



# Potomac Piper

Newsletter of the Potomac Skye Terrier Club

Spring, 2006



*Happy Spring!*



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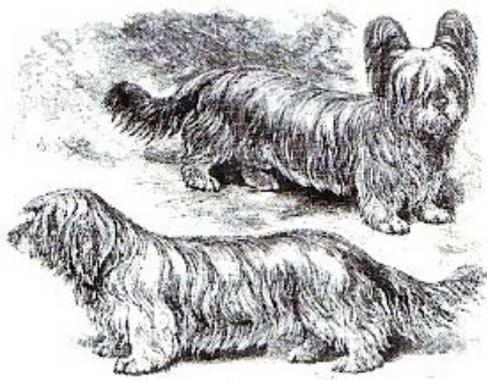
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<http://www.potomacskye.com>*



James Pratt's Piper and  
Sandy Grant from 1886

## Message from the President

As this issue goes to press, we are just about at the Potomac Skye Terrier Club Specialty show date. The entry for this year's show is about equal to last year's specialty with one notable exception. This year, we have more puppies entered in the Sweepstakes competition. This is a good sign because the sweeps entry is generally a nice measure of the number of Skye puppies being born and then going to owners with an interest in the conformation ring.

If you are planning to attend this year's specialty, I think you will enjoy the activities that we have planned. Once again this year, there will be a fabulous "Terrier-ific" Boutique with all sorts of terrier breed collectibles offered for sale. This year we will also be joining with members of other terrier clubs at the Columbia Terrier group show for a joint luncheon. After the day's excitement, we will gather at the Baldwin Station Restaurant which is a "find" of our show chair, Sue Chandler. This restaurant has received rave reviews in the local press and is a multi-year award winner.

Looking forward to seeing many Potomac members at the show!

**Michael J. Pesare, President**



## Skyes and Dandies in the Big Apple

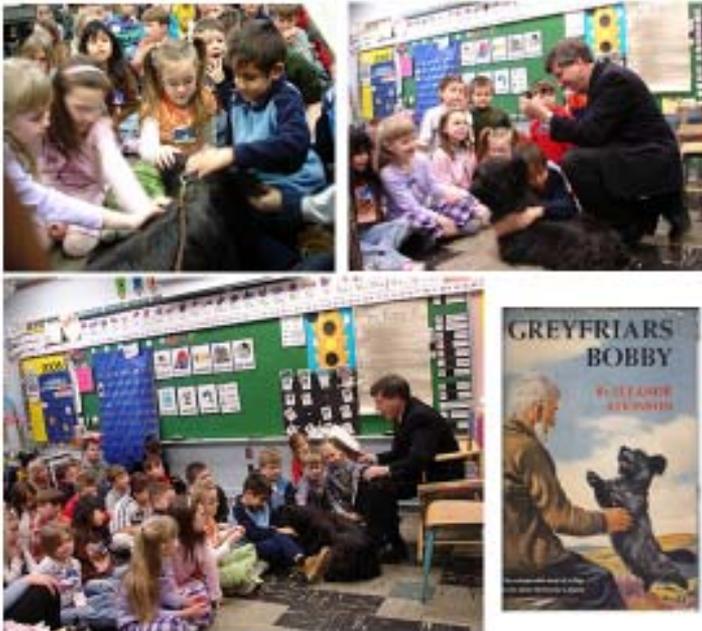
On Saturday, February 11, Cathy Nelson (Pennywise Dandies) and I gave a presentation on the Skye Terrier and the Dandie Dinmont Terrier to the Dog Judges Association of America at Madison Square Garden in New York City the weekend before the Westminster KC show. Our presentation compared and contrasted these two old and rare terrier breeds. Approximately 50 people attended the two-hour presentation. The Dandie and the Skye share commonalities in their early histories; purpose as working terriers that went to ground after larger varmints; and their body type as achondroplastic (dwarf) breeds. Breeders of both breeds are also working with small gene pools worldwide. However, the two breeds possess a number of attributes that distinguish them from each other and these differences were the focus of our presentation. Maida and I brought two of our Skyes (8 year old veteran, Emily and 6 month old, Tony) for the "hands on" portion of the program. There was also an adult Dandie in attendance. The day was most enjoyable and it was gratifying to see enthusiastic interest in two endearing terrier breeds.

**Michael J. Pesare**

## Read Across America

On Friday, March 3, Maida and I participated in the national Read Across America campaign to promote reading by taking 8.5 year old Skye, Ch. Gleanntan Grandxpose - "Emily" to a local elementary school to read passages from the Greyfriars Bobby novel. About 45 first and second graders were introduced to Emily and the Greyfriars Bobby story. Maida and I also created a color postcard with information about Skyes and the Greyfriars Bobby book and Disney movie for the kids to have as a keepsake of the day. Emily displayed her typical empathy for the children, giving them many kisses and at one point lying on her side so that the children who were gathered in a circle around her could pet her. One boy was particularly smitten with Emily and repeatedly gave her big hugs. At the end of the reading the children were given an opportunity to ask questions. One student asked, "How old is Emily and what year was she born?" When I replied that Emily was 8.5 years old and was born in 1997, she responded by saying that she was born in 1999. It was a poignant moment to know that Emily was born before these school children. Another child insightfully asked, "Did you get Emily (Skyes) as a result of reading the Greyfriars Bobby story?" With a smile, I responded, "Yes, indeed, Maida and I became involved with Skyes after purchasing a copy of the Greyfriars Bobby book in a shop outside of Edinburgh Castle in April, 1990." We concluded the session by giving the children one last chance to give Emily a pat goodbye. As we were leaving, one of the teachers told us, "You know who is going to be THE topic of conversation at the dinner table this evening."

Michael J. Pesare



## Max and Millie

What would you call a 35-pound heart wrapped in steel-gray hairy fur? I call him "Max". How about a 25-pound "compact-unit" of same...but only with silver fur? That would be "Millie". Although their personalities differ quite dramatically, collectively, Max & Millie (M&M) combine to make a rugged 60-pound, 8-legged, loving, spirited, and devoted heart.



Max has always been a very unique, sensitive, and special boy. Max came to my husband and I shortly after the death of our beloved 15-year old Skye, "Andy". Since the day my husband and I brought Max home from his Gleanntan parents (Mike Pesare and Maida Connor; and Molly and Peter) Max's distinct personality declared itself. Max has a very sensitive nature, but will quickly morph into a total goofball with those he loves. Max is an inquisitive boy and has an interesting sense of humor. It didn't take long for Max to figure out how to work the water dispenser which resides within the door of our refrigerator. He was quite proud of himself after this. And a certain area of our kitchen floor will probably always look a bit cleaner than the rest due to the frequent mop-ups. "Clean-up, aisle 9".

Max then discovered cabinets and doors. "whoa...look what I can do". What fun this boy has opening and closing them with a "bang". He never disrupts anything inside, but rather uses the "banging" noise as his way of requesting a cookie, bowl of water, or a trip outside. Of course my husband and I have reinforced this wacky behavior, so that now we have a part-time little drummer boy on our hands. When Max successfully communicates in this way, he grins ear to ear; and as any Skye owner knows, this is quite a span!

Max also has devised his own way of playing with his toys. My husband will use 2 toys when playing with Max. Max invariably has to keep one toy in his mouth at all times, but when the second is thrown, Max chases it down, "tags" the second toy to make it squeak, and then performs his

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own relay hand-off by switching toys. This will be repeated for as long as my husband's throwing arm remains functioning. How and why Max figured this out remains a mystery to us, but he is certainly amused with the entire process, as are we.

I could go on and on: the times Max raids the recyclable bin and searches for the perfect plastic bottle with which to play and snuggle, the time I found Max standing smack in the middle of a coffee table, looking around like he was king of the world, the time as a puppy when he bit his tongue and started howling as if the world was coming to an end...until I came to his rescue and stroked his head so that the howling immediately changed to a combination of purring, and "oy-ing"...sounding remarkably like my late grandmother, who would have thought this tremendously funny.

I could write about the very special way that Max likes to stand behind me when we are both on the floor, and stands so the side of his muzzle is pressed firmly against my cheek with what I perceive to be an expression of extreme affection and connection that is uniquely a "Max-ism". When this occurs, the bond I feel to this boy is indescribable.

And then came Millie. This gregarious Gleanntan girl (coming from Michael<sup>2</sup> and Maida; and Emily and Michael<sup>4</sup>) joined our family about a year and a half ago and is every bit as special as her brother, but in a different way. Millie is her own girl with a bubbly personality, wonderful sense of humor, and a face that could melt the hardest frozen ice. Millie is very aware of these special qualities she possesses and uses them shamelessly; she is a tremendous flirt! Whereas Max is more reserved with strangers, Millie loves everyone and is always scouting out the situation for the next belly-rub. Millie's favorite word is "cookie", and one of her favorite things to do is getting people to pay attention to her. So, if there is a new friend offering her a cookie, well, clearly Millie is thrilled beyond woofs.

Millie has helped bring Max "out of himself" a bit, and Max enjoys grooming his sister. However, after Max completes one of his grooming sessions, Millie looks like she has put an entire bottle of styling gel in her hair, ran through a wind tunnel, and then plugged herself into the nearest electrical outlet. Oh well. "Hey, so what if I look like Don King...I like when my brother grooms me. So there. Harrumph".

Millie has emerged as the instigator of the M&M duo. She will stand and stare at Max until he relinquishes his bed to her (even though her bed is right next to his...) Millie simply must have Max's bed. Max, gentleman that he is, gives up his resting spot to his sister, and just rolls his eyes.

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Millie has displayed her love for socks. If it's laundry day, Millie has her agenda set: "Socks. Get 'em!". Then the sock brigade begins. My husband and I are convinced that if Millie's belly was ever X-rayed, a complete set of matching hosiery would be found. Millie knows she is not supposed to sock it to herself, does it anyway, but gives up easily. If I catch her having Hanes her way, a hard stare will cause this girl to spit out the renegade footwear. "Pituuuyeeee!! Yuck. How did that get into my mouth. What was I thinking?? Millie is then on her back requesting a belly rub, which makes everything all right in her world.

It's difficult to explain how our Skyes have become integral parts of our family and our lives. And I guess if it has to be explained to someone, they probably would never be able to understand it, anyway. Our dogs individual personalities and very different temperaments make them unique in all of the world. The tremendous amount of love they give us makes us grateful to have them share their all too brief lives with us. I remember reading a quote saying something to the effect that the only real fault dogs have is that they don't live long enough. But maybe this shorter lifespan is because they are somehow intrinsically smarter, kinder, and more loving, than at times, we humans can be. Perhaps dogs just don't need as much time on earth to "get it right". Maybe dogs are here to teach us that we too, can get it right in a relatively short period of time. By watching our dogs, we can better understand how to fully be in the moment. By watching our dogs, we may become smart enough to learn how to love more easily, ignore the shortcomings which we all have, and make meaningful attachments quickly: "Hey, why wait...we're only here for a short time. Let's go play 'tag' then snuggle up together". By watching our dogs, we may become more aware of how to more fully live life, regardless of the time allotment. Who knows?

As for me, I hear a cabinet door banging and have visions of a furry "compact unit" with a sock hanging out of her mouth. I guess my lessons for today are that everyone needs to be heard, and that we all should allow some time to play. But, no matter what, I don't think I'll ever understand the appeal of questionably aromatic socks. Sorry, Millie. I can only go so far.

**Susan Miller-Samuel**

# My Love Affair With Skyes

By Donna LaGorga

Hi, My name is Donna La Gorga and I currently live in Cherry Hill, NJ. My love affair with Skyes began long ago when I was in my early twenties. I am now 58 and the love affair continues, as strong as ever! It all started one Sunday after Mass. While walking down the back steps of the church I spied a dog, the likes of which I'd never seen before. All I knew is that it brought a smile to my face and giggles to my heart; and I wanted to take it home



L to R: Olde World Siren's Love Song - "Willow", Donna LaGorga and Olde World Pirate's Treasure - "Wick"

with me right then and there. It took me some time to figure out that the new priest belonged to the dog and when I asked him what type of dog it was; he informed me it was a Skye Terrier. I remember him still...steely blue color, fringed ears, long and low body, friendly but reserved at the same time. I kept the image of him in my mind until some years passed, I married, had children, lost my beloved Sammie to Parvo, cried a lot, sanitized the yard from the virus, waited a full year and I tugged at my husband to get another canine buddy for our kids. We narrowed it down to 2 breeds, a Skye or a Westie. We went to look at a Skye puppy and the kids and I were sold. It was a cream colored female from Jackie McDonald. Unfortunately, my husband at the time had received a "nip" from another of her dogs and that was the end of that selection. Nothing I said could change his mind. So, we welcomed a Westie puppy into our family. She was a dear and we had her about 10 years until she died of pancreatic cancer. Tears flowed again and for me, did not stop for many, many years. To this day, I swear she is around, catching a blur of white where no white should be; and I know she is still my companion, be it an ethereal one.

Kids grew up and went out on their own. I got divorced. Adopted two felines (Bijou and Boo) who are Luvs, but still I yearned for a Skye Terrier to fill that void in my heart and home. I'd contacted Donna Dale

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# *Remembering Bruce*



**Gleanntan Gravitass**



**Goodnight Sweet Prince.**

**Bruce was owned and adored by:  
Jo Ann and Bob Lyons, Amissville, Virginia**

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some time before her untimely crossing over and was invited to come to Gettysburg for a look at their Skyes. However, the timing wasn't right. I knew if I saw a Skye I'd want one immediately and my yard was not yet fenced. So, I waited until everything was in place. Then I contacted Michael Pesare of Gleanntan Skyes and he and Maida invited me out for a look-see. Well, of course, I fell in love with all their "kiddos". They have lovely temperaments, conformations, and personalities.

So, Michael and Maida started me down the road of finding a Skye of my own. They invited me to the PSTC show in April of 2005 and also to other shows and functions. He coached me on grooming, what to look for in body conformation, temperament, etc. He was my lifeline in the entire process of my search. I leaned toward cream coloring, and so our intense adventure of finding me my very own Skye began in earnest. After two disappointing leads, and many tears shed when both puppies did not materialize at my doorstep, Michael called me one morning and told me that he found someone who had just had a litter and she had two cream colored pups – one male, one female. So, I got in touch with Debbie Piercefield in a heartbeat and the rest is history. After two trips to Kentucky to visit all her beautiful puppies and Frye, and just absorbing all the puppy energy, I knew in my heart that though I had started my journey for one Skye, I would be taking two Skyes home with me! I haven't had a regret since!! I love my Skyes, Wick and Willow and I know they love me. It took some time to acclimate Boo and Bijou to their new brother and sister, but we now are living together in pretty good harmony!

To answer your question on what attracted me to Skyes, I'd have to say everything. As I look at my Wick and Willow I am just drawn into the enchantment of their looks. Their big, fringed ears, their short little legs, that long, low silhouette. That Skye ability to make you their own as they lay those puppy kisses on you! And as I look at all the other adult Skyes at the shows, I have to say, that elegant long coat and the way they so gracefully move ~ well, it's enough to take my breath away.

I cannot thank Michael, Maida, and Debbie enough for fulfilling my lifelong dream of being owned by a Skye. Thanks to Willow and Wick, no matter how much pain I may be feeling on a certain day, they make me laugh and smile and forget about it for a while. Michael once said, that they were so lucky to have me. I immediately corrected him and said, "No, Mike, you've got it all wrong. I'm the lucky one to have them!" I mean that sincerely! They are sensitive to all my moods and know just how to cheer me up when I'm down. They give new energy to my home and I love them for that. They just make me smile all the time. Even when I'm picking up shredded toilet paper streaming down the hall because they somehow thought that would be a hoot, I do it with a smile! To be a champion for this breed is easy. They are full of mischief, that's true. But that's one of the endearing things about them! And remember, they are also full of love and loyalty! I mean, really, who could NOT love a SKYE!!!!

## **Skye Terriers and The Paranormal**

We live with two Skye Terriers, who seem to be able to see and hear things that are not perceptible to the normal human. Notice I said “normal” human, but we live with Skye Terriers, so take that for what it is. Our Skyes have the ability to see and hear things that we cannot. Have you ever been sitting or reading quietly with your faithful companion lying at your feet or curled up next to you on the bed when, out of the blue, major chaos erupts in what was a perfectly peaceful environment? Your quiet time has been rudely interrupted by an impending danger perceived by your faithful and protective Skye Terrier. You spring into action to defend your home and faithful pets but discover that you can’t find the dangerous intruder that was picked up on your dog’s radar. Mind you I said “radar,” Skye Terriers must have a built in system that works better than anything the government has at the present, or even has on the drawing board for future use.

Anything that could have provoked that normal Skye Terrier defense mechanism must be a clear and present danger on the verge of doing serious harm. You bolt to the door to check for intruders but cannot see, hear, or sense anything out of the ordinary. Your Skye is right by your side looking smug about having removed the serious danger from your presence. You search high and low for the cause of the disturbance, but cannot find anything.

Well, I have an answer. Have you considered that maybe, just maybe, the Skye Terrier may be able to detect things that we cannot see or hear? I know, for instance, that our terriers can detect invisible butterflies as they fly by our bedroom window on whispering wings. We did not see them, but it does not mean that they were not there. Maybe it was a ghost of a long past acquaintance trying to visit to see how we were doing. Heaven forbid if it were a dog from doggie heaven paying us a visit; they are gone now thanks to our faithful companions’ vigilance. This behavior borders on being able to detect paranormal beings, not things most of us admit exist. Researchers have spent about as many funds as we have on dog shows trying to prove that these things exist, but I have yet to see any hard facts. Never fear the Skye Terrier can detect these things and prevent them from harming us. So the next time you are looking for some entertainment or a source of income for you and your Skye Terrier brood, consider renting them out as “ghost busters.”

**Joe Lindsey, Midas & Snickers  
Raleigh, North Carolina**

## Miss Bea

Miss Bea is our second Skye Terrier. When our first Skye, Kerry, passed away, we knew we would not be lucky to find another Skye at a pound. I went on the internet. After many discussions with Becky and Steve Spicer in Nashua, New Hampshire, they decided we were the right home for their Bea. They wanted to find a loving home, where Bea would be the one and only dog and would be spoiled. Well they found the right place!!

Miss Bea, as she is affectionately called, is our baby. She has taken over the house, has her toys from one end to the

other, and has made herself right at home. Her favorite spots during the day are the sofa where she can look out onto the yard and keep an eye on the birds and our bed where she can see the front street and keep watch.

Miss Bea loves to travel and goes with me often as I do my errands. She loves to go to our beach house and run along the waters edge. The water is not for her, but she loves to roll in anything and everything smelly on the beach.

Becky Spicer told me Bea should be the poster child for the Skyes. She loves everyone, young and old. She isn't afraid of any dog and wants to greet them all. She is very special.

When I had my knee replaced this Fall, Bea never left my side. She would greet visitors and then run down to sit by my chair to be sure no one got too close to me. She didn't care if they walked off with the house, just not me!!!

We love our Bea and think Skyes are wonderful house dogs. We are fortunate to have her join our family.



Ellie Malone

# Introducing Tony!



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## Sue Chandler Brings Joy to Nursing Home with Therapy Dogs

*This article originally appeared in the October, 2005 issue of the Hoffmann-La Roche Inc. "Celebrating Roche People" newsletter. It is reprinted here with permission.*

Market Analytics Project Manager Sue Chandler spends hours each weekend bringing her Skye Terrier, Gracie, to nursing homes and watching the magical effect the small therapy dog has on patients — many of whom can't walk and some who are in hospice care.

Sue Chandler still tears up when she thinks about the wonderful elderly woman who just loved seeing Gleanntan

Graceunderpressure, aka "Gracie," every time the furry bundle visited the Oak Ridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Wayne, NJ. "She just

cried for joy. Even though her health was deteriorated, she would cry and reach out for the dog every time. Sometimes her beeper would go off because she couldn't contain her joy. Seeing her smile always made me cry, too," recalled Sue.



Since the beginning of the year, Sue has seen many of these reactions as she and her Skye Terrier have made weekend rounds at the nursing home. "It makes me feel really good. Doing this on the weekends makes me a happier person and a better employee in the end," said Sue, who joined Roche five years ago. "In Market Analytics we're busy dealing with a lot of numbers and data; volunteering kind of completes me as a person."

A dog enthusiast for 25 years, Sue has lived with show-quality Skye Terriers in her home for the last 15 years. She also, as a musician, had volunteered her time to play piano at the Oak Ridge home where her boyfriend's mother stayed before her death last year. So, when Sue learned about therapy dogs and what they can do, she felt it would be a perfect match.

"I am nuts about my dog and saw how people really like her. I thought I could share her sweet personality and cute little ears with those who are shut in," she explained.

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Sue had Gracie certified as a therapy dog by Therapy Dogs International as it is important to ensure the safety of both the patient and the animal in any unfamiliar setting. Along with completing some basic obedience training, a therapy dog must also be well socialized and be able to deal with unusual noises and movements.

"There are a lot of sounds and things happening in healthcare settings that are not in a normal household, like beepers, wheelchairs, walkers. So it is really important to socialize the dog in all different kind of situations so they are prepared," she said.

Once Sue got Gracie certified, she started volunteering through Care Alternatives, a Cranford, NJ-based organization that provides hospice services.

Sue was a little nervous bringing Gracie to the nursing home the first time, but her anxiety vanished immediately.

"She was so good. Some of the older folks don't have much control of their hands due to arthritic conditions and Gracie put up with a lot of poking," said Sue with a smile.

Now the 35-pound pooch practically yips with glee every time she sees the Oak Ridge facility. Although she is an award-winning show dog and used to being in crowds, the nursing home attention is different. "I think we created a monster," laughed Sue. "She thrives on the attention; she really loves the petting. She sits on people's laps and beds; she just makes herself at home."

In return, the small visitor gives as much as she gets. "When people can't talk because of a stroke or other condition, they see Gracie and their eyes light up," said Sue. "We see patients whose health is declining so much they barely remember their own names. But they always remember the dog's name. She really makes people smile!"

The experience has been so rewarding for Sue that she recently had her other Skye Terrier, Coco, certified as a therapy dog, and now takes turns with them visiting Oak Ridge as well as the Lakeland Healthcare Center in Haskell, NJ.

"There are so many requests for this now, I could really do it every day," said Sue. "I love my dogs and it just gives me a lot of pleasure when people enjoy them as well!"

## **Advertise in the Potomac Piper!**

The Potomac Piper is the official newsletter of the Potomac Skye Terrier Club. The Potomac Piper is mailed four times a year to Skye Terrier owners and admirers.

Advertise a big win, a promising youngster, a deceased cherished friend, or send a message to others who love the breed.

One full page - \$25.00  
Half page - \$15.00

Send your ad and payment to Maida Connor, 225 Opossum Hill Road, Aspers, PA 17304-9504.

## About the Potomac Skye Terrier Club

The Potomac Skye Terrier Club is an AKC-sanctioned club devoted to preserving and promoting interest in the Skye Terrier in the Middle Atlantic region of the United States. Since 1972, the club has fulfilled its mission by annually holding a Specialty show as well as meetings, educational seminars, and through communication with its members.

If you are interested in supporting the Potomac Skye Terrier Club through membership, please contact Maida Connor, Secretary, 225 Opossum Hill Road, Aspers, PA 17304-9504, Phone: 717-677-0700 or e-mail: [maidaconnor@adelphia.net](mailto:maidaconnor@adelphia.net).

## Upcoming Events - 2006

August (date tbd) - Membership Meeting

