

From the President's Desk:

I'd like to start by thanking Ginny Ruskuski for the phenomenal job she does as our Tails editor. Having done the job myself in the past, I know just how much the job entails. From the input and editing to the monthly publishing, printing and mailing, she does the job with a cheerfulness that epitomizes what it means to be part of a purely volunteer organization like ours. Her patience with me and getting my monthly message is not lost and I've made a resolution to do better next year. Thanks Ginny for all your work on the Tails.

The Christmas party was its usual rousing success!! Members provided a feast for us to enjoy, the gift exchange proved to be another hysterical round of great gifts to battle over. Lots of dog supplies and books, and many other goodies were received. Even a live fish made the rounds! If you couldn't make it this year, you REALLY missed a fun evening!

The annual Blessing of the Animals will be on the 1st of January. We need a bit more help with the event, and need horsd'oeuvres for our guests.

I'd like to thank all of you who have contributed to the re-model fund. The chart in the clubhouse is beginning to fill in. If you haven't contributed and would like to, please send contributions to **Beth Berry**. Or if it's better for you, how about organize a fund raiser to benefit the fund. Matches are always successful and needed, or, use your imagination and get creative. Any help is much needed and greatly appreciated. This is a year long project... how can you help?

K-9 will be represented with a booth at this year's Pet Expo on February 28th at Friendship Park. They are doing things a bit different this year with a festival and walk. What a good bit of P.R. for the club to organize a team for the walk. Don't want to walk, how about an hour of help in the booth? Check with **Colleen Whalen** or myself to offer your help.

2009 dues are due by the end of the year. Get those to **Gail Larson**. We don't want to lose ya!

Get your new titles and accomplishments to **Diane Cohen** by Jan 13th to be included in this year's awards to be given out at the February meeting. Deadline is firm as it takes time to get the awards ready. Don't be left out.

I hope everyone had a great Christmas holiday and a safe New Years. Thanks to all of you who have worked so very hard this year so that K-9 may continue to be a successful club. Our new members have gotten into the swing of things, and I hope they feel like they have found their place in our "family". While K-9 is a part of our lives, more importantly to remember is that for a time, we are also a part of K-9's life. The club has been around since many of us were born and it's our responsibility to see that it's here long after we're gone so that others may come to know just what a great organization it is! Have a safe season and see ya'll at the January general meeting. -Laurie

Welcome New Members!

Diana & Gary Decker and daughter Summer with 2 Beagles and an Australian shepherd by – Family membership

Stacy and Dewayne James with Yellow Lab Emma – Family membership

Valerie and Mark Meador with mix breed Shadow



**January Meeting Program
WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE**

At our next meeting on Thursday, the 15th of January, we plan another "Chinese" gift exchange. This is for those items you received at Christmas that just don't fit your color scheme/lifestyle, etc. Maybe your 4 pound Chihuahua was given a water bowl for a giant breed. Here's your chance to pass it on to another person and have fun in the process. Again, if there's something really great, you probably won't be the one taking it home as someone else might "steal" it away.

So please come and bring your sense of humor and your "White Elephant" gift (wrapped up or disguised) with you.

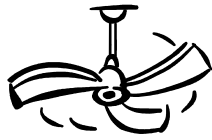
Meetings

Board Meeting – January 8 (7:00 PM)

General Meeting – January 15 (7:30 PM)

There will be no training allowed on the grounds during the General Meeting.

Thank you.



Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events - New January Start Dates:

Agility -- All Levels; Contact Diane Cohen for date
 Competition Obedience, Contact Beth Schmidt
 01/01 -- Blessing of the Animals, 1:00 PM
 01/06-- Beginners/CGC, 7:00 PM, Billinge
 01/08 -- Board Meets, 7:00 PM
 01/10-- Puppy 2, 10:45 AM, Whalen
 01/12-- **CGC Test, 8:00 PM, \$10, Whalen**
 01/12-- Pet Therapy, 7:00 PM, Ennis (Filled)
 01/15 – General Meeting, 7:30 PM
 01/17 -- Freestyle Group Meets, 10:00 AM
 01/19-- Puppy K & 1, 6:30 PM, Whalen
 01/24-- Puppy K & 1, 9:30 AM, Whalen
 01/26—STAR Puppy CGC, 7:30 PM, Whalen
 01/27 – Novice Foundations, Beginners, 7:15, Ruskuski
 01/31-- Puppy 2, 10:45 AM, Whalen

Classes in Progress:

Mondays

6:30 Puppy K & 1, Whalen
 7:30 Puppy 2, Whalen

Tuesdays

7:00 Polish Novice/Beginner Open, Schmidt
 8:00 Polish Open/Beginner Utility, Schmidt

Wednesdays

6:45 Puppy K & 1, Whalen
 7:15 Novice Foundations- Intermediate, Ruskuski
 7:30 Confirmation classes - Contact Charlotte at 398-8347
 8:00 Novice Foundations - Advanced, Ruskuski

Saturdays

9:30 Puppy K & 1, Whalen
 10:45 Puppy 2, Whalen



Congratulations!

Andi Bower and Hob Nob New MACH!!

November 15, 2008
 Indian River Dog Training Club
 Vero Beach, Florida New Title!
 (ADCH MACH Hob Nob JJ, XF)

Maria Oehler and Macy

Macy finished her AXP and AJP in Green Cove Springs and OFP in Vero Beach in November. New Titles!



Ocala

Irma Schwartz and Splash 3rd Utility leg, NEW TITLE!

Pet dogs versus show dogs:

Pet dogs shed Show dogs blow coat.
 Pet dogs are in heat Show dogs come into season.
 Pet dogs trot Show dogs gait or move.
 Pet dogs stand Show dogs stack.
 Pet dogs get a bath Show dogs are groomed.
 Pet dogs beg for treats Show dogs bait.
 Pet dogs poop Show dogs exercise.
 Pet dogs bark at other dogs Show dogs spar.
 Pet dogs wear leashes..... Show dogs wear leads

Dog Show Definitions:

1. Great stud dogMounts anything that can fog a mirror.
2. Excels in movementIf he gets loose, runs like hell.
3. Personality PlusWakes up if you put liver up his nose.
4. Good biteMissed the judge, got the steward.
5. Large bonedLooks like a Clydesdale.
6. Good obedience prospect ugly as hell
7. Quiet and good natured In his kennel.
8. Excels in type and style However, moves like a spider on "speed".
9. Won in stiff competition..... Beat four puppies and a 9 year old novice dog.
10. Multiple group winner..... At two puppy matches.
11. Pointed His head is shaped like a carrot.
12. Noted Judge He put up our dog.
13. Respected JudgeHe put up our dog twice.
14. Esteemed Judge He puts up anything that crawls.
15. Specialty Judge Puts up anything that looks like his own breeding.
16. Won in heavy competition ...The other dogs were revoltingly overweight.
17. Shown sparinglyOnly when we had it in the bag.
18. Show Prospect He has 4 legs, 2 eyes, 2 ears, 1 tail.

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Elaine Smith (left) and Gaea Mitchell (right) discuss training exercises for Guild members during the Freestyle Guild Meeting held on Dec. 27th. Specifically, Priscilla Clark's assignment was to come up with a "phrase" (an interesting sequence of movements between handler and dog) using only forward movement on the part of the dog; my assignment was to open the space between my dog and myself. Elaine is Training Director for First Florida Freestylers. Gaea is the President of Canine Freestyle Federation, a nation-wide organization. Both ladies are title holders and judges in CFF. -Editor

CELESTE MEADE RETURNS!!

On the weekend of April 25th, Celeste Meade will hold a workshop for 15 participants here at K-9. Ten (10) spots are already filled and we want our K9 folks to have first shot at the remaining 5 positions before opening this up to other clubs.

This will cost \$225 for the 2 day working spot and \$50 per day to audit.

Please contact **Diane Cohen** if interested (730-0770).

Pet Dogs vs. Show Dogs (continued)

19. Finished in 5 shows And 89 where he failed to win a ribbon.
20. Well Balanced Straight as a stick, front and rear.
21. Handled brilliantly by Nobody else can get near him.
22. At stud to "approved" bitches Those bitches whose owner's check are good.
23. Linebred from famous champions..... Ch. Whoozitz appears twice 6th generation.
24. Terrific brood bitch Her conformation is the pits, but she conceives big litters.
25. Wins another Best In Show ... His second, under the same judge, our uncle.

Contributed by **Elizabeth Adams** (Thanks, Elizabeth!)

Personal Notes: A note from the Editor: First of all, let me say it's been a long, long time since I've been to a seminar and walked away with so much to work on with my dog as I did the **Celeste Meade** seminar on Dec. 6th. The weather was iffy on Saturday and COLD on Sunday but a riveting seminar none the less. For example, after 14 years I am trying to change my footwork (show me a better way and I'll try it!). Huge thanks go to **Diane Cohen** who organized the seminar, lunch both days, and dealt with a hundred other issues. Thanks also to **Deb Hardman** who used her professional training in psychology to take comprehensive notes and share them with those of us (me!) whose notes read something like a Publix list, "...posturing...bounce...bridge...praise – very important...heel position?..." Thanks to the Board that made this seminar possible.

An email received from **Pam Johnson:** "I have really missed all of you at K9! I'm totally immersed in the world of herding right now. I absolutely, completely, and totally LOVE it. **Abby** finished her second title this November, and **Rafferty** started competing in November and earned his HT and PT titles within two weeks. He loves herding more than I do. I've never seen him SO happy. I now own livestock so that we can practice here at home and we go to herding lessons every week.

We're having a trial in Hilliard in Feb. Come out and join us! Abby is not quite ready for intermediate class yet so I won't enter her in the Feb trial, but Rafferty will be entered in Started Sheep. We've worked with sheep, goats, turkeys, and ducks so far and we're going to start working CATTLE next month. (Cattle- THE ultimate herding experience for a cattle dog! LOL)

I hope you have a great Christmas! Tell everyone hello for me."

From **Anita Gard and the Small World Dept.:** "My Schutzhund club held a trial in Ocala the weekend of December 6th. One of my tasks was to drive the judge to and from the Jacksonville airport. As I was driving him back on Sunday, one of the things we chatted about was being open-minded about learning training techniques from other sports. I told him I also show my Schutzhund dog (**Parek**) in AKC obedience and Rally. The judge said he admires the precision of some of the AKC trainers and he himself goes to an AKC trainer near him to help him with obedience with his Schutzhund dogs, and one of the things he'd like to try is a new technique she has of teaching the dog to press its nose up against your fingers. Bells went off in my head so I asked what the trainer's name is. "Celeste Meade" I wonder if they ran into each other at the airport on Sunday?!"

Vicky Ford was the special guest at the debut of University of Florida's Hospital of Veterinary Medicines new Underwater Treadmill. The treadmill will be used to help rehabilitate injuries in animals and was made possible through Vicky's financial generosity. This is not the first time Vicky has used her good fortune to help others. The agility equipment she donated to K-9, Paws and Pals and Action Dog Training is getting constant use and we are fortunate to have a member who thinks of others as unselfishly as Vicky does.

Life Member Jean Parker passed away on Christmas Day. I remember Jean's tall, blonde figure back when I first took Beginners classes from Blanche Carlquist back in the early 70's. Jean and her big Samoyeds were a striking presence back in those days. For years Jean edited the K-9 newsletter before finally passing it on to Laurie who passed it on to me. Exercise Finished, Jean.

An apology – Last month I neglected to send out the **2008 Awards form**. I asked Gail Larson (Keeper of the Email List) to send it out and I gave a deadline of January 13th. (I wasn't sure of the deadline and wanted to make sure there was plenty of time to make the awards). After talking to Laurie, **the actual deadline is January 31st**. The awards form is enclosed. Please fill it out as soon as you can and get it to Laurie ASAP. Sorry for any confusion! - Ginny

Personal Notes (Continued)

An email I received from **Gail Larson**: "The scene this week-end at our first Field Trials: Professional handlers from Florida, Georgia and Virginia driving big rigs that held living quarters, horses and 20-30 dogs. We might as well have driven up in a Mini Cooper because the looked out of place as the only non-diesel vehicle there. And women handlers are a rarity. Things I learned this week-end:

1. Just because the rules say that amateurs can enter the Professional (Open) class doesn't mean that amateurs (other than judges) actually enter.
2. Just because the rules say that handlers may walk in riding trials doesn't mean that anyone walks.
3. If your dog looks like a confirmation champion he will stick out like a sore thumb.
4. If you (a woman) show up on the start line on foot with a confirmation dog everyone will look at you like you have just landed from Mars.
5. If you announce to the judges that this is your first field trial (and you were silly enough to enter the Open class), they will politely remind you that this is a competition and they are unable to help you on the course.
6. When you finish the 3 1/2 mile course with three spectacular finds and a big running dog, the judges ask you to stay for dinner so that can talk to you about your dog.

How it ended: The class started on Saturday but didn't finish until Sunday. Saturday night the judges explained to me that I have a field trial champion if I can learn to handle correctly to show him off. The judge informed me that he wanted me on a horse at 7:30 Sunday morning to follow a brace so that I could see how great an advantage it was to handle on horseback. Hadn't been on a horse in 25 years and have never ridden a gated horse, so that in itself was an experience.

The class finally finished Sunday about noon. At the end, the dogs are ranked based upon their performance and only the top 4 dogs are called back to pass/fail a retrieve. All four dogs failed to retrieve, as did the fifth dog. Hank was sixth and the class was his to lose. We were called to the line and watched the bird being planted about 30 yards away. I released Hank who ran promptly to the bird, picked it up and brought it back. I think he thought he was being sent for a blind retrieve which is something we work on, rather than pointing the bird so it could be flushed and shot.

So we didn't win, but we sure did impress a bunch of people. Hope you all have a Merry Christmas. **-Gail & Hank"**
[Editor's note – I'm not aware of any K-9 member who has entered an actual field trial with their Sporting breed. Kudos to Gail and Hank for having big dreams and the courage to make them come true! They are an inspiration to all of us.]

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