

HISTORY

IN THE MAKING

THE BEGINNING OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP

A match made in heaven. Total belief in each other. The incredible bond between Northpaw's Bouncing Bogie and his owner Brenda Lemon carried them to the peak of weight pull competition, right into the Hall of Working Fame - and through the tough times in life as well. Brenda recounts her adventures with this inspiring malamute.

"Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, he walks into mine"

In 1998, I called my friend Barb Lichota, a malamute breeder in Oxford, Pennsylvania, looking for a large dog. A pet was all I wanted. Little did I know I was on my way to finding my animal soul mate and a wonderfully talented companion. Bogie was the largest of the six pups from the breeding between sire Ch Black Ice's Bound for Glory and dam Northpaw's Kiss Me Kate. He was big, fluffy and pet quality - so I took him.

The next year he kept me very busy, because he was an escape artist. He and I would take bike rides and walks to my parents, who lived about one-and-a-half miles away. If I did not take him out, he would take himself out for a walk to my parents and then nap in their yard! Everyone on the route knew Bogie. I did finally win with a six-foot fence, buried cinder blocks, doggie door and power pulled cable at the bottom of the fencing. Yeah! Now we could relax and have some fun.



The escape artist at six months old.

Running with the bike was part of our exercise program. I also found a sulky made for large dogs that gave us a chance to alternate. Bogie loved to be active, so I kept looking for new things to try. I went to Fair Hill, Maryland, to watch and research dog sledding - of course I took Bogie who was now a little over one year old. That is where we met Melissa Kehler and the International Weight Pulling Association (IWPA). They were holding a weight pulling competition and had a novice pull for beginners. Well, they talked me into trying Bogie in harness. Bogie walked through the



About the Author

Brenda Lemon has owned malamutes for over 25 years, and loves the challenge of becoming the alpha of her pack! She will try anything with her dogs - including obedience, biking, backpacking, carting, sledding, and soon agility. The dogs she has trained, especially in weight pulling, have made her very proud! How does she get the most out of her dogs? Simple: "They need to love what they are doing, and who they are doing it with!"

An AMCA and IWPA member for ten years, Brenda lives in Newark, Delaware. She has worked as a Respiratory Therapist for over 35 years and recently retired from 25 years of teaching Shotokan Karate.

Brenda thanks the AMCA for recognizing her wonderful malamute Bogie.

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whole process like he knew what he was doing. He actually pulled 800 pounds and never leaned into the harness once! The staff running the event said, "We definitely need to keep this dog pulling!" And so our weight pulling adventures began.

"Play it, Sam. Play As Time Goes By."

In the winter of 2000, Bogie's co-owner Val Thawley, Bogie and I started competing in IWPA and Alaskan Malamute Club of America (AMCA) weight pulls. We only attended local events, until we felt like we knew what we were doing! As we became braver, we traveled the east coast to compete against various breeds of dogs. Bogie improved with each and every pull. Val and I met and made new friends, too.

Bogie and I went everywhere together. We trained in obedience, where I got yelled at more than he did. We hiked, dragged weights, ran with the bike, carted with an old three wheel cart, we played - and most of all we built a very tight bond and trust for each other. When we went to weight pulls, other pullers could see the connection we had when we were on the track. Total belief in each other. And when he was off the track, Bogie won the hearts of everyone. He would take belly rubs from anyone willing to spend the time rubbing.

In 2001, Bogie turned three years old, and was it a great year! He completed his Canine Good Citizen certification, earned his AMCA Working Weight Pull Dog title, and both his IWPA Working Dog and Working Dog Excellent certificates. He also starred in the 2001 World of Discovery Malamute Calendar!

But our biggest accomplishment of the year was the trip to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and competing in our first Regional AMCA weight pull. The first day we proudly took second place behind Baloo, owned and pulled by Steve Palinkas. Both dogs pulled 2534 pounds, but Baloo did it seven seconds faster. The next day we tried again, and Bogie came out with first place and Most Weight Pulled. Once again both dogs pulled the same weight, 2544 pounds, but Bogie won on time. The entire Harrisburg experience, both the people and the dogs, was very exciting.

In Bogie's fourth year, he earned the nickname "Calendar Boy," being featured in the 2002 Brown Trout Malamute calendar. This year he was really kicking it up a notch with his weight pulling. He finished his IWPA Working Dog Superior certificate as well as his AMCA Working Weight Pull Dog Excellent title. He pulled 4100 pounds two consecutive days in Gloucester, Virginia - his highest weight ever pulled to that point. Bogie received a silver medal on snow and gold medal on wheels from IWPA in the 125 pound class for Region 11. Because of this, we were invited to compete in the IWPA Nationals, where Bogie pulled 1365 pounds on snow and set the National record for the 125 pound class! As a dumb excited mother, I stopped him when they said he had won - not realizing he was setting the record. To this day, I feel I cheated him out of his true record pull. His record held from 2002 - 2005. To finish out the year, at the AMCA Regionals in Harrisburg, Bogie took first place and Most Weight Pulled both days.



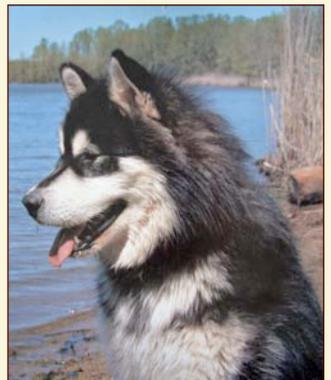
"Here's Looking at You, Kid"

Above: This drawing of Bogie by artist Debbie Lee was used as a logo by IWPA in 2006, and is currently used for title certificates by the Mid-Atlantic Weight Pullers Association.

Right: "Calendar Boy" Bogie struck this pose for one of his appearances.

Bogie laughs after winning his retirement pull at Harrisburg. He pulled so hard that the bags of dog food fell off the back of the cart!

Bottom: Bogie and Brenda - a fantastic team.



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From 2003 to 2004, Bogie completed two of the three legs required for his Working Pack Dog title (which he would never earn). Bogie weighed about 132 pounds now, and received silver medals both years for IWPA Region 11 on wheels and snow in the 150 pound class. At the 2003 AMCA Nationals, Bogie took first place three days in a row, and the last day took 2nd place. Bogie pulled his all time high of 4200 pounds, on carpet, in Hamburg, Pennsylvania. At the 2003 and 2004 AMCA Regionals in Harrisburg, Bogie took first place and Most Weight Pulled both days both years. That made Bogie a seven time consecutive winner at Harrisburg's AMCA Regionals!

"Round up the usual suspects"

In 2005, when Bogie was turning seven, the year started well. Bogie became a therapy dog because he did not get enough love at home. In February, he set a record at the Tug Hill Challenge in New York, pulling 1370 pounds on snow. We competed in a few pulls through March. Bogie was pulling well, but he did not want to get weighed in. In April he started limping, which took us right to our veterinarians. First they said "Lyme," then we had more tests and x-rays to get "possibly bone cancer."

We retired Bogie from weight pulling at Harrisburg, paving the way for a new champion to emerge. But Bogie was not getting any good news. He did have bone cancer in his front leg. Even though he was a big dog, we decided to amputate the leg and see how he would do.

On May 28th, 2005, Bogie went through surgery. He did so well, they called me the next morning and said "He's ready to come home!" He was up, walking, and as usual - trying to escape. The vets said, "Home is where he wants to be!" So home we went.

Bogie was unbelievable. After the first few weeks of keeping him lightly medicated and allowing the wound to heal, he wanted to go for his walks just like usual. Since he was doing great, we agreed to try some chemotherapy, hoping to slow the cancer from spreading. Bogie went to our vet all day for many days through this process. Remember, he is a mommy's boy - so the vets would call when his treatment was done, and all I could hear on the phone was



"I was wondering...why I'm so lucky?"

Bogie enjoyed a very active life, and was up for anything. Besides his tremendous weight pulling career, he enjoyed walks, backpacking, biking, pulling a sulky and cart, and swimming! When his front leg was amputated due to cancer, he was still happy, enthusiastic and ready to go. His personality really shone at competitions, where his signature move was to duck between Brenda's legs after each pull!



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a howling malamute! I always felt bad for the workers on his appointment days. Outside of being very expensive and taking a lot out of Bogie on treatment days, chemotherapy went well.

“Where I’m going, you can’t follow”

By 2006, Bogie was healed and carrying on like a normal four-legged malamute. That year, IWPA used a drawing of Bogie by artist Debbie Lee for their official newsletter logo.

Since there was no more pulling for Bogie, we put together the Bogie Challenge in honor of his career. Offered at the AMCA Regionals in Harrisburg, the final Challenge prize was an original sculpture of Bogie in harness, by artist Pamela Weaver. To win, the dog had to achieve the Most

Weight Pulled award five times, with a minimum of 2500 pounds pulled each time. When a dog won Most Weight Pulled at Harrisburg, an award (pictured above) was presented; and this was done until someone won five times. Bogie attended the first year of his challenge and watched all the competitors.

Not long after that we found a spot on Bogie’s back legs. So he went through a few palliative radiation treatments. We had to go all the way to Baltimore for this - because of his size, they used a machine made for a horse. Bogie really was a dog - just big! Once again, Bogie enjoyed life as a dog.

On August 6th of 2006, Bogie passed after he broke a rear leg. This is where the tears start. But his story is not over.

“We’ll always have Paris”

In October of 2010, Val and I drove to Denver, Colorado, to the AMCA Nationals. We took Bogie’s great-nephew Raider and our four-month-old puppy Darla with us.

On October 20, 2010, NORTHPAW’S BOUNCING BOGIE, CGC, TDI, WWPDX, IWPA-WDS was inducted into the AMCA Hall of Working Fame, in recognition of his outstanding and remarkable working ability. This truly was a heartfelt honor.

Nothing could top this for Val and me - until Raider won both weight pulls in Denver, with Bogie’s same style and grace. We truly felt the spirit of Bogie was there in Colorado with all of us.



Working Dog Committee co-chair Leesa Thomas speaks about the AMCA Hall of Working Fame

“Inducted into the Hall of Working Fame.” Those few words represent a lifetime of outstanding achievement by a dog. They encompass the heart and drive of that dog, its competitive nature, its desire to please, and the trust and dedication built over time between that dog and its owner. Being inducted into the HWF is an honor unlike any other available to our breed and has been achieved by only 27 malamutes (including Bogie) in the history of the program. There are many good dogs, fewer great dogs, but only a handful of truly exceptional dogs. It is those few who have earned the right to include “HWF” after their name.

Plaque awarded to Bogie for the AMCA Hall of Working Fame. Inducted on October 20, 2010, Bogie is the most recent dog honored with this recognition.