



### 2021 Board Members

**PRESIDENT** Ginny Ruskuski  
**1<sup>st</sup> VP** Dianne Strickland  
**2<sup>nd</sup> VP** Alison Nelson  
**RECORDING SEC** Deb Hardman  
**CORRESPON. SEC** Judy Fortner  
**TREASURER** Robin Wallen  
**BOARD** Sheila Garbecki  
**BOARD** Juli Wilkison  
**BOARD** Deb Gilman  
**BOARD** Colleen Whalen  
**Email Distribut** - Judith Solano  
**Facebook** - Ginny Ruskuski  
**Membership** - Colleen Whalen  
**K9 Website** - Alison Nelson  
**K9 Web Calendar** – C. Whalen



### New Provisional Members

Terry Martin

**Full Membership:** Terry  
and Lauri Smith

### From the President's Desk

Our May trials were a success! All the exhibitors seemed to leave happy and we profited by almost \$1,000.00! We had a panic inducing moment when Connie Parrish called me the Thursday before the trials to say she had the flu and could not judge, but Ken Kincaid stepped in and judged in her place. My very deepest thanks to all of you who made the trip to Daytona to volunteer. We cannot have trials without the good members who step up to help their club.

June will see the new board of Governors approved to take office in July. (Spoiler alert - the "new" Board looks pretty much like the old Board.) We'll be having a pot luck dinner so please call or email me if you intend to come and what dish you'd like to share. Call, text me (904) 661 8999 or email ruskuski5030@att.net

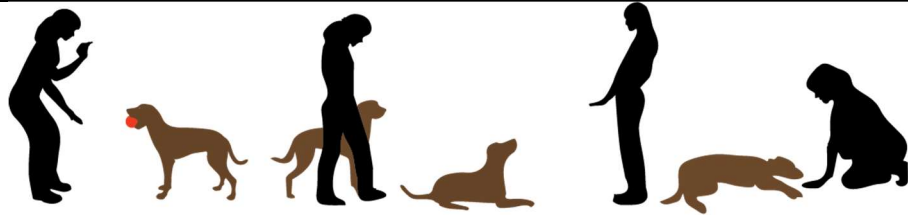
There was a mistake in last month's newsletter; the date of the June General meeting was listed June 21 but it's actually June 16 at 7:00pm.

Also, at the June General Meeting the awards for Good Sportsmanship and Outstanding Achievement will be presented, as well as the annual awards for members who earned titles during 2021. There are many local training organizations and businesses in Jacksonville, but very, very few whose members and their dogs take standardized tests to demonstrate their expertise. A member's titles bring honor to all of us in K-9. I hope to see you at our June meeting, whether you're receiving an award or cheering on the recipients.

- Ginny

## June's Training Report

All Classes are now fully enrolled!!



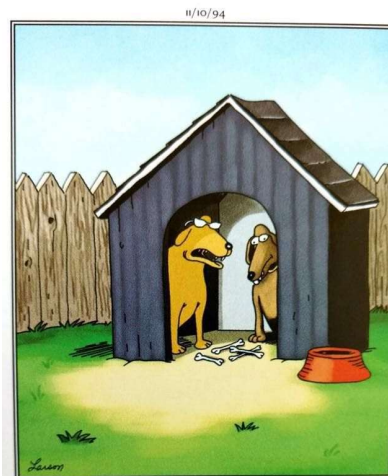
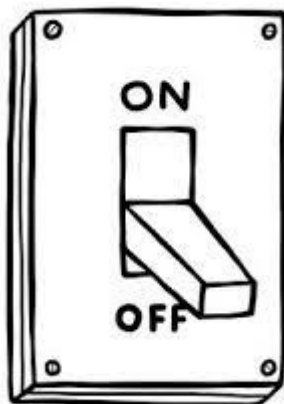
Deb Gilman's Tugg

It's not all fun and games in **Beginning Novice**.

After a tough class with **Alison N, Deb G.** and **Tugg** needed a little snack and relaxation time

See how patiently **Tugg** has learned to wait for his chips and salsa.

As a reminder when you leave the club please turn the fans and the lights off before locking the door and gate.



"Look. You *had* five bones, right? Your friend Zooky comes over, stays awhile, then leaves. Now you have *four* bones, right? ... You don't have to be a 'Lassie' to figure this one out."

## K9 Obedience Club TRIAL REPORT!!!!

The May 7&8 Obedience and Rally trials were a great success!!

The judges, Leslye Pinnell, Deb Neufeld and Ken Kincaid were outstanding in their courtesy and efficiency for a weekend with **over 300 entries!** Their ringside manners set a tone of fun and energy that helped even the newest handlers have a good time with their canine partners!

I won't say it was stressless--because trials are always somewhat stressful, but it was all good stress and directed into some fine performances in all the rings.



It was a full house at the K9 Obedience Trials in Daytona Beach



Rally Ring Stewards - **Dennis Nelson, Betsy Raisford** (at the table) and **Dawn Neukrantz** (far end).

Speaking of courtesy and efficiency, the stewards at these trials were outstanding--each and every one of them!! Some were experienced and some were brand new, but all of them were on top of it the whole time! We couldn't have trials without volunteers to steward and boy, did K-9 hit the jackpot with these folks: **Brian Bender, Carol Fitzsimmons, Mike Fitzsimmons, Debbie Gilman, Jack Gilman, Walt Kennedy, Carol Lee, Tanja McCoy, Dennis Nelson, Dawn Neukrantz, Christine Peterson, Susan Poole, Betsy Raiford, and Christopher Wallen.** These people know how to keep it rolling and never missed a beat. Judges remarked both days how great the stewards were and that is the true test!

As a side note the stewards all had fun. They watched and learned from the judges, who were more than willing to teach what to do when their dogs made it to the ring. It was a win-win all the way around.



Set up for the trials was accomplished by Trial Chair **Ginny Ruskuski** loading her Honda FIT to the gills with supplies and raffle baskets. She made a solo trip to DB on Friday to check things out, but at DB, the equipment and rings were ready to go. There was no heavy lifting or cleaning. Likewise, cleanup in the air conditioned facility was an hour tops--of garbage detail and vacuuming for a band of merry helpers. A far cry from sweating it out with mats and gates and lugging equipment back and forth at K-9 when people were tired after the trials. Thank you to all who donated supplies and basket items for the trials.



**Ginny Ruskuski** overseeing the baskets filled with dog-related goodies. Did you buy a winning ticket?

A special thank you goes to **Melissa Hess** for ordering and organizing the awards and ribbons. The trial secretary, **Adrienne Swanick** coordinated all entries and schedules --a technical process these days-- but which was accomplished smoothly for all involved. Ginny and Adrienne are currently in the process of finalizing the paperwork with AKC, and reconciling the accounting with our K-9 treasurer **Robin Wallen**. For most of us it over, but these guys keep it going behind the scenes.



**Robin Wallen** was able to find time to enter herself and Jasper in a Rally Class



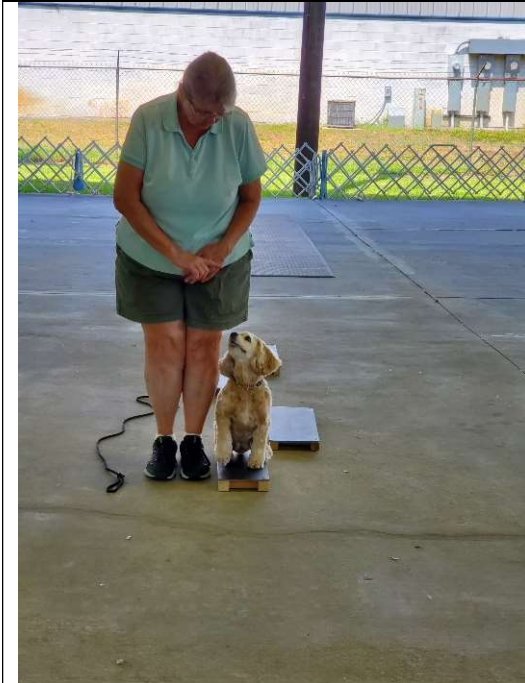
Ben Bond with JC in the Rally ring

K-9's trial committee's attention now shifts to the 2022 Fall Obedience and Rally trials on November 12 & 13--again at Daytona Beach. Four judges have been signed and plans are in the works to hold 2 Obedience and 2 Rally trials each day. Now is the time to set your goals and work toward the event(s) you will be ready to enter! You don't want to miss it! AND, if you would love to get involved in planning and helping to arrange the fall trials, let **Ginny Ruskuski** or **Alison Nelson** know. We welcome ideas to make the trials fun and exciting events that extend beyond the ring gates.





### Rachel Flatley Seminar #6



**Sheila G** and Dannica practicing with platforms



Full house at Rachel's May seminar



**Alison N** and Rex practice straight fronts with a PVC guide



**Juli W** and Wesley working on approaching a barrier



**June 16<sup>st</sup>**

**Join the  
Fun!  
K9's Annual  
Meeting  
and Pot  
Luck**



**What will you bring to share?**

**I HAVE NO IDEA**



**An appetizer, salad,  
main dish or  
dessert?**

**Let Ginny know  
[ruskuski5030@att.net](mailto:ruskuski5030@att.net)**

**WHAT I'M DOING**





## Show N Go May 22nd

The Show n Go was busy with lots of activity



**Alison N** practicing obedience with Rex while **Robin W** and **Deb H** watch



**Ginny R** setting up a course for Rally



**Deb G** filing paperwork at the CGC and Tricks testing table



## THE CANINE LEARNING CORNER



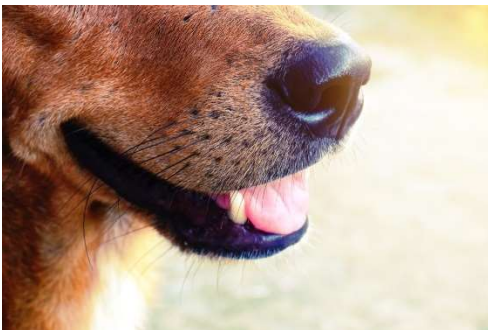
### *Did you know?*

Your dog is as smart as a 2-year old



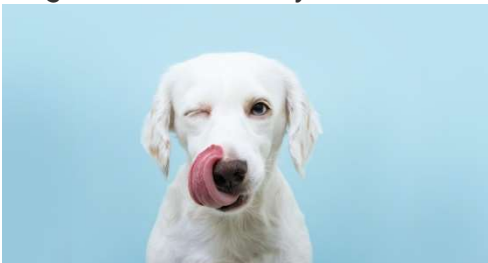
Back in 2009, per CNN, psychologists discovered that dogs are capable of learning the same number of words and commands as a human toddler—specifically, a two-year-old child. The average dog can understand about 165 words, while the smartest of the smart can go up to 250. That's a clever canine!

Whiskers help dogs see in the dark.



Dogs' whiskers are packed with nerves and send sensory messages to their brains. They're **multifunctional sensory tools** that help them move around and orient themselves in tight places, especially when visibility is low.

Dogs are not totally colorblind.



Dogs cannot see the same colors that we do, but they are **not colorblind**. They have two color receptors, while humans have three. If you were to see the world through your dog's eyes, you'd see everything in shades and combinations of blue and yellow.

## Meet our Newest Full Member

Judith L. Solano arrived in Florida in 1970, after completing a bachelor's degree at Penn State. She subsequently completed a master's and doctoral degree at Florida State University. She remained in Tallahassee working for the Board of Regents of the State University System (SUS) of Florida. It was in Tallahassee that she bought her first cocker spaniel and became involved with the Tallahassee Dog Obedience Club (TDOC). Her little family grew to four cockers who she showed in obedience. Ultimately, she taught classes for TDOC and served as their training director.

In 1979, she married and moved to Jacksonville where she remained active in the dog world by joining the K9 Obedience Club of Jacksonville for a period. Two German Shepherds joined the family, because her husband had been raised with shepherds. She joined the German Shepherd Dog Club of Jacksonville and showed her shepherds in both obedience and conformation. She worked at the University of North Florida (UNF) as a faculty member teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the computing sciences and eventually serving as Director of the School of Computing. She was particularly active in faculty governance, having had the opportunity to serve as a member of the UNF Board of Trustees and the SUS Board of Governors. In 1984, baby-boy-Solano came along, so something had to give. When it became time to "show" him in t-ball, soccer, swim team, etc., she stopped showing her dogs. Dogs, however, were always an important part of the family, though there was a shift from cockers and shepherds to golden retrievers.

In 2012, she retired from UNF after 35 years of service to the SUS. In retirement, Dr. Solano continues to serve on the Computer Accreditation Commission of ABET, Inc., which is the body responsible for accrediting computing programs both in the U.S. and abroad. Her family is much smaller now. Her son is grown with three children of his own and living in Hawaii. There is one dog, Nika, a yellow lab. She is a Canine Companions for Independence "change of career dog," who has brought Judy back to K9 Obedience where they have been exploring Rally.





## Meet our Newest Provisional Members



Silke and Aqua (who is deaf)

**Silke Royer**- Silke was born and raised in Germany. She immigrated by herself with \$100 in her pocket to Saint Augustine, Florida in 1988 after traveling through the area the year prior as she had fallen in love with the town - and still is. She has been training dogs since she was a young teenager. As part of a large training club in Germany that had over 200 members including 10 trainers was founded in the mid-18th century and made training a lot of fun. The club still operates and she still is in contact with the head trainer.

Silke became Professional dog trainer in 1998 and owner of Pet Camp, LLC a dog boarding, daycare and training facility in Saint Augustine, FL .

She offers individual behavior modification classes, agility classes, obedience classes and puppy classes. Occasionally trick, nosework, flyball and frisbee classes. She is looking forward to getting a dock-diving set up complete in the near future.

She uses a kind, positive, light-hearted training approach and believe that a solid foundation is the gateway to a successful relationship and competition career for owner and dog.

Silke completed a 300-hour training course with the St. Johns County Sherriff's Department in 2005/6 as a civilian, became First Responder, lead and was President of North Florida Search and Rescue (a civilian K-9 SAR group) for several years.

- Placed 3rd in the German Northern States Dog Sporting Championships in 2001

- Ran at the 2006 USDAA Agility Nationals with "Stewart Little" a rescue Miniature Schnauzer

- Placed 2nd in the 2012 Skyhoundz Florida State Frisbee Freestyle Championships with her deaf Border Collie Mix "Aqua"

- Placed 7th (with both dogs tying with an identical score) at the 2019 Skyhoundz World Championship in the Pairs Division with her Pairs partner Jodie Frederick and their rescued K-9 partners Riley (Border Collie) and Romeo (Australian Shepherd).



Saga

- Her 15-month-old Pyrenean Shepherd "Saga" won the 2022 Pyrenean Shepherd Nationals (with two perfect 100 scores) in the Rally Excellence Class at the Pyrenean Shepherd National Specialty Show last month. She is looking forward to competing with Saga in all different venues and learning as we go along.

## Meet our Newest Provisional Members cont'd

Pet Camp has a free "K-9 Drill Team". the Team won first place in the 2016 Saint Augustine Christmas Parade out of almost 100 entries in the "Most Unique" class. We practice once per week for a couple of months out of the year to prepare marching in the Saint Augustine Christmas Parade.

I would love to have you join! No skills necessary except for polite leash walking skills and friendly behavior with other dogs.

Pet Camp is also home of the "Astro Allstar" Flyball team.



St Augustine K9 Drill Team

**Debbie Synder** - I'm a retired science teacher, and was a long-time puppy raiser for the Seeing Eye when I lived in New Jersey. I now have my second corgi, Piper, and am hoping to do agility training with her when she gets old enough.



Debbie Snyder and

Piper



## Meet our Newest Provisional Members cont'd

**Terry Martin-** I was born and bred in New York City, where I showed my first standard poodle. Thanks to many poodle friends, he was owner-handled until he was 2.

In 2006 I acquired 2 wonderful STP. My silver bitch was very close to her championship but she was super focused on wanting to play and hunt. By 2008, it was clear, NYC was too small and I moved to Jax. I started both my poodles in agility but was sidetracked by a desire / opportunity to have 2 wonderful horses. I switched to showing my horses and time moved on.

I started up at K9 because I acquired a new dog presenting some issues. He is an 18 month, Mudi who can be shy and nervous. His first 6 months was somewhat isolated on a farm in Mexico.

Juli at K9 was wonderful and he grew in confidence. I'm looking forward to more opportunities within his range, maybe FastCat. I started him in Dock-Diving and he loves it.



**UPCOMING ELECTIONS AT THE JUNE MEETING**



**We will be voting on our new board members for the year. Our proposed Board of Directors are:**

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>President</b>                | Ginny Ruskuski  |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres</b> | Alison Nelson   |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres</b> | Debbie Gilman   |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                | Robin Wallen  |
| <b>Membership</b>               | Colleen Whalen  |
| <b>Recording Sec</b>            | Deb Hardman   |
| <b>Corresp Sec</b>              | Judy Fortner  |
| <b>BOARD Members</b>            | Juli Wilkison,<br>Sheila Garbecki<br>& Christine Peterson |

**Nominations are complete, so the above individuals are the ones you will be voting for at the June Meeting**







CONGRATULATIONS

**K9 Obedience Club Trial, Daytona Beach, Florida  
May 2022**

**Sheila Garbecki's** little Super Star did it again. She had a wonderful day in Obedience Club of Daytona at the K9 Obedience club Rally trial. Dannica entered into 6 events and Q'd in every event. She even pulled out 2 placements. One in the second Masters Class with a score of 99 and another 4th place in Excellent with a score of 99 under the wonderful judge Deb Neufeld. Side note, Dannica showed under Deb Neufeld in November 2020 at the K-9 Obedience Club Rally trial for her debut in Rally and took home a 1st place in her Novice class. Sheila is so proud of her little girl.

**“Barks and Brags”  
Recent Trial Updates**



**Dannica and Sheila G.**

**Judge,**

**K9 Obedience Club Trial, Daytona Beach, Florida  
May 2022**

**Alison Nelson** and **Coco** obtained a Rally Advanced Excellent title (RAE) with 6 first place runs earning 3 High Combined Rally Scores awards. Rex also received his Rally Advanced Title.



**Coco is taking a much-deserved rest after a weekend of winning ribbons**



**K9 Obedience Club Trial, Daytona Beach, Florida  
May 2022**

**Deb Hardman** and Cody took First Place in Obedience Beginner Novice

**K9 Obedience Club Trial, Daytona Beach, Florida  
May 2022**

**Ben Bond** and JC finished 3rd and 1st in intermediate Rally on Sat and JC got his intermediate title



**Greater Ocala Dog Club May 8, Ocala, Florida**

**Judy Fortner's** Ani earned her BCAT title at GODC on May 8th in Ocala.

May 12-15 Ani went reserve 3 days and winners one day in Perry, GA in conformation.



## UPCOMING FLORIDA TRIALS

June 2022					
Date	Event	Club	City	Closing	Judges
03-05	O	Orlando Dog Training Club	Orlando	May 18	LM Unger, L Currey, LL Seale
04-05	RLY, O	Tallahassee Dog Obed Club	Tallahassee	May 18	C Parrish, BH Humer, J Kern
11-12	O	Obed Training Club Palm Beach	Lake Park	May 25,30	L Ferrullo
16	RLY, O	Heartland Dog Club of FL	Tampa	Jun 02	DP Neufeld
17-18	RLY, O	St. Petersburg Dog Fanc Assoc	Tampa	Jun 01	DP Neufeld, S Sherman
18-19	RLY	Marion Alachua Dog Train Ass	Ocala	Jun 01	RE Miller, L Pinnell
25-26	O	Imperial Polk Obed Club	Lakeland	Jun 08	J Kern, KR Griner

July 2022					
Date	Event	Club	City	Closing	Judges
02-03	O	Miami Obed Club	Miami	Jun 15	ENA
15-17	RLY, O	Obedience Obed Club	Daytona	Jun 29	BJC Critelli, RH Knight, C Mett, CA Knight
23-24	O, RLY	Upper Suncoast Dog Train	St Petersburg	Jul 06	RH Knight, CA Klein, CA Knight, E McCarthy
30-31	O	Indian River Dog Training	Melbourne	Jul 13	O Chever, RE Seeley,
30	O	Dog Training Club of Tampa	Tamp	Jul 22	ENA

August 2022					
Date	Event	Club	City	Closing	Judges
06-07	O	Australian Shepherd Club of Central Florida	Lakeland	Jul 20	Pending; CA Knight
06-07	RLY	Dog Training Club of Tampa	Tampa	Jul 29	PM Young
12-14	RLY; O	Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club	Daytona Beach	Jul 27	ENA; TG McCall, DP Neufeld, C Parrish, LM Unge
20-21	O	Sarasota Obedience Training Club	Myakka City	Aug 03	O Chever; ENA
27-28	O, RLY	Dog Training Club of St Petersburg	St Petersburg	Aug 10	CA Klein, BJC Critelli

RLY (Rally), O (Obedience), NA (Not yet Approved, TBA (To Be Announced) RLY (Rally); O (Obedience); ENA (event not approved), P (pended), PJA (pending judge approval)

## K9 Club Events Calendar for June

<b>Monday</b> 6:00 PM 7:15 PM	STAR Puppy CGC Prep class	<b>Friday</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b> 6 PM	First Tue of the Month – Guide Dogs of Northeast Florida	<b>Saturday:</b> 9:30 AM	Novice Obedience
<b>Wednesday</b> 8 -10 AM 6 PM 7:00 PM 7:15 PM	Obedience folks train together STAR Puppy Conformation Drop Ins Advanced Puppy	<b>Sunday</b> 8-10 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	Obedience folks meet to train Family Dog Family Dog
<b>Thursday</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs 7:00 PM 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	K9 Board of Governors Meeting  Annual Meeting, Elections & Pot Luck		

	<h3>Upcoming Events at the K9 Club</h3>
<b>June 9<sup>th</sup></b> Board Meeting	
<b>June 16</b> - Annual meeting – Elections & Pot luck	





## K9 Webpage

**Alison Nelson** watches over the K9 Website (excluding the calendar).

For questions or comments related to the K9 Web pages please contact Alison at [anelsonphs@yahoo.com](mailto:anelsonphs@yahoo.com). Thanks to Alison for updating the website.

## Membership Committee

Any membership questions can be sent to Coleen Whalen

([K9Whalen@comcast.net](mailto:K9Whalen@comcast.net))

## Sunshine Committee

**Sheila Garbecki** oversees the “Sunshine Committee”. If you know of a member in need of “cheering up” or “well wishes” from the club, please contact Sheila at [sbgarb1@yahoo.com](mailto:sbgarb1@yahoo.com). Thanks to Shelia for volunteering to serve on this committee.

## Facebook Page

**Amy Wiley** and **Ginny Ruskuski** co-administrate the Facebook Page. For issues or additions related to the calendar please email Amy [makumshine@bellsouth.net](mailto:makumshine@bellsouth.net) or Ginny [Ruskuski5030@att.net](mailto:Ruskuski5030@att.net).

## K9 Website Calendar

**Colleen Whalen** updates the Calendar on the K9 Website. For issues or additions related to the calendar please contact Colleen

at [K9Whalen@comcast.net](mailto:K9Whalen@comcast.net).

Thanks to Colleen for keeping this updated.

**Club Email** K9 Email – The club is using the email address [dgilmank9@gmail.com](mailto:dgilmank9@gmail.com). Please make sure to change in your contact the name to “**K9 Dog Obedience Club**” rather than an individual’s name



## Nature's Miracle

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR DEADLINE:

Please email any material you would like included in the Newsletter to [peteronchris7@hotmail.com](mailto:peteronchris7@hotmail.com). If not received by the 25th of this month it will be put in the next issue.

## VOLUNTEER INCENTIVE

Here's an update of the quilt.  
It's finished and has been inspected and  
approved by Tugg.  
Isn't it beautiful!!



### Volunteer Hours Drawing

The quilt drawing last year  
was not a one-time event.

There is a quilt drawing in  
2022!

So, if you like quilts to keep  
you warm, when the weather  
is for cold, keep an eye on  
the calendar for chances to  
volunteer.

You can get 1 ticket for each  
volunteer session. If you do  
8 hours in one day you will  
receive 2 tickets. Don't  
forget to sign in when you  
volunteer to be counted.

Help the club and get a  
chance to win a quilt.  
Good luck and get  
volunteering!!