



Judges Education at the National Specialty will be held on Friday and Saturday as in years past. Due to a prior commitment, I will have to leave the specialty on Thursday afternoon, but will coordinate the activities for the following days.

The Friday night classroom seminar at 7:00 PM will be presented this year by Pat Murphy, who has given the program on two other occasions. The following hands-on session from 9:00 to 10:00 PM will be led by Jennifer Beach-Buda and Marilyn Polsfuss.

The Schedule at the national in the last few years has made participation in the Judges Study Group more difficult for both Judges, and for scheduling of mentors. In the earlier years that I was working with the JSG, judges came in on Friday and were mentored during the Bitch classes, had the formal education on Friday night, and then were able to fine-tune on Saturday. Now that we have little or no class judging on Friday, and virtually all dog activity in the morning if there is any judging, it cuts out a large amount of time in which the student judges might be exposed to Borzoi and mentors.

Those breeders who are on the list for ringside mentoring are basically needed for Saturday only, a time when many are tied up in the ring with their Specials. I point this out, not that BCOA should make schedule changes for the benefit of the small number of judges that show up each year, but to let the Board know how the schedule has affected participation by student judges and BCOA mentors. Of course, there are some Student judges that can come in for more days of judging earlier in the week, and if they can come, I will always make arrangements for them to have seating and mentors. Those people are generally the exception, but their extra effort and interest is appreciated and noted.

The response has been light for judges interested in the Borzoi Judges Study Group. The AKC's Sighthound Institute in 1992, and the ADSJ last summer allowed many judges to fulfill enough requirements in the judges application process that some find it unnecessary to attend the National Specialty to be approved.

The Chairman for one of the regional clubs contacted me for the names of Borzoi student judges for possible sweepstakes assignments and the names and particulars of Study Group attendees from that club's geographical area were provided. Other clubs may wish to do the same and I would be glad to facilitate the contacts.

Last summer, I was asked to present Borzoi at a Judges Ed event in Boston in December. That was soon changed to a request to talk about the sighthounds as a Group, so ended up not as Borzoi specific. Due to the big snowstorm that weekend, attendance was half of those who had preregistered.

My request and listing of the photos needed for the Borzoi Standard PowerPoint program was once again met with only a few submissions. I will give the presentation on Wednesday night in Cincinnati to an open audience, and ask for photos once again. I will make the same request list available again as a handout.

There are no other judges' education seminar plans or requests at this time.

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All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others
George Orwell (1903 - 1950), "Animal Farm"