

Meet.....

Owner Handler

Jim Remaklus

Remo Great Danes



1) How did you get started?

I got my start when I purchased my first Dane Abby (later to become Ch Donnadane's Abby Dark Grumbles) in 1992 from Donna Wright in Connersville, IN. Donna was involved in the GDC of Cincinnati and talked me into showing Abby at their fun match. The judge was Kathy Melnick. Abby was in a class of four. I knew nothing about conformation or ring procedure. The other three exhibits stood for exam like little champs and Abby just turned circle after circle. We were last in class. I was hooked! I decided to take a handling class taught by Steve SeRine and later took a 2 day class taught by George Alston. Both classes were great help but Abby and I continued to lose – neither she or I was really ready to win. I decided it was time to pass Abby of to a professional. My intention was to watch and learn. Jeff and Patrice Lawrence finished Abby while I sat ringside and watched. I would watch every move they made from the moment they took Abby from me until they walked out of the ring after judging. I watched what they did with Abby when the judge was looking and also when the judge was not looking. They kept it fun for Abby (and me too). It's amazing what you can learn when you watch. Abby was bred to Ch Sharcon's Rio Grande and I kept a puppy that I named Gruffy (Remo's Black Sea). Gruffy was one of the most dedicated dogs ever. He would do anything I asked of him. My first major win came at the Hoosier Kennel Club weekend after I returned from being out of the country for a couple of weeks. I arrived back in town with just enough time to gather up Gruffy and make it to the show just in time for judging. Gruffy was so excited to see me that he wouldn't let me stack him. He just kept turning to look at me. I adjusted my game plan by free baiting him instead of stacking him. He showed like a special and we won 4 points. I was amazed. Gruffy and I won 13 points but never finished him. We needed that last major. Phil and Jane Gray provided me the very fortunate opportunity to purchase Cooper in 2000 - BISS CH Owlwatch Heir Ways. He was the first dog I finished owner handled and my first Special. I finished Cooper at 19 mos. We won many BOB's, a BISS, and a Group 3. Cooper was a worthy Special and allowed me to put the finer touches on my handling skills. I just missed ranking him in the Top 20. I've also owner handled the following dogs to their titles:
Ch Aztec Calendar Girl V Kativa – a challenging fawn bitch that didn't like to show.
Ch Remo's Tropical Storm Gustov - my first homebred-owner-handled champ (black).
Multiple BISS GCH Wyne Sandale's Island Time – my brindle dog I'm currently showing.

Ch Bayside-Remo's Just Daisy – Cooper granddaughter (fawn bitch) that I'm currently showing.

2) What has been your most valuable lesson?

Be prepared and be adaptable. Get to the show ring ahead of judging. Notice how many classes and the number of dogs in each class ahead of you. Notice the judges routine – are they using the down and back or triangle? Know your dog, what motivates them, and what he/she needs to be ready to compete most effectively both physically and mentally. Both you and your dog have to be totally prepared to make the best of it.

3) What tip could you pass on to others starting out wanting to owner handle?

Find a good mentor. Take a good quality Dane into the ring. Take several handling classes taught by different instructors so you get different show styles and perspectives. Find a successful professional handler that you respect and watch what they do and how. Don't give up.

GDR would like to thank Jim Remaklus for taking the time to answer our questions.