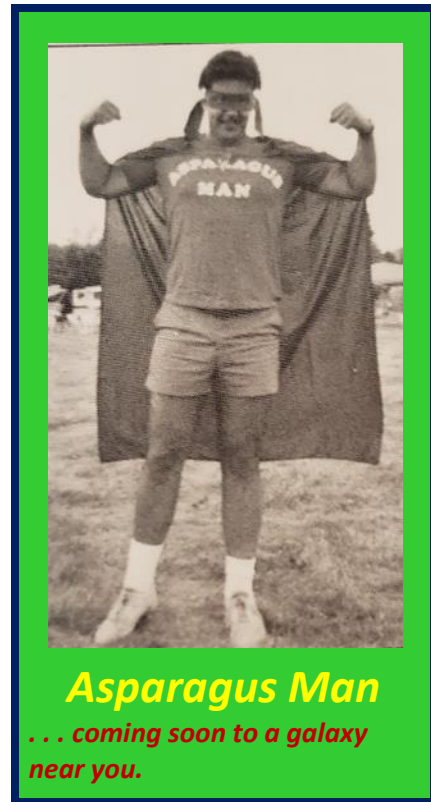
"OK, Sherman, but that does not explain why you need a lure or lure coursing. With your judging style you could watch the dogs playing in your backyard! You can judge agility and speed and enthusiasm for that matter as they run and play. The only difference is the lure and follow. Just think of all the effort you have saved us!"

"Really, Bart, let's not get carried away. The point of this sport, though I think it properly should be secondary to ourselves' and the hound's having a good time, is to test, compare, and improve the sighthound breeds - as sighthounds. To preserve the hunting instincts..."

"I didn't know that!" interrupted Sherman, "But how come everything from mutts to miniature Dachshunds lure course at practice?"

"That is part of my point. The difference between the other breeds and the sighthounds is two-fold. One is the ability to run faster and longer than the non-sighthounds. Second, the ability to see and spot game at long distances is critical. Sure, sighthounds will test the air with their noses and other breeds will run the lure. But most other breeds can or do not react to the lure at long distances."

"I guess it depends on what you want to promote. Fast, agile dogs—or sighthounds that follow."



ASFA NEEDS A **VOLUNTEER** TO **CHAIR THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

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