



The Chesapeake Gazette

Michigan Chesapeake Bay Retriever Club

micbrc.org

Spring/Summer

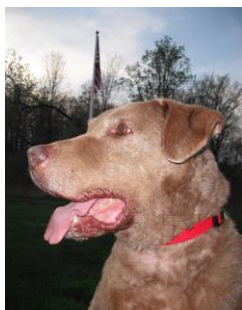
2013

MWD "Buddy" E154

A real American Hero

Tina Cox

On April 13, 2013 I had the privilege and honor of attending the Memorial service for MWD "Buddy" E154.



What an honor to pay my respects to this retired Chesapeake Bay Retriever veteran. I am so thankful to all the men, women and canines who serve this country selflessly, never wavering from their duty to protect this great nation and protect all of our rights and privileges.

I was made aware of this service through Dorene Irish who posted a link to the [Michigan War Dog Memorial](#) on the clubs facebook group. I grew up in the area where this cemetery is located and it had become very over grown to the point you could hardly see the large monument.

continued on page 2

Spring Supported Show

Genesee KC

Tina Cox

The show was held at the Shiawassee Fairgrounds again this year on May 18 and the weather was beautiful. We had a good entry of dogs for sweepstakes as well as regular classes. Our judges were **Dr. Gerard C. Penta** for Breed and **Mr. Fred Hyer** for Sweepstakes.

Highlights for the show for Breed are **GCH IRISH'S ROBERT GARCIA DEPADUA** taking Breed and a Group 4, **CH IRISH'S MACHA GAISCIOCH** Opposite Sex.

Sweepstakes **IRISH'S SUMMER SPECTACULAR BSW**, **SRR BIG WOOD'S DARK TIMBER BOSW**, and for Veterans Sweeps **CH IRISH'S MACHA GAISCIOCH BVSWS**, **CH MARSHLAN'S STUNN GUNNER JH BOSVSW**, you can see complete results here <http://www.infodog.com/RESULTS/2013102801/201310280111600.HTM>

The following photos are courtesy of Dave and Tina Gean.



Trophy Table

continued on page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** MWD Buddy E154
- 1** Supported Show May 18-19 2013
- 5** Annual Meeting
- 6** Judges Education Seminar
- 7** Calendar of Events

Restorations began in 2010 and now it is a very beautiful resting place for the more than 600 pets interred there according to Phil Weitlauf Director – US Army Veteran. Restoration is still in progress but as you can see by the photo it is quite beautiful.



Buddy was a TSA explosive detection K9. He was adopted by Tracy Spader in 2010 after his retirement and spent the last years of his life being loved as a family member and learning to just have fun. Buddy left this world on December 29, 2012 after his battle with cancer.

He was buried with full military honors and the out pouring of people and dogs that arrived to pay their respects was overwhelming.



John Meeker, Martha Jewell and Macha honoring Buddy.

Tracy was very gracious in answering some questions for me.

How did you hear about retired military canine adoption?

I volunteer with a group called "Support Military Working Dogs" (www.supportmilitaryworkingdogs.org) which supplies deploying K9 teams with cool vests, eye, ear and paw protection free of charge to the requesting handlers. Once I got into this group and had more contact with current MWD (Military Working Dog) handlers and other organizations supporting these dog teams, I was told of the fact that these dogs were available for adoption to the general public. There is an order of priority which is something like current and past handlers, if it is a "flunkey" of the program it may go out to police depts., then other interested military personnel and last but not least, the civilian population. The current wait is approx. 18 to 24 months. I was able to procure Buddy because we were willing to take on a dog with severe hip issues and a lot of continuing prescriptions.

Why did you adopt a retired military dog?

I wanted to take on a retired MWD because we have a son who is a Capt. in the US Air Force and I grew up listening to the stories of my grandfather about the war. I was a child of the Vietnam Era who remembers the horrible world that these war heroes from Vietnam came home to. I have a strong sense of country instilled in me from these 2 men in my life and I felt honored to be able to provide a safe and loving home, along with a lot of couch time, to these 4 legged heroes. These heroes have been on the ground protecting my son and the sons and daughters of us all and it was the least I could do to honor their sacrifice and selfless service.

Why did you choose Buddy and was he your first retired military canine?

Buddy was my 1st retired MWD. He is not my last. Just 3 weeks ago I was honored to accept another hero, a comrade in arms to Buddy; He is a retired Marine named Jig (M834) and is a lab. Jig served as an IDD (improvised detection dog). I did not get to pick out a dog. The Adoption Coordinator at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, TX is in charge of pairing up prospective adopters to a compatible dog.

I did not get to see or know too much about Buddy until I flew out to Lackland to bring him home.

Was Buddy the first Chessie you have owned?

Yes, Buddy was the first Chessie that I have ever owned. I believe that he will not be my last because I have fallen in love with the breed. I was told upon picking him up to bring home, that Chessies are very rare as a breed used due to the bull headedness of the males of the breed.

Tell me one of your most memorable moments with Buddy.

To tell you about one memorable moment with Buddy is a tough one. Buddy's movements were limited due to his rapidly progressing Hip Dysplasia. What I can say about him is this....He and I had an unspoken connection where he could look at me and I would know what he was thinking or wanting. I believe it was the same for him as well. He would know intuitively what I needed or wanted of him. That boy was so tuned into me that I cannot describe it. I believe that it was only this way because Buddy allowed it to be that way. His devotion to me still leaves me speechless. His love for me keeps in awe. At the end of his life when he was weak and riddled with the cancer that eventually took him from me, he collapsed on a few occasions. Due to his weight and size, there was no way that I could get him up. The only thing I could do was to walk out of his sight and I would cry as I would watch him struggle and put everything that he had into righting himself to be at my side. He was always at my side...this is what I miss the most. I can no longer know that all I have to do is to drop my hand just slightly to scratch the head that I so loved to kiss and to look into those absolutely beautiful and captivating golden eyes.

I do miss the way that when I would come in the door after being gone for only a short while, he would be so happy to see me. He would have a huge smile on his face and he would be doing his "butt wag". He could not just wag his tail, he wagged that whole butt of his; and it was a big one!

What advice would you give someone interested in adopting a military dog?

My advice to anyone wanting to adopt an MWD would be this...

Know that they are not your average pet. They have a different skew on the world and their surroundings.

You must be able to change and to accept this....don't ask them to accept your way of looking at things. These dogs have seen so much. They have seen things that we will never know about.

They have served you and your country and they deserve all the best that you can give them. Know that if a MWD has had aggression training, you might have your hands full and you need to be advised from the crew at Lackland how best to approach this dog's retirement. Mostly, if you think this may be the way to go for you (MWD adoption)DO IT!! These dogs are special, and the love and devotion that they will give you will be one of those things that you will never be able to explain to anyone else. It will be a life altering experience that only those of us that have experienced this with our own retired MWD's will be able to know what it is you received from these dogs but cannot describe.

I want to thank Tracy for taking the time to share Buddy's story. ✦

Following are some photos from the service.



Buddy's Memorial



Supported Show

continued from page 1



Supported Show cont.



And we ended the day with a nice luncheon provided by the club and it's very generous members.



A dogs gotta do what a dogs gotta do!

MCBRC Annual Meeting

Held at Walli's Restaurant

Tina Cox

The Annual Meeting was held on February 9 with 27 members and one guest in attendance. It's hard to believe another year has passed and what an amazing year the club has had. The growth and accomplishments I have seen over the past year are a true testament to the dedication of the members to our club and most of all to our dogs. The Annual Meeting was held at Walli's Restaurant in Burton, MI again this year; they provided wonderful service and food as usual. The room was filled with the buzz of people laughing and talking and enjoying the evening. Once again members donated some amazing and wonderful items for the raffle. We all had fun watching as people won the items they wanted. The club offered the \$100 Visa gift card again this year as a door prize.

This year Deb Rhodes and Jan Treglown organized the first annual photo contest; the theme was puppy pictures. Many members brought their favorite puppy photos to enter and it was a lot of fun looking at all the cuties but as with any contest only a few can win.

Sorry but unfortunately I have no photos this year. ✦

Judges Education Seminar

Michigan Sporting Dog Association June 22-23

Tina Cox

The Judges Education Seminar went very well this year and was held at the D Bar A Scout Ranch in Metamora MI. This event is put on by Michigan Sporting Dog Association (MSDA). Our breed mentors were Michelle Keehn and Dorene Irish, both these ladies put in a hard two days of reviewing the PowerPoint presentation with the judges.



This was followed by the hands on portion.



We had sixteen judges attend throughout the weekend. Each day we had four conformation sessions, two in the morning and two in the afternoon. Several volunteers showed up with dogs and pitched in with handling, and if someone couldn't be there they still sent their dog so we could present a nice variety of dogs to the judges. Our volunteers were David Keehn, Rick Rusz, Hailee Melow, Tina Cox, Robin Short, John Meeker, and Martha Jewell. All of these people worked very hard presenting dogs to the judges.





Mid-day there was a water and field demonstration.



Rick Rusz and Millet representing the Chessie's.



Millet was the only dog to retrieve the goose, leave it to a Chessie to get the job done!

The weather was quite warm but we were able to keep all the dogs cool and hydrated as well as the helpers. The club provided lunch and several people brought dishes to pass; it was a great weekend for the Club and dogs. Thank you to all that participated and helped out behind the scenes. ✨

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL ACC / MCBRC SUPPORTED SHOW

PLACE: GOODELLS MI

SEPTEMBER 13-14

ACC/MCBRC St. Clair Supported Dog Show.

MCBRC MEMBERSHIP AND BOARD MEETING

PLACE: GOODELLS MI

SEPTEMBER 13 ~ FOLLOWING BREED JUDGING

We will be having a potluck picnic and raffle. The club will supply a meat and cheese tray, bread and beverage.

Please bring a dish to pass.

ANNUAL DUCK TOURNAMENT

PLACE: YOU CAN HUNT ANYWHERE IN BAY, SAGINAW, TUSCOLA OR HURON COUNTIES

NOVEMBER 2

Come out and join the fun. We will meet at the Lamplighter Restaurant after the hunt for a nice lunch at 2:00pm. Check the website for detailed information.

MEMBERSHIP AND BOARD MEETING

PLACE: HOME OF GARY & DORENE IRISH

JANUARY, DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

Wild Game Potluck Lunch. Bring your favorite wild game dish to share and if you don't do wild game just bring your favorite dish.

Editor's Note

I am working on this new format for the newsletter so please excuse any errors; it is still a work in progress. We will be adding the brags section in the next issue so please get all your brags for the year ready and send to cbars@micbrc.org or browndogzusa@gmail.com We will only be producing the newsletter twice a year.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to The Chesapeake Gazette.

Editor, Tina Cox

Co-Editor, Michelle Keehn

Relax...Enjoy Life!

