

AKC AWARDS

HONORING OUR OWN

At the 2011 AMCA National Banquet, two hard-working club members were recognized with special AKC awards. Celebrate the accomplishments of Robin Haggard, recipient of the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award; and Diana Edwards, recipient of the AKC Public Education Certificate of Appreciation.

Paperback writer wannabe Jim Kuehl entertains us with insights into why Robin Haggard (Poker Flat Kennel) won the Outstanding Sportsmanship Award.

I was at the venue for the National, some hotel in Ypsilanti, Michigan, minding my own business, when Steve Anderson, our Club's Fearless Leader, came up to me and asked me when Robin had joined the AMCA. I allowed that I did not know but offered the helpful suggestion that he consult the Club Directory.

I thought nothing more of the incident until several days later at the Saturday night awards banquet. Steve, as MC, began talking about how long Robin had been in the Club and her many contributions to the Club, and I became suspicious. Then Steve announced that the Board of Directors had voted to award Robin the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award. My suspicions were confirmed - Steve did not care at all what year Robin had joined the Club.

However, just what this award was eluded me. I am embarrassed to say that I had never heard of the award before that night. I went to the Internet, font of all knowledge, and learned much about the award. The AKC web site describes the award thusly:

In recognition of her many contributions to malamutes, Robin Haggard was honored with the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship medallion at the 2011 National.



"In the American Kennel Club's ongoing efforts to recognize and celebrate its volunteer club members, The AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award program was established in 2006 to provide each member club with an AKC Medallion to award to one of its own on a yearly basis.

"This award honors those individuals who deserve special recognition that have made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs, embodied the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, and have been an active and valued member of an AKC member club."

The second sentence in this quote shows that as grammarians, the AKC editors know a lot about dogs.

I also learned that the first Outstanding Sportsmanship Award given by the AMCA went to Virginia Grefe in 2009. Sadly, Virginia passed away last November. She had been the AMCA AKC representative, and gave many years of

The AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award

At the 2011 National Banquet, AMCA President Steve Anderson stated: "Many of us have been fortunate to get to know Robin Haggard, as a daunting competitor, a successful trainer, an admired breeder, a respected judge, and always, a patient mentor. She has been, for over four decades, a tireless advocate for the best interests of our breed and an example of the best in each of us. For all she has done, and continues to do, the AMCA Board of Directors is proud to present her with this Sportsmanship Medallion."



Robin and friend pose with her medallion.

service to the Club in that capacity.

When we returned home from Ypsilanti, I put a note on our Training Club's e-list that Robin had won the Outstanding Sportsmanship Award. A lot of members posted congratulatory e-mails, but a few wrote that others in the Training Club had received the award as well. It turns out that, including Robin, we have four recipients of the Award in our small club. The others got the award from their respective breed clubs for Elkhounds, Flatcoats, and Tervurens. I wrote back to the e-list that these four members had traits in common: "All of these recipients participate in most aspects of dog training and dog sports offered by our club and AKC. But each of them focuses on different aspects of training and handling. It supports my theory that all training is good training. Even conformation training, which is essentially training the dog to stand still and eat liver."

The Outstanding Sportsmanship Award cites the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, which I had never heard of either, which is understandable because the Code clearly applies to other people and not me. You can find the Code at the AKC web site (www.akc.org). The Preface of the Code states: "The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years."

My conclusions from this research and from others whom I know who also received the Award, are that AKC Clubs award the Outstanding Sportsmanship Award to members who have a long history of service to their Parent Club and who participate in a broad range of activities that benefit pure bred dogs and their sports.

One of the precepts of the AKC

Code of Sportsmanship is that the sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism. This made me wonder how Robin got the award in the first place. She actually started in pure bred sports while in 4-H back in 1960, when she bred and raised a litter of German Shepherds. Robin met malamutes through a friend of Doris Knorr's. Doris was North Wind Kennels, later Knagnark Kennels. Robin bred her first malamute litter in 1963, and her first mal Champion finished in 1965.

Robin thought that to join the national breed club, she would have to have more credentials than breeding one champion, so she did not join the AMCA until 1976. Since then, she has served on the AMCA Board of Directors, she has been Chair of the Alaskan Malamute Research Foundation (AMRF), she was on the Breed Standard Committee, and I think she was on some committees for Nationals. She whelped and raised, I'm guessing, over forty pups for the Chondrodysplasia program. She placed all of those pups in homes that met the same standards we have for those dogs not genetically challenged. She won the AMCA Humanitarian Award two years in a row, mostly for her work with AMRF and the carrier pups.

So, Robin did a lot of stuff and deserves the Outstanding Sportsmanship Award. If you are saying to yourself, as I am: "Hey. I done all that kind of Stuff. How come I never got that Award?" I don't know. I don't know how the Board nominates candidates, if there is a primary election, what percent of the Board has to vote for you. I don't know nuthin' about that. I'm still getting my head around the AKC Code of Sportsmanship and whether it should be "Sportswomanship." And whether the Code is not exactly rules, but more like "guidelines." When Robin got the award, I was almost as happy as when she won the Frank Hall sled in the raffle earlier in the evening. Both the sled and the award came as pleasant surprises. But, I should have suspected something was afoot when Steve Anderson started asking me questions.

Diana Edwards' work to promote malamutes at the AKC's Museum of the Dog started with a temporary exhibit, which has since been expanded into a permanent display. For her years of service developing and hosting public education events, she was awarded the AKC Public Education Certificate of Appreciation at the 2011 National.

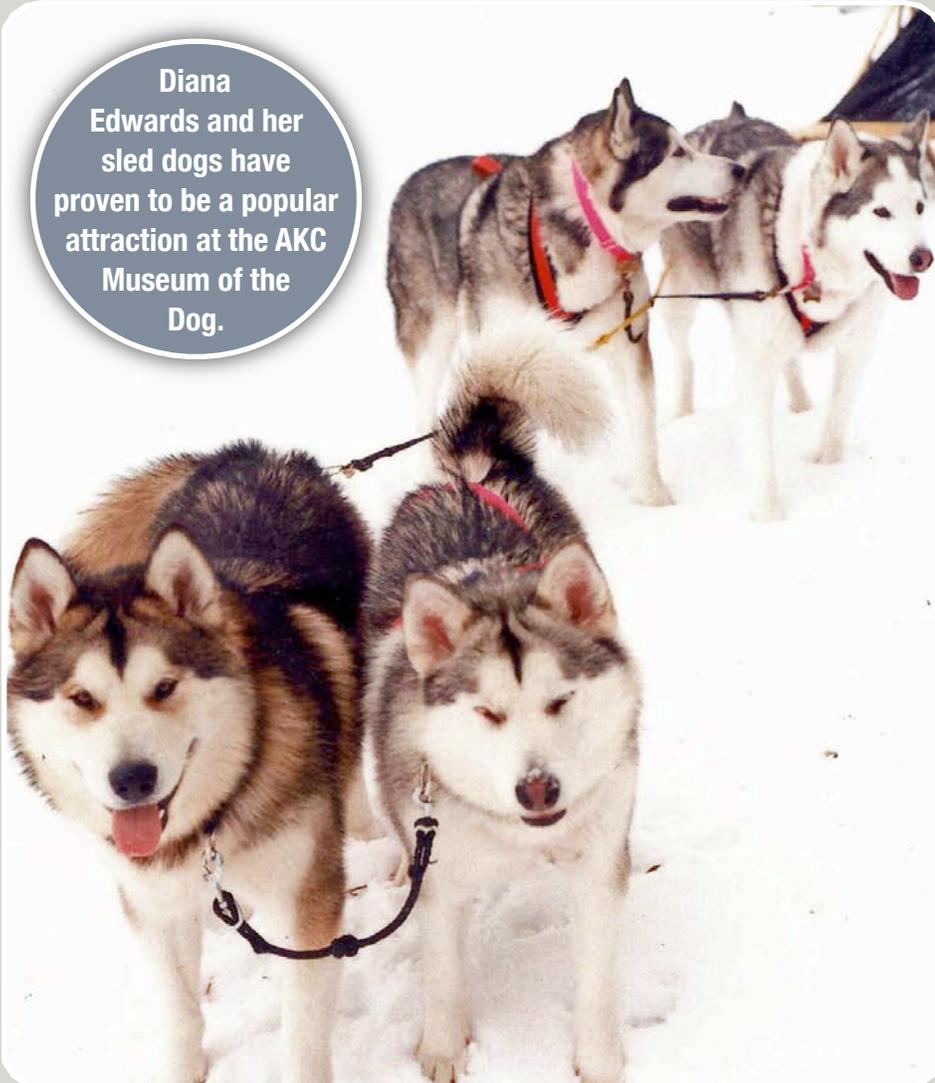
For several years, AKC Museum of the Dog Director Barbara Jemma McNab and longtime Alaskan malamute enthusiast Diana Edwards of Winward Kennels talked about expanding the presence of sled dogs in the world's only museum devoted to man's best friend. It was believed there

was so much to share on this subject that more attention should be given to these unique, hardy working dogs.

After several months of planning, the loan exhibit, *Sled Dogs of the North*, opened in the Dog Museum's Sally Johnson Special Exhibit Gallery in February 2009. Diana Edwards was instrumental in the design of this popular exhibition and brought a wealth of knowledge to this project. *Sled Dogs of the North* was available to visitors through May 2009.

Following the opening of the special exhibit in 2009, in a special presentation ceremony held in the AKC Museum of the Dog's Constellation Room in November 2010, USAF Major General Susan Y. Desjardins presented the Museum with a gift of a

Diana Edwards and her sled dogs have proven to be a popular attraction at the AKC Museum of the Dog.



Sled Dogs at the AKC Museum of the Dog

The American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog, located in beautiful St. Louis, Missouri, is home to the world's finest collection of art devoted to the dog. The facility displays over 700 original artwork pieces depicting dogs throughout the ages.

Diana Edwards' efforts to promote malamutes at the Museum started with a temporary exhibit featured from February to May of 2009. The success of the *Sled Dogs of the North* exhibit was a factor in the Museum's decision to add a permanent display dedicated to sled dogs! *Sled Dogs: Exploration and Endurance* opened in March 2011. Diana says, "My work is not done yet! I want to do more with the exhibit so I can bring more school children to learn!"

The AKC Museum of the Dog is open year-round. Learn more at www.museumofthedog.org.





Commemorative Centenary First Edition Airway Chart of the historic South Pole Discovery, given on behalf of Air Mobility Command. The aeronautical chart, designed by USAF Colonel Ronald J. Smith, commemorates the sled dogs teams of Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and the pony pack team of Robert Falcon Scott. Showing Airway 338 waypoints, the chart was printed by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and is used in international flights from New Zealand to Antarctica.

To underscore the festivities of the afternoon, Diana brought three of her champion Alaskan malamute sled dogs and a Siberian husky to meet visitors. CH Winward's Shotgun Justice (Justice), CH Winward Jee Jac's Chill'n With Flint WLD WTD (Flint), Firestorms Snow and Ice She's All That (Clover), and Lasans Soul on Ice at Winward (Nova) were the highlight of the presentation program.

Diana and her mals have also participated in several of the Museum's popular *Guest Dog of the Week* events, held on Sundays. Having the sled dogs at the Dog Museum is always a huge success, particularly with children who seem to fall in love with these beautiful canines.

Due in large part to the successful 2009 exhibit and the gift of the Commemorative Airway Chart, the Dog Museum pursued installing a permanent display dedicated to sled dogs. *Sled Dogs: Exploration and Endurance* was



newly installed in the AKC Museum of the Dog's Cam Lyman Gallery in March 2011. This fabulous exhibit features art and artifacts from the permanent collection, including the special Commemorative Centenary First Edition Airway Chart, two limited edition color lithographs by the well-known artist Fred Machetanz, prints, photos, and two lovely dog sleds. Diana and Kevin Edwards donated one sled to the Museum. The other was given by



Diana and Flint pose with her certificate.

Robert and Nancy Russell of Walsenburg, Colorado.

The AKC Museum of the Dog is located in West St. Louis County, Missouri. For information on exhibits and events, visit www.museumofthedog.org.

Editor's Note: Barbara Salvadore nominated Diana for this award and recommended that she take over as the new Public Education Committee Chairwoman! We thank Barb for her assistance with this story.



USAF Col. Ronald J. Smith with Flint, in front of the framed aeronautical airway chart.