

Breed First - Rally Master {RM} & First Champion to Earn a Rally Master Title



**CH Mistihil Pollyanna
Rules CD, PCD, BN, RN,
RA, RE, RM, TKN, CGC,
CGCA, DD, DD2, WP**

Neil & Allison Hall

By Neil & Allison Hall

Mistihil Pollyanna Rules, call-name Polly, is an amazing dog. Of course you already know that because you're reading about her here in the Saint Bernard archives as the first in the breed to achieve the Rally Master title as an AKC Champion, but that's a very small piece of this amazing dog's story.

Polly's story starts with being born prematurely, being fed initially from an eyedropper by her dedicated breeder, Fran Stephens, and then overcoming a severe infection contracted from her mother via mastitis. Fran's tireless effort paid off and Polly and her siblings survived.

We first met Polly at a puppy socialization party a few weeks later. At the time we were waiting for a puppy from Stan and Joan Zelinski, having lost our previous Saint the year before. While we were at the party, Polly chose us, specifically she chose Allison. As you probably know, 8-week-old puppies are wanting to play and often are not still for long unless they are asleep, especially when there are a bunch of excited humans around to play with. However, that day Allison wasn't feeling well, and she was resting away from the group. I looked over and noticed that Polly had left the group and sought Allison out. Fifteen minutes later Polly was still with her. We then found out that Polly was the only puppy from the litter that wasn't already spoken for, and to make a long story short, we contacted Fran shortly after and agreed to buy Polly. In the intervening weeks Allison was finally diagnosed with Lupus (she had been suffering from it for years before, but we only got the diagnosis then.) So, Polly actually chose Allison and from that very first meeting I think she was destined to save Allison's life and be our "heart dog."

When we first got Polly, we had been going often to see Stan Zelinski. Stan was a great influence and mentor to many in our breed, and he impressed on me that St. Bernards are working dogs, and as such being involved in obedience and other working aspects is important. Polly's breeder, Fran Stephens, also encouraged us to get involved with the local club, and at one of the "B" matches we went to early on I tried Rally and got hooked. Then as the club held other events where we tried weight pull and carting, I got interested in that, and Polly loved both, so we progressed from there. The local St. Bernard Club of Puget Sound really was what got us involved in both performance and conformation AKC dog sports.

So, what is a Rally Master title? Well, first let's talk about what Rally Obedience is. Rally Obedience is a dog obedience competition where the handler and the dog follow a course with multiple (at least 10) stations marked

dicates an exercise the dog must perform on command. Some of these are really simple, like a right or left turn, or a simple sit in heel position at the handler's side, but, especially in the Master class, some of them get pretty complex. Not as difficult as some of the exercises in Utility obedience, but exercises that require a lot of practice, connection between dog and handler, and coordination – for example, in one of Polly's favorite exercises, while walking along in heel position, on command she twirls to the left (away from me the handler) and I twirl in the same direction, at the same speed and we end up back in heel position after both turning a tight 360 circle in position. Throughout the course a judge is watching carefully and for each error committed by the dog or the handler, points are deducted. Unlike Obedience where you start out with 200 points, in Rally you only start out with 100, and to qualify, you must still have a least 70 points. Rally has multiple levels, and to advance to the next level, the team must achieve qualifying scores in multiple trials under multiple judges. RA, RE, and RM are all off-leash, and as titles progress, the amount of guidance the handler is allowed to provide the dog decreases. To achieve the Rally Master title, the team must have achieved 10 qualifying scores in the Master class after having earned the RN, RA, and RE titles. Now there is also an optional RI (Rally Intermediate) title between RN and RA, but when Polly started out, that wasn't the case.

Now, back to Polly's story. Polly is an AKC Champion and an IABCA Honors Champion show dog. At 8 years old she still shows for fun in the veteran class at Specialties. She also has her PCD and CD obedience titles. In addition, she also has her Weight Puller title, plus her Draft Dog title from both the SBCA and a 2nd Draft Dog title from the Leonberger Club of America. Then throw in her Trick Dog Novice title, and her CGC and CGCA, and she has a lot of titles to add before and after her name, but that really is just small part of Polly's story.

Pollyanna is first and foremost a service dog. Her handler Allison has Lupus and many other health conditions that limit her mobility and Polly is trained to be her mobility dog and her PTSD dog. In her role she assists Allison when walking, keeping her going straight, steadying her and helping her up and down stairs. When Allison has Lupus "brain fog" Polly guides her back to the waiting room at the doctors' offices. Allison has PTSD and is therefore triggered by flashing lights and certain noises. Polly distracts and calms her down during times of stress, providing her the support she needs to function. Polly taught us that she can also detect infections and other health problems for Allison and has saved Allison's life on multiple occasions, including detecting and warning Allison when she was suffering from multiple pulmonary embolisms.

So, while we are extremely proud of HonCH, CH Mistihil Pollyanna Rules CD PCD BN RM DD2 WP TKN CGCA and all her titles, her Hall of Fame Plateau of Excellence and the fact that she was the first AKC Champion St. Bernard to earn the Rally Master title, she holds a very special place in our hearts because she chose Allison and has lived up to the reputation our breed has for saving lives!

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TKN, CGC, CGCA, DD, DD2, WP**
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**First Saint Bernard Champion to Earn a
Rally Masters Title**

April 26, 2019

First CH Saint Bernard To Earn The Rally Master Title

Saint Bernard National Archive's AKC Obedience/Performance Record For:

CH Mistihil Pollyanna Rules CD PCD BN RM TKN CGCA DD2 WP

Neil and Allison Hall

CH AKC Performance Titles Date Trial RN-ARN-B RI RA-ARA-BRE-A RE-B RM 1st 2nd 3rd 4th RAE M F

Mistihil Pollyanna Rules

(1) Novice

Date	Location	Score	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	RAE	M	F
October 26, 2013	Vancouver KC, WA	79							4
November 17, 2013	Whidbey Island KC, WA	84							
January 14, 2014	Tacoma KC, WA	77							
May 31, 2014	Yakima Valley KC, WA	87							
June 08, 2014	Tacoma KC, WA	85							

Summary:
 Number of times qualifying and in each class: 5 80 86 ERR ERR ERR ERR ERR ERR 0 0 0 1 ERR

(2) Advanced

Date	Location	Score	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	RAE	M	F
November 15, 2014	Whidbey Island KC, WA	77							
January 10, 2015	Sammamish KC, WA	92							
January 12, 2015	Tacoma KC, WA	85							
February 08, 2015	SBC of Puget Sound, WA	80	1						
March 07, 2015	Seattle KC, WA	79							
January 20, 2018	Portland POC, OR	71							
January 21, 2018	Tualatin KC, OR	76							
April 13, 2018	Inland Empire DTC, WA	73							
April 14, 2018	Ephrata Moses Lake KC, WA	75							
April 27, 2018	SBC of Pacific Coast, CA	93	1						
June 08, 2019	SBC of Puget Sound, WA	81	1			4			

Summary:
 Number of times qualifying and in each class: 11 ERR ERR ERR ERR 80 ERR ERR ERR 3 0 0 1 ERR

(3) Excellent

Date	Location	Score	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	RAE	M	F
April 10, 2015	Inland Empire Collie Club, WA	70							
August 08, 2015	Nisqually KC, WA	70		2					
August 14, 2015	Mt. Rainier WDC, WA	89		2					
August 29, 2015	Longview Kelso KC, WA	70							
August 20, 2017	Olympic KC, WA	70							

Summary:
 Number of times qualifying and in each class: 5 ERR ERR ERR ERR ERR ERR 74 ERR 0 2 0 0 ERR

(4) Advanced Excellent

Date	Location	Score	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	RAE	M	F
August 13, 2015	Mt. Rainier WDC, WA	73				4	1		
August 13, 2015	Mt. Rainier WDC, WA	80				4	1		
July 09, 2018	Gig Harbor KC, WA	73					2		
July 09, 2018	Gig Harbor KC, WA	70					2		

CH	AKC Performance Titles	Date	Trial	RN-A	RN-B	RI	RA-A	RA-B	RE-A	RE-B	RM	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	RAE	M	F
2018-CH	CD,PCD,BN,TKN/RN-2014/RA,RE-2015/RM-2019	July 06, 2019	Puyallup Valley DF, WA						90									3
2018-CH	CD,PCD,BN,TKN/RN-2014/RA,RE-2015/RM-2019	July 06, 2019	Puyallup Valley DF, WA							77								3
Summary:					ERR	ERR	ERR	ERR	79	ERR	76	ERR	0	0	0	2		3
Number of times qualifying and in each class:				6	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0						
Master																		
	BN,PCD,TKN/RN-2014/RA,RE-2015	September 18, 2018	SBC of America Regional, OR								76		2					
	BN,PCD,TKN/RN-2014/RA,RE-2015	October 19, 2018	Wenatchee KC, WA								85							
2018-CH	BN,PCD,TKN/RN-2014/RA,RE-2015	November 17, 2018	Whidbey Island KC, WA								77							
2018-CH	BN,PCD,TKN/RN-2014/RA,RE-2015	January 12, 2019	Gig Harbor KC, WA								74							
2018-CH	CD,PCD,BN,TKN/RN-2014/RA,RE-2015	January 13, 2019	Tacoma KC, WA								78							
2018-CH	CD,PCD,BN,TKN/RN-2014/RA,RE-2015	January 14, 2019	Puyallup Valley DF, WA								90							
2018-CH	CD,PCD,BN,TKN/RN-2014/RA,RE-2015	January 18, 2019	DFA or Oregon, OR								80							
2018-CH	CD,PCD,BN,TKN/RN-2014/RA,RE-2015	March 30, 2019	Washington State OTC, WA								77							
2018-CH	CD,PCD,BN,TKN/RN-2014/RA,RE-2015	April 13, 2019	Ephrata Moses Lake KC, WA								75							
2018-CH	CD,PCD,BN,TKN/RN-2014/RA,RE-2015/RM-2019	April 26, 2019	SBC of Pacific Coast, CA								77	1						
Summary:					ERR	ERR	ERR	ERR	ERR	ERR	ERR	79	1	1	0	0		ERR
Number of times qualifying and in each class:				10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10						
Overall Class Averages & Placement Totals:					80	86	ERR	ERR	80	ERR	75	79	4	3	0	4		
Qualifying Scores:				37	3	2	0	0	14	0	8	10						

In the case of a Saint Bernard Specialty holding an all-breed trial with their specialty, two (2) placements are possible. One for the specialty and one for the all-breed.

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