Day One of the NCWFA’s spring “Fun In The Sun” CWA race meets dawned as anything but that. There was rain off and on all the cold, cold morning. Once the rain stopped, we were treated to a beautiful rainbow in the sky, followed by the brisk winds that Fairfield is known for, which whisked away most of the cloud cover by the afternoon. Exactly thirty whippets started the meet, which was won by the amazing Link, who was awarded 5 NARX points & High Score Field Champion. Link came in second to the equally amazing Shelby in program 2, and Shelby was second in meet at the end of the day for three NARX points. Third in meet went to fabulous FTE Phoenix [try and say that three times fast!]. Alice & Phil were surely proud of their fancy orange brindle speedster, who captured High Score FTE, 5 ARX points & 1 NARX point. Fourth in meet was shiny black brindle RenneR & fifth went to our High Score Show Champion, Keeper, who picked up 3 ARX points, leaving her with two points to go for her own ARX. Keeper was also BOS in Meet. Next up in the Top Ten were AiliA & Dazzle, followed by PiP, who continues to improve as a racer. PiP was awarded the bottom ARX point for his efforts. He was followed by our High Score Veteran racer Miss Bitsy in ninth place. Rounding out the Top Ten was pretty brindle Teye. Our Most Appreciated in meet was Avery & no dog ever deserved this award more than she. Avery trotted the last 25 yards of the final race, to slow down to a walk to allow Niko to pass her at the finish line, thus assuring her lock on the Turtle award. The match was judged by a pinch hitter, myself [Guin] as originally scheduled judge Debby Knutson was detained at home waiting for a plumber. I awarded first in the match & the DPC leg to Starling, second to Diamond, third to Teye & fourth to Link. This placement gave Link High Combined for the day!

The sun peeked out of the clouds for most of Day Two of our meets & rain was non-existent, which put everyone in a much better mood. It’s so much easier to be cheerful when you are not wet and cold. Again, there were thirty whippets to start the day, although we did have a few newcomers for Sunday, which made up for some scratches on a couple of Saturday’s entrants, which held the NARX & ARX points for the meet at 5, 3, 1. First in the Meet again went to Link, who was undefeated in each program & picked up 5 more NARX points. Link also was awarded High Score FCh once again. Second in Meet went to flashy RenneR, who was awarded 3 NARX points. Third in Meet & High Score BOS went to pretty little brindle Bala. This win netted Diane’s girl 5 ARX points [1 NARX point too] and with this win Bala completed her ARX. Phoenix was awarded fourth place & 3 ARX points. He was followed by AiliA & Dazzle, with Chase taking the bottom ARX point with his seventh place. Rounding out the Top Ten were PiP, veteran entrant Miss Bitsy, who was awarded High Score Veteran once again [and the special Frank Herald Memorial Award for High-Score Vet], and Teye. Our High Score Show Champion was once again Keeper & our Most Appreciated was Dash[er]. Our match was judged by Jen Haas, who awarded first to RenneR, second to Bala, third to PiP & fourth to Link. RenneR was the recipient of the DPC leg & High Combined award!

It takes a lot of moving pieces to put on a successful weekend of race meets & without a strong and organized director there would be chaos. We are lucky to have such a wonderful director in our Race Secretary Bonnie Moore. The fabulous innovation of sending out the Board via text before each program has made all our lives easier & has made the crowding of the race board before each program a thing of the past. I can tell you that this has made our work at the finish line infinitely simpler, as we no longer must rely on fuzzy cell phone photos or [God forbid] our memories for the number of races and racers in each program. In addition to all her technical improvements to our race day experience, Bonnie is unfailingly cheerful from start to finish each day, even when faced with the thirty thousandth version of ‘when will we be breaking for lunch?’. She was ably assisted at the Board by Dennis Hamilton, who stepped into this role when Charlotte Fielder had to miss these meets for a little dog show known as Westminster KC.

Very important pieces of the Successful Race Meet puzzle are the starting box, lure operation and the finish line. Kim Robinson did her usual bang-up job at the boxes, assisted by Ed Odron and all of the great people who volunteered to load dogs for those with multiple entries, those who were working the meet in different capacities or couldn’t physically wrangle their slippery bucking broncos at the line. Since I was at the finish line all weekend, I can’t individually name you but thank you all! Rick Ragan ran the lure all weekend pretty much single-handedly & did an excellent & safe job. Thanks to Diane Jonson who ran the lure between programs on Sunday so we could do a few practices. Our finish line crew was helmed by moi, Guin Borstel, & consisted of Andrea Meyer, Jen Haas and occasionally Teresa Hamilton, when she could slip away from her equally important duties as on-call pick up person. Donna Wilhoyte also picked up many, many dogs at the finish for their owners, as did Phil Dominguez, Kathy Kelly, Judy Kuang & our soon-to-be new members Deborah & Silvio Gordillo. Heather Borstel worked hard all weekend as our Foul Judge.

Teresa Hamilton stepped into her new role as Trophy Coordinator and rose to the occasion. Don’t we all agree that the prizes she chose [and sometimes made herself] were completely gorgeous? Our rosettes in the club colors of blue and gold were incredible & I heard more than one person remark that our Best in Meet, High Combined & Turtle rosettes were bigger and more spectacular than the average BIS rosette at an AKC dog show. Donna Wilhoyte was back as our Hospitality hostess with the mostest & I know the morning coffee and snacks, as well as her organized set up for our potluck lunch was appreciated by all. And how ‘bout those great lunches? It is fun to try so many tasty dishes as everyone tries to outdo one another for the most delicious item each day. Saturday’s post-Cinco de Mayo Mexican theme brought us some wonderful dishes, especially Kathy’s Chile Relleno casserole, while Sunday’s All-American picnic theme had several incredible salads & abundances of cold cuts & cheese for sandwiches.

All weekend we were missing Jean Balint, who was home sick. I know I speak for all when I wish her a speedy recovery. It was nice to see our old friend & race world icon Lynne Underwood spectating on Sunday. Thanks to all who helped this weekend; members and friends, newcomers & veterans, who each did what they could to make our meets the smooth, fun and happily uneventful events they were. See you in September for more great prizes, rosettes, food and fun!