

STREET SCENE

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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Every dog has its day . . . and then some

By Sue Mason
staff writer

It's safe to say Erik Bergshagen will be dog tired come Sunday evening.

By then he will have watched 3,400 dogs primped, pampered and paraded around the show rings of Cobo Hall by some 7,000 breeders and handlers. He will have watched 110 vendors peddle everything from books to antiques to dog goodies and jewelry and watched a hoped-for crowd of more than 40,000 canine enthusiasts oooh and aah-over 134 recognized breeds.

For Bergshagen, Sunday will be the culmination of a year of work putting together the 74th Detroit Kennel Club All-Breed Dog Show and Obedience Trials Sunday, March 8, at the Cobo Conference/Exhibition Center in Detroit.

Show hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with participating canines to be stationed on benches from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 years of age and senior citizens. A family ticket — two adults and three children — is available for a single price of \$20. Tickets are available in advance at all J.L. Hudson and Ticketmaster outlets and at Cobo the day of the show.

For more information, call DKC-SHOW.

When and Where

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Finn's wife, who is coordinating advertising for the show catalog and the obedience competition, and Bergshagen's wife Jane who is in charge of vendor booth space and is working with Julia Gasow on hospitality.

And don't forget about Glimy Kovalle who is in charge of trophies. She has the job of making sure the right trophies get to the right ring throughout the day-long event. It's no easy task, when you consider the "umpteen number of trophies" the specialty clubs provided. A case in point is the Midwest Borzoi Club which has come up with more than 150 prizes for the show.

And while Glimy's busy with trophies, husband Frank is busy with money as the DKC treasurer.

"We all work very well together to make the whole thing work," Bergshagen said.

The DKC show is among five-six major shows in the country, falling in behind the "top dog," the Westminster Kennel Club Show at Madison Square Gardens. The DKC show got its start in 1916 at the State Fairgrounds, but didn't come to the forefront until it moved to Cobo 28 years ago.

"THAT'S WHEN the metro area's love affair with the show blossomed."

"I can remember handlers holding their dogs over their heads to the show rings because of the crowds," Bergshagen said.

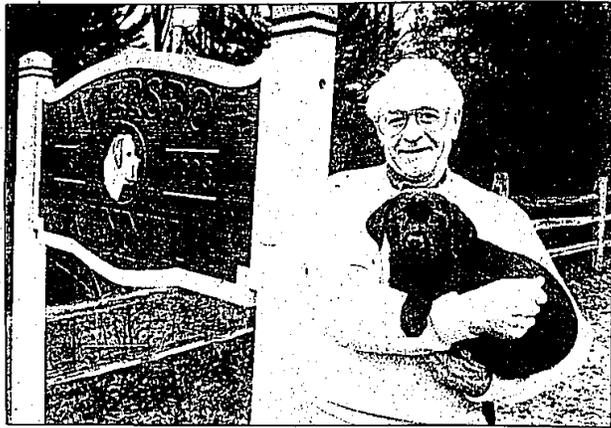
At the time, the show was in the hall's lower level and featured 1,200 dogs. Now, it's almost three times that number of dogs from throughout the United States and Canada.

For Bergshagen, the show is a labor of love of dogs, something he acquired from his parents. His father was well known as a breeder of English setters pointers and Chesapeake Bay retrievers and established Jagersbo (Hunter's Home) Kennels in 1928.

Natives of Denmark, the Bergshagens settled in the metropolitan area in the 1930s and moved to Troy in 1935, opening the kennels in 1935.

Erik bought his first Labrador in 1946 and finished his first-champion lab in 1948 at the age of 17. When his father died in an auto accident in 1952, he stayed in the "dog business."

Over the years he has shown German wire-haired pointers, recorded 21 championships and several national specialty honors; Whippets and Norwegian terriers. He went on to become a professional handler and earn his all-around handler's license from the American Kennel Club.



STEVE CANTRELL/Staff photographer

Erik Bergshagen knows his Labrador Retrievers as the proprietor of Jagersbo Kennel Club in Troy. And he knows dog shows as a professional judge and president of the Detroit Kennel Club.

HE GRADUALLY eased off the show circuit, but managed to complete requirements as a licensed judge of Springer spaniels, Burzulis and retrievers. He also is trustee and state chairman of the Morris Animal Foundation, a member of the Labrador Retriever Club of America and Ducks Unlimited.

Bergshagen sees the DKC show as a way of educating people about dogs. As a bench show, dogs must be stationed on benches between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. when not being judged or groomed, a format ideal for the person or family looking for a dog.

"It's the place to come to investigate getting a dog," he said. "It's the only way to properly educate people in getting the proper dog for their style of living. If you live in an apartment, you surely don't want an Irish wolf hound. You want one with an easy-going temperament."

But the show also is to entertain. There will be herding demonstrations. With ducks or geese rather than sheep — and a Grand Prix jumping event, a precision drill and square dance teams, rocket relays and agility time trials that demonstrate canine energy and skill.

Clams! tune in to music

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

Bassist and vocalist Dave Giovannucci originally wanted to name his band's debut cassette "Love Mussel Explosion." But remaining members of Happy As Clams thought the idea was half-baked.

Ha, ha. Chuckle, chuckle . . . ough, er, never mind.

"There's a lot of puns with a name like Happy As Clams," said Giovannucci. "We hit the gold mine on that."

But Happy As Clams' members want to hit on the fact that the band is more than just fun and puns. They mean business.

Otherwise, releasing a nine-song cassette would be a colossal waste of time, not to mention money. "Happy As Clams," a nine-song effort, is neither. Rather it's a 1970s power pop pagantry devoted of intricate rhythms and melodies also featuring an inflection of diverse styles from reggae to jazz to R&B.

Literally, the songwriting tandem of guitarist and vocalist Terry Hopman and Giovannucci continually strives for a literary higher ground, deeming their final product along the lines of "thought pop."

Heavy stuff, especially when Giovannucci recites the authors who have inspired him to write songs such as Victor Frankl and Milan Kundera. The bassist who's only a few weeks away from a doctorate in biology does so without a wiff of crudite pretension.

OF COURSE, Giovannucci adds, a fractured relationship or two have also been the source of some of the recurring themes in the Happy As Clams' numbers.

Songs and friendship were at the genesis of the band, which had its debut in June 1990. Prior to that, Hopman and Giovannucci met in their early teens as students at Austin Catholic Prep School. Both had performed in different bands, but kept writing songs together.



Happy As Clams! are bassist and vocalist Dave Giovannucci, guitarist and vocalist Terry Hopman, Jason Hinz and drummer Shawn O'Brien.

Schuster joining politically hip Hope Orchestra.

Enter Jason Hinz, formerly with Bugs Beddow, and Shawn O'Brien on drums, both of whom Giovannucci credits with adding a new dimension to the band's overall sound. Hinz, in particular, has been able to bring cool textures of jazz and R&B to the Clam musical dip.

The indelible side to music of Happy As Clams is Hopman's choral and melodic sense, according to Giovannucci.

"He knows what sounds good," Giovannucci said.

Live, the bassist contends there's no other band that sounds like Happy As Clam. "He may well be right."

than-thou but wholly earnest and entertaining with a tight progressive pop fusion set.

The term "alternative" may be applied loosely here. Actually, the outfit owes more to the keyboard-laden sounds of the genteel corporate rock run of the late '70s.

"Terry and I grew up listening to Pink Floyd, Sly and Foreigner," Giovannucci said. "He still likes it, but I can't deal with them. It still comes out in the music."

What wasn't fully coming out in live settings, though, was the band's commitment to thought-provoking lyrics. The tape, which was self-produced and recorded at Sidilo J in Grosse Pointe Woods, should recite that and possibly open the Clams to a whole new audience.

The band will mark the release of "Happy As Clams" this Friday at

Lit's 21 in Hamtramck. The first 50 paying customers will receive a free copy of the tape with additional cassettes available for \$3 each that night only.

With no money down, Giovannucci shares the roots of the band's rather forgettable moniker. Turns out, the name stems from a car excursion when he and a long-lost cousin were driving out east near Boston.

"We drove by a sign that said, 'fresh clams,' and then at the same time she said, 'We're just happy as clams to be together again.' It stuck with me."

Happy As Clams will perform with guests Hope Orchestra on Friday, March 8, at Lit's 21, 2930 Jacob, off Jos. Campau, Hamtramck. Show time is 10 p.m. For information, call 875-8555.

IN CONCERT

Monday, March 3

● **Psychodelic Furs**
Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Show time is 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18.50 and \$12.50.

● **Paradise Valley Jam Session**
Alvina, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. 832-2355

● **Vudu Hippies**
Rick's American Pub, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. 996-2747

Tuesday, March 4

● **Jeff Gordon's A2 Power Project**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-8555

● **Chisel Brothers**
Alvina, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. 832-2355

● **Sunrise Highway**
Rick's American Pub, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. 996-2747

Wednesday, March 4

● **The Cramps**
With Reverend Horton Heat at The State Theatre, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Advance tickets are \$15.50. Show time is 7:30 p.m.

● **Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.** 996-8555

● **Rick's American Pub, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.** 996-2747

● **Michael Hedges**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-8555

Motor City Current

Alvina, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. 832-2355

Thursday, March 5

● **Wren**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-8555

● **Hunties**
Rick's American Pub, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. 996-2747

● **Mahlatini and the Mahotella Queens**
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Show times are 7 and 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

● **EZ Bang**
Alvina, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. 832-2355

● **Mutant Press**
With Saquech and Namelasa at Paquets Lounge, Caniff and Jos. Campau, Hamtramck. 874-0900

Friday, March 6

● **Inside Out**
With other bands at 404 Willis, 404 W. Willis, between Cass and Second, Detroit. Donation is \$3. Open to all ages.

● **Bad Luck Inc.**
With Hungry So Angry at Hamtramck Pub, 2048 Caniff, off I-75. 365-3929

● **Sun Messengers**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-8555

● **Born Naked**
Rick's American Pub, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. 996-2747

Tickets are \$16.50.

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The Merchant of Venice

by William Shakespeare



Comedy and drama mix with romance when a quest for love is darkened by a quest for vengeance in one of Shakespeare's most famous works!

March 6, 7, 13, 14 at 8 p.m.
March 8, 15 at 2 p.m.

Bonstelle Theatre ♦ 577-2960