



Southeast Division • Myrtle Beach, SC

Today

7:30-10 a.m. Catalog Sales, Exhibit Hall A
 7:30-10 a.m.-Welcome Bags, Meals &
 -Goodies Pick Up, Exhibit Hall A
 8 a.m.-Futurity Judging, Exhibit Hall A
 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Obedience Trial, Ballroom E
 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Regular & Performance
 -Raffle Rm 102

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Hospitality Open, Rm 101
 9:50 a.m. - Rally Trial, Ballroom E

30 minutes-after judging

Rescue Meeting-Room 209-
 Division Meetings - NORTH 2024 Room
 208; Division Room 206
 Dog Day Crating Rm 202
 Handling Session post Judging Exhibit Hall A

Wednesday

8:30 a.m.- Solid Color Inheritance
 -Seminar, Rm 209
 11:00 a.m.- Merle/ Harle Color
 -Inheritance -Seminar, Rm 209
 9 a.m. - Agility Trials-off site-Grand PK
 -1011 Crabtree Lane, Myrtle Beach
 12 p.m.-GDCA General Mtg. Rm-206-208
 -Guest Speaker-AKC Gov. Affairs
 5:30 p.m.-Performance & Invitational
 -Awards -Rm 101
 5:30 p.m. - Top 20 Cash Bars
 6 p.m. - Top 20 Dinner Ballroom ABCD
 7:30 p.m.-Top 20 Competition,
 -Exhibit Hall A

Dog Day Crating Room 202 Closed

Thursday

7:30 - 10 a.m. Catalog Sales, Exhibit Hall A
 7:30 - 10 a.m. Welcome Bags, Meals &
 -Exhibit Hall A
 8 a.m. - Echocardiograms Rm 108
 8 a.m. - Dog Judging Exhibit Hall A
 12 p.m. - Agility Demo-Exhibit Hall A
 3 p.m. - Silent Auction -Rm 102

The Dane Express

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Volume 1.1

Southeast Division Welcomes Back the GDCA

Southeast Division Chairperson, Wanda Hepler and Show Chairperson, Ila Minton were both introduced to Great Danes the same way. It led each of them on a decades long journey into the world of training, showing and volunteering in a big way. For Ila, her first Great Dane, would be considered a rescue in every normal sense of the word. "It was chained to the bumper of a car," said Minton. "It was a guard dog at an auto repair shop."

Minton who enjoyed going to "Concerts in the Park" would take her Dane along. On one such occasion a man approached her and told her about a Great Dane Club. It turned out to be the Great Dane Club of Mid-Florida.

"I never saw that man again," said Minton, who joined the club meeting Nikki Riggsbee as a result.

She started out volunteering at the 2009 National in Chattanooga. "I asked Jay Miller if I could take over the Parades and she said yes if I took on vendors as well," said Minton, who continues today to serve as the vendors coordinator.

Over the years, she has had multiple Champions and Danes in the Top Twenty. She has co-owned with Kathleen Fennel and BJ Barnhart.

"I volunteered to be the show chairperson because I wanted to pay my dues," said Minton. In addition to being the show chairperson, vendors and judges hospitality this year Minton added Catalog ads to her resume.

"I will always have a Great Dane," said Minton, who moved to North Carolina in 2020.

Hepler's first Great Dane, was also a rescue of a different type. In 1976, a newspaper ad caught her eye. "For sale, a Great Dane, for \$50 or trade for a car." One way or another that Great Dane found a home



From the left are Southeast Division Chairperson Wanda Hepler and Show chairperson Ila Minton who also took on Vendor, Catalog ads and Judges Hospitality.

with Hepler.

She started obedience training and competition at High Point Obedience Kennel Club, eventually becoming a trainer for them. Hepler, started working at school in vet clinics at the age of 16. "I learned all the trades from cleaning kennels to tying off sutures," said Hepler. She also learned how to groom many different breeds when working with a groomer who also showed dogs.

Before long she started the Great Dane Club of Central North Carolina, with Pam Blackman. "We are a very strong group," commented Hepler.

After 25 years, as a Registered Veterinarian Tech, she is now a certified Oral and Maxillofacial surgical assistant.

What hasn't changed is her commitment to the Great Dane Breed, GDCA and the Southeast Division. She continues her three-year rotation, which began in 2015 continued in 2021 and will conclude in 2026.

"This year all of the clubs in our division worked together to design protocols and procedures for exhibitors to assure everyone is comfortable," said Hepler. With this year's breed count of 422 Great Danes entered, not including Futurity entries, it is safe to

The name Myrtle Beach comes from the thousands of wax myrtle trees that used to line the beach.