

AN INTERVIEW WITH GEORGE BELL

BY
JULIA HOLDER

How did you begin in sight-hounds George?

My sighthound interest began with a fascination in watching cheetahs course live game on TV. I lived in Topanga Canyon California in 1968 and because there were no cheetahs available to me, I owned a 6-month-old jaguar cat at the time. Also, as a little background on Topanga Canyon for those who don't know, Topanga was the hippy center of southern California at the time. The local bars would have Janis Joplin, Crosby, Stills and Nash, or Jimi Hendrix sit in for entertainment. To round out this scenario, I had a candle and leather goods booth at the Topanga Fair that summer. One day in the aisle near my booth, a lady was holding court with her greyhound to a gathering audience. To show off her dog she trotted it around in a circle, an exercise I thought rather odd, as I hadn't the faintest notion what went on at dog shows. The greyhound lady explained that this was a show champion and that greyhounds coursed live game in Merced and that the saluki was their toughest competition. Now everyone knows that a greyhound is the swiftest of all dogs, but what the hell was a saluki? It surely must be considered an un-

derdog in the field to the coursing greyhound. These words from the greyhound breeder started me on an odyssey that continues to this day. She said, "Salukis and greyhounds were coursing dogs."

To make a long story short, Varuna, a saluki from Srinagar kennels of Topanga Canyon, replaced the jaguar. This saluki had a disqualifying fault and could not be shown. But what did I care about dog shows? I now had a coursing hound.

How did you locate the coursing folks to enter their events?

Winafred Lucas, owner of Srinagar kennels in Topanga Canyon gave me hunt information and briefed me on the procedure. She was very instrumental in the early open field coursing (OFC) of show salukis in the US and donated many coursing cups and trophies to encourage OFC within the saluki fancy in the 1960's. These cups and trophies were eagerly sought by all saluki coursing folk and still are today some 45 years later. Winafred also formed the American Saluki Association, which boasts an annual membership of around 500 people. In the show rings on the west coast, a great many coursing salukis are very active in the shows and there

is virtually no difference in a show saluki and a coursing saluki. In the UK as well, most of the major saluki breeders compete in coursing on live game.

What was your initial reaction when you saw the salukis coursing in the field?

My first hunt was a mixed hunt with all sighthounds competing together. My initial reaction was that there was a remarkable difference between the breeds competing. I observed the speed and agility of the whippets, versus grace and endurance of the saluki against the brute force and rocket speed of the greyhound as opposed to the elegance and swiftness of the borzoi. Wow, this is what coursing is all about. I learned a lot about coursing from Varuna, but he clearly was not going to be a top coursing hound. I worked and worked to make him stronger and fitter to try and be competitive over the next couple of seasons.

Did you begin looking around for a more competitive saluki?

Yes. I was on the lookout for a coursing litter of outstanding parents. Also, Winafred gave me salukis to try in the field. Chuck and Marian Alexander drove down from the Northwest to Merced,

California, in order to course their salukis several times a year. They owned the young coursing saluki, Cirrus. They also coursed a show/coursing bitch named Shahin for owners Dan and Laura Belkin, who were spending a couple of seasons in the UK coursing, while looking for some outstanding coursing stock. Cirrus was bred by Srinagar and Jayne Harpling and Shahin was bred by Srinagar kennels. Shahin was left in the care of the Alexanders with the understanding Shahin was to be bred to the top coursing male saluki in the US while the Belkins were in the UK. A committee of coursing people was to decide on who the sire would be.

The decision was down to Shah or Cirrus for Shahin's mate. I wasn't on the committee, but I mentioned I'd buy 2 pups if the sire were Cirrus. With that persuasion, and other considerations, Cirrus got the nod and the litter was born in March of 1971 in Bellingham, Washington. In retrospect, I feel this was a most important show/coursing litter of salukis, and arguably produced the most influential breeding show stock in American saluki history. Thirty-five years later it is the progeny down from this mating that are behind 90 % of the winners at Westminster Kennel Club since 1977.

Did you meet Sally about this time?

Sally and I had heard about each other for years, but we had never met. In the meantime, with Shahin in whelp, I had moved back to the Pacific N.W. to help in the family business. Sally,

who also lived up there, had heard about this litter and had gone up to Bellingham, WA. to take a look at it. The litter was a close encounter to our meeting. I was there when they were born and several times a week after that, but Sally and I didn't meet until a bit later.

To my surprise, the Alexanders generously gave me first and second pick of the lit-



Four month old Lobo in the arms of Sally Bell in Idaho, 1971.

Photo by Wayne Brigadier.

ter. Lobo, the golden-gray grizzle male and Vida, the red grizzle bitch, were my choices.

From 4 weeks on, I chronicled their development on movie film that I later transferred to video. As 6-week-old-pups, Lobo and Vida starred in my home movies chasing after the pole lure and exhibited an extraordinary ground covering trot and great interest for the lure. It was a couple of weeks after Lobo and Vida came to live with me that I met Sally by chance at a restaurant lunch with our mutual friend. We always were under the impression that our friend

dreaded the day we would actually meet. It really was akin to when Tony met Maria at the dance in West Side Story. In the meantime, Sally had purchased 2 salukis from Urray Kennels in Canada, a brother and sister. And I had a couple more salukis on loan from Srinagar, but we felt we had nothing to compare to the potential of Lobo and Vida.

At 4 months of age the pups joined Sally and me, her older salukis (Caspah and Patra) and my herd on a 2-week coursing trip to Idaho accompanied by our photographer and buddy, Wayne Brigadier.

When the Belkins returned from the UK, they decided to settle in Alpaugh to be near the coursing fields of Merced. Then after a season of driving down to Merced from Seattle to course our older salukis, Sally and I moved to Alpaugh, California. We were married right there in the heart of coursing country. It was during the "off" coursing season that we decided to show Lobo and Vida as 6-month-old pups. They both finished their championships as pups at the same show.

Was it your intention to breed dual purpose salukis at the time?

No. Our primary intentions were to have coursing hounds. Since 8 1/2 months of the year were "off" season months for coursing, we went to shows for a pastime in a usually cooler climate than the Alpaugh summers. You might say that we stumbled into dog shows.

What was your first litter?



Though we did have breeding age salukis, we felt none were worthy of forming a foundation stock for our kennel. We felt that Lobo and Vida were our best salukis and we decided that they would be our first breeding stock when they matured.

Our first breeding was Lobo to a bitch of Shirley Lightfoot's named Buneya. She was a Billa de Esta bitch that very well could have been a desert bred. The trot Lobo and Vida exhibited at age 6 weeks, was to be a progenitor of things to come and would be passed down to subsequent generations. One of the pups in this litter sired Julie Mueller and Gene Blake's Karim, who went on to be the top winning saluki in breed history some years later.

Did you have a kennel name at this time for your first litter?

Our kennel name materialized on a trip to the beach in Oregon prior to our first litter. We happened to pass four fellows on the beach and they commented, "Ah, dogs from our country." They were Arabs from Saudi Arabia attending school in Oregon. After much discussion about Arabian names for a kennel, they decided a beautiful sounding Arabian name for our dogs would be S'mbran. With a stick, they wrote in wet

sand the name S'mbran in Arabic and in English. I in turn wrote the only name I know in Arabic, saluki. The word S'mbran means dark skinned tribe, as most of our salukis were grizzles or tris at the time. And with part of our last name, our saluki kennel name became Bel S'mbran.

George, you were first to use Jaadan. How did that come about?

At the Santa Barbara show in 1972 I saw a 9-month-old pup named Euphrates Springtime Jaadan and was immediately struck with his presence and style. After the show, I wrote to his owner, to ask for stud service for Vida. Of course, the breeding didn't happen until a couple of years later.

I've got to tell a story while we are on the subject of Jaadan. His owner, Bill Lupton, would free course his salukis on hares, but never did attend the hunts. He finally came to a breed hunt with the 2 year old Jaadan. It was one of the cup hunts at the end of the season and Jaadan won 1st place in his field. Cirrus and one of Lobo's very young daughters, Lotus, won the other 2 fields. Traditionally we run the field winners off for the Cup. I asked John Cogan to judge the run-off. John was not yet an official judge but quite often we have aspiring apprentice judges do the honors. After all, it is only one course with a winner and no score. How hard can that be? It was an alfalfa field and the hares were all running to the dirt road bordering a canal and crossing the dirt bridge over the canal that opened into vineyard

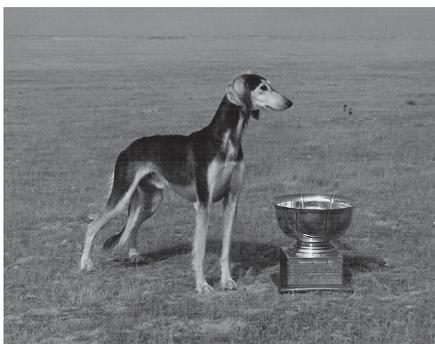
on the other side of the canal. The hares would cross the canal and lose the dogs in the grape vineyard. In those days about 70 % of the hares got away. In today's fields in the desert, the escape rate is closer to 90 %.

The trio was off at the cry of Tally Ho with the hare breaking on Jaadan's side. Jaadan forced a couple of turns on the hare before it reached the road. Jaadan was still leading the other 2 salukis down the road with Lotus in second place and the hare was headed for the bridge. If the hare reached the bridge crossing the canal Jaadan would have won the cup. Cirrus with a burst of speed went by both salukis and forced the hare off the road and back into the alfalfa field. Cirrus put 2 more turns on the hare and now with that clean double go-by and the turns, Cirrus was wining the course. At this point the dogs were bunched in a turn and Jaadan broke out of the pack and pinned the hare for the unassisted take. The judge dropped his glasses and sank to his knees crying, "No, No, No..." Obviously John thought he had a winner until Jaadan grabbed the hare. Those of us watching the run-off simply smiled and headed for the cars leaving the judge in the field to contemplate the winner. John finally walked in from the field alone. He picked up the cup, and in a very dramatic fashion, declared the winner of the Fatimeh Cup was Cirrus. There were no questions or explanations. We had been treated to a little bit of history, I for one will never forget.

Vida and Jaadan produced our second litter. After the picks

were made, Bachrach was still left. This leftover dark grizzle male was ours to run and show. Bachrach was very successful in the ring. He finished his championship in California by 12 months of age, defeating a very large Ch. class to take Best of Breed from the Bred-by class. Bachrach went on to become the all-time top winning Best in Show saluki in the US. Vida's dam, Shahin had won the most coveted coursing trophy, "The Christmas Cup." In those days there were 60 salukis competing for the cup. Vida was next to win the Christmas Cup and then both Bachrach and his daughter won the Christmas Cup. Thus making an unprecedented 4 continuous generations to win the most famous of all saluki coursing trophies in the US.

With the great coursing and show success of the Cirrus x Shahin litter, the Belkins decided to repeat the breeding and as we already had 2 pups from the breeding. We felt we didn't need another, but we were wrong. When one of the pups from the second litter didn't meet with Ed Lipton's lifestyle, it became available so we snatched up Anna, the golden and dark grizzle, and the spitting image of Shahin. Among Anna's most famous litters, was the litter sired by her nephew Bachrach that



Bachrach with the Christmas Cup.

produced Fanny. Ch. Bel S'mbran Aba Fantasia (Fanny) went on to beat her fathers Best in Show record in the US.

Was this about the time that lure chasing began? Can you tell us about the people involved in establishing this activity, and did you run your salukis on the lure?

Lure chasing actually began in the mid 60's. Because it was the OFC "off" season when I first learned about coursing. I went lure chasing prior to attending my first hunt. Lyle Gillette was credited with organizing both LC and OFC but he was not at all involved with lure chasing in the beginning. Lyle was too busy with OFC and it was his dream to have OFC recognized by the American Kennel Club.

Bob Shepard (with his salukis) was the person most credited with the early innovations in lure chasing. This was the hand-cranked contraption used to tow the drag lure and the course had jumps at some of the early lure events. During the 60's and the 70's while at the polo grounds, the Santa Barbara show had a giant oval lure chase in public view of the entire show. It had a row of cloth bunting down the center of the oval to prevent the hounds from cutting the course. It was just pure fun and always had a cup winner, but was not an organized event with points toward a championship. In 1972, due to failing eyesight, Lyle Gillette was forced out of open field coursing and became involved in lure chasing. He is credited with bringing organization to lure chasing and gain-

ing AKC recognition for the sport. Many coursing folk fought this new phrase of "Lure Coursing". We knew one day when people referred to coursing, they would really mean Lure Chasing and not coursing at all. Also in about 1972, Bud Pine had introduced the electrical lure machine, which revolutionized the sport.

We have always entered our salukis at lure coursing events, "just for fun", as they enjoy the outing. As I recall, Bachrach won the 3rd annual ASFA Invitational in 1976. I don't run greyhounds at the lure events because of the danger to spraining or dislocating toe joint capsules and the possibility of skidding into the line of a continuous lure set up. It's just not worth the risk of injury to these speedsters. I consider Lure Coursing for greyhounds akin to taking a Formula One racecar on a go-cart track. I do condition all of my dogs on the drag lure using fast gradual sweeping turns and a known lure operator in order to insure the safety of the dogs. My dogs have not had a single injury with this conditioning regimen.

When did you get involved with greyhounds?

Just as a reminder as to what breed of sighthound originally started me on this odyssey, there was a greyhound in Alpaugh who invited himself to go out and course with our salukis. He ran loose in town and when I would drop the tailgate for our salukis to "kennel up"; old Slim Jim would come running up and jump in the truck as well. Jim was always the first one to the hare, and the salukis loved Jim and appreciated his

speed in getting to the hare first and cranking a turn on it while they were warming up.

In 1972, Sally and I ambitiously decided to buy a couple of young racing greyhounds to try out in the coursing fields. While allowing them to gain experience in the coursing field, we discovered it takes a lot more than speed to be a great coursing dog. Durability, endurance, agility, visual acuity and desire were also valuable components to the coursing hound. One of our racing bred greyhounds developed an incurable disease and went to live to a ripe old age with our veterinarian. The other greyhound died tragically at an early age.

So this was your beginning into greyhounds. Obviously you weren't deterred too much. What happened next?

Also born in March of 1971 (in the same week as the Cirrus x Shahin litter of salukis) was an extraordinary litter of greyhounds that will rewrite the modern history of the coursing greyhound in America. Strider, Point and Dega from this litter absolutely dominated all the competition at the mixed hunts and greyhound breed hunts as they had the speed of the greyhound, the endurance of the longest running saluki and the agility of the whippet. Strider gained over 400 points that season and it was obvious this was not just another litter of greyhounds. The sire of the litter was an all American AKC show champion greyhound named Ch. Vulcan's Strange Intruder (Duke) and the dam was a racing bitch named Nishka Verushka. Strider was

shown by Jo-Ann Van Arsdale and easily gained his conformation Championship. In Gazehound magazine, a show breeder coined the derogatory term to these new greyhounds by calling them "Half and Halfs."

Watching this litter of greyhounds perform in the field inspired me to write an article for the Gazehound magazine praising the virtues of this extraordinary litter and to refute the show breeder's attempted insult toward the Half and Halfs and racing greyhounds. Unknowingly at the time, the article was a good argument to justify registration of the racing greyhounds in the AKC studbook. Every 5 or 10 years some of the show breeders mount another attempt to eliminate racing greyhounds from the AKC registry and this article is reprinted in many dog magazines in support of registering racing greyhounds with the AKC. The split between racing/coursing and the show greyhound is not final and there is still a chance to once again restore the

coursing greyhound. The show greyhound has a relatively small gene pool and invaluable genes of the racing greyhound have already infused the show greyhound with the much-needed genetic variation.

How and when did you and Sally acquire Huntington?

During the 1974-75 coursing season I was attracted to a young sexy black greyhound being walked in the field. She was a year of age and her name was Huntington Point. I didn't know anything about her breeding, but fell madly in love with the look of the bitch. Sally wasn't at that hunt, but in the ensuing week all I could talk about was this beautiful greyhound that I had walked in the field the previous weekend. So with Sally's encouragement I called Jane Bulman and asked if I could buy the black bitch. Huntington's dam, a racing bitch named Mesa Verde, was a sister to Nishka Verushka (Striders dam). Both sisters were bred to Duke, Ch. Vulcan's Strange Intruder,



Strider, Point and Dega. Brothers from the first breeding of Ch. Vulcan's Strange Intruder x Nishka Verushka.



Huntington at her first show winning a 4 pt' major. Breeder/Judge Hobart G. (Bud) Stevenson. Owner handled by George Bell.

making Huntington very close to the same breeding as the now famous Strider. At just a year of age, Huntington at 50 lbs., hadn't been entered in a hunt yet but in just 2 seasons with us, she became the high scoring coursing greyhound in those days of all time. We tried to put more weight on her, but couldn't get her over 55 lbs. In the show ring she finished in 3 1/2 months and twice defeated the all-time top show greyhound, Punky, while on the way to their championships. They met 4 times in the ring. The first encounter was Huntington's first show in Bakersfield, California, where she won a 4-point major judged by greyhound breeder, Hobart Stevenson. He later said, "This bitch(Huntington) is a classic type like one of my early English imports." Mr. Stevenson was responsible for starting several famous greyhound breeders with their foundation stock. Among

these breeders was Punky's breeder who was showing her at this show. After the show and picture taking, the lady who trotted her greyhound at the crafts fair, came running up and asked me if I knew whom I had in the ring. She said Duke's brother was the dog she was trotting in a circle at the fair 7 years earlier. Huntington was never special; as our saluki, Bachrach, was by now winning groups and we couldn't very well show both greyhounds and salukis in the same group.

So George, why did you and Sally move from Alpaugh?

Yes, in 1976 the performance era of our hounds took a decided drop off. Family business demands took a priority because of my father's heart attack and we moved back to the Seattle area of the northwestern US. The 5 years in Alpaugh laid the foundation of our breeding stock in both salukis

and greyhounds. So for the next 24 years we bred show dogs and did the Westminster thing, judging, showing and officiating in one capacity or another. I judged a couple of Grand Courses in open field events in CA. Sally and I applied to the AKC to judge sighthounds in the 80's. To try and compete in OFC when by experience we knew what was involved was not practical from our distant home in the N.W. Sally was the worst salesperson. She would spend hours on the phone discouraging each would-be dog person from owning salukis or greyhounds. If the interested person still wanted to have a dog after Sally's discourse, he or she would probably stay in the breed forever. Sally always encouraged me to take everything to the limit and supported my efforts whether it was dogs, video production, cheetahs, judging, or travel. When we bred our greyhound, Huntington, to her 7/8ths brother, Strider, we could have placed a litter of 50 greyhounds in good homes. It was indeed a compliment to Huntington to have officials who had judged her in the ring, ask in writing to purchase one of her puppies.

Bachrach sired a litter to Anna(his auntie), which produced Fanny, the sensational saluki bitch that broke Bachrach's BIS record in the US. On one occasion Fanny and I flew down to the show in Merced, CA. where all the hunts were at the time. She won the breed at the show that morning and as we had 4 or 5 hours until the hound group. So I took her to the hunt and although she wasn't entered, we participated in the gallery for a couple



**Fanny, Best in Show at Santa Barbara, 1981.
Breeder/owner/handled by George Bell.**

of hours. On the way back to the cars, she coursed a hare and was soiled to the point I had to bath her at the motel before returning to the group. She won the group and then took Best in Show under Mrs. Tom Stephenson. To Fanny, it was as if it “was all in a day’s work.”

The US record for Best in Shows in salukis was held in the mid 70’s by Mimi Carlyle’s saluki named Cancer. Bachrach broke Cancer’s record and his owner sent us a telegram on July 10, 1979 stating:

“Congratulations. I cried at both the excitement and the defeat. It’s a great moment, I know. Very best wishes and thanks, Mimi.”

Bachrach’s BIS record fell to his daughter Fanny. Fanny’s record was beaten by Lobo’s grandson, Karim; then only to be beaten by Jackie Harrington’s Krystl. Krystl’s record was tied by the Blacks’ Treasure at 30 Best

in Show’s. All of the US record holders from Bachrach to present are progeny down from Lobo and Vida, our courasing salukis. Those were the show years.

During this 24-year period we used our travel time to attend courasing meetings in the UK and were privileged to see and videotape salukis, scottish deerhounds and greyhounds in events such as the Waterloo Cup and the Dava cup in Scotland. We judged dog shows literally around the world, but when we sold the family business in 2000, it was our dream to return to Alpaugh and pick up where we left off nearly a quarter century earlier.

I noticed your emphasis changing from salukis to greyhounds when you and Sally came back to Alpaugh in 2000.

While I love the saluki, I discovered at some point after returning to Alpaugh that I still favored the underdog. But who was the underdog? The saluki in

the ring was the same saluki in the field. It was that way in the UK as well. The saluki standard has done its job and the breeders have tested their dogs in the field. It suddenly dawned on me as if in a roll reversal, the saluki is not the underdog here. The swiftest of all canines, the greyhound was at a distinct disadvantage as far as the dual purpose courasing greyhound. Many of the show people in greyhounds shun the functional hound. In salukis, they value the testing in open field. It seems the underdog changed from salukis to the greyhounds.

My introduction to a sight-hound was a greyhound that I met at the crafts fair. The primary function discussed by the owner was not dog shows or racing greyhounds. It was the courasing hound. With perhaps an unfortunate twist of fate, there were no influential show breeders such as Lyle Gillette in Borzoi and Winfred Lucas with her salukis to help influence show greyhounds in the participation of open field courasing.

Greyhounds were at one time hunters of all sorts of game, but when they migrated to the British Isles with the European brown hare as their quarry over 1500 years ago, the breed was developed into a courasing hound for hares. Greyhounds have been bred and developed for many thousands of dog generations as the English Courasing Greyhound. The greyhound was developed for speed on the rolling countryside and the breeders wanted work on the hare that would be in view of the thousands of spectators. The fields were smaller compared to the plains in America and

the breeders and enthusiasts in the UK didn't want the action on the other side of the hills and so speed was paramount. Now with the advent of dog shows and racing, for the most part they are bred for racing and a few for the show ring and fewer still for coursing here in the US. It wasn't that many years ago all greyhounds were bred only to course hares.

Sally and I decided that our greyhounds needed their own kennel name and so it was an easy call. Our greyhound kennel name would be in honor of our first show/coursing greyhound Huntington. And so our kennel name would be Huntington Greyhounds.

When judging greyhounds, do you feel the Half and Half is better than the AKC show dog?

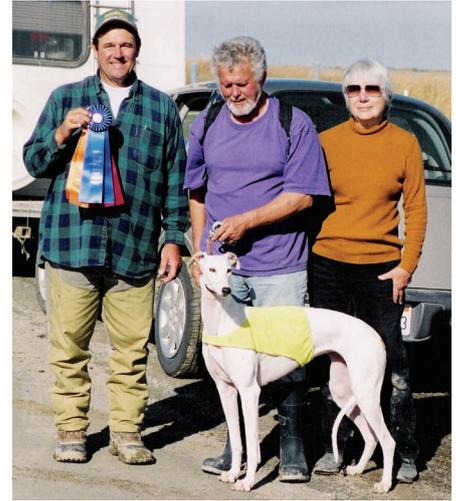
If I am judging in the open field we have a criterion by which we will keep score and the best score is the winner in scored trios. In brace elimination scoring there is a winner and a loser and the winner moves on without a score to the next round. It matters not if you are judging a Half

and Half, an AKC dog, or a racing greyhound. It is pink, yellow and blue and how much work they do on the hare. It shouldn't matter if it is early work or late work, work is work and work wins the course. In the ring, we have the standard to judge the exhibits against. My breed winner in the ring may not be the winner in the field because in the field we judge on how well the hound performs and in the ring, we judge on how well the exhibit conforms to the standard. It's the same when picking winners in the whelping box; we can see the conformation of the dog that most closely meets the standard for that breed. But to pick the best coursing dog in the whelping box is at best a coin flip.

Because a greyhound is a Half and Half, that does not mean that it is any better than a pure show dog or an NGA racer. It's the individual specimen that is being judged by whatever criteria. One of my greatest coursing greyhounds is over 80 % show and less than 20% NGA but she is still a Half and Half. It so happens that many Half and Halfs with the combination of show and racing blood seem to do pretty well in the field.

So I was living in Alpaugh when you and Sally returned in the year 2000. Was it the same coming back home?

Ah hem...When we came to Alpaugh in the early 70's, we hit the ground running. Our salukis were selected for coursing more than anything else. When we returned to Alpaugh in the year 2000 our dogs had been bred for 24 years to compete in the



Mocha winning her first Hunt. Judge Tom Handzus with George and Sally in 2003.

show ring. Our dogs did OK back in Alpaugh, but it wasn't like the first time here. Before our return to Alpaugh, Sally had her eye on a young dog named Darius who went back in his pedigree several times to Bachrach. She declared I have found the sire for our Baby. A couple of years later Darius went on to become the highest scoring saluki of all time in it's 40 + year history of organized coursing in the US. The use of Darius for both coursing and show improved our salukis running ability in one generation, and the litter was back in contention as being one of the top saluki litters in the field. In the 2003/2004 season, salukis from our litter had 3 of the 5 top saluki placements in the Grand Course breed portion that year. In fact my next litter will be out of a saluki bitch from that breeding, Bel S'mbran Dark Lady Rose.

In greyhounds, I co-owned, showed and coursed a bitch from Ann Standing's breeding down from Venti, Huntington's sister. I will be forever indebted to Ann for sharing Mocha with us here in Alpaugh. Mocha finished quick-



Mocha, Judge Robert Frost.



Ruby, hound group placement.

ly in the ring, even had a Hound Group 2. She won her first two hunts entered, both with unassisted kills and with 80 points toward her coursing championship of 100 points; she was on her way to being one of the top OFC greyhounds of the year.

Mocha was 19/32nds show/racing combination of Half and Half. She was bred to a pure AKC show dog from Huzzah Greyhounds making this litter more than 80 % show blood to less than 20 % racing stock. Mocha's pups were the Coffee litter and at just 3 years of age, 3 are show champions so far in the US and more in Canada. The coursing community wasn't much interested in this breeding and so most of the greyhounds were placed in show or lure coursing homes. Mocha was considered a show greyhound by many coursing folk and was bred to 100 % show dog and that was a real turn-off.

One of the pups, Ruby (Ch. Windwood Huntington Arabica CC, CM), that I co-own with Ann, remained here in Alpaugh and has been a huge surprise to the coursing folks and show community as well. She placed 5th overall in the 2004/2005 Grand Course despite a 5-point preslip penalty. Ruby qualified for the 2005/2006 Grand Course but unfortunately

the hunt was cancelled due to the animal rights challenge NOFCA suffered this past spring. I have many exciting prospects coming up in greyhounds and salukis.

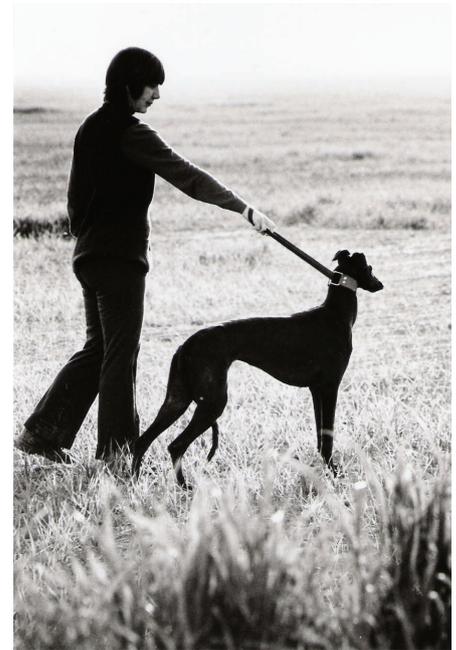
Ruby was Best Bred-by of either sex at the national specialty judged by Frank Sabella and has remained in the top ten of show greyhounds for the past 2 years. Ruby's brother Ch. Windwood Huntington Barista, (Winston) with a great many field titles was Best of Winners, BOS and won the 5 point major the day after the national specialty in Lompoc. Ann has 2 from this litter, Cappuccino and Verona that are making their mark in the Canadian show ring and are cleaning up at Canadian lure coursing.

Julia, you have known Sally for a great many years. Before you ask me about her, this is the part of this interview I don't wish to talk about, except to say that Sally passed away May 13, 2005 and missed out on much of what we wanted to do in Alpaugh. Needless to say, that half of our team is greatly missed and Sally still encourages me to press on.

Thank you George for sharing your involvement and passion in the sport of performance salukis and greyhounds. I can only imagine how delighted Sally would be with this recap of your joint efforts and enjoyment in sighthounds. The two of you epitomized a love affair with storybook successes. I'm sure she is smiling from above.

This is quite a legacy the two of you contributed to both breeds. May your odyssey continue ... perhaps full circle to the

cheetah that piqued your fascination more than one half century ago.



Sally with Huntington.