

PWDCA Nationals at Lake Geneva  
As relayed by Oz (aka The Wiz) to Peter Forgach

It was a long drive to Nationals at lovely Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Finding a parking spot was a bit of an issue but dad found one. Not sure why the RVs and trucks had to take up some of the prime spots. It really felt good to get out of the car and stretch our legs in one of the two dog runs provided. They finally thought of what we really needed. We got to our rooms that were certainly were nice and comfy. Zoe, my sister, and I each got a comfortable bed. Mom & dad were allowed to sleep there as well!

After unloading the car, we took a walk around the grounds which were really nice. The set up for the Confirmation Ring was beautiful in a bowl with ample seating around it and right next to the main section of the lodge. The setup for the grooming was very close to the ring. That made the groomers and handlers happy. There was a food stand nearby that was open often but not always. The outdoor fire pit nearby looked cool and was on at night and the last day which was rather cold.

The agility rings (also used for obedience and rally) were a bit of a walk so a lot of people drove there even though I walked one day and was not winded at all! I did hear some humans grumble about this. A tent with food and drinks was set up and was open when events were going on. There were a number of golf carts zipping around and my guess is that some of the drivers didn't have licenses to drive them. Once, I felt fortunate to be in the cart as opposed to trying to get out of the way as we were close to mowing a few buddies out!

The village of Lake Geneva was a few short miles from the hotel with nice stores restaurants and the pretty lake. A little past the village there was the human store of necessity called Wal-Mart.

Sorry that we missed the Water Trials but from what I heard from my water buddies it was very windy on the second day with high waves and lots of issues! At times it was impossible to see the brave swimmers from the shore. The passing rate as a result was not too high for the Courier entries who went on the second day. Otherwise, the water site received good grades. Congratulations do go to Pippin and Jane Harding on passing Courier under difficult conditions.

Tuesday morning at 6:45am somebody decided it was a good time to bark. Within two minutes there had to be another twenty dogs, bitches and puppies barking away. Wednesday morning a car alarm went off waking me up. I want to go on record that that I am not a morning dog and need my sleep to be at my best.

Top 20 went off beautifully. The room was set with optimum visibility for all of the guests. Each of the participants had music of their choice playing while strutting their stuff. The one disappointment was that the event occurred on Tuesday night and the results were given no fanfare and almost just casually mentioned at the Friday night banquet.

We had our annual CERF testing done and it was pretty painless. There was a good talk about Cancer Research Update. We lose too many PWDs to this disease and hopefully a cure will be found.

I missed the Agility Ring but was there the next day for Rally. The rings were very nice but there were odors that I had to sniff out in them. I was not alone in that and it did make it difficult to keep my mind on the work. The funniest scene was a human walking through the heel exercise while his dog just sat watching. Amazingly they got a 2<sup>nd</sup> place ribbon. Turns out that there was a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> and this occurred in a run off. The other dog in the runoff left the ring!

The Breeders' Class had 15 entries. Congratulations to my sire (Spencer), Maxie and Jane Freeman for winning with an assist from yours truly.

There was a competition between the various clubs and team Nutmeg had a fine showing coming in third. I heard that the favorite event was eating the hot dogs out of the bin with water in it. I guess water dog training is useful!

Best of Breed competition was on the only cold and dreary day. We were all ready and energized when a big chill went through all of us. The very first group of dogs were in the ring and a dog in the current top 10 didn't make the cut! 3 of us from the Nutmeg Club made it to the cut of 11 (excluding the bitches). Unfortunately Indie and I got cut after that but special congratulations to Kidd who received a Select!

The Dinner Banquet was very good and I did get a doggie bag! Heard that there were some very nice raffles and live auction. Dad almost got into trouble with mom for almost winning one!

Congratulations to the organizers of Nationals for an excellent job.