

SPECIAL EDITION

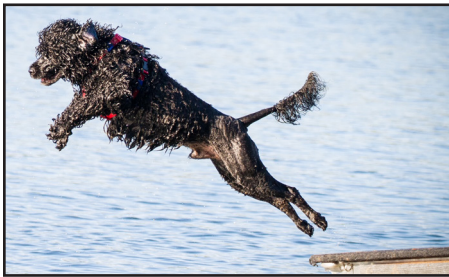
Keystone Portuguese Water Dog Club

# NEWS BUOY

Fall 2021



## THE 2021 WATER TRIAL



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our Special Edition News Buoy featuring Keystone's Annual Water Trial held at Lake Marlburg, Codorus State Park, Hanover, PA on August 21 and August 22, 2021.

Almost as soon as our entries opened for the water trial, the trial was full. Judges can either judge 35 teams a day or 8 hours of judging depending on a formula published in the Water Trial Manual. Using the 8-hour formula we were full with 30 teams on Saturday and 31 teams on Sunday. Entries continued to be received by our Secretary Joan Klingler until there were approximately 21 additional entries on the waiting list.

The Water Trial Committee discussed adding a second site to our trial to accommodate all those who wished to participate. This meant having our Secretary agree to the additional workload, procuring two more boats and hiring a second judge. Delmarva Portuguese Water Dog Club graciously agreed to lend Keystone their brand new boats and trailer them to Codorus for the trial. (Thanks to Peter and Anne Paige for trailering Delmarva's boats.) Our

Chairman, Bob Caruso, was able to get permission from the National Water Trial Committee to add an additional site as Codorus had been the site of the National Specialty Water Trial in 2014.

At the conclusion of the Saturday and Sunday trials, we had 94 entrants and 30 teams qualified. It was a huge amount of work but everyone, including Delmarva members and members of Movers' and Shakers, helped with setting up the two tests sites, unloading two trailers of boats, rowing, and breaking everything down at the end of each trial both Saturday and Sunday.

Our water trial raffle was a huge success. Many wonderful raffle items were donated, including dog "goodie baskets," homemade PWD items, gift cards, adult beverages (some from Portugal) and even a collapsible crate. Thanks to Sandy Costello, our self-appointed raffle ticket salesperson who managed to sell \$550 worth of raffle tickets!

Thanks to everyone who pitched in to make this event the success that it was.

—Judy Murray

# ★ BRAGS ★

## CHER

Co-owned by Ashley Cook and Mike and Jenny Mobley

Riverbend Hi-Jinx All Or Nothing BN RA NA NAJ NF  
CGCA CGCU TKA AWD WWD WWDX CWD CWDX

Cher did amazing this past weekend. She has truly been a wonderful partner in everything she does, and she does excel in water. She's two-and-a-half years old, she got her Junior Water certificate in 2019 at 7 months old and has competed in 10 trials, having to get four working legs for WWDX due to change of rules. Cher competed and earned her Courier Water Dog Excellent title on Saturday, moved to Master Sunday to earn her first master leg! Her pop-pop Mike Mobley would have loved to have seen that. I know he was watching. I am truly grateful to have met the Mobleys, and for them trusting me with Cher. Mike always loved to hear about her latest accomplishment, or silly trick that we would do together.



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## DAZZLE

Owned by Anne and Peter Paige

**Baywatch Dazzle with Style**

Our feisty 12½-year-old Dazzle came out of retirement to earn the final leg of her WWDX at the Keystone Water Trial. She was very proud of herself.



# ★ BRAGS ★

## PEPPER

Owned by the Hackman Family

### Our First Water Trial

We did it! Pepper is a Junior Water Dog. What a great experience with my dog. She is feisty and I was certain she wouldn't swim with me; but she did. I am elated.

We had productive practices on the Chester River with Judy, Marianne, Brian, Karen, Sandy, and Bob. I learned so much on those days. We also had a great training day at Codorus on August 7. Pepper and I had a lot of help from Cindy, Marylou, Harry, and Benita.

The Portie people at the Water Trial were supportive, encouraging, helpful, and shared many great training tips. I learned a lot watching the teams working toward Apprentice, Working, Courier, and Master Water Dog. The Water Trial weekend was well organized. There was a palpable spirit of anticipation all weekend even with the rain on Sunday.

It was an extra special weekend for Pepper and me.



## KERMIT

Owned by Brian and Mary Ann McGunigle and Linda J. Motta

### Bantry's Dapper Di Nozzo, CGC, CDX, CWDX

Kermit McGunigle qualified for his Courier Water Dog Excellent title at the KPWDC Water Trial on Saturday August 21, 2021.

Team Kermit members are Mary Ann McGunigle, handler, Brian McGunigle, substitute steward, and, of course, the star of the show and full voting member, Kermit. He was bred by Linda J. Motta and was born January 25, 2012. Brian, Mary Ann, and Linda are Kermit's registered owners though we doubt that Kermit would accept the idea of being "owned" by anyone.

Thanks to Judge Frank Cardillino and to all the Keystone members and other folks who worked so hard to make this trial happen. Thanks to Jan Reinert for Kermit's



Photo by Judy Murray

signature pouches and the team "uniforms". And thanks to Brian for the "frog green" shoes! It was great fun. To be continued . . .

# ★ BRAGS ★

## WOODFORD

Co-owned by Louann Tracy, Marcus Tracy, and Stephanie Hargest

**Classea's Woodford Wonderdog of Western Waters CA (Coursing Ability) FCAT, CGC, TKN, DJA, DS**

### Moments of Greatness by Woodford

I've been hearing my mom, Louann Tracy, talk about my time at the Keystone Water Trial last month. The phrase I hear most often is "Woodford had Moments of Greatness" but I am not sure if she's talking about how friendly I am as I ran down the beach to meet the other dogs and people or how enthusiastic I am bouncing around back and forth over this thing they kept calling "the three-foot line."

I know there were times when I just didn't understand the point of some things like this two-minute swim to nowhere—what the heck? There was nothing to get, no food to eat, so I just thought I should get out and go find some more important work to do.

My best work was when I brought the dummy back to shore and carried it down to the next area and then took the long way back to mom, leaping over that short fence—I was showing off right there! And the judge, Frank something or other, even said he would write a note to the AKC and tell them to add another FastCat run to my record. Mom thinks he's funny.



I showed the other judge, Judy, how to do the underwater retrieve but she said I went over that three-foot line and wasn't parallel to shore but come on . . . I stuck my face way down there and put it right in my mom's hand. My mom said Judy is "letter of the law" and my mom is "spirit of the law."

I do know that she was most proud of my "wait on the boat" because I sat there so tall and still until she called me! That really was a "moment of greatness."

She's going to let me try this again at something called the National Specialty. Bottom line is—I had fun, did some good work, and made my mom smile! She calls that JOY!



# ★ BRAGS ★

## AMAZING ACE

Owned and loved by John and Sarah Brock

**GCHG CH Aviator's Blackjack Legacy CD BN RE OA  
OAJ XF CGCA CGCU TKA ATT RLI WWDX MWD5  
MAC-4 GROM**

### The First MWD5

The first time Amazing Ace ever successfully completed the Courier Buoy Ball Placement was in a water trial. That ball drop earned Ace a Courier Water Dog Title and set him on a path to a Courier Excellent Title. But that's how it had always been with Ace . . . special little surprises along his way to magical accomplishments.

When I first learned the PWDCA was considering a new Master Water Dog Title I thought it was a great idea. The new title offered handlers new challenges over and above the Courier level, which was exciting. When the Master Title was approved by the PWDCA Board, Ace was six years old. I remember thinking to myself, "How great would it be if Ace could reach his MWD5 Title?"

I knew reaching MWD5 would be very challenging because each level required five passing runs and Ace was getting a bit older. He finished the 2019 summer season with his MWD2 Title.

Then Covid-19 hit.

The summer of 2020 was quite challenging for us all. Somehow we found a few water trials to enter. We ran in June, August, and October, 2020 and Ace passed every run, so at the end of 2020 Ace had his MWD3.

During his last runs of 2020 I noticed that Ace was tired. He just didn't have the enthusiasm for the water as in previous years. He was pushing nine years old. So, in October, 2020 I promised him that I would only ask him to continue if he felt good. We'd see how he felt in the spring and make some decisions.

This past Spring Amazing Ace was back! He had that old ambition and drive again. Yes, he was slower and a bit less energetic, but it was nice to see him happy in the water.

On our journey this summer, Ace and I decided it would be a good idea to enter the Keystone Water Trial. We really had a wonderful time at the trial. We loved the people, the site, the judges, and everything else about the



trial. Ace earned two passing legs toward his MWD5 at Keystone and we'll never forget the great time we had at the trial.

Ace earned his MWD5 on his last run of the summer in Michigan. As it turns out, that was also Ace's last run of his water career. After reaching his MWD5 I decided that Ace had done enough. He's now retired and looking for more fun things to do.

During his water career, Ace tallied 40 qualifying runs. From 2015 to 2018 Ace scored 12 consecutive passing runs. From 2019 to 2021 Ace earned another 16 consecutive passing runs. Then finished his water career with seven consecutive Master passes. Ace was the first dog to ever earn a Master leg. He was also the first to earn his MWD2, MWD3, MWD4 and MWD5 Titles.

My hope is that everyone reading this little article has as much fun in the water as Ace and me. Water work is at the foundation of our breed and it's a blast! Good luck in your water career and I hope to see you soon at a future water trial.



# ★ BRAGS ★

## MOKEY

Owned by Sarah and John Michael DePaoli  
Bred and Co-Owned by Kelley and Thomas Dimke

**Ondakina's Wind in the Willows, RN CGC TKE TDI  
BCAT MAC-1**

Mokey and I traveled across the state of PA last month to attend our very first Water Trial! It was an experience that I looked forward to with much anticipation and excitement. The site at Codorus State Park was beautiful, with a beach very similar to the lake we've been practicing at near our home in Pittsburgh.



Everybody that I met was so friendly and supportive, and I was thankful to receive some great bits of advice from other competitors, which helped calm my nerves. I was very proud of Mokey for passing JWD on her first attempt!

I was impressed with how smoothly the trial ran and how organized everything was. Thanks so much to all of the volunteers who helped make this possible, especially considering that there were some major last-minute changes that had to be made.

I think that my favorite part of the trial was watching the other teams compete. So much can be learned through the process of observation, and I tried to soak in as much as I could.

I was moved to tears on more than one occasion while watching the dogs work! This breed is so amazing—to witness them doing what they were bred to do at my first water trial was a very powerful experience, and one that I will never forget.



## DREAMER

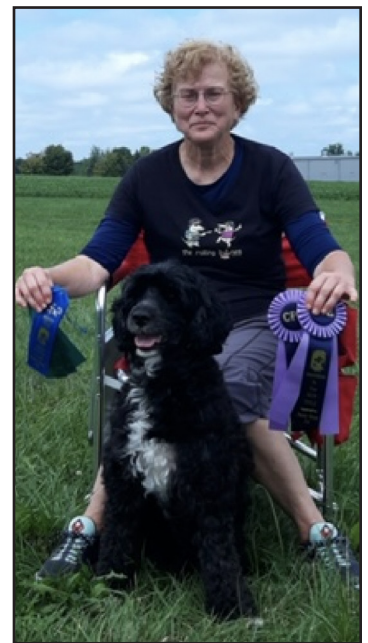
Dreamer was bred by Carol Mattingley and Ann Bowley. She lives with Linda Strauch, her training partner, who owns her heart.

**AKA Windruff Dreamweaver CGCA, TKI, ORT NW1  
L1C L1I CL1R CL1F RN (pending), WWD**

It has been quite a summer for Dreamer and me. In May we earned our NACSW level1E-containers title (we had earned our NW 1 title in December). On August 14 we submitted our third virtual Rally Novice performance (pending). On August 21 and 22 at the Keystone Water Trial we earned our WWD, and a second leg toward a WWDX. On August 29, at Flexible Flyers, we had 3 bruns, 3 Qs, 3 first places, and 2 titles, CL1R, Cl1 F.

I am so proud of our girl who is showing how versatile this wonderful breed can be.

—Linda Strauch



*Dreamer with her agility handler,  
Donna Germann*

# Got My Gear . . . Ready to Go!

When Bob and I began water work with our first PWD, Max, in 2006 we thought we knew exactly what equipment and items we would need to bring. Each time we went to a practice session, a water camp, or water trial, there was always something I identified as, "I wish I had brought this or that item with us." While this list was compiled over a few years, you certainly can personalize it depending on the type of event you are attending. Also, the list includes items that may be weather-dependent and site-specific. I use this as a checklist for any event and modify it accordingly.

Some of the items I have included on this list may seem very obvious, but it takes only one time to forget an essential item to understand why I created this list that I call "Stuff for Water Work." Once I forgot to take underwear to go with the shorts and T-shirt I packed to wear home after a water trial. Therefore, I had to stay in a wet swimsuit for the 2-hour-and-45-minute-drive home



from Codorus State Park. I was cold and miserable for the entire ride. Needless to say, underwear was added to my list as soon as I got home. I hope this helps you create your own list for Water Work and you will never forget to bring something you need to a Water Event.

—Sandra Caruso

## Stuff for Water Work

Crates	Clicker	25' Yellow Leash Line	Dog Food and Bowl
Water Bowl for Crates	Whistle	Good Leashes and Walking Collars	Dog Brushes, Comb, maybe Dryer
Ground Blanket (for under crate)	People Vests	Trash Bags (for wet gear and trash)	Car Sun Blankets and Clips
Water Work Equipment, 3-Sided Toy, Dummy, Float Line, Buoy Ball, Pouches, and Fishing Net	Dog Towels	Dog Fan and Extra Battery	Dog Coats
Air Pump and Needle	People Towels	Water for Dogs	Rx for People and Dogs
Tape Measure	Sunscreen and Bug Spray	Water for People	Hat and Hair Clips
Harness	Chairs	Extra Water Jug (for rinsing off sand and debris at day's end)	Shorts, Jeans, T-Shirt, and Underwear
Poop Bags	Crate Pads	Snacks	Swimsuits and Cover Up
Canister of Wipes	Wet Crate Pads	Lunches	Sunglasses
Water Dog Toys	Dry Crate Pads (for the way home)	Treats for Dogs	Water Shoes and Flip Flops
Food Pouches	Wagon	Cooler (Ice Packs)	Rain Pants
	Radar Detector	Shade structure, Stakes or Tie Downs	Rain Jacket
	Device Chargers		Sweatshirt
	First Aid Kit		Blanket (for a cold day)
	Water Leashes		
	Water Collars		



# My Rudder Hurts!

**S**wimmers Tail, sometimes called limber tail syndrome or “broken wag,” is the common name for the medical condition called acute caudal myopathy in dogs.

Swimmers tail is associated with swelling at the base of a dog’s tail which is usually caused by an injury, or overwork of that particular part of the body. Pain can be caused by restricted blood flow to the muscles at the base of the tail and the condition can happen due to swimming, (especially in cold water), being exposed to very cold and wet weather, hunting (especially in thick cover), or it can sometimes be caused by extended periods being confined in a crate or small kennel.

While all breeds of dogs can develop swimmers tail, working and hunting breeds can be more susceptible, particularly if they spend a long time working or hunting in cold water—hence the name.

The symptoms of swimmers tail usually manifest themselves around twenty-four hours after a period of strenuous exertion, particularly swimming during cold weather. The dog’s tail will typically hang limp or stick out straight for an inch or two from the base, before hanging limp from that point.

The dog may have difficulty in sitting and may show obvious signs of pain such as panting or whining. Other symptoms may include difficulty in defecating, loss of appetite, and swelling at the base of the tail.

Generally speaking, this condition is not serious and can usually be managed at home. However, you should still seek veterinary advice since the symptoms could be a possible sign of more serious conditions such as a broken or fractured tail, or other more acute skeletal diseases.

As long as other conditions have been ruled out, swimmers tail will usually clear up of its own accord in a matter of a few days. However, during this time the dog must rest and activity levels much reduced. Applying a warm compress can help to reduce swelling and alleviate any pain.

If the dog has a tendency to develop swimmers tail it is important to avoid allowing your dog to exercise too hard in cold weather, especially if this involves swimming in icy water when he or she is not in tip-top condition to begin with.

—Excerpted from [www.holidays4dogs.co.uk/blog/swimmers-tail-dogs/](http://www.holidays4dogs.co.uk/blog/swimmers-tail-dogs/)

# IN MEMORIAM

**Mike Mobley**  
1944-2021

**T**his year’s Keystone Water Trial was held in memory of Mike Mobley, who died unexpectedly but peacefully on June 27, 2021. Mike, 76, a former Keystone Board member, treasurer and Water Committee member, was a man with a big heart, and a friend to every human and dog he ever met.

Mike shared a passion for dogs with Jenny, his wife of 45 years. Together they bred, raised, trained, and competed with dogs of many breeds, including English Setters, Doberman Pinschers, and, for the past dozen or more years, Portuguese Water Dogs. An AKC Conformation Judge, Mike also dedicated his time and talents to serving national and local dog breed clubs in leadership positions—or just showing up at events and being there to help out where needed.

Mike was a natural leader. He was an Army veteran, an executive in the computer industry, a Boy Scout leader in Chester County, PA for many years, and a real estate agent after moving to the Eastern Shore of Maryland. After his retirement, Mike appreciated every opportunity to “toast the sunset” on the Chesapeake Bay with friends and family.

He is survived by his wife Jenny, three children, eight grandchildren and three Portuguese Water Dogs, all of whom miss him terribly.

—Friends of Mike Mobley



Photo by Phyllis Ensley