

Welcome everyone...to a "Night Of Stars."

For many years the GSDC of St.Louis has honored our member owned GSD's for the titles they earn. They are our "Stars." I began chairing the awards in 1990. It is a labor of love, since I love our breed, and those of you who share the love of the breed. I greatly enjoy sharing your goals, titles, and the fact that you all represent the breed so well each year in competition. What started as a yearly tribute for those who showed in the Bred-By exhibitor classes, by a past member, Royal Hecht, has been expanded upon through the years to include all the titles our dogs can achieve. Everything is covered, from Jr. Handlers to Register of Merit. From Novice Obedience through Schutzhund, tracking, herding, agility, rally. If the title can be earned by a GSD, we honor it. So join me again in honoring our hard working members, and their beautiful German Shepherd Dogs, who titled in 2011.

2011 was a year that was tough on some of us. We lost dear friends, both dog, and human, as well as family members. The love of our dogs has helped us keep going, and at times have literally saved our lives.

Case and point is our first Star of the evening, Nemo's "The Rock,"CGC, Th.D. Rocky is owned by Dannie Rosemann, and Carol Sears. Sired by Ch. Winsome's Huckleberry Finn, and out of Amber's Gabearella v Winsome. In 2011 Rocky earned the titles of Therapy dog, and Canine Good Citizen on May 22. However, Dannie's Rocky went above and beyond mere titles. He is truly her Hero.

About Rocky, Dannie writes:

Rocky never fails to amaze me. He has saved my life on numerous occasions. At one year of age he came to my rescue when a vicious dog attacked me on a parking lot at the Petco store in Arnold. Rocky fought the dog off, nearly killing him. Rocky didn't have a mark on him. My knees were shattered. He has a gift from God-he senses when my blood sugars are life threateningly low, and wakes me until I respond, and get to my medicine. We were featured in the magazine called Animal Wellness Oct/Nov. issue, page 20. It reads:

Rocky, a German Shepherd trained himself to help his person, Dannie Roseman if her blood sugar levels fall as she sleeps. Dannie's doctor thinks Rocky responds to her shallow breathing. Thanks to Rocky, I can take my juice, and glucose tablets I keep at my bedside. I trust him with my life. I don't know what I would do without him. He also alerted us one night last summer at 1:00 am. I got up to see what was wrong. We went outside on the deck. As I looked to my left there were four garages on fire, and half way up the back yards about 4 houses down the alley. We called the fire department on the cell phone because all the phone wires were already burned. We had no land phones. he also kept pestering me one day. He kept running to the stove, and running back to me....the gas was on.

Yes he also helps me teach our GSDCSTL obedience classes. Proud owner, Dannie Rosemann.

I am so happy to award this plaque to Dannie for Rocky's Th.D. and CGC. I know you will join me as I also proudly award the special GSDC of St. Louis HERO DOG AWARD to Dannie's Rocky.

"Into each life some rain must fall. Be still sad heart, and cease repining-behind the clouds is the sun still shining." Shortly after the loss of her beloved Brie, Helen Rockman opened her heart, and home to Ch. DeRousse's Escapade Of Faithrock, also known as Patra Faye. In a very short time, the two began racking up titles; Patra Faye was bred by Judy DeRousse and Betty Smith. Sired by Ch.Faithrock Langlitz Joshua HH, CD and out of Ch. DeRousse Cut Loose Caralon.

On April 17th. it was the CGC, and TDI.

On June 12th her ATTS followed on June 25 with her Rally Novice title, with scores of 88-90-96.

On August 12 it was the Beginner Novice title with scores of 188.5-189.5 -189.

In September she was certified with Love On A Leash foundation for pet provided therapy.

Yes, and old dog can learn new tricks, and our breed Champions can, and do work as proven by Patra Faye and Helen.

With her combined Rally scores of 274, and Obedience scores of 567, Patra also earns the GSDC of St. Louis High scoring Novice Obedience award, and The GSDC of St. Louis Dual Title Award..

About Patra, Helen writes:

Patra Faye has won our hearts! On March 24, 2011, Judy DeRousse brought Patra Faye, a 7 ½ year old GSD, to Kirkwood, essentially to keep me company until my puppy was ready. I had lost Brianna Leigh, our devoted therapy dog on March 11. Brianna had fought a tough fight with hemangiosarcoma of the spleen. As I had no other animals in the house when Brie Brie passed away; Judy generously offered to loan me Patra Faye. I didn't know what to expect.

Patra immediately endeared herself to me. I recognized within a day that Patra had excellent socialization skills and solid home training. A Conformation Champion, Patra had been owned by Judy DeRousse, Michele Sykes, Judy's daughter, and had spent considerable time with Julia Foster, her handler and a co-owner of Patra Faye. Within a month after she came to "visit," Patra had earned her CGC and TDI. Patra went on to obtain the Rally Novice title and Beginning Novice title last summer and was certified by the national chapter of *Love on a Leash* this past fall. Judy transferred ownership to me in the summer of 2011 and Patra Faye now lives with me and Juliette Amelia, our ten month old GSD, who is very energetic and busy most of the time.

My daughter, Liz, broke her shoulder shortly after Patra came to my home. Patra and I went to Urbana, IL before Liz had surgery. Liz had already met and fell in love with Patra in St. Louis but Gregg, her husband had not yet met her. Gregg was missing Brianna but he, too, cared so much about Patra Faye after meeting her. Patra has been a joy to all of us and we are so grateful to have her in our lives as are those whom she visits in the hospital and nursing facilities. Patra has a second career now with the obedience and therapy work; I am enjoying the close relationship I have with Patra Faye.

Earning the AKC title of Therapy Dog, or the TDI involves having a GSD that will gently interact with hospital patients, or nursing home residents, or people in hospice situations. The dogs must remain calm in the presence of wheelchairs, walkers, and the sometimes erratic movements of handicapped individuals, and their mobility devices. The dogs must tolerate being petted, and hugged, and sometimes poked, and squeezed by their enthusiastic admirers. These are our ANGEL DOGS who bring comfort, and delight to people who may have memories of their own beloved pets. J-Mac's RB Rocket J, Shepherd, TDI owned by Judy McDowell, bred by Zach and Gary brown, was sired by HH Tartan's Rhythem and Blues, out of Black Jack's Gypsy Jazz. The bio for Rocky reads:

Rocky completed over 150 visits in March 2011, and received the TDIAOV award from Therapy Dogs International. When AKC announced the new Therapy dog title in June, I knew he would definitely qualify. His AKC certificate was issued with an effective date of November 5, 2008, the date he completed 50 therapy visits. At nine years of age he retired from Therapy work, and received additional recognition at that time from the organization's founder. He is still a very social dog, and loves to meet new people. He stays young by keeping my other GSD in his place. I look forward to many more years with him as a faithful companion.

Our next Th.D. for 2011 earned his CGC, and his Th.D. certificate on August 4th, 2011, Montana's Second Chance bred by Tonya Linderer, and owned by Geralyn Bolhofner. Sired by Zeus Almighty Thunder x Hall's Brandy Sophia Of HP. About Chance Geralyn wrote:

Chance can be a couch potato when given the chance, He can also get in trouble when he gets bored. I had let the dogs out, and I heard a big thud, and thought someone got body slammed, but when I checked on them, Chance had brought a fence post from my old fence up on the deck. How he got it up there I don't have a clue. But...You gotta love them.

The GSDC of St. Louis Best Puppy award is given to the puppy who defeats the most from the puppy 6-9 month, and 9-12 month classes. This year's winner is Mari-Fiori's Twilight v Phoenix aka as Bella. Bred and owned by Marilee Wilkinson, Judy James, and Carla Simmons. Sired by GV and Ch.Tazzman's Aregon and her mom is Mari-Fiori's Bella Fonte'. Bella was born a singlet litter on May 21, 2010. She was born by C-section, and is a Solid Black.

Marilee says: since she was a singlet, I was her littermate. Puppies must have a littermate to know how to act and react like they would if other pups were a part of the litter. They learn so much from their littermates. Well, Bella is very personable, so much personality, and great temperament.. At a recent dog show Bella scented me, and immediately rolled over on her back to get her tummy rubbed. Well so much for the great grooming job! The next day I was not allowed to be around until she came out of the ring.

The Royal Hecht Bred by Exhibitor award, which is the original award offered so many years ago. Similar to the Best puppy award, this award is given to the dog who defeats the most from the BBE class exclusively.

This year our RH Best BBE and a 2011 Champion is: Ch. Cimarron's I Won't Back Down, aka Butkus. Bred/owned/shown by Steve Dobbins, in 2011 Butkus defeated 104 from the BBE class, and achieved his AKC Championship from the BBE Class. Sired by Ch. Jokare's Kocoum,ROM x Cimarron's Nightlife, ROM.

About Butkus Steve writes:

Ch.Cimarron's I Won't Back Down (aka Butkus) is my most recent champion from my litter of ten that has ultimately produced eight champions. Butkus is the eighth champion from this litter, and this ties the record set by former club member Lois O'Connor. All of the dogs in this litter are owned by me and therefore, I had the sole burden for paying for all their show expenses. The road to his championship has been a long one because all of his points have come from the Bred By Class, and Butkus is my first Bred By champion. Butkus tries to be such an annoying comedian. While I am driving on our trips to dog shows, he will come across from the passenger's seat, stand on my lap put his head directly in front of mine, stare at me for a second, and proceed to hug my face with his. The time to do this is NOT while driving at 70 mph. If I am laying on the couch watching TV, he will come over and root his head under my neck, even if I am sound asleep. He will also go downstairs and jump into the booster bath, and wait for hours for his turn to get a bath-he does this even when he is not entered in the show that I am getting ready for.

Our next Champion for the year is Ch.RR Bar's Eagle Rock,TC,CHIC, bred and owned by Rosalind, and Jeanne North. Sired by Ch. Wynrose Caralon Gator x RR Bar's Kaycee Royale. Rocky finished on January 7th.

Here is his bio from Roz:

RR Bar's Eagle Rock, affectionately known as "Rocky" is my first home-bred Champion. He is the product of over eight generations of line-breeding over many years. He is an excellent producer of plush, beautiful and sweet babies. Rocky has always been a very mellow, easy going individual from puppy to adult, compliant yet confident. He plays roll over, cuddle and chase with me (his Mom) instead of another dog. He prefers to maintain his dignity as " Mr. Studley" to the other dogs of our Family Den.

I was pleased that Rocky received his CHIC award from the Canine Health Foundation and OFA in 2009 with his TT certification. On January 7, 2011 Rocky finished his championship title after six months of shows and the help of Julie Foster and all his other supporters. It is truly a privilege to have bred him and love him. Rocky is a beautiful combination of soundness of both mind and body, with the true "Look of Eagles".

Our next 2011 Champion is:

Ch. Mari-Fiori's Black Eyed Susan, who finished in April. Bred by Marilee Wilkinson, and owned by Marilee, Judy James, and Tiffany Bartley. Sired by: Chablis High Demand v Stylistic X Mari-Fiori's I got 'Tude.

Here is what Marilee has to say about her:

Ch. Mari-Fiori's Black Eyed Susan aka Ms. Minnie was born on 7-11-08. From the time she could walk, I knew she was going to be special. How could she not since she was born on 7-11. I knew she wouldn't be a large girl. But she could MOVE! I sold, and co-own her because I knew I could not afford to do for her what would take her as far as she could go. Minnie was first 12-18 at the 2009 National. She was RFB at the 2010 Midwest Fut / Mat and finished her Championship before she was three years old. She carries her mom's size, tenderness, attitude, personality, and temperament.

Our next Champion for 2011 is Ch. Hadori's Secret Agent 007 Forest Knoll who finished on 5-13-11. Dalton was bred by Gail, Elizabeth, & Butch Stiefferman and Greg Harrison. Sired By: Sel.Ch. Hi-Cliff's Free 'N Easy X Ch. Hadori's When it's Love. Gail writes about Dalton:

Ch Hadori's Secret Agent 007 v Forest Knoll Sired by Ch Hi-Cliffs Free N' Easy Dam: Ch. Hadoris When It's Love, Breeders: Gail, Herman, Elizabeth Stiefferman & Greg Harrison. Dalton finished his Championship in very short order. Shown twice in the 12 to 18 month puppy dog class take two first and a Mjr Reserve. Shown twice at the Triangle shows in February of 2011 going Winners dog for a major, shown once in April going Winners Dog for a major. Dalton was shown at our shows in May going winners dog both days to finish his Championship. We showed him in Breed at the GSDC of Greater Kansas City Specialties in June of last year and he went Best of Breed at a five point major entry. Dalton is one of two champions produced by our beautiful Ch. Hadori's When It's Love " Val" which we co-own with Greg Harrison. I can not thank Greg enough for allowing Val to come live with us. We are sorry Dalton is not here tonight but he is co-owned and lives with Gary & Patti Szymczak. Next we have Ch.RR Bar's Puttin' On the Ritz bred and owned by Rosalind, and Jeanne North.

Topper finished on 6-12-11. Sired by: Ch. Wynrose Caralon Gator, and out of RR Bar's Sunswept Sky Royale. About Topper Roz says:

RR Bar's Puttin' on the Ritz finished his AKC Championship title on June 12,2011. Topper is my second homebred Champion. Topper finished in less than four months with the excellent handling of Julia Foster. However, Topper's first three points were accomplished with the great training and handling by Elizabeth Stiefferman the year before. For all your hard work, Elizabeth, I thank you!

Topper's show career started with winning Best Puppy at or club match with his Mom (me) showing him. He was only about thirteen week old. What a thrill that was for me! His show career took off like a whirlwind after that and I'm still pinching myself to see if it is real!

This all started in the litter box. Topper was one of six puppies, but he knew he was special. This three week old puppy demanded, by barking and stomping his feet to be picked up, kissed and cuddled before eating with his littermates! It wasn't long before this big eyed boy would just leap into my arms to be loved.

Topper has always been a stand-out, as a puppy to the proud and beautiful Champion he is today. His winning attitude helped me name him RR Bar's Puttin' on the Ritz. His puppies have that same attitude!

Crowds of people stop to admire Topper wherever we go. I think he is a great ambassador for the breed. I hope you agree. Those big soft, sparkling eyes just seem to melt peoples' hearts.

After all is said, he is still a "Mama's Boy" and my "Big Dog Puppy". He is such a joy to have to love.

Roz wants me to let you know that both her new champions are sired by Margaret Rech's champion, Ch. Wynrose's Caralon gator, who was bred by Caralon Kennels.

Our next champion, we have, Ch.Liebchen's Shebearezade v Winsome who finished on: 9-28-11. Bred by Gail Bauman, and owned by Elizabeth Stiefferman. Sired by Sel. Ch. Kaleef's Joshua of Kenlyn, HT,PT and out of Sel.Ch. Liebchen's Boogie Wonderland.

This is what Elizabeth writes about Peanut:

The stories of "Peanut" or as I sometimes call her "peanut butter"!

I started showing for Kris and Frank Fasano a little over a year ago but I wasn't handling peanut yet. Lenny Brown was her handler at the time and anyone that knows peanut she is a DIVA. Let's just say she didn't like Lenny's charm. She would pin her ears back and put the brakes on anywhere he wanted her to go.

Every show I was at with the Fasanos peanut was usually there in the expenses so I would give her cookies and lovin. I always teased Frank that she loved me more so he should just give her to me. After months of bugging Frank Peanut was FINALLY my dog to own and to show, he gave in!

Peanut and I wiped up with 2 Winners Bitches at all breeds and two 5 pt majors win at specialties. My goal was to finish Peanut before the national to special her. My hopes were down because we were running out of time. She needed 4 points to finish and our last chance was the day before the national at the regional specialty show. Peanut showed to perfection and went winners bitch to finish championship.

It was a cool experience and Frank and I were pretty emotional! At first Frank thought she won winners bitch at the national (which later on he did with a different dog)! We made the first cut in the specials ring at the national but nothing more.

Since then, Peanut has been shown two times in breed and both times going BOB over select animals. She is so much fun to have around and I love her a lot. I'm looking forward to showing her this year in both all breed, specialty, and national rings! Go Peanut!!

Our next Champion for 2011 is Ch.Cimarron's Lovin' Touchin' Squeezin' bred and owned By Steve Dobbins. Sired by:Ch. Cimarron's Refugee X Ch. Cimarron's Tokyo Rose. She finished on November 12, 2011. This is what Steve has to say about her:

CH Cimarron's Lovin' Touchin' Squeezin' (aka "Charmin" or the "Little Shit") is my most recent and is my 16th champion. She is from a litter that had songs from the group, Journey, as the litter's theme. She got her call name Charmin from the Lovin' Touchin' Squeezin' part of her registered name and from the commercial Please Don't Squeeze the Charmin. People ask me why I would name the dog after toilet paper - I say 'Why Not?'. Her second call name came about because she was so tiny as a puppy. When I first entered her in the 6 to 9 puppy class, she was the size of about a 4 month old puppy. Hence she got the name, Little Shit. Besides, her brother's call name is Dingleberry. People ask me why I would call a dog Dingleberry - Again, I say 'Why Not?'. Besides aren't dingleberries, little shit, and Charmin all related?

Charmin never went very far in the conformation ring in her early showing career, more than likely a result of her size and lack of show attitude. She managed to go reserve winners bitch once from the puppy class. Earlier this year, she finally started to grow up physically. She then went reserve winners bitch and winners bitch for her first point at some small shows in mid May. But she still lacked any show attitude. Many times, she acted like she did not want to play in the conformation ring.

Then in June, something changed. She started playing in ring and having a good time. It was like someone put a rocket up her butt as she now enjoyed zooming around the ring. Winners bitch became almost automatic and expected, that is, until she went "naked". Late July and August were hard on her coat as the heat of summer combined with the preseasonal hormonal changes took her coat to almost nothing. Then her coat came back, and the Little Shit zoomed around the ring once again to more points and her second major in the fall. She finished in November at the shows in Springfield, MO. Even though she is not a Bred By champion, most of her points were won from the Bred By class and she accumulated all of her points in less than 6 months.

Our next star for 2011 is Grand Ch. Cimarron's Here Comes My Girl. Pinky competed as a special in Best of Breed competition to earn her AKC grand Championship. A dog becomes a Grand Champion by earning 25 points. To do this the dog must defeat another Champion 3 times. They need three major wins under three different judges, with the remainder of their points won under at least one more judge. Pinky earned her Grand Championship on April 24th.

This is her bio from Steve:

GCH Cimarron's Here Comes My Girl (aka "Pinky") became my first champion of a litter of ten that has ultimately produced EIGHT champions in this single litter. Pinky tore through the conformation ring earning 3 majors and 5 major reserves on the path to her championship that took not quite 10 months. Her path towards her Grand Championship was equally as impressive as she completed the requirements for it in a short time and had the distinction of becoming the FIRST German Shepherd Grand Champion in the state of Missouri. Pinky has now been assigned the role of a couch potato since her diagnosis of cancer. Her outlook was not good, as she was given less than 3 months to live and that ran out in November. She has undergone 4 chemotherapy treatments and seems to be doing relatively well, so far. Only time will tell as her body tries to fight off the cancer in her liver and pancreas.

The GSDC of America's, and GSDC of Canada's designation of "Select" is awarded to those Champions in competition for Best Of Breed at the National Specialty Shows. The designation of select 1 are the Grand Victor and Grand Victress, and the Judge awards other select ratings as he feels were in contention for BOB and BOS. This year Greg Harrison, and Liana New's Ch. Hi-Cliff's Free 'N Easy was Select 2 at both the Canadian, and American National Specialty Shows. Fletcher was bred by Randall and Darlene Cliff. Sired by Ch, Kenlyn's Aries Of High Cliff, ROM and out of Ch. High Cliff Whitney Woodside.

This is what Greg shares about Fletcher:

when u ask for a bio on an animal like Fletcher it is so hard to articulate what he means to my family and me.... Mom and I have bred some really nice animals over the years, but sometimes u get broad sided by a special one.... let me set the scene, it's Febuary 2006 and i am going up to Chicago to drop off 2 animals at Mikes, one to sell and the other for conditioning to sell..... So i get to the show on Friday evening and i meet up with Liana and she says to me Randy and Darlen Cliff are bringing two puppies for me to look at, would u mind looking at them with me... so i said sure..... Saturday rolls around and we are sitting ringside and the door opens and Randy and Darlen walk in with two pups, my first response was wow the bitch is awesome, By the way she ended up being american canadian select champion HiCliffs
Four Star Review

not to shabey I should point out..... So i say to liana u need to get the bitch, she say's to me " They have decided to keep her, what do you think of him?.... To be totally honest with everyone I really wasn't crazy about him he was a very wet sloppy puppy with 3 inch legg's so i said to her he's ok but the bitch is a star, once again she told me forget the bitch focuss on him and again I said he's ok..... Later on tht afternoon i am sitting at ring side and Randy walks up to me and asks me can i hold on to him he has to go to the van for another animal, I said sure whats his name he tells me Fletcher i started to laugh at the name but for some reason it fit his personality..... so i start playing with him and boy he is such a cool dog, so i start to realise a couple minutes turns to a half hour a half hour turns to an hour and a half then an hour and a half turns to three hours..... Finally Liana comes back and sits down next to me and asks me what i think of him I told her he is a really cool dog, then she asks me what do u think about co owning him with me, now i might remind u mom had just passed away in Oct and i was seriously getting out of dogs and i was dropping off two other animals at mikes for him to condition and place.... so i told her let me think about it a little.... so i'm playing with Fletcher some more and i think to myself what the hell worse comes to worse i have another house dog to keep Meg company.... So Liana and i said sure we will co own him together... Folks we took some heat for buying him, Mike says to me "Dude if you wanted a good dog i would have found you a good dog"..... Liana heard it from a friend of hers " Please tell me u didn't buy that dog!"
..... Needless to say that was the weekend it all

started.....

Am. Can. Select. Champion Hi-Cliffs Free'n Easy R.O.M."FLETCHER"

mike cheeks 4 pt. major
 john beamont 4 ptr. major
 barbara lopez 5 pt. mjr
 jerry markowitzs 1 pt.
 cyndi Flaut 3 pt. major
 Mike Metz Best In Maturity
 Danny Dwier #7 Canadian Select
 Barbara Amidon #4 US Select
 Fred Migliore #2 Canadian Select
 Ed Barrett #2 US Select

Our final award for 2011 is the thing we breeders all strive for, and rarely achieve. The Register Of Merit is awarded by the GSDCA for our top producing sires and dams. In order for a male to become an ROM he must produce at least 10 Qualifiers, with at least five being Champions, or ROMs, and at least five with at least a major reserve along with this, at least 100 points must be earned by the progeny. .

Our ROM for this year is Ch.JoKare's Kocoum, Bred by Karen Hynek, and Kathy Morton. Owned by Karen Hynek. KoKo was sired by Schokrest Vermont and out of JoKare's Powderpuff.

Here is Karen's bio for KoKo:

KoKo, as I call him, started going to shows before he was old enough to be shown. By the time he was shown, he was so used to his surroundings that he was very hard to show. He was too sound! Fran Foster showed him to his Championship. I remember being at shows, and Fran would say somebody wants to see a Shepherd. KoKo would always come out to greet them. Whether it be an adult, child, or baby, he would always give them a kiss. he knew what he had to do. Everyone enjoyed petting him.

KoKo was my pride and joy. HE HAD NO FAULTS. He was all male, masculine head, great bone, substance, beautiful coat, full dentition, OFA good hips, and elbows, dark eyes.

But I also have to give credit where credit is due. I have to give Steve Dobbins all the credit for getting KoKo's ROM. it was Steve's litter of six Champions at that time, and my one female that he showed on his own that earned KoKo his ROM title. Thank You Steve.

This concludes our Awards presentation. I hope you have enjoyed sharing the accomplishments of our member owned stars for 2011. I know we already have a 2012 Champion, and a new ROM sire for 2012.

I think we are off to a GREAT start for next year's awards.

Congratulations to everyone who earned titles for 2011. Thank you to our members, and friends who brought food to share tonight, and thank everyone for coming tonight to support our stars.