

2010- Beginning Again

After so many years with Jake being at the top of the Charts that included World Champion; #1 Basenji; the Canadian # 3 Hound; AKC Top Hound and Basenji, Eukanuba AOM; and the 2008 National Lure Coursing Finalist. Until recently he was the first, and only, Canadian Grand Champion. Jake continued his outstanding career with BOB and Group wins at the Sicalam, Las Americas, and Caribe shows, and capped off with 28 Canadian All-Breed Best In Show, while Jake's loving Madam quickly followed in his footsteps. Jake has since been recognized as the all-time Top Canadian Basenji, according to the national statistics published in the BCOC and BCOA magazines.

We thought he had finally turned, as a veteran, to other pursuits than Conformation and Coursing and that the last of the Siete-Dancer pups were ready to Special. After a long-awaited breeding, between Jake and Madam, the pups arrived –lots of them. Eight to be exact. Of the eight, one crossed the Rainbow Bridge early and seven remained to grow up. The marriage of the Jake and Siete lines once again resulted in Lily-Smooch pups, now old enough to Special after having brilliant puppy careers. Siete had a second year tied for top Basenji sire with a Meisterhaus boy in the U.S.

Babe, a Jake daughter, was bred on an out-cross to Flo Havens boy, Tex. - this was Flo's good eye not mine and resulted in the most promising outcross litter I have ever seen. Flo and I kept to play with Ch (AKC, CKC) the Ahmahr Nahr's Lost Angel Gabriel and BISS Ch. Ahmahr Nahr's Hallelujah Makes a Joyful Noise. Little Ernie went to Reena Faire and all are showing like crazy. The others are in show and performance homes. They are all lovely red/eh basenjies with laser level top lines and an elegant gate that has been described by a handler friend as like running a "hot knife through butter."

FC Ahmahr Nahr's Tears of the Giraffe (Precious) had her own happy family with Smooch- that charming Siete son from Florida, and resulted in our little champion Ch Ahmahr Nahr's Sweeter than Wine, who finished her title in January at the Portland specialty with a five (5) point major on day one. Precious now lives with her new co-owners the Simkins' and "bosses" a Tilapia fingerling breeding farm near Animas, New Mexico. She and Jack teamed up this year to produce seven (7) red/wh pups.

Out of the first Madam litters we kept, Africanadian Legend of Ahmahr Nahr, a clown-like brindle boy who is out hunting that last elusive major. Madam and Sally Wuornos boy Sonic produced another great litter after Madam's fall visit to Minneapolis, tri's and red/wh. I will be going to Ottawa area in a few weeks to meet them and bring back my new tri boy.

We had a little black/white Angel visit us from Florida to meet Siete- who worked his charms on her as easily as he has all of the rest of the girls over the last 12 years, and a litter of tri's and black/whites was born. We have our eyes on a black/white girl - Black Magic Fantasia, and a little tri boy that is so like his daddy, nearly breaks your heart. Michelle Smith Barbour, I, and Sergio Espejo are breeders here and will proudly show our little Fantasia girl from the "bred by" class - Sergio's first effort at basenji breeding-

We were so busy this year we only got to have Jake help get Tally and Babe QC's in February and did not get to do any other coursing all year. They showed great promise and we will be out there this year. We began working on Jake's obedience triple title campaign and have him ready for competition in rally and obedience. The problem is he forgot to tell us he wanted to do his Grand Championship. He earned his AKC CGN at the Albuquerque shows in May as the only non-poodle entered at the Enchanted Poodle Specialty. He loves those girls with curly hair.

I had him entered in obedience for the nationals and threw him in the FC class for fun. Just to make sure he "had not forgotten how to show." We entered him in a few local shows right before that and he began to win like crazy, getting all his Grand Championship majors and dogs defeated with only a single or two to finish his G Ch. I missed his obedience

call at nationals due to a trial, but he won the Field Champion class as a veteran. He went on to repeat this as the Dual Champion winner at the Portland Specialty in January and winner of an AOM. He has just begun completion on his Rally titles and his obedience titles. Oh- well, he is "young" for obedience.

Proudly, we took six (6) basenjis to the national, and every one of them won a placement in regular or special classes - a rare achievement. Michelle Smith Barbour and I were thrilled that the 2009 pups out of Siete, Jake, Dancer and Fauna so consistently showed their merit. Michelle even trained a shy pup during the long weekend who has then gone on to be a conformation winner in his new home. A very good weekend.

Jack stayed under my direct tutelage for another year and Ryder tried his hand in Canada. Ryder won the Canadian National in 2009. This year, with a very limited showing, due to closure of shows in the Canadian West for the Olympics (he did not start showing until mid-April) he became No. 1 basenji and No. 15 Hound all breed and earned a BIS. He also starred in South America. He was the 2009 Las Americas and Caribe Ganador and the Primitive and Spitz Group Winner under Nicolas Imbimbo, the President of the Italian Kennel Club at the FCI section shows in Peru. He has become a champion in Peru, and a champion and grand champion in Puerto Rico as well as an FCI and Sicalam champion shown by Sergio Espejo on a great trip we took to Peru. They have 200 kinds of potatoes, you know, and we ate every one of them on our gourmet dog show trip. This was a most beautiful show site in downtown Asuncion, and a water ballet park where 15 fountains danced to symphonic music while the dogs showed - incredible. On the way to Peru, Ryder finished his AKC title with a five (5) point major- undefeated in AKC competition.

Jack was a Top Dog Basenji in bred and group points this year in the states. This was his second year to be so ranked. He went BISS at the Dallas-Ft. Worth Regional Specialty, and even held the coveted No. 1 spot for a great part of the year. It was only our bringing the charming Halle out that lowered his win percentage. The choice was just too much for many judges. Nevertheless, he had a very good year finishing – No. 5 in the states, and No. 5 in the new G Ch race here. He was the second basenji in the U.S. to earn this title and missed being first by a half day. Jack is now off to Canada for a year trying his hand at beating his daddy's record there. He had a good start- His first show with Larry was a Group 2.

He earned his Puerto Rican and Peruvian titles as well as his grand Puerto Rican and his FCI and Sicalam titles. As far as I know, he may be the first tri colored basenji to obtain a Group 1 in Latin America. He achieved this win under a basset breeder judge from Venezuela in Puerto Rico to the Pan Am championships. He also earned his Pan Am title and was Pan Am winner in 2010.

Tally - the last of the Siete- Dancer girls was bred to Jake this year and in November 2010 produced a dynamite litter of red/wh and brindles- this may be the best litter ever produced here at Ahmahr Nahr - everyone is dynamite and have their dad's show personality. She is in training to do some coursing this year - I promised her.

Gabriel, one of our outcross pups mentioned above, finished both his CKC and AKC titles and went on to beat both Jack and Ryder by years end. He is an old style basenji hearkening back in appearance to the dogs I saw when I started in this breed.

We believe his Mom and Dad may have been the top CKC producers of titled dogs in a litter in 2010. He is a great representative of their finer characteristics. He is home growing up. We will see if he courses - I have my doubts, but I could be wrong. Gabe so reminds me of his great uncle, Sindar, who went to the Rainbow Bridge this year at nearly 14 years of age.

Unfortunately we had an incident here which involved several dogs, including Sindar suffering from what was believed to be a poisoning, using an organo phosphate based product. Dancer and Siete were both taken ill suddenly. At Sindar's age and with the testing required to determine the cause he did not make it. Dancer nearly left us and is just now getting back to her old self. Siete was deathly ill but fine by the weekend - nothing like a little activated charcoal, a

stomach pump and some good drugs - or so he says. He has been out running in the snow in the bitter cold here in February, having dusted off his Canadian passport and pretending he never left Larry's yard. He spent two hours running in 5 degree weather this week and throwing snow angels - God Bless him- he is crazy.

Halle is a special girl and proved it at a very young age. Halle has the US and Canadian Ch. Titles- pretty instantly- she did not loose on either of these campaigns. In the Process she pile up multiple Puppy Best in Show in Canada and a PBISS at Winnipeg as well as winning an adult specialty at 8 months of age-0 Manitoba Hound Club to add BISS in front of her name and qualify for the Canadian Eukanuba- Best of the best- Top 100 contest. Our boy Ryder also qualified. Halle also went Best basenji Puppy at the Sicalam show in Mexico City in the fall and placed every single day in the Spitz and Primitive group at the Sicalam cluster.

This year again, Jake, Madam, and Jack were all qualified for the U.S. Eukanuba National in Long Beach, however all were showing elsewhere at the time and did not attend. Evander, another Siete son who resides in Florida with Michelle Smith Barbour, also qualified for the Eukanuba from the bred-by classes.

Additionally, our old faithful, Ch. African Dharian Breka's Kmau Shakara JC began her journey over the Rainbow Bridge at nearly age 14. Shakara lived with friends of ours and went tracking every day for the last several years in the Sandia Mountains. She developed a cancerous tumor on her liver and went for her last track, and the next morning began tracking with Si, Buddy, Sindar and others of her old friends in doggie heaven. Ahmahr Nahr owes Shakara for its freedom from fanconi disease. In the years before the availability of testing, this full African out crossed with dogs we knew had to be at least carriers to save us the right of breeding any sick animals. We will always be grateful to her.

One of Jake's sons left this world too early Ch AKC, CKC, FCPR, PE, Ahmahr Nahr's Diablo left this world in Montana when he went hunting off lead in a national park with his owner. Another lesson that no matter how much they love you, or how well they are trained, Basenjis are not an "off lead" dog. Additionally, a little pup from the Precious - Smooch litter was electrocuted on clothes dryer circuit when not crated and left to play in the laundry room- a victim of a misdirected kindness. A beautiful dog - the top show prospect in the litter whose life was cut so short. Hopefully Shakara has this beloved pup in hand teaching him all the tricks he did not learn on earth at the Rainbow Bridge.

Another year in the record books.