



Rat Tails

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE IRISH WATER SPANIEL CLUB OF AMERICA
July/August 2026 Edition

Winners Bitch, Best of Winners and Best of Breed

National Specialty 2026

Ch. Poole's Ide Tequila Mockingbird



Breeders – Stephanie O'Reilly & Greg Siner
Owners – Greg Siner & Stephanie O'Reilly

CHARITABLE SUPPORT MEANS TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR YOU. HELP US HELP OUR DOGS. IWSCA IS A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

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President's Message

People say that dogs are a representation of their owners. When it comes to Irish Water Spaniels, I don't know if I would take that as a compliment or not...I sure wouldn't want to be known for my "rat tail". When it comes to my own pack, I would definitely consider it a compliment. Who wouldn't want to be known for their intelligence, kindness, silliness, versatility, and loyalty? In all honesty, this breed isn't for the weak. They're master manipulators with a heart of gold. Once you have one, you become captivated and you can never have too many.

The best part of being involved with IWS has been being able to share this experience with my daughter. I grew up with the breed, and I wanted that same experience for her. I would have to say that I succeeded since she says she couldn't imagine her life without an IWS by her side. Living in a small state and constantly having an array of IWSs within miles of each other, you tend to forget how rare they are. We have to remember that having a rare breed means that it's our job to educate and welcome the new generation of IWS lovers. It's important to get involved and stay involved in local and surrounding communities!

Your voices and ideas will be the basis of the future of our wonderful club! With that in mind, I would appreciate it if you took a few minutes to answer the following survey to help us plan for the future:
<https://iwsca.org/survey.php?id=2>

Help me turn our "rare" breed into a marvelous "breed"! Thank you!

- Bethany Urban



Lily – eye on the bird, a good strong flush!
Photo by Susan Sarracino-Deihl



Officers, Committee Chairs, Regional Representatives

(Contact Information can be found on <https://iwsca.org/board>)

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Shona Ensign

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Public Relations and Education
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Rescue Committee Lisa Schaitberger

Health & Genetics Committee
Laurel Baglia

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Sally Lewis

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2027 National Specialty Committee
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Sarah Zumpf

Southwest
Ellen DeVrieze

Northwest
Liz Liddle

International
Charlene Schermers



Photo by Jeremy Kezer



FROM YOUR BOARD

More Than Ribbons

What it means that your club is a charity — and why it matters for the breed and for you

You may have noticed four little numbers and a letter following our name on club materials: 501(c)(3). It's easy to skim past as tax-code trivia — but that small designation says something big about who we are and what we're here to do. And while there are certainly financial perks that come with it, those aren't the reasons that matter most. Here's what being a charity really means for IWSCA and for you.

It keeps us anchored to what counts

Every club has a hundred things competing for its attention — the National, the point standings, the social calendar, the personalities. Being a 501(c)(3) means we've formally committed, in writing, to a charitable purpose: protecting dogs from harm, educating owners and the public, studying the breed's genetics and health, and funding the research that serves them. That commitment is a compass. Boards change, priorities shift, strong opinions come and go — but the mission stays fixed at the center. When we're a charity, protecting the Irish Water Spaniel isn't just this year's good intention. It's who we are, by definition. It opens doors that money can't.

When we approach a university, a veterinary researcher, or the AKC Canine Health Foundation about studying a health issue in our breed, the first thing they see is that we're a recognized, accountable, permanent organization — not a group of hobbyists who might scatter next season. That standing is what lets us sit at the table with researchers, share health data, and partner on the science that keeps our dogs healthier. It's part of why IWSCA can stand as a CHIC breed — pooling hip, elbow, eye, and heart data alongside the AKC Canine Health Foundation and OFA to inform better breeding decisions. Many of those collaborations simply aren't available to a club that isn't a nonprofit. Our status is a passport into the rooms where breed health actually gets advanced.

It's built to outlast all of us

This may be the quietest benefit and the most important one. A charitable organization is designed to endure beyond its founders, beyond its current board, beyond any one of us. The Irish Water Spaniel is one of the rarest breeds in the AKC — fewer than 200 are registered in a typical year — and rare breeds need caretakers who think in generations, not seasons. Being a 501(c)(3) gives our shared mission a permanent home — a structure that can carry breed preservation forward long after today's members have handed off the leash. What we build now doesn't have to be rebuilt later.



It protects the club — and its volunteers

The accountability that comes with being a charity — an active board, sensible oversight, transparency about how funds are used — isn't red tape. It's the framework that keeps the club honest, resilient, and safe from any one person steering it off course. And because our nonprofit status goes hand in hand with being properly incorporated, it also helps shield our volunteers and officers from personal liability for the work they do on the breed's behalf. Good structure lets good people volunteer with confidence.

It gives us something to stand for

In an era when purebred dogs face real scrutiny, a club that can point to concrete work — funding health research, rescuing dogs in need, educating new owners and the public — is telling a powerful story. Our charitable mission is the best answer to anyone who questions why breed clubs matter. It gives our members something bigger than ribbons to rally around, and it gives our breed a genuine advocate.

Where Your Money Goes

As an all-volunteer club, IWSCA keeps overhead low so that the large majority of every dollar goes straight to the work that matters — funding health and genetic research, supporting cardiac screening, caring for dogs in rescue, and educating owners and the public. We treat the club's funds as a trust: spent carefully, reported openly, and always in service of the breed. Because we're a 501(c)(3), gifts beyond your dues are tax-deductible — but the real return is measured in healthier dogs and second chances given.

So the next time you see those four numbers and a letter, know that they stand for something. They mean this club is built to protect the Irish Water Spaniel — thoughtfully, accountably, and for the long haul. Thank you for being part of it.

The IWSCA Board



Treasurer's Report

	2023	2024	2025
RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES			
Rescue Fund	9,987.74	9,896.74	10,865.74
Health & Genetics Fund	17,902.48	16,327.48	22,992.48
Legislative Fund	3,149.98	3,149.98	3,149.98
Trophy Fund	240.00	240.00	240.00
BISS Trophy Travel Fund	205.38	205.38	205.38
Total Restricted Funds	31,485.58	29,819.58	37,453.58

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCES			
Breeder Education Committee (BEC)	9,566.51	9,768.51	11,056.20
Illustrated Standard	4,931.92	4,931.92	4,931.92
Total Designated Funds	14,498.43	14,700.43	15,988.12

BANK & INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS			
<i>Wells Fargo Bank Accounts</i>			
Main Checking Acct #2296 (general operating funds)	49,317.85	64,626.71	38,506.69
Membership Acct #2379	2,846.82	2,269.27	2,518.53
2026 National Specialty Acct #2304	5,809.20	5,809.20	8,748.36
2025 National Specialty Acct #2312	5,550.00	10,523.34	6,950.00
2027 National Specialty Acct #2320	14,882.59	550.00	550.00
Wells Fargo Bank Acct #2353	550.00	550.00	1,015.00
PayPal Transfer Acct #2338	1,000.00	1,645.00	1,645.00
Wine Country Acct #2361 (Closed 2024)	1,151.74		
Invesco Investment Account	41,381.13	46,266.21	52,193.31
Total General (Non-restricted & Non-designated)	122,489.33	132,239.73	112,126.89
TOTAL FUNDS	168,473.34	176,759.74	165,568.59



Upcoming Events

The Strategic Planning Poll is Live!

Your participation is key to helping define the future of our club!

As an IWSCA member your input is important to us as we move forward to develop ways to support the objectives in our IWSCA's constitution.

Please complete the survey below to help us plan for the future.

Link: <https://iwsca.org/survey.php?id=2>

This Survey is available until 9/1/2026



Maryland Sporting Dog Association

AT HOWARD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

MSDA

MSDA SPRING EVENT

March 5-7, 2027

Howard County Fairgrounds • West Friendship, Maryland
Conformation • All Breed Obedience
Annual Best Gun Dog Competition • Bird Instinct Clinic
Rally • Fetch • CGC • Trick Dog

Come & Join Us with Your Best Friends

Fun • Friendship • Sporting Dogs
For Dogs. For People. For Vendors. For the Love of the Sport.



— SAVE THE DATE! —



IWSCA 2027 National Specialty

May 2–6, 2027

South Sioux City Marriott Riverfront
South Sioux City, Nebraska

2027 SHOW CO-CHAIRS
Stacy Duncan & Michelle Cummings

*Join us for various Irish Water Spaniel events,
friendship, learning and fun!*



AKC Delegate's Report

July 13, 2026

The quarterly AKC Delegate Meeting was held on Monday, June 08 and Tuesday, June 09, 2026, at the Doubletree Newark Hotel in Newark, New Jersey.

I attended the Legislative Caucus and the General Meeting. A very brief summary is provided:

Legislative Caucus – Hosted by Sheila Goffe (AKC Executive Secretary and VP Government Relations), Nancy Fisk (Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.), and Patti Strand (Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon, Inc.). Discussion points from the panelists and the floor included: AKC/GR is fully staffed; AKC is monitoring 1800 pieces of legislation; proposals for the following types of bans are increasing: cropping/docking, debarking, dewclaw removal, juvenile spay/neuter, and dog brokers (sellers but not breeders); the Farm Bill does not include a ban on Greyhound racing, which could have opened the door to bans on Barn Hunt, CAT, Hunt Tests, and Field Trials as well as the transfer of birds across state lines; 16,000 people read the AKC Legislative Alert on the Farm Bill and many contacted their lawmakers; dog imports have provided 1/8th of the US dog market, although rescue groups are now going to more US sources instead of trafficking dogs from overseas; rescues remain a big unregulated business; no changes have been made to the 6-month age minimum for importing puppies; Oregon IP28 includes a proposed ban on artificial insemination; Florida has proposed the definition of a commercial dealer as producing two (2) or more litters per year; in Louisiana, screw worm has impacted travel across state lines.

AKC President and CEO Gina DiNardo presided over the **Delegate Meeting**.

AKC Chairman Dr. Thomas M. (Tom) Davies delivered his report, acknowledging the AKC Customer Service team for increasing security measures that protect customer information. Also mentioned was the fact that ninety-two (92) percent of All-Breed shows now offer the National Owner-Handled Series, including nine (9) that will hold 2026-2027 Regional events, and several new NOHS Levels of Achievement allow exhibitors to add official suffix titles to a dog's name.

AKC President and CEO Gina DiNardo delivered her report, discussing the Business-Led Transformation initiative and AKC's partnership with a consulting firm (BDO) that assists organizations with aligning strategies, operations, business processes, and technologies in ways that will support long-term success. The goal of "transformation" is to create a more connected experience for all customers and constituents who engage with AKC. Also mentioned was the FCM Universal Championship show, which will be held in Mexico City, November 12-15, 2026, and AKC partnerships with kennel clubs in Brazil, New Zealand, and South Korea.

AKC CFO Ted Phillips provided a 2026 first-quarter financial report that included the following:

- Total operating revenue was 6% below the same period in 2025.
- Total operating expenses were 7% below the same period in 2025.
- Dog registrations were 7% below the same period in 2025.
- Litter registrations were 12% below the same period in 2025.



- Online registrations account for 87% of registrations.
- Conformation events revenue was 19% above the same period in 2025.
- Companion events revenue was 8% above the same period in 2025.
- Performance events revenue was 19% above the same period in 2025.
- Family Dog program was 11% below the same period in 2025.
- Total number of events was 3% above the same period in 2025.
- Total number of entries was 3% below the same period in 2025.
- Advertising revenue was 31% below the same period in 2025.
- Royalties revenue was 11% below the same period in 2025.
- Sponsorship revenue was 11% below the same period in 2025.
- Operating Expenses were 5% below the same period in 2025.
- Professional fees were 17% below the same period in 2025.
- Total assets: \$260M
- Total investments: 189M

AKC Senior Director of Broadcasting Bill Ellis gave a presentation titled, “Reimagining Dog Sports for Television and Beyond,” which focused on the value of providing national coverage that features the sport of dogs in an experiential way. As an example, the ABC 12 noon broadcast of the 2025 AKC National Championship was the number one-rated non-NFL show, on any channel, between 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on that day.

AKC Vice President Sports Services Mari-Beth O'Neill acknowledged two (2) clubs, Finger Lakes Kennel Club and Greater Clark County Kennel Club, on behalf of the Junior Task Force, for establishing Junior clubs under the umbrella of their All-Breed clubs.

Bob Rynkiewicz, Delegate from the Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club, provided an update on the AKC Political Action Committee (AKC PAC) and its fundraising efforts in support of the work of AKC Government Relations.

One (1) proposed amendment to the *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, Inc.* will be voted on at the September 2026 AKC Delegate Meeting: Article XIV; Section 1. The AKC BOD has NOT endorsed the following Bylaws Committee proposal: *Complaints received by a club's Event Committee shall be furnished with a deposit (amount determined by AKC BOD) from the complainant, which will be returned if the Event Committee finds merit in the complaint, or be kept by the club if no merit is found.*

Two (2) proposed amendments to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* will be voted on at the September 2026 AKC Delegate Meeting: (1) Chapter 11; Section 8. The AKC BOD has endorsed the following: *Several changes are proposed, including disqualifying dogs that lack useful vision and removing specific language regarding changes made to a dog by artificial means;* (2) Chapter 11; Section 8-D. Several proposed additions address dogs that have been changed by artificial means.

Details appear in the minutes from the Delegate Meeting, which have been published on the “Secretary’s Pages” of the July 2026 edition of the *AKC Gazette*:

https://images.akc.org/pdf/gazette/july-2026.pdf?sc_src=email_3466888&sc_lid=211789628&sc_uid=2F087WQ5Pp&sc_lid=55470&sc_eh=a1762288637333cf1

Please send your comments to me directly at: Ninodanny@aol.com.



The next Delegate Meeting will be held at the Doubletree Newark Hotel in Newark, New Jersey, on Monday and Tuesday, September 14-15, 2026.

Yours respectfully,

Dan Sayers



Public Relations and Education

The Many Ways We Love an Irish Water Spaniel

By Laurie Jacobs

One of the things I love most about the Irish Water Spaniel Club of America is that no two members seem to have arrived here the same way. Some grew up with Irish Water Spaniels and can't imagine life without one. Some discovered the breed while searching for the perfect hunting companion. Others were captivated by their intelligence, versatility, or unmistakable sense of humor. Every one of us has a story.

Mine began many years ago at the International Kennel Club Dog Show in Chicago. At the time, I was actually looking for a Newfoundland. The show was packed, and I was wandering from ring to ring hoping I'd discover the breed that was meant for me when, out of the corner of my eye, I caught a glimpse of a tall brown dog with long, curly hair. I had never seen anything like it, and I was instantly determined to find out what kind of dog it was.

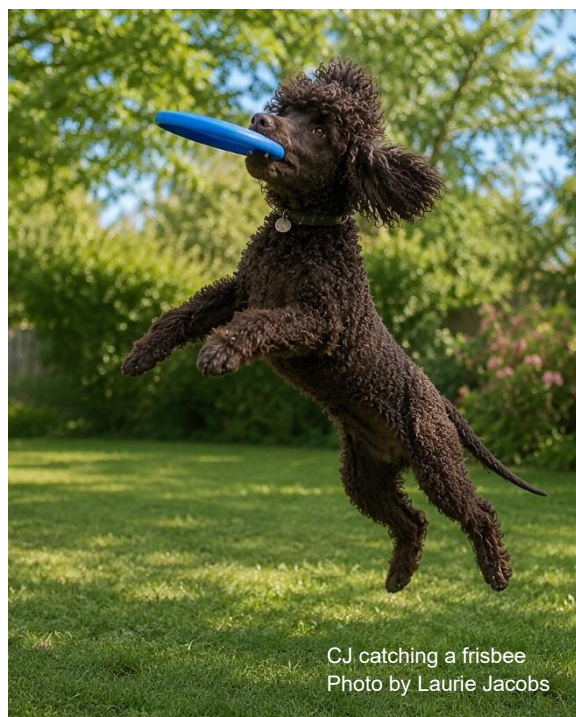
As I hurried through the crowd trying to catch up with the woman walking the dog, the people in front of me suddenly parted. Seeing my chance, I darted through the opening—and, in true Laurie fashion, promptly tripped and fell right into the dog. The woman, who had every reason to be startled, simply stepped back, made sure I was okay, and kindly answered my question. She was M.L. Bromwell. The dog was Fergus.

People often say they fell in love with a breed.

I can honestly say... I did. Literally.

I've smiled about that day many times over the years because it reminds me that every one of us found this remarkable breed in our own unique way. Some came through hunting. Some through conformation. Some through agility, obedience, rally, scent work, dock diving, or other performance events. Some were introduced by a friend. Others simply met one extraordinary dog at exactly the right moment. Our journeys may be different, but they all lead to the same place.

I'll admit it—I am unapologetically a pet owner. I know our breed was developed as a sporting breed, and I have respect for the members who devote countless hours to preserving those instincts. I also know that when someone posts a photo of an Irish Water Spaniel proudly carrying a duck, my reaction is probably very different from theirs. That's perfectly okay. It doesn't make either of us love the breed any less.



CJ catching a frisbee
Photo by Laurie Jacobs



Every one of us contributes something different. Breeders thoughtfully preserve the future of the Irish Water Spaniel. Conformation exhibitors protect correct structure and breed type. Field enthusiasts ensure the instincts that define our breed remain strong. Performance competitors showcase the remarkable intelligence, athleticism, and versatility that make Irish Water Spaniels such extraordinary partners.

Then there are the quieter contributions that don't always earn ribbons or titles. Some members introduce the breed to curious strangers who ask, "What kind of dog is that?" Some volunteer on committees, mentor new owners, help with rescue, write articles, organize events, or welcome someone attending their first club function. Others simply spend their lives loving an Irish Water Spaniel and, without even realizing it, become ambassadors for the breed everywhere they go.

Our club isn't held together by what we do with our dogs. It's held together by how much we love them.

To me, that's what makes this club so special. We don't all share the same hobbies, goals, or experiences, and that's exactly as it should be. What unites us isn't whether our dogs earn championships, retrieve ducks, visit hospitals, excel in agility, or spend their happiest days chasing tennis balls in the backyard. What unites us is a breed that has an uncanny ability to make us laugh, challenge us, humble us, and steal our hearts.

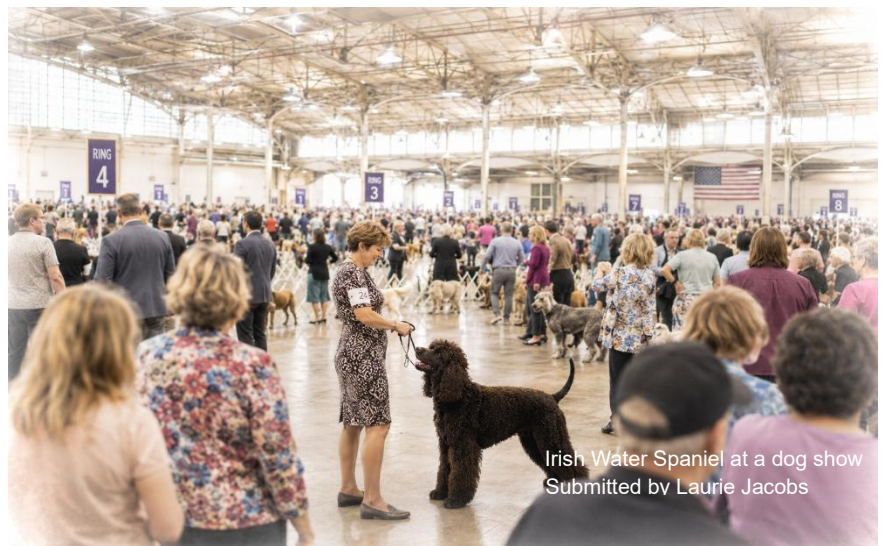
If you love Irish Water Spaniels, you belong here.

I'd love to hear your story.

What made you fall in love with Irish Water Spaniels?

Maybe it was one unforgettable dog. Maybe it was a funny moment you'll never forget. Maybe it was a championship, a successful retrieve, a therapy visit, or simply a quiet evening with a curly head resting on your lap.

If you'd like to share your story, please email me at MysticCaribou@sbcglobal.net. Feel free to include a couple of your favorite photos, too. I'd love to hear from members across our club, and with your permission, your story and photos may be featured in a future issue of *Rat Tails*.



Irish Water Spaniel at a dog show
Submitted by Laurie Jacobs



Farewells

Helen Howard

It is with sadness that I report that longtime IWSCA member Helen Howard passed gently away on June 22, 2026. A breeder of Gordon Setters, Field Spaniels, and Irish Water Spaniels with her daughter-in-law Deborah, Helen joined the club in 1995. Since I live in New England, I didn't really get to know Helen until she and Deb chaired the very successful and memorable 2008 National Specialty in Perry, Georgia. All IWSCA members became more familiar with Helen when she became President of the club in 2013. Those of you who have had Ildanoch Irish Water Spaniels in your life will have your own stories of your friendship with Helen.

There will be no services, and Helen's family are requesting privacy as they sort through her memorabilia. If you would like to send a card of condolence and memories of Helen please use the 1865 Woodlawn Road, Covington, GA 30014-8878 address, or send Deb an email at ildanoch@gmail.com. Donations to IWSCA's genetics or rescue funds in Helen's name would be appreciated. If you are so inclined, tonight hug your dog and raise a glass of bourbon to honor a life well lived.

- Heidi Currier Ferris



Jim Brennan

Life time member of the Irish Water Spaniel Club of America, Jim Brennan, passed away 3 July 2026. We will have a tribute to Jim Brennan in our next Rat Tails edition.



2026 IWSCA National Specialty

Reprint of Article from AKC Gazette – July 2026 by Dan Sayers

If ever there was a location with a name that speaks to the heart and soul of dog show folk, Champion, Pennsylvania, would be that place. And it was on the outskirts of this unincorporated village that the IWSCA National Specialty was held this year, and the experience proved every bit as rewarding as it was enchanting.

Mother-daughter co-chairs Dana Louttit and Hannah Loonsk welcomed a big turnout of both new and “seasoned” club members for a week-long celebration at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort, a skiing destination that has been hosting their family for years—and dog clubs more recently during the off-season. For IWS fanciers who came from as far away as Scandinavia, the rustic accommodations were a comfortably pleasant surprise. The staff could not have been more accommodating, and the 77,000 square feet of remarkably open indoor space made it feel as though the IWSCA had the whole place to itself.

The Hospitality Room and its bounty of silent auction items was opened on Monday, conveniently located opposite the elevators that link the high- and mid-rise guest rooms to the activity centers. These included a game room, an indoor pool, and a variety of restaurants and shops. The Timberstone Room provided plenty of space for grooming and vending, with large glass windows offering a panoramic view of the show ring and mountain slopes. An all-breed Agility Trial was held in nearby Latrobe at the B&D Creekside Activity Center, supported by a more than capable entry of rat-tailed spaniels.

Agility continued on Tuesday followed by a welcome party that night at Foggy Goggle, the resort’s nightclub. Guests enjoyed hors d’oeuvres and cocktails, and the more adventurous partiers participated in a series of digital axe-throwing competitions. (Everyone remained unscalped at the end of the night!)

Wednesday began with the Obedience and Rally Trials in the Grand Ballroom, followed by Scent Work in the Hemlock Room. The club’s annual meeting was held that evening, with dinner served in the Matterhorn Room where IWSCA members heard from the board and various committee heads on the state of the club and its ongoing projects.

The Timberstone Room was again the location of a special gathering on Thursday morning. The agenda for the Stud Dog Showcase included two important topics: “Reproductive Health of Your Stud Dog,” presented by Hannah Loonsk, VMD, and “Selecting a Stud Dog,” given by Breeder Education Committee (BEC) Co-Chairs Greg Siner and Mindy Garbarino. Both presentations included interactive Q&A sessions followed by a first-ever “Meet the Stud Dogs” where individual dogs and their people enjoyed a moment in the spotlight. This unique event was commemorated with a colorful and informative catalog (featuring 53 potential stud dogs!) compiled by Hannah Loonsk. Later that night, Puppy, Veteran, and Gun Dog Sweepstakes were judged in the Grand Ballroom by Swedish breeder-judge Susanne Narfstrom.

Friday started with a Breed Standard Education & Conversation hosted by Judges Education Committee (JEC) Co-Chairs Stacy Duncan & Michelle Cummings. Although the



specialty's rather remote location likely discouraged judges from attending, the presentation went on as scheduled and was well-attended by club members with a genuine interest in the AKC Breed Standard. By midday, everyone gathered again in the Grand Ballroom for the main event: Conformation. (The previous days' rain had soaked the grounds and necessitated moving judging indoors.) Fifty-six IWS were entered under Judge Polly Smith who selected the Bred-By Exhibitor Adult Bitch Poole's Ide Tequila Mockingbird as her ultimate Best of Breed winner. At dinner that evening, the judge shared a few words about her entry before Greg Siner took to the mic to raise money for the club through another rendition of his entertaining live auctions.

On Saturday, the Hospitality Room was transformed into an OFA Cardiac Clinic (by appointment only) while many people headed to the Jenner Rod and Gun Club in Friedens, Pennsylvania, to watch the IWS compete in the WC/WCX Tests. Others brought their dogs to visit with club member and CGC/Trick Dog Judge April Barr for the chance to pick up a few AKC titles. Later that night, the Alpine Room was the setting for the Awards Banquet as well as the Freestyle Entertainment which was provided by club members whose routines proved that the Irish Water Spaniel can indeed "Do It All!"

Seven Springs certainly delivered as a unique dog show destination—and then some. Every morning, a delicious breakfast buffet was available in the Slopeside Dining Room, where guests enjoyed their choice of omelets and a wide variety of sweet and savory options to satisfy just about anyone's dietary needs. And the bottomless cups of coffee certainly helped to fuel exhibitors throughout each day's jam-packed schedule. Good food, great fun, and plenty of Irish antics combined to make this year's IWSCA National Specialty in Southwestern Pennsylvania a delightfully memorable experience.

Dan Sayers
AKC Delegate
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Irish Water Spaniel Club of America



IT'S A WRAP: THANK YOU FROM THE 2026 NATIONAL SPECIALTY CO-CHAIRS

The 87th Irish Water Spaniel Club of America National Specialty was held May 12-16, 2026, in the Allegheny mountains of Western Pennsylvania. The beautiful venue of Seven Springs Mountain Resort proved it had the extensive facilities and superlative staff to meet the challenge of hosting a national specialty dog show. But the week was made special by the outstanding attendance and participation by over 100 IWS enthusiasts with 80 individual IWS entered, many in multiple events. An amazing 10 percent of registrants were attending their first IWS National. The goal of the chairpersons was to bring together as many people and IWS as possible, in a beautiful, relaxing place that we love, to celebrate the breed and all the wonderful things Irish Water Spaniels do to add joy to our lives. Our goal was met, thanks to the overwhelming support from many people.

As we said at the banquet, if we don't thank anyone because we are afraid of forgetting someone, no one will get thanked. We also know that we missed many kind and generous acts during the week. So, if we have missed you, we are very sorry, because we mean to thank everyone who contributed to our event. We will begin with the skilled and flexible Specialty Committee members who made this event possible. They are skilled, in part, because a lot of them are perennial volunteers. Part of the evolution of the IWSCA National, which remains at the forefront of AKC Nationals for breadth and depth, is that our volunteers can now be located anywhere in the U.S. and still make significant contributions. It is very useful when volunteers have done their jobs before. Thank you, to **Jodi Lamp and Shellie Lewis** for choosing and selling lots of appealing merchandise, and for the great goody bags that bore the classic silhouette logo by **Hannah Loonsk**; thank you to **Greg Siner** and **Bethany Urban** for the time and thought they put into selecting wonderful trophies by **Prairie Dog Pottery**, engraved wooden spoons for class prizes, and matching spatula banquet gifts, hand-made by **John Attard of WMA Wood Design**; thank you to **Emily Pikul** for her great taste, exacting attention to detail, and economical decision-making in creating (and delivering) a bounty of beautiful rosettes and ribbons; to **Ann and Brian McNeill**, for storing and schlepping a ton of art and other auction items to the site (and cleaning up the hospitality room along with other unsung helpers), and also to **Ann** for making the fabulous key fobs in the goody bags as well as the gorgeous quilt, which was won by **Laurie Jacobs**, who provided thoughtful, eye-catching publicity for the National and its fundraisers; to **Tiffany Schuffert** for running the successful **Tableworks** Pick-a-Square fundraiser (and lending a badly needed hand with the banquet centerpieces before **Harper Loonsk** arrived to work her magic); to **Marilyn Cantrell** for being the most capable obedience/rally chair anyone could ask for, and for pitching in time after time to help even when it wasn't her job; to yeowomen **Pam Manus** and **Rebecca Taylor** for hours spent good-naturedly overseeing the hospitality room and running the silent auction, and also to **Becky** for her lovely a Capella performance of the National Anthem; thanks to **Shona Ensign** and **Melissa Gulley** for help managing finances and to **Shona** for smoothly making sure all the auction funds were timely collected; to **Greg Siner** for once again raising most of those funds as live auctioneer; thank you to **Laurel Baglia** for putting together a fun scent work trial; to **April Barr** for seamlessly handling CGC and trick dog testing; to **Michelle Cummings** for bringing enthusiasm and experience to the



Parades; and to **Heidi Currier Ferris** and **Judy Goonyep** for all the WC/WCX support, including the certificates, rosettes, and treats; thank you to **Sondra Barker, Jeremy and Kim Kezer, Laurel Baglia, and Tim Gulley** for sharing information about specialties they co-chaired; to **Jim Rubin** for critical assistance in negotiating the contract with Seven Springs; to **Edith Blackwell** for wrangling AKC event applications; to **Lisa Schaitberger** for hours of work on the catalog; and to **Linda Deckard** for all the help in the hospitality room with catalogs, goody bags, collecting money, and making sure the room could be open and supervised.

Those are just the perennial volunteers. We also had first-timers this year who played critical roles: **Jenny Wadhwa** put a WC on her bitch, but also helped find the site for the WC/WCX and a way to deliver lunch to the participants and spectators; her partner, **Angus Zulkie**, and **Chris Palmer** were the gunners at the tests but also ran and earned WC titles on a pair of littermates; **Angus** also created the best Annual General Meeting PowerPoint in years and handled the always problematic tech; **Alexis and Jonathan Fisher** found ways to be useful all week, including when Jonathan put on a white coat and enthusiastically learned how to work a station in the field. Additional field assistance was generously provided by **Ruth Bruskiewiez** and **Flora Deluce** (who also ran her dog who earned a WCX). And **Peggy Chapman** made a key connection when she suggested **Tyler Geer** to make beautiful duck call trophies for the event, but who also got up in the middle of the night before the tests to drive hours to pick up and deliver our ducks to the site.

Special expressions of gratitude are due to **Bethany Urban** for sewing 96 gorgeous snoods in our themed fabric for the goody bags; to **all the owners who brought their dogs** to the stud dog showcase, and to the **many people who contributed stud dog data for 53 dogs** to the spectacular catalog created by **Hannah Loonsk**; to **Colleen and Jack McDaniel** for seeing a need and setting up the chairs and flow for the event; to **all the donors to the National**; to **Harper Loonsk** and **Susan Loonsk** for managing the flow of patients at the cardiac clinic so the rest of us could be in the field; to the **owners of the 25 dogs that were tested** and to **Emily Westphal, DVM, DACVIM** who drove from Virginia and handled our breed so well in the exams; to **Darlene Schmucker** of **B & D Creekside Activity Center** for putting on an agility trial for us so we didn't have to, and giving us half the revenue (and to **Tiffany Schuffert** for suggesting her); to **all the family and friends** who came along and provided immeasurable support; and to the patient and professional **Dawn Bodes** and **Amber Saade** and the entire staff at **Seven Springs** for their tireless and expert management of our entire event.

Thank you too to our great sponsors: **Dr. R. Scott Dove and Companion Animal Clinic**, who sponsored our Sweepstakes; **Boxers & Beer** photography for donating a sitting to the auction; **Cedar Springs Retrievers** for donating a winger; **Chewy**, for dozens of Chuck it balls; **Gun Dog Supply**; **Kim Kezer** for the **Selchie Snacks**; **Tableworks**; and **Virbac** for 100 bottles of ear cleaning solution;

Thank you to our wonderful photographers for recording it all: **Antoinelle Vulpis** and **Jeremy Kezer**.

Thank you to our hard-working Show Secretary, **Mary Mignogna**, and Chief Ring Steward, **Myra Roth**.

Finally, the Specialty would not have been possible without the wonderful judges who travelled from near and far to offer their opinions and, without exception, express their appreciation for our Irish Water Spaniels and the careful way that we are trying to preserve



our beautiful, talented, and entertaining breed: **Polly Smith** (Conformation); **Susanne Narfström** (Sweeps); **Janet Budzynski** (Agility); **Karen Schroeder** (Obedience and Rally); **Patrice Dodd** (Scent Work); and **Jim Drager** and **Casey Maynard** (WC/WCX). Many thanks.

Thank you all,
Dana Louttit and Hannah Loonsk
2026 National Specialty Co-Chairs



2026 IWSCA National Specialty Agility Results – May 12, 2026
B & D Creekside Activity Center, Latrobe, Pennsylvania
Judge: J. L. Budzynski

Master 20 inches

1st - GCH CH MACH4 Poole's Ide Pollywog RN MXC MJS2 MFB TQX T2B3 BCAT ACT2
ACT2J (Polly) S. O'Reilly

Open Preferred 20 inches

1st - Landacre's Play Rain Or Shine NAP NJP NFP CGC (Declan) C. King

Master Preferred 16 inches

1st - GCHG CH MACH2 PACH2 Poole's Ide Sargeant Sloane CD RE MXG MJG MXP7 MXPG
MJP7 MJPS PAX2 MFB T2B2 (Sloane) S. O'Reilly

JWW Master 20 inches

1st - GCH CH MACH4 Poole's Ide Pollywog RN MXC MJS2 MFB TQX T2B3 BCAT ACT2
ACT2J (Polly) – S. O'Reilly

2nd - CH MACH2 Chantico's Super G O'Muddy Waters CD RN MXG PAD MJG MXF T2B2 FTN
(Ghillie) J. Kezer

3rd - CH Poole's Ide New Horizon At Cuardach MX MXJ XF (Dawn) S. O'Reilly

JWW Master Preferred 16 inches

1st - GCHG CH MACH2 PACH2 Poole's Ide Sargeant Sloane CD RE MXG MJG MXP7 MXPG
MJP7 MJPS PAX2 MFB T2B2 (Sloane) S. O'Reilly

2nd - MACH2 Madcap The Earth Has Music For Those Who Listen MXC MJC MXP MJP MXF
TQX T2B (Grouse) S. Zumpf

Ag FAST Master 20 inches

1st - GCH CH MACH4 Poole's Ide Pollywog RN MXC MJS2 MFB TQX T2B3 BCAT ACT2
ACT2J (Polly) S. O'Reilly

2nd - CH MACH2 Chantico's Super G O'Muddy Waters CD RN MXG PAD MJG MXF T2B2 FTN
(Ghillie) J. Kezer

Ag FAST Master Preferred 20 inches

1st - CH MACH RACH Ballyhoo's Timing Is Everything RM3 RAE2 RC MXB MJG MXP MJP2
MFB T2B2 CA BCAT SWD SWME CGC (Tempo) K. Fitzpatrick

High in Trial: Polly – S. O'Reilly

High in Trial (Preferred): Sloane (S. O'Reilly)





Ceci King and Declan
Photo by Jeremy Kezer



Jenny Wadhwa and Dinah
Photo by Jeremy Kezer



Scent Work Trial results and Field Results

Scent Work Qualifiers – Judge Patrice Dodd

Container Novice A

Landacre's Wild Irish Noble Bear (Oberon) – A Breeding

Container Novice B

Poole's Ide Dark Knight (Oscar) – J Wadhwa

Container Advanced

Epik's The Last Straw (Rorie) A McNeill

Epik's Oh The Places You'll Go! (Poppy) – R Bruskievicz

Landacre's Playin' The Field (Sport) – M McMunn

Container Excellent

Castlehill's Yes Pleeze (Pleeze) S Tapp

Container Master

Cuboglach Rosy Maple (Maple) S Tapp

Exterior Advanced

Epik's The Last Straw (Rorie) A. McNeill

Crispin's Don't Go Breaking My Heart (Elton) E. Theriault

Exterior Excellent

Castlehill's Yes Pleeze (Pleeze) S Tapp

Exterior Master

Cuboglach Rosy Maple (Maple) S Tapp

Ballyhoo's Timing Is Everything (Tempo) K. Fitzpatrick

Field:

WC/WCX Qualifiers:

WCX

Malone with Flora Deluce

Arrow with Kim Kezer



WC

Finn with Ann McNeill

Prince with Christ Palmer

Carly with Hannah Loonsk

Rip with Dana Louttit

Dinah with Jenny Wadhwa

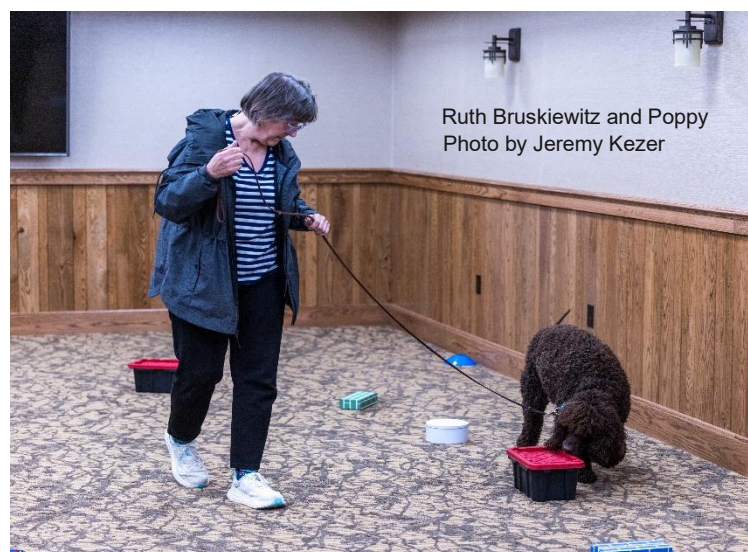
Oscar with Angus Zukli



Elizabeth Theriault and Elton
Photo by Jeremy Kezer



Missy McMunn and Sport
Photo by Jeremy Kezer



Ruth Bruskiewitz and Poppy
Photo by Jeremy Kezer



Rally Results – Judge Karen Schroeder

Rally Novice A

- 1 EPIK'S SEMPER FORTIS (Beard) – Emily Pikul
- 2 GCH POOLE'S IDE DARK KNIGHT ATT CGC TKN WD (Batman) – Jenny Wadhwa
- 3 HOOLIGAN N EPIK'S ABSURD LITTLE BIRD CGCA TKN WD ATT SCN ACT1 JHU (Dinah) – Jenny Wadhwa

Rally Novice B

- 1 CASTLEHILL'S BUGSY MALONE O 'CRISPIN SH RATCH CZ8S DMA SMA AS CGC TKA CH - CKC PCD -CKC RA -CKC (Malone) Flora Deluce
- 2 CASTLEHILL'S P.S. BABY I'M A STAR AT DONNYBROOK FDC CA FCAT DWNE SWA SIAE SEAE TKN ATT FTN (Portia) Brenda Bauerlein
- 3 FLINTCREST FOREVER ELEMENTAL MAGIC (Maeve) Tim Gulley
- 4 CHANTICO'S A SLICE AND A PINT JH MX MXB MXJ MXB XF WC FTI (Arrow) Kim Kezer

Other Qualifiers:

GCHB BREKKON'S BROWN EYED GIRL AT FLINTCREST DJ CGC TKN FT (Skye) Erin Fogg.
MACH2 MADCAP THE EARTH HAS MUSIC FOR THOSE LISTEN MXC MJC MXF (Grouse) Sarah Zumpf
CH LANDACRE'S NORDIC SAILOR DN CGC TKI (Skiff) M. McMunn
CASTLEHILL'S P.S. MISCHIEF MANAGED BN FDC CAA DCAT SWNE SWE (Bu) Susan
CRISPIN'S CANT' STOP THE MUSIC – Chris Bartos
CH CRISPIN'S DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART SWN RATN TKI (Elton) – E. Theriault
LANDACRE'S WILD IRISH NOBLE BEAR (Obie) Abi Breeding
POOLE'S IDE UP NORTH AX AXJ XF (Fian) Hannah

Rally Advanced A

- 1 GCH MACH4 POOLE'S IDE POLLYWOG RN MXC MJB2 MFB TQX T2B3 BCAT (Polly) Stephanie

Rally Advanced B

- 1 GCHG MACH2 PACH2 POOLE'S IDE SARGEANT SLOANE CD RE MXG MJG MXP6 MXPS MSP5 MJPS PAX2 MFB T2B2 (Sloane) Stephanie O'Reilly
- 2 CH MACH RACH BALLYHOO'S TIMING IS EVERYTHING RM3 RAE2 RC MXB MJG MFB T2B2 CA BCAT SWD SWME CGC (Tempo) Kathleen
- 3 CH RACH CUBOGLACH ROSY MAPLE BN RM4 RAE3 FDC CAA BCAT SWME SWD RATCH C28B DJ DN CGC TKN ATT FM (Maple) Susan Tapp
- 4 MACH2 CH CHANTICO'S SUPER G O' MUDDY WATERS CD RN MXS MJG MXF T2B2 PAD FTN WC (Ghillie) Kim Kezer

Other Qualifiers:

GCHS POOLE'S IDE SAY NO MORE CD RA JH DS CGC TKI WC (Simone) Hannah Loonsk
CH POOLE'S IDE NO SECRETS CD RI CGC (Carly) Hannah Loonsk
CH POOLE'S IDE THE MORE THE MERRIER (Hattie) Hannah Loonsk
POOLE'S IDE ON MY MIND CD RI JH DS CGC WCX (Georgia) Hannah Loonsk

Rally Excellent B

- 1 CH RACH CUBOGLACH ROSY MAPLE BN RM4 RAE3 FDC CAA BCAT SWME SWD RATCH C28B DJ DN CGC TKN ATT FM (Maple) Susan Tapp



- 2 CH MACH RACH BALLYHOO'S TIMING IS EVERYTHING RM3 RAE2 RC MXB MJG MFB T2B2 CA BCAT SWD SWME CGC (Tempo) Kathleen Fitzpatrick
- 3 GCHG MACH2 PACH2 POOLE'S IDE SARGEANT SLOANE CD RE MXG MJG MXP6 MXPS MSP5 MJPS PAX2 MFB T2B2 (Sloane) Stephanie O'Reilly
- 4 FLINTCREST GOING ALL IN @ WHISTLESTOP (Erin Fogg)

Other Qualifiers:

GCHS POOLE'S IDE SAY NO MORE CD RA JH DS CGC TKI WC (Simone) Hannah Loonsk

GCH CASTLEHILL'S RAMBLIN' RAFAEL O'CRISPIN BN RA CGCA TKI (Raffie) Ellie Benz

Rally Master

- 1 MACH RACH BALLYHOO'S TIMING IS EVERYTHING RM3 RAE2 RC MXB MJG MFB T2B2 CA BCAT SWD SWME CGC (Tempo) Kathleen Fitzpatrick
- 2 CH RACH CUBOGLACH ROSY MAPLE BN RM4 RAE3 FDC CAA BCAT SWME SWD RATCH C28B DJ DN CGC TKN ATT FM (Maple) Susan Tapp
- 3

Rally Choice

- 1 CH MACH RACH BALLYHOO'S TIMING IS EVERYTHING RM3 RAE2 RC MXB MJG MFB T2B2 CA BCAT SWD SWME CGC (Tempo) Kathleen Fitzpatrick

Rally Team Novice

- 1 .WILL 'O' THE WISP CD BN RE TDHA CGCA CGCU TKI. (Willow) Ellie Benz
CH RACH CUBOGLACH ROSY MAPLE BN RM4 RAE3 FDC CAA BCAT SWME SWD RATCH C28B DJ DN CGC TKN ATT FM (Maple) Susan Tapp
CH MACH RACH BALLYHOO'S TIMING IS EVERYTHING RM3 RAE2 RC MXB MJG MFB T2B2 CA BCAT SWD SWME CGC (Tempo). Kathleen Fitzpatrick
CASTLEHILL'S BUGSY MALONE O 'CRISPIN SH RATCH CZ8S DMA SMA AS CGC TKA CH -CKC PCD -CKC RA -CKC (Malone) Flora Deluce



Obedience -- Judge: Karen Schroeder

Novice A

1. HOOLIGAN N EPIK'S ABSURD LITTLE BIRD CGCA TKN WD ATT SCN ACT1 ACT1J JHU.
Jennya Wadhwa and Emily

Novice B

1. CH RACH CUBOGLACH ROSY MAPLE BN RM4 RAE3 FDC CAA BCAT SWME SWD RATCH C28B DJ DN CGC TKN ATT FM. Susan Tapp
2. GCH CASTLEHILL'S RAMBLIN' RAFAEL O'CRISPIN BN RA CGCA TKI. Elenora Benz, Susan Tapp & Richard Kelsky
3. GCH POOLE'S IDE RIPTIDE RI DS CGC WC. Gregory Siner, Dana Louttit, Hannah Loonsk & Bethany Urban

Open A

None qualified

Beginner Novice B

1. CASTLEHILL'S BUGSY MALONE O 'CRISPIN SH RATCH CZ8S DMA SMA AS CGC TKA CH - CKC PCD -CKC RA -CKC. Flora Deluce and Susan Tapp.
2. CH HOOLIGAN N EPIK RAIN DROPS ON ROSES RN. Melinda Williams and Melinda Williams, Emily Pikul & Florence Blecher.



Conformation – Judge: Polly (Mrs. Robert) D. Smith

Twelve-to-Eighteen Months, Dogs

1. LANDACRE'S WILD IRISH NOBLE BEAR Abigail Breeding and Melissa McMunn & Nat Breeding.
2. CRISPIN'S I'LL LIGHT THE FIRE AT CASTLEHILL Vikki Magaraci and Elizabeth Theriault, Kathy Fitzpatrick & Susan Tapp

Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy, Dogs

- 1, Best Bred By Puppy WATERFORD'S PAUSE FOR INNER PEACE. Shona Ensign

Bred-by-Exhibitor Adult, Dogs

1. EPIK'S SEMPER FORTI. Emily Pikul and Helen & Alon Jaffe.
- 2, RWD POOLE'S IDE PRINCE OF WAWAYANDA FTI Chris Palmer and Hannah Loonsk & Gregory Siner
3. CHANTICO'S A SLICE AND A PINT JH MX MXB MXJ MXB XF WC FT Kim Kezer and Jeremy Kezer & Mindy Garbarino.

Open, Dogs

- 1 MADCAP TIL MOON BECOMES SUN O'MORN Jodi Lamp and Betty Wathne & Richard Walker

Puppy 9 Months and Under 12 Months, Bitches

1. KEEPTRIEN NOBLE LADY SHEA Stacy Drummond
2. BLACKTHORN IRISHMAN'S DAUGHTER Jonathan Fisher and James Rubin.

Twelve-to-Eighteen Months, Bitches

1. CHANTICO WILD FLOWERS BLOOMING WITH NAVARON. Laurel Baglia and Mindy Garbarino.
2. FLINTCREST FOREVER ELEMENTAL MAGIC Timothy Gulley.
3. CRISPIN'S CANT' STOP THE MUSIC Christine Bartos.
4. FIAIN'S FORCE OF NATURE Lisa Wright

Amateur Owner Handler, Bitches

- 1 KENDALL'S ANYONE CAN WHISTLE BCAT DS STR TKN. Ruth Bruskiwitz and Carly Baltes.

Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy, Bitches

- 1 WATERFORD'S PERIWINKLE LOTUS. Shona Ensign.



Bred-by-Exhibitor Adult, Bitches

- 1, WB, BW, BOB, Best Bred By Adult POOLE'S IDE TEQUILA MOCKINGBIRD. Gregory Siner
- 2, RWB LANDACRE'S FEELING GROOVY Melissa McMunn
- 3 FLINTCREST FAITH IN THE STORM. Stacy Duncan and Barbara Duncan
- 4 CASTLEHILL'S P.S. BABY I'M A STAR AT DONNYBROOK FDC CA FCAT DWNE SWA SIAE SEAE TKN ATT FTN. Brenda Bauerlein and Susan Tapp

Open, Bitches

1. POOLE'S IDE MODERN LOVE CGC. Taylor Jessie and Gregory Siner & Hannah Loonsk
2. POOLE'S IDE RAGTIME. Sally Lewis and Lois Macdonald
3. CRISPIN'S DOUBLE SHOT THIS GIRL IS ON FIRE. Lisa Wright
4. POOLE'S IDE MAKING A SPLASH WITH CHANTICO. Kim Kezer and Jeremy Kezer

Veteran, Dogs

- 1, SELECT DOG CH LANDACRE'S NORDIC SAILOR DN CGC TKI. Melissa McMunn
- 2 KIMSWICK'S MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU. Linda Deckard

Gundog, Dogs

- 1 BALLYHOOS V FINNEGAN MCNEILL BN RN JH JHU FDC CA BCAT DS DJ CGCA TKN VHMA WD WDX. Ann McNeill

Gundog, Bitches

- 1, AOM HOOLIGAN N EPIK'S ABSURD LITTLE BIRD CGCA TKN WD ATT SCN ACT1 ACT1J JHU. Jenny Wadhwa and Emily Pikul
- 2 GCH POOLE'S IDE ON MY MIND CD RI JH DS CGC WCX. Gregory Siner, Hannah Loonsk & Bethany Urban

Best of Breed

- BOS CH POOLE'S IDE SMACKWATER JACK Bethany Urban and Gregory Siner, Bridget Kvarnlov & Madeline Urban
- SELECT, OH BOB - GCHS POOLE'S IDE SAY NO MORE CD RA JH DS CGC TKI WC Hannah Loonsk, Gregory Siner, & Bethany Urban
- AOM GCHB EPIK'S IN OMNIA PARATUS CGC ATT BCAT Emily Pikul
- AOM CH EPIK'S THE LAST STRAW RN SN CGCA BCAT Ann McNeill
- AOM GCHB BREKKON'S BROWN EYED GIRL AT FLINTCREST DJ CGC TKN FTI Erin Fogg

Stud Dog

1. GCH POOLE'S IDE RIPTIDE RI DS CGC WC. Gregory Siner and Dana Louttit, Hannah Loonsk & Bethany Urban
2. CH LANDACRE'S NORDIC SAILOR DN CGC TKI. Melissa McMunn





Brood Bitch

1. GCH POOLE'S IDE ON MY MIND CD RI JH DS CGC WCX. Gregory Siner, Hannah Loonsk & Bethany Urban
2. GCH MACH4 POOLE'S IDE POLLYWOG RN MXC MJB2 MFB TQX T2B3 BCAT. Stephanie O'Reilly

Generations

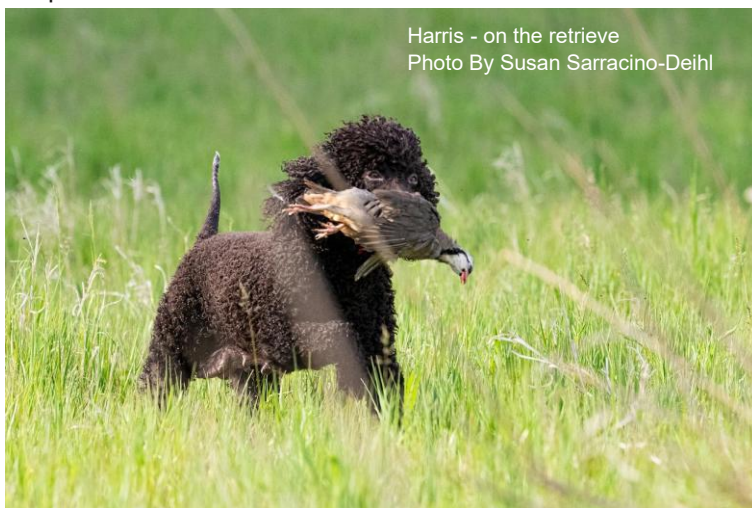
- 1 GCHS POOLE'S IDE SAY NO MORE CD RA JH DS CGC TKI WC. Hannah Loonsk, Gregory Siner, & Bethany Urban



Fun in the Field

By Susan Sarracino-Deihl

Bob and I have been busy with our crew in the field this spring. For starters, I have been busy with two girls in the Senior spaniel stakes in spaniel hunt tests. I ran Lily in the senior stakes at spaniel hunt tests in May. She earned her 5th leg for her SHUA title at the Airedale Terrier Club of America Hunt Tests May 17. She is now Saracen Diamond Decoy SHUA DJ FTN. Her next field work will be Master spaniel work. Secondly, I ran Harris the last weekend of May at both the IWSCA and FSSA Spaniel Hunt tests. She now has 2 passes towards her SHU. More tests are on her agenda this year to complete that title.



Harris - on the retrieve
Photo By Susan Sarracino-Deihl

At the same Airedale Terrier Spaniel Hunt Tests that Lily went to, I ran Roux in the Junior stake. That weekend she earned her first two legs towards her JHU. Then the last weekend of May she passed the Junior stakes at both finishing her JHU. Pending AKC confirmation she will be Saracen Rockets Red Glare STR JHU WD. Her next field project is Senior upland work.

I have also been working Murphy in the field (CH Saracen Fireworks Over The Marsh DCAT RATN RN DS CGC TKI FTI QVA). His first pass in the Junior stake at a spaniel hunt test was the FSSA test. He earned his 2nd and 3rd passes towards his JHU at the American Water Spaniel Hunt Tests in Shiocton, WI June 20 & 21. Now all he needs is that 4th pass to finish his JHU.

Lastly, Bob has been working with Doogan in Master and our ECS for both hunt tests and field trials. Tests for them are coming up this summer and fall.

Susan



Doogan - Focused on the chukar, steady to wing and shot
Photo By Susan Sarracino-Deihl



5th Annual IWSCA Spaniel Hunt Test

By Susan Sarracino-Deihl

The 5th Annual IWSCA sponsored Spaniel Hunt test was held this year on May 30, 2026. The IWSCA and the Field Spaniel Society of America (FSSA) pool our resources held a lovely weekend of spaniel hunt tests on the beautiful grounds of the Rock River Kennels owned by Jeff and Jena Schwartz at Beaver Dam, WI. This year the weather was superb, neither too hot nor too cold, not rainy, with a slight cloud cover in the morning and full sun in the afternoon. All-in-all perfect weather for our working dogs.

The Test was superbly run by our Chairman, Chuck Pederson. The Secretarial duties were ably handled by Trial Secretary Renee Pederson. Bird Steward duties were handled by Bob Deihl. Committee members were the above three and Ruth Bruskiewitz and Ann McNeill. IWSCA club members Lisa Schaitberger and Brian McNeill also helped. In addition, FSSA members Neal and Lisa Winters and many of our friends helped at the tests both days marshaling, planting birds, working on the gun team, shagging, planting the hunt dead and water blind and manning the stations for the water retrieves. As they say, "It takes a village".



The entry for the test was great. Fifty-three dogs were entered, 10 in the Junior stake, 17 in the Senior stake and 26 in the Master stake. There were two sets of judges. Susan Sarracino-Deihl and Deb Strohl judged the A Section and Michael Gregory and Jeff Zachow judged the B section. The judges did an excellent job having to deal with both quirky winds and birds that day.

IWS were well represented with 5 entered.



Congratulations to Ann and Brian McNeill's Finn who passed in the Senior stake finishing his SHU. He is now Ballyhoo's v Finnegan McNeill BN FDC CA BCAT DS CGCA TKN VHMA SHU JH WD QVA.

Congratulations to Susan Sarracino-Deihl and Robert Deihl's Roux who earned her 3rd leg towards her JHU. The next day at the FSSA test she earned her 4th JHU leg finishing her JHU. Pending AKC and IWSCA confirmation she will be Saracen's Rocket Red Glare STR JHU WD.

Congratulations to Susan Sarracino-Deihl and Robert Deihl's Harris who earned her 1st leg towards her SHU title. The next day at the FSSA test she earned the 2nd leg towards that title. She is Ch Saracen Springtime Thunder JHUA BCAT DN FTI TKN WD QVA.

All-in-all the 5th IWSCA Spaniel Hunt Test was very successful. The weather was great and everyone had a wonderful time!



Regional Reports

Northeast Report

Emily Pikul writes “Beard, Epik’s Semper Fortis not only had a fabulous National, but he also picked up his CGC and TKN on Saturday. Myna, Epik’s In Omnia Paratus also picked up her TKN that day as well. “

Jenny Wadhwa says “Hello from Maine! Dinah and Oscar have been having all sorts of fun this spring and summer! We kicked off spring with Dinah’s first senior upland pass, first novice JWW pass, and a very exciting first national specialty where both dogs passed the WC and gathered some nice accolades in conformation, rally, obedience, and scent work. Dinah then went on to finish her CD title a few weeks later and began working with a junior who is hoping to show her this fall. Oscar’s big accomplishment this season is that he has been consistently steady to wing and shot— upland folks will know that this is always a work in progress, but we are taking the win! We can’t wait to hunt and test him later this season. Other than that, we’ve been enjoying a lot of ocean swimming with the dogs. We hope to see you all soon! “



Diane and Senior Upland Pass
Photo by Jeremy Kezer

Bethany Urban writes that “GCH Poole’s Ide Smackwater Jack (Jack) completed his short road to Grand Championship by spending a long weekend in Maine earning a Group placement each day! He impressed us all by even earning himself a Reserve Best in Show! Obviously, he deserves a wicked buttery lobster dinner!”

Kim and Jeremy’s dogs competed in multiple venues at the specialty. Arrow earned his Rally Novice title and Ghillie picked up her 2nd Rally Advanced leg, both earning 4th place in their respective classes. They also showed in the Sweepstakes Gun classes with 2nd place placements, and Arrow, Ishka and Torchy all showed nicely in the specialty.



Oscar and Dinah Gundog
sweepstakes

Both Arrow and Ghillie competed in the WCX trial at the specialty. Arrow passed and Ghillie came really close, but her enthusiasm overcame her training, and she broke on the water honor.

Arrow and Ghillie continue to play in agility all spring. Ghillie earned her Premier Standard Agility (PAD) title, which we think makes her the first to earn a Premier title. Arrow earned his T2B title and is closing in on his first MACH.

Elizabeth Thereiault shares “Reflecting back on the past few months, I realize how quickly time passes when you are busy. And the dogs and I definitely were! I am very proud to announce that Elton has earned 8 new titles and Nash has earned his first few as well. Here’s some of the highlights:

In March, Elton completed his final legs to earn his Barn Hunt Novice title, with first and second place runs.



In May, I attended the National Specialty for the first time! It was wonderful meeting up with friends and making new ones throughout the week. I handled Elton, Nash, and Melody in conformation. Elton also competed in Scent Work and Rally, earning a PB and his Rally Novice Title. Elton and Nash finished off the trip by completing the CGC, and Trick Dog Novice for Nash as well.

We finished the month with Elton's favorite, a weekend of Scent Work. On the first day of the trial, Elton earned titles in an all of the classes that he placed in. Completing his Novice Containers Elite, Advanced Buried, and Advanced Exterior titles.



In June, Elton and Nash participated in Dock Diving for the first time. Needless to say, they loved it! They earned their Dock Junior titles together, making it Nash's first sport title and Elton's fifth venue title needed for the QVA. I attached

some photos to share for the newsletter as well: the Scentwork run that Elton earned his Novice Containers Elite title in, Elton dock diving, Nash showing off his Dock Junior title ribbon (before destroying it on the car ride home) Also, can't forget our first National.

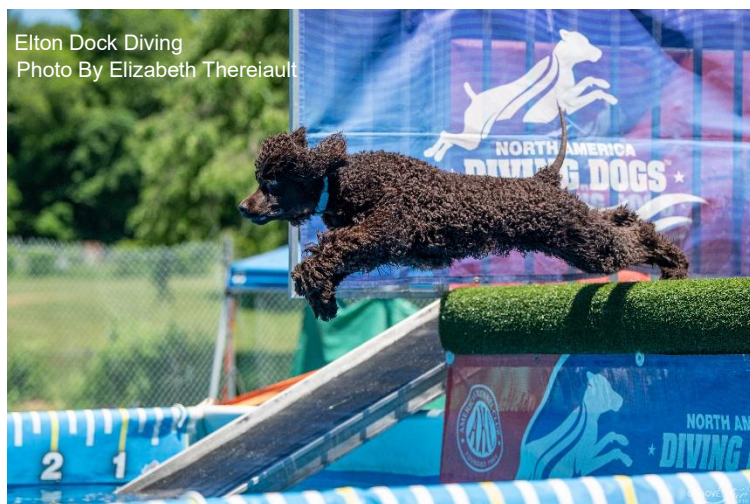


Elton and Nash at Specialty
Photo By Elizabeth Theriault

Alice Getchell notes that "In May, Midge competed in 3 Novice scent tests at the German Shepherd Club trial in Northwood NH. She passed all three tests and acquired her Novice Container and Novice Interior titles. I was particularly pleased with her Novice Exterior performance in which she came in second place over 22 other dogs, with a time of .08 seconds. By getting her scent work titles, she also qualifies for the IWS All Round title. CH UKC Started Epik Talk of the Town at Poole's Ide CGC, RN, JH, DJ, DS, SC, SIN, WC"

And lastly from Laurel Baglia - "Violet, Chantico Flowers Blooming at Navarone, earned her NWN June 14. She Q'd 14 out of 16 trials to title in novice containers, buried, interior & exterior elements for the overall novice scent work title."





Elton Dock Diving
Photo By Elizabeth Thereault



Jack Group First
Photo by Bethany Urban



Midwest Report

It is summer in the Midwest; never perfect, always glorious (and often fleeting). Dog sports/activities abound; a fine time to be out and about with your curly pals. There is a Supported Entry at the Waukesha Kennel Club's Summer Splash show July 24-27 in Waukesha, WI, I will be there with Grouse & Fiáin and look forward to seeing all who are able to attend; we have a nice entry for the supported entry on Saturday (I will have a summary and photos in the September/October Rat Tails). Enjoy summer!

Sarah Zumpf



IWSCA Social Media



Irish Water Spaniel Club of America

Official Club Facebook Page - Official Club Announcements

<https://www.facebook.com/IWSCA/>

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Irish Water Spaniel Pinterest

A place for snapshots - send us your photos to be included

<https://www.pinterest.com/IrishWaterSpaniel/>



Irish Water Spaniel Club of America You Tube Channel

A place to view amazing videos of IWS around the world

Coming Summer 2023



Groups.IO

A Members Only e-mail group for club announcements and communications from the Board. If you are a member and not receiving e-mails please contact us.

Contact Laurie Jacobs for more information at

MysticCaribou@sbcglobal.net or on FB Messenger.

Thank you for reading Rat Tails! If you have comments or corrections, please email me, Crystal Jordan, at jordanjj@att.net.

