



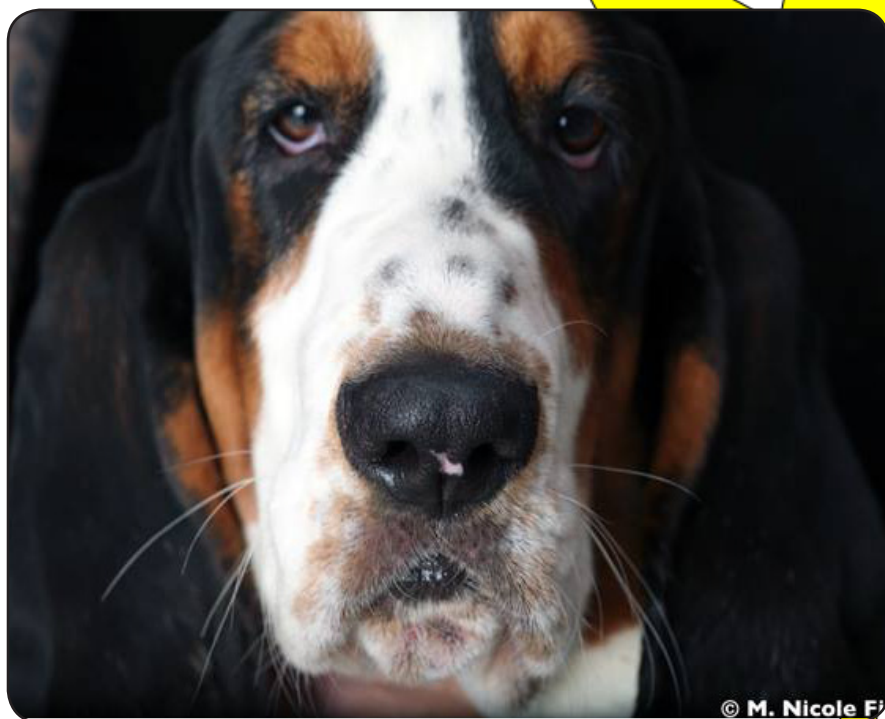
# THE LOWDOWN

## Potomac Basset Hound Club

www.potomacbhc.org

February 2017

## *A Star is Born* by Gloria McCrave



© M. Nicole F

angles. Most impressive was how well Strum did. I was a bit concerned with him running with these large dogs. My worries melted away when he was front and center each take. What a test of endurance.

The commercial has been airing since early January. It's just such a thrill when it comes on to see him running across the TV. The video can be viewed on YouTube at [https://youtu.be/qOBQpLYfh\\_A](https://youtu.be/qOBQpLYfh_A) or by searching NY Lottery Cash 4 Life - Volunteer. In his spare time, Strummer likes to train for agility, obedience and rally. You can meet him in person at his first rally trial at Staten Island Companion Dog Training Club Feb 3rd.

What a great experience, I'm one proud Mama... and that's a wrap!

When Strummer, Rapsallion's Calculated Risk, was recommended for a slow-motion commercial for the New York Lottery I sent a short clip of him on the move and he got the job!

Early November the shoot took place in Prospect Park Brooklyn, New York with Strummer and five other dogs. I refer to them as "The Beautiful B Team," A Bearded Collie, Border Collie, Boxer, Bull Mastiff, Bulldog and my Basset Hound were the cast.

We were escorted to the location where so much was going on. Lights, cameras, trailers, tents, gourmet breakfast and lunch, approximately 70 crew members and staff. Strummer had fun charming as many as he could.

This really was a long day with at least 70 takes from all different

### IMPORTANT NOTICE!

The Beginner Novice/Rally clinic scheduled for February 11 has been re-scheduled to February 25th at the home of Melinda Brown. For more information and/or to reserve a spot, please contact Madeline Wilson at [kuuipobassets@yahoo.com](mailto:kuuipobassets@yahoo.com), or call (804) 673-8558. Email will be best as I will be traveling 2/9-22.

**Potomac Basset Hound Club, Inc.**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 12, 2016**  
**Meeting at the home of Joan Portner**  
**in Rhodes, VA**

**Begin at:**

Meeting called to order at 10:28 a.m. September minutes approved as published in November Lowdown.

**President's Report:**

The 2017 BHCA Nationals will be held in Lancaster, PA. All of the details are available on the BHCA website. I encourage everyone to attend, even if it is just for a day. Obedience, Rally, Agility, Hunting Performance Tests and other events have continued to grow and flourish at the Nationals, and there is surely something for everyone. Because of the date proximity to our own Fall Specialty, we will have our 2017 Fall Specialty as part of The Nationals to help create a larger turnout and provide an opportunity for Club members to meet others from around the country.

For the 2017 Nationals (and our own specialties for that matter) if you'd like to help in any way, or would simply like an opportunity to learn how various aspects of a show are run, please let us know, the opportunity to help is open to everyone, and like our dogs, everyone is pretty easy-going.

**Committee Reports**

Show Chairman: it was decided that we will hold our Obed/Rally with the Potomac Hound Club Show in Richmond. Our Specialty with SMKC on Saturday with the Blue Crab Cluster. We will offer a supported entry on Friday but ask for an afternoon ring time on Friday. Melinda will let MBF know to reword the contract. Lisa Miller is the Cluster contact so Devon Merritt will contact her to be kept in the loop for Cluster meetings. Our Fall Specialty was cancelled due to weather conditions.

Trophy: Isabelle Merritt will be sending out Trophy Donation requests next month. All the outstanding trophies have been returned.

Hospitality: none

Grounds- none

Photographer- none

Food- none

Raffle: For our Summer Specialty and Hunt Test we will do 50/50 raffles only. For the Fall Specialty with the Nationals we will hold a 50/50 and a " fill the crate" raffle.

**Old**

Dates for classes were determined to remain the same.

1. Ramp/stacking/wicket workshop: Held Saturday, December 3, at 11a.m., at the home of Joan Portner. Workshop will be taught by Richard Jackson. Cost is \$10, non members welcome, bring your own lunch, light snacks and drinks will be provided.
2. Rally Novice/Beginner Novice workshop: Held Saturday, February 11, at 11a.m., at the home of Melinda Brown. Workshop will be taught by Madeline Wilson. Cost is \$10, non members welcome, bring your own lunch, light snacks and drinks will be provided.

**New**

Annual member awards: Karen Henley will send out the form to the membership. Ad will go into the Tally Ho and rosettes available if desired. Awards will be given out at the January meeting.

Hunt test: There is a big interest in continuing the HT if possible. Devon will contact previous HT chair to see if she wishes to continue, otherwise Kevin Merritt, President, will appoint a chair. Judges/info from BHCA/ dates from Battlefield Beagle will be needed by end of month.

Judges voting, will go over list and place in order of contacting for offer. Remainder of list will be sent to SMKC as judge suggestions. Judges were discussed and order of contact decided.

Hound judges for Summer, 2017

Edward W. Hall  
Debra Thornton  
Dr. Andrea Bradford  
Sharol Candace Way  
Ann Roth  
Patti Widdick Neal  
Pat Trotter  
Rita Holloway  
Mary Ann Alston

Breeder-Judges for Fall, 2017 in conjunction with Nationals  
Richard Todd Jackson – Richard's AKC approval for Bassets will be official in March. He has agreed to judge.

Holly Pierog  
Camille McArdle  
Edna Martin- already contracted with Berkshire  
Diane Malenfant  
Bill Russell  
Sylvie McGee  
Joe Smith  
Jose Demello

# The Wicket Rules

Wicketing is rare, but if it ever happens to you, it is best to be prepared as forewarned is forearmed

by Melinda Brown

On Dec 3, PBHC hosted a seminar on Stacking for the Wicket; many thanks to Joan and Jurgen Portner for allowing us to use their home for the seminar. Also, want to take this opportunity to thank Richard Jackson (recently licensed to judge Basset Hounds) for his expertise, time, and excellent, interesting presentation of the information for our membership. Richard went over the procedures for “wicketing” your dog. Here are some of the takeaways:

- Only two people can call for the wicket at a show: the Judge and an Exhibitor
- The Judge can call for it anytime. An Exhibitor can ONLY make a “protest” and call for a wicket while IN THE RING and before the last dog in a class is judged. For example, there are four dogs in the Open class. Exhibitor #2 thinks dog #1 exceeds the standard. He has until the last dog in the class (#4) begins his gaiting around the ring after examination to make the protest to the Judge.
- Once a protest is made, the Judge has two options – pull the dog out and wicket the dog immediately before anymore judging; or pull the dog out and ask the exhibitor to wait until all the other dogs in the class have been judged before he wickets the dog (this is a more likely scenario).
- The Judge will ask the steward to get the wicket (the wicket is not normally at ringside so there can be a 10-15 minute wait while one is brought to the ring). Once there, the judge will adjust it to 15 inches and double-check it with a tape measure. The Judge will ask the exhibitor to verify that it is set to 15 inches. The Standard says a basset that EXCEEDS 15 inches is disqualified.
- A Basset can only be wicketed on the ramp. The exhibitor will be asked to stack his dog on a ramp.



A standard wicket

- Before the wicket is placed on the dog's withers (the highest point of the shoulder blades), the Judge will ask the Exhibitor to confirm the placement. He will then ask the Exhibitor if he is ready.
- The wicket should NEVER be brought over the dog's head. The Judge should bring the wicket over the dog from the rear and place it over the withers. If the wicket feet hit the ramp before it touches the withers, the dog is “IN” standard. If the feet do not touch the ramp the dog is “OUT” of standard.
- If the dog is “OUT” he is disqualified, excused from the ring, and he will not count toward points.
- It takes three disqualifications in three different events for your dog to be permanently disqualified from showing.

Here are some tips should your dog ever be protested:

- Stay calm and relaxed. If you are nervous, you can transmit your anxiety to your dog.
- Be sure to stack the dog correctly and that the front legs are directly under the dog. If your

Continued on Pg. 4

## Continued from Pg. 2

Respectfully submitted,  
Madeline, Richard and Peggy

### VFDC&B NEWS

#### Secretary's Report:

##### Incoming

Equisure: Bill for 2017 insurance

##### Outgoing:

Sent current membership list to the Virginia Federation  
Sent current membership list to corresponding secretary  
BHCA  
Sent payment to Equisure for insurance

##### Treasurer's Report

\$4016.03 in all accounts.

##### Election of New Members

None at this time

##### Next Meeting:

Holiday Party: January 1, 2017 at noon. Bring a dish to share and a dog related gift to play bad Santa.  
January meeting: January 21 at 10 am. Library in Fredericksburg, VA

##### Adjourn at:

11:30 a.m.

##### Program:

Litter assessment : Litter of 11 puppies were assessed by members with positives/negatives of each puppy discussed. New members were allowed to feel faults and correct points.

## New Grand Champion

GCH 3 Oaks Bocephus Of The Killer B's, RN (Bo) earned his Grand Championship October 22, at the Laurel Highlands Kennel Club in Cumberland, MD. He went Select Dog for a 3-point major and was shown by his owner, Karen Henley. Bo, Momma loves you!!!!

3 Oaks Buttercup Of Bo's Bouquet (Buttercup) showed in the 4-6 month old ring and won Best Puppy of Breed and went on to win a Puppy Group 3! Granny loves you too!!!

## Continued from Pg. 3

- dog has a lot of "skin" at the base of his neck, you should pull it forward towards the head to smooth it out.
- It is a good idea to practice wicketing your dog to be sure it is "in standard." PBHC has a wicket and it is always available at our specialty shows. On the other hand, you can make one by creating an elbow that is 15 inches on the inside measure.
- Most of us have never seen a wicket called at a show – it is a RARE event but it has happened. Judges do not like to do it because, as you can see, it is time consuming and causes delays in judging which can ripple through the entire show. If a Judge thinks a dog is over, it is easier just to not put it up. But if it ever happens to you and you are not prepared for it, it can have disastrous consequences. Forewarned is Forearmed.

### Next Membership Meeting

March 18, 10 a.m at Central Rappahannock  
Regional Library England Run Branch  
806 Lyons Blvd.  
Fredericksburg, VA



GCH 3 Oaks Bocephus Of The Killer B's, RN

# Saranade's Spirit in the Sky (Skye), RA, TD

April 28, 2004 – September 29, 2016

by **Melinda Brown**

Saranade Bassets  
Bassets that Sing!

Skye went to the bridge September 29 at twelve and half years of life; and what a life it was.

It was a two-pup litter – two boys out of CH Obie's Jst Sue Me of Hndholow (Sumo) and CH Obie's Augusta (Gussie) – one red & white and one tri-color. In those first two weeks, the R&W was the complaining one and the Tri hardly made a peep.

Then their eyes opened and everything changed. Skye (the Tri) and Frank (R&W) reversed positions – Skye became the noisy demanding pup and Frank was the quiet one.

I wasn't planning to keep either one, but Skye developed inhaled allergies at 6 weeks so I kept him. He started life with weekly baths in stinky shampoo, being powdered from head to foot in Gold Bond powder (we use to joke that you could always find Skye – just follow the Gold Bond powder trail), taking special supplements, sprayed with anti-itch sprays and acupuncture treatments. After 18 months we faced the fact that it wasn't doing anything but controlling the itch. So on to a program of allergy shots, prednisone and in his later years, Atopica. He took his last allergy shot on the Tuesday before he left us.

When he was 6 months, we entered him in shows and he won some, occasionally. He never graduated from

the "12-18 month class."

His chest never dropped so he was forever young; but he LOVED to eat and so we began to do Rally. He was smart and picked up the exercises quickly. Ever the optimist, he would offer me downs and sits hoping to get a treat. He made it easily to Rally Advanced.



He LOVED to track too. He was a natural and passed his qualifying track on the first try. He passed his TD trial in 2011 on the first attempt as well. He scared the beeebees out of me because between the two start stakes, he uncharacteristically went off track. I stood my ground and waited as he relieved himself – a case of nerves I guess. But from then on, he was "on track" and finished his 450-yard track in 10 minutes.

Did I say Skye loved to eat? He ate everything including some things that revolted me but he had a cast iron gut – never vomited, never had diarrhea. Yet in the end, his habit of vacuuming up everything on the ground contributed to his demise. Acquired mega-esophagus (ME) and its sidekick, aspirated pneumonia brought him down.

We'll miss the quirky boy with all of his idiosyncrasies. But in my heart I know he is in a much better place now – no more pills, shots, sprays, powders, baths, hunger, itching, and pain.

"Grieve not, nor speak of me with tears,  
but laugh and talk of me,  
as if I were beside you....

I loved you so-

'twas Heaven here with you."

--Isla Paschal Richardson