The first week in May drew many from all over the U.S., Canada and Mexico and as far away as Australia and South America to the Wyndham West Hotel in Indianapolis to witness and be a part of the Greatest Boxer Show on Earth! They came with their young hopefuls, their competitive class and Best of Breed entries and their silver faced veterans in a quest to get a beautiful ABC trophy for their mantle and be marked as winners in the history books of the Boxer breed.

Show chairs Salli Moore-Kottas (Aunt Salli) and Loretta Parolisi are absolutely the best duo to pull off this weeklong schedule to perfection year after year. At hotel check-in all were greeted by six foot Boris, the big red Boxer, and the anticipation grew for an amazing celebration of this wonderful Boxer breed.

The 2019 American Boxer Club Show celebrated what would be the 70th birthday of the great CH Bang Away of Sirrah Crest and some chosen few winners would be bestowed with silver trophies of this great dog’s wins to add to their memories. A collection of Bang Away memorabilia was on display throughout the week.

Saturday and Sunday kicked off the show witnessing our working Boxers with ABC Obedience and Rally trials, judged by Mrs. Suzanne Hemminger and Mrs. Dianne Allen. On Saturday Obedience Judge Mrs. Hemminger chose High In Trial from the Novice B class with a score of 198, Tealcrest’s Spring Into Action, Owners Mary Nee & Jill Hootman, bred by Jill Hootman; the Rally winner under Judge Mrs. Allen with High Combined Total Scores was Sunchase’s Spin The Bottle UD RAE PCD MX MXJ NF BN owned and bred by Tracy Hendrickson & Rhoda Brouillette.

On Sunday Judge Mrs. Allen chose from the Novice B class for High In Trial Olympic’s OMG R U-Kiddin’ Me PCD BN owned by Susan Naffziger and bred by Julie Wilmore and High Combined Total of Scores MACH Tealcrest’s Beck & Call UDX OM1 MX MXJ RN; and again in Rally under Judge Hemminger the High Combined Total Scores winner was Sunchase’s Spin The Bottle UD RAE PCD MX MXJ NF BN owned and bred by Tracy Hendrickson & Rhoda Brouillette.

Tuesday the Agility Trial was held and had 108 Boxer runs. The High in Trial, High in Standard and High in JWW Regular Height was Sunchase’s Spin The Bottle UD RAE PCD MX MXJ NF BN owned and bred by Tracy Hendrickson & Rhoda Brouillette. The High in Trial, High in Standard and High in JWW Preferred Height was MACH PACH Boxnen’s Jet von Waldstat CDX BN RE MX MXB MXJ MB AXP OJP owned by Renee Fulcer.

There were Kentucky Derby viewing parties and trying to catch up with longtime friends, meeting new friends and celebrating this wonderful breed. On Sunday afternoon, Aunt Salli made a trek down to Churchill Downs to collect the remnant flowers from the Derby which are donated each year to the ABC show, and this year it included a little dumpster diving for discarded flowers by two of her travel companions; but no one was arrested and just like every other year it was so worth it as the beautiful blooms finished off the show rooms exquisitely; and how wonderful that the same flowers that celebrated the magnificent entries in the Derby, then went on to celebrate our beautiful Boxers.
Sunday evening we all enjoyed the hospitality sponsored by various specialty clubs around the country, and the hard workers and volunteers from the Central Indiana Boxer Club. The end of the day we came together in the hotel bar for karaoke with Taylor Hansel spinning the tunes. Needless to say, many were blessed (or not) with videos of their performances posted to social media. So what happens in Indianapolis at the American Boxer Club National does not necessarily stay in Indianapolis!

Monday morning the judging began with the Futurity puppy 6-9 month and 9-12 month classes. Judge Terri Galle quickly got through each class and came down to her pick for Best Puppy in Futurity Castle & Marbur’s Now Or Never At Glo-Star from the 9-12 month classes, bred and owned by Anusart Intarateth & Udomsak Rittichaikul & Mary Frances Burleson. On Tuesday morning the junior 12-15 and 15-18 month old youngsters entered the ring for their turn at judging. Ms. Galle made her selections from beautiful exhibits and selected GCH CH Midnight Sky’s Dancing In The Moonlight owned by Joyce Peckham & Elizabeth Phillips and bred by Becky Arce & Joyce Peckham & Linda Bammes from the 15-18 month classes for Best Junior in Futurity, which was also her choice for Grand Prize Futurity.

The magnificence of this event really must be witnessed, as it is the crème de le crème of dog events; so much so that representatives of the Great Dane Club of America who were present at this year’s event have invited the American Boxer Club Top 20 committee members to Virginia Beach this summer to present their production. The Great Dane Club would like to replicate this event. It will be a big job to come even close to what the ABC Top 20 Committee has accomplished each and every year but we wish them luck.

On Tuesday, following the final Futurity judging Ms. Patricia Healy took the ring to judge dogs. Her judging continued into Wednesday when her final selection for Winners Dog from the 9-12 brindle class was Castle & Marbur’s If I Can Dream at Glo-Star, breeders and owners are Anusart Intarateth, Mary Frances Burleson and Udomsack Rittichaikul. Reserve winners dog went to Livin My Way At Tybrushe, owned by Sheila McAvoy & Darren Lovely and bred by Jeannie Miskey.

After judging on Tuesday, many attended the Boxer U presentation “A View From Inside the Ring”. This is a yearly educational seminar that is well received by all.

Tuesday evening, the American Boxer Charitable Foundation held their annual silent and live auction. Again, many came out to honor the efforts of this organization to raise money for health research for our breed. In honor of Ch Bang Away of Sirrah Crest there were several of his trophies from the early 1950’s donated for the live auction. The bidding was competitive and those involved walked away with treasured mementos of this record holding dog, but more importantly contributed to a great cause, health research for our breed.

Judge Marylou Hatfield took the ring on Wednesday after Judge Healy finished judging Veteran Dogs. Ms. Hatfield continued her bitch class entries through Thursday and chose her Winners Bitch from the 12-15 Month brindle class Mephisto Dances With The Devil, owned by Michelle & Peter Yeaton & Monika Pinsker and bred by Michelle Yeaton & Mrs. Jack Billhardt & Monika Pinsker & Sergio Tenenbaum. Reserve Winners bitch was Telstar’s Up To Trix, Breeder/Owner Jennifer Tellier.

Thursday evening was the Annual Awards Dinner, which starts out with a memoriam to those the ABC has lost in the previous year. In addition to a presentation by Purina for the Futurity Stakes winner, the ABC honors Lifetime Members (25 years of...
membership in ABC), Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Award winners, Annual Conformation and Performance Award winners, the Directors Award winner, the ABC and AKC Good Sportsmanship award winner (this year’s winner was Jim Fortney, a presentation to the Junior Handler of the year, along with a $500 scholarship for secondary education (Salena McCloud), awards for new Sires and Dams of Merit as well as new Legions of Merit.

Of significant importance are the awards for Unsung Hero – one to a Boxer and another to a person. The winners this year from a terrific slate of candidates were Boxer Evangeline “Eva” and for person it went to Rachel Osborn. Eva is a trained service PTSD service dog for a Marine veteran. Rachel was not present to accept her award but her service on behalf of Boxer rescue is known far and wide.

At the conclusion of all of the awards, Loretta Parolisi of the Top 20 Committee announced the recipient of the People’s Choice Award, GCH CH Cinnabon’s Bedrock Bombshell, “Wilma”. This is the second year Wilma has received this award.

The weeklong events lead us to Friday, which starts early with Junior Showmanship competition. This year judge Mrs. Marianne (Tuni) Conti selected from the Open Senior class Teagan Blount.

Judge Ms. Marylou Hatfield took the ring following Juniors to begin the check in of her 96 specials entries. After making several cuts in the dogs and the bitches, she got down to her finalists.


Best of Opposite Sex was awarded to GCH CH Rummer Run Maximus Commander In Chief, owned by Ann & Steven Anderson & Lloyd Dissinger and bred by Lloyd Dissinger & Delores Dissinger & Terry Smith.

Select Dog was awarded to GCHP CH Irondale’s Just A Good Ole Boy

Awards of Merit were given to

CH Mephisto N Toprank Oooh Lala
GCHB CH SHForest’s Monsoon
CH Happy Tail’s Moment of Trust
GCH CH Marburl’s & Happy Tail’s Yours Truly
GCH CH Shadigee’s Sequel to Legends
GCH CH Jokar N K-Krew’s The Dream Lives On At Anschia

Best of Breed Owner Handler went to Sylvia Holman for the second year.

So many came, a few won, but the big winner with a trifecta was “Wilma”, GCHP CH Cinnabon’s Bedrock Bombshell.

On Saturday as people were checking out, they were also booking their rooms for next year because they will be back, they must return to be a part of the Greatest Boxer Show On Earth.

Linda Abel
American Boxer Club President 2016-2018

Photo credits: David Sombach, Kathy Veghlan, Sherry Buchla, Lloyd Fulcer