

The Samoyed Annual 2012



GCh. Polar Mist Cruz'n T'Party At Zamosky

Samoyed People

The Samoyed Annual
Talks with
Jeanne Nonhof
MOONLIGHTER
Plymouth, Wisconsin

This interview was conducted in Lake Elmo, Minnesota in August 2011 by Lynne Robertson.

The Samoyed Quarterly interviewed you back in the '80s.

I think it was about 25 years ago.

At that time you had been in the breed for twenty years?



I've been in the breed now for 45 years, something like that. I got my first quality Sammy in '68.

How did you get started?

I saw my first real Sammy in 1960 at Dog World USA in Florida on my honeymoon. They had one example of each breed there, retired champions that they had leased for a year, and we went all around that

Below: Ch. Moonlighter's Hallmark, "Ike" (BIS, Ch. Saroma's Polar Price, half brother to Joli Knika and Joli White Knight x Moonlighter's Altai Star Mist, foundation bitch). Jeanne's first champion and Group winner in the hands of novices. Sire of seven champions. Personal weight pull best, 1,870 pounds.



Foundation bitch – Moonlighter's Altai Star Mist, "Misty," February 1972. Every Moonlighter dog goes back to this girl.



big circle. We got to the Sammy kennel. The director came out and said, "That is one of two dogs that I can let out for you to pet and interact with." That dog came out, and he couldn't get enough lovin'. He was just ... he needed people. We couldn't resist that. We came to Wisconsin and started looking and finally found a breeder out of Milwaukee, Heartland I think it was, and got a puppy from there and it was all over. There's nothing cuter than a Sammy puppy, nothing.

Was that your foundation?

I went to the National Specialty when it was held here in Wisconsin a couple of years later and I saw Ch. Star Nika Altai of Silvermoon go BISS under Bob Ward. Bob didn't have to put that dog up. I saw that dog, and said, "That one." I almost jumped in the ring because he was just gorgeous. He was a beautiful dog, with wonderful type and soundness. I managed to get a granddaughter of his and she became our foundation bitch. We did make a couple of false starts before that.

What was her name?

Moonlighter's Altai Star Mist, "Misty." Every dog that I have goes back to her. Joyce Cain of the old Samtara kennel came to help us grade Misty's first litter. She took one look at my favorite and said, "Put him in the other room." I was crushed. I thought she didn't like him. I found out later that she liked him so much that she didn't want him to distract her while she looked at the other three. That puppy became our first champion and Group winner, Ch. Moonlighter's Hallmark.

When Misty died, her pups were the number one, number three and number seven top winning dogs in the country, proving her worth in the whelping box. We were really lucky to have her as our foundation bitch. It was just dumb luck, not any real plan on our part at that time.

What was behind her?

Silvermoon, and Tsiulikagta, which was a New Mexico kennel. Silvermoon was in the Pacific Northwest, in Washington. She was line-bred Joli ... Ch. Joli Knika, Ch. Joli White Knight, Ch. Todd Acres Fang.

Were those well-known kennels



BIS, BISS, Ch. Star Nika Altai of Silver Moon (Ch. Joli Knika x Ch. Silver Moon). 1967 National Specialty winner under Bob Ward. Owned by Lucille Miller of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Grandfather of our foundation bitch, Moonlighter's Altai Star Mist.

at the time?

Silvermoon was very well-known, both of them were.

What type of Sammy was it that you got?

She was quite typey. She had a rock solid topline, which I didn't know at the time what I had actually. We bred her to another dog from the Pacific Northwest. At that time there were two camps in Washington state. There was a Silvermoon camp and there was Polar Prince camp and never the 'twain shall meet. So we took a granddaughter of the Silver-

moon and bred her to BIS, Ch. Saroma's Polar Prince who was a half brother to Joli Knika and Joli White Knight, and got Ch. Moonlighter's Hallmark, who was our first champion and a Group winner. Misty was major pointed and we shipped her out to Washington state to be bred to Polar Prince. In those days we didn't have nice crates, this was a wooden crate and she apparently was chewing on the screen opening when it got jarred and she lost three teeth and fractured her jaw. We will never know what really happened on that



Above: BIS, Ch. Moonlighter's Home Town Hero, "Brett" (BIS, BISS, Ch. Frostyacres Tanks to Rexann, "Patton" x Ch. Moonlighter's That's My Girl). Shown here at his first show six months, two days, winning his first major at the Chicagoland specialty, February 2009. Brett finished with all majors at eight months. Owner handled by breeder, Jeanne. Right: Brett all grown up at three, summer 2011. Now a BIS winner. Pretty puppies grow into handsome adults. Handled here by co-owner, Eugene Ney.

trip. When she got there, Dick and Martha Beal were horrified and got her into the vet right away and got everything fixed. We never showed her again after the loss of those three teeth. They bred her, and she had four males. Of course I did the litter for a bitch, I wanted a bitch.

We kept the choice male and two out of four of those finished. They were the only two in show homes. Moonlighter's Hallmark was a Group-winning dog and back in those days, they weren't placing Sams in the Group very often and it was the big Group then, before they



divided it. So he did pretty well. He was always owner handled.

I handled Hallmark mostly, but then the subsequent dogs, my husband, Wayne, handled. He did pretty well because he didn't care what he had to do to get ears on a dog, he'd stand on his head if he had to and he would get those ears on the dog.

What was that dog's name?

We called him Ike, his name was Ch. Moonlighter's Hallmark.

Was he instrumental in your breeding program?

Oh, yes. I don't even know how many champions Ike sired. The ones he did sire were big, strong dogs, well-muscled, great rears. At that time in my area of Wisconsin, we had horrendous fronts, just two legs coming out of the same hole in front. And he came in and his mother had lovely fronts and I can remember some exhibitors saying, "Look at those fronts, where did they get those fronts?" Well, we paid attention to fronts at that point. Then eventually when we got to Hallmark, he had a



The dog who had it all – BIS, BISS, Am/Can Ch. Moonlighter's Ima Bark Star TT, Can. ROM, "Bark" (Eng/Can/Am Ch. Delmonte This Is It x Ch. Moonlighter's Ice 'N Spice, "Pup-Pup," a second generation top brood bitch). Sire of 60 champions. Breeder-owner-handled by Wayne Nonhof. Top winning Sam at three, top producing Sam at five.

great rear, too and that's why we went to Polar Prince because he had a magnificent rear.

Even though, "never the 'twain shall meet"? How did you manage that?

They should have met. It was a personality thing out there apparently.

Who were your influential stud

dogs?

Over the years, there have been four influential stud dogs which came out of the Moonlighter kennels. We had some very influential bitches too but we never specialied bitches so these boys would be the ones most people remember.

The first was Ch. Moonlighter's Hallmark, called Ike or Ike, the Tyke.

Ike was a big strong dog, dead sound down and back with a big moving sidegait. He was a great weight puller with his personal best being 1,870 pounds pulled at an SCA National. Dark eyed, shorter but correct coat, very strong legs. The best thing about Ike was that he was my dog and he knew it. He taught me to speak dog. He was a novice owner

handled Group winner before the Working Group was split. Ike sired some great puppies, many of the Wolf River dogs go directly back to Ike. Kind of sad that he has now fallen off the right side of many pedigrees. He was one of the earlier OFA clear dogs as was his mother. His sire, the Best in Show winning Ch. Saroma's Polar Prince was a similar muscular dog and his dam was our foundation bitch, Moonlighter's Altai Star Mist. It was rather a loose linebreeding. As I said, Misty was major pointed but after the shipping accident, we never showed her again. I was too afraid of getting thrown out of the ring because of the missing teeth. Now, I would go ahead and finish her. It about killed me the first time Bark Star beat Ike for the Breed. We retired Ike after that as I couldn't stand to have him defeated, even by the likes of Bark Star.

Our next special was BIS, BISS Am/Can Ch. Moonlighter's Ima Bark Star TT, Can. ROM. At the time Bark Starr was the outstanding QB of the Green Bay Packers and Wayne and his buddies came up with that name. I did not like it at the start but it kind of grew on me. Bark Star had it all. He had gorgeous type, no holes in his movement and a smile that wouldn't quit. Breeders from all over the country (and Mexico and Canada) sent him lovely, lovely bitches. Let's face it, you might have the greatest stud dog in the world but if breeders don't like him, he will not get the best bitches. Bark pretty much dominated the Midwest in those days. He was referred to as the Midwest Giant Killer and was the top winning Samoyed in the country and the top producing stud dog at the same time. This wasn't easy to do as at that time there were four owner handled Best in Show winning Samoyeds within 100 miles of each other in Wisconsin. They were Ch. Nordic's Wynter Sunniglo, owned by Hodges and Mathews; Am/Can Ch. Windsong's Yankee Doodle Daddi, owned by Eugene Ney; and Am/Can/Bda Ch. Karalot's Jak Frost O' Westwind, owned by Tim Malueg; and our Bark Star. All were owner handled. Talk about hot competition.

While Bark pulled his 1,000 pounds, we never asked him to do more fearing he would pull a muscle the day before a big show or something weird like that. Bark Star was always breeder/owner handled except for that one time when Wayne and Tim Trojan went to Iowa and decided to switch dogs. Not good! Otherwise, he was Wayne's dog and they had a real rapport which was visible in most of his pictures. The famous picture of Bark was taken by Russ Valentine in front of the DNR building at Minnesota State Fair Park at about three years of age. Bark sired some 60 champions as well as obedience stars, therapy dogs and

some weight pullers. His temperament was just as sweet as he looks in that well-known picture. You could spot a Bark Star head three generations down. At one of the Nationals in his heyday, six of the eight Awards of Merit went to Bark Star kids.

The funny thing is that he was a total outcross. The reason he was able to imprint his puppies is that both his sire and his dam were linebred. The sire to English lines and the dam to strictly American lines. We got lucky and got the best of both worlds.

Sharon Kremsreiter bred her Ch. Samkist's Classy Chassy (Shasta) to Bark and got an excellent litter



BISS, Am/Can Ch. Moonlighter's Treasure Chest CGC, NOP, NJP, "Chester" (BISS, Oakbrook's Strike It Rich x Ch. Moonlighter's Solid Gold Moment). A Group winner and winner of five specialties, owner handled.

which produced a top producing brood bitch owned by Karen McFarlane (Ch. Frostyacres I've Been Samkist) and an SCA National Specialty BISS and all breed BIS in Ch. Moonlighter's Ima Spark 'O Bark (Sparkle), owned and handled by the Lensens. Sharon kept a male from that litter and did a lot of Group winning with him.

The Trojans also did a breeding to Bark Star with their Gimli Mithril Cotton and got four champions, Ch. Mithril's Star of Earendil CD, Ch. Mithril's Star of Kheledzaram ROMC, Ch. Mithril's Icicle of Gim-Star and Ch. Mithril's North Star CD. Frankie will tell you that breeding was the foundation of Mithril Samoyeds.

At that time we had three little girls and there were many weekends when the station wagon left on Friday night with Wayne and myself in the front seat, three little girls in the back seat and two dogs in the rear, plus all of our paraphernalia. The children saw many a Midwest city from the wrong side of the tracks, like the Chicago Stockyards and myriad fairgrounds. My youngest who was the starting center for the U of WI (Milwaukee) basketball team for four years was astonished to see some of her teammates get really excited to cross the Mighty Mississippi on their way to play in Minnesota. She had done it many times and it was old hat to her.

We knew we had arrived when Peggy Borcharding, who was the SCA Bulletin editor for many years, showed me her catalog at a St. Louis show where she had written next to Bark Star's name, "Deserves his wins."

We followed glamorous Bark Star with strong, sturdy BISS, Moonlighter's Grandstander ROMC, ROMP, ROMX, called Stanley. Stanley's personal best pull was 2,410 pounds. And he proved to have an ability to pass the instinct of how to pull a load on to his best puppies. The day Stanley won his sixth Best in Specialty which broke Bark Star's record, I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. I am not much of a



Ch. Moonlighter's Grandstander ROMX, "Stanley" (Ch. West Free's Double Oh Seven x Ch. Sambushed Spoonful O Sugar). Weight pull personal best 2,410 pounds. Sire of 47 champions; winner of seven BISS.

groomer but I loved working on Stanley's coat. I could get every hair he owned to stand on end and spark silver at you. He had a free and easy sidegait which put him over with the Group judges. Wayne used to show Stanley but cancer got Wayne about fifteen years ago. It wasn't pretty but he was so brave. He showed me how to change oil in his beloved John Deere lawn tractor, tried to make sure I was going to be okay after he left. He was so good at welcoming new people into the breed

and dog show game. A pretty special guy.

After Wayne died, I was very sad for about a year and then the National came to Wisconsin and I couldn't ignore it - actually friends would not let me ignore it. I have to say that National pulled me out of the doldrums. I didn't know if Stanley would pull for me but, by golly, that is when he did his personal best. He wasn't even in good condition when he did that because I was feeling so low. He was all heart. I put



Ch. Moonlighter's Runnin and Laffin (BISS, BIS, Frostyacres Tanks to Rexann x Ch. Moonlighter's Laffin All The Way), fifteen months. If he were runnin and laffin, he would be chuckling, therefore "Chuck." Best in Sweeps, 2010 SCA National. Now with Hazel Fitzgibbon in the UK. Foot perfect in this picture.

HOAD after his name on pedigrees. It stands for "hell of a dog."

Then came BISS, Am/Can Ch. Moonlighter's Treasure Chest CGC, NAP, NJP, "Chester." Chester won five specialties and they were all big specialties. Again owner handled all the way. I simply cannot plan breedings, raise, train, and groom my dogs and then hand them over to a professional handler to have all the fun – and then pay him to do it too? Unfortunately, my knees are going to force me to let others show my dogs. That is also why I have to let some of my best dogs go to other, younger people. I wish I had found agility earlier. That is just playing games with your dogs and more fun than a human should have. You get so close to your dog, well, especially if you have a dog like Chester.

Chester and I were pretty close. Once he thought I had abandoned him. I went to Australia to judge the Australian National and an Australian Shepherd specialty and then over to New Zealand for some shows. All of that took about three weeks and I was home for two days and then went to the SCA National. I had made arrangements for someone to care for my dogs while I was gone and then my daughter, Carrie, gave Chester a bath and took him to the National in Kansas City. We had arranged for Tom Maurer to handle him. When I arrived, Tom and Tony told me he had been a perfect gentleman and did everything they asked of him but there was no spark – no joy in the dog. I asked Tom to bring Chester into the arena and work with him a little and I would watch from

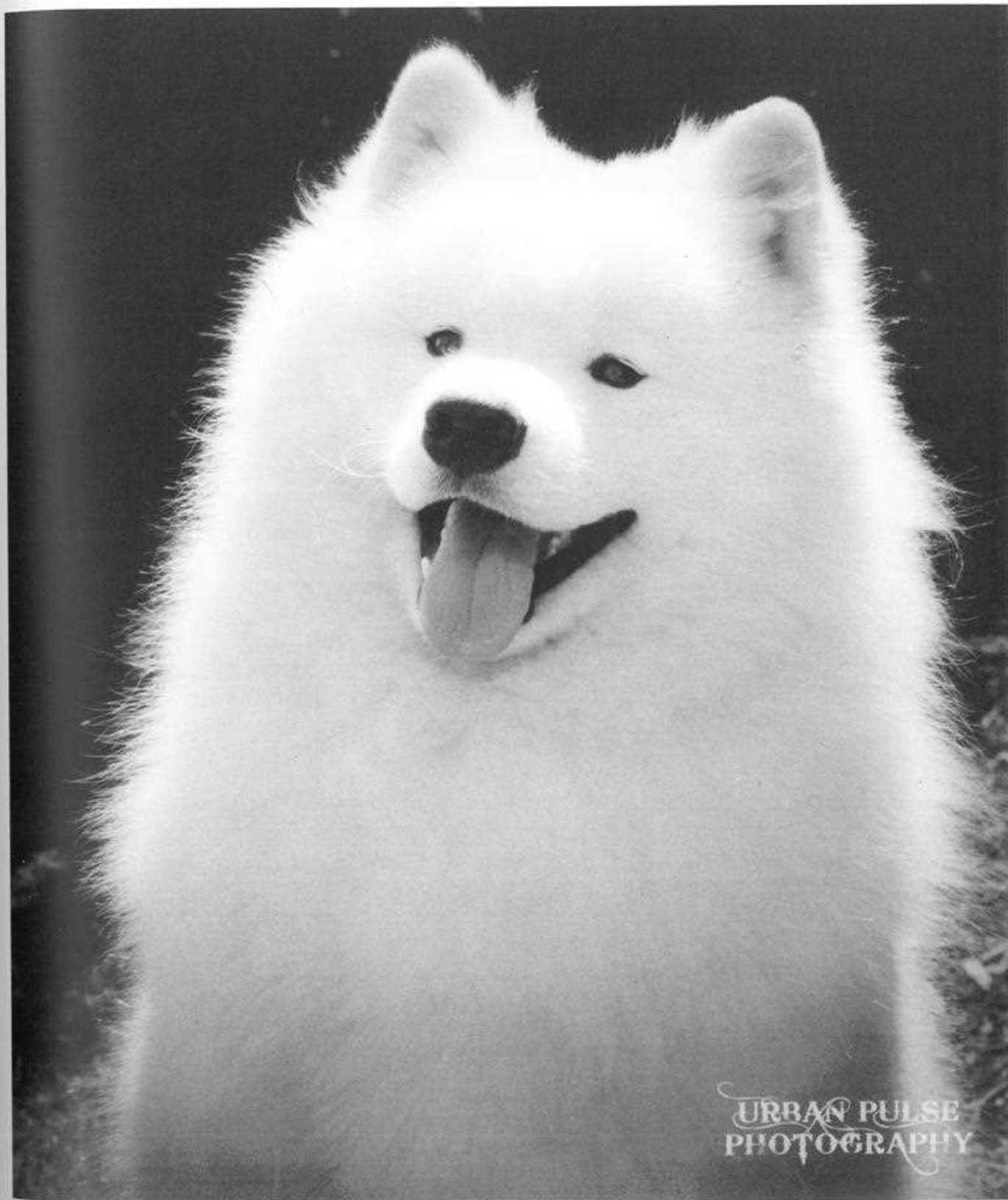
the other end of the building. I could see that while he would gait, his tail was at half mast, his head was down and he wouldn't use his ears at all. He was the very picture of a dejected dog. A friend who was standing beside me watching said, "You can't send him into the ring like that." So we walked across that arena and I said, "Chester." He looked and I said his name again and he started pulling Tom over. Tom let him go and he came and jumped on me, ran around in circles and jumped on me again with all kinds of gleeful doggy noises and moans. There were a lot of wet eyes around there. We talked about that with an animal communicator later and Chester said he now understood.

Along came Brett, BIS, Ch. Moonlighter's Home Town Hero.

What a ride that dog gave us: Sire, BIS, BISS, Ch. Frostyacres Tanks to Rexann CHIC. Dam, Ch. Moon-

lighter's That's My Girl CHIC. Named after Brett Favre QB of Green Bay Packers who was the

hometown hero in Green Bay for many years. I took Brett to his first show, the Chicagoland Specialty at



Chuck – you can almost hear him laughing.



Pam Landers' team in northern Minnesota. Left to right: Ch. Sylvan's Avalanche CD, NA, NAJ, WSX, (Stanley son); Mithril-Sylvan's Fly Away WS; Moonlighter's Elegance on Ice AX, AXJ, WS (Stanley daughter); Ch. Sylvan's Skylark CD, WSX (Stanley daughter), SCA Best in Sweeps.

the Chicago International. No shilly-shallying with small shows, just dumped him at the deep end. He came off with WD and BOW for a major at his first show. Followed it up the next day with another major. Came back to Wisconsin and gosh, if he didn't get a major at the Wisconsin Kennel Club show and BOB over specials and a Group placement. The

next day, RWD to a nice dog. Then he finished it all up with another major to finish at eight months. Well, what are you going to do with an eight-month-old champion? He really isn't ready to swim with the sharks. So I kept him home for a time but couldn't resist the National where he got an Award of Merit, handled by Carol Hjort. Sat on him

some more and at almost three put him out with new co-owner. Eugene Ney, and in three months' time Brett had a Best in Show on him. Funny thing is, I looked at the judges for that weekend and thought I might not even want to enter it. But it was three miles down the road from my home and, after all, his name is Home Town Hero, so yes, let's enter.

And since he was a hometown dog, the roof came off when he won the whole thing.

Now I have a dog here called Ch. Moonlighter's Runnin and Laffin. If he were running and laughing, he would be chuckling, therefore his

name is Chuck. Handled by Kathy Carr, Chuck was Best in Sweeps in 2010 SCA National under Donna Dannon. There were 148 entered in that Sweeps. Chuck has a near perfect eye, lovely head, has nice, thick feet and perfect foot timing. I think

Chuck will have an influence for good on the breed. Chuck is now in the UK with Hazel Fitzgibbon and in his first three shows has garnered a Best in Specialty Show.

I think his littermate, Ch. Moonlighter's Laffin Eyes is even better



Ch. Sambushed Spoonful 'O Sugar was BOS at the '86 SCA National in California under Bob Ward. Bred by Elizabeth Metz, Spoonie was the second foundation bitch for Moonlighter. In '87 she won the Brood Bitch class and received an AOM.

and am now shopping for a dog who might be good enough for her. The first time I heard Joyce Cain (old Samtara kennels) say that about one of her bitches, I thought, "Well, how arrogant is that?" But now I understand. When you have lovely bitches, you just don't want to lose what you have in the next generation. That's when you have to take a good look at your bitch to find her area of weakness, they all have some.

How did you know what type and style and everything you liked? Did you have a mentor, someone who was schooling you?

Early on, I got involved in club work so I met a lot of people with different lines and thoughts. At that time, the Samoyed Club of America had different divisions. I was in the Midwest division and I was secretary somewhere along the line and I was on the Julia T. Goodrich Foundation, which had money to work with and we did some good deeds and things like that. I got into that part of it, and we had the Bulletin and of course I read everything I could find. Then I was looking for another dog and Joyce Cain was the big breeder around here and we started a club. My friend Joanne Hilbelink and I started a club. We were sitting at the kitchen table drinking coffee, little kids were tearing around, and we said, "Why don't we start a club? There's a club like this in Washington state." So we did. We started the Greater Milwaukee Samoyed Fanciers (originally called WinnebagoLand Samoyed Fanciers) and I think I'm the only charter member still there. I'm old, you know. (laughter) That's how we got involved and we started going to dog shows.

How fun was that?

That was a lot of hard work, actually. We had a meeting at our place and we said, "Okay, everybody throw \$20 in the pot and that's what we're going to use to do our mailings and whatever we have to do." We had a lot of enthusiasm and our club was very active, we did some weight pulling, we did some recreational sledding, we put on some matches. It was just very busy, and we were all fairly young, we all had kids, we had a lot of picnic-type things and

potluck things. It was great fun. Then we got older, I don't know how that happened. (laughter) Then we kind of just went to showing and not doing so many other activities.

Talk about sledding. Did you have your own little Sammy team?

I lent my dogs out to some people. They ran on their teams for a little bit, but we only did recreational. We would take a snowmobile and make a trail and then we would send the dogs on it. I remember one time, I took the dogs out in the field behind our house and I got all the way across, it was an 80-acre field, and turned the dogs around, going to head home, and the dogs took off. I missed the sled. I was still on the other end of the field. They went home and Wayne came out on his snowmobile and he made two circles around me and went back home.

Then he turned around and came back, but he just had to give me a hard time first. It was fun.

You said that some of your dogs were weight pullers.

Yes, I had a really good weight puller. Ch. Moonlighter's Grandstander (Stanley) and Hallmark (pulled 1,870 pounds) were both good weight pullers. Stanley pulled 2,410 pounds which is over a ton. I always find a couple of things astonishing about weight pulling. The dogs do it simply because we ask them to, they really have no reason to want to do that. The other thing is, it's so much fun to watch the crowd at a weight pull because they're always leaning in the direction the weight is supposed to go. It's like they're trying to help them. It's really funny. We ought to get a picture of that sometime.



Ch. Moonlighter's That's My Girl, "Marlo" (Ch. Sylvan's Avalanche CD, NA, JAN, WSX x Ch. Moonlighter's Glacier Skimmer, "Skimmer"). The best bed dog that ever was! A CHIC dog.



Above: Ch. Moonlighter's Ima Grand Kid, "Kid" (Stanley x Ch. Sno-Kiddin's Silent Running, "Brook"). Earned two SCA AOM, dam of eleven champions. Right: Kid at fifteen months finishing. What a difference ten months makes.

Do you have any stories about weight pulling?

They were all pretty good. Very early, we had Hallmark at a dog extravaganza thing in Milwaukee. He hadn't pulled weight, he had been in maybe one weight pull before. We borrowed a harness and put it on him. Of course the weights got higher and higher and it was a huge ring with a huge crowd. We hooked him up and he started to pull, and he stopped and barked at me like, "Are you crazy? I can't pull that!" I yelled back at him, "No, I'm not crazy and yes, you can!" He did it. The crowd just roared, it was good. Dogs do appreciate applause, they understand it. The people who say dog shows are cruel should be at my house when I'm trying to load the van and keep the dogs out. They

know I'm going to a dog show and they don't want to miss it. They get all that attention there. It's like getting a massage when you get groomed all over. They like it.

Do you want to talk about some of your pivotal litters and breedings or some that took your kennel in a different direction?

I have changed direction a couple of times. Hallmark was the first one who was a very strong working dog. We were SO novice. Here we had this splendid dog who went Group 3 his first time out as a special, the next time it was Group 2, so we just expected a Group 1 at the next show. We were really disappointed with a Group 4. The people who had been around just looked at us with their jaws dropping. It was pretty funny!

The dog that followed him was Ch. Moonlighter's Ima Bark Star TT, he was an owner handled, BIS winning dog. He was a pretty boy. He was the number one dog in the country at the same time that he was the top producing stud dog in the country, which hardly ever happens. He



produced some 60 champions. He was a very good dog in the hands of novices. What was really nice about him is he was so sweet. One of my daughters said, "You know, if he was a human, I'd marry him." (laughter) He was as sweet as he looks in his famous picture.

We followed up that pretty boy, who could do everything, with Ch. Moonlighter's Grandstander. That dog got his name because we didn't have a name for him when we took him down to a Chicago specialty. He got in the ring and stood there like, "Well, I'm here. You can all get out of the way." So he became Grandstander because that's what he did. And because when Wayne showed a dog, he tended to grandstand, we

have to admit that. But he won a lot. That isn't the way to make friends, but it sure is fun.

After Grandstander came Chester, Ch. Moonlighter's Treasure Chest. I judged the National one year, and I put up a dog called Ono, Oakbrook's Strike It Rich, he was a really sound dog, great showman, wonderful type. I sent him a bitch and we got Chester. Chester won five or six specialties, owner handled, always owner handled, and he was just a great dog. He did everything we ever asked of him.

Now we have Brett, Ch. Moonlighter's Hometown Hero, who we call Brett for Brett Favre.

Of course! Wisconsin.

You bet. You can't live where I

do, halfway between Green Bay and Milwaukee and not be a Packer fan, you could get lynched.

So Chester got older and now there's Chuck and Brett. Chuck, if you're interested in names, Chuck's mother is Ch. Moonlighter's Laffin All The Way. Chuck's name is Ch. Moonlighter's Runnin' and Laffin. His sister's name is Moonlighter's Laffin Eyes. Her call name doesn't fit, we call her Poppy, because she always came to, "Puppy, puppy, puppy," so she's Poppy.

We had a bitch called Ch. Moonlighter's Ice 'N Spice, better known as Pup-Pup, she was a terrific brood bitch. I bred Misty to Richardson's, Ch. Kondako's Sundancer and got Ch. Moonlighter's Ice 'N Spice. She



Ch. Moonlighter's Ima Almond Joy, "Ali" (Bandit x Kid). Owned and handled by Karen Brooks-Hodges. Ali won at least two National Specialty AOMs. She had lovely biscuit in ears and face. Very strong personality.



BISS, Ch. Moonlighter's Ima Spark 'O Bark, "Sparkle." 1985 National Specialty BIS, pictured here in '82 winning the Greater Milwaukee Samoyed Fanciers Specialty. Always handled by "Joe Cool," Randy Lensen. Kathy Lensen, groomer par excellence smiles her approval. Is that a happy face or what?

produced some wonderful dogs. She finished as a puppy, she was really cute and sound. They have to have it all. Some are really into structure, structure, structure and don't give a rip about anything else. I suppose that's fine if that's fine for you. But that's not fine for me. Fine for me is structure plus type. They have to have type, they have to have a smile, they have to have a tail over their back that is a nice plume. You have to have substance, you can't be a shelly, no-bone dog, it just doesn't work.

I've judged BOB at the National three times now. In 2006 I placed Ch. Echo's Perfectly Clear as Best of Breed. She was a big bitch, probably pushing the standard, but she was gorgeous. In 2000, my Best of Breed was Ch. Oakbrook's Strike It Rich. "Ono." The other dog was Ch. Candenza Khasi of Southland (1990). Each time, they were sound, typey dogs, I really loved them and paid them the compliment of sending them a bitch. There's no higher compliment than that.

What does typey mean to you?

Do you have a certain head you like?

Type is the things that helped them survive in their native land: medium sized, well furred ears, thick, weather resistant coat, strong feet, long enough tail to cover the nose when sleeping.

I like a strong head. I don't want it to be overdone, but I want a typical northwest head, like Stanley's head was, or Hallmark's head. I like them to be softened a little bit, but I do not like a head that looks like a wolf. These are not wolves, these are dogs. They have to smile, it's written right

in the standard. It says it's very important. I can't argue with that.

From Hallmark ...

Let's see, it was Hallmark, Bark Star, Stanley, Chester, then ...

Then Misty.

Well, Misty was the foundation bitch. I'm a very small kennel. Right now I have seven indoor/outdoor runs. That's about all I can handle. Sometimes I get over dogged and then I have to place some dogs, like I just did with Brett.

Eugene Ney used to show dogs in the '70s and then over the years he got transferred here and there and everywhere for business, and he came back and he wants to be a judge. He needed one more litter, you have to have four litters to apply to be a judge and he came to me and I said, "I have three bitches here. We can work something out." Then they saw Brett. I took him and Terry, his wife, down to my basement and I do have a trotter down there. I put every dog I had on the trotter and they looked them all over and they liked them, but Brett is such a smoozer, that he went over and laid his head on Terry's lap, and went, "Ummm." He just schmoozed her and she said, "I like this one." Now we co-own Brett. It's good because all of a sudden my knees are bad and I really can't tear around the ring like I used to. He can, and Brett's a big moving dog. He can get him in the Group ring and he can move with him. That's a win-win situation I think. (Since this interview, Brett won an all breed Best in Show.)

From Brett ...

We haven't got any, Brett just bred his first bitch this week.

Were those your top winners?

Those were probably my most influential ones. The boys of course are more influential because they can sire more puppies. If you don't have good bitches, you're dead in the water. Like Bark Star sired 60 champions, he got bitches from Mexico and Canada and all over the U.S. Then you were shipping bitches, you weren't sending frozen semen around. It was the real deal. If you don't get the good bitches, you can have the stud dog but he isn't going to have any influence at all.

The most influential in the breed.



Am/Can Ch. Moonlighter's Ima Better Bet, "Betsy." Owned and handled by Frank and Pat Kreif. Littermate to Ima Bark Star.

Sired the most puppies perhaps.

Yes. The most champions. Just champions we were talking about. But whenever you have a stud dog, he's going to sire some clinkers, no matter what you do. There's always going to be the bitch that just doesn't mesh with him, she doesn't have what he needs in the background, or he doesn't have what she needs. If you've been in the breed long enough, and I've been through the hip dysplasia scare and the eye scare and PRA scare, it's all a matter of clean it up, breed around it, get rid of it, find out about it, you have to do some research and find out where it is and how you get around it. It's not for wimps.

What about bitches? Which of your bitches contributed a lot to your

kennel?

Probably Ima Grand Kid. She had beautiful babies. That's something about this breed, it's a very natural breed. It's not made, it's a natural breed. We get natural breedings, we get natural whelpings, the mothers are good mothers. I don't think I've ever had a mother in all those years that wasn't a good mother. I had one I had to tube-feed in the last four years or so. She was seven when we bred her and I don't like to breed them that late, but I needed this litter. We x-rayed her and she had nine babies in there. I said, "Let's do a c-section, I just can't put her through that." So we did. Her milk never came down. I don't know if it had to do with the anesthesia or what, but I had to tube-feed

those babies. That scared me wit-
less. I don't like to do that kind of
thing. But normally, this breed is
hardy, very hardy, it's a wonderful
thing.

*Tube-feeding is not for the faint
of heart.*

Oh, no, if you get that tube in the
wrong spot, you have a dead puppy.
Scary. But the vet told me, "You put
the tube in there and you pinch their
tail and if they squeak, you're in the
right place, if they can't squeak,
you're in the lung." So that helped.

I have had such good friends
who are helpful. I have an Irish Set-
ter friend who if I ever need any-
thing, she's right there. She's like,
"Oh, you need a puppy scale? Sure!
I'll show you how to tube-feed." Although the vet had done it, I need-
ed somebody else to do it, too.

*How many litters do you think
you've bred over the years?*

I do one or two litters a year.
Two of those years, I did three in a
year, that's too much work. That's a
lot of work. But I would say two lit-
ters per year in 50 years, say, averag-
ing five pups per litter, comes to 500
puppies, that's incredible. I don't
think that can be right.

Does it feel like more?

Yes.

Maybe you skipped some years.

It's possible. In the years that
we were campaigning a dog, we
didn't breed as many litters. There's
always people pounding on your
door for puppies.

Most of them go to pet homes?

You tend to keep the good ones
and place the others.

What was your best litter?

The last one was the best one.
(laughter) Probably the Bark Star lit-
ter. Ima Better Bet was in that litter.
It was just a very consistent litter.
The thing is, Bark Star was an out-
cross. His dam was linebred, his sire
was linebred, to different dogs. Got
them together and we got the best of
both worlds. His sire was an English
dog, and his dam was all American.
That was a very nice litter.

Very consistent?

Yes. It's amazing.

Did they all finish?

No, I didn't get them all in show
homes. I generally get one or two or
three into show homes and the rest

go for pets. After all, you have to
have temperament for a dog to be a
good pet. It's really important to me.
I used to stand in my driveway and
cry when people left with my pup-
pies. I don't do that anymore. Now
I see it's a win-win situation. The
puppy has a great home and the peo-
ple, the kids, are going to grow up
with a dog and then I just go back
into the kennel building and I talk to

the mother. Because they can't
count, but when you get down to two
or three puppies, they know that
puppy is gone.

Are they distressed?

Sometimes. Not with the first
ones, but when you get down to two
or three, it's like, "I don't know
about this."

I just lost a dog. I'm too upset to
talk about it right now. Maybe I'll



Star-Chey's Moonlight Rumors, "Arrow" (Stanley x Ch. Trailblazer's Rumor Has It). Shown here with a handful of ribbons and plaques earned at the 2006 National. Bob Sencenbaugh's top weight pulling dog.



Ch. Moonlighter's Ima Firecracker CD (Eng/Can/Am Ch. Delmonte This Is It x Pup-Pup). Bark Star sister. Co-owned with Eve Rittberg. Shown here going RWB at the Potomac Valley specialty, judge John Connelly.

write about it later. That's another thing, I do write. I have written for the SCA Bulletin and The Samoyed Quarterly for I don't know how many years. Then there's always that deadline saying, "Jeanne, what are you going to send us this time?"

I don't think anyone has ever talked about the feelings of the bitch when you take her puppies away. No one has mentioned how upset the bitch might be. Some bitches don't get too upset, though.

No, some are glad to get rid of them, that's true. Ima Bark Star was the top stud with 60 champion get. Chester has about twenty kids out there that are champions. Over the years it's been various dogs.

Who was your biggest winner?

That would be Bark Star. He was a BIS winner, he was number

one in the country, owner handled for a couple of years.

Was that your husband handling?

Yes. He kept me chained to the grooming table. He's out socializing and there I am. I was never closer to my husband than when we were campaigning that dog because we had to spend all those hours in the car and we had to talk to one another so that's an advantage, I guess.

You campaigned him for a year?

I think maybe two years that we took him out. He was very sensitive, after awhile they really get into your head and all you have to do is look at them and they know either they're supposed to do something or not supposed to do something. Ch. Moonlighter's Treasure Chest, I took him into agility. I wish I had found agili-

ty years ago because I can't do it anymore. But he loved it. And we got so close, I won some Groups with this dog myself. He's getting older and I thought, "We'll try something else." We did agility, loved it. Absolutely loved it. I even took my grandchildren through a class, which really paid off in the end, because my youngest grandchild said to her dad, "You know, it's Christmastime. Grandma needs a teeter."

A what?

Teeter-totter. And the next year it was, "You know, Grandma needs an A-frame." They all appeared on Christmas or my birthday or whatever, so that was fun. All the dogs loved that A-frame, they'd get up on top and want to look around like they're king of the hill. So that's a good activity. Now everybody is

spending a little time doing rally, which looks like it might be fun. Maybe I'll try that.

Not as much running involved?

Yes, exactly. That would be good for Chester.

Was Bark Star your best show dog?

Bark Star was a consummate showman. Wayne could just move that lead a little bit and he'd fix that foot, that kind of thing. He was really good. He only quit on us one time and I don't know why that happened.

Did he win the National Specialty?

No. He had a couple of AOMs at the National. The judges were never quite right, and that's the thing about the National. The thing about being a top winner is being in the right place with the right dog at the right time. It doesn't always happen. Sometimes you don't have the knowledge that the judge over there wants his dogs to be pink instead of white or whatever and you can waste a lot of money that way. You really do need to keep records, which I don't.

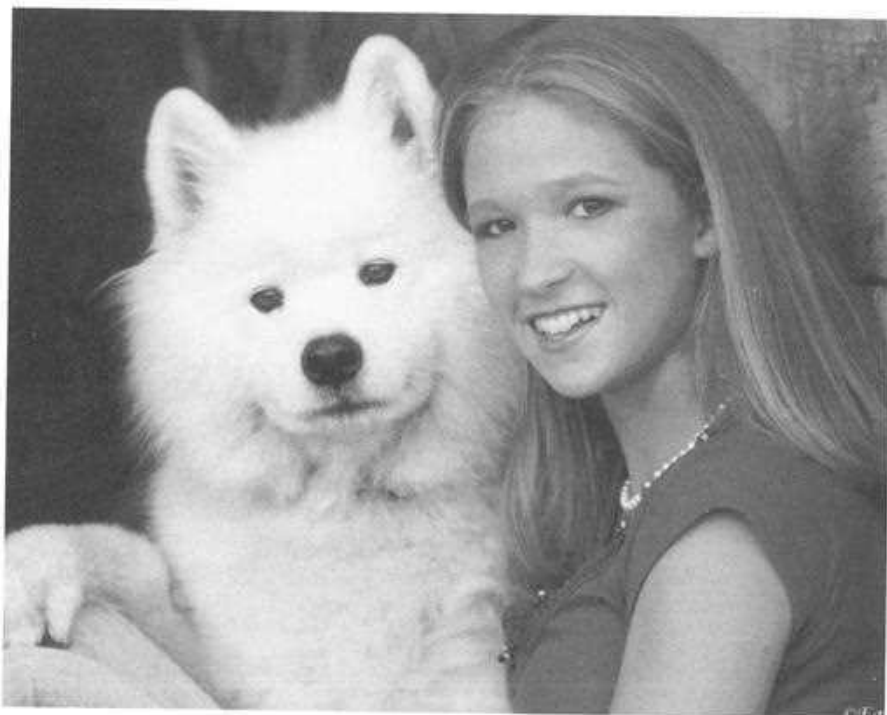
Do you think you were ever at a disadvantage because you weren't professional handlers?

Absolutely. So often you go in the Group ring and it's one, two, three, four and they're all handlers. Or they're all the Doberman and the Rottie, you know the dogs that place in the Group all the time. There you are with your hairy dog. Sometimes judges don't know how to get into that coat and find out what's under there. You can look at a dog moving and you can pretty much guess what's there. But you really do need to get in there and feel the bones and everything like that.

A lot of judges just don't do hair. How can they not like this breed? I don't understand that. Because it's such a sweet, friendly breed. You never see a nasty Sammy, you just don't. In all these years, I've seen two. There was one more, but he had brain tumors, so I can kind of forgive him for that. But two, out of how many? I've probably seen a million of them. I had my hands on quite a few of them, too. Because that's the advantage of doing the National Specialty is you get your



Moonlighter's Atilla, the Honey. "Honey" goes Best Puppy in regular classes at the '99 National Specialty at six months, two days. Left to right: Judge Joan Luna, handler Jeanne Nonhof, breeder Carrie Hellestad, SCA President Amelia Price, Show Chair Rob Barkhaus.



Moonlighter's Private Stock, "Mahley" is a working stable dog. She puts the horses out every morning and moves them in every evening. Harasses the barn cats in between. Pictured here outside the barn with granddaughter, Whiney Mahloch.

hands on all these good dogs. It's wonderful.

And you ended up breeding to them afterwards because you'd been touching them.

Two out of the three I did. Then you can go back and look at what you did with certain dogs and which ones you pulled and you say, "Oh." And you know if you're doing an honest job, you know that that's a good dog. You don't look at the handlers, look at the dogs. It's all about the dogs.

As a judge, what do you do exactly when they come into the ring? What are your steps? What's going through your mind?

Check the numbers. I have to do that, the paperwork. The judging isn't any problem, it's the paperwork that's the problem. Get them in, send them around, look for limpers and then kind of walk down the line and take a look at what I see, what I have to work with.

What are you looking for when you're going down the line? Are you looking at outline or the overall picture?

The overall picture. Because he has to have it all. I have a foot fetish, I have to say. I like to see nice feet. The Malamute standard is very adamant about good feet and good running gear. Sammies don't go into it that far, but they do call for a nice foot. That's important because they're a working dog for heaven's sake. It's also important that he can cover ground.

Does everyone know you have a foot fetish?

They don't know it yet.

Now they will.

I think I got to the point where nobody brings me a bad rear end anymore.

Are you a rear end freak, or just a structure freak in general?

I don't think I'm a structure freak. I have to have the whole package. I like a really nice front end on a dog, too. The rear is the motor, the front end is the carrier of the power. So you have to have both. If the front end breaks down, the rear isn't going anywhere. You have to have it all and it doesn't hurt to have type, too. In fact, somebody came up to me the other day and



Australian National Specialty judge Nonhof puts Aust. Ch. Kalaska Sheer Excellence BIS. Bred by Denise Klaaysen.

said, "I just love your dog." This was at a dog show and he had just won, and I said, "It helps to be cute." It does help to have a dog that's appealing.

Appealing in expression?

You have to have that Sammy smile. It has to be there. The Sammy smile takes in the ears and the eyes, wonderful eyes, and the mouth, lipline. It isn't just the lipline, it's the proper eyes, the smile and the ears that are within the outline of the head that match, that fit. There's a lot to it.

It seems to me they all look pretty cute. Is it ever difficult as a judge to sort out a good head?

You don't have to worry about heads if they're all good heads. That's what you do when you judge the National. You go in there and you choose for movement. Pull out

your best moving dogs. You give everybody two chances at least. Then you get into the nitty-gritty of the breed. You check tailsets, you check eyes and you check feet and lumber in their legs. If that's a skinny little toothpick of a leg covered with big, fat hair, you want to know it. So you go in there and you feel it. We've had tails in our breed that are all over the map. There are beautiful, big, gorgeous plumes of tails and there are little corkscrew tails - wrong. Tails seem to be a problem in this breed, although it doesn't usually affect how they run.

When you get down to sorting out the final details, say one has a bad tail, and one has bad feet, other things being equal, how do you sort that down?

I would go with good feet, absolutely.

Of course, you would, but other little faults like ...

This is a working breed, they

have to have those things.

But say they have a bad earset or a bad tail?

Bad earset and a bad tail, let me think. I'd pick a different dog.

Really?



Ch. Whytewynd's King of Currumpaw, "Lobo" (Stanley x White Magic's Arctic Sonja's Dreamer). Owned by Bob and Tina Leininger on the East Coast. Sire of eight champions: Ch. Whytewynd's Need We Say More, Ch. Whytewynd's Sweet 'nd B' Shadowin, Ch. Whytewynd's PJ Crowd Pleaser, Ch. Shadowlane's Queensryche, Ch. Shadowlane's Syndam Hill, Ch. Moonson's Dust in the Wind, BISS, Ch. Moonson Quintsns O'Whytewynd, Ch. Moonson's Run Like the Wind.

Maybe.

No, bad earset versus a dog with a bad tail.

Oh, which am I going to go with?

Yes.

Probably the bad tail, because our standard is quite specific about the Sammy smile being very important and since the ears are part of the smile, that has to be important.

I just wondered how you sort it out, because you have to be faced with those kinds of decisions every time.

Usually all things aren't equal anyway. It's so much a balancing act when you're judging.

I know, that's why I wanted to know how do you sort them out?

You just do. You know what you think is correct. Some things are more important than others, you have to balance.

Is a lot of it gut, like "I'm look-

ing at that one and it's not presenting a good picture"? Do you think through every single fault or do you just say, "I don't know" and move on?

Say there is a dog in the ring with a long back. That's a serious fault. Because he can't do his work. He's going to have a problem. He might be able to gait, because you know what they say, you either breed long bodies or short legs if you want them to track right. That's not how it's supposed to be done. I'll include a picture of a dog that's moving very well. It happens to be Chuck. His four off the floor and it's beautifully timed. You can look down the line and say, "Hmm, that one's got a long back, that one's a little too cobby to move well." It's really fun when you go over the dog and your hands tell you what's there. Then you send them on the triangle and you see a nice rear and you see a nice sidegait

and you say, "Oh, please, God, let it have a good front to go with the rear." It's a game to figure out how he's going to move and then send him and see if you're right. If you're not, you go over the dog again. It's interesting ... always a learning experience.

Have you had some moments when you're judging that are especially memorable where you found a dog that later went on to become a top winning dog or you saw a dog that you were just blown away by that you got to put up?

Yes. I gave Oakbrook's Strike It Rich BOB at the National. That dog never put a foot wrong, was beautifully conditioned, was a lovely mover, showed nice type, I couldn't beat him in the ring. I think he was like the middle of the first Group or something like that and I saw that dog and thought, "Wow." I kept trying to beat him with all the dogs that were after him and nobody could beat him. He just was it. He's the dog I sent a bitch to.

How deep is the quality at the National? Is it pretty nice these days?

We get about 400 entries, so there's a lot to choose from. We're the number ten National in the country for size.

Has anyone ever questioned your judging decisions?

Not often, Sammy exhibitors are pretty good. Once in awhile someone will say something like, "But you put this dog up before." I say, "The competition is a little different today." I'm thinking, "Good thing I'm judging this, not you."

Have you been taken over by handlers?

We have more handlers than we've ever had. We saw a lot of owner handlers in the ring today. For quite awhile Sammies didn't have a lot of handlers, mostly because there's a lot of work involved in them.

Why did you decide to become a judge and when?

I was sitting at ringside one day and I watched a judge do a total hash on the breed and I said, "I could do better than that." So I did. That was maybe twenty years ago. I didn't get a lot of breeds, I got five breeds and



This fuzzy ten-week-old puppy grew up to be Int/Fin/Swed/Estonian Ch. Funny Fabric Ima Spitfire, "Brie." Bred and owned by Tuija Johansson in Finland. A Stanley daughter out of a Funny Fabric girl. Frozen semen.

that's enough.

What are your other breeds?

Siberian Huskies, Alaskan Malamutes, Australian Shepherds and Bernese Mountain Dogs.

Are you ever going to go for the Group?

I don't think so. I don't have any real ambition to do that.

You're just interested in those breeds?

There are other breeds I'm interested in. But you have to jump through so many hoops and it just isn't worth it. I'm 71, why should I do that now?

These days, what faults disturb you the most and which disturb you the least as a judge?

Lack of substance is a big one. Which disturb me the least? Actually I think we're in pretty good hands, our breeders are good, we have wonderful temperament in our breed, people have paid attention to that. Rear ends which are off the ground too long. Wasted motion in the rear. You have to have follow through, but you don't have to have that leg dragging out behind you. It's just not efficient.

Have you judged outside the U.S.?

Yes. I judged the Australian National Specialty four or five years ago. They have wonderful dogs there, absolutely wonderful, better than England, better than the U.S. They took the best from England and blended some U.S. in there and they have better dogs than we do.

How is that possible?

I don't know. Think about it, all I was seeing was the stuff entered at the National. I didn't see the podunk shows in the back 40.

So compared, their National had better dogs than our National?

Their percentage of good dogs was higher. We get big numbers at our National, but their percentage was higher. We went over to New Zealand, too and went to a dog show there. They were pretty decent there. The English dogs, we had an English judge come in and do the Greater Milwaukee Samoyed Fanciers Specialty last year and she saw Chuck and said, "I could finish him in England." He's going in January.

Is he?



Multi Group winner GCh. Moonlighter's Summerghost, "Barkley" (Stanley x Skimmer), now enjoying retirement at fourteen. Barkley is a Mex. GCh., Central American Ch., Pan American Ch. and Int. Ch. Owned by Don Callahan just outside of Mexico City.

Yes. He's coming back, though, he's not going forever. I will collect him before he goes.

Just in case?

You just never know. But it's somebody who, I've been to her house. I've known her for a long time.

Who is it?

Hazel Fitzgibbon.

What part of England?

Derbyshire, near Birmingham, I think. I went over to Crufts.

How was that?

It was wonderful. I went to the show, they said, "Here's the lead and

here's the dog, you haven't had the Crufts experience if you don't get in the ring, go." I was like, "Wait, I don't have the right shoes! I can't run in these!" I think I went second out of four in that class, but they don't handle their dogs. I'm sure I looked awful out there because I was over-handling the dog. I was doing the American thing. But it was fun. Crufts is marvelous. They have four Sammy clubs in England. What you want to do is get there early in the morning when they're getting all the stuff out for their booth and grab it up quick because it's going to be

gone. They have Sammy wool mittens there for two and a half bucks.

Like hand knitted wool mittens?

Yes. You take the combings from these dogs, and people spin it, and knit it, sometimes weave it and you can make the most beautiful things out of it.

Two and a half bucks? You can't even ...

No, you can't. (laughter) That was six years ago, I don't know what the rate exchange is now. That would make a difference. It was wonderful, they had such great stuff there.

It was a shopping bonanza?

Something like that. I came home a little lighter in the pocket. It was great. You can go to England, if you shop well, my friend Lynette Sylvester, called me and said, "Jeanne, let's go to Crufts." I said, "Lynette, we're in a couple different financial levels here." She said, "Never mind, I'm the queen of cheap." She got us round-trip tickets and a car for two weeks for less than \$600. Incredible. So we did Stonehenge, and we did York and we saw Hadrian's Wall. We did everything.

We stayed in this cute little bed-and-breakfast with all the chintz and the wicker. It was wonderful. It was a great trip. It was beautiful. One of the best parts was Kew Gardens, that took two days.

What was the Australian experience like judging. You said they had good dogs, but what was the actual show like?

It was an outdoor show. It happened to be a beautiful day. They don't have specials class, all of their champions are in with the regular classes. I ended up putting up two dogs that were already champions for the CCs that they give out. There was a bitch I put up there, she was out of coat, but she just flew. She was smooth as silk and she was a beautiful bitch. And the dog, I really wanted to breed to that dog. I should go back and look at that. He was a beautiful dog. He had an English background, but he'd been in Australia for four generations or something like that. They were good, big, strong dogs. Not over standard, nice type. I just wanted to tell them to put them in my car with their papers.

What did you like best about

Australia?

The people were so sweet. They were very nice. We landed in Sidney and we did the Sidney Opera House, we went to a play there. I really wanted to see the Great Barrier Reef, but it's a big nation and we didn't get that far. You can only do so much. But we visited a lot of the southern coast. We had wonderful hosts and hostesses there. Barry Scott was the show chair and he and his wife, Sue, just couldn't have been any nicer. Barbara Strong co-hosted. We had a wonderful time. We did some shopping there, too. It was wonderful.

How important to you is conditioning and presentation?

The structure is there, it's better if they're conditioned. If they're a little sloppy, I might forgive that. It depends on what the competition is. Presentation, I can usually see past that. If there's a new handler in there and they're doing a good job, if you get to see the dog, that's fine, put them up, if they have the necessary stuff. And get somebody else hooked, that's important.

Do you have any feelings about size? Does it bother you if they're very large or very small? Or is bigger better in Sammies?

We're seeing dogs quite a lot at the top of the standard. Anything that is within the standard is correct. You can't penalize them for being too small if they're within the standard, you can't penalize them for being too big if they're within the standard. You penalize according to the deviation. We hardly ever see any that are too small. I don't think people bring them out. Bitches sometimes we see smaller. Not very often.

Do you feel like you have a good eye for a dog?

Yes.

Were you born with it or did you develop it?

I developed it. Here's how it happened; we went to Michigan once to pick a puppy out of a litter. I think there were like eight in the litter and I spent hours down and back and feeling them and all that stuff and I picked this



Moonlighter & Heartwoods Way to my Heart (Patton x Ch. Moonlighter's Laffin All The Way, "Giggles). Owned by Kathy Carr.

puppy out and then my husband would walk up and he would say, "That one." And it would be the one I had spent all this time picking out. It made me want to throw myself on the ground and scream. He had a good eye, but I developed mine. I say if you can judge dogs, you can judge horses, you can judge cows. Because if you see the quality, it's there, you can read the standard, you know what's called for. I developed it. You read the standard, you know what's called for, you should be able to do it. Of course the AKC wants you to jump through a bunch of hoops, which is good, it really is good. But sometimes it just doesn't seem worth the effort. If I get to judge, maybe three or four shows a year, that's good. I don't want to be gone all the time either.

Would you rather judge specialty shows and National Specialties?

Than all breed shows?

Yes. Do you do any all breed shows?

Sure. I just got back from Clackamas, Oregon where I did all my breeds. I didn't do Mals out there, but there was a specialty the day before, so I had nice entry in Sammies. The Siberians were wonderful. It was a good show, it was fun.

Any judges past or present whom you really respect?

Ed Bracey.

Was he a breeder-judge?

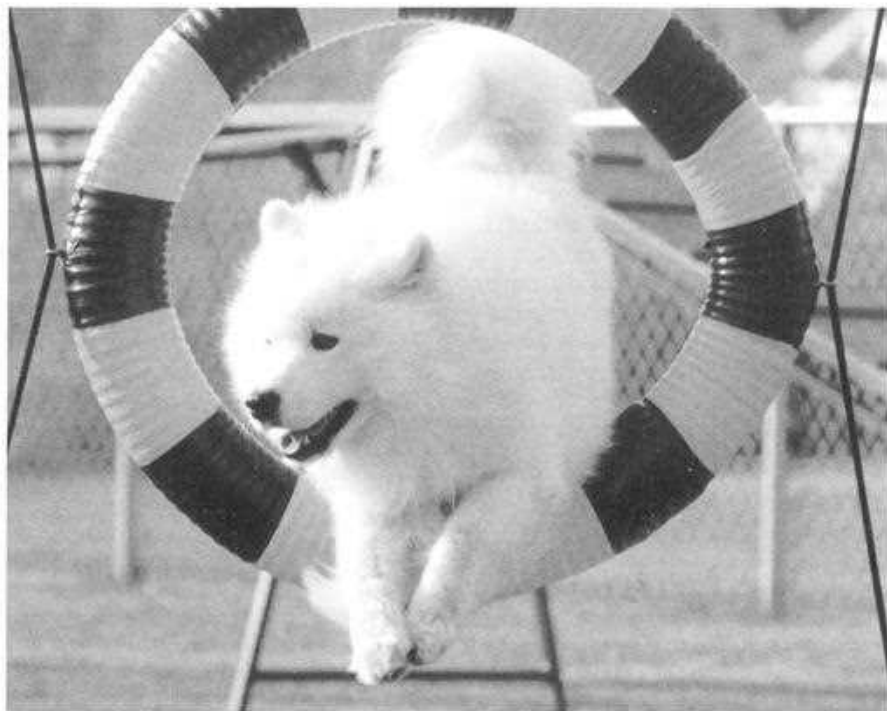
No, he was a Terrier man. He came over from England as a young person and he knew the breeds pretty well. Melbourne Downing was a great judge. Joyce Cain used to judge. They've all passed away. But there are good judges around, I just don't keep track of them. I always figure, the dogs are good enough, they should win under any judge. That doesn't always happen.

How do you sort out type versus soundness as a judge? Do you look at the dog differently as a judge than you do as a breeder?

No, because when you're judging dogs, you're looking for breeding stock. It's the same thing.

Do you tend to look at dogs that resemble your dogs?

I've had different types of dogs, so I don't specifically stick to a cer-



Chester doing his agility thing.

tain type. Hallmark was a big, strong dog. Bark Star was a little smaller, and prettier. Then we came back to Stanley who was a big, strong dog again. Then Chester was probably more of a blend. So I've had them all.

As long as they're balanced?

And aren't ugly.

What was Ono like?

He was a wonderful dog. In fact, I planned the last litter sired by him because he was at the Eukanuba in Florida and was flying home to California and arrived there dead. We never did hear exactly what happened.

What do you like to see in a good rear?

I really like good rears, but they have to have a good front to match it. It's the whole dog, it isn't one single thing. You have to balance them.

How important is pigment?

You have to have it. The standard says, nose black for preference, but brown nose not to be penalized. What does that tell you? It's not terribly important, but big pigment gaps like in the eye rim would be a problem in the Arctic because of the glare. There are so many things that are related to the Arctic, mostly they're survival things like, you

don't want big ears that don't have a lot of hair on them. You want medium sized ears that are well-furred, it says it right in the standard. Not only that, but their head is supposed to be well-furred up to the eyes not stop right at the ears. I just saw that in the standard because I really didn't realize it before. You keep reading the standard, you'll find little things.

The tail is up over the back so it doesn't get loaded down with ice and snow, dragging it through the ice and snow, that's not good. They have substantial bone and substance because that's what they need to survive. The other thing they need to survive is Sammies don't eat much. They like to eat much, but they don't need to eat much because they didn't get much in the Arctic and the dogs that needed too many calories, apparently were weeded out. Because this is a very easy-keeping breed, they get fat easily. You don't want too long a snout on a muzzle either, but it also can't be too short because they have to warm the air down to the lungs and it's pretty cold up there. They have an eye that is almond-shaped because it squints better. You can't have round eyes that are protruding because they can get eye

problems. Snow driving into the eyes that are bulging out. Their coat is a two-layer coat. The undercoat which is really warm and soft and that's the hair they use to make fabrics out of. The outer coat protects the inner coat from getting wet. All these type of things have to do with their environment.

Do you see a lot of incorrect coats?

No. Pretty much correct coats, of course this time of year you have to be able to differentiate between a dog that's out of coat, and has lost its

Biscuit we call it. I saw one that looked like a Palomino. It had a golden coat and a white tail and a white neck. It was beautiful. But I think show breeders tend to want to have a white coat, mainly because the judges want a white coat. We are educating them, and have been for quite a few years, that biscuit is perfectly legal, so is cream.

Is biscuit okay over the whole dog?

It is.

Do you have a preference for the white?



Group placing Ch. Moonlighter's Stan By Me (Stanley x Marlo). Judge Karen McFarlane. Owner-handler, Carol Hjort.

undercoat. You can usually find some undercoat somewhere on the dog. If you feel the dog and it feels out of coat, usually on the top of the butt, or on the neck, those are the last places to go and you can usually find some undercoat and know that this dog does have undercoat. The standard refers to that also. They do go out of coat in the summer.

What about color? Do you have any problems with a lot of buff?

Don't trap me like that. (laughter) I have white coats in my kennel, simply because I was attracted to the breed because of the white coat. But when I'm judging, it doesn't mean a thing. Freckles are kind of cute.

Biscuit wasn't always acceptable though, was it?

No, they used to bleach it out because judges weren't educated. There was a dog that was competing with Bark Star back in the good old

days. I never knew he had a big pinto spot on his side until I saw him after he was retired. They bleached it out all the time. I don't know what his puppies look like, I never used him. But I wonder how much he passed that on.

Sammy tails are different than the other Arctic breeds. The Siberian Husky has a brush tail and it's the same length all the way around. The Malamute doesn't have a tail that's up and over and down the side like the Sammy. The Sammy's tail is up and over the side. It's okay if it touches his back. Some people want to see what they call a donut hole. I don't find that to be very important.

What does the standard say about the tail?

Up, over the back and down the side, and well-furred. We don't want a little rat tail.

What are your thoughts about the standard? Is it a good one?

It's a good one. It allows wiggle room. It's not like some of the Terrier standards where they say, muzzle, two and a half inches long. And backskull three inches long. It's not that specific. It's more of an open standard. They're talking about doing a new illustrated standard for the breed and we need to include all the things that are acceptable. So it's going to be difficult, it will be interesting to see how that comes out.

That will probably take a couple years, right?

A couple five. (laughter) I was president of the SCA for five years. That was enough. I was probably on the board for 25 years, overall. I'd go on, I'd come off, I'd go on, I'd come off. The club is pretty well run.

What happens as the president? What are some of your better memories from that?

Well, I will tell you what one of the worst things was. I think it was in the second year of my presidency. There was a wonderful dog who was, far and away, the top winning Samoyed in the country. He applied for Top Winning SCA dog. He was bred, handled and shown by an SCA member. The problem was that his ownership had been transferred to a sponsor who was not a SCA member. The rules clearly state the dog

must be owned by a member. So he was ineligible. Another dog collected the somewhat tarnished award. A sad thing but the officers and board had to follow the rules.

There were some good things, like we instituted the Communications Service which has become more important as time goes on as we all become more computer oriented. One year we revamped the entire Constitution. What a boring job that was. Members quit reading the minutes at that point. I don't blame them. I didn't want to read them either. When you have to argue over one little word or a dot or a comma or something like that, it's ridiculous. The big thing is getting a sponsor, a group, to put on your National Specialty. We used to do it, local clubs did. Now it's a coalition of people from practically all across the country. Because of computers, you can farm those jobs out like trophies. It's a big job, but it doesn't have to be done right in the state in which that show is taking place. That's always a big job. This year we're going to Salt Lake City and we're having a pack hike on an island in the Great Salt Lake. Doesn't that sound like fun?

Is that Greater Antelope Island?

I don't know what it is. I think that would be fun.

I've seen it a few times, I've always wanted to go out there.

It's a long drive from Wisconsin. I don't want to fly my dogs, I really don't. I've gotten to the point now where I'll take that extra day. You're retired, you don't have any money, but you have time. I saw the Grand Canyon because we were going out to California to a specialty and we looked on the map and said, "Oh, it's only half an inch off the highway." (laughter) We did a detour and saw the Grand Canyon and I have to tell you, I had to hang on to a tree looking over that thing. Talk about awesome! It was truly awesome.

Showing dogs is a wonderful thing, especially if you rotate your National around the country, you get to see everywhere eventually. It's a great thing.

Do you do any obedience or performance?

I don't do obedience. It's too

militant. I did do the agility with Chester.

Just with Chester?

I wish I had found it sooner. I just can't run anymore. I'm going to do some rally because it's fun. The dog likes it.

What is it about rally that attracts you?

The dog will like it. They like anything they do with you. It is playing games with your dog.

What about care and feeding?

I feed dry kibble. It's balanced and the dogs like it and I get good coats with it. I don't have a problem. If a bitch is in whelp, she'll get extra vitamins and that kind of thing, but I don't feed canned food or anything like that. I give supplements when they need them. In the winter when it's just been so awful for so long, I might do a little something extra. They get dry food in the summer. It keeps their teeth clean and in the winter they get warm water on their



*Ch. Moonlighter's Jump for Joy (Ch. Mystical's Stolen Memory x Kid).
Owned and handled by Pam Barbe in Texas.*

food. It warms up their tummy. After my husband died, I sold the place we were in, it was just too big, it was eight acres and a day's worth of lawn mowing every time you mowed the lawn. I built this little place, it's on five acres, and it has a kennel attached to the garage which has seven indoor/outdoor runs. In the center aisle we groom and stuff like that. All the dogs are house-trained and if it's twenty-below and the wind is howling, they are inside keeping my feet warm. That's what they do. That's what they're best at. I built the kennel, it's got great cross circulation from any direction the wind is from. It is insulated, but it is not heated. This is an Arctic breed, as long as they're dry and out of the wind, they can take anything. They're really good.

I've got a little closet where I have hot and cold running water out there. That's heated with a little electric heater. It works out pretty well. Except that if the dogs are out there all day, and they used to have to be when I was working, even with a shade their coats are going to get a little sunburned, or wear and tear from wind. If you have the dog in the house all the time, he's not going to get sunburned and he's going to stay whiter, and he's not going to dig holes.

What color do they turn?

They'll yellow up a little bit.

What kennels do you consider the best today and why?

There are some people who have good dogs. When I see them in the ring with me, I will work a little harder because I know they will have a good, well trained dog and they know how to handle. People like Jim and Elfie Shay, Pat Griffin, Joe Deleo, Deb Jahnke, Andy and Carol Hjort, Linda Kitzman, Frankie Trojan, Judi Elfred, Nancy Golden. You know who the real competition is.

We used to have to watch out when John Donner shined around because his favorite trick was to sit on a dog until he was fully mature, trained and polished. Then he would come out and clobber the rest of us and that devil would laugh all the way home!

I'm sure you've seen a lot of kennels come and go.



Ch. Image's The Barrister (Ch. Moonlighter's Ima Wescana Guy x Ch. Christi's Sparkette's Image). Five AOMs and BOS at the SCA National. Owned and handled by Sandra Dukes.

Yes.

What did you do for a living?

I worked in investment financial services. I would place some trades and do things like that.

What are you doing right now with your money?

It's in the market.

Did you move it around the last few weeks?

It was up to sixteen hundred, and when it went down to twelve, I took all my stuff and put it in the money market. Then it went down further, and when it started to come back up, I moved it back in and enjoyed the ride up.

Is it still going up?

It's still fluctuating right now. Nobody knows for sure where it's going, nobody.

You're not panicking?

No. If I ever do panic, I'll roll it into cash and buy land. They aren't making any more of that. I'd like to invest in the orange barrel company.

What's that?

They make all the orange barrels

on the highway. People are forever hitting them and they have to be replaced. I thought that might be a good place. (laughter)

What are your plans for the future?

I'd like to get my numbers down a little bit. I'm at eight now, two of them are puppies, though, one may stay and the other may go. I'll keep on truckin', that's all, until I can't anymore.

Is there anything you want to accomplish that you haven't?

I want to win the National Specialty, but I don't know if that's more important than judging it one more time. I'd like to do that, too.

Did you come close?

I've had a number of AOMs. I've had WD, WB, BOS, Best in Sweeps, big Futurity wins, Stud Dog, Brood Bitch, but not the top plum. I'd like to add that.

Do you have any dogs right now that could compete?

Home Town Hero, Brett, he's two years old. He was here today, he

got an AOM. I don't have him here with me. He's in a motel. He's the one that I gave half of to the guy who had shown dogs and then his business sent him all around the country and now he's back. He can run with the dog, he's got long legs. I'd like to have an English championship on Chuck, so I will send him over there. I'd like to have that.

Do you ever show in Canada and get the Canadian title?

Bark Star was an American/Canadian champion. A couple of other ones, too. Canada is nice. You go up there in one weekend and you can get a champion. You can get points up there and have only one dog. You didn't have to have majors, now I understand that's changing, we'll see what happens. I would like him to be an English champion and an American/Canadian champion.

What are some classic memories of your dogs that have happened over the years?

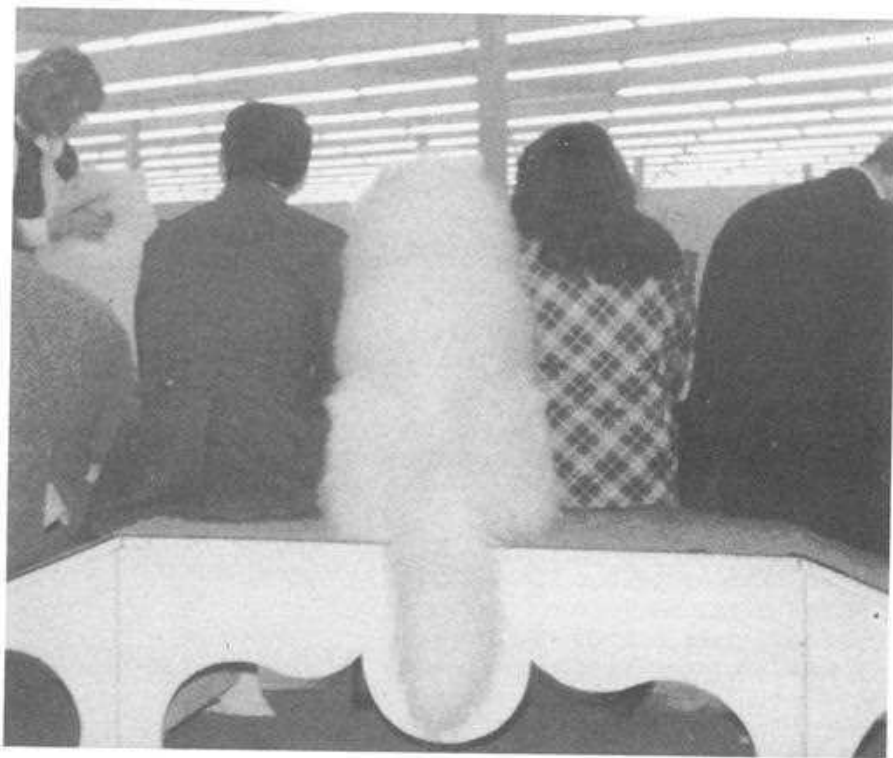
One of the things that always fascinates me is how dogs communicate with each other. When we had Ike and Pup-Pup in the kennel we could only let one dog out at a time because otherwise they'd go to the swamp. We didn't have a fenced yard then. One day we were out there and both dogs were out loose and I ran in the house for something. I looked out and I saw her look at him and they started to sidle into the field and then he got interested in something in the asparagus patch and she came back, touched his nose with her nose and the two of them took off for the swamp. It was like, "She's not looking, let's go!" It was so blatant. Of course, I would call them, and they'd say, "Ta-ta!" They do communicate with each other. It's wonderful. If you lived with dogs long enough, you can almost speak dog. You know their body language, you know what they're like. If I'm sitting in the living room and they want a cookie, they will come and sit and look right at me and catch my eye and take my eye and look at the cookie jar. If that doesn't work, they'll do it again until I say, "All right." They can communicate what they want to.

I have a funny story about Marlo

(Ch. Moonlighter's That's My Girl). She was the complete bed dog, Queen of the Bed. If she walked into the bedroom and other dogs were on the bed, she would stop and give them "the look." They would lift their heads, heave a huge sigh, and exit forthwith. Marlo would then claim the bed and no other dogs were invited. She would dink around until she found the exact spot on the off-

That's not good because it's a tall A-frame and they can go off the side and actually hurt themselves. It hasn't happened yet, though.

I had one called Wicked Wiseguy. We call him Smarty. He would want to do something and he would look at you and you'd know what he'd be thinking, and the minute you turned your attention somewhere else, he'd go and do it.



Just one of the guys. Bark Star and friends waiting for the photographer after a specialty win. Left to right: Bob Brockman, Sharon Kremsreiter with Ch. Sankist's Ima Moonlighter, Wayne Nonhof, Bark Star, Maria Farr and Randy Lensen.

white comforter and then settle down with a little sigh. She really needed to be touching me with a foot, or she would curl up against my back. I miss that dog.

Sammy breeders have some of the craziest stories about things their dogs have done, like help them pick up the laundry and bring them the clothespins, or they get mad at another dog and they pull them around the yard by their tail.

That's typical. That's playful. They're not mad, they're just playing. With that A-frame thing in my backyard, I'll have two or three dogs on it and they're king of the hill.

Then he'd turn around and look at you like, "There, I did it. What are you going to do about it?" He was a funny boy. He's out in Maine now with a really good friend. They're showing him and having fun. They finished his championship.

He sounds naughty.

He is. That's why when he was a puppy he got Wicked Wiseguy for a name.

What is Chuck communicating to you right now?

He's saying, "I want to go out and it's almost suppertime."

Thank you. •