

Canadian Sieger Show Diary

The night before we were to leave for Canada, Jen & Rick were helping me pack the final items in our trailer. We were determined to fit the all important Tiki Bar, amidst crates, luggage, and gear! All this took us some time, and one little furry being was most unhappy.

Our other 11 dogs (and puppies) were all quiet & napping in the house. All except little Charli (Charlotte), whose face was pressed to the window, watching us wistfully. She barked and asked to come out and supervise, but I ignored her. Well, I guess Charli thought maybe she could phone me! She stood up on the kitchen table, stole my (new) cell phone, and proceeded to chew it to bits. Rick found pieces of it all over the living room.

So! Now it was 11 p.m. the night prior to departure, and I had no cell phone.

And, all my important numbers... you guessed it... in the phone!

Charli looked so happy to see me when I came in, I couldn't even stay mad at her.

The next morning, our departure was delayed as I waited for the phone store to open!

Matt, Jenn & I packed up the dogs & hit the road. We had a really nice drive thru NH - past the Old Man in the Mountain - & Vt., and saw some wonderful views. We stopped a couple times to let the dogs stretch and have a "doggie bathroom break."

We arrived in Canada, checked into our hotel & immediately ran into friends and fellow Shepherd enthusiasts, as well as the rest of the "E" team - Ellen & Rob, & Bella., and the McBrides... Ivan's owners. (Technically part of the Global Haus Team, but we adopted them, too!)

We settled the dogs in our rooms. (... and this deserves a mention. Matt's room came complete with mirrored walls at the Jacuzzi and a white leather sofa. Interesting décor??! I thought it was a great place if we needed to do any last minute bathing for muddy dogs if it rained between show days!) We headed over to the field where there was a draw for the Nationals, and everyone had gathered for drinks. Here we saw the "usual suspects", some of whom we had not seen in quite a while, and caught up with friends. There was not much available locally for dinner - lots of truck stops and fast food. Yuck. We ventured into one for lack of choices, and then, we headed back to get a good night's sleep!

Sherry & Bunny took up most of my bed, but I was tired enough to sleep anyway!

Day 1

Friday's puppy classes were not scheduled to start very early, so we had ample time to set up our tent, the Tiki bar, and get the dogs situated. The classes were run with males before females - unusual.

Jochen handled our Xenia/Sherry son, Evander v. Traumahof in 3-6 males, and we were so pleased when he won his class, VP1!! (I learned not to make any deals about serving topless tiki drinks if I won! Ha Ha!)

Congratulations to Amy & Chris on Evander's successful show debut!!!

Our 3-6 females, Enya & Ella also placed well, VP5 & VP6. Thank You to their handlers, Bob from the Global Haus Team, and Megan Le Blond.

The judge's critique was very positive. He noted that they might have placed higher if they had more ring training for better presentation in movement.

He was not aware, but this was their very first show!

Our friends (fellow Monadnock Hundesport Members) Mo & Jeff, had a great placing, VP3, with their Lexi, bred by Sabrina Hatfield (Also a club member and friend!).

Next our 6-9 Kiddie/Sherry daughter, Danka placed VP6, also handled by Megan. The judge said this was the deepest class for quality of the day, and he was pleased with the dogs as a whole. Danka also received a nice critique, with a similar comment about ring training. We know what we have to do now!

Also in this class, our friend Mary Ann & her daughter, Melissa, had a big success, earning VP2 with their female, Katara!

VP1 was Cynthia's Fina Global Haus. Our USA dogs did very well!

Thru out the classes all day, it seemed Shelley was running to double in every class! When we spoke later, she said she had 11 dogs in her care! This woman WORKED! Can you imagine walking and feeding 11 dogs at a show, never mind preparing, handling or double handling them all?? Shelley is a force!

We had some time to relax and socialize (Tiki Bar was open!) and then we went to join some protection practice on another field.

Sherry was not entered in the working males, but he was with us, and he was very excited to get out on the field and hit the sleeve. Thanks to John, Jochen, and Rich LeBlond for their help. Sherry had a blast!

At the end of the day, Matt, Jenn & I were really craving more than truck stop cafes. We drove around and stumbled on a really great restaurant, Brasserie. We had a super meal, and then headed back to walk the dogs!

Day 2

Bunny (Brielle) was in the first class of the day, so we hurried over to the show grounds early. We were told we must move the tiki bar so "the helicopter wouldn't blow it up"?? HUH??? It turned out there was to be a police dog demo. And the helicopter's path was quite close to the tiki set up!

We moved hastily!

Mary Ann had saved us a spot in the newly designated area, so we set up & then it was time to start the classes.

Males went first, and for me, the star of 12-18 males was Apoll Global Haus, a really nice Hoss son. I will be watching for this male as he grows up & gets titled! He was SG1.

Bunny, my super little Herding girl, was SG9 in 12-18 females, very well handled by Michael Kempkes. (Bunny can be opinionated and Michael kept her focused on her job, & gaiting well.) The judge commented that she was lengthy (Esp. compared to the typier conformation dogs), but also said her movement was very nice, as is her pigment and she had good hind angulation, correct front, and her croup was "long enough." Bunny looked a bit thin to me - she was not in her best coat as she just shed, and she is getting quite a lot of exercise out with sheep. She looks better with more weight. I was happy with her results & with the nice performance Michael got from her.

In the 18-24 males, Jochen handled Sherry's son Ivan (- owned by Mary Ann & her daughter, Melissa McBride.) to SG1!!! Ivan looked super and Sherry and I were very proud!

We watched the police dog demo - it was quite a show! A handler and dog team came down from a helicopter, on a repelling line, dropped to the ground and aided in apprehending a suspect. Very impressive!

The day continued with the working class performance test. There was some talk about poor helper work, while I didn't see much of it (busy with my dogs), I was there to see a couple unfortunate runs. A friend of ours had the misfortune of having her dog dropped on his back, and stuck before he recovered. I have seen the dog's bite-work many times - he is strong on the

sleeve, and this was just not good luck for him. I felt terrible for his owner, who had put so much effort into getting him prepared.

While we waited for the Working Classes to begin in the ring, Matt & Jenn put out snacks and drinks at the Tiki Bar. Matt & Jenn worked really hard to make sure everyone got the drink they wanted... and Matt even created a new specialty - the Sieger Show Slammer. (Drink one and you will be slammed!).

Progeny Groups were next - I didn't even hear the call to the ring (might have been that one Slammer they gave me? It tasted like juice!) & had to scramble to get dogs in show collars/leads & paired with their handlers!

THANK YOU to John, Jochen, Jenn, Sabrina, Megan, Melissa for handling Sherry & his kids! Sherry's progeny was awarded FIRST PLACE!!

The judge was especially complimentary about the pigment, substance, good heads, hind angulation and correct fronts. He said they were overall dry and firm, there was good differentiation of the sexes, and he commented that Sherry had two class Siegers, and 4 well placed daughters.

We are so proud of all of Sherry's kids!!!

We had a perfect spot to watch the working classes - our pre- helicopter move had put us ring side. The Siegerin, Utah, bred by Philip Eramo, was clearly the bitch who would win throughout her class.

In Working males, For me, Ronaldo really was a star. He looked super in movement, his pigment is gorgeous, he really impressed. Nick also looked really great, and it was no surprise when both of those dogs were VA. I am not a judge - this is purely my own opinion...but I personally preferred both of them to the VA1. I really felt Ronaldo would be in that spot after the gaiting! Congrats to Randy on Ronaldo's VA2!!! (Ronaldo was bred by Karl-Heinz Fuller... nephew to Sherry's breeder, Karl Fuller. So, Ronaldo is family to us!) And Congrats to Cynthia and Jochen on Nick's VA4!

For Kennel Group presentation, Cynthia had pom poms for all of her Team, and for us - adoptees to her team - and we all were the Global Haus Cheering section. Cynthia's kennel group was first place!!!! Her club members had traveled with these dogs & were so happy with their placings.

It was a successful show, and when it was done, we lined up drinks on the Tiki bar (Thanks AGAIN to Matt & Jenn the bartenders!) & we all celebrated.

Just as it was time to pack up, it began to pour, so we were quite soggy by the time we were finished!

We had a great time in Canada, we are proud of our dogs, grateful to our handlers, and glad to have had a wonderful weekend with friends & German Shepherd Dogs!

It was really wonderful to see everyone helping each other & to see many new owners have a great experience & success with their dogs. A special thank you again to Jochen, who helped so many people's dogs show to their best & genuinely enjoyed seeing their happiness with their placings!

I believe that as breeders, it is up to us to mentor our novice (& experienced) owners and support their efforts to get involved. This is our goal as we help all of our puppy families. And Jochen & Cynthia are a super example of this concept in action.

They genuinely want to see others enjoy success and to see their dogs reach their potential. It is wonderful to see people who have achieved a high degree of success & are willing to help others achieve it as well! They take it one step further and help other people's dogs, too!

And THANK YOU to Rob, our Team Photographer, and to Kim, who captured Sherry's protection practice work & my elusive Bunny! (No one ever seems to get photos of Bun! I think Erick, Kim's husband may actually have snapped them. THANKS!!!!)

Lastly, a big Thank You to the E Team owners-an integral part of our family-always willing to go the distance with their dogs!

You can view photos of the above verbal story on our slide show!