



### 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 Members

- Full:** Ben Bond
- Provisional:** Virginia Novak

### From the President's Desk

Brrrrrr – it's cold outside! January and February are finally giving us some winter.

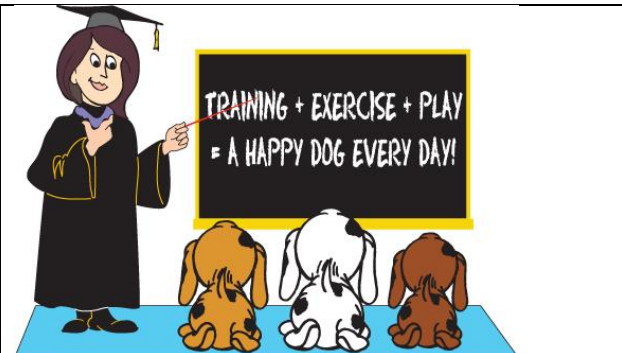
That said, we have a full line-up of classes going on. Once again, I want to thank all of our instructors for giving their time, experience and knowledge to help our students. Please don't forget – there is an instructor meeting on Thursday, Feb. 3rd at 6PM. Hopefully, we can all get on the same page with regard to policies and give each other some insights. It's very rare that instructors have a chance to communicate with each other about their classes.

Our Spring trials are set up on the AKC calendar. They will be held in Daytona on May 7 and 8. Please consider helping out by stewarding, etc. at this important event!

Our next General Meeting is scheduled for February 17 at 7:00. We will have a program by K-9's for Warriors. I hope to see you there. - Ginny

## February's Training Report

K9 was a “whine and bark fest” with all excitement due to new and old students, puppies and dogs that were on campus this in January.



On Monday evening we had two STAR puppy classes (**Alison Nelson, Ben Bond and Debbie Gilman**) as well as new students in the Intro to Rally and returning students in Advanced/Continuing Rally (**Sheila Garbecki**).



Then on Tuesday and Wednesday nights we had Nose Work (**Marcia Ladendorff**).

As well as **Rebecca Grinsell's** Conformation drop ins on Wednesday evenings.

Saturday mornings had an Obedience & Rally Skills (**Ginny Rususki**) class followed in the afternoon by two Family Dog (**Juli Wilkison**) classes.

**Thanks to all our instructors who volunteer their time and expertise to teaching owners and their dogs!**

**Do you want to become an instructor or an assistant for our STAR puppy classes, email K9 Dog Obedience Club ([dgilmank9@gmail.com](mailto:dgilmank9@gmail.com)). It's a great opportunity to educate owners and help the club!**



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers  
are a  
*Special  
Breed*



**Fun Rally Day Feb 27th** needs volunteers, sign up!!

The **Daytona show May 7 and 8<sup>th</sup>** is Games; Jump also just around the corner and before you know it, it will be here. Hours volunteered will be put towards your Club hours to keep you as an “active” member. Start thinking now how you can volunteer to make the club, a success. Contact **Alison Nelson** for questions on how you can help.

## ANOTHER VOLUNTEER INCENTIVE



Here's a sneak peek at the fabrics. Lots of dogs, bright colors and a cuddle fabric backing.

### Volunteer Hours Drawing

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

Plans are in the works for a 2022 drawing!

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 session. If you do 8 hours in one day you will receive 2 tickets.

Help the club and get a chance to win a quilt.

Good luck and get volunteering!!





### Feb 17 Program at the General Meeting

K9s For Warriors is a national nonprofit that procures eligible shelter dogs and trains them to be service dogs to mitigate symptoms of PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, and/or Military Sexual Trauma for service members and veterans. Determined to end veteran suicide, K9s For Warriors provides highly-trained Service Dogs to military veterans suffering from PTSD, traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual trauma

Their program has proven to save the lives of shelter dogs in conjunction with saving veterans' lives. The majority of their K9s are rescued from shelters or surrendered by their owners. In saving these animals from abandonment or euthanasia, K9 for warriors gives them purpose. Each pair who graduates from their program represent two lives saved – the Service Dog and the Warrior.

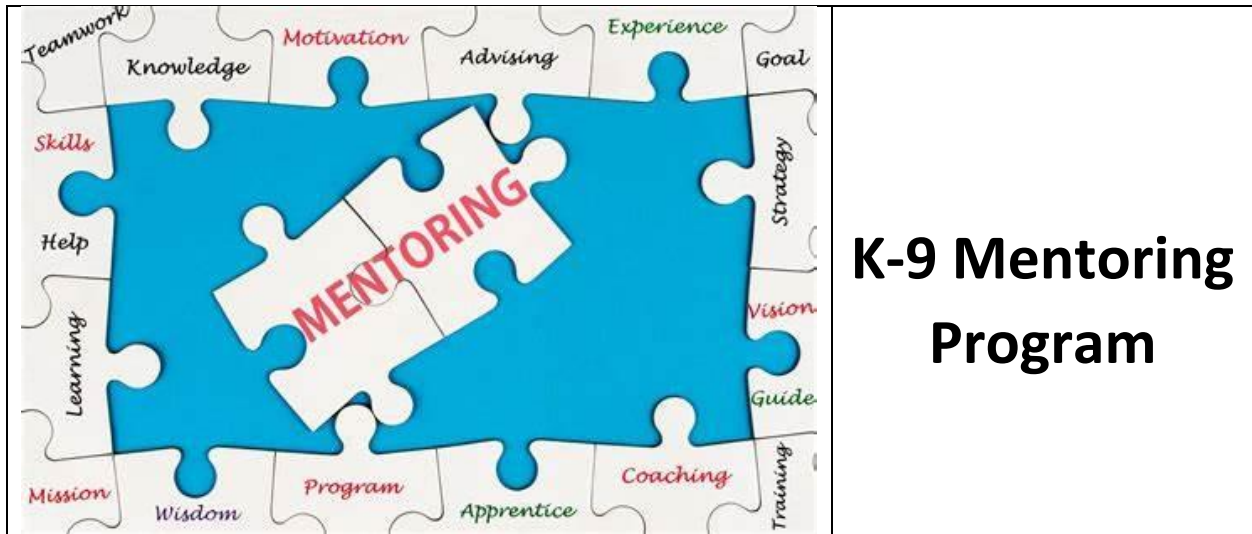
Dogs who do not graduate from their program qualify for a “career change” and are adopted out to loving homes or they enter the K9FW Station Dog Program.

The K9FW Station Dog Program assists in the placement of career-change dogs throughout Florida so they may help to address and mitigate the stress factors common to the work and environment of dispatch operators, first responders, and police officers.

K9 for warriors is always searching for volunteers who can help give prospective Service Dogs-in-training a jump start into the program. Commitments are as short as a weekend, a few months, or a year. Also, you don't have to worry about buying food, a leash, a crate, training classes or medical expenses, because K9s For Warriors takes care of all that. The only responsibility you will have is to provide love and a nurturing environment for a veteran's future battle buddy.

The Campus for K9 Operations is located just in St. Johns County near and is the largest shelter-to-service dog facility in the country, providing veterinary care and comprehensive training.

Please join us for this inside look into this great organization that is truly making a difference to warriors and dogs.



## K-9 Mentoring Program

What happens if a person joins K-9 Obedience club hoping to develop their training skills, but can't find a class to meet their needs? The problem is not a new one, but until now wasn't addressed with a solution.

At the last Board meeting it was agreed to develop a pilot mentoring program to coach and support provisional and new members. The goal is to develop a pathway for new members that need help 'learning to train' in addition to classes offered.

Mentors will be seasoned members who enjoy talking dogs and working to solve problems with training dogs.

Mentoring activities will include coaching through structured lessons, informal meet ups and special training activities.

By addressing the needs of new members who might also be new trainers, the pilot mentor program will strive to find ways to provide what our new members can use to advance their training skills.

*I'm a dog whisperer, too bad my dog is hard of hearing*

## New Provisional Member

My name is **Rebecca Grinsell** and I have been involved with dogs and dog sports since 2010. I now have my own kennel line of Belgian Tervuren that was established in 2014. I started my journey into the dog show world with my heart dog Kane. We began showing in junior showmanship in conformation and that sparked my love for the dog community. Kane has since passed on but I continued my work with dogs and my kennel line. I actively compete and train in conformation, agility, obedience, rally, herding, nosework, dock diving, trick dog, FastCat/lure coursing, and a variety of other fun sports as well. I own 6 Belgian Tervuren currently ranging from 9.5 years old to two 1 year olds.



I absolutely adore the Tervuren breed as a whole and cannot imagine my life without them. They are incredibly versatile and any sport I wish to try, they are always up for it. I strive to produce healthy, sound, beautiful, and biddable dogs in my breeding program that encase the complete and true essence of the Tervuren breed. I love training and puppy raising and mentoring my new puppy owners to help them navigate their way through the puppy's' lives and competitions. I really do enjoy teaching others and my puppy owners. I love helping them become the best they can be and sharing my knowledge and experience. And if I do not personally have a solution, I have an incredible network of people that I can rely on for help as well that I am very grateful for.

## THE CANINE LEARNING CORNER



### *Did you know?*

#### **Small dogs can hear sounds in higher ranges than big dogs.**

In addition to being able to move in various ways, dogs' ears are also able to detect much higher frequency sounds than human ears. In fact, dogs can hear sounds that are two times beyond our range—and it appears small dogs are actually better at it. According to Science Focus, that's because the smaller a mammal's head is, the higher frequencies it can pick up and compare in each ear. That's how they (and we) figure out where sounds are coming from.

#### **Dogs mark their territory with glands in their paws.**

Dogs are not, in fact, trying to clumsily bury their poop when they scratch the ground after they go. They are just performing yet another territory-marking ritual. With the glands on their paws, [they spread their scent](#) and let other dogs know they are around.

#### **Male dogs lift their leg when they pee as a sign of dominance.**

Dogs' urine contains markers that inform other dogs of its presence, social standing, and sexual availability. Dogs lift their legs as high as they can so they can "distribute their message" better and allow its scent to travel further. A 2018 study found that [smaller dogs try to lift their legs](#) even higher so that they seem bigger to other dogs who may be around.

#### **Dogs are more aggressive when being walked by a man**

The presence of a leash, the sex of the owner, and the sex of the dog all play a part in the aggressiveness of a dog when they're being walked. Dogs being walked by men are [four times more likely](#) to attack and bite another dog. Why? Because dogs not only react to the behavior and posture of other dogs around them but also to people.



## MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE LATE!

IT'S TIME TO RENEW  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

By now all of you should have received an email from **Colleen Whalen**, the chair of the membership committee. If you haven't received an email, please contact **Colleen Whalen**.

The annual membership dues for 2022 are **overdue**. Please send the completed form and your check made out to K9 Dog Obedience Club to Colleen as soon as possible.

If you need another form or have any other membership questions, please email **Colleen Whalen** (k9whalen@comcast.net).

Remember paying dues helps fund club activities and also provides active members (i.e., those who also volunteer a little bit of time to club related activities) with substantially discounted class fees.



### It's Changing of the Key Time

An email reminder was sent to all members regarding the changing of the gate lock in mid-February. To receive a key to the gate your dues must be current. PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO ENCLOSE A SELF-ADRESSED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR SIGNED KEY AGREEMENT AND FEE. If you need an application contact **Judith Solano** (jsolano@unf.edu).



CONGRATULATIONS

## “Barks and Brags” Recent Trial Updates

### Gainesville Dog Fanciers Jan 29

Coco leg 2 - Open A - 1st pl; leg 8 - rally advanced & excellent combo (RAE)  
Rex Novice title (CD)



Rex and Coco



Alison Nelson and Coco

February 2022					
Date	Event	Club	City	Closing	Judges
18-20	RLY, O	Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club	Lakeland	Feb 02	BJ Crim Critelli, O Chever Jr, K Kincaid
20	O	Tallahassee Dog Obedience Club	Tallahassee	Feb 09	L Pinnell, DP Neufeld, AP Kincaid, O Chever Jr, N Heidt
21	RLY, O	Ochlockonee River Kennel Club of Florida	Tallahassee	Feb 09	W O'Brien, L Pinnell
22	RLY, O	Okaloosa Kennel Club	Tallahassee	Feb 09	RR Withers, DP Neufeld RLY (TBA)
26-27	O	Dog Training Club of Tampa	Tampa	Feb 11	L Seeley, RE Seeley
26-27	O	Indian River Dog Training Club	Palm Bay	Feb 09	RH Knight, CA Knight, RE Seeley
27	O	Ochlockonee River Kennel Club of Florida	Tallahassee	Feb 09	CA Knight, Dr. RH Knight

March 2022					
Date	Event	Club	City	Closing	Judges
05-06	O, RLY	Pensacola Dog Fanciers Assoc	Pensacola	Feb 16	J Kern, RL Garvin, ENA (R)
11-13	RLY	Sarasota Obed Training Club	Myakka City	Feb 23	L Currey, TG McCall
19-20	O	Jupiter-Tequesta Dog Club	Jupiter	Mar 02	CA Boyles, RR Withers
19	RLY	Dog Training Club of Tampa	Tampa	Mar 04	ENA
26-27	O	Central Florida Obedience	Orlando	Mar 09	AS Albert, DP Neufeld, RR Withers

April 2022					
Date	Event	Club	City	Closing	Judges
02-03	O	Orlando Dog Training Club	Orlando	Mar 16	S. Sherman, DE Tessmann Van Leaven, B Lee, AS Albert
09	O, RLY	Greater Orange Pk Dog Club	Elkton	Mar 23	R Cox, Rly ENA, O PJA
09-10	O, RLY	Dog Training Club of Tampa	Tampa	Mar 25	O ENA, R Cox, RLY ENA
30	O; RLY	Imperial Polk Obed Club	Lakeland	Apr 13	MC Burford, BL Roland; BJC Critelli

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

## K9 Club Events Calendar for February

<b>Monday</b> 5:30 PM Rally Beginner 2/1 to 2/14/22 6:45 PM Rally Advanced 2/1 to 2/14/22 6:00 pm Star Puppy 2/1 to 2/21/22 7:15 pm Star Puppy 2/1 to 2/21/22		<b>Friday</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b> 6 PM First Tue of the Month - Guide Dogs of Northeast Florida  6:30 PM Nose Work 2/1 to 2/22/22		<b>Saturday:</b> 10:30 AM Obedience & Rally Skills (Ring 2) 2/5 to 2/12/22 1:00 PM STAR Puppy (R 1) 2/5 to 2/26* 2:30 PM Family Dog 2/5 to 2/19/22 4:00 PM Family Dog 2/5 to 2/19/22	
<b>Wednesday</b> 8 -10 AM Obedience folks train together 6:00 PM Nose Work 2/2 to 2/23/22 7 PM Conformation Drop Ins 2/2-to 23		<b>Sunday</b> 8-10 AM Obedience folks meet to train	
<b>Thursday</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs K9 Board of Governors Meeting 7:00 PM Trainers/Instructor Zoom Meeting 6:00 pm Meeting 7:00 PM 2/17 General Membership Meeting		*No class on 2/19	

	<h3>Upcoming Events at the K9 Club</h3>
<b>Feb 3 Trainers Meeting 6 pm</b> Trainer's please check your email for meeting invite and agenda	<b>Feb 27 Rally Fun Day</b> make sure that you register by Feb 17th
<b>Feb 17 K9 For Warriors</b> will be coming to the club soon to tell us about their exciting work raising puppies and helping warriors.	





## 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

**It's that time of year again for ANNUAL DUES:** Dues are **\$35.00 per person** and **\$45.00 per family** for one year. The membership year is from January 1 through December 31. Email reminders were already sent by **Colleen Whalen** (membership committee) if you didn't receive one, please contact Colleen.

## 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

**Ginny Ruskuski** administrates the Facebook Page. For issues or additions related to the calendar please contact Ginny at [Ruskuski5030@att.net](mailto:Ruskuski5030@att.net). Thanks to Ginny for keeping an eye on the posts.

## 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

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR DEADLINE:

Please email any material you would like included in the Newsletter to [peteronchris7@hotmail.com](mailto:peteronchris7@hotmail.com) by the 20th of this month.