Ch. Kazor’s Virtuous Virginia

Kibutsu Set Sirux x Ch. Kazor’s Sky Sasiinah I Sunjata

#1 Wessman Points
#2 Breed Wins *
#3 Group Wins *

Shown winning Group 1 under Judge Eugene Blake on her way to Best in Show under Judge Victor Boutwell

Breeders/Co-Owner
Carol Welbo
Kazor Basenjis
(714) 777-2256

Handler
Erin Roberts
Khamis Kennels
(405) 942-0441

Owner
Nancy Brown
Tambo
(619) 366-3305

* Please @see Breed Standard

B.C.O.A. BUSINESS

4 Tally Committee.......................... Jennifer Vargas
4 National Specialty 1995.................. Show Committee
7 Treasurer’s Report......................... Margaret Grundman
7 Club Calendar............................. George Gaveletz
18 Tally Page.............................. Jennifer Vargas

FEATURES

6 Point of View............................. Mary Lou Kenworthy
8 A Stitch In Time............................ Nancy Britton
9 GCBC Judge’s Critique.................... S Carter & L Masley
12 Reflections On Romance.................. Sandi Atkinson

DEPARTMENTS

2 President’s Message......................... 17 Classified Basenji
3 Letters..................................... 19 Basenji Briefs
3 From The Editor............................ 19 What Ever Happened To
16 New Titles................................. 20 Club Directory
20 Publication Policy

ADVERTISERS

C1 ........................................ Bushbabies - G & T Gavalaitz
C2 ........................................ Kazor & Tambo - C Webh & N Brown
5 ........................................ Senegale - M Greecy
11 ........................................ Greater Chicagoland Basenji Club
15 ........................................ T Taiber & E Kohn
C3 ........................................ Manta - P Rack
C4 ........................................ Star - R & J Cunningham

On the Cover

Bushbabies Bet The Farm

Ch. Jai’iti’s Patton Pointing x Bushbabies Senegali C-Neko

Bushbabies introduces Grady
Jazzman, Princess, Patton and
Karo’s in one dynamite red package!

Bushbabies Basenjis
George & Terri Gavalaitz
631 Alamedo Dr.
Livermore, CA 94550
(510) 447-8398

Grange & Grady Hit The Oregon Trail

The Basenji Club of America Inc. BULLETIN
President's Message

Midge Greenlee

You have all by now received and had the opportunity to comment on The Code of Recommended Practices

As the Secretary stated in her covering letter sent with the Code, we hope to have a Code enacted before the end of 1995—however, it should never be thought of as being "set forth in stone" but as an ever-evolving entity. In my experience, every document ever set forth by humans is always subject to revision and amendment, as time, knowledge, and experience many dictate. My thanks, applause and thanks to the Ethics Committee for the basic document, and to the Board for their comments and amendments. And to all of you, the membership, for your comments.

Nothing can think of everything, and none of us can foresee what the future developments—in genetics, in law, in AKC policy, or whatever—may arise and necessitate revisions. But we must start somewhere, and I believe this to be a very good start.

Kudos also for the wonderful developments in Rescue. I know that many, many, of you have long been involved in rescue but have not necessarily "listed" yourselves as such: you have been our missing heroes. And there are times when personal (and/or our own Basenji circumstances) preclude our being able to take in a rescue dog. Communication is the answer. Judy Holiday has diligently been serving as our Rescue Coordinator for years and has been networking away on this; Bulletin Board editor Betsy Polglase has provided a national Rescue bulletin board which gives all of us information not only on Basenji needing rescue but also on Basenji folks who can help. And how wonderful to see that people looking for Basenjis to rescue now have a place to say so, and are doing that just! Also, given the unusual Basenji schedule for puppies, there are always times when inquiries come in and nothing is available. I've found that people are looking for pets often don't want to be on a waiting list and will in short order wind up with the most unlikely alternatives to a Basenji. Let's try, in those cases, to steer them to our rescue Basenjis. It should go without saying that if a Basenji that you would needs rescue, that is not a "rescue". That's your responsibility to take back, rehabilitate if need be, place in a new home, euthanize if that is the best answer. If you produced it, you are responsible for it. Which brings us back to ethics again. But a great big cheer for our growing list of Rescue people, and the expanding lines of communication in this area!

My best to all—success in ring and field, and in all that you do! Hope to see you at the National!

Letters

CORRECTIONS REQUIRED

I just received my copy of the BCBOA Bulletin, WOW 2000, and congratulations. I hope you got the support to get some of your great ideas going. Please do me a favor—correct the spelling of my name. I know it may seem trivial but I have a cousin that shares the same name—it's first and last. The only difference is the spelling of my first name and that I use my middle initial on official paperwork. Thanks for understanding.

Carrie Kirk

No problem, Carrie! And thanks for letting us know about the correction.

I just read through the April/May/June Quarterly and, as usual, enjoyed it tremendously. I'll be sure to canvass our membership to see if we could submit a column or an article here or there or maybe some photos. One thing though—I would like to praise your record of singles and of the Basenji Club. It's the kind Basenji Club. The affinity listed in this issue is incorrect—it should be in our next issue. My name & address are listed above. Many thanks for your help.

Deborah Mizuno

Consider it done, Deborah. See the back page for the correct Enosah Lizorin & you ARE the lucky one.

PLEASE make address change from 6601 to 8757. Lost year I changed it for the roster, and it was not done. I called Wanda Pooley about it, and she said she would give the new address to you. As of now it is still wrong. My kennel name for 30 years has been Bluecreek. It appears 6 times in the new Bulletin—4 times on Page 12, 1 time on page 13. 1 time on 15—always spelled wrong. Thank you.

Donnelly A. Atkinson

Thanks for letting us know about the address change—it's updated as of now! A very sorry about the misspelling of your kennel name. The information comes from the AKC directly on computer printout sent to the BCBOA secretary. Since it's done from a computer to a computer, they enter it in for publication. Please let us know if any corrections are necessary.

The new and improved BCBOA Bulletin is absolutely wonderful and very impressive. It's no longer a cut and dried magazine, it has pizzazz. Although I haven't quite read it all over cover to cover, I'm happy with what I've already read. Please keep it up!

Sandra Anderson

Thanks Sandra, Jen & Jackie! The smoky grey letters brought are what keeps us going!

From The Editor

W ell, the first issue is history & I sure did learn a lot. First of all, I'd like to mention that some of you received issues that had problems on Page 13. You can read the information but the print was light, especially in the middle of the page. Mr. Simmons, our printer, was mortified to find that the press plate had broken down at the end of the press run. He spot checks for this during the printing but this one he missed. The man deserves applause anyway—he completed the production in a little over one week. To the Bulletin, from copy/camera ready to finished product in under three weeks, is quite a feat for a small press. He felt awful and offered to reprint the entire publication at his cost. The time factor that insured getting the Bulletin to BCBOA members in a timely manner did not allow this option and even though the print was light, it was readable so we run with it. We apologize & hope this won't happen again.

Something new here—have forged a link with The American Sighthound Field Association thanks to Russ Jacobs, their Lure Coursing Committee Chairman. We're now printing ASFA titles as they are earned and the official ASFA Top Twenty! This is direct access—Cammie Mendino, ASFA Records Coordinator, sends information that's also printed in the Field Advisory News, ASFA's official publication. Happily for me, she's sending all on diskette. It then feeds right into the computer generated pages of the Bulletin. This means less typing on my part and less error opportunities. The top twenty will soon be found on the Tally Page and the new titles will be listed after AKC titles. We hope this recognition will encourage all who participate in performance events and we're thrilled to include Basenji achievements at ASFA events in the Bulletin.

Something wonderful is happening. The good news is Basenji writers are coming forth. We've got some very talented folks in BCBOA & it's been great to open the mailbox every day, finding treasures to add to these pages. And ads are coming in too—beautiful photos of Basenji is from proud owners. Let's keep it up! Wish someone would write an article about ?? Do it or let us know what you want to read & we'll give it a shot. Let's see a great ad with your Basenji here. Words & pictures in print are lasting and they can be yours. Hoping to hear from you soon!
Committee Reports

Tally Chairman

Concerning the 1994 Final Top Ten Tally:
First, I would like to explain everyone that the tally was done within one weeks time. The host drive on my computer crashed in January & I lost all the work for 1994. With Carmel’s tremendous effort to get the Bulletin back on schedule, I wanted to get as many of the tallies off to her as possible. For sake of time, I did not check thoroughly enough for mistakes.

Please also be informed that the AKC Awards is my only source for this information & I can only publish what appears listed. In case some of you don’t receive the Awards, it only loses the dogs name & will place either CH or Champion an obedience title that the dog may have earned. It does not publish any of the dates titles. So if CH & F Ch. Wizard of Oz, CD SC takes Best of Breed at the Timbuktoon show, the Awards will only list that Ch. Wizard of Oz was Best of Breed. It will list nothing else regardless of how your tally listed in the catalog.

Please also note that if a dog’s name is misspelled in the tally results, it was possibly misspelled in the AKC Awards. This happens quite often, along with owners names. I know of one club member whose, after two years, has finally gotten his AKC to spell his dog’s name correctly in the Awards.

You must write to AKC in order to get this change done, not to us.

Please note the following corrections:

- Ch. Sultan’s Raider of the Lost Bark should have his CD listed after his name; Ch. Bury’s Midnight Special should have no H in his kennel name; Ch. Valor’s Eye of the Storm should be owned by C & C Russell; Ch. Providence Jhubee Olden Times should have had Providence in front of his kennel name; Ch. Funiosa’s Flanbe & Ch. Aikau’s Valor’s Nut ’N Money both should have been listed in the Top Ten for Best of Breed.

We are publishing the corrected 1994 Breed Tally in this issue of the Bulletin. If you have any further questions, corrections, comments, etc., please address these to me. The Editor of the Bulletin does not have the access as I do to the records and tallies for the year. Thank you.

BITCHES: TOP TEN NUMBER OF BEST OF BREEDS

1. CH. Sherry Elegance of Pauporte... 29
2. CH. Zida’s Kindred... 25
3. CH. Dandy’s Ace’s Georgia Fireball... 21
4. CH. ANDREWS FINE PAPER... 20
5. CH. JAY’S THE ME-TIMMY VALLERY... 19
6. CH. Fantasia’s Flambé... 18
7. CH. Zagora’s Sultry Rose... 18
8. CH. Zida’s Oddly Obsessed... 17
9. CH. AWAY’S Angella... 16
10. CH. Fantasia’s Grover... 15

11. CH. SHERI’S Herofine of Valencia... 15
12. CH. SHERI’S Shorty Blanca... 15
13. CH. Thibodeau’s Candy Kiss... 15
14. CH. Zida’s Too Much... 15
15. CH. Aikau’s Valor’s Nut ’N Money... 15

16. CH. Aikau’s Valor’s Twin Nightmare... 14
17. CH. Aikau’s Valor’s Vicious Wenda... 14
18. CH. Precious, Purcell Freegold Terrier... 14
19. CH. Woody’s Fax A Miracle to FF... 14
20. CH. Company’s Take a Walkon’s... 14

21. CH. Sherry Elegance of Pauporte... 13
22. CH. Zida’s Kindred... 13
23. CH. Dandy’s Ace’s Georgia Fireball... 13
24. CH. ANDREWS FINE PAPER... 13
25. CH. JAY’S THE ME-TIMMY VALLERY... 13
26. CH. Fantasia’s Flambé... 13
27. CH. Zagora’s Sultry Rose... 13
28. CH. Zida’s Oddly Obsessed... 13
29. CH. AWAY’S Angella... 13
30. CH. Fantasia’s Grover... 13

1995 NATIONAL SPECIALTY CHAIRMAN: FOLLOW THE OREGON TRAIL

Here’s some things you might want to know about the National before you get to Oregon. All events are to be held in one location. You won’t have to miss anything because it’s all happening at the Washington County Fairplex located 45 minutes from the Portland International Airport on Highway 26. The show Headquarters will be in the nearby Halfmark Inn. The weather can be changeable in the area and we’re expecting glorious Indian summer weather. Come on up to prepare for it now. If you spend any time at all here, says Cathy Geisch, Show Chairman, “it’s gonna rain!” That’s why the obedience and conformation classes will be held indoors. lure Coursing will be on the Fairplex grounds just outside. Try not to lose your tickets, Ball Chairman has arranged for all those in their RV’s to have front row seats at the Lure Coursing Field.

Dining opportunities are limited in the immediate area. Only the motel’s restaurant is within walking distance so Stephanie Schmidt has arranged for box lunches. These will be delivered to the building where judging begins for lunch. You can choose between sandwiches & sides with your own restaurants choice. Since the contest is expected to have enough make up ahead of time, we need your orders in advance. The Specialty will be filled with events including judging that you won’t want to miss and we suggest that you plan to attend both banquets. Time will be precious and although excellent dining abounds in the area, it will require you to drive in Hillsboro, Beaverton or beyond for more choices.

There will be so much you won’t want to miss. So make your banquet reservations today. Besides, we’ve got special plans for our banquets and hope to see you at both.

Friday’s banquet starts things off with a bang, complete with a live Western band. July Langle has gathered all the unique and wondrous items for the RCAU auction to be held that evening and Auctioneer Tom McGill will present the fabulous Basenji items available. Saturday evening will be filled with Murder, Mystery & Mayhem as some of Portland’s funniest actors try to worm their way out of a murder mystery. The Mystery evening will start with an open-cocktail party and continue through dinner in the characters will mingle, share clues & accusations. Suspicion and aliases fly while Detective Eddie May will need your help to identify and apprehend the villain. All suspects, at least those still alive, will sit down with you so the fun is far from ending.

Although the Specialty will be packed with things to do, the Pacific Northwest is an area not to be left uncovered. Oregon really is a special state, filled with a rich history. Many will be vacationing their way to and from the National & we’d like to share some of the special places you may want to visit while you’re here. There are many state and county parks where you can hike & enjoy natural splendor. Newly opened in the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, near the Oregon-Washington border, The High Desert Museum, south of Bend, Oregon on Highway 97 is a must see. While in Bend, eat at the Twin Tulip Feed Company - the best steak west of the Rockies. This time of year, the salmon are running. Take advantage of this special natural event at Bonneville Dam, just east of Portland on Highway 94. On the way, stop at Multnomah Falls, one of the world’s natural wonders. Have lunch in the historic building and be sure to try their Huckleberry Tarts. Other worthwhile side trips are to Crater Lake, Klamath Falls (see eagles winter), Oregon Caves & the lava fields, where astronauts trained for moon expeditions.

Heading to the coast? Stop at Sea Lion Caves north of Coosay. In Newport, visit the Oregon Coast Aquarium, soon to be the home for the killer whale featured in the film “Free Willy”. Seafood doesn’t come any fresher than in Newport - try the fishing Newport Bay Restaurant. And if you want to try fishing, day trips are $23 - good for salmon, steelheads, sturgeon & halibut.

If you’re still looking for things to do, drop Portland’s own Saturday Market and come away with items from some of the area’s best artists & craftsmen. Events happenings behind the scenes include the Autumn Festival & Sandcastles Contest in Rockaway Beach, Indian Style Salmon Bake at Depoe Bay, Beaverston Good Neighbor Days, Hood River Festival Days including world class windsurfing.

Also plan on attending the Evergreen Basenji Club Specialty on September 26th & 27th. And if there’s any questions or additional information you may need, contact:

Cathy Geisch, Show Chairman
10530 SW 7th Ave.
Sandy OR 97055-9516
(503) 695-2433 Home
(503) 281-1494 Work

*CH. SERENGETI RIPPLE EFFECT

CH. Pendragon Kazor Shadowplay x CH. SERENGETI MIMOSA
SHOWN WINNING A 4 POINT MAJOR UNDER JUDGE CAROL DUFFY AT CHESSAPEAKE VA.
RIPLEY FINISHED WITH A 5 POINT MAJOR AT CARROLL KC UNDER JUDGE BARBARA CAMP

RIPLEY

Handled by Damara Bolte

SERENGETI
MIDGE GREENLEE
9000 S.W. 19th Ave. Rd.
Ocala, FL 34476
(904) 237-3782

*PENDING AKC CONFIRMATION

The Basenji Club of America Inc. BULLETIN
The Key To Ethics

1. the study of standards of conduct & moral judgement.
2. the system or code of morals of a particular philosopher, religion, group, etc.

Mary Lou Kenworthy

A Code Of Ethics is a must. It is the first step but if it is to be successful, those asked to follow it must understand why it is important to do so. We need to have more discussion on the following topics:

- How to Breed
- When to breed, & when not to breed
- How to sell puppies and adults
- What you owe your customers
- What you should expect from a stud owner
- What your responsibilities are to the breed
- How to control what is done with a Basenji after it leaves your hands
- How to screen prospective buyers
- What reading materials can help your prospective buyer
- How to just say no to those who should not have a Basenji
- What guarantees should you be able to provide
- How to effectively use Limited Registration
- Etc.

Mary Lou is a founding member of the Etowah Basenji Club. She has been an active breeder & exhibitor of Basenjis for over 25 years as well as an active BCOA member. She is the author & publisher of a series of Basenji care booklets, contributing author to the revised TFH Basenji book and has penned numerous published works.

Margaret Grundman, Treasurer

June 30, 1995

FOUNDED MEMORIAL ACCOUNT FOR BASENJI HEALTH & MEDICAL NEEDS

Taxpayer ID #36-164602
Savings Account #003441001
Consumer’s 1/2/3 to 6/30/95
Beginning Balance 1/1/95 15,550.67
Contributions 51.00
Checks & Salaries 4,124.19
Total Contributions 4,175.19
Salaries 187.80
Total Contributions 4,362.99
Total Contributions 20,951.06
Withdrawals
Annual Report 30.00
Statement Balance 6/30/95 20,951.06
Total 30.00
Statement Balance 6/30/95 20,951.06
Checking Account 7/09 4,912.44
Statement Balance 7/09 4,912.44

Mary Lou Kenworthy

The Key To Ethics
A STITCH IN TIME

Nancy Brinton

WHAT'S IN YOUR TACK BOX?

The need for a sewing kit or safety pins led me to wonder what other handlers carry with them to ringide. So, via Internet, I polled the good folks on Basenji- and some other discussion groups. Here's what some of these clever folks carry to shows with them. Of course, everyone also carries a cooler with water from home and food. Any food or beverage the humans might need can be squeezed in here, too, if there's room. The kind of tack box a person uses is based on availability, cost, and personal preference. I carry a Plato brand tackle box with a removable top tray. I pack the small or loose items into empty Softline containers. The containers fit into the tackle box very well. Here's the list as supplied by my Internet friends:

- Adipin
- AKC Obedience Trial Regulations
- Bold, unless it needs to be cooler
- Bandages
- Batteries
- Benadryl
- Bleach water in a marked spray bottle
- Brush (dog)
- Cheating gum
- Clips for crate
- Combs can be shared if necessary
- Counting puzzle
- Dog's favorite coat
- Dog's favorite sweater
- Emergency freeze dried bait
- Emery board
- Extra collars
- Extra leashes
- Extra screws for Varikennel
- Extra treats
- First aid kit - dogs
- First aid kit - humans
- Flashlight
- Hammer
- Liquid Suture
- Melas Tape
- Mini clamps for sunshine
- Plastic bags
- Plastic rain ponchos
- Rawhide Chewie treats
- Safety pins
- Scissors for tailwhisker trim
- Screwdriver
- Sewing kit
- Shine spray - for whomever needs it
- Spare change
- Sunscreen
- Super Glue
- Terry hand towel
- Vetrap
- Wash 'n Dry towels
- "Not friend is considering adding a Wonder Era to her Tack kit ... for those conformation judges who dislike the handler instead of judging the dog!"

Well, sure, it would work but I didn't have a clue as to how to use it. Seeing my confusion, Eleanor led me into a stall in the woman's rest room where I held my trousse while Eleanor expertly lured the seams. Meantime, Selkie explored the smells while she tried to figure out what her zany mom was doing now.

Not surprisingly, we did not qualify. I think being in the rest room unnerved Selkie as much as the trouser episode unnerved me. She turned in an entertaining performance and I was thrilled to get home. We will continue in the our quest for Selkie's CD, but from now on my underwire will always match my trousers. Baroos and Happy Trials!
Greater Chicagoland Basenji Club
Judges Critique

Sweepstakes Judge - Mr Stan Carter DVM

I would like to thank the officers and members of the Greater Chicagoland Basenji Club for extending their hospitality to me for doing a superb job organizing and running their specialty. Special thanks are in order for Arnieta Kuznetz, Bill Ring, and Pat DeWall. There was an entry of 47 puppies this year, with the 6-9 month class being the largest. The overall quality was excellent and temperament was outstanding. Not a single puppy shied on the table and the presented themselves nicely.

My 6-9 month dog winner and BOS, Sonita’s Brite Leather Jacket, stood out in the ring with his square outline and typey head. He moved effortlessly, with nice reach and drive and pleasing carry and gait. The 12-18 month winner was D. Ann’s AllBrite Allie, a sound dog with superb side movement. In the 12-18 month class, Revolve Hoo Wants Roses was my pick. There was much to like about this dog and movement in his form. His easy strides ate up the ring and he looked as if he could move like this all day.

My 6-9 month puppy bitch class was filled with exceptional pups with tremendous potential. Many were deep in the adolescent stage, however, and will represent themselves much better in the future. In the 12-18 month puppy class, Hacker’s Darlin Darla was the winner. Her elegance and lovely outline set her apart. My Best Puppy in Sweepstakes was chosen from the 12-18 month class, Caypara Inge. She is a beautifully balanced bitch, correctly angulated front and rear. She moved with excellent reach and drive, a level topline and very good head carriage.

The Veteran Sweepstakes dogs were especially enjoyable to see. Overall, they were in outstanding condition and a tribute to their breed’s vitality. Best of Opposite Sex Veteran was Nefer of Crosswind Rose, a very elegant, fine-boned black and white bitch. My Best in Sweeps Veteran, Ch Karytta’s Basenook, was nearly flawless on the down and back. He was quite a picture when he stacked and carried himself proudly around the ring.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to play a part in your successful specialty and I look forward to attending the Greater Chicagoland Basenji Club, Inc. Specialty in the Future.

SPECIALTY JUDGE Mrs. Lorraine Masley

I was a real pleasure for me to judge GCBC. Other than an ‘euchly foot’ I had no problem. I thought the quality of the entry overall was good. I found no bad temperament, no bad bites and in general all were in good condition. The youngsters were very nice and that is always good to see in any breed. Movement (soundess) needs some improvement, but was better at this show than I’ve seen in other parts of the country. Topline have improved so that indicates that they will improve better. All in all (weather included) it was a memorable day for me.

GREATR CHICAGO LAND BASENJI CLUB
21st Annual Specialty Show & Sweepstakes
July 17, 1995

Sweepstakes Judge - Stan Carter
Specialty Judge - Lorraine Masley
Junior Showmanship Judge - Donald Martin

Winners Dog
Revolve Hoo Wants Roses
Shirley Jones

Best of Breed
Ch Barsh’s Harprising JC
Gail Fralick

Best of Opposite Sex
Ch Star Tia of Geesepet Garun
Roger & Jodie Cunningham

Best of Winners
Hacker’s Lily Of The Valley
R Hacker and A & D Harrison

Reserve Winner
Revolve Hoo Wants Roses
Shirley Jones

Best in Sweepstakes
Ch Star Tia of Geesepet Garun
Roger & Jodie Cunningham

Best Junior Showmanship
Amy Marshall
Ch Rafiki's Unexpected Treasure
Reflections on Romeo

by Sandi Atkinson

Last text: Three Basenjis earned the AKC Utility Dog obedience title. A remarkable feat in any one year to be sure. That group also included the dog I trained—Romeo. It's officially known as Barbie's Tiv's Sandumie, UD, CCG, and U-CDX Mumrine's Romeo (Ch. Bjorklund's Sassy). When he finally completed his UD at 10 years and nearly four months, he was the oldest and the only male of the three. I want to tell you about some of my experiences; maybe it will help you as you go through your own training program.

Romeo came to us from Carol Kelly of Fredericksburg, Virginia when he was 11 months old. We were not his first home. As a puppy called Potty, he had been flown from Virginia to Ohio to be shown. Show life didn't suit Romeo and he returned as the breeder. We decided to take him as a companion for Wassaile. With humans, Romeo could be quite charming and our daughter Mumrine, then 15, thought he was wonderful. He did not share Wassaile's fine lure coursing ability and, unlike Wassaile, when we left Romeo alone even for a minute, he chewed anything at hand. He gnawed pathway through a seatbelt in the car, a corner of buffet and clipped up bedding in his crate. Occasionally Wassaile would shred a paper napkin or take a piece out of a plastic bag but for the most part, she was quite calm. Ahoo, Romeo bit through things that cost money and mattered. With Wassaile for company, his urge to destroy was curbed.

We contemplated Romeo's future in obedience. New owner Mumrine offered to train Romeo in Novice A. In 1986, they earned the CD, at the ages of about 11 and 2 1/2, respectively. After this school and Scouting took more of Munich's time so she left the obedience training to Terry and me. About a month before, we had completed the U-CD with Romeo. With more work and over a year of entering trials, the U-CDX and CDX followed in 1987. At this point Terry decided he had enough of training Romeo. To be sure, Open work was a very discouraging experience. We seemed to put so much into it and Romeo just wouldn't come through for us at the right time. Romeo was so different from Wassaile. She was steadier and more dependable. Yes, she had her stubborn streak at times, but then she was the first dog we trained and we were learning how to train her too.

We added a Cavalier puppy to our barkless pair in the spring of 1989. As Romeo rested on his laurels and any other unoccupied space around the house, that year, I happily discovered that Triffle, the new pup, seemed to be a quick learner in obedience. This left me with spare time to think about Romeo. With two CDXs, was he really finished in obedience? Wassaile had completed her U-UD, but was not fond of the AKC Utility stand. Other trainers suggested solutions which we tried without success. So... Romeo in Utility? Ha. ha. We already knew how much work Novice and Open had been with him. Terry thought I was nuts. He found better things to do, like tracking with Wassaile. "What? Daddy? You mean you don't want me to chase mice and eat droppings in this big field?"

By the time I started teaching Romeo Utility exercises at the end of February in 1990, Triffle was already doing Open exercises. It was conve-

(Continued next page)
passed before that precious third leg and the title. Romeo had a lot of problems with directed jumping, the final Utility exercise. When you train in Utility, you hear all sorts of hints about what signs to give and how to give them, what to wear (so you'll show up against the background), and so on. Characteristically, Romeo would complete the go to the opposite side of the ring, turn and sit on command, but take the wrong jump, or sometimes knock the bar off. I thought he decided which jump to take.

I worked on my technique. As we had done with Wussal in UKC Utility, I continued giving Romeo a directional command (go and how) and signal, as opposed to indicating the type of jump (hor and high) the way many handlers do. At the same time, Trifile was proving to me that the fault did not come with it, it was the dog. Trifile was very quick to pick up the shift from the signal. What was so different about Romeo?

Both Romeo and Trifile earned their second legs in Utility on the second day of a three-day weekend in October of 1992. They were the only dogs to qualify in Utility A out of about 25 who showed. It was a fantastic day, even though the scores were not high. Yes, I wore my lucky outfit that matched the dog. You wear pants the color as the dog, and the judge won’t be able to tell when your dog is out of bear position. Uh-huh. Romeo and I had a few near misses very soon after that, but the months dragged on and in 1993 we were passing with more qualifying scores for Romeo. Trifile, like a good little Mama’s boy, had finished his UD the very next day.

I started thinking about Romeo and what I could do to help him qualify, I also spent a good deal of time watching him during training and at other trials.

Gradually, my observations formed a pattern. Romeo was hardly ever late and ran inside at home and in the yard. But I remembered that he had a problem in Open with the high jump. He had never liked to jump over something higher than he could see, which was about 32”. We were used to thinking of Romeo as a somewhat careless, unfocused dog. I remember the first time we had opened a low, black file cabinet drawer which stretched across the kitchen doorway, and Romeo, trotting through the kitchen, had bumped into it. He either was going too fast, or had misjudged the height and clearance Romeo was the only dog who bumped into it.

I started noticing how, over the last couple of years, I would occasionally call out to him as approached something lower, like a car bumper, when we were out for a walk at night so that he would not hit it. No one else bumped into anything. When I dispensed treats in the kitchen, I could wave my hand around and throw something on the floor but Romeo never got it. He always stood with head up and nose pointed at the counter, while his buddy Trifile kindly cleared the floor for him. I used to think that Romeo just didn’t want to watch me. Trifile, however, was always watching me. Wussal got obedience club moved to a new building with more lights and padded mats under the nostip mats, he did better than he had in the old building, with fewer lights and one layer of rubber mats over a wooden gym floor. At trials, he tended to do better outdoors. Usually the indoor locations had poor lighting or a poorly padded surface. When he qualified for the third time, although it was indoors, the artificial lighting and natural light through the skylights were both good.

Eventually, sometime after he had finished his UD, I decided to test my theory about Romeo’s vision. Romeo was born in 1989, and was told at that time that Romeo had cataracts which possibly could be removed, restoring more sight. He was sent us a veterinary ophthalmologist. Her examination revealed something under the cataracts, Romeo had progressive retinal atrophy (P.R.A.). He will eventually go blind. Cataract surgery would make no difference. In the last year, his eyesight has gotten worse. He bumps into things occasionally, especially if they are out of place in the house, or if outside in a strange location.

After Romeo’s eye disease diagnosis, I wondered how long he had a problem. When I looked back over the whole period, I was quite surprised. I remember how he had always run past Mauzure on the recall, actingvision varied with no direction until we had trained him with food to come in straight and sit in front of the handler. He also seemed to be careless and imprecise about how low he used his body. Perfect positioning, so necessary in obedience, was difficult for Romeo. He needed lots of work on that. Outside on walks, he always rushed to smell something, bumping into Wussal with no apparent notice beforehand that she was even there. This was just how he behaved and we had accepted it as part of his personality. The P.R.A. cannot account for all of Romeo’s actions, but I believe that the vision loss was a factor in the acceleration of the disease.

Had Romeo not qualified when he did in April of 1994, he would probably never have done so again. He was entered in several trials in May of 1994 when we traveled through the Southwest. But he could not overcome his problems enough to qualify again.

(Continued next page)
**Basenji Club of Cincinnati**

**MEETUPS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meetups</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Judge</td>
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**Tally Page**

**ASFA Lure Coursing**

**TOP TEN IN BREED POINTS**

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**Summer Fun**

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**WHAT EVERYONE HAPPENED TO...**

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**COMING ISSUE**

**COACH QUESTIONS**

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April 25 for the 3rd Quarter Issue
May 25 for the 4th Quarter Issue

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