

# SUMMER CELEBRATIONS

by LINDA AYERS TURNER KNORR

**I**t's time to tailgate and get out the pumpkin spice! Fall is creeping in and we'll soon be welcoming ghosts and goblins. What a wonderful time of year! Lingerin memories of summer vacations will not fade. Take a look at how some of your fellow fanciers celebrated their holidays.

Important work was ongoing at our home, so my Collie, Magic and I checked into Greenville's Westin Poinsett Hotel just a mile and a quarter from our house. There we enjoyed a "staycation" for over a month. Downtown Greenville is action packed and the Westin Poinsett is our finest property. Our room wrapped around the front corner of the hotel entrance overlooking literally everything. Magic took it all in becoming downtown's goodwill ambassador.

During our first week the hotel was booked for a national veterinary conference. The vets practically stole him from me. Imagine the lobby of this grand historic hotel with veterinarians sitting on the floor surrounding him

while the grand piano played. "May we borrow him to make some videos", was their request. Magic agreed to continue to being pampered, became their star and loved every minute of it!

We awakened for the weekend to find over eleven hundred canines parading outside our window for the annual Mutt Strut. Imagine what Magic must have thought when we walked out the front door of the hotel to greet them. I made pictures and proclaimed to friends and family that Magic had a party and invited a few of his friends.

Every morning we were up at 6:00 am walking over our magnificent Liberty Bridge overlooking the city's natural waterfalls. Breathtaking doesn't even begin to describe the beauty. All along this natural Falls Park setting are fabulous condos, shops, art galleries and over 100 restaurants. Magic loved exploring all the way down Main Street to our Greenville Drive Flour Field baseball stadium. We are the minor league team for the famed Boston Red Sox.

Later in the week one of dogdoms favorite TV personalities, John O'Hurley and his wife checked into our hotel along with a long list of celebrities (quarterback Aaron Rodgers for example) for the nationally televised BMW Charity Golf Tournament. The O'Hurley's come every year. When I met up with John in the hotel lobby, he was just off the phone speaking with David Frei. The dog world is blessed with that TV team! Later John hit Flour Field where he played baseball with his fellow celebrities.

Artisphere was next on the calendar of events. It is an award winning festival celebrating fine arts, music, food and fun. On our early morning outing we encountered two huge puppets. Thinking they were from the Lion King, we went right up to greet them. It turns out they belonged to one of our new local theater groups and were puppets from the Chronicles of Narnia. Magic appeared with them on the evening news.



For your author it was a staycation for a month at Greenville's Westin Poinsett Hotel with Ch. Fantasy's Magic Man. Kevin Peed welcomed us to our hotel home!

Magic and I meeting a new friend at the Artisphere.

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WILL NOT FADE."**

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We enjoyed many nights of outdoor concerts, Fashion Week, Saturday Downtown Markets and more. Being downtown with an AKC Champion Collie afforded us many opportunities to share with the hundreds of people we met all about our local dog shows and the many opportunities for family fun relating to AKC sports and events. We made many new friends from all around the country. For instance I am now mentoring one of the vets we met the first week. She is preparing to enter her new Pug in the Florida shows near where she lives. I was able to assist

local dog walkers with simple things like the proper leashes for their breed, training classes, etc. Enough talk about our "Staycation!"

Here's a sampling of what some of our mutual friends enjoyed doing this summer. It seems fitting to me that the man in charge of our AKC Canine Health Foundation owns an island retreat on Lake Temangami in Northern Canada. Don't you agree that sounds like the perfect place to restore the health of humans and their pets? It was there that Dr. Charles and Lynn Garvin enjoyed relaxing this summer.

The Garvins were joined by their daughter and son-in-law, Laura and John Tramm. Laura is expecting the Garvins' first grandchild about October 30, so there was lots of excitement surrounding their visit! Lynn has promised to let us know the moment their new granddaughter arrives.

Jean Boyd was joined in Italy by her daughter Tiffany's family. Son-in-law, Grant Rowan and Jean's vivacious granddaughters, Caitlin, Sydney and Kylie kept things lively. Rome, Positano, Pompeii, Florence and Tuscany were some of the stops they made during their two



Dogdom's adopted son, John O'Hurley having fun playing in Greenville, SC BMW Celebrity Golf Tournament baseball game.



Grady and his master, our AKC Canine Health Foundation Chairman find time to nap at the Garvin's island getaway in Ontario, Canada. That book put Charlie right to sleep!



Dr. Charles Garvin and Lynn Garvin canoeing around their island on Lake Temangami in Northern Ontario, Canada. Ten year old GCH Korcula Go Grady Cassiopeia(Grady) waiting to welcome them to their dock.



week visit. Missing was Wayne who remained in the states where he managed to garner two more Best In Show wins on their Number One Great Pyrenees, GCH Rivergroves The Name Of The Game.

Roy and Lina Ayers began the summer at home celebrating their Washington Capitals Stanley Cup victory with Alex Ovechkin. France was next on their agenda where they relaxed in Nice and Saint Tropez. Casablanca was their final stop before returning to their own paradise in Virginia.

Joe Gregory continues to drink from the fountain of youth. This summer he celebrated a BIG birthday without having aged a bit. Joe and his beautiful daughter Evelyn dressed for the occasion and enjoyed the Calgary Stampede. I almost had a heart attack when



Jean Boyd center in Positano, Italy, surrounded by son-in-law Grant Rowan, granddaughters Caitlin, Sydney and Kylie and daughter Tiffany Rowan.



Champagne in Capri was called for when Jean Boyd and family heard from Wayne back in the states. Their Great Pyrenees had just picked up 2 more Best In Show wins



Roy and Lina Ayers began the summer at home celebrating their Washington Capitals Stanley Cup victory with Alex Ovechkin.



Roy and Lina Ayers enjoying their vacation villa in Saint Tropez



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I received pictures from Evelyn of Joe posing in a dangerous looking part of the Grand Canyon. Let's face it, the Energizer Bunny has nothing on our own Joe Gregory!

It blows my mind to picture my girlfriend the petite and lovely wife of Frank Murphy riding all over the country on a Harley Davidson motorcycle. But true love bonds couples together and Frank and Deb just spent weeks channeling Easy Rider's Peter Fonda.

Frank and Judy DePaulo met the Murphy's in Sturgis, South Dakota for motorcycle enthusiasts largest gathering of the year. Approximately 700,000 bikers also joined them for Sturgis' 78th world famous rally. The event began in 1938, but was suspended during World War II because of gas shortages. Bikers come to ride along the winding roads of the Black Hills and enjoy the two wheeled celebration of all that is fast and shiny.

All wasn't perfect along the way. One afternoon somewhere near Yellowstone the foursome was caught in a hail storm with 70 mile an hour winds. The two Franks took out their rain gear and the couples huddled on the ground beside their Harleys to wait for the storm to pass. Deb and Judy are real troupers in my book!

AKC Vice President Mari-Beth O'Neill vacationed in Estes Park, Colorado. Also this summer Mari-Beth was one of the lucky ones who has gotten

Joe Gregory tempting fate at the Grand Canyon!



Joe Gregory and daughter, Evelyn whooping it up at the Calgary Stampede in Alberta, Canada.



Frank and Judy DePaulo and Deb and Frank Murphy rode their Harleys to Mt. Rushmore!



Frank and Deb Murphy and "friends" in Sturgis, South Dakota



Kristen Sullivan and Mari-Beth went to see Hamilton for a sold out performance in Cleveland, Ohio.



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to see Hamilton. Kristen Sullivan and Mari-Beth scored tickets for a sold out performance in Cleveland, Ohio.

Because they grow up in the blink of an eye, I wanted to share with you some of my personal favorite holiday photos of our own Showsight family members. AJ and Hanifa Arapovic don't always get to bring their two lovely daughters to dog events, so I want you to see them. Iryna and Adrianna were jumping for joy when their favorite "Uncle Joe McGinnis" flew out to Texas to celebrate Iryna's birthday. Family and friends are what make life meaningful! The traditions of Showsight which began with Duane Doll and Joe McGinnis will always continue to grow with our expanding Aramedia family.

Vacations are special but true happiness is found wherever we spend time with those we love! ■



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