

NORTH CENTRAL REGION NEWS

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2006 ANNUAL REMAINS IN AREA

Minn-Kota Cat Club will host the 2006 Annual at the Doublewood Inn in Fargo, North Dakota on August 15 - 20. The meetings, banquet and show will be under one roof.

We invite you to attend a Minority Breed Seminar with Isabel Christie on Thursday morning, and a Seminar on Big Cat Rescue with Daphne Butters (International Judge) on Thursday evening. Attend the open meeting on Friday morning and in the afternoon take in the seminar on Show Management and Promotion. There will also be an HCM Clinic on Friday afternoon. We're sure you will have a great time at the Awards Banquet on Friday evening. Then finally enjoy friendly competition at the shows on Saturday and Sunday.

North Central Changes

Effective May 1st, North Central will change its historic boundaries as North and South Dakota leave the North Central Region and join the provinces of Western Canada in the newly formed Northern Plains Region.

Good luck to the new region. We'll celebrate with you at the Annual!

A Note From Your Regional Director

By Jim Nelson, Regional Director

Check Carol Barbee's report on the Semi (*see below*).

Special thanks to LeAnn Harner for helping me with this newsletter. I couldn't get it out to you without her. A big thanks to Jo & Glen for all their work on the North Central Region Web Site. "It's the best!"

I want to thank all of you who supported me with your vote for Regional Director. I am proud to be your Regional Director.

From the recent Board of Directors meeting in Kansas City, I have the club's reports on the Judges. I want to congratulate our Judges for doing such a great job. Clubs all over ACFA land have nothing but good to say about them.

Mike Wilcox has been promoted to ASH/AWH Breed Training Judge.

We will have two new Applicants going into the HHP Judging Program—Carolyn Prucha and Ray Benter. I look forward to seeing you behind the Judging table.

North Central Region Clubs are working together to make cat shows in our region the best. — Team ACFA really works. Keep it up.

See all of you at the SHOWS.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEMI

Carol Barbee, ACFA President

The ACFA Board of Directors and Judges Executive Council were in Kansas City the past weekend for our semi annual meeting. Everything went smoothly and a lot of important business was conducted for ACFA. We want to thank the South Central Region for hosting the meeting and Sylvia Braun for sending all the "goodies" for snacking.

The primary purpose of the February meeting is to conduct business concerning our judges. In that area we report that:

- All championship judges were relicensed.
- Dorie Eckhart was advanced to Teaching Judge.
- Margie Hopman was advanced to Maine Coon Breed Training Judge.
- Pat Steckman was advanced to Ragdoll Breed Training Judge.
- Mike Wilcox was advanced to American Shorthair Breed Training Judge.
- Please note that our rules do not allow the announcement of any Trainees who are approved for advancement until they have taken and passed the final test.
- All HHP judges were relicensed.
- Lisa Rowe was approved as a HHP Judge.
- Ray Benter was accepted into the HHP Judging Program as a Trainee.
- Carolyn Prucha was accepted into the HHP Judging Program as a Trainee.
- All International Guest Judges were relicensed.
- Christine Merritt, from Australia, was accepted as an International Guest Judge.

Some extensive revisions were made to the Judging Program Guidelines. The changes which will be of interest to anyone who might be considering entering the Program are:

1. The requirement that an applicant must have exhibited 3 Grands of his/her own breeding was reinstated after being dropped several years ago. The rule now is that an applicant to the Championship Judging Program must have exhibited 5 different cats to Grand or the equivalent (equivalent being such things as Kitten of the Year), 3 of which must be of his/her own breeding.

2. In the future, a Trainee will be given and must pass the final test before being presented to the Board for approval as a Specialty Judge. That will make the approval effective immediately and there will no longer be a need to wait until November 1st or May 1st before assignments can be accepted. All other requirements for application into the Championship Judging Program remain as they were. There were no changes to the the HHP Judging Program.

Other actions taken by the Board were:

- Appointed Priscilla Reeves as Highland Fold Breed Chair.
- Appointed Gloria Harding as Sphynx Breed Contact.
- Appointed Karen Delmont as Turkish Angora Breed Contact.

Note: a Contact is someone who does not meet the Bylaw requirements to be Breed Chair but who the Board feels is qualified to answer questions about the breed as needed by ACFA and the general public. A Breed Contact cannot make changes to the Standard or Registration Rules. A Breed Contact is appointed for those breeds where there is no qualified person willing to serve as Breed Chair.

- Affirmed that the American Bobtail Breed is governed by the old Show Rule concerning requirements during the first two years after recognition rather than the new Show Rule concerning that.
- Approved the Minority Breed Seminar which will be held at the Annual to count as a Judges School.
- Approved the writing of Standard Descriptions for all of our over 8,000 colors and patterns.

We heard a report from the Sponsorship Committee Chair, Don Finger, that last year we received over \$1,200 is commission from our ACFA Sponsors. There are more sponsorships currently in negotiation. The Board thanks the Sponsorship Committee members for their hard work and dedication and the ACFA members who purchase the sponsor's products and earn the commission for us.

The Board heard a report from Connie Vandre that Central Office is processing your work on a timely basis and that last year showed a \$7,696.30 profit. Connie also reported that we have done a lot of updating on the computer system which is making the work faster and easier. The server and its difficult backup process will be the next to get upgrade attention.

The Board is also looking for a host for the 2007 Annual. Bids will happily be considered during the 2006 Annual.

Questions about anything discussed at the meeting will be happily answered by your Regional Director, one of the vice presidents, or myself.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you download the ACFA Bulletin electronically, you save ACFA \$7 in printing and postage costs. Plus, you can get your Bulletin in gorgeous, living color! If you need details, contact your Regional Director.

Calling All Minority Breeds

Do you have a cat from an unusual breed? We're looking for good examples of our "minority" breeds to participate in a breeder's seminar at the 2006 Annual.

Judges need to be able to evaluate all breeds, but sometimes you can go years between seeing certain ones. We're asking those of you with unusual breeds to bring them to the Annual and teach us.

This is a great time to bring that old Grand out of retirement. **The cats do NOT have to be entered in the show.** We're interested in seeing the basic types and learning from the people who live with them every day.

If you would like to participate in the seminar, please contact LeAnn Harner at: 701-667-5737, email: capcats@starband.net

Support your North Central ACFA Cat Shows & Activities

March 18-19 Central Wisconsin Cat Club, Wausau, WI

April 1-2 Minn-Kota Feline Club, West Fargo, ND

April 22-23 Gopher State Cat Club, Farmington, MN

May 13-14 Cat Tales Cat Fanciers, Maple Grove, MN

July 15-16 Madison Cat Club, Stoughton, WI

August 5-6 Coulee Region Cat Club, Onalaska, WI

August 15-18 ACFA ANNUAL -Hosted by Minn-Kota Feline Club, Fargo, ND

August 19-20 Minn-Kota Feline Club—Show in conjunction with Annual.

September 1 Deadline for nominations for ACFA officers, directors, JPC and breed committees.

September 9-10 Fox River Valley Cat Club, Neenah, WI

October 7-8 NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL AWARDS BANQUET Cat N Around Cat Club, Des Moines, IA

October 21-22 Friendly Kat Fanciers of Iowa, Cedar Rapids, IA

November 4 Janesville Allbreed Cat Club, Janesville, WI

November 11 Genesis Cat Club, Crown Point, IN

December 2-3 Iowa & Illinois Cat Fanciers, Davenport, IA

December 9 TIMACS, Crown Point, IN