

The 2005 Season

Two Thousand Five (2005) was a year of great accomplishment for dogs from this kennel, as well as stud fee pups born out of Ahmahr Nahr's stock.

Ahmahr Nahr's Jake Jamal, JC, known to his friends as "The Gambling Man" set about earning his American Kennel Club (AKC) title in short order by showing at shows in Palm Springs, Scottsdale, and then finishing his majors in Washington and Oklahoma. The Washington weekend was a wild weekend at Mt. Baker Kennel Club as Jake showed Friday in Vancouver to group 1 under the CKC system, Saturday at Mt. Baker Kennel Club, to a major win and Best of Breed, all to have to run back across the border to win again in Vancouver on the same day. This death defying feat was a little bit too much to repeat on Sunday, so we decided to give Larry Clark, his handler, a new performance experience in Shawnee, Oklahoma, a little later in the year. We went to Shawnee, Oklahoma in May, and Jake finished his title there, as well as earned his Junior Courser title on the same day. This was also the very first show for puppy Ch. Ahmahr Nahr's Just Call Me Madam. We got through it.

We had a great experience in Shawnee when Larry, for the first time, handled a coursing dog in a performance event on the lovely green fields at Shawnee racing his former charge, D.CH. Astarte Sultan Seite with Pips, SC, to a second place overall finish behind only Seite's bride, D.CH. Ahmahr Nahr's African Dancer, SC.

We think Siete would have beat Dancer had Larry not been so shocked at the power at which he took off at the start that Larry had him aimed west, and the bunny went east. That's one of these tricks we'll reserve for the next coursing event. It poured on the last two days of the meet so we did not, out of concern for safety, race any dogs on the last two days. We had a great weekend and got to see all of our old friends in Oklahoma.

At the same time, I had a new experience. Larry had a boxer, we showed, and at the same time we showed Larry's wife's dog, Tommy, Can/Am Ch. Pomhaven's Tommy Hilfiger, to his American title and winning placements at a Pom Specialty. I got to be the chief groomer and enjoyed it immensely. Very shortly thereafter, we went to Argentina to Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the World Show 2005. This was a great experience. For everything anyone could say bad about the World Show in 2004 in Brazil, only good could be said about the World Show in Argentina in 2005. We stayed at a lovely downtown hotel in the shopping district, drove a stick shift vehicle on the wide curving boulevards (and didn't kill ourselves or get lost), ate incredible Argentine meals and incredible Argentine beef; shopped 'til we dropped; and, to top it off, did a lot of winning.

Jake won Breed from the open class, two days out of four, and became Basenji and Group V Champion of the Las Americas and Caribbean, (FCI). He showed in group very well on two evenings and made the cut on both occasions. He made us very proud, for a young dog.

CH Ahmahr Nahr's Just Call Me Madam did well, beyond our wildest dreams. Madam won the title of World Winner Basenji and Group V Puppy - 2005, and at midnight on the last night of the show was one of the remaining puppies in the cut for best puppy in show. She got beat only by one of those "hairy" things, as she would describe them, a beautiful golden puppy nearly a year old. Madam had just passed her six month birthday.

Those wins became all the more incredible when you realize what troopers these dogs were. On World Show Day, they survived a five hour wait through a tear gas attack after an incident at the Dogo Argentina ring, to show on carpet impregnated with tear gas, suffering burns on their foot pads. Yes, we had a special veterinary burn cream to treat this, courtesy of our vet, Dr. Randy Van Otten, Animal Hospital of Los Lunas. We were prepared for everything! And upset

tummies. This experience teaches you that your fervor for your own breed should never overcome your good sportsmanship.

On this same trip, Jake's daughter, Aretha began her show career with Best Puppy win on the first day, and Siete joined us for his last International show experience, earning a champion class placement on each of the four days. We had entered Jake's and Madam's big guard dog from home, the Dogo Argentina, Hoss. Hoss was an open class male, just barely over the joven for junior dog category. Because there had been a substantial amount of contention and controversy at the Dogo ring at the SICALAM shows in Paraguay the fall before; and at the World Show in Brazil, Michelle Smith-Barbour and I (she is Jake's co-owner and Hoss's co-owner), decided we would forego the pleasure of taking Hoss with us to Argentina. In light of the tear gas incident, we were right to have done so. This has resulted in competition ban of Dogos at some or all of FCI shows for a period of time (which I am given to understand is under appeal).

We all came back to Canada and did the summer circuit with Madam and Jake's daughter, Aretha, living in Canada with Larry and showing there. Both earned their Canadian titles. Madam earned multiple Best Puppy's in Show during her trip and finished her stay in Canada at the Lower Mainland Club of Canada, Specialty at Lower Mainland in October, 2005 winning an Award of Merit as a puppy.

Jake showed all year in Canada, won multiple Best in Shows; finished as the Top Basenji in Canada and a Top Dog Hound. It is interesting to note that his total dogs defeated for the year approximately doubled that of the number that Siete defeated in the previous year, winning the same accolades. This indicates substantial increase in the competition in the hound ring in Canada, which in fact is the case. Jake had a total of 31 Group I placements in the year 2005, and 72 total group placements. At the time that Jake finished his championship in the United States, he was the top 20 ranked dog in the U.S. as well as top ranked Basenji in Canada. This is quite an accomplishment.

The star in our crown this year, however, was Jake and Madie's trip to the SICALAM Championships in Puerto Rico. Latin Americans appreciate Basenjis, like no other people on earth. In many countries, people are a little concerned about the Basenji's "primitive background" and discount them in group and Best in Show ring. That has never been the case in Latin America, and certainly was not the case in Puerto Rico.

We enjoyed seeing all of our friends in Latin America for the second time in a year as well as many folks from the U.S., Canada and Europe.

The Federacion Canofila, Puerto Rico, which is the FCI dog organization in Puerto Rico, (they also have AKC clubs), put on a wonderful four day event, which included fiestas, parties, opening and closing ceremonies, with dancers, horseback riders, foreign dignitaries, and obedience demonstrations. The prizes were some of the best I have ever seen. Gorgeous trophies, wonderful brand-named contributed prizes from dog food companies, money and titles – what more can you want. The only trophy I've ever seen that I liked better was the trophy that Madam won in Argentina as Best Group V Puppy at the World Show (a beautiful pewter statute of tango dancers under a street lamp engraved with her name and title.)

From SICALAM we had to enjoy the more traditional, but gorgeous baroque-designed, huge gold and silver loving cups and epergnes decorated with cloisonné. At these shows, Madam finished her FCPR, Jr. Title, was named Best Basenji Puppy all four days, Best Group V Puppy all four days, and Best Young Dog on the third day.

Jake had the best overall record of any dog on the four day circuit. He finished as Top Basenji and or SICALAM Major La Roza, SICALAM Basenji and Group V winner, as well as winning Reserve Best in Show at the SICALAM shows. Jake won Best in Show under Judge Carla Molinari, former President of the FCI and President of the Kennel Club of Portugal, on day three and was Reserve Best in Show winner on the other two days. In fact in FCI shows, the top three dogs are

placed, Best In Show, First Reserve and Second Reserve, as regular placements as well as their being a Best Young Dog and a Best Puppy.

We stayed at a wonderful resort hotel on the beach which was headquarters for the entire show. The Kennel Club provided transportation to and from the show site every day, and some of the best times we had were riding with all the other exhibitors, handlers and their dogs in the big Scenicruiser buses with the dogs sitting on the seats, looking out the windows, enjoying each other's company, as well as the other exhibitors and handlers. There was never one gruff or harsh word. It was nothing short of amazing.

Our resort hotel had five different restaurants and its own casino, as well as being in a resort neighborhood with multiple other restaurants. We never did run out of things to see and do, and are looking forward to going back to Puerto Rico. This was my fourth show trip to Puerto Rico and I have never failed to have a good time. The Puerto Rican Kennel Club is an incredibly well-run organization. Its executive director is a well-known International Judge, Roberto Pico Valez, and its President, another well-known International Judge, Rafael De Santiago. During this tour, Jake also finished his FCI and SICALAM championships, as well as his Puerto Rican championship. This is an incredible accomplishment for a dog under two years of age.

As for other dogs, either born at the kennel or born of a kennel stud, FCH Ahmahr Nahr's Running with Spirits, SC, finished his Canadian Championship and has nearly finished his American Kennel Club Championship, and now resides in Wisconsin. Jake's brother, Raider, became both a Canadian and AKC champion this year and resides with his cousin, Spirit, in Wisconsin. It is a delight for us to see Raider and Spirit out on the circuit. During one period of time this year, Jake, Raider and Quattara were in the top ten Basenjis in Canada. Quite a feat.

In addition, Aretha's brother, Teddy, in two show weekends completed his two AKC majors, back to back, in the mid-west and has gone on to finish his championship.

It has been a very good year. As it draws to a close, we wish you the best and look forward to greater achievements in 2006 and the promise that comes from new puppies.

It is a rare year when you have a dog that has gone Best in Show in multiple countries, won titles in multiple countries. We are twice blessed with Jake and Madam. They are:

MBIS, MBPIS Champion, (AKC, CKC, PR, AR, FCPR, FCI) SICALAM, Jake Jamal, JC, CKC, FCPR, JR, SICALAM, Mejor La Raza and Group V Winner; Mejor La Raza and Las Americas and Caribbean Winner 2005

MBPIS Ahmahr Nahr's Just Call Me Madam, World Winner Basenji and Group V Puppy, SICALAM, Top Basenji and Group V Puppy,

In the final quarter of the year we had an unexpected pleasure, Anna Seller acquired a puppy out of CH Ahmahr Nahr's Turquoise Warrior, we had not seen International Guard Unit re-activated after hurricane Katrina, to replace New Orleans National Guard unit, and she was off to Iraq. She made arrangements with us to keep Ginger for her during this period to show and course her. At the first show weekend I had Ginger she went Group Four from the puppy classes under Judge Cynthia Summers in Alamogordo, New Mexico, and is well on the way to finishing her AKC title. Since then, she won a class in Phoenix Basenji fancier specialty and has been off on the road with Young American Handlers, Joe and Melissa Turner, working on her AKC title. She went to Ottawa with us Show of Shows weekend and won all three days earning seven points in her major toward her Canadian title. She is a beautiful brindle and has her grandfather's Si's blinding side gate. Though it was never our intention to have Ginger, we are enjoying it immensely. It is our plan that Ginger will be bred back to one of our studs and produce some fine puppies and Anna will take one and show and course it when she returns from Iraq.