

SE Region June 2010 Newsletter

Meet Your Neighbors

Pam McKain
Warner Robbins, GA
McKatsfancy Cattery
www.freewebs.com/mckatsfancy

1. What breed do you work with..??.. How long..??..

Himalayans & Persians 22 years since 1989

2. If you could, what other breed of cat would you like to work with..??..

Probably the gentle giants Maine Coons, I've admired them for many years.

3. What is your most memorable win..??..

My first International Win last year with SGC McKatsfancy Quinn Maccreeamy, It came with some help from dear friends Mary Williams, Karen Hensley of the SE Region & Bonnie Pearson from the Mid Atlantic Region.

4. How did you start in the world of cats..??..

As a kid growing up near Pittsburgh PA the Sunday newspaper had a picture of a litter of kittens. They were Seal Point Himalayans, I was instantly drawn to them. I cut the picture out and hung it on my bedroom door it was still there the day I got married. Later after getting married and moving to Florida I got to attend my first cat show. I was hooked and for that Christmas my husband presented me with my first Himalayan. It's been a love affair since then. Who can have just one?

5. What, if any other hobbies..??..

I'm an avid reader and love bowling.

Mentorship

Hi Everybody,

Thanks to all those members that work so diligently to put on our TICA SE Region cat shows. Being relatively new with less than three shows, naturally I have much to learn ...boy was I relieved when my TICA mentor, Liz Fraser came up from South Florida unexpectedly! Liz has American Bobtails and I have Ragdolls, yet in our unique friendship we exchange a simpatico of showing the cats we love. This relationship is inspirational and I highly recommend anyone new to showing his or her cat to seek out a TICA mentor. If you think you would like a TICA mentor *or* to be a TICA mentor for exhibiting or breeding please go to: <http://tica.org/> and look under the **MENTORSHIP** tab in the left column of the main page.

In my opinion “nothing is average about a cat” and nothing is written in stone prior to the benching of a cat. The show could not benefit exhibitors without the eyes and ears of the accurate accountability of the Clerks, and the rigors that each expert TICA Judge brings to The International Cat Association’s program of shows. These folks have my continued admiration. Special thanks to the SE regions’ show managers, and to Laura Heineck our SE Region Entry Clerk for their devotion to making it all work. But I have to give my mentor, Liz a heartfelt thank you.

Having a mentor is recognizing that you have a “go-to” person beside you. A TICA mentor is someone who has had a long-time experience as an exhibitor and is aware of the intricacies’ of the show rules. Having a mentor for exhibition is reassuring in so many ways. A mentor has the maturity and diplomacy to ask and answer questions and is almost like having a devil’s advocate on one shoulder and a guardian angel on the other. In some instances the mentor articulates the essence of situations conveying the right way to proceed. Rather helpful when you find yourself amid the rows of several hundred cats and cat owners all vying to exhibit the remarkable creatures they love. I might let those who have never been to a show the benching areas are where the cats are groomed or rest in their colorful cabañas (decorated cages) until they are called to their rings. At this show my mentor guided me in buying the right pre-wash product for my cat’s coat. She herself brought along a cornucopia of cat stuff all packed neatly in a grooming bench, on *wheels*. As a mentor she often knows what will work best in all aspects of cat couture. Mentors are not afraid-e-cats, at least mine isn’t. Liz answers the majority of my questions because she has the hands-on-experience, yet I noticed too she has the finesse to fair well because she is respected among the cat exhibitors who have been consistently showing and administrators when she seeks another expert opinion. It also meant so much to have someone say *come along* with me to an open invitation dine and dish event – seriously having to go alone was looking dreadful.

My mentor and I found ourselves laughing off the weird ways cat’s coats dry better with talc; but using too much talc can put you as a matter of speaking, in the fluff and puff division of trying to brush it all out in time. Alas the rain didn’t help in this situation the day of the show. There are so many nuances of how, why and when to the whimsies of cat show protocol.

There's rather a bit of a learning curve from "just a beginner" to being "best in show." As this journey unfolds the significance of my mentorship allows me to acknowledge that there is satisfaction in the moment of diligence. Sometimes there isn't a line drawn in the sand to say okay it's complete; in reality it's also a journey of our liaisons that tells the story and the ability to have a good mentor can be a guide to being good at showmanship when the chips are down =^,^= and likewise when there up. Mentors can handle cats when they would rather not be handled, because as much as cats can be curious, they can be territorial; A few cats can get into a spat and the drop of a hat, or go from zero to sixty in one easy leap which is all pretty neat. Before, during and after the show my mentor touched and carried my cat. This important because she has the ability to gauge if a cat is frightened, aggressive or is likely to tolerate the judges' examination and being carried around in full view of a hundred other cats. While my cat is very tolerate of most situations, and I trust him – on a daily basis he's padding around my house and not exposed to bright lights, crowds, being caged and micro-phone squelch.

At TICA shows there are many beautiful cats, happy cats, lazy cats, fast cats, long and skinny cats, up tight cats, ((shudders)) even naked cats, cats that come in all colors and well just about every cat imaginable. And then some, in fact TICA recognizes some 55 different breeds of cats for show. To be among a delightful bunch of cat lovers as an exhibitor is a thrill. At this show I was happy to chat with some of the lively spectators that came out to see the show and admire my cats in the benching area. It's a good idea to take some spending money; I added a few toys for my kitties from the vendors. Generally I choose this because there are better cat thing-a-mabobs which are uniquely beyond what you will see at the commercial pet stores. Because of the competitive nature of any contest, cat shows run the gamut of emotions for the owners and breeders who choose to enter them. Seeing a TICA cat show is beholding the zenith of the cat world and through the eyes of a newbie like myself its' all pretty zany. As one nice lady sitting beside me remarked, "it says something about us to know we are just as excited at seeing those flashy kitty wands as the cats themselves." I swear if I could have climbed that scratching post for my cat...I would have ((shrugs))...he didn't seem interested in being kittenish. None-the-less for his first show I am pleased he remained the gentleman he normally is, and was no less loved by me for his efforts. Admonishing only myself, I think I'll have to be more aware of the clerks call. I never heard them call from rings 4 or 6; thankfully Liz helped me get my cat to the ring a few times. As the late Sunday afternoon lull progressed post lunch, I felt I was nearing a cat nap after rising at 5 am two days consecutively. Yawns and stretches any ways it could have been the cat nip o.O my cats slept all the way home. Thank you Liz =^,^=

Best of Luck to All, Nora

Recipe of the Month Sent in by Stephanie Smith

Smothered and Covered Chicken

Ingredients:

4 boneless/skinless Chicken breast

Large onion diced

Butter 1/2 stick

8oz sliced fresh mushrooms

4 slices provolone cheese

4 slices of thick sliced ham- breakfast ham works well maybe 1/4 in thick

You all will LOVE this- we serve it at the restaurant.

4 boneless chicken breast- bake in oven covered at 350 for about 35-45 min- while baking sauté onions and mushrooms in butter- until opaque and slightly browned set aside- remove chicken from oven place a slice of ham on each chicken breast, top with onion mushroom mixture and then top with cheese- return to the oven for about 10 min to melt cheese slightly.

Serve with rice pilaf- Enjoy

The Southeast Regional Fund – More than just a bank account

By: Vanadis Crawford & Joyce Henderson

The Southeast Regional Fund is your fund, yet many do not know how it's funded and how those funds are used. The Fund is vital to the operation of the region and to the enjoyment of every regional member.

We're going to take a few minutes to explain the Regional Fund to you, how it's funded, and how those funds are spent. Hopefully you will then have a better understanding of how the Fund works and how you can help it remain healthy and viable.

Let's start out with how the Fund is, well, funded. The bottom-line is that the Fund is mainly funded by the members of the region – either directly or by participating in regional shows.

How does your participation in regional shows help the Fund? It helps in three ways:

- At the end of each show season TICA provides a “regional rebate” back to each region based on the number of licensed rings at regional shows. The higher the number of rings, the more money the region gets in its rebate. The rebate is \$300.00 plus \$5 a ring. For the 2008-2009 show season the regional rebate was \$1,100.00 so that meant for that show season we had 160 rings in all the Southeast Region shows. More shows and more rings means a higher rebate, but it also means greater risks for clubs hosting shows. So, by entering and making clubs successful you are also helping the region as a whole.

- Many shows accept donations specifically targeted to the Southeast Region. These donations are not the property of the clubs and are sent to the regional treasurer to be deposited in the Fund.
- Some shows also set aside \$1 for each entry to be donated to the Fund. Just like show donations, this money is sent to the regional treasurer. For the 2009/2010 show season the clubs collected \$1,933.00 in targeted and dollar-an-entry donations for the region. So, for every show you attended that donated based on their entries, you helped the region just by entering! If you also made donations to the region at the shows, thanks!

Of course 100% of the Fund income doesn't come from show related money alone. Each year the region offers sponsorship opportunities for our regional awards. Not only is this a wonderful way to recognize special cats and celebrate awards, it is also key to having beautiful regional awards while keeping our Fund healthy. We have been fortunate to have donors for our regional awards from both inside and outside the region. It is truly a TICA family effort.

Also, since 1994 when trophies were introduced for our regional best cat, kitten, alter, household pet, and household pet kitten, it has been a tradition for the bests from the prior show season to share their joy by sponsoring the trophies for the following year's winners. With few exceptions this tradition has been followed these past 15 years.

For last show season's awards (awarded in 2009) the region collected \$1,525.00 in award sponsorships. Sponsorship opportunities are now available for the 2010 awards. See http://www.seregiontica.org/Pages/se_regional_sponsorships.htm for details.

Now let's take a minute to discuss expenses. These fall into the following categories:

- Regional award expenses
- Yearbook expenses
- Regional director's expenses
- Other expenses

The largest of our region's expenses are around the regional awards. Yes, that's right, the majority of our expenses go right back to the Southeast Region members! So, by helping the Fund, you are helping pay for the beautiful regional awards that go right back to you!

So, what are the regional award expenses? For the 2009 regional these were:

- Award rosettes - \$1,350.67. Yes, that's just the rosettes
- Engraved plaques for all top-20 winners and best of breed championship cats - \$1,261.32
- Best trophies - \$685.00
- Plaques for "people awards" - \$356.15
- Presentation expenses (podium, screen, audio system, banquet programs) - \$230.58

Yes, you added that correctly. That's \$3,883.72 coming right back to the regional membership.

In addition, for many years the region has also paid to picture all top-20 winners in the yearbook. While the top-10 in each region are pictured for free, each 11-20 winner would have to pay \$15 to have each 11th through 20th best regional winner pictured in the yearbook if the region didn't pay on behalf of the bottom-10 winners. The cost for the region to do this is \$900.00.

Of course the Regional Director also has the right to withdraw reasonable expenses to represent the region at Board meetings. Travel is reimbursed by TICA up to \$300.00 for domestic meetings and \$800.00 for meetings outside the United States. Per Diem is also provided to the Regional Directors while attending meetings. A

Regional Director can, at their discretion, be reimbursed for travel expenses above the TICA reimbursement from the Fund.

Other expenses to the region, including postage and Web site expenses, are also reimbursed from the Fund.

While we have a solid Fund now, it will take the ongoing efforts of individuals and clubs in the region to keep it healthy so we can all enjoy the benefits we have seen over the years.

For your information, here is a summary of the region's income and expenses for the last show season.

SE Region Financial Statement – May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010

Beginning Balance (May 1, 2009)	\$6,787.72
Receipts	
Regional award sponsorships	\$1,525.00
TICA rebate to the region	\$1,100.00
Skyway – regional donations	\$34.00
First in Flight Cat Club – regional donation	\$255.00
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First in Flight Cat Club – regional donation	\$286.00
Field of Dreams – regional donation	\$194.00
Aquaticats – regional donation	\$700.00
Alabama Paws & Claws – regional donation	\$45.00
Florida Sun Cats – regional donation	\$150.00
Destiny – regional donation	\$150.00
Southern Sophisticats – regional donation	\$119.00
TICA travel reimbursement for winter meeting (Japan)	\$800.00
	\$5,358.00
Expenses	
Yearbook pages for bottom-10 regional winners	\$900.00
Regional presentation expenses	\$230.58
Regional award plaques	\$1,261.32
Regional best trophies	\$685.00
Regional award rosettes	\$1,350.67
Regional people awards	\$356.15
Website fees	\$190.80
Postage and programs	\$113.29
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$35.00
Regional Director airfare to winter meeting (Japan)	\$947.30
	\$6,070.11
Ending Balance (April 30, 2010)	\$6,075.61



Did You Know..??..

Taken from TICA Show Rules

23.4 Cats or kittens obviously pregnant are ineligible for competition.

23.5 A cat not having all physical properties, such as eyes, ears, legs, tail (except as specified in breed standards), is ineligible for entry except in the alter classes or household pet classes.

23.6 The show committee, at its discretion, may refuse to accept any entry for the following reasons:

23.6.1 Maximum entries received.

23.6.2 Show date is during 21-day prohibitive period.

23.6.2.1 Any cat or kitten from a house or cattery where there has been fungus or any infectious or contagious illness within 21 days prior to the opening date of the show is ineligible for entry and/or exhibition.

23.6.3 Exhibitor's name is on club or TICA Temporary or Permanent Suspension List.

23.6.4 A formal protest alleging a violation of Show Rules and/or By-Laws has been lodged, and the protest has been upheld by the Board of Directors.

23.6.5 Prior conduct of the entry and/or exhibitor is detrimental to the best interest of the association or the welfare of cats or the club and/or its show.

23.6.6 The entry is prohibited by law.

23.6.7 The last entry day is past. The last entry day is the last day and time that entries are accepted, notwithstanding any advertised "closing date". The show committee shall accept entries in the order received, however, may give preference to entries accompanied by payment.

23.6.7.1 In the event that a show committee has declined any entry pursuant to 23.6.7, no further entries may be accepted for any reason whatsoever.

With just a little while to go please make sure you get in your pictures to Susan Hamrick for the power point presentation... There are a few cats that still need to be sponsored and of course you need to make sure your entries are in... Get out your grass skirts, coconut bras and lets have a luau..!!..

Anyone wanting to submit articles, recipes, trivia or anything you think others would like to read can send me the info at PiratesLairMC@aol.com

Thanks to all who contributed this month..!!..

Claudia & Laurie

Don't forget that the SE Region is on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=300505338191>