

# THE LOWDOWN

## POTOMAC BASSET HOUND CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2019

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Glaucoma and Ophthalmology Presentation**

Mark Your Calendars! On Saturday, November 23, PBHC has invited Michelle Samuel VMD & DACVO to give a talk to the club on glaucoma and ophthalmology screening and treatment in Basset Hounds. Dr. Samuel will give her talk at 11 am at the Salem Branch Library following our meeting. Dr. Samuel has her practice at the Veterinary Referral Center of Northern Virginia in Manassas, Virginia. We hope you all can attend this informative lecture.

#### **Nationals Raffle Basket**

Please bring any donations for the Club Raffle Basket for the Nationals to the September Meeting for Devon Merritt to take to Denver.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14 – PBHC Meeting  
Salem Church Branch Library in  
Fredericksburg, VA. Gregg  
Kantak will present an overview  
on Stewarding and Ring  
Procedure.

September 21 – BROOD PBHC  
Information and Nail Trim Table  
at Frying Pan Park in Fairfax, VA

November 2 – PBHC Fall  
Specialty with Warrenton Kennel  
Club in Doswell, VA. (We will  
offer a Supported Entry on  
November 1.)

November 23 - PBHC Meeting  
Salem Church Branch Library  
Fredericksburg, VA. 11 am  
Presentation on Glaucoma and  
Ophthalmology Testing in Basset  
Hounds by Michelle Samuel  
VMD, DACVO from the  
Veterinary Referral Center on  
Northern Virginia in Manassas.

## JULY MEETING MINUTES

*July 20, 2019 @ Home of Joan Portner in Rhoads, VA*

### Meeting called to order at 11:22 am.

**Members in Attendance:** Melinda Brown, Edee McGregor, Robin Snell, Candice Spock, Denise Rozell, Larry Wilson, Harry Chipman, Sally Nist, Devon Merritt, Kevin Merritt, Kaitlin Chiarelli, Madeline Wilson, Gregg Kantak, Joan Portner, Jurgen Portner

Motion to approve May minutes were accepted as published in June Lowdown – Motion approved.

**President's Report:** None at this time.

### Committee Reports

**Show Chairman:** Spring Specialty made around \$500 in net income. Fall Specialty is November 2<sup>nd</sup> in Doswell, VA. It will be indoors. Our judge will be Nancy Bodine.

**Trophy:** Everything is ready for fall.

**Hospitality:** None.

**Grounds:** None.

**Photographer:** None.

**Food:** None.

**Raffle:** None.

### Old

**Board Nominations:** As there were no nominations from the floor, the secretary shall cast the vote and approve the nominations from the nominating committee.

President: Richard Jackson

Treasurer: Melinda Brown

Board Positions: Robin Snell and Sally Nist.

**New Site Suggestions:** For Spring 2020, we will now move our show to the end of June with Mattoconi in Doswell with Tidewater KC as a cluster. We will move specialty to Friday most likely. The Doswell site is very nice. We will be working

and negotiate with Mattoponi KC to be inside and to see what they will offer as we have had the largest hound entry. We need to insist that we have our specialty be in the morning and Mattaponi judging in afternoon so we don't have conflict with group.

**Guidelines for Ring-side Mentors:** Gregg will send it out for our review. This is for guidelines on how to mentor judges on our breed at our specialties. Gregg has written out guidelines to be able to shape a judges view on our breed and not just about signing to the forms. Must have a major in class dogs or bitches. This will be an article for the Lowdown.

**Website:** Phillip has a template done for the website, and should have a preview for the board next week.

### New

**Handling/Grooming class:** The handling / grooming class will be held on Saturday, August 10th at the home of Melinda Brown. Richard Jackson will present the class. Sign up through Madeline Wilson. So far we have 6 sign ups and an auditor.

**Stewarding and Ring Procedure Class:** Gregg can offer a class which would last about an hour. We will schedule it for after our meeting in September on the 14th.

**Club Raffle Basket for Nationals:** Anyone with donations (particularly local items) can give them to Devon at the September meeting.

**VFDC&B News:** Show calendars will be available from Melinda for \$7 at the September meeting.

### Secretary's Report

**Incoming:** AKC – Approval for Fall Specialty. Application from Natalie Balents for membership. Contract to judge Sweepstakes received from Deidre Petrie.

**Outgoing:** WKC – Paperwork for Fall Specialty including Sweepstakes Judge information, trophy list, and Sweepstakes breakdown. Request to judge Sweepstakes to Deidre Petrie. Sweepstakes contract send to Deidre Petrie.

**Treasurer's Report:** For our fiscal year 2019, we ended with \$7266.39 in our accounts.

**Election of New Members:** Natalie Balents: approved.

### Next Meetings:

**September 14:** Meeting at Salem Church Branch Library. This meeting will include a presentation on Stewarding and Ring Procedure by Gregg Kantak.

**November 23:** Meeting at Salem Church Branch Library. After the meeting at 11am Dr. Samuel will present a discussion on Glaucoma and ophthalmology screening in the Basset.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.**

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# A Dog Show Event's Ambassador: The Steward

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BY: GREGG G KANTAK

If you are “all things DOG,” one of the many ways you may enjoy showing your dogs and being a part of our incredible sport, is serving as a Steward. As you may know, in an AKC conformation show ring, the Judge actually is assessing “breeding stock.” While all that is going on, however, the Judge requires an able assistant: the Steward. Since I am everything “dog-related” and enjoyed the energy of a dog show, I found stewarding a ring allowed me to participate when I was not actively showing one of my breeds. Over the past fifteen years, I have actively stewarded AKC shows and served as Chief Steward (the ring leader) for several AKC shows.

From my many years stewarding dog shows, I have discovered that the Steward is a show's finest “Ambassador.” Not only must the Steward ensure the Judge and ring are running smoothly, they, unlike any other show staff, have the greatest impact on the Exhibitor's experience. A Steward is the first person an exhibitor meets prior to showing. The Steward marks them as present and provides them with their armband, calls them into the ring for their breed class and ensures the Judge maintains the schedule and accurately records the wins.

As an exhibitor, I can tell you that the most positive ring experiences have been when a Steward simply greets me, provides me with my armband, wishes me success, and eventually ushers me into the ring. The Steward can make or break a show and their ambassadorial skills set the tone for any exhibitor's experience during the show.

From a Judge's perspective, I rely on my Steward to be just that... my ambassador. The Steward maintains the ring's order, ensures a table or ramp is accessible, pulls the ribbons for the classes, calls in the armband numbers, announces the winning armband numbers in each class, congratulates the winners, etc. They serve as my liaison with exhibitors, handlers and the superintendent. So, you see, stewards are integral to the success of the show. Whether your interest is in conformation, obedience, rally, utility, field or hunt tests, ultimately you have relied upon a steward to ensure you knew what was to come.

I believe I join you in our love of dogs and our enjoyment at seeing them perform in any capacity. Our sport becomes our social outlet, bonding experience and/or a vocation. Being a part of it, whether exhibiting, judging or stewarding is truly rewarding. Stewarding, particularly, allows those who may have ended their “showing” years remain an active part of the show. If given a choice, most of us would be spending more time with our dogs or being around dogs, and there is no better way to do that then to participate in a show, especially as a steward.

At our September meeting, I will present a brief overview of a steward’s duties. PBHC has a Steward Guide in pdf if you wish to obtain a copy. So, if you have interest in pursuing stewarding or if you are considering a future judging (there is a stewarding fulfillment requirement to obtain licensure), please attend this introductory presentation, especially if you would be interested in serving as a Specialty Steward for PBHC!



*Teddy wants YOU to be a great ring steward!*