

May 2021

## The big news is that June's General Membership meeting will be held at K-9!

Let's celebrate coming back together!

It will be outdoors in the pavilion. (Depending on what the government says, we might be able to do it without masks!) **First**, we'll elect new officers and Board members. **Second**, we'll have a presentation from *Guide Dogs for the Blind* who now are using our facility from time to time on Tuesday evenings. They raise and train puppies that go (if they pass muster) to the professionals who train the dogs for the blind. I've asked Ryan Callahan, who is currently training a young lab, to share how they train their puppies. I'm looking forward to this. **Third**, we will have **door prizes** including an air fryer, yard decorations, a dog themed quilt as well as other items!

Be sure and put this on your calendar for **June 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**. Hope to see you there!

### Nominations for Officers and Board

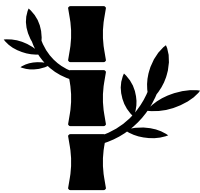
The following were presented by Committee Chair, Robin Wallen and her committee.

President	Ginny Ruskuski
First VP	Dianne Strickland
Second VP	Alison Nelson
Treasurer	Robin Wallen
Recording Secretary	Volunteer needed
Corresponding Secretary	Judy Fortner
Board member	Sheila Garb
Board Member	Juli Wilkison
Board Member	Deb Gilman
Board member (Membership)	Colleen Whalen

## Clean Up Day Thanks!!

We had a wonderful turnout for the Club Clean Up Day! Folks arrived at 9, got right to work and we accomplished a great deal in 3 ½ hours!

Thanks go to Dennis Nelson, Tom Wiley who gave us directions as to what needed doing. Member workers included Deb and Jack Gilman, Ginny and John Ruskuski, Dianne Strickland, Carol Fitzsimmons, Jean Coker and Judy Fortner. Provisional members Christine Peterson and Carol Fitzsimmons, and non-members Samantha and Luis Pacanins and Patrice & Bob, members of CCI, also joined us for a successful morning of work.

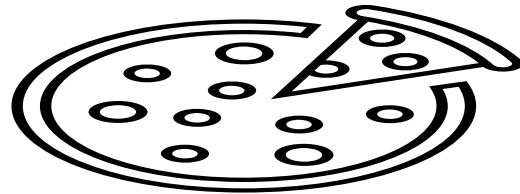


## ***K-9 Tails*** needs a new editor!

Since Ginny is wearing her Trial Secretary hat this week and next and we wanted to get the Newsletter out by the first of the month, I'm writing the President's column this month as well as doing the editing.

I think I got everything in this document, but you have my apologies if I didn't! I've put some new items in like the information on new provisional members and the report from the Board meetings. Let us know if you like this and we'll continue it! PARDON the type-Os. (Dianne S.)

If any of you out there have skills and an interest in putting this document together (not writing it, as all the info will be sent to you), please let me know. Both Ginny and I have lots on our plates and we would love to share this portion with another club member!



# BIG CONGRATS

## Sheila Garbecki & Dannica



At the Greater Orange Park Dog Club trial in Elkton Dannica earned her **Novice Rally Title** also earned 1 leg in Intermediate including a 1st Place.

In Perry GA, we had a super time at the Peach Blossom Cluster. Dannica was a rock star, earning her **Rally Intermediate Title** with a **1st Place**.

She did Dock Diving with 2 jumps of 11' and 11' 9". She also had her debut in Agility. In **Fast** and took **1st place!** In her standard class she fell off the dog walk but was ok thank goodness, and finished the course. There were some not so good things in that run, but a lot of good parts and I'm very proud of her. Always improving!

## Christy and Erin Reifsneider

**Jester**- NACSW Tequesta trial, **L1E and L1V** new titles, leg in **L1I**, Jester AKC Scentwork trial Lake Eustis- **2nd place Novice containers and 2nd place Excellent Buried.**

**Boomer** Lake Eustis Scentwork trial-first AKC trial, Erin R. handler- **4th place exterior Novice B**



**Alanna Lowry & Nessie & Flynn.** Nessie competed in **AKC AGILITY Nationals.** 4 clean rounds. 24<sup>th</sup>/104 8" dogs.



Dianne Strickland and Carson earned their second Utility leg at the Greater Orange Park Kennel Club Trial.



**Flynn** earned **2 UDX legs** in Perry, GA

**Susan Howard and Winston**



Greater Orange Park Dog Club trials, Elkton, FL. Saturday Winston won both Open B & Utility B plus **HIGH IN TRAIL**. Sunday he won Open B and went HIT again.



First day of Perry Winston won both Open B & Utility B to go **HIGH COMBINED** in the morning. In the afternoon he won Open B with a **PERFECT 200 score & went HIGH IN TRIAL!!!**

He earned a total of **3 more UDX legs** plus earned his **OM7 title** in the Thursday trial!!!!. **Total of 5x 1st place, 1x 2nd place & 1x 3rd place.**



**FLYTE earned his CGC**



**Alison Nelson and Coco completed their Beginner Novice and Rally Advanced titles.**

**Judy Fortner and Sophie**

My Granddaughter -**Shelby Hebert & Nova** graduated **AKC Star Puppy class!**

**Sophie** 2 qualifying excellent rally runs, April 10, GOPDC

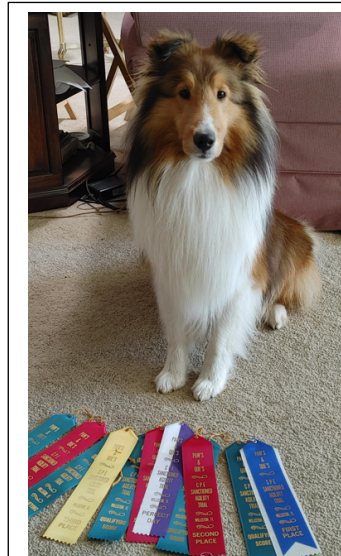


**AN EXAMPLE OF A  
NEW VENUE TO  
SHOW YOUR DOGS!  
CPE**

CPE is a popular agility venue (also for k9 Scent Sport). Canine Performance Events are open to all breeds and breed mixes and the organization does not require spaying and neutering for mixed breeds. There are six titling levels, including an entry level that doesn't use the teeter or the weave poles (which can be challenging for novices). There are several divisions that allow dogs to jump a variety of heights. CPE offers Standard classes and a variety of games classes. See <http://www.k9cpe.com/> for further info.

**Ann Ouchterloney & Rafa**

Rafa had his first day of trialing in Agility. We did CPE to make it is as least stressful as possible. Rafa competed at level 3 which is approximately equivalent to AKC Novice. He had a perfect day - 5 classes, **5 qualifying scores and 5 placements!!**



## FROM THE BOARD

The Board has been engaged in discussions about a number of things and have realized a couple of things.

**First and foremost:** We have not communicated with the membership regarding important ideas and policies. So beginning with this newsletter, we will include items of interest to the general membership from each Board meeting. **Policy changes will be posted here for member review and comments.**

### **Second: CLUB POLICIES**

We realized that over the years various Boards have made policies for the club which were duly preserved in the minutes, but which, over the intervening years, have been totally forgotten, partially forgotten, perhaps incorrectly remembered . . .

Thus, we found ourselves in the position of believing the club had policies on certain issues, but we weren't sure exactly what those policies were and where we might find them. So we began a project to read through the Board and General Membership minutes of the last 20 years to try to locate those policies and to put them in a new document organized in a manner so that they can readily be found. In the future all policy changes will automatically be added to this document.

This new document which the Board has approved, is called **CLUB POLICIES**, and can be located on the Club website under the tab **MEMBERS. This page is password protected. The password is AKC. (the password is case sensitive)**

### **MINUTES: April Board Meeting**

Christine Peterson, Carol Fitzsimmons, Lauren Serano voted in as **Provisional members**

**Full member meeting planned at the club in June.**

**ANNUAL AWARDS:** previous 3 year winners choose this year's award winners

**AGILITY CLASSES:** Proposal to start an Agility program in June approved. \$150 for 6 weeks. 3 classes to be offered on Tuesday mornings. (Late change. It will begin late summer/early fall.

**SHOW & GO:** planned for May 2 from 9-11.

**PARKING:** Approval on a trial basis for this summer: to allow the Window Company across to use 2 parking spaces in our lot during the day. These 2 spaces are next to the road and on your left as you enter the parking lot. If you find that they have parked elsewhere, the phone number of the company is posted on the bulletin board as you enter the pavilion. Call the company and tell them to move the cars. If we need the spaces for students, call to have the cars must be moved. They are now helping with the parking lot maintenance and have filled the potholes. We will revisit this at the end of the summer to determine if we wish to continue the situation.

# Calendar of Events for April, May and June

## Monday

5:30 Beginning Rally (4/26-6/7) 6/14-7/19)

6:30 Intermediate Rally 4/26-6/7) 6/14-7/19)

## Tuesday

6 PM. First Tuesday of the month Guide Dogs of Northeast Florida

## Wednesday

9:30 Obedience and Rally Skills (TBA) Reel and Strickland instructing

6 STAR Puppy (4/21-5/26) Strickland instructing

7:15 STAR Puppy (4/21-5/26) Whalen instructing

## Thursday

Second Tuesday of each month, meeting of the Board of Governors (now on Zoom)

**JUNE 17: General Club Meeting Election of Officers and Board Members at K9!!!**

**Program by Guide Dogs for the Blind**

## Friday

## Saturday

8:45. STAR Puppy (5/22-7/3 Whalen instructing

9:30 Star Puppy (3/20-5/8)

11 Advanced Puppy (5/15-6/19)

2:30 Family Dog (5/8-6/19)

8:30 AM **MAY 8 K-9 OBEDIENCE TRIALS IN DAYTONA**

## Sunday

**9-11. Show & Go 5/2**

1 PM. CCI Training 4/4, 4/18, 5/2, 5/17

8:30 AM **MAY 9 K-9 RALLY TRIALS IN DAYTONA**

**Please let us know if this Calendar is helpful. Any suggestions for changes will be gratefully received.**

## TRAINING TIDBITS

**FIRST AND FOREMOST:** Many, many thanks to: **Marcia Ladendorf, Terri Reel, Ginny Ruskuski, Colleen Whalen and Juli Wilkison** who have kept our training program going this past year! A great big THANKS also goes to **Deb Gilman** who took my skeleton plan for computer enrollment and has done a fabulous job of getting it up and running. I still have work to do, but it's getting better and better. See **below for enrollment process.**

**K-9 is a small club with a limited number of classes taught by highly qualified instructors.**  
**Our classes fill quickly. Early enrollment will insure a place in one of our classes**

### How to enroll in a class at K-9

1. "Check out the [Training Courses](#) page for descriptions of classes".
2. "To find out when the class is being offered, go to [Course Schedule](#) page or to the calendar."
3. If you know what class in which you wish to enroll, send an email to [Dgilman9@gmail.com](mailto:Dgilman9@gmail.com) stating: 1. Your name and phone number. 2. Your dog's breed and age. 3. **The name of the class** (for example STAR PUPPY). 4 **The instructor's name.** 5. **The month and day the class begins.** 5. **The time of day the class is offered.** She will send you directions to enroll in that class, on that date, at that time
4. If you are unsure as to which course might be best for you and your dog, fill out the [Enrollment Information form](#) and submit it to our Enrollment Secretary or email [Dgilman9@gmail.com](mailto:Dgilman9@gmail.com) or call Dianne Strickland at (417) 773.7644 or Ginny Ruskuski at (904) 661-8999 for further information.

**New addition for club members:** If you are a club member and are **currently enrolled** in a class and you wish to continue in that class, send either an email and paypal payment to Deb Gilman or a snail mail note with a check asking her to enroll you in the next session. Please do this in a timely manner as there may be other individuals who wish to take the class who are not currently enrolled.

### **From Dennis Sprung, President of AKC: “**

... There has been an increase in the demand for purebred dogs and we have heard countless stories of responsible breeders that are doing their very best to find the right homes for their dogs. The result has been a steady and solid increase in AKC registrations over the past year. As of this month, AKC dog registrations are up 20% over this time last year and litter registrations are up 18%. We have also seen increased traffic on AKC Marketplace with inquiries to breeders up 61% compared to last year.”



## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR K-9 OBEDIENCE CLUB?

This means more puppies and we are getting requests from more people than we can serve. We need help! If any of you would be willing to assist in a class, we can add more people to our already scheduled classes (still maintaining social distancing). **ALSO, for every 7-week class you assist, you get a free class at K-9.** It's a win-win for both of us. Drop me an email if you are interested. Anyone can help out. Just give me a call and I'll find a class that fits your schedule! Colleen is starting a class in mid May on Saturday AM.

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## CLASS PRICING

After reviewing the costs of Puppy classes in the Jacksonville area, the Board voted to raise the cost for STAR PUPPY and Family Dog (both 7-week sessions) from \$120 to \$140. All other classes which meet for 6 weeks will remain at \$120

## AGILITY AT K-9

The Agility Committee (Dianne Strickland., Ann Ouchterloney and Terri Reel) has been working to bring a quality beginner agility program to K9 and it will be happening in late summer, early fall. The Board has approved this. Our instructor will be Gil Chapman, who is an AKC judge and has earned multiple MACH titles. Class will run 6 weeks with \$150 fee and will meet on Tuesday mornings. We hoped to begin in June, but circumstances in the instructor's life have made this impossible.

**Remember you don't have to show to love the game.  
This is certainly true for the k9s involved!**

## K-9 OBEDIENCE TRIALS

Our spring trials in Daytona (May 8 & 9) have filled.

Our **fall trial at K-9** will be on November 13 & 14 with one obedience trial each day and 2 rally trials on Saturday and one on Sunday (a title in one weekend, with no motel fees!). **All you Rally enthusiasts, put this on your calendar!**

## NEW PROVISIONAL MEMBERS



### LAUREN SERRANO

I am a professional dog trainer who moved to Jacksonville from Miami, FL just last year. I have worked with animals for 9 years now, and I got my start as an intern zookeeper at Zoo Miami. My favorite dog sports are rally, agility, and dock diving- but I'm always trying new things with my dogs to see what we both enjoy. I am passionate about Australian shepherds and currently own three- they are definitely my heart breed! Besides training and competing in dog sports, I absolutely love going to theme parks (Disney is my favorite!) and traveling as often as I can.

### CHRISTINE PETERSON & MOKKA

Christine is a native New Yorker who made her way to Florida, via detours in California and Maryland, to be closer to her mother, sister and nephew. She worked primarily in clinical research, most recently testing drugs to treat dermatology conditions or cancer.

Since she was a teenager she's owned 1 dalmatian and 7 german shorthair pointers (gsp). Most of the dogs came as rescues and with her busy work schedule never had time to get beyond novice obedience training. In December she got gsp #8, a puppy that she named Kool Mokka Delight AKA "Mokka" and both recently graduated from the STAR puppy class.

After retiring earlier this year, she plans to pick up hobbies she'd been putting off. In addition to dog obedience training, where she hopes to keep Mokka busy by trying agility or even rally, she trains her 2 Arabians (Sharif



and Chopin), tries keeping orchids alive, is learning to be a beekeeper and maintain a vegetable garden.

## CAROL FITZSIMMONS



Approximately 25 years ago my husband, Michael and I relocated from southern California. He was still active duty in the Marine Corps. I found employment at Mayo Clinic where 5 years ago I retired from an administrative assistant position. We arrived with our Labrador and over the years we adopted 5 golden retrievers ranging from the age of 7 months to 8 years old. After my retirement I decided to enhance my interest in gardening by becoming a Master Gardener and continue to meet the education and volunteer requirements to remain active. Soon we found ourselves talking about the possibility of a puppy. We eventually found a wonderful Golden Retriever breeder and were on the path to preparing

for the new event, hoping we had not missed the envelope of being “young” enough to raise a puppy. We were so excited but feeling a little guilty for giving up on adoption but luck would have it that the breeder had a 19 month old that they had to take back from the previous owner so we now had our new puppy and a rescue. We have two English Golden Retrievers. Reagan, our “rescue” will be 4 in July and Grace turned 2 last December. I have not ever trained a dog for competition and do not anticipate doing so in the future but rather enhance the obedience training we have already accomplished. I enjoy seeing the accomplishments of others and encouraging others to actively seek obedience training for their dogs. I look forward to exploring ways I can be involved with the K-9 Obedience Club.

## **FROM A COMPETITOR AT 2021 AKC NATIONAL AGILITY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

(last years were cancelled due to Covid)

Just a few thoughts this morning about my trip to the AKC National Agility Championships. You may just see people and dogs running, but for each of those teams there are many human and K9 stories of hard work and overcoming adversity, and celebrations of amazing agility careers coming to an end. So many wonderful stories, and so many wonderful people and dogs coming together to celebrate the culmination of a year of fun times running agility as a team. And as happy as I was to be there, I feel sorrow for my friends who wanted to be there but it just wasn't in the cards for them this year. I have friends who passed during the last year and their dog was run by someone else. I have friends who lost their dogs before the event. But the greatest part was people supporting each other, cheering for each other, and encouraging each other. So much more than just people and dogs running agility.

Nancy Schanda

**Let's make an effort to make this happen in all venues  
in which we participate!**

