



No Bark Times

"All the news that fits we print"

Summer/Fall 2008

Newsletter Staff:

Janet Ketz
Lisa Marshall
Sandy Tucker

IN THIS ISSUE

Summertime.....	1
President's Message.....	2
Plans and Officers.....	3
2009 Meetings/Events.....	4
Legislation News	5
Callie	6
Lemon Balm	7
True North	8
True North-continued.....	9
At the Movies.....	10
What's Cooking.....	11
Important Warning.....	12
Consumer Alert.....	13
National LGRA Results.....	14
LGRA Nationals.....	15
Up, Up and Away	16



The dog days of summer, those lazy hazy crazy days of summer, summer time and the living is easy...no matter how you describe it...We all had great fun!



From the Desk of Our President

Lisa Marshall

It would seem that in this age of the internet with its power to connect people, no one should have trouble finding a local basenji club. Yet recently I received an email from Marvin's family, looking to meet some basenji owners in the BCOSW area. Marvin is a 5 year old basenji who lives with Jennifer and Kevin, his family, not far from me. They had never heard of the BCOSW in the years since they got Marvin, but were referred to me by someone I know at the Greater Racine Kennel Club. The timing was right so I invited them to bring Marvin to our club fun day (July) at Wanda and Fred Pooley's farm in Rockford, Illinois.

They were hesitant at first since Marvin has not been around other dogs much and is not very good with strangers. With some encouragement and the assurance that none of our dogs is perfect, they decided to make the drive to the fun day. Marvin surprised them by his mostly gentlemanly demeanor at this social event, just as I had hoped. Wanda located Marvin's pedigree in Sally Wallis' online pedigree database and printed off a copy for Jennifer and Kevin, and several BCOSW members advised them on a couple of health questions they had. I got an email the next week with a thank you for inviting them. They plan to join BCOSW and we certainly welcome them.

Speaking of the fun day, it was! We had something for everyone – lure coursing practice, some agility equipment to play on, a grooming table for show practice, and a several tables of food. We appreciate the hospitality extended to the club by Wanda and Fred for our fun day and the bonfire in the fall.

Our first back-to-back specialty weekend, *A Midsummer's Dream Weekend*, with GCBC is now history. In spite of the constraints imposed on budgets by high gas prices, we had a good turnout both days for our judges. Watch for full specialty reports and photographs in the 4th Quarter 2008 Bulletin magazine. Many thanks to Sue Joyner who took on the task of event secretary for both specialties, and to all those who pitched in both days to set up, provide hospitality, ring steward, sell catalogs, clean up, record the results, run the auction, take down on Sunday and the many other tasks that accompany a specialty show. Laura Caldwell was trophy chair for BCOSW for the second year in a row, and her trophy table was just as beautiful this year as last. Thank you to Laura, and to everyone who donated a trophy or sponsored a class. Speaking of the BCOSW prizes, our best of breed winner came from the bred by exhibitor bitch class, thereby taking home \$100 donated by Carrie Jones for the breeder/owner-handled Best of Breed winner. We are now evaluating comments from our exhibitors on the new arrangement, so we can see what direction to take for 2009.

On Monday, August 4, BCOSW had a booth at the Wisconsin State Fair World of Dogs for the nearly 30th year in a row. The format of the event has changed somewhat over the years, but we still view this as an important outreach opportunity - and it is fun. The World of Dogs is very popular with Fair goers. Participating clubs can put up a display booth for the booth competition, hand out literature about their breed or club, and participate in a variety of events such team obedience, the parade of breeds, and fly ball, agility and lure coursing demonstrations. BCOSW has always done very well in the booth competition, several years winning the coveted Fair Goers Choice award.

So who shot J.R.? I can't remember but with the BCOA national specialty at Southfork Ranch this year, I'm sure I'll find out!

That's all for now.

Club Officer Information

&

2009 Plans

Our club's annual meeting including the election of officers and directors was held on July 19, 2008. We welcome new board member Terry Lemberger. Here are the officers and directors for the next year:

Officers

President: Lisa Marshall	brkls@wi.rr.com
Vice President: Sandy Tucker	dustbunny@juno.com
Secretary: Janet Ketz	jlketz@aol.com
Treasurer: Wanda Pooley	albasenji@rockriver.net

Directors

Jan Cook	janc@gvprx.com
Susan Cook	scook@bloomcos.com
Terry Lemberger	lem72@aol.com

BCOSW faces challenges I'm sure familiar to other affiliate clubs, namely outreach to basenji owners in our club's area who may not be familiar with our club, and outreach to some of our own members who do not come to meetings or attend any of our annual events. Our most well attended meetings occur in conjunction with several events: the holiday lunch in January, the puppy/fun match in April, the fun day/picnic in July and the bonfire/cookout in October. I guess it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see the pattern here. Going forward, we will build on these popular activities with our membership, and offer additional "content" at other meetings like featuring a speaker or some other educational program along with the business meeting.

2009 Events/Meeting Calendar

DATE	LOCATION	MEETING	EVENT
January 11, 2009	Shamrock Restaurant, Caledonia, WI	Membership	BCOSW Holiday Lunch
March 1, 2009	Pegasus Restaurant West Allis, WI	Board	
March 28, 2009	Greater Racine KG, Cale- donia, WI	Membership	BCOSW "B"/ Fun Match
April 11 & 12, 2009	Belvidere, IL	Board	BCOSW ASFA trial
May 2009	Date and location TBD		
June 13, 2009	Boone County Fair Belvidere, IL	Membership	Agility trial
July 11, 2009	Rockford, IL	Board	BCOSW Fun Day
July 24, 2009	Ixonia, WI		BCOSW specialty
July 25, 2009	Waukesha, WI	Annual Meeting	Waukesha KG show/ BCOSW supported entry
August 3, 2009	West Allis, WI		WI State Fair World of Dogs
August 16, 2009	Caledonia, WI	Board	GRKC ASFA trial
TBD	TBD		BCOA National Spe- cialty
October 3, 2009	Rockford, IL	Membership	Bonfire/cookout
November 2009 (TBD)	Madison, Wi		Badger KG Dog Fair

Legislative Information

Dog owners, in every area of the country, are facing Legislative issues, like never before. To help keep up with what our lawmakers are doing related to pet laws, here are a few web sites you might like to take a look at to get the latest information regarding current issues in canine legislation.

American Kennel Club—www.akc.org/news/sections/legislative_alerts.cfm

American Sighthound Field Association—www.asfa.org/advisory/monthly_legislation_report.pdf

Dog Federation of Wisconsin—Doglaw@dfow.org

Info Dog—www.infodog.com/calegislation.htm

Dog Watch—www.dogwatch.net/links.html

To find information on your states government officials and dog legislation in your state,

try these web sites

Wisconsin www.wisconsin.gov

Illinois www.illinois.gov

Iowa www.iowa.gov

Michigan www.michigan.gov

Minnesota www.state.mn.us

Missouri www.mo.gov/



Callie Lemke

Introducing Callie...our fourth Basenji

We have been members of BCOSW for over 20 years. We got our first Basenji in 1974 quite by accident. A client of Dave's had purchased a Basenji puppy and then built a new home and had a baby. It turned out to be too much at one time and he asked Dave if we were interested in Cleo (Cleopatra) a 6 month old, black and white Basenji. So we went to see her, fell in love immediately and that's how the story of our love affair with Basenji's started. Cleo lived to be almost 16 and brought us all many years of joy. Since we were in the process of building a new home we decided to wait to purchase another Basenji until we moved in. We moved into our new home in November of 1990 and got Sheba and Amber in March 1991. Sheba and Amber were red and white and sisters. The two of them brought us many years of joy and laughter. They were quite a pair and we loved them dearly. Amber died at age 14 and Sheba continued on for 2 more years and died of old age at almost 16. They were and still are sorely missed, and we decided to wait a year before getting another one.

On December 5, 2007 our little Callie was born to Sally Wournos' pair Glitter and Derby. She arrived here in the biggest snowstorm of the season on February 6, 2008. It took Sally and her husband 10 hours to get from Minnesota to Milwaukee. My friend and I went to pick up our new puppy at Pat Wand's home. At this point we had not decided on which one we were taking as we had only seen pictures via email. Sally brought all four girls along and they tumbled and vied for our attention. It was a difficult decision as they were all so cute and sweet, but one stood out and that was our Callie.

Callie is full of energy and always on the go. She is a very sweet pup. She is now 9 months old and doing very well. She is extremely friendly to everyone, including all dogs. The first comment people make about her is how sweet and friendly she is. She loves kids and yodels with delight when our grandsons come over. I was happy when she started vocalizing as our Sheba was quite vocal as well, and it's such fun to hear them. Paula's 2 Basenji's do not howl, so her kids get quite a kick out Callie and all her sounds. She does not enjoy riding in the car and does let us know about it with lots of sounds. I sometimes wonder what people in other cars must think if they hear her. On that note, she also wants to chase cars when I am walking her. (NOT a good thing) so I am working on that and hoping to break that bad habit. She really wants to chase everything, deer, squirrels, rabbit, chipmunks, birds etc. (a typical Basenji). Hence no invisible fence for her (at least not at this point). We went to a puppy socialization and good manners class and she did well and greatly enjoyed meeting and playing with the other pups in the class. She has a "playmate" in the neighborhood who comes over and plays at least once a week. He is a two year old Maltese-Bichon and they have a lot of fun together. We went to the BCOSW Fun Match in March and she loved running with all the other Basenji puppies that were there. We also went to a Lure Coursing birthday party in June and Callie got to do a few runs which she greatly enjoyed, so either that or Agility could be in her future.

We are greatly enjoying our 4th little Basenji and hope we will have many happy years together with her. Just like those before her, she keeps us laughing with her silly antics.

What a joy to share ones life with a Basenji.

Kathie and Dave Lemke

Lemon Balm for you and your dog.

Lemon balm is a dog-friendly plant with a distinctive lemon-mint fragrance and flavor. It is best known as a nervine, a calming herb that soothes and relaxes. It's also a digestive aid that neutralizes gas in the stomach and intestines. Add its muscle-relaxing, deodorizing, disinfecting, and insect-repelling benefits, and you can see why lemon balm belongs in your garden, window box, or patio planter.

Lemon balm is particularly useful for older dogs who show signs of age-related confusion, dementia or anxiety. Puppies may appreciate its ability to settle the stomach and reduce digestive gas.

If your dog has flatulence problems you might want to try lemon balm to reduce the gas. Lemon balm has long been considered a "universal remedy", but most recent findings show help for dogs with digestive problems, separation anxiety, sleep disorders, stress and irritability. It also is an effective topical treatment for ringworm.

You can use the plant leaves to make a medicinal-strength lemon balm tea. Pour 1 cup boiling water over 2 tablespoons chopped fresh leaves. Cover the tea and let it stand until it cools. Add tea to your dog's food and or/water, starting with small amounts while your dog becomes accustomed to the taste and fragrance. You can add up to 1 tablespoon tea per 20 pounds of body weight twice or three times daily, and if treating a condition, such as indigestion or anxiety, double that amount.

Lemon balm's essential oil, usually labeled Melissa oil, is so expensive that it's often misrepresented.. Much of what you might see is steam-distilled Melissa oil which is really a blend of citronella and lemon grass. True Melissa oil costs up to \$1 per drop. That's because it takes 3 to 5 tons of fresh lemon balm to produce a single pound of essential oil. Fortunately, Melissa hydrosol, the "flower water" byproduct of steam distillation, is far less expensive and has the same healing benefits. With their sensitive noses, dogs may at first avoid water to which Melissa hydrosol has been added. Introducing it in small amounts, starting with just a few drops, can make it more palatable.

For pet use, it is recommended using 1/4 teaspoon hydrosol per cup of drinking water. Full strength hydrosol can be added to food at the rate of 1 drop per pound of body weight per day, which is 1/2 teaspoon for a 30 pound dog and 1 teaspoon for a 60 pound dog. For a health maintenance regimen, this works well since you can treat chronic conditions with 2 drops per pound on a three-weeks-on, one-week-off cycle. This way the body has a week to assimilate the changes and healing process. For more information on Lemon Balm and other aromatherapy remedies read Hydrosols: The Next Aromatherapy by Suzanne Catty, Healing Arts Press.

Submitted by Kathie Lemke



True North

I was born Dec. 26, 2003. **"ITZYU TAARAKIAN ROYAL COPPER "** My breeder called me Streak. I was one of six brothers. The Mathers didn't choose me right away but they took a second look. They noticed my spunk while playing with my brothers. I climbed and yodeled for them! They decided to take "the Streak" and promptly changed my name to Kuper (pronounced Cooper). Kuper means copper in Hebrew. They loved my rich copper colored coat.

When they put on my little collar and leash and prepared to leave for our flight home, I bucked like a miniature bronco! I did not like it one bit. I was soon distracted however, when I went outside and it was snowing to beat the band. I'd never been outside, or in a car and certainly not in an airport with hundreds of people milling around. But I "Kuper" managed to take it all in stride, curious about everything , even giving the crowds a "baroo" now and then.

I bonded right away. I spent the flight home to Dallas snuggled inside a warm, fleece-lined jacket with my head resting on a soft chest. That was the same position I took on my final trip to the Vet.

Caiya , my new basenji sister, adopted me as her own from the first sniff. Caiya taught me manners, how to hold a chew bone and how to hunt. She tried to teach me the proper way to stalk, flat on the ground, inching my way forward, I just didn't have the patience for that! I just wanted to run!And run I did.....I loved to run!

(Continued)

True North

Rande explains:

Unfortunately, at ten months of age Kuper came into contact with Leptospirosis. Leptospirosis is a spirochete bacteria that is contracted through the urine of an animal that has it. Leptospirosis is a disease that hadn't really been active for a while. For that reason, Kuper was quite ill for a couple of months before it was suggested he get tested for it. When he did get tested the results were devastating! His kidneys were already severely damaged. While Kuper survived when many of the dogs who came down with it did not, he was never the same.

At eighteen months of age, however, Kuper had regained some strength and seemed like a normal healthy dog. He entered into the performance events of LGRA (straight line racing) and NOTRA (oval track racing). Once he knew what to do in those events he could not be beaten! Kuper ran on pure enthusiasm! He willed himself to run and to win and loved doing it.

Now, we know what we didn't know then, that Leptospirosis not only affects the kidneys, but the joints, ligaments and electrolyte balance as well. Kuper broke down during the second day of NOTRA racing in May of '06...the same weekend Barbaro, the famous racehorse broke down. Kuper never competed again. In fact, the last year of his life he was even careful with himself while running around the yard as he had developed arthritis in all his joints and even his spine.

Running wasn't the only thing Kuper excelled at, however. He was an expert Yodeler! He Barooded his way into winning the talent contest at the Basenji National in '05. All we or anyone had to do was ask Kuper, "Where's your Darlin'?" and he would start barooing and not want to quit. Sometimes when he yodeled he would point one direction, then turn 45 degrees and yodel that direction, turning a quarter of a turn each time until he completed the circle...was it a call to hunt? Maybe!

Sadly, as we look back at pictures of Kuper during this last year we can see he was losing more and more muscle mass as his body tried to regulate the balance of protein. His protein was out of balance because his kidneys were not working correctly. Leptospirosis is like Lyme disease in that it will lie dormant in the victim until an opportune time. When the immune system is weak, it will resurge, damaging the kidneys even further. Unfortunately for Kuper and for us the Lepto did resurge this Spring.....

He is buried under the big pine in the front yard. We wrapped him in his favorite blanket and placed him with his head to the North. It was Steve's idea. Kuper was our True North.



Information and photos for True North are from Kuper's Cyber Memorial by Steve, Randi and Caiya Mathers.

The “Basenji” Movie

Weep No More, My Lady

Good Bye, My Lady is a novel by James H. Street about a boy and his dog. First published in June 1954 and reprinted in 1978. It is based on Street's short story "Weep No More, My Lady", which was published in a 1941 Saturday Evening Post. Released in 1956, the movie Good Bye, My Lady was produced by John Wayne and starred Walter Brennan, Brandon de Wilde, Phil Harris and Sidney Poitier.

Skeeter is a 14-year-old, who lives with his uncle Jesse in a one-room shack in the swamps. He has heard the sound of a strange animal in the swamp near their shack, and one summer evening he convinces his uncle to help him go out and find it. When they find it, they see it is a small animal with short red and white fur that makes a chuckling yodel sound and cleans itself like a cat. Uncle Jesse is unsure what the animal is, but Skeeter is convinced it is a dog. After the boy and the dog have bonded completely, reports of a lost Basenji, named Isis of the Blue Nile, match Lady and Skeeter must say Good Bye, My Lady!

It is reported that, English Basenji breeder Veronica Tudor-Williams (of the Congo basenji's) received a letter from Street in 1942 saying that he first got the idea of writing about a Basenji after seeing a photograph of Tudor-Williams with some Basenjies in an American magazine. He also wrote that the reader reaction from his first story in *The Saturday Evening Post* was so strong that he wrote a sequel, "Please Come Home, My Lady", reuniting Skeeter with Lady and appeared in a 1942 issue of *The Saturday Evening Post*.

Tudor-Williams provided the Basenji, named My Lady of the Congo, who played Lady in the film, and also provided four additional dogs to serve as "doubles" for Lady. After filming ended, Lady was adopted by de Wilde, and the other dogs were adopted by various members of the film crew. The film version was released in 1956. It has also appeared under the titles *Goodbye, My Lady* and *The Boy and the Laughing Dog*. *Goodbye, My Lady* was released by Warner Home Video, on VHS, in 1993.

A New Book

Speaking for Spot

Dr. Nancy Kay Specialist, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine
Animal Care Center 6470 Redwood Drive Rohnert Park, California 94928

I'm pleased to announce the release of my book, *Speaking for Spot: Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life* (Trafalgar Square Books). My goal in writing it was to teach dog lovers how to navigate the sometimes overwhelming, confusing, and expensive world of veterinary medicine. If you have some room in an upcoming newsletter, I'd be delighted if you would run a review of *Speaking for Spot*.

Thus far, the book has been wonderfully well received. Claudia Kawczynska, editor-in-chief of The BARK Magazine describes it as “a must-read groundbreaking new book” and the September issue of BARK includes an excerpt from *Speaking for Spot*. You can find additional chapter material and the complete table of contents at www.speakingforspot.com.

What's Cooking

Tuna/Salmon Fudge

Dog Treats

From Lisa Marshall

2-6oz. cans tuna or 1- 14 oz. can of salmon-do not drain

1 1/2 cups flour

2 Eggs

1 Tablespoon garlic—powdered or minced (optional)

Grated Parmesan cheese (optional)

Process fish, garlic and eggs in food processor or blender (or mix in a bowl). Add flour and mix to a brownie-like consistency. Spread into a 11 x 13-inch greased pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes: when the fudge is done, it will have a putty-like texture and the edges will pull away from the sides of the pan. Cut into squares and freeze.

This recipe came from NEAT (New England Agility Team) mailing list, courtesy of Sharon Puline and her Keeshond test kitchen.

3 MINUTE CHOCOLATE MUG CAKE

A Human Treat

Maggie Galaszewski

1 Coffee Mug

4 tablespoons flour (that's plain flour, not self-rising)

4 tablespoons sugar

2 tablespoons baking cocoa

1 egg

3 tablespoons milk

3 tablespoons oil

3 tablespoons chocolate chips (optional)

Some nuts (optional)

Small splash of vanilla

Add dry ingredients to mug, and mix well. Add the egg and mix thoroughly.

Pour in the milk and oil and mix well.

Add the chocolate chips (if using) and vanilla, and mix again.

Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes on high. The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed!

Allow to cool a little, and tip out onto a plate if desired.

EAT! (this can serve 2 if you want to share!)

And why is this the most dangerous cake recipe in the world? Because now we are all only 5 minutes away from chocolate cake at any time of the day or night!

The Cookie Jar Warning

This is a story that could have ended very badly.....

The plastic jar pictured below originally had a snap tight lid and was filled with dog treats. One day a brilliant basenji, home alone and hungry, decided to look around the house for a snack. She found the snack jar and opened it. She managed to get her head stuck inside the jar and could not get it of herself. When her owner arrived home ,she found her beloved basenji's head trapped in the jar and removed it. The only one to suffer irreparable damage, that day, was the jar.

Could a frightened dog with it's head stuck in a jar be injured or suffocate? Let's not have any further research on the subject.



A Consumer Alert

Vinyl Products and Toys

If that vinyl toy smells bad, chances are it contains toxic chemicals. Over the past few years, concern has increased about the safety of vinyl products, particularly in items made for kids. This concern comes from the presence of certain additives used almost exclusively in vinyl. In response, nine major governments from around the world and many more municipalities have banned or advised against the use of these additives in children's toys. It has been found that the plasticizers used to soften vinyl can cause developmental problems in young children.

Vinyl is the common name for polyvinyl chloride, or PVC. It's a cheap plastic that's used to make all kinds of items. You and your dog almost certainly have vinyl in your lives. These dioxins cause cancers, reproductive and developmental problems, and immune system damage in animals.

Between manufacture and disposal, vinyl itself is pretty stable. You can end up with a vinyl product that only contains a small portion of PVC. However that is the problem. While vinyl itself may be relatively safe during use, its additives are not. Vinyl may contain a number of additives known to be highly toxic, among them lead, alkyl-phenols, and bisphenol-A to name a few. The one getting the most attention today are phthalates. These man-made chemicals are what makes vinyl soft and pliable. These phthalates are what gives plastic that "vinyl" smell. If you can smell vinyl, then you and your dog- are inhaling phthalates. These phthalates will leach out into any skin and other living tissues, air, water and earth with which it comes in contact.

Shop carefully. Be like a dog and sniff all soft-plastic pet and household products. If it smells like "vinyl" it probably is. Check labels for content descriptions that say "vinyl" or PVC. Check the product for a recycling symbol with #3 PVC (or #3 V). If a soft plastic product does not have this information ask the retailer to check it out.

Dogs who eat even small amounts of PVC toy per day can be exposed to toxic doses of DEHP (diethylhexyl phthalate) which can cause reproductive damage.

Phthalates migrate into a dogs' saliva at rates that can increase the toxic effects of the chemicals.

The exposure of pregnant or nursing bitches (for even a short time) during their puppies' critical development periods to toys containing DEHP can put the puppies' reproductive health at risk.

Dogs who eat even small amounts of PVC toy per day may also be exposed to toxic doses of DINP (di-isononyl phthalate) which can cause liver damage with sufficient ongoing exposure.

Toys may be a major source of phthalate exposure to dogs. The best way to avoid toxins from synthetic chemicals is to not buy synthetic products. That is hard to do these days, and even natural things may be treated with the nasty stuff. Consider buying a waxed canvas raincoat for you and your dog instead of the vinyl type. Nylon mesh is less toxic than PVC mesh used on dog tents, carriers, and crates. Watch out for PVC undercoating on these items, as well.

Check what you already have in your home and then shop carefully. It will help to preserve the good health of you, your family and your pets. PVC has become a part of our culture, and it will take time to change that. Being aware and shopping carefully is the first big step to making that change.

Things you can do...

- * Don't buy vinyl toys for your dog, especially if you have a puppy or a breeding adult dog.
- * Notice where you've got vinyl in your home, car, and elsewhere in your life so you can eliminate as much of it as you can, to reduce you, your family and your dogs' exposure to it.
- * Vacuum your home and car regularly to remove some of the phthalate-laden dust.
- Shop carefully and read labels.

Thanks to Kathie Lemke for this information.

BCOSW Hosts BCOA National Specialty LGRA

Large Gazehound Racing Association



Sponsored by the Basenji Club of Southeastern Wisconsin

PI	Call Name	Registered Name	Owner	Pts	Award
1	Feigh	FC Eldorado's Y's African Sinbaje CD RE SC FCh OA OAJ	Siekert and Siekert	22	HIGH POINT
2	Zeke	Ch Hacker's Hyde and Zeke JC FCh ORC	Lemberger	13	HP OPP
3	Zuri	DC Jerlin's Our Zuri Pupin SC ORC GRC FCh	Colbert	13	
4	Jada	Kiroja Loving Every Minute GRC ORC	Cook/Hayek	13	
5	Rusty	Vinakaks XIV Karat Goldn Boy Fch GRC SORC NA NJ	Cook/Hayek	11	
6	Caiya	Caiya Princess Lightning JC	Mathers	11	HP VET
7	Beauty	FC Svengali's Dark Beauty MC	Sehm	9	
8	Aubrey	Ch Rafikis Twilights Last Gleaming SC FCh GRC JOR RN NA	Cook/Gahgan	9	
9	Cody	Cody IV Fch SGRC2 SORC	Cook	8	OPP VET
10	Winifred	FC Jumanji My Winifred FCh, MC	Sehm	8	
11	Trog	Apu Tri Roo of Ganesa SC	Stewart	8	
12	Drew	DC Sinbaje's Picture Perfect CDX SC FCh RE OA OAJ	Siekert and Siekert	7	
13	Kero	CH Mankia's Kero Matata	Arrand and Arrand	5	
14	Bisa	Khamsin Imani Our Bisa Zanta SC TT JOR	Colbert/Robinette	5	
15	Ryder	Ch Bushbabies Red Ryder SC	Gavaletz	5	
16	Clay	Sinbaje's Perfect Contender CD RN JC NA NAJ NJP	Siekert and Siekert	0	

The 2008 BCOA National Specialty LGRA Event was another success for our club. As hosts for the event we once again showed that we can work together to put on a fun and well run event. Under the leadership of Jan Cook and Susan Cook, 16 basenji's ran in the event. Members there to work on the event included Pat Wand, Andy Hayek, Terry and Lisa Lemberger, Steve and Randi Mathers, Dennis Trautman and Janet and Lou Ketz.

BCOA

2008

LGRA

Nationals



Well for once Mother Nature was on our side. The weather for the race day was overcast and much cooler than the rest of the week. The weather was my biggest worry going to this national. I had heard that Texas can still be quite hot in September and I didn't want the dogs to have to run in extreme temperatures. We had an entry of 16 dogs, 6 of them being veterans, which was a much better turn out than I had anticipated due to our bleak economic times. Our racing friends from the east coast didn't make the trip to this national otherwise our entries would have been much higher. I have a hunch we will see them next year for the 2009 BCOA National in Kentucky. All of the basenjis were strong, competitive racers which actually resulted in a few ties. When all was said and done our high point basenji was a lightening fast bitch of Linda Siekert's named "Feigh". My girl, Jada, was a close second to Feigh until in the last race she decided to do a somersault to try to get her muzzle off. I guess she thinks we need some extra entertainment at these races. The second place dog and opposite high point was Terry and Lisa Lemberger's "Zeke". The third place dog was Terry Colbert's "Zuri" and my dogs, Jada and Rusty took fourth and fifth place. We also had some special awards for our veteran racers. The high point veteran was Steve and Rande Mathers "Caiya" and opposite high point veteran was my boy "Cody The veteran's speed may have slowed down, but certainly not their drive to get that bunny. We offered our "winners" some very special prizes above and beyond what the BCOA offered. The 1-3~ place dogs had their choice of a duffle bag filled with various racing items, a wicker suitcase filled with various African items, or a dog bone toy chest filled with misc dog items (one item was a stuffed basenji with little racing jackets-too cute for words) To all of our surprise, we also received an exceptional prize from Rande and Steve Mathers. Rande made a replica of an African bell for each basenji entered in the Igra races. The bells were even adorned with real African beads with one bead having the dog's name on it. Rande never did tell me how many hours she invested in this project, but I can only imagine it was many. After the races were over we all gathered together to have a photograph taken of our basenjis with their bells on. In my opinion receiving that bell was worth the trip to Texas alone. So a big THANK YOU goes out to Rande and Steve for those unique bells. I also want to thank the rest of our club members for their "faithful" help in making this Igra event a success. Thank you to Janet and Lou Ketz for being our box operators (the best in the Midwest), Terry and Lisa Lemberger for sweating it out with Andy and I setting up the track, Susan Cook for being my assistant scorekeeper (she is the computer wiz-I am not), Pat Wand for being my head foul judge, Dennis Trautman for running the lure (we were lucky that Dennis was in Dallas on business that week), Maggie Galaszewski for her prize donations and help with the catalog (she wasn't with us physically but she was in spirit) and lastly thank you to Lisa Marshall for helping walk dogs down to the start boxes. We really have a wonderful group of racing enthusiasts within our club. Of course I race for the dogs, but I also race because I love the comradery. I encourage anyone who thinks they may be interested in trying either straight track or oval track racing to contact either myself or one of the above club members. We certainly will welcome you and give you any information you will need to get started in this very fun and exciting sport.

Submitted by Jan Cook

Up, Up and Away
See you!



Balloon Festival, Dallas, Texas, 2008, by Steve and Randi Mathers



NO BARK TIMES

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