



AIREDALE TERRIER CLUB
OF METROPOLITAN
WASHINGTON, DC, Inc.
Newsletter

www.airedales-dc.org

March 2023



Baxter, the very good Airedale, studies Ward,
the newest addition to the Thomas family.

Club Officers

President	Corally Burmaster
Vice President	Mary Morningstar
Secretary	Elaine LaMontagne
Recording Secretary	Elaine LaMontagne
Treasurer	Jeanne Esmond

Directors
Bill Nelson
Nancy Nykamp
Wilder Leavitt
Jackie Peebles
Karl Bloom

Committee Chairs/Coordinators

Airedale Rescue	Pamela McKusick
Breeder Referral	Pamela McKusick
Newsletter	Jessica Rabin
Scottish Parade	Wilder Leavitt
Specialty Show	Corally Burmaster
Trophies	Deb Todhunter
Website	Karl Broom

Website: www.airedales-dc.org

The Club Objectives

(a) To encourage those who breed Airedale Terriers to do so responsibly and with the welfare and improvement of the breed having highest priority.

b) To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of perfection by which Airedale Terriers shall be judged.

(c) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows and obedience trials.

(d) To conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows under the rules of the American Kennel Club.

(e) To institute and maintain programs which promote the welfare of individual Airedale Terriers through rescue and education, and through any other means which the Club considers helpful.

Newsletter Disclaimer: Newsletter articles are the views and opinions of the authors and are not official Club policy. Club policy is made only by motions passed by the Board or by the voting membership.



Congratulations to Greg and Maryanna Thomas on the birth of Ward Thomas on August 3, 2022. In keeping with the Airedale breed's love of children, Baxter simply couldn't get close enough to the new addition!

Another great Frying Pan Park picnic!

Another great fall picnic at Frying Pan Park in Herndon, VA. A social hour, our annual meeting and elections, another delicious lunch from The Corner Bakery, and a program put on by our very own Bill Nelson.

Bill brought some of his agility equipment and demonstrated an agility "run" with Alex.



Bill leaves Alex on a sit stay so he can get a headstart on him into the course.



Alex doing the weave poles.



Bill demonstrating how to execute a jump with an immediate change of direction.



Waiting a turn.....

to try jumping....



going through the tunnel....

and those pesky weavepoles.





Great treats make the jump less scary!



Jessica Rabin with Caleb, her own hearing assistance dog, and a service dog in training. Jessica is a puppy sitter for Warrior Canine Connection.

Indie

5/30/2013-11/17/2022

Indie was all about fun and having a good time, which is why we could never get that third leg for her obedience title. She hated going into the ring. When we got to a trial she was happy to see all the dogs and their handlers, but when we got in the ring, she deflated. You could see from her body language that she would rather be doing anything else; something that involved food or play. Even so she earned 5 titles; Rally Novice, Rally Advanced, Rally Excellent, CGC and Trick Novice and 2 legs of Novice Obedience.



For the past year, Indie had been coming to work with me every day. The whole demeanor of the office changed. Everyone was happy and glad to see her. She was the office clown, therapist and cuddler. She always seemed to know when someone needed a hug and she was there when needed. She never met a dog or person that she didn't love.

I have been fortunate to have some really good Airedales come through my life. Without a doubt, Indie was the best.

Jeanne Esmond

When I'd go to our gatherings at Cabin John and Frying Pan Park, I always looked for Jeanne and Indie. Why?

Because of my friendship with Jeanne, of course, but also because Jeanne generously shared Indie with me (and with many others). I couldn't help but be uplifted by Indie and by the liveliness, warmth, mischief, love, and joy in life that she radiated.

What a bond they had, Jeanne and Indie. They learned from each other, they leaned on each other, they accepted each other, they took care of each other, they laughed at each other's foibles, and above all, they loved each other.

Indie knew, through Jeanne, that life was Good, that humans were trustworthy, and that treats were available.

Indie knew that there was fun and adventure to be had every single day. Because that was the life that Jeanne made for Indie.

Losing such a beloved companion brings a heart-break that is as big as the bond was.

We could all do worse than to endeavor to live in as big-hearted, warm, lively, fun-seeking, life-loving way that Indie did.

Thank you, Jeanne, for sharing Indie with us. Our hearts go out to you.

Debo West
December 2022



Alex at the AKC FastCAT Invitational in Orlando.**

I was pleased and excited to receive an invitation last fall for Alex to compete at the AKC FastCAT Invitational. The competition was held on December 13-16 in Orlando, Florida in conjunction with other events at the Orlando Convention Center including the AKC Agility Invitational and the National Championship which is a major conformation dog show. FastCAT is a timed sport that is a 100-yard dash where the dog chases a plastic bag lure on a string. The 100-yard course is fenced and requires someone to release the dog and another person to catch the dog after it passes the electronic timer. When Alex has competed at local competitions in the past, I usually released him and my wife, Lynn, caught him. However, since Lynn was staying home, I thought it would be best if I reversed my role and caught Alex while someone else, probably a stranger, released him.



Alex running at the AKC FastCAT Invitational

The good news was that my cousin Bob, who I had not seen in years, lives just north of Orlando and agreed to release Alex. In fact, Bob was absolutely thrilled to release Alex as you can see from the picture on the next page.

*** Editor's note: Each year the American Kennel Club invites only the top five dogs in the nation in each category of competition to compete in the "Nationals," held in Orlando, FL.*



The competition rules required Alex to have two qualifying runs, one on Tuesday, December 13 and another on Thursday, December 15. Assuming Alex qualified for at least one of the runs, then he could run again in the finals on Friday, December 16 in order to compete for the Best of Breed title.

To get a clear idea of what a FastCAT run looks like, I took this video of one of Alex's runs at the Invitational:

<https://youtu.be/vta0ykAvCrM>

These are some pictures taken by a professional photographer at the event. You can see him getting ready to jump on the bag past the finish line and finally pouncing on it.





After we had our two qualifying runs, Alex competed in the finals on Friday and he won “FastCAT Best in Breed” for the Airedale breed. It wasn’t as big a deal as I had hoped because many of the top five Airedales didn’t show up for the competition. However, I was very proud of his performance.



We also spent many hours with my cousin Bob at the conformation show inside of the convention center. Alex was a great representative of the breed and met many dog owners and handlers, always making new friends as well as displaying good manners. I also enjoyed his behavior at the hotel and going out to eat at various restaurants that have outdoor dining and permit dogs. Alex was a terrific companion on the entire trip, including the long drive to/from Orlando. I look forward to future adventures with my Airedale best friend.

If you have questions about FastCAT or dog agility, please feel free to contact me at aglwhtn1@icloud.com.

Bill Nelson & Alex

Airedale Terrier Club of Metropolitan Washington, DC
Annual ATCMW Meeting and Picnic
September 25, 2022

The Airedale Terrier Club of Metropolitan Washington, DC met on Sunday, September 25, 2022 at Frying Pan Park Cabin in Herndon, Virginia for the Annual Meeting and picnic. Corally Burmaster, President welcomed the club members and guests and called the General Club meeting to order.

Minutes of Last Meeting

It was announced that the meeting notes/minutes from the last meeting were in the most recent newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was not presented at the meeting.

Airedale Rescue Report

Pam McKusick, head of the Airedale Rescue, reported that one Airedale has been rescued and now has a home. She introduced the rescue dog, Rosie, who attended the event with her new family. She had come from Ohio from a family who had given her up.

Election of Officers

Corally announced the slate of nominated club officers for the current year. Pamela McKusick was the chairman of the nominating committee.

The nominated officers are as follows:

President – Corally Burmaster
Vice President – Mary Morningstar
Secretary – Elaine LaMontagne
Treasurer – Jeanne Esmond

Board Members:

Jackie Peebles
Bill Nelson
Wilder Leavitt
Nancy Nykamp
Karl Broom

Corally requested the participants to indicate “yea” if agreed and “no” if disagreed. All participants indicated agreement with no disagreement.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

There was a motion to adjourn and seconded. The business meeting was followed by a picnic lunch and raffle drawing for baskets of Airedale toys, etc. The boxed lunch orders were coordinated by Jackie Peebles.

Special Program – Agility Overview and Demonstration

The special program for the event was a presentation and demonstration of the sport of dog agility by Bill Nelson and his dog, Alex.

Bill described the basics of the sport including the courses, the equipment and how the dogs are judged. He also reviewed the background of the sport, techniques and skill levels required of the dog and the handler. He and his wife, Lynn, have been doing agility for over 20 years with their dogs.

Bill demonstrated how to run a course with his dog and discussed his experience and training involved. After the demonstration, the attendees were able to test out the course with their dogs with his direction.

A hand-out was provided with details on the Background, Competition Basics, Equipment, Training and How Results are Determined.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine LaMontagne

Attendees

Josh Jones
Brittney Jones
Jessica Rabin
Corally Burmaster
Jackie Peebles
Bill Nelson
Lynn Nelson
Tanya Parker
Scott Parker
Josefina Groeneveld
Bernard Groeneveld
Luke Groeneveld

Kathy Scheiman
Michael Scheiman
Kris Smith
David Smith
Anne Benenson
Debo West
Karen Miller
Jeff Miller
Elaine LaMontagne
Vairon Mendoza
Gracie Fore
Pam McKusick
Jeanne Esmond

Walter Michael Todhunter

August 20, 1946-December 28 2022

Walt Todhunter, 76, died of complications from COVID-19 on December 28, 2022.

Born in Portland, Oregon in 1946, Walt joined the US Army in Nov. 11, 1965 and became a 19 year old helicopter pilot. He flew the skies of Vietnam from May 1967 to May 1968 for which he received many medals, including 18 Air Medals, three with V device for valor; Bronze Star; Purple Heart; Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm; Good Conduct Medal; and the National Defense Medal. He was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for the following action; "Warrant Officer Todhunter continued his passes with empty guns to draw enemy fire until the rescue of the downed crew was affected."



Walt continued to fly helicopters in service to his country and his fellow humans, saving fellow soldiers in Vietnam, fighting forest fires in the Northwest, and air lifting critical care patients to Washington, D.C. area hospitals.

When the Udvar-Hazy extension of the Smithsonian's Air & Space Museum opened in 2004, he was honored with the inclusion of his name on the Plaque of Honor for the Distinguished Flying Cross Society.

Walt loved his dogs, and was an expert at socializing puppies. He also helped his wife Deb with the job of our Club's Trophy Chair, a position Deb has held a number of years. They lived in a number of places in the Northern Virginia area before settling in Stephenson, VA with a view of the Blue Ridge Mountains. They would have celebrated their 39th year of marriage on December 28, the day Walt passed away.

My favorite memory of Walt Todhunter is seeing Walt on the floor in Corally's kitchen surrounded by puppies. His smile was wall to wall. Walt was a great guy and we will all miss him.

Jeanne Esmond



The Annual Scottish Walk



Once again, Wilder Leavitt and Mary Morningstar organized the ATCMW's participation in the Scottish walk, held each December in Old Town Alexandria. The weather was barely cooperative, but in spite of that Wilder reports that we had ten people come out with six Airedales and a Great Pyrenees-Burnese Mountain Dog mix who joined in the fun. All who attended had a good time!





Our intrepid marchers:

Wilder Leavitt (Airedale: Juno)

Mary Morningstar

Cathy Scheiman (Airedale: Maisie)

Michael Scheiman

Miles Scheiman

Chris Bargery (Airedale: Archie)

Meg Roggensack (Great Pyrenees-Bernese Mountain Dog mix: Benji)

Greg Thomas (Airedale: Baxter)

Sarah DeBauge (Airedale: Digby)

Eddie Townley (Airedale: Genevieve)

Save The Dates

The ATCMW's Specialty will be held this year on **April 21st** at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium, MD. This is the annual conformation show that our Club puts on in conjunction with the Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland. This show is a "limited breed" show, and showcases only the terrier breeds. The venue is wonderful, with indoor rings, plenty of parking and vendors for shopping!

This is an excellent opportunity to see Airedales groomed and presented in the showring to perfection!

Our Fall picnic at Frying Pan Park will be held on Saturday, **September 9th**. By popular demand, we will once again use The Corner Bakery to cater lunch. *We do not yet have a program chosen and are looking for suggestions. If you have an idea or a wish to see something specific, please email Corally at clickertrain@verizon.net.*



The Airedale Terrier Club Of Metropolitan Washington

51st Specialty!!

In conjunction with

The Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland

April 21, 2023

Maryland State Fairgrounds

Timonium, MD

Entries close April 5, 2023

April 22, 2023
Baltimore Kennel Club
Airedale Judge
Mrs Connie Clark

Sweepstakes Judge:
Ms. Lori Pelletier

April 23, 2023
Baltimore Kennel Club
Airedale Judge
Mrs Bergit Coady-Kabel

Regular Classes:
Breeder Judge
Ms. Anne Curtis
(Victorianne Airedales)

Come join us for this very "special" occasion!!