

Breed First - Draft Dog (DD)



Mar-Wils Markus V Hyden TD, DD

John Cox

By John Cox

The 100th Birthday (1988) of the Saint Bernard Club of America marked the beginning of its Working Dog Trials. At these events the Saint Bernard is being promoted as a working breed to show their skills in the various fields of dog working with man. New titles were developed in the fields of carting and weight pulling.

[DD] Draft Dog – carting and Novice obedience skills
[WP, WPX & WPS] pulling a weighted cart a timed distance

News of the National Centennial Show was published, and along with the show would be the **first** working dog trial for Saint Bernards. Day one would be the **FIRST** Saint Bernard Specialty Tracking Test. The next day would be the **FIRST** Saint Bernard Draft Test and Weight Pull and the third day would be the National Obedience Trial.

Three weeks before the National I started asking questions about what the Draft Test involved. It was all new to me. Pulling a cart and basic obedience were the skills required. Markus had the obedience down so we tried the cart at a couple of practices. In three lessons he mastered the Draft work. This is where all that foundation of obedience was starting to pay off. The only “new” thing to learn was to walk with a cart behind him and back up. Once he got used to that, everything else fell in place. So we sent off our entries for the Draft test.

The first day of the National (June 15, 1988) arrived and it was off to the Tracking Test, where he did a fine job of tracking and became the **FIRST** and **ONLY** dog to pass a SBC of America Tracking Test, plus earning the first “leg” towards his WDCH title.

June 16th dawned and we were off to the **FIRST Draft Test**. Markus was one of only two that passed the Draft Test this day and he placed first. He was the first to complete the course and thus became the **FIRST Saint Bernard Draft Dog**.

On June 17th at the National Obedience Trial Markus came through once again by earning his CD (Companion Dog) title. He became the **FIRST** and **ONLY** Triple Crown winner earning **THREE titles** in **THREE days!**

Four months later he earned his Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) title in three straight trials. The CDX was his third and final leg for the WDCH title. He was now the **FIRST WDCH** Saint Bernard just 5 months after the title was introduced. How proud I was of my dog!

Six months later he earned his Utility Dog (UD) title in 5 shows in 3 weekends. All scores were at all-breed shows with two Seconds and one Fourth prize.

Markus' Statistics:

Born July 15, 1986

Sire: CH Opdyke's Bo Jangles Dam: CH Mar-Wil's D-D

Breeder: Camilla Thorne

Triple Crown: 1 year 11 months old

WDCH: 2 years 3 months old

UDT: 2 years 9 months old

Lived to be 10½ years of age

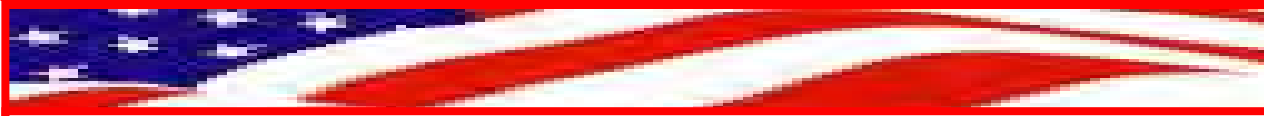
Mar-Wils Markus Von Hyden TD, DD

John Cox



First Saint Bernard to Earn a Draft Dog Title

June 16, 1988



The Saint Bernard Club of America's 1988 National Specialty Winners

Date: June 15, 16, 17, 18, 1988

Location: Denver, CO

Judges: Terry Temple (I & B) Gerald Wallin (D)

Dogs In Competition: 171

Obedience: NB 195.5

1st Tracking Test-1 passed

1st Draft Test-2 passed

Weight Pulled: 1940 #

Weight by %: 16.44%



BOB: CH Opdykes Fair Warning



BOS: CH Opdykes Emerald



WB/BOW: Opdykes Emerald



WD: Hezekiah Van Rijn



HIT: CH Windward Aint No Saint
Judge: Charles Mulock



TD: Mar-Wils Markus V Hyden TD
Judges: J. Green & C. Evert



CH World Tops Brutus V Opdyke WPX
Pulled 1940 Pounds



Sebrings Summer Breeze WP
Highest Percentage 16.44%