A sincere thanks to the members of the Central Caroline Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club for the honored invitation for their August 2016 specialty held at a new location for them, the Greensboro Coliseum Complex. What a great venue, convenient for exhibitors and nicely laid out and supported for judges and the public. The Southern hospitality surpassed its reputation with kindness and great food, but most of all mutual respect and love for the sport.

I had not been to the area for a number of years, and as I traveled I reflected fondly on one of my very first specialty match judging assignments for this club many years ago, long before I had accomplished some wonderful wins in the breed and finally completed my judges application. How fun it was to return to the Southeast region with a blank slate and be surprised with some wonderful specimens of the breed whose ancestry I didn’t know until I read the catalog. Always such a treat judging under these circumstances. Again, I am honored and can’t thank the Club enough.

As involved as I have been in the breed for so many years, I have truly been pleasantly surprised at how few of my major wins I actually had an idea or clue of their ancestry or breeding program. This show was the same, and I was thrilled with several of the class dogs and bitches, producing for me a first in my judging career of going with the WD and WB for the Breed and Opposite awards. It was simply a matter of on that day and in that moment that that dog and bitch showing their hear out and standing out among a number of beautiful champion best of breed entries.

Overall, the quality was high for a relatively small specialty entry, and although there were several not of the highest quality and a handful of bad bites, the quality was quite respectable. I was disappointed to see a very bad incorrect bite in the Best of Breed class, and I encourage anyone using a stud dog to look in the mouth as this has become quite common at many shows I judge. That said, I believe the breed is good hands in this area of the country. Thank you so much to each exhibitor for your entry. I truly enjoyed myself.

**Winners Dog, Best of Winners and Best of Breed:**

Royalmark Reminiscence at Cameron. Breeder: Suzanne & Todd McCoy. GCH Aranel Renaissance – GCH Lillium Bloomin Viola. Owner: Lisa Cameron

**Winners Bitch, Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed:**

Bonitos Companeros Uhuru. Breeder: Markus Kirschbaum. Aranel Genisis – Bonitos Companeros Ultra Sweet. Owners: Barbara Magera & Elaine Mitchell

**Select Dog:**

GCH Stepamgar Skyfall. Breeder: James & Linda Shreffler. Aranel Revelation – Ch Stepamgar Sierra. Owners: James & Linda Shreffler

**Select Bitch:**

Miletree Caprice. Breeders: PC Towse & RC Towse. Gamble On You Des Contemplations at Pascavale – Miletree Sagitta. Owners: Marian & Debra Bonnefond.

My abbreviated critique for class placements and more extensive critique for major winners follows:

9-12 puppy dog:

7 - Royalmark Under the Milky Way: Nicely marked Blenheim puppy with a pleasing expression. He was sound coming and going today, nicely angulated and very happy to be in the ring. From the side this dog showed a nice one-piece moderate package with a correct outline that caught my eye. RWD and Best Puppy in Show.

27 – Wellsworth Pepper Jack: Will benefit from more time for maturity, cushion and fill in his head shape to compete with the expression of the first dog, but he was sound moving and showed with a nice happy temperament today.

45 – Stepamgar’s Simon: heavily marked tricolor with a promising future, but today had to compete with two puppies that had a more maturely developed coat and a bit better construction.

12-18 dog:

15 – Brookhaven the Dream Lives On: well broken blen, beautiful coat, beautiful pleasing head gorgeous eyes, clean coming and going, nice topline, drive and movement was the cleanest all around of this whole class

25 – Manorhouse Sullivan: tricolor with a substantial head but expression not as soft as the class winner, coat in beautiful condition, a one piece dog with sound movement but today the first dog out moved him.

23 – Flynhi Common Sense: a pretty Blenheim who needs a bit more time to grow into his head, with movement that from the side going around was not as pleasing as the first two in the class

43 – Spiceolife Do You Believe in Magic: a young ruby who moved close behind and was slightly up on leg, but with time for his body to grow into his legs will appear more balanced. Not as confident today as the others in the class.

Open B&T dog:

39 – Bonitos Companeros Bulletproof: What a beautiful black and tan dog, perfectly conditioned with a stunning coat that was presented to perfection. His head was so pretty with beautiful eyes and expression. He was very happy to be in the ring, and was expertly handled, but today his construction could not meet with the reach and drive of the major winners. I have been to many dog shows where this dog could win it all.

Open Blenheim dog:

11 – Royalmark Reminiscence at Cameron: Heavily marked Blenheim with a beautiful head and the soft melting expression heralded as the hallmark of our breed. His head had the exact proportions and shape topskull to muzzle to underjaw with cushion and balance that just made me melt when I looked into his eyes on the table. I was smitten with this dog. Today he was beautifully coated for his age, well conditioned and presented, very happy and balanced with extremely sound movement coming, going and from the side. He was a standout for me from beginning to end, to the Winners ring and all the way to the end for my Best of Breed. In the end, it was his perfect expression that is spot on my style combined with overall balance, a one piece sound structure and most of all happy attitude that made me see him all the way through WD, BOB/BOW.

35 – Tomnee’s Purple Reign: A beautiful Blenheim a bit less mature than the first place dog, and with a bit more time to body up will be more competitive. The class winner was definitely more my style and size.

31 – Aranel Colby: A beautiful dog whose head was a bit more substantial than my preferred type and bit more rounded in stop skull than I prefer, yet in many of my shows I would be thrilled to have him for winners dog. A nicely marked boy with a beautiful coat who showed well, and at times looked a bit high in the rear.

9-12 puppy bitch:

36 – Enduring’s Leading Lady at Imagine: A pretty black and tan young girl who hasn’t come into herself in head shape and cushion, but still has beautiful expression for such a young age. She is undershot and today was a bit wiggly showing, but for her first show she did very well and was so happy the entire time. With a bit more time to body up she will be even more competitive.

32 – Parkmor Rendition: Blenheim with a pretty head shape and expression that was more my style than the third place bitch. Hopefully her bite corrects with age. Today she was a bit precocious jumping around but very happy, which is great to see in a puppy class. She was clean coming and going and looked pretty from the side.

38 – Brookhaven Suzie Q: A pretty well broken Blenheim, but today not quite as confident as the others.

12-18 bitch:

14 – Spiceolife Believers Make It Happen: Ruby bitch with a pretty head and beautiful eyes, needing more time to grow into her body. She moved close in the rear going away, but had a nice outline from the side moving and with time to grow into her legs she shows great promise for the future.

Bred by bitch:

10 – Flyinhi Natural Wonder: pretty one-piece blen bitch with a nice expression that with darker pigment would have framed her expression better. She was extremely happy today, and with a nice moderate coat, sound movement coming and going, she won the class and was my Best Bred By.

12 – Ingold Isn’t She Lovely: A nice one piece bitch who was a little up on leg and size, yet still has body maturity to realize. Head shape and expression not my style with nose slightly ski sloped from top skull through stop to muzzle and at this age lacking cushion and fill that with time may improve.

Am Bred bitch:

30 – Ingold Pretty in Pink: Pretty head shape and expression with beautiful eyes with a bite that was very close to level. Although I found her to be slightly upright lacking angulation front and rear, she had a nice crest of neck and was balanced, so even though I would prefer more angulation, she presented a nice picture moving.

Open Blenheim bitch:

28 - Bonitos Companeros Uhuru: Shorter in the muzzle than many like, yet if you measured this bitches length of muzzle I would bet money on it that it is 1½ inches just as the breed standard states. That said, for some she will appear too much like a toy spaniel, but I loved every bit of her with such a pretty, soft pleasing expression and gorgeous eyes. I wanted to kiss her on the table! Although she could use a bit more length of neck, with her perfectly conditioned and groomed quality coat, and her expert showmanship in the ring, she caught my eye immediately. Her outline was beautiful with one of the best tail sets and carriage of the day going around from the side. I adored her and on the day was thrilled to see her through from WB to my BOS.

22 – Manorhouse Let Freedom Ring: This bitch was so pretty and on another day could have swapped places with the first place bitch. She is beautifully marked, conditioned, trained and showed her heart out with a happy outgoing attitude. Her head was very slightly more rounded on topskull than my perfect example, but that is being extremely critical and picky.

42 – Stepamgar’s Girl on Fire: Difficult for me to accurately assess this bite, as I questioned what I was seeing, but fortunately it didn’t significantly impact the pretty expression on this girl. She was nicely coated and expertly presented with sound movement that was nicely balanced.

26 – Sakurahill Sengon Sakura: This girl was not as mature or confident today, but has great promise for the future. With time for her moderate coat to fully mature, a bit more conditioning and finding a day when she is happy to be in the ring, she will be much more competitive.

Open Ruby bitch:

34 – CaCambridge Effie: A beautiful ruby bitch with gorgeous large dark round eyes that looked at me from the table with the soulful expression we all know the Cavalier to exhude. I felt like she was talking to me on the table telling me how beautiful she is and how much I should love her. I had a moment and loved it. With a bit more confidence, and conditioning will be much more competitive in the future.

29 – GCH Stepamgar Skyfall: Very close competition to the BOB, a stunning Blenheim one piece dog that was bit more up to size than my BOB. With a beautiful head piece and expression, gorgeous eyes, nicely marked beautiful coat that was expertly conditioned and presented. He was very sound and looked beautifully balanced moving, but the outgoing attitude of the BOB won out today. – Select Dog

8 – Miletree Caprice: A beautiful bitch that was expertly trained and handled, pretty head shape and expression, sound coming and going and from the side. Will benefit from either time or a litter to allow her body to grow into her legs and provide more balance, but overall a very pretty girl that was well deserving of Select Bitch.