

# JANET LARSON

## VERSATILITY AWARD

By Debbie Stover

“Rev was not ready to retire!”



Janet Larson Versatility Award, 2016



Janet Larson  
Versatility  
Award,  
2015

## OTCH HC MACH Rapideye All Fired Up

### UDX5 OGM HSAd HSBd HXAs MXB MJB OAP XF

The 2016 Border Collie National was a whirlwind of achievement for Rev – **OTCH HC MACH Rapideye All Fired Up UDX5 OGM HSAd HSBd HXAs MXB MJB OAP XF** – co-owned by Marion Crain and Kim Berkley. In seven days of high-octane activity, Rev shone in the herding, agility, obedience, and breed rings, finishing her MACH and winning her second straight Janet Larson Award for most versatile Border Collie.

In herding this year, Rev took Reserve High in Trial from the Advanced A Sheep class and racked up six placements overall – three seconds, a third, a fourth, and a fifth – herding ducks and sheep over the three days of herding competition. The next day, she moved to the agility ring, where she polished off her MACH in grand style, racking up the three QQs she needed and adding two FAST legs for good measure. In obedience, she scored a very nice 195.5 in Utility B, and in the breed ring she captured second place in the Herding Titled Bitch class.

This splendidly accomplished Border Collie is the product of a dream breeding by Chris Elliott (Rapideye Border Collies), and her talent is no genetic accident! Sired by MACH4 Topshelf's Rapid Attack (Meryl Sheard) and out of Chris's OTCH HC MACH2 Rapideye Red White 'n Smooth UDX HXAsd HXBs, Rev was born on March 2, 2008. She showed early

talent on sheep, and Marion finished her HC when Rev was just past her first birthday. In Marion's capable hands, Rev completed her OTCH and UDX soon thereafter, winning HIT at the 2010 BCSA National from the Novice obedience class and enjoying many other exciting wins along the way. Having accomplished everything Marion had set out for her to do, Rev retired to Marion's farm as a sheepdog.

But Rev was not ready to retire! In spring 2015, with last year's National just six months in the offing, Marion approached her friend, trainer Kim Berkley, with an audacious plan: How would Kim like to turn Rev into an agility dynamo in time for the 2015 National? Kim, who loves a challenge, couldn't resist, and so the three of them were off. Kim kept Rev at her side all day long, polishing her somewhat dormant obedience skills and giving her a crash course in agility.

Kim had a lot to learn, too, as the plan called for her to share the herding handling at the 2015 National – and she'd never even been to a herding trial! Marion would handle Rev on sheep, they decided, while Kim would handle her on ducks – which Rev had never herded before. Together, Kim and Rev entered the exciting world of duck herding, expertly coached by Joyce Norris. Marion

polished Rev's herding skills on sheep, with occasional forays into ducks.

And amazingly, they pulled it off! In a closely contested race for the prestigious 2015 Janet Larson Versatility Award, Rev emerged victorious. With Kim and Marion splitting the herding handling duties as planned, Rev earned one second-place and two third-place ribbons. With Kim at her side, Rev won six Open Preferred agility classes and nailed down the Janet Larson Award by notching Utility and High Combined wins in obedience.

It was Kim's first Janet Larson Award and Marion's second. (Marion had won in 2003 with her first Border Collie, CH OTCH HC Extreme Firebrand UDX HXAs HXBs.)

Not surprisingly, by the 2015 National, a strong, deep bond had been forged between Kim and Rev, and Marion graciously made Kim co-owner of her precious girl. Kim and Rev continued to work together, and over time Kim and Marion decided to try for the Janet Larson Award again in 2016. That Rev won the coveted Janet Larson Award for a second straight year is testament to the heart and desire of this splendid Border Collie bitch, and the dedication and love of her two owners. 🐾