



# FEATHERS & FLEWS

The Newsletter of the Central Carolina English Setter Club

July 13, 2008

Volume I, Issue I

## Special points of interest:

- Welcome to our first issue!!!!
- CCESC SPECIALTY and SWEEPSTAKES are Friday, 4/3/2009

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW FOR BEING IN CHARLOTTE NEXT APRIL!!!

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## It's a Setter Thing

There are some people who have never heard of English Setters. Other folks have been lucky enough to have been around them all their lives. I had never heard of them until almost four years ago, and was thunderstruck when I saw one. To actually know, love, and be loved by an English Setter is nothing short of glorious, and often tough to explain.

Helen and I were looking for another dog because we like to have at least two. Our beloved mixed terrier, Gremlin, had left us some months earlier. We had found Gremlin years ago, after church, the Sunday before



The English Setter is a prized bird dog.

Photo of Gracie courtesy of Joe Deese Photography

Christmas, huddled at the door of a Waffle House. Most of her tail had been lopped off, leaving a bloody but wagging nub. The waitresses said she had been there for almost a week, and loved waffles. As I tried to concentrate on my raisin toast, Helen was watching her go from car to car - searching. As I buried my head deeply in the sports page, Helen blurted out through her tears: "It would just make my Christmas if we could help find that dog a home!" Now, 13 years later, we were wondering what dog could ever take little Gremmie's place.

It was Saturday night. Helen brought me a copy of Dog Fancy, pointed at the cover, and said that's the dog she wanted. I asked her what it was. She said it was an English Setter. I said there's no such thing as an English Setter. She said yes there was, and in fact there were three types of setters, not just the Irish, and that English Setters were considered the gentlemen and the ladies of the dog world. Exuberantly, she added that English Setters were great family dogs, loved kids, and that their eyes were generally regarded as the jewels of the animal kingdom. Not being one to question such overwhelming evidence, I reserved the right to see them in person. A little detective work found a litter just 30

minutes from us. I called to make an appointment, and was told politely thank-you for your interest but the pups were all spoken for. The look on Helen's face with this news was one of crushing rejection. I asked if we

could come out anyway to take a look, and the voice at the other end said sure, we could come out tomorrow afternoon. Tomorrow would be the Sunday before Christmas.

When we got to the kennel, I guess you could say we were simultaneously awestruck and smitten by what we found. We reveled in the audacity and playfulness of the most beautiful puppies we had ever seen. Cautiously watched by the Dam and carefully interviewed by the breeder, we joyfully crawled around with the writhing mob. Phone calls in the following days (we hoped) convinced the owners that we were indeed committed and trustworthy. Three weeks later, we were owners.

Three and a half years later and now with two setters, the experience of owning them grows more precious each day. When strangers ask: "Does that dog shed?," we wonder why we didn't ask that same question. Kitchen counter surfing is really not a challenge, it's a sport. Deafness is not congenital, it's a choice. Twenty degrees outside, it's time for a run. Water - well, it's gold. And seeing a setter's head buried up to the fourth vertebrae in Helen's purse looking for tissue - **priceless**. (This conversation could have no end!)

And, there are the people that stop their cars and ask through the open window: "What kind of dogs are those? They sure are pretty!" Or those that call from their porch: "That's a bird dog, isn't it?" Or, "We had an English Setter once - that's the best dog we ever had." My personal favorite comment was from a woman making her way up the sidewalk to church as I was walking Gracie. She stopped me and said: "What a magnificent animal." One moment I feel like I was chosen to guard a treasure. The next moment, saturated flews are resting on my leg. I guess it's a Setter thing.

## New Champion!!!

On June 6, a handsome, 16 month old English Setter named Beau became *CH Loch Lomond's Wrapped Up In You*. Before that Friday, he did not have the "CH" designation in front of his name, because he had not earned that designation. Now he is the club's newest champion AND - was 100% **owner handled** on his journey to the top!



*CH Loch Lomond's Wrapped Up In You, with Sarah*

Beau is co-owned by club members Frazier Neal and her daughter, Sarah Kuniansky. Are you ready for this??? Beau is the first dog Sarah ever handled IN HER LIFE—and she put ALL the points on him! Now, in case you've never handled a dog in a dog show, let me try to put this in perspective for you: IT'S HARD TO DO!!!

Sarah has a background of "doing". She began figure skating at age three and a half and was double jumping at age 8. She started playing tennis at age nine and played in the Australian Open for juniors. She set state records in track while living in Pinehurst and then in Charleston. She started a coat drive for kids that didn't have coats. She volunteers at the local animal shelter. She found two cats who had been orphaned at one week, and bottle fed them

every three hours - those cats are now almost 2 years old. She is in her third

year at the College of Charleston, and just turned 21.

Here's the kicker: Need a handler? Sarah is available for free if she can make the date. She just wants to learn! She plans to be at some upcoming shows, so if you want some free help you can contact her at: [frazierneal@aol.com](mailto:frazierneal@aol.com)



## YOUR PICTURES ARE NEEDED FOR THE CLUB CALENDAR

As you all know by now, the club is putting together a 24 month desk calendar for sale by all of us as a fundraiser. That means we need 24 candid or posed photos of English Setters (tiny humans with Setters is also good).

So, WE NEED PHOTOS. August 1 is the deadline for submission!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Send your photos to Cheryl Patrick at: [mtcspatr@aol.com](mailto:mtcspatr@aol.com)

DO NOT be a judge of your own photographic skills. The only rule is: focused is better than blurry. Art is in the eyes of the beholder (sometimes after cropping), so let the committee (who will be beholding the submissions) decide which photos have merit.

**HURRY!!!!!!!!!!**



## Count These Points!

Showing dogs is a sport. Keeping track of the points earned in showing is almost a sport in itself! Below are significant accomplishments by dogs bred by members of the club. These are highlights—it would take forever to list all the points!!!!!! If anyone was missed, let me know, and your brag will be noted in the next issue.



CH Editions Radioactive (Bikini) is now the record holder for BIS's won by a tri-colored bitch. In one weekend in April, she won three back-to-back Group Ones and TWO back-to-back **Best In Shows**. These BIS's follow her Best of Breed win at the ESAA "Winter Nationals" in February. Bikini is currently the #1 English Setter Bitch in the United States!

CH Editions Good Morning America (Harper) - who is Bikini's sister - finished her Canadian title in 3 shows with a Group 1, Group 2, and Group 3. She was also BOS at the Canadian Nationals. Additionally, she won another Group 1 at the all-breed show following the Canadian National. At one recent juncture, Harper was the #1 English Setter bitch in Canada.

*CH Editions Radioactive* Thanks to SIX (6) Group 1's (that's a first place finish in the Sporting Group!!!!!!) as well as other wins, CH Editions Flight Attendant (Sealy) took over as the #1 English Setter bitch in Canada as of July 7.

BJ's Silverline Priceless (Cash) was Reserve Winners Dog at The Canadian Nationals. He was also Best in Sweeps at the Canadian Nationals.

CH BJ's Cowboy Cadillac, J.H. (Caddy) was Winners Bitch and Best of Winners at the Canadian Nationals. Caddy was, of course, BOS at the ESAA Nationals in 2007 in Cincinnati.

CH Windjammer's Setterama's Delta (Delta) is a new Canadian champion, having finished his championship with a Group 2 win. Delta's daddy is Leo (CH Editions The Aviator) who is a multiple BIS and BISS winner. Delta is Leo's first titled pup!



CH BJ's Cowboy Cadillac, J.H., C.G.C.

Windjammer's Flight Plan (Jodie) was WB at the National Capital Specialty, Best in Sweeps the following day, RWB at the CCESC inaugural specialty, and BOS at the Buckeye Specialty. Jodie is owned by Lisa and Kenn Leavelle and sired by Leo.

Melwood's Flight Navigator (Gino) has 9 points and a major, is littermate to Jodie, and owned by Lisa and Kenn Leavelle.

CH Editions The Aviator (Leo) won an AOM at the New England Specialty. Handsome boy that he is, Leo has some litters due later this summer.

CH Whisky Ridge's Dalwhinnie (Tyra) is a new champion. Tyra was Best In Sweeps at the Central Florida Specialty; RWB at both the Florida Specialties, BOS at the Combined, Best In Sweeps at the CCESC Specialty and finished her championship with a Group 1 win from the classes over top ranked English Setters.

"Dora", UKC Ch. Tartan Bayside Beau's A'Dora'Ble *OFA CHIC*, finished her UKC Championship breeder/owner/handled winning 4 Best of Breeds, 2 Gundog Group 1's and a Gundog Group 4 on May 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Dora is out of Ch. Guys 'N Dolls Barrister Beau and Ch. Bayside Star Studded Eve'ning and was bred by Ray-Lynn Snowden & Lynn Lollis. Dora is owned by Ray-Lynn Snowden. of Tartan Kennels.

Editions The Barefoot Contessa (Ava) won BOB at Concord for her first 2 points and won her Sweeps class at the CCESC Specialty. Editions Pursuit of Happiness (TJ) went BOS at Concord and BW at Fayetteville. These littermates are by CH Editions Patent Pending (Jeep) and out of Sealy. Ava is owned by Larry and Mary Coldiron and TJ is owned by Mary Coldiron and Riley Butler.

## Field Day A Resounding Success

Put it in the books and mark it FUN! CCEESC's first officially sponsored function was a Fun Field Day open to all AKC pointing breeds and it seemed like everybody showed up. Held in the sandhills area of central North Carolina near the legendary golf mecca of Pinehurst, Mother Nature cooperated with clear blue skies and temperatures in the low 60's – perfect weather in anybody's book. And the dogs... well...the dogs showed us what they were bred to do – they were in their element.



When you own a pointing breed, you find people asking you: "Do you hunt them?" And, most of us answer in the negative. If you're like me, you just don't have the time. But you always wonder if your dog has what it takes to seek out feathered game. That's where field days and hunt tests satisfy your curiosity and bring out the best in your best friend. Not to worry – the dogs quickly learn what to do (even if you don't).

Held on Saturday, March 1, the event was organized and directed by Dr. B.J. Parsons, past president and current treasurer of our club. She didn't do it alone – a lot of credit goes to club members who pitched in to help. It would take a page of thank-you's to give credit to all who contributed – so we'll just say thanks to all of you who did pitch in. Special thanks goes to Cheryl Patrick, our club secretary, who is always there, for everything, all the time. Another special thanks goes to Lynn Vrooman and Cyndi Taves, who organized lunch and prepared some special items – no one left hungry and the fare was bombastically scrumptious.



Hannah Vrooman, top handler  
for the day

The day started with an introduction to birds, starter pistols, horses, etc. B.J. explained to everyone what was going to happen, and then we all just jumped into it. First, each participating handler took their dog into the field to seek out the live birds which had been placed in the low cover. Orange markers made it clear where the birds had been placed. With the dog on a long lead, it was the handlers' duty to "guide" the canine to their "prey". A dog's sense of smell is about 1,000 times as strong as a human's, so not much "guidance" was needed. The dogs quickly began flushing the birds out. An all-day soft, steady breeze out of the northwest also helped to carry the birds' scent downwind. The handler soon found that keeping up with the dog was going to

be the order of the day.

Witnessing your dog go into a point can literally send chills down your spine. It has to be one of the most beautiful sights on earth. "Who taught him to do that?" you wonder (it's called **INSTINCT!!!**). Then, the bird takes off, the dog bolts after the bird, the dog gets to the bird, you call your dog, and then you wonder: "Why didn't I take her to obedience training?" THAT is where the handler realizes their importance. You don't really need to train your pointing breed to find birds – you need to train them to bring the birds back to you!



## Field Day A Resounding Success, cont.



The day continued with starter pistols introduced to simulate gunfire, a senior hunter demonstration which was truly awesome, and then a mock hunt test (with birds randomly placed and no orange markers) with the dogs off lead and mock judges on horseback. Again, the dogs showed their breeding and found the birds with no help from the handler. Again, the hard part was retrieving the game (remember this was a fun day and not an actual hunt test – in an actual hunt test different rules and scoring apply – refer to “Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds” at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).) But make no mistake about it, the mock judges treated the event like it was the real thing! At the end of the day, the top dog was William, handled by our newest member: Hannah Vrooman, who joins the club with a junior membership.

The day was about the dogs. But, everyone who attended I think will certainly tell you that the location was ideal, the events were well organized, the food was sensational, the dogs were lovin’ it, and the human camaraderie was genuine. It was a wonderful day. Truly wonderful.





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*Thanks for reading our first issue!*

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The newsletter welcomes anyone who wants to submit an article (member or not). Ad space is also available!  
Contact the editor: J. Martin Sondey jmsondey@carolina.rr.com

*Thanks to everybody who helped make this first issue possible. Your input, proof-reading, opinions, factual knowledge, photos, patience, insight, and genuine interest brought this project together. It was a real team effort. Special thanks goes to Helen, who always seems to know the best way to get things done.*

*And, more than anything else, homage to English Setter breeders. Your dedication to the breed has made it possible to appreciate, love, and be loved by some of the most beautiful creatures on earth.*



Clementine

***And, don't forget the  
CCESC Specialty and  
Sweepstakes, April 3,  
2009!!!!!!!***

