



WINTER/SPRING 2025

Rat Tails

RAT TAILS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE IRISH WATER SPANIEL CLUB OF AMERICA



What's inside

3	President's Message
4	Officers, Committee Chairs, Regional Representatives
5	Club Objectives
6	Board Meeting Minutes, October
6	Board Meeting Minutes, November
7	Board Meeting Minutes, December
8	Board Meeting Minutes, January
11	2025 Specialty
12	Public Relations – Meet the Breed NYC
14	Flushing Spaniel Show
16	Irish Water Spaniel Association of Canada, 2025 Nationals
17	Spaniel Hunt Test
18	Fate, Crazy Coincidence or a Message from a Dog Named Marley?
20	Regional Reports
20	• Northeast
23	• Mid-Atlantic
25	• Midwest
27	• Northwest
30	• International
31	Upcoming Events
32	IWSCA Social Media



President's Message

A Call to Arms!

I felt it was very important to put a small part of this article from AKC Government Relations Department into our Rattails Newsletter

Purebred Dog Ownership is Under Attack.

“All across the country, anti-breeder groups are pushing legislation that undermines ownership and breeding of purebred dogs.

Together with you, the AKC Government Relations Department (AKC GR) works hard to protect your rights as responsible dog owners, breeders, and enthusiasts. We work with dog owners like you and rely on lawmakers who share our concerns to protect our rights and our breeds from attacks generated by misinformation and radical animal rights groups.

We could not do this work without your involvement - or without the courageous lawmakers who are willing to stand up against radical animal rights legislation. We are grateful for lawmaker “friends” who have held back bad legislation, worked with us to introduce positive legislation, and listened to our concerns. Supporting the campaigns of lawmakers who support us is crucial to ensuring legislative access and protecting our future.”

The article goes on, but I felt that it was important to bring this to your attention. I personally have experienced strange and many times subtle, local attacks on the purebred dog community. Many times, it's under the guise of “anti-puppy mill” legislation or a “zoning change...” Please don't be fooled. Go to the town meetings or state legislature meetings, challenge when you can, and invite other local dog owners to join you in speaking up. While it is a good thing to make sure animals are treated well, it's another to have constrictive and restrictive legislation slip through. Our Government Relations Department is a very good “watch dog” and our Liaison Florence Blecher is prompt in putting out their reports. It's up to us to be the local watch dogs. We can vote, but we need to speak up and let our elected officials know how we feel. AKC can back you up; a representative might come to speak at a hearing of a bill and give you timely information, so use them.... they want you to!

We do have the power!

Pam



Officers, Committee Chairs, Regional Representatives

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

IWSCA Board of Directors

President
Pam Manus

1st Vice President
Timothy Gulley

2nd Vice President
Linda Deckard

Corresponding Secretary
Edith Blackwell

Recording Secretary
Bethany Urban

Treasurer
Melissa Gulley

Membership Director
Heidi Currier Ferris

IWSCA Committees

Rat Tails Newsletter Editor
Edith Blackwell
iwscarattailsnews@gmail.com

Public Relations and Education
Laurie Jacobs

Rescue Committee
Lisa Schaitberger

Health & Genetics Committee
Laurel Baglia

Breeders Education Committee
Mindy Garbarino, Greg Siner

Webmaster
Sally Lewis

Judges' Education Committee
Stacy Duncan, Michelle Cummings

Field Committee
Heidi Currier Ferris

2025 National Specialty Committee
Timothy Gulley
Michelle Cummings

Puppy and Adult Dog Coordinator
Dana Louttit

Regional Representatives

Northeast
Laurel Baglia
Jeremy Kezer

Mid-Atlantic
Tiffany Schuffert

Southeast
Linda Deckard

Midwest
Sarah Zumpf

Southwest
Ellen DeVrieze

Northwest
Liz Liddle

International
Charlene Schermers



Photo by Jeremy Kezer



Club Objectives

The IWSCA is organized and operated exclusively for the charitable, humane treatment of animals, support of scientific study and research and educational purposes within the meanings of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

The specific objectives shall be:

1. To promote the public's knowledge and appreciation of dogs in general and Irish Water Spaniels in particular;
2. To produce, publish, and distribute to the general public educational materials about the proper care, treatment, breeding, health, development, and training of Irish Water Spaniels;
3. To support and promote study and research on the history, character, breeding, genetics, and particular health problems of the Irish Water Spaniel;
4. To establish a national database of resource materials about the Irish Water Spaniel;
5. To further understanding of the disease, defects, injuries, and other ailments that afflict dogs in general and Irish Water Spaniels in particular;
6. To acknowledge and advance the critical role of an AKC recognized Parent Club in providing education, health research, and support of rescue for the benefit of the general public, purebred dogs, and Irish Water Spaniels in particular;
7. To conduct activities, including sporting events, sanctioned matches, specialty shows, hunt and working certificate tests, obedience, agility and tracking trials, and other such activities and events as may be held under the rules of the

American Kennel Club in furtherance of the above purposes;

8. To otherwise preserve and protect the Irish Water Spaniel and to do all things possible to bring its natural qualities to light, including promoting regional activities and the establishment of local clubs and/or interest/study groups;
9. To urge members and breeders to abide by the AKC's Code of Good Sportsmanship and accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which the Irish Water Spaniels shall be judged.



Photo by Jeremy Kezer



Board Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2024

The following board members were present: Pam Manus, Dan Sayers, Melissa Gulley, Heidi Ferris, Linda Deckard, Edith Blackwell, Tim Gulley, and Bethany Urban.

Recording Secretary – Bethany Urban

- Next Board meetings will be November 12, 2024, and December 10, 2024.
- September minutes were approved by the Board on October 8, 2024.

Corresponding Secretary – Edith Blackwell

- Edith has spoken with Missy McMunn and Missy has volunteered to lead the IWSCA's effort for a Supported Entry with Sweepstakes at the Maryland Sporting Dog Association shows to be held on Friday, February 28, Saturday, March 1, and Sunday, March 2, 2025.

Treasurer Report – Melissa Gulley

- See attached the Quarterly Treasurer's Report ending September 30, 2024.

AKC Delegates Report – Dan Sayers

- See attached AKC Delegate's Report.

Report of Committees

Specialties – Tim Gulley

- 2025 - Everything moving along nicely. Tim and Melissa Gulley and Michele Cummings will visit the site to finalize outstanding details in mid-October.
- 2026 - Hoping to have a bid for 2026 soon.
- No photographs have been received from the 2024 National Specialty photographer.

Newsletter – Edith Blackwell

- Next newsletter deadline for submissions is October 13, 2024.

Judges Education – Stacy Duncan and Michelle Cummings

- There will be a judges education seminar in Florida in December 2024 and Kentucky in March 2025.

Awards Committee – Heidi Ferris

- See the attached report.

Membership – Heidi Ferris

- There are no new member applications this month:
- Board business conducted by email since the October 8, 2024, Board Meeting

On October 24, 2024, Edith Blackwell made a motion to approve spending \$175 annually to allow the club to use the webstore \VIX.com for our merchandise needs.

Seconded by: Pam Manus Approved by: All Board members.

Motion to adjourn by Linda Deckard at 9:30pm

November 12, 2024

The following board members were present: Pam Manus, Dan Sayers, Melissa Gulley, Heidi Ferris, Edith Blackwell, Tim Gulley, and Bethany Urban. Absent: Linda Deckard.

Recording Secretary – Bethany Urban

- Next Board meeting will be December 10, 2024.
- October minutes were approved on November 12, 2024.

Corresponding Secretary – Edith Blackwell

- Newsletter layout is done, and newsletter should be sent out shortly.

Treasurers Report – Melissa Gulley

- Tax return for 2023 has been filed with the IRS.



AKC Delegates Report – Dan Sayers

- No Report

Report of Committees

Specialties – Tim Gulley

2025 – Everything is going well.

Awards Committee – Heidi Ferris

Preparing applications for the 2024 awards.

Membership – Heidi Ferris

There is one request for membership this month.

- Former member rejoining:
Carolyn Archer from Mississauga,
Ontario, Canada
Endorsed by the Board.

Motion made by Heidi Ferris to accept the reinstatement application of Carolyn Archer as a member of the IWSCA.

Second by Pam Manus. Approved by all Board Members. Motion to adjourn by Edith Blackwell at 9:25 p.m.

Second by Pam Manus.

Additional Board Meeting held on November 14, 2024

The following board members were present: Pam Manus, Dan Sayers, Melissa Gulley, Heidi Ferris, Edith Blackwell, Tim Gulley, and Bethany Urban. Absent: Linda Deckard.

Judge Selection for future National Specialties

After discussion, it has been decided that Edith Blackwell will send out an email to the IWSCA membership seeking input from the membership for selecting judges for future Specialties. The re-sponses will be sent to Edith Blackwell and then Bethany Urban will input the results into a spread-sheet. We will ask for names of judges that club members believe have the qualifications necessary to judge Irish Water Spaniels at a National Specialty. We will then decide how the judge

will be selected at our December 10, 2024, Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

December 10, 2024

The following board members were present: Pam Manus, Dan Sayers, Melissa Gulley, Heidi Ferris, Edith Blackwell, Tim Gulley, Linda Deckard, and Bethany Urban.

Guests, Greg Siner, Emily Pikul and Stacy Duncan were invited to discuss the National Specialty Judge Selection Process.

Recording Secretary – Bethany Urban

- Next Board meetings will be January 14th and February 11, 2025.
- November minutes were approved on December 9, 2024. Linda Deckard abstained as she did not attend the November Board meeting.

Corresponding Secretary – Edith Blackwell

- Worked with Tim Gulley to get all the applications into the AKC for the 2025 National Specialty and now waiting for final AKC approval.

Treasurers Report – Melissa Gulley

No Report

AKC Delegates Report – Dan Sayers

No Report

Report of Committees

Specialties – Tim Gulley

- 2025 – Working on the draft Premium.
- 2026 – Bid and contract for the 2026 National should be submitted next month for approval.

Membership – Heidi Ferris

- There are no new member applications this month.



Public Relations – Melissa Gulley

- IWSCA will be represented at Meet the Breeds in New York City in January 2025.

On December 14, 2024, Edith Blackwell made a motion to approve the process for selecting the conformation judge for the IWSCA National Specialty starting with the 2025 National Specialty.

On December 14, 2024, Pam Manus seconded the motion.

On December 15, 2024, the Board of Directors approved the motion.

IWSCA National Specialty Judge Selection Process

Purpose

To establish a process to support the National Specialty Committee's selection of a conformation judge for the National Specialty. The process allows the National Specialty Committee to retain the ultimate decision on judge selection for the National Specialty but would ensure that the judges considered are qualified and knowledgeable about Irish Water Spaniels.

National Specialty Judge Selection Advisors (JSA)

The BOD will select three advisors to assist the BOD in reviewing the National Specialty Committee's list of conformation judges. These advisors must be IWSCA members in good standing and actively participating in conformation. The advisors for any given National Specialty should not be serving on that National Specialty Committee. The BOD will rotate the advisors so that the same members are not serving as advisors for every National Specialty. For the 2026 National Specialty, the advisors will be: Greg Siner, Emily Pikul, and Stacy Duncan.

Process

The National Specialty Committee will submit a list of five names to the Board who they would like considered to judge conformation. The Board and JSA will meet to discuss the list of five names and return three names to the National Specialty Committee to pick

from. This will give the National Specialty Committee the flexibility to pick which one of the three judges they would like to hire. If their first-choice judge is not available, they have two other names as back up options to pursue. Should none of the three judges be available, the National Specialty Committee will submit a list of five more judge names to the Board and the process will continue until the National Specialty Committee hires a conformation judge.

Emergency Support

Should there be a need for a judge change after the National Specialty Committee selects a judge, the National Specialty Committee will look at hiring one of the two approved names based on the process described herein. If those two judges are not available, the Board, JSA, and National Specialty Committee will convene and discuss the best possible solution in selecting a conformation judge.

Motion to adjourn by Linda Deckard at 9:45 p.m.

January 14, 2025

The following board members were present: Pam Manus, Dan Sayers, Melissa Gulley, Heidi Ferris, Edith Blackwell, Tim Gulley, Linda Deckard, and Bethany Urban.

Recording Secretary – Bethany Urban

- Next Board meetings will be February 4th and March 11, 2025.
- December minutes were approved on January 14, 2025.

Corresponding Secretary – Edith Blackwell

- Edith Blackwell made a motion to approve a Regional Specialty for Morris & Essex on October 1, 2025, and Laurel Baglia will be the Chair.
Seconded by: Linda Deckard
Approved by: All Board Members

Treasurers Report – Melissa Gulley

- See the attached 4th Quarter Report, December 31, 2024.



AKC Delegates Report – Dan Sayers

- See the attached report.

Report of Committees

Specialties – Tim Gulley

- 2025 – Everything going well and getting busy.

Judges Education – Stacy Duncan and Michelle Cummings

- See the attached report.

Public Relations

- Meet the Breeds will be held in New York City on January 25th and 26th, 2025.

Awards – Heidi Ferris

- Awards applications will be on the club website for members to input information and forward to the Awards Committee.

New Business

- Board will be reviewing Best Business Practices for the business side of the IWSCA during 2025.

Membership – Heidi Ferris

There are 3 new members applications this month.

- Lynne Rosenthal;
Kingston, NY
Endorsed by Gregory Siner and Hannah Loonsk
- Chris Palmer
New Haven, CT
Endorsed by Gregory Siner and Hannah Loonsk
- Kevin and Ashley Tuisku
Dublin, OH
Endorsed by Gregory Siner and Hannah Loonsk

Motion made by Heidi Ferris to accept the applicants listed above as members of the IWSCA.

Seconded by: Linda Deckard

Approved by: all Board members.

Meeting adjourned by Linda Deckard.



Photo by Sarah Zumpf



2025 National Specialty

By Melissa Gulley

Your National Specialty Committee is so excited about this year's National Specialty, and we are working daily on making sure you all will be excited as well. Each day will be busy with several events. Please check the club's website weekly at IWSCA.org for information and important links.

"Move in" day for the Estes Park Event Center begins on Sunday, May 11. The Event Center is over 22,000 square feet with a socializing/eating area, plenty of indoor space for grooming with electricity available, and our show ring. Events that will be held indoors at Estes Park Event Center will be rally, obedience, conformation, sweepstakes and best puppy. Breeders Education and Judges Education will also be at the Event Center.

Photo by Jeremy Kezer.

Events held outdoors at the Estes Park Event Center will be agility and scent work. And keep an eye out for a volunteer sign-up sheet that will be coming out in April.



Photo by Jeremy Kezer





Howdy Partners! Regional Specialty Theme!



By Stacy Duncan

Come one, come all to the IWSCA Regional Specialty being held in conjunction with the IWSCA National Specialty in BEAUTIFUL Estes Park, Colorado. A Cowboy-themed Regional Specialty will be held on the evening of Tuesday, May 13th followed by a BBQ dinner. Come sporting your best country wear to liven up this hoedown! We want to see everyone play along wearing boots, hats, belts, plaid, bandanas, and lots of denim!

This night of fun will include the most incredible trophies being created by our very own Cat Shelby. The fused glass pieces are superb and so unique, you'll never see anything like it again!

As a wee bit of incentive to encourage participation, all cowpokes who appear on Tuesday evening in their cowboy gear and check in with Cat Shelby for a ticket will be entered to win a very special prize (trust me, you don't want to miss out on this prize!!) to be drawn at the BBQ dinner.



Public Relations and Education Committee / Meet the Breed – NYC

By Jenny Wadhwa

Three champion IWS, five dedicated stewards of the breed, and Dinah with her two young owners (yes, that would be me and my partner, Angus) represented the Irish Water Spaniel at AKC Meet the Breeds in NYC this past month. Many of you know the incredible people and dogs who joined us, Emily Pikul and Myna, Tiffany Schuffert and Orin, Pam Manus and Midge, Rebecca Brooks and Beard, and Dan Sayers, but you might wonder why they would bring two newbies to an event with 36,000 attendees.

Fair question, I asked myself the same thing all weekend. I'd been a Meet the Breeds fan for years, attending as a child with my well-worn copy of 'AKC Complete Dog Book' in hand. But I never imagined I'd get the chance to bring my own dog. So, when Dinah's breeder and co-owner Emily Pikul casually asked if we were free the weekend of January 25-26, I could barely believe it.

For months, I took Dinah everywhere—playgrounds, parades, street fairs—training her for the chaos. At first, she barked and jumped at everything. But with persistence (and a lot of treats), she learned to sit for pets and take treats from strangers. By January, we were as ready as we'd ever be, with Dinah sporting a hand-beaded clover collar and me in a matching green sweater with an IWSCA patch.

Walking into the Javits Center, I was overwhelmed by the size, the husky howls and the terrier yaps. Dinah and the other IWS? Unfazed. We set up the booth, got Starbucks, and introduced our first breed representatives—Orin and Myna. As people trickled in, Orin lounged happily on Tiffany's lap while Myna and Emily posed for the endless photographers (yes, a photo made it into Vogue!). Pam did her rounds with old friends, and Rebecca and Dan expertly fielded questions. Meanwhile, Angus and I frantically threw treats in Dinah's kennel in an attempt to keep us all calm.



When it was Dinah's and Midge's turn, the questions flew:

"Is this a poodle?"
"Why is the fur so soft?" "Is the face and tail natural?" "Are they hypoallergenic?"



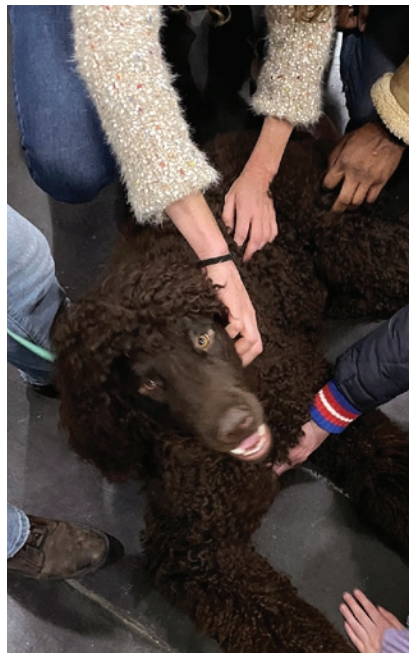


We answered them a thousand times with a smile: “No, this is an Irish Water Spaniel. The soft fur keeps them warm when swimming. Yes, the tail and face are naturally short. And no, no dog is NOT fully hypoallergenic.” (That last one usually ended the conversation—no one likes a shedding dog.)

As we talked, we learned more about the breed from our mentors. We hadn’t known that the IWS beard protects the neck or that the topknot shields the eyes. We certainly didn’t know you could trim sideburns for better ear drainage (thank you, Rebecca and Tiffany!). Dinah, meanwhile, thrived—kissing 600 faces, giving 100 high-fives, and making nervous children smile.

By the end of the weekend, we had transformed from IWS enthusiasts to ambassadors. I had researched the breed before getting Dinah, but now I had the words to explain why IWS were the perfect fit for us. I wanted a dog with the endurance to swim a half-mile in icy Maine waters—now I understood how Dinah’s coat, feet, and body type made that possible. I wanted a bold, brave dog—but only now did I grasp how bold and brave she really could be.

Most importantly, we learned how special the IWS community is. Angus and I were welcomed with open arms. No one minded when Dinah humped their knees or cried in her kennel (yes, we’re working on it). No one made us feel foolish for asking questions. Instead, our fellow club members showed us that newcomers have a place at the table. For that, we are incredibly grateful.



Flushing Spaniel Show

By Dana Louttit

Sometimes we get lucky with the weather for the Flushing Spaniel Show, held in January in Knoxville, Tennessee. And sometimes we don't. This year, the entries of several breeds were decimated by a snowstorm that hit Friday afternoon, January 10th. My daughter, Hannah Loonsk, and I threaded the needle by leaving before dawn for our long drive from Virginia. It was the locals who had the most trouble getting to the show, in every breed, thanks to the timing of the storm. Taylor Jessie, two of her children, June and Quincy, and her mother, Karen, joined us from Louisville, Kentucky, and we had a blast. The Jessies had extra incentive for the trip, since they picked up their new Ruckus/Georgia puppy at the show. Family and puppy were equally thrilled with each other, and Remi (Poole's Ide Modern Love) spent hours hanging out with us at the warm and welcoming Tennessean Hotel Drawing Room.

We were all grateful to Courtney Manrod for sending her lovely puppy, Donny Boy, to hold together one point in dogs, and for coming by for a visit, and for giving our Sweepstakes judge, Cocker/Springer Breeder Seville Olejko from Dallas, Texas, one dog to judge! The IWSCA donated an upland-themed tote bag of goodies to the raffle, and I won a margarita machine and all the fixings. Word has it that the show will be back in Knoxville next year. We highly recommend it.

Results:

Best Puppy, RWD – Cat's Donny Boy (Donny Boy) – Bred and Owned by Courtney Manrod

Winner's Dog/Best of Winners – Ildanoch Triple Chocolate CD DJ CGCA RA BN (Tripp) – Bred by Deborah Hughes and Ashley Richardson, Owned by Taylor and Jacob Jessie

Winner's Bitch/Best of Opposite – Poole's Ide No Secrets RN CGC (Carly) – Bred by Greg Siner, Hannah Loonsk, and Bethany Urban, Owned by Greg Siner and Hannah Loonsk – Carly also got her second Rally Intermediate leg with a third place

Best of Breed, Best Bred by Exhibitor, Best Bred by Exhibitor in Show – CH Poole's Ide Riptide (Ripley) – Bred By Greg Siner, Hannah Loonsk, and Bethany Urban, Owned by Greg Siner, Hannah Loonsk, Bethany Urban, and Dana Louttit.



Carly and her half-brother





Taylor and Tripp



Hannah and Ripley



QUÉBEC AUGUST
CITY 1-3
2025



The Irish Water Spaniel Association of Canada

2025 Nationals

Quebec City region,
Saint-Isidore, Quebec

Address: Aréna Saint-Isidore,
130 Rue Coulombe, Saint-
Isidore, Quebec G0S 2S0

August 02, 2025
IWSAC Nationals (Indoors)

Judge: Sharon Luckhart,
Ormstown, Quebec

All classes offered including
Baby Puppy, Gun Dog and
Veterans

On-Site Banquet on Saturday

**In conjunction with the Societe
Canine de Quebec (Indoors)**

August 01, 2025 - August 03, 2025

- 3 All Breed Shows
- Limited Breed Shows for Group 1, 5 & 7
- 4 Obedience Trials
- 5 Rally Obedience Trials
- Also offering Puppy and Veteran Sweeps
- Prizes for IWS Qualifying in Obedience and Rally on Sunday

**Current hotel Recommendations that
SHOULD accept large dogs:**

- Hôtel Alt Québec
- Quality Inn & Suites Levis
- Hotel Sepia

As this is a very busy weekend in Quebec City
make sure to **BOOK EARLY!**

We can't wait to see you all there!





★ DON'T FORGET THE DATE! ★

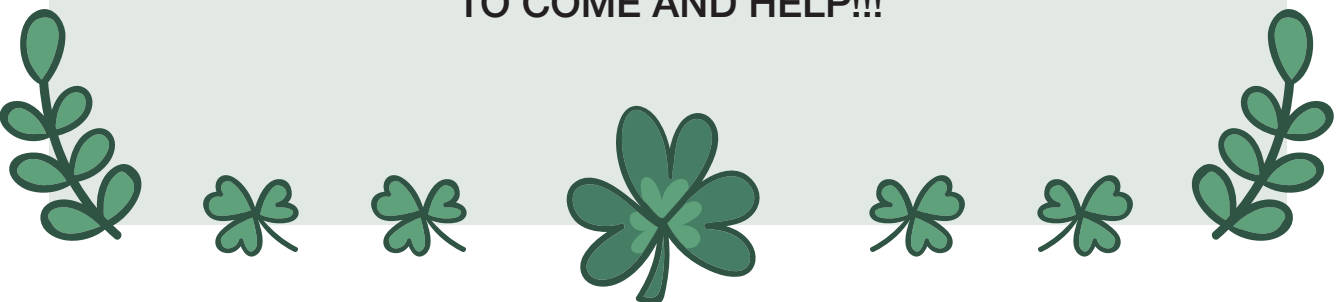
4TH IWSCA Sponsored Spaniel Hunt Test

**MAY 31, 2025
BEAVER DAM, WI**

THREE DAYS OF SPANIEL HUNT TESTS

SEE YOUR THERE!!

**ANY VOLUNTEERS MOST WELCOME
TO COME AND HELP!!!**



Fate, Crazy Coincidence or a Message from a Dog Named Marley?

A story from the 2024 National Specialty

By Kim Kezer

National Specialties are a place for us to gather, visit with friends and make new ones all because of these brown curly dogs. One of the best parts of having an Irish Water Spaniel in our lives is the friends and journeys we have experienced along the way. The IWSCA community is always welcoming and happy to share their knowledge, passion and love for the breed with anyone admiring our dogs. I wanted to share a story with everyone for us to remember what a special community we have. With all the hustle, and bustle of the day's events, I noticed a gentleman standing alone watching the dogs. Jeremy and I introduced ourselves and welcomed him to our event.

His name is John and shared with us about him growing up with an IWS. We said that is great you came to see them and John replied he had no idea this was happening. He had a construction job site to visit down in Cincinnati the next day. He planned to drive further that night but got tired and decided to just pull off a little early for the night. Little did he know

that he would be experiencing an unexpected memory from his past. So, the conversation began with the usual, who did you get your dog from, how long ago, what was his name, you all know these conversations. John was awestruck over the dogs he was seeing in front of him. After phoning his mom to share his unimaginable story he told us his Irisher was from Susan Sarracino-Deihl. Excitedly, we immediately connected John and Susan. John watched the show for two days and we exchanged contact information with the hope he could watch the WC/WCX the next day. Jeremy received a text later that day letting us know he wouldn't be able to join us because of work and shared how he felt about his experience. I shared his text with everyone at the Awards Banquet, and I asked John's permission to share it in RatTails because it is too wonderful to not share.



I feel honored by your request to submit that to the newsletter!" I hope you enjoy hearing about the impact our club had on him that day.

"Hey Jeremy! Thank you for reaching out to let me know about tomorrow. Unfortunately, I did end up having to head back up to Cleveland tonight. I'm really bummed out that I'm going to miss the last event, and that I won't be able to talk to everyone again before next year. I'm glad you texted me, though, because I was going to text Kim when I got home. I wanted to tell you both how grateful I am for everything you guys did for me these past two days. I was on the phone with my mom this afternoon, and I was telling her how incredible an experience this was, and how I've never felt more welcome around a group of people that didn't know me. You guys are awesome, and I hope we keep in touch between now and Colorado next year. My parents said they can't pass it up, and that they need to do it at least once. So, we'll definitely be booking the trip to Colorado in the next few months."



"Please tell everyone I am so sorry I won't be able to make it tomorrow, but that I am so grateful/happy/honored to have had the opportunity to meet such an incredible group of people. Everyone there made me feel like I was family from the second I walked in the door...especially you and Kim. My nostalgia was at an all-time high seeing all those IWS's today. It reminded me of how great of a dog Marley actually was, and how much I love and miss him. Thanks again for everything, though! Today was truly an awesome day! Please share this with Kim for me, and please keep in touch!"

In speaking with John since he mentioned "what a crazy coincidence stumbling into the event. It's like Marley was speaking to me from up above and telling me to stop there and not drive any further that night. Seemed like FATE." I would have to agree!



Regional Reports

Northeast Report

Winter is in full swing in the Northeast. It's been a very cold winter and now we are getting snow weekly. The dogs enjoy it and we've had some lovely snowy walks. Emily Pikul reports that "Gch. Epik's In Omnia Paratus CGC ATT BCAT Received a Group 3 in Tallmadge Ohio 1/5 under Mr. Doug Johnson - Breeder Owner Handled by Emily".

Congratulations Emily and Midge! Natalie Weissman is happy to share that "I attached 2 photos. Sunday Rach Ballyhoo's True Blue Justine O'Hogan at Castlehill CDX GN BN RM5 RAE6 DN CAX FTD ATT BCAT CGCA TKN competed in a double Rally Trial and completed her RACH 2 Title, Her Rally Master 6 Title, Her Rally Advanced Excellent 7 Title. It may have been snowing outside but she was having a grand time with 4 perfect scores and 2 99's."

Natalie, Jolene and Justine



Justine, RACH





Dahlia

Heidi Currier Ferris reports that “on November 2nd, our bitch Saracen Irish Traveller At Madrigal JHU ACT1 ACT1J SWN WD (call name Dahlia Malloy) became the first Irish Water Spaniel to earn the Upland Hunter (UH) prefix title from the United Kennel Club. The upland tests, held under the jurisdiction of the Hunting Retriever Club (HRC), require the dog to be steady to the flush and shot during each phase of 4 interactions with birds: Retrieving a shot ‘walk up’ bird, then 2 ‘quarter and flush’ birds, followed by an honor ‘walk up’ with the next working dog for the 4th bird. The test also requires the handler to shoot a ‘popper’ (blank) shell before authorized test gunners shoot the bird with live shells. A dog earns the Upland Hunter title when it has passed the test 4 times. I find that it takes a lot of training to get a dog to be steady through 16 interactions with birds, and for me to be steady while I was handling her! Toby and I have trained Dahlia Malloy ourselves, and we went through 13 chukars during 9 intensive hours of training in 3 days before we left for the tests which were held in Virginia. We would like to give Dahlia Malloy’s breeders, Susan Sarracino-Deihl and Bob Deihl, the credit they deserve for placing importance on the ability to work in the field consistently in their breeding program.”

Stephanie O’Reilly relays that “Polly (BOSS GCH CH MACH2 Poole’s Ide Pollywog RN MXS MJG MFB T2B2) and Sloane (MBIS MRBIS NBISS MBISS GCHG CH MACH2 Poole’s Ide Sargeant Sloane CD RE MXG MJG MFB T2B2) had a blast at the 2024 AKC Agility Invitational. Polly had a fantastic invitational, with a T2B warm-up qualifying run and 4 clean rounds including a 6th place standard run. She ended up ranked 5th in a huge 20” class and made the finals for the second year in a row. Sloane had a blast at his first invitational with a T2B warm-up qualifying run and 2 clean rounds. Both love the excitement and energy at the invitational. It is such a special event.”



Jeremy and Ghillie

Jeremy and Ghillie (CH MACH Chantico’s Super G O’Muddy Waters) were also excited to run in the 2024 AKC Agility Invitational in December. We had some clean runs, lots of fun, and enjoyed cheering on the other IWS competing and making it to the Finals.



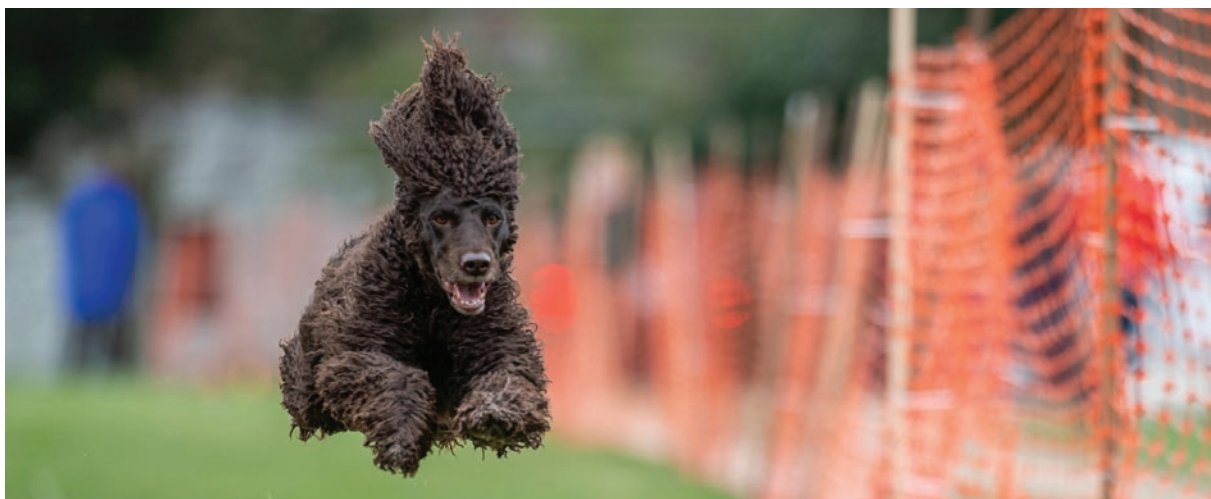
Ishka

We came home and are happy to announce a new member to the family - Ishka (Chantico’s Poole’s Ide Making A Splash With Chantico), who has been integrating well with the big dogs and is a lot of fun to train and spend time with.



Lastly, Chris Bartos writes “Sadly, I lost my dearest Lily on December 16th. She just turned 7 years old when she was struck down by an autoimmune disease that she just couldn’t fight. She joined my canine family rather unexpectedly – I definitely wasn’t looking for a dog at the time, but she was the granddaughter of my Ember and charmed her way into my heart. She was also the niece of Stephanie’s Glider – one of my all time favorites – so how could I resist!

She was a character – always up for a good time! She loved FAST CAT although I’m not entirely sure she was not just racing to me! She had 9 legs towards her Coursing Ability Advanced, and it was fun watching her run. She could be deceptively quick and actually caught the lure out in the field on more than one occasion.



Lily

We had lots of fun in agility – no matter what the end result of a run. Luckily, she had great distance, since there was no way I could keep up with her! People I didn’t even know often stopped to tell me how much they enjoyed watching us since she was having so much fun and we both came off the course smiling, even when things didn’t quite go as planned!

She was one of the sweetest dogs I ever knew – and everyone who met her loved her. What I wouldn’t give for another chance for one more run on the beach with her.

Farewell Lily – Crispin’s Flirting With Disaster MX, MXB, MXJ, MJB, MFB, FCAT, CA”.

Thanks, and stay warm,
Jeremy and Laurel



Mid-Atlantic Report

Oh, my goodness where has the time gone! It seems like the holidays were a blur of activity and here we are anxiously awaiting another spring. I did see my first robin the other day, so hopefully that means spring is just around the corner!

We've had quite a few accomplishments over the last few months!

First, Sue Tapp shares - **THEY DID IT AGAIN!** At last year's SCCTC Scent Work Trial, good friends Maple and Tempo (CH Cuboglach Rosy Maple RM RAE2 CAA BCAT SWD SWME RATM DJ DN CGC TKN ATT FTI and CH RACH Ballyhoo's Timing Is Everything RM3 RAE2 RC MX MXB MXJ MJS MFB T2B2 CA BCAT SWD SWME CGC respectively) earned their Scent Work Master Elite (SWME) titles within minutes of one another. At this year's trial the second weekend in October in New Castle, Virginia, they earned the prestigious Detective Award within hours of one another. They are the second and third Irish Water Spaniels to be awarded a Detective title, and Maple is the first bitch to accomplish this. Both dogs entered the weekend needing two qualifying scores, and they did not disappoint their excited and proud owners.



Maple and Tempo

Maple is owned by Sue Tapp and Tempo is owned by Kathy Fitzpatrick and Bob Hogan. Proud owners and dogs are pictured with the rosettes and embroidered Detective bags which they won. All three owners are members of the Star City Canine Training Club so the achievement was especially sweet and well-celebrated. The happy group is pictured below with one of the judges, SCCTC's own Connie Knisely who judged Maple to her Detective title.



Tim and Koffi

Tim Fleming and Koffi have been making the most of the winter out hunting and winter camping! Cold nights = little sleep, but it still looks like they had fun!

Submitted by Tiffany Schuffert





Rorie

The McNeills have been having fun, too! Rorie started off the fall helping Briana Rakar win an Honorable Mention at a grooming competition in Hershey, PA in September. Then she was off to Florida and is living her best life camping with Brian. Rorie and Brian earned their 1st title ever - Rally Novice - back in November. More recently, in Florida, Brian and Rorie have been in an Intermediate Obedience class and with the help of Brenda Bauerlein and Mindy Garbarino, Rorie has 4 qualifying scores for FastCAT and is working to finish her BCAT title. Rorie will also be participating in a Barn Hunt and going for her CGC.



Finn

Finn and Ann have been trying to stay warm in Cleveland. Last fall, Finn earned his Jr. Upland title to add to the Jr. Hunt title he earned last summer! Way to go, Team!



Midwest Report

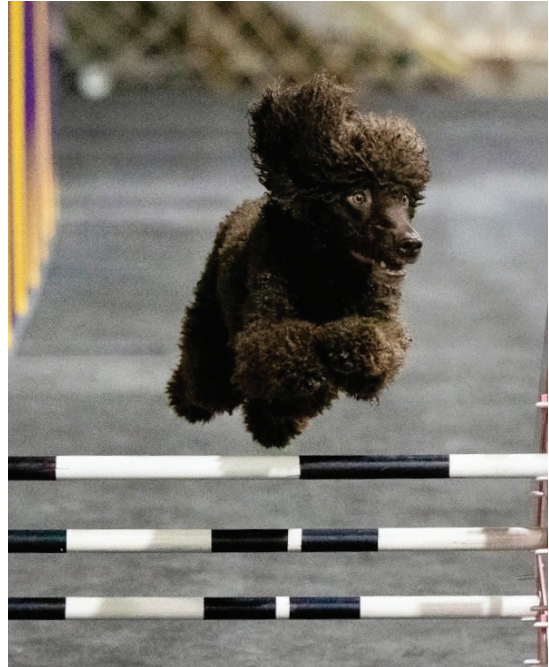
Midwest news!

It's definitely winter across the Midwest region ... depending on the day/place could be 45 & sunny with little or no snow on the ground ... or -10 & 8" of just fallen snow on a base of a foot! Everyone takes advantage of the mild days, and hunkers down on the arctic days ... IWS & their humans. My IWS have all loved the cold and snow; seems their only limitation is my tolerance.

Grouse has kept her enthusiasm for agility; she qualified for AKC Agility Nationals (for the first time) in 2024 and we are headed to Tulsa, OK in mid-March. Fiáin is so much fun to train; we have a long way to go, but she did earn her Novice Agility Standard (NA) title in December so in Open now across the board.

Stay warm and keep breaking trails!

Sarah Zumpf



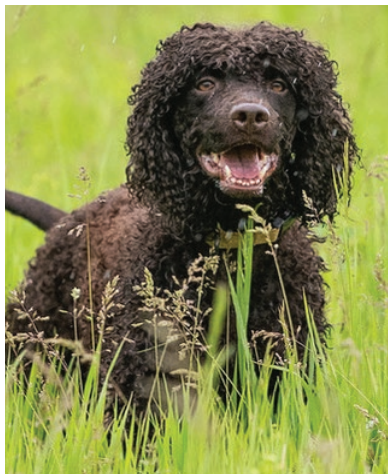
Grouse

From Susan Sarracino-Deihl: This October we were busy with the last spaniel hunt tests. Lily again did well and shone in the Greater Milwaukee Poodle Club and the Fox River Field Spaniel hunt tests the middle of October.

In December with the onset of colder weather it was time to take everyone dock diving. 3-month-old Roux was introduced to swimming and the rest of the crew got to swim to their hearts content. In addition, Harris and Murphy competed at the Three Hounds Christmas event with Harris coming home with a DN title. In the field she lays out over the water for a retrieve. On the dock she races down the dock only to stop at the edge, and then give a jump into the water. What a funny girl! Murphy, on the other hand, loves to jump and do big cannon-ball splashes!



Murphy



Lily in the field



Harris



In Memoriam

"Trout" 04/07/2013 - 02/18/2025

Realta's Breac Eitilt NA NAJ MXP2 MJP2 OF MFPB T2BP DS DJ TKN

All the things dogs can be, this boy was. But beyond all those 'things' was the joy he brought every single day. Even in the heartbreak of this sudden loss, the joy remains. How fortunate Bob & I were that the orange boy chose us; godspeed dear Trout ...I can never thank you enough for being you.



Trout



Northwest Report

Greetings from the Pacific Northwest!

Chilly weather here for Northwesterners. Many days below freezing with snow here and there for the curlies to romp in and search for hidden treasures.

By Sheryl Krohne: (always adventurous and on the move!)

In the middle of January, a new puppy arrived in Spokane from Luckpudde Kennels and Catherine Coles via Vermont and Elizabeth Trail. His name is Loki, God of Mischief. He has been a delight and loves retrieving duck wings. Raine is still reserving judgement as to whether he is worth the attention he is getting.

Raine had fun indoors and out at the end of 2024. We traveled to Snoqualamie, Chehalis and Vancouver, WA, where Raine achieved RATCHX10 in Barn Hunt, Platinum 3 Crazy8 (including a perfect clean run), 9 more Qs toward the next RATCHX. There has also been lots of playing in the snow on Mt. Spokane where she goes snowshoeing with my husband Dave. We also had a great time at the IWSCOPS Xmas party in December!



Raine



Raine and Loki



Raine and Loki

In January we had a small but fun group at the Western Washington Winter Cluster in Puyallup, Washington held at one of my favorite venues, the WA State Fairgrounds.

All of us set up in the same grooming area which always make for extra fun.

Rebecca Brooks ISLA, BREKKON'S WITHOUT BATTIN' AN EYE FTI, just barely 1 yr old, did a great job running around the ring with Rebecca and standing for exam. Isla is owned by Rebecca Brooks and Maribeth Bryant.

Erin Fogg's SKYE, CH BREKKON'S BROWN EYED GIRL AT FLINTCREST DJ CGC TKN FTI littermate to Isla, also did a beautiful job in the breed ring, the Sporting Group ring on Sunday and Owner Handler both days. She was BOB on Sunday and BOB OH both days. Skye is owned by Erin Fogg and Michell Evans.



Liz Liddle's FINTAN, GCH CH FLINTCREST FIRST STRIKE FINTAN, had great fun in the ring and around the grounds. He was quite happy to be showing with 2 cute girlsies! Fintan was BOB on Saturday. Fintan is owned by me, Liz Liddle.

Stacy Duncan joined in the fun for both days with her sidekick, puppy Fredy, who melted everyone's hearts with his charming personality and cuteness. While cheering us on ringside, she was on hand to answer questions from passersby who were curious about the breed while visitors gave Fredy plenty of attention. We also managed to snag her for some scissoring expertise!!! Thanks Stacy!!!



Erin and Skye



Isla

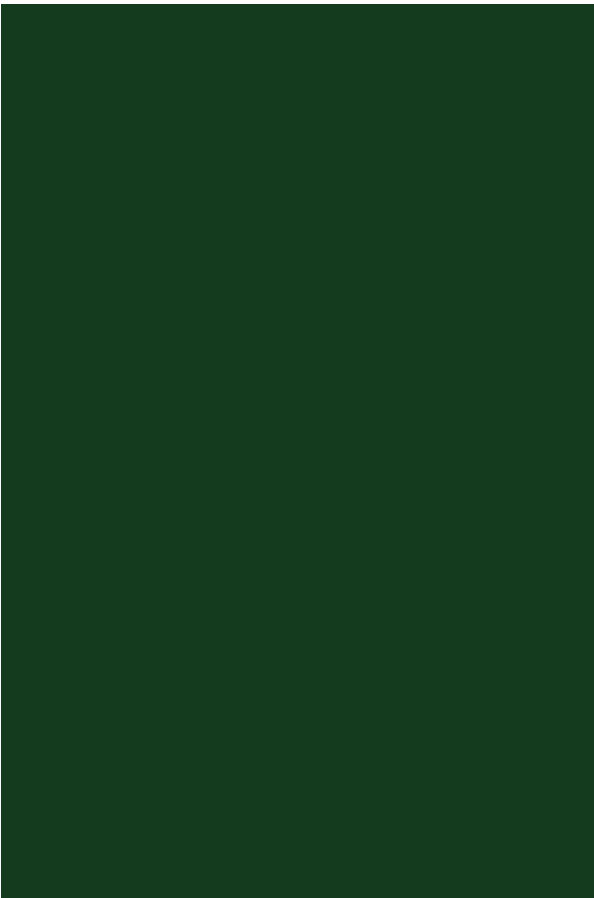
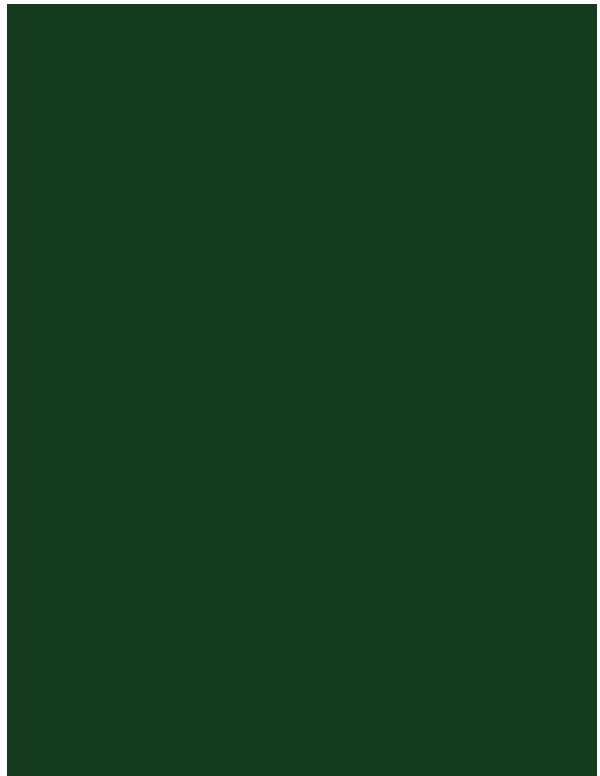


Fintan





Fredy



Stacy and Fredy



International Report

Can GCh. Ildanoch's Party Rock Anthem CGC CHIC can now add United Weight Pull to her list of titled accomplishments. She completed this on snow on February 1, 2025.



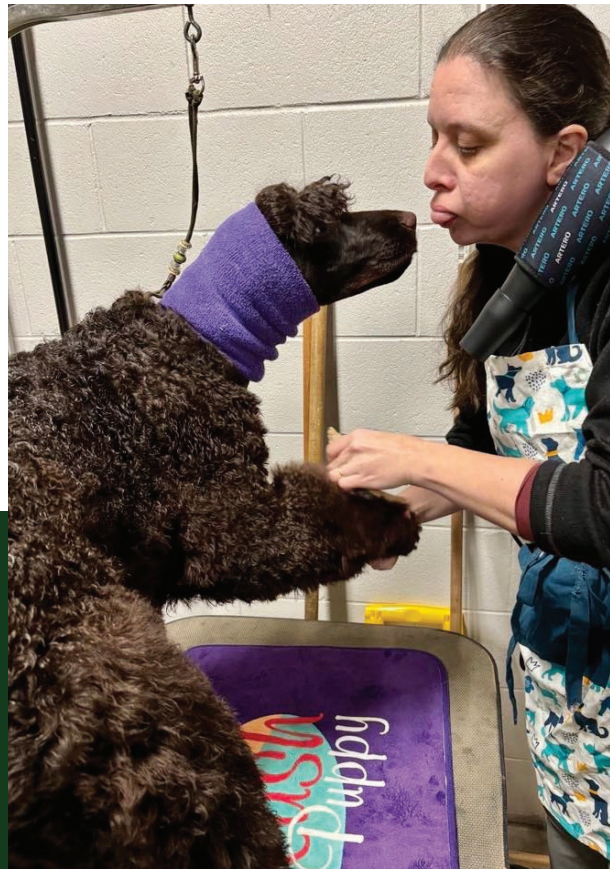
Zume

“Zume” is currently averaging an impressive 10 points per pull, and she loves whichever surface she is working on, showing off her versatility.

BBPIS Luckpuddle’s McKenzie from the Great White North got her first puppy group placement on January 31, 2025 at the All breed Wildwood Kennel Club dog show in Woodstock. She was shown by Melodie-Ann Guerit, judge Shawn Nichols.

“MeKenzie” is a happy, confident girl who loves to travel, go on adventures and make new friends.

Catherine Coles



McKenzie



Upcoming Events

May 12-15, 2025
IWSCA National Specialty

Estes Park, Colorado

May 31, 2025
IWSCA Sponsored Hunt Test

Beaver Dam, WI

September 26-27
Wine country

Romulus, NY

October 1, 2025
**Morris and Essex Kennel Club
Show**

Colonial Park, NJ



Photo by Jeremy Kezer



IWSCA Social Media



Irish Water Spaniel Club of America

Official Club Facebook Page - Official Club Announcements

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

Irish Water Spaniel Photo Collection & Archive

A curated collection of the finest IWS photographs in the world

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

Irish Water Spaniel Conversations Facebook Group

Start a conversation about most anything IWS, brag or even vent.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/587531408082300/>



Irish Water Spaniel Instagram @IWSAmerica

<https://www.instagram.com/iwsamerica/>



Irish Water Spaniel Twitter @IWSAmerica

<https://twitter.com/IWSAmerica>



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.**

