

2023 Board Members
PRESIDENT Deb Hardman
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2nd VP Debbie Gilman
SECRETARY Sam Giacalone
TREASURER Robin Wallen
BOARD Sheila Garbecki
BOARD Juli Wilkison
BOARD Colleen Whalen
BOARD Christine Peterson
PAST PRES – Ginny Ruskuski
Email Distribut - Judith Solano
Facebook – Juli Wilkison,
Janice Butler, Deb Hardman
Membership - Colleen Whalen
K9 Website - Alison Nelson
K9 Web Calendar – C. Whalen



Full Members

New Provisional Members

Robert O'Quinn, Maggie
Nipper, Sarah Skinner,
Jacquelyn Newlands

President's Letter February 2024

Our next General Membership Meeting is February 15th at 7:00. We will be holding our K9 Club Rummage Sale fundraiser. Please gather up all your used dog equipment and supplies and put it in the large cardboard box in the pavilion. We need your participation to make this a success so clean your closets and drawers. Colleen Walen will be our presenter and will discuss volunteering with her dog at Wolfson Children's Hospital. She will review how to get your dog licensed as a therapy dog and will share her own experiences at Wolfson as an instructor and evaluator of teams. She has chaired the pet therapy program and served as Auxiliary President.

We have had very cold days this month that have interrupted classes. Be sure you know when your make up classes will be held. We held a Show N Go January 21st that was braved by a few. The locks at K9 will be changed February 9th, and keys will be distributed by Deb Gilman to instructors and members.

Our next trial in Daytona is May 4th and 5th. We need all volunteers on deck. This is a major fund raiser for our club, and we need all members to step up and make it a success. Contact Alison Nelson for information about how you can participate. No experience is required.

AKC is offering a new title called Fetch. There was a demonstration at K9 January 28th. Watch for more information on this new sport.

Deb Hardman, President

February Training Director's Report

January classes are finally underway after delay from the FREEZING weather and unfortunately the flu/cold bug going around! Things are on track now with obedience, nose work, rally, agility, Family Dog, STAR Puppy, Advanced Puppy, Advanced Puppy II, and conformation.

Christine Peterson continues to amaze everyone with her administration skills in enrollment and deserves credit for keeping the classes filled!

Likewise, the K-9 instructors and assistants have improved the programs each new cycle. They are the reason that K-9 is *THE* choice for many in the Jacksonville area. I am always so impressed with the classes. Even when instructors have so much going on in their lives and families, they make time to share their talent and experience with K-9. When students take classes at K-9, they learn from instructors who genuinely care about them and their dogs.

Our hearts go out to Erika Wilson who is currently taking care of her beloved father. While her presence is missed, her impact is still felt by the many students who await her return!

RUMMAGE



Calling all K9 Obedience Club members,

**Our next general meeting is February 15th at 7:00 p.m.
Our K9 Rummage Sale Fundraiser will take place at this meeting.**

So, the time has come to go through your drawers, garages, closets, etc. and gather all the dog equipment you no longer need or use. This is a great opportunity to do some “Spring Cleaning” and help K9 with this fund raiser. There will be a large cardboard box by the large bulletin board under the pavilion where you can place your items. You can also leave them by the front door of the clubhouse if they can withstand the rain. I recommend you put all items in a plastic bag to protect it from dirt and the weather.

Please help us make our rummage sale a big success. We need your contributions so please bring them to K9 and leave them in our box.

FETCH Workshop

AKC Fetch is a fun AKC Family Dog program in which dogs can earn four levels of AKC titles by demonstrating retrieving skills. Below is a breakdown of each title offered and a quick overview of what a dog must do to earn a title at each of the four test levels. Be sure to check out the AKC website which has fetch test level videos as well. There is also a quick test level summary chart.

A dog must pass each test level twice in order to be able to apply for a title. Below are the four test level titles offered.

Novice – the dog earns the FTN (Fetch Novice)

Intermediate – the dog earns the FTI (Fetch Intermediate)

Advanced – the dog earns the FTA (Fetch Advanced)

Retriever – the dog earns the FTR (Fetch Retriever)



Several k9 members attended the fetch workshop to learn about the newest AKC sport title.



Silke Royer sends Saga to fetch the bumper



Susan Poole and Riker show the hold necessary for fetch.

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM

The program for the February meeting will be geared towards Pet Therapy.

"Colleen Whalen has done Animal Assisted Activities for years with her two German Shepherd Dogs. They visited people at assisted living facilities and at Wolfson Children's Hospital where Colleen chaired their program for 3 years. Her Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever (aka Toller), Kate, was a member of the Caring Canines at Jacksonville's Mayo campus. With her vast experience, Colleen can give the guidance and training to those that wish to pursue this rewarding line of work.

Colleen Walen will be our presenter at our February general meeting and will talk about her experiences at Wolfson Children's Hospital where she has volunteered for years with her therapy dogs. She also works at Wolfson as an evaluator of teams that want to participate. This will be a perfect opportunity to learn how you and your dog can work as a team at Wolfson. She chaired the pet therapy program at Wolfson and was the Auxiliary President. She continues to evaluate teams for their program. Colleen has taught pet therapy dog classes for years at K9 and hopes to teach a class in the fall.

At K9's February's general meeting she will discuss the requirements for the Wolfson Children's Hospital pet therapy program. They are looking for more qualified teams. "



Dog Aging Project Study Confirms Small Dogs Live Longer Than Big Dogs

When someone decides to welcome a canine companion into their home, there are a lot of things to consider. How the dog gets along with kids and other animals. If the dog is prone to require a lot of exercise or if it is more of a sofa snuggler. If the specific breed is prone to any health issues. If the person wants a big dog or a smaller one. Well, a new study has determined why small dog breeds tend to live longer than larger dog breeds, and it's interesting information to have especially if you are considering what type of dog you want to adopt.

The gap between specific dog breeds is pretty significant as well.

University of Washington researchers looked at data from over 25,000 dogs across 238 breeds in the United States and published their findings in the journal PLOS; <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0295840>.

They found that small dogs had an average lifespan of 13.8 years, while larger dog breeds had an average life expectancy of 10.8 years.

A Few Reasons Why Small Breed Dogs May Live Longer

The scientists think the reason that little pups live longer than big dogs is because little dogs have a slower metabolism. This means they burn a lot less energy and produce less waste which can help protect them from disease.

Small pups are also less likely to be injured and are less likely to be overweight. Speaking of specific breeds, the study reports that the tiny Chihuahuas have a lifespan of 17.8 years while one of the biggest dog breeds, the Great Dane, have an average life expectancy of 7.8 years.

The researchers found that infectious diseases, bone diseases, gastrointestinal issues, neurological and endocrine problems were more prevalent in large dog breeds.

Smaller dogs were more likely to suffer from respiratory issues, heart problems, eye issues, and liver and pancreas issues. For ear, nose and throat issues the most commonly reported diagnosis, ear infection, was drastically skewed toward larger dogs. The study also reported that diagnoses within the respiratory category were more common overall among smaller dogs. The most common specific diagnoses were chronic cough and tracheal collapse, both of which are known to be more common among smaller dogs.

Studies like these are interesting to read about but at the end of the day, there are many factors to consider when bringing a dog into your home. With proper food, exercise, veterinary care and a whole lot of love, your dog can live a healthy long life no matter what size they are. But being aware that a large breed dog may live a few years less than a smaller dog may also be something you wish to think about before bringing a fur baby home. (reprinted from yahoo!life; Eve Vawter author)

Upcoming Puppy Workshop

Dear Members,

K-9 has offered some exciting special sessions to members to address their interests. Since September K-9 has offered workshops in "Choose to Heel", "Finding Heel" and "Accuracy in Marking to Reward Behavior", "Competition Puppy", and recently "AKC Fetch". These workshops are scheduled for weekends when most people are available and are free of charge. There is no need to preregister--just drop in. Watch the workshop page on the website for dates and times.

The next Competition Puppy workshop is scheduled for February 4 at 2 pm. This workshop is for baby dogs and young dogs 2-year-old and under. Bring lots of reward treats, toys, a mat and water.



Is there a topic you are interested in? We might be able to arrange a special session on it! email me at anelsonphs@yahoo.com with your request. Meanwhile, I hope you can join some of these planned sessions and get to know other members and their fabulous dogs!

Alison

May Trial Coming, How You can Make it a Success!

Mark your calendars for May 4 & 5, 2024--K-9 Obedience Club spring trials. 2 Obedience and 2 Rally trials each day judged by Dr. Robert and Cathryn Knight (Obed) and Marlene Becker and Jeanette Rogers (Rally). Trials will be held in Daytona Beach at the Obedience Club of Daytona training center. This facility has hosted the last several K-9 trials in air conditioning and provides rings with equipment. There is ample free parking and plenty of crating space. The premium for the trial opens February 24 and closes April 17.

How can you support your club's trials?

1. **VOLUNTEER TO STEWARD**--Email Cheryl Loze (cloze64@gmail.com) to sign up. Also, sign up February 25 at the Show N Go; it will have training for Stewards! Stewards do more than support the club--you learn, you see what it takes, you have fun with dog people, you decide what sport is right for you and your dog(s)! And you get your required volunteer hours to maintain an active membership.

2. **AWARDS DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED**-- you can contribute to the cash awards (given for high scores each trial) or contribute to the ribbon fund.

You will be acknowledged for any contribution! You are also invited to donate a special award to a breed or as a memorial to your beloved pet. There are many ways to contribute to the trophy and awards --email anelsonphs@yahoo.com with any questions or to contribute by February 15.

3. **HOSPITALITY** --Sign up for the committee. If you would like to bring a beverage or food item or snack for the hospitality room or contribute to the lunch fund, email angela.maddux@gmail.com Hospitality also appreciates paper supply donations such as plates, napkins, paper towels, toilet paper. These items can be brought to the February General Membership meeting or dropped off at the clubhouse.

4. **STAY TO HELP CLEAN SUNDAY** --you can get your volunteer hours by helping to clean up for an hour after the trial concludes on Sunday afternoon. Email Lisa Wilford (lisazw@comcast.net)

5. **BASKET DRAWING** --Email Ginny Ruskuski (ruskuski5030@att.net) if you would like to contribute to the baskets.

Thank you, Members, for supporting the trials!

Alison Nelson, Trial Chair



CONGRATULATIONS

Janice Butler and Bella kicked off the new year in style at the cluster in Brooksville! 4 trials in 3 days and 2 titles earned! Look at all that bling. We finished our Rally Novice title on the Thursday morning, getting a New Title medallion. Yes, we moved up for that afternoon and rest of the weekend...going 3 for 3 and earning our Intermediate title, getting a New Title ribbon and a Rally 1st place medallion! My Portuguese Water Dog is rocking Rally!



Alison Nelson's Rex got his leg for UDX in Daytona in December 2023

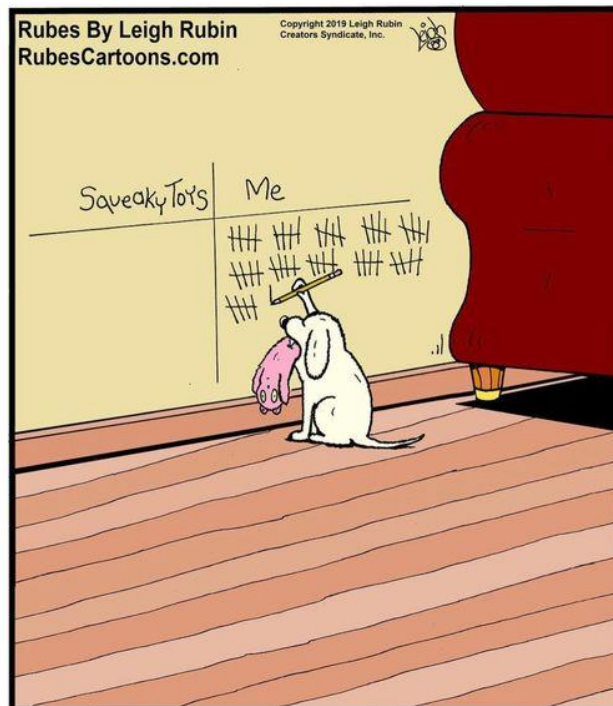


BARK AND BRAGS Cont'd



Samantha Giacalone's Peach (CH Woodlyn The Sweet Cide RA BCAT CGCA TKI) earned her Conformation Champion title in Ocala at the end of January. She finished by going Best of Winners & Owner Handled Best of Breed for a 4-point Major on Saturday and Best of Winners for 2 points on Sunday.

When you send a "brag" please put brag in the email subject line.



Another satisfyingly victorious day for Reginald

New Provisional Member

I'm Sarah Skinner born and raised in Jacksonville Florida. I have 3 adult children and am a practicing veterinarian. Mr. Willoughby is my 5-year-old lab who is really my first dog that was my choice and not raised in the middle of a gaggle of children. We love to hike and travel, seeing new places and I have really enjoyed seeing what we are capable of doing as a team. He is training me, which he says is quite the chore.

Looking forward to more adventures and learning more about dogs and their behavior.



Sarah Skinner and Mr. Willoughby on Top of a fire tower in the Smokey Mt National Park.

UPCOMING FLORIDA TRIALS

February 2024					
Date	Event	Club	City	Closing	Judges
03-04	Rly	Dog Training Club Tampa	Tamp	Jan 19	E McCarthy, B J Crim Critelli
16-18	O, Rly	Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club	Lakeland	Jan 31	CA Klein, L Currey, O Chever, Jr, M Becker
18	RLY,O	Tallahassee Dog Obed Club	Tallahassee	Jan 31	R Hornfisher, B Hornfisher, MC Burford
19	RLY,O	Ochlockonee River Kennel Club	Tallahassee	Jan 31	MC Burford, R Hornfisher, B Hornfisher
20	O,RLY	Okaloosa Kennel Club	Tallahassee	Jan 31	R Hornfisher, MC Burford, B Hornfisher
24-25	O,	Indian River Dog Training Club	Palm Bay	Feb 07	DE Tessmann-Van Leaven, L Pinnell
24-25	O	Dog Training Club of Tampa	Tampa	Feb-09	O. Chever Jr, R Cox
24-25	RLY	Dog Training Club of St Petersburg	St. Petersburg	Feb 16	N Heidt, W O'Brien

March 2024					
Date	Event	Club	City	Closing	Judges
01-03	RLY,O	Pensacola Dog Fanciers Assoc	Pensacola	Feb 14	R Hornfisher, B Hornfisher
08-10	RLY	Sarasota Obed Training	Myakka City	Mar 01	J Rogers, J Valentovich (p)
16-17	O	Jupiter-Tequesta Dog Club	Jupiter	Feb 29	CA Klein
23-24	O	Cent FL Obed Dog Club	Orlando	Mar 06	CA Boyle, CA Klein, CA Mett-Trumbly
30-31	O	Orlando Dog Training Club	Orlando	Mar 13	ENA

April 2024					
Date	Event	Club	City	Closing	Judges
06-07	RLY,O	Greater Orange Park Dog Club	Elkton	Mar 20	E McCarthy, MJ Mello, C Mett-Trumbly
09	O, RLY	Flat-Coated Retriever Soc	Ocala	Mar 13	DP Neufeld, AP Kincaid, K Kincaid
13-14	O	Dog Obed Club of Lee Cty	N Fort Myers	Mar 30	R Cox
19-21	O	Marion Alachua Dog Train	Ocala	Apr-03	C Mett-Trumbly, L Seeley
27-28	RLY	Obed Train Club of Palm Bch	Lake Park	Apr-10	J Rogers, RE Miller
27-28	O	Imperial Polk Obed Club of Lakeland	Lakeland	Apr 10	TBA, L Currey, DP Neufeld

RLY (Rally), O (Obedience), PO (preferred Obedience), NA (Not yet Approved), TBA (To Be Announced) ENA (event not approved), P (pended), PJA (pending judge approval), PPP (Pending Panel Processing)

K9 Club Events Calendar for February

Monday 6:00pm 7:15pm	Advanced Puppy Advanced Puppy II	Friday	
Tuesday 6:00pm 6:00pm 7:15 pm 7:15pm	STAR Puppy Agility Foundations Family Dog Advanced Puppy II	Saturday: 2:00p	Novice Obedience
Wednesday 8-10am 9:30am 6:00pm 6:00pm	Obedience folks train together STAR Puppy Advanced Rally Conformation Drop In's	Sunday 8-10am 10 am 11:30am	Obedience folks meet to train Intro to Odor I/Birch Intro to Odor II
Thursday 2 nd Thurs	K9 Board of Governors Meeting		

Please check the K-9 web calendar for any last-minute updates



Dates to Remember at the K9 Club

Feb 2 Ground Hog Day	Feb 15 General Meeting/Rummage Sale
Feb 8 Board of Governor's Meeting	Feb 19 Presidents Day
Feb 14 Valentine's Day	Feb 24 K9 Obedience Trial Premium opens



K9 Webpage

For questions or comments related to the K9 Web pages please contact **Alison Nelson** at anelsonphs@yahoo.com. Thanks to Alison for updating the website.

Membership Committee

Any membership questions can be sent to **Coleen Whalen** (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.

Building and Grounds

If you see something that needs cleaning or repairing, please let **Debbie Gilman** know about it by text [610-597-5454](tel:610-597-5454) or email debgilman10@gmail.com

Facebook Page

Janice Butler, Deb Hardman and Juli Wilkison administrate the Facebook Page. For issues or additions related to the Facebook please email Janice, Deb or Juli

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.



Phoof

Program Committee

Colleen Whalen and Deb Hardman are our program committee. If you have suggestions for speakers contact with Colleen contact **Colleen Whalen** (K9Whalen@comcast.net) or **Deb Hardman** (debhardman1@comcast.net) with suggestions.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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