

Club.

More recently, at the 2006 ASSA National in Virginia Beach, we were very proud to watch as "Jeanie Frances" won the Veteran 12-Year-And-Older Class and her litter-mate, "Jessica Anne," placed fourth. We don't know if that has been done before—having two littermates in the older Veteran Class, never mind both placing. The "silly sisters" looked lovely and are still in very good condition.



The "silly sisters" relax with Dick in the motor home after a successful 2006 National.

Tell us about your most recent champions.

Nancy: In 2004 we sent my rascal scooter buddy, "Teddy," down to Florida with Kathy Dziegiel, and he finished quickly. With the help of Kathy, and later Debbie DeNardo, he now has six BBs, two of which are Specialty wins. Last summer we went to Canada where he finished in the first four days and went on to get three BBs, a Group II and a Group III, thanks to handlers Rachel Pratt, Kim Wendling and Jodie O'Meare.

His daughter "Brandy" (Am/Can Ch Cindahope Heathcliff Hot Pocket) earned her Canadian championship in the first four days alongside her dad. She is currently home growing coat after her first litter.



Am/Can Ch Cindahope Heathcliff Hot Pocket.

"Teddy" has two other champions that we are very proud of, Ch Kylee Eden See Me (owned by Lee Patrick and Kathy Dziegiel) and, of course, BIS/BISS Ch Kylee Eden The Dragon-slayer, CC (owned by Karen Hannah, Kathy Dziegiel, Lee Patrick and Arlene Bulens). Weekly we watch "Thomas's" progress around the country with awe. Karen and Paul Hannah are doing a phenomenal job with him.

In what areas do you feel Shelties have made the most improvement since you first started in the breed?

Nancy: I think much improvement has been made in the breed over time. Temperaments are much better, and today the dogs are much steadier in the ring. Overall movement and soundness have also improved. Back then, not as many Shelties could stand foursquare. Ears are always a problem, but I think less so today.

Looking through some of my old catalogues and books, I think

the most improvement has been made in photographing the dogs so we could evaluate them more correctly.

Dick: We're particularly happy about the improvements in temperament and movement in the breed over the years because those are two things we really value in the dogs we breed and show.

What do you feel is your biggest responsibility to the breed?

Nancy: We feel that one of our biggest responsibilities lie with the families that our puppies go home with, whether they be pets or show dogs. We want those puppies to enrich the lives of their families, and vice versa. We are very careful to fit each puppy with the right family according to their needs and personalities, and we try to be available to owners long after they were sold a puppy or dog.

How closely do you work with other Sheltie breeders and friends?

Nancy: We have had many fruitful partnerships with other Sheltie enthusiasts. We've truly enjoyed the camaraderie and friendship that go along with working with other breeders.

One of our most successful collaborations has been with Kathy Dziegiel and Arlene Bulens of Kylee. Kathy met Dick during an Eastern Dog Club weekend. She saw Linda More with our "Ruffian" and told Dick she wanted one just



Ch SumerSong Convrsation Piece ("Connor," owned by Ruth Merrill and Nancy Hildreth) earned his place in Sheltie history by being the only bi-black Sheltie to win the Working Group at an All-Breed show.

like her. That wasn't easy. She got several from us that didn't work out, and then she began to handle more and took Am/Can Ch Cindahope Crystal And Gold, HC, TT ("Sara Lee") to her championship. We then sold her co-ownership of "Sara Lee" with Dick. He wanted her bred to Ch Mainstay Attitude Adjustment and we divided the litter with "TC" going to Kathy and Cindahope Kylee Triscuit (pointed, dam of one champion) staying with us.

As the friendship continued, we often traveled together in our RVs to shows. We co-bred/co-owned many dogs with Kathy and Arlene, including "Kissy" and her daughter, "Bridget." Kathy has since left us for warmer climes and we miss her dearly. Luckily we still have Arlene in the area for half of each year.

We have also had a long friendship with Marge Feeney and Sue Feeney Morris of Connemara Shelties. When Sue was doing graduate work at the University of Massachusetts, she reluctantly sold us "Corey" (Ch Connemara's Shortstop—see photo on next page), a handsome, sweet 18-month-old "Ryan" son. Linda More helped us finish him in 1989. "Corey" sired three champions and is the great-great-grandsire on both sides of the pedigree of our 2005 champion bitch "Brandy."

Another friendship and collaboration of note is with Connie