

From the President's Desk:

The February General meeting was our opportunity to acknowledge our members who have earned titles in 2008. Congrats to all!!! We had a big crowd in attendance and everyone seemed to have a great time. This year we awarded umbrellas and personalized cooler bags to the recipients. An additional surprise was part of the meeting; last year's Outstanding Achievement Award winner, **Pat Ennis** gave the award for this year to **Gail Larson**. Gail has shown in Conformation, Obedience, Hunt Tests, and recently, Field Trials with her GSP, **Hank**. She has also put in many hours serving on the Board, scheduling maintenance project around the K-9 grounds, meeting with workmen, collecting estimates, etc. Gail richly deserves this honor and we are delighted to see it awarded to her.

It's time for the nominating committee to go to work on seating the new board for next year. If you would like to serve on the nominating committee, contact Chairperson **Diane Cohen**. Or better yet, if you would like to serve on the board, we always welcome new blood with fresh ideas. Serving as a board member is an excellent way to serve the club and help us continue to grow.

We still have club merchandise for sale: shirts, bags, umbrellas, can koozies. All of these items have the club logo imprinted on them. Show your club pride and support.

The April trials are fast upon us. Let **Diane Cohen** know how you can help out. The kitchen always needs ice and cold drinks. **Connie Carstens** will be taking over the kitchen for Beth this April, so check with her on food needs. **Linda Wallace** is our new Trophy Chairman, under the capable guidance of **Ginny Ruskuski** who is retiring as trophy chair after many years of serving in this position.

The next General meeting is on the 19th. Hope to see ya'll there! -Laurie

Welcome New Members!

Provisional Membership

**Sylvia Montiel with
German Shepherd, Gunter**

Meetings

Board Meeting – March 12 (7:00 PM)

General Meeting – March 19 (7:30 PM)

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

Thank you.

March Meeting Program

Join us for a Pot Luck Dinner!

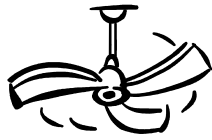
**Please call Phyllis Vandavelde to coordinate
dishes at 387-6038.**

and take part in our

***WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT
EXCHANGE***

There wasn't enough participation at the January meeting, so we've rescheduled the White Elephant Gift Exchange for the March dinner meeting. 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.



Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events - New March Start Dates:

02/28 – Humane Society Fundraiser (contact Laurie for details at 724-4987)

02/28 - Obedience Run-Throughs, 4:00 PM

03/01--UKC Rally Seminar, 1:00 PM, Cohen

03/12 -- Board Meets, 7:00 PM

03/09-- Puppy K & 1, 6:30 PM, Whalen

03/13-- Puppy K & 1, 7:00 PM, Whalen

03/10-- Beginners/CGC, 7:00 PM, Billinge

03/16-- STAR Puppy Test, \$10, 7:45 PM Whalen

03/19 – General Meeting, 7:30 PM

03/21 -- Freestyle Group Meets, 10:00 AM

03/23-- STAR Puppy Class, 7:30 PM, Whalen

03/28-- STAR Puppy Test, \$10, 11:00 AM, Whalen

Open/Utility Obedience, Contact Beth Schmidt

Novice Foundations - Contact Ginny Ruskuski

CGC - Prep for Test Class - Contact Anita Gard

Classes in Progress:

Mondays

6:30 Puppy K & 1, Whalen

7:00 Pet Therapy, Ennis

7:30 STAR Puppy, Whalen

Tuesdays

7:00 Polish Novice/Beginner Open, Schmidt

7:00 Novice Foundations - Beginners, Ruskuski

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

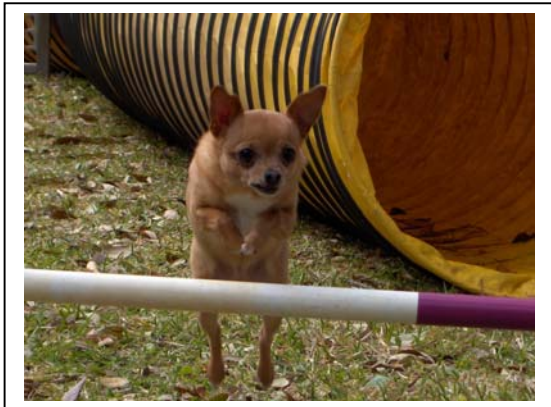
7:45 Puppy K & 1, Whalen

8:00 Novice Foundations - Advanced, Ruskuski

Saturdays

9:30 Puppy K & 1, Whalen

10:45 STAR Puppy, Whalen



Congratulations!

Andi Bower and Flow

Flow earned her MACH 2 at OCOD in Daytona 01/25/2009

Flow also earned her MXF at Pals & Paws in Elkton 01/30/2009 - New titles!

Tallahassee

Gail Larson and Hank

3rd leg, Open – New Title!

Elizabeth Adams and Kava

3rd leg, Rally Advanced (perfect score!) – New Title!

Orlando

Beth Schmidt and Emmy

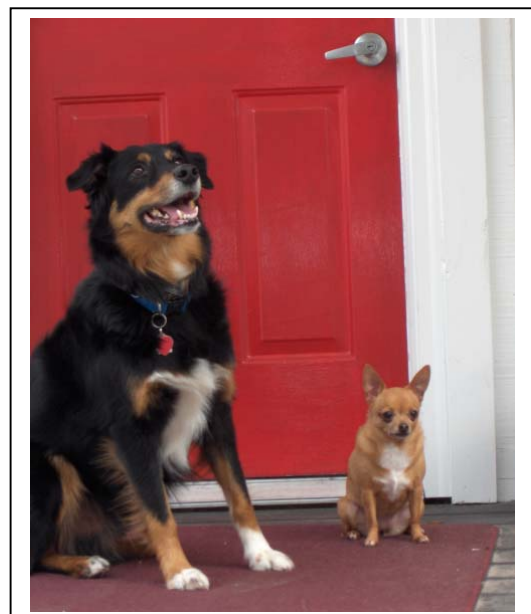
2nd leg, Utility

Below Left – Beth Berry's Emma shows fine agility form as she takes the jump. There's a lot of heart in this little dog!

Below Right – Ricky Ruskuski and Emma Berry posed in front of the door during a recent practice get-together.

Beth is rightfully proud of Emma's confidence.

I'm just proud that Ricky doesn't eat little dogs like Emma.



CELESTE MEADE RETURNS!!

All working positions at the upcoming Celeste Meade workshop have filled, but we do still have audit positions available. This Obedience seminar will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 25th and 26th and will cost \$50 per day for auditors.

Celeste provided wonderful proofs, training tips and advice for us and we look forward to learning more to help us add to our training toolbox. Celeste has been named in the past as the #1 dog/handler team in the country and has represented the US in the World Championships more than once. We are fortunate to have her back!

Personal Notes:

Our thoughts are with **Pam McCaleb** whose father is very ill. **Beth Berry's** father has just returned home from rehab after surgery. Both of these ladies are going through difficult adjustments.

Sadly, many of our oldest, dearest friends have crossed the Rainbow Bridge recently. **Phyllis Vandevelde** lost **Savannah** in January. Savannah was lovely toy Poodle who was a dear friend to many of us.

Andi Bower writes, "As you know I lost my **Jessie** girl, January 2, 2009 to hemangiosarcoma...she was retrieving her ball 48 hours before...I miss her love every minute of everyday and it's been just over a month...she was my best friend, and my heart dog..." We know how close they were – they started their agility journey together.

Gail Larson and Rick Koenig lost their beloved **Jake** (pictured) 2 weeks ago. Jake came to our class several times and was a delightful old gentleman. Savannah, Jessie and Jake will be missed by those who loved them. Ah, but what wonderful lives they had.

Irma Schwartz writes, "Hey - I'm looking to sell my van and am wondering if I could put in a little ad to attract some dog people looking to get a van like mine? I'm loving it still but finding it too hard to get in and out of and drive." You can reach Irma at

Jeannine Mello responded to a question regarding crate repair with something I thought might be useful to our members: "...I have found a canvas repair shop at the foot of the intracoastal waterway bridge on Beach Blvd. that I have taken crates to, (one mine & one a friend) and they have done a great job on both, one replacing canvas, one the mesh. I don't know the name but I can direct you to the location. You might also try similar places on the north/west side depending on your location." I suspect a lot of us have crates that could use some help.

Andrea Molare is planning to move back to Maryland soon to be closer to her family. There's no moving date set yet but we'll miss her and her Whippets, **Sega and Atari**. Let's hope she stays in touch.

Jane Collar was recently blessed with a litter of gorgeous Golden puppies. "I have one adorable girl left and she is the spitting image of **Belle**. I wish I could keep her. They are potty trained to go on newspaper and they all heel, come, sit, down, stand and they are crate trained. It was an opus litter." You can reach Jane at 904-230-7429. See her website, www.monticellogoldenretrievers.com for an overview of her Golden.

You'll notice I've included a trophy donation form with this issue of the Tails. If you've already pledged a donation at the February General Meeting, **thank you (!)** and you can send your check to: Ginny Ruskuski, 5030 Azure St., Jacksonville, Florida 32258. If you intend to make a donation please do so ASAP. Every little bit helps! Sometimes people wait too long and their gift is not listed in the Trial Catalog, so take care of that today.

One last plea....As everybody knows, the economy is in the toilet and everybody is trying very hard to save money wherever possible. The cost of printing has gone up, not to mention the postage increases that seem to come every spring with the warm weather. (Postage for this issue alone will be \$39.06. Printing will be around \$40.00.) Won't you at least try an on-line newsletter? If you have DSL and Microsoft Word™ it shouldn't take more than a few seconds to come up and you can print it if you wish for a few pennies. You'll also get any inclusions such as phone lists, match flyers, typographical and spelling errors, etc. True, you won't get the pretty stamps I try to find every month and I'll miss all the fun I have folding and stapling but hey, we all have to sacrifice something, right?

Please consider trying an e-newsletter and saving K-9 resources. Email me at ruskuski@bellsouth.net to try a sample. **If you don't like it just let me know and I'll keep sending a hard copy. I promise! – Ginny Ruskuski, Editor**



UKC RALLY TITLES ARE COMING

First Coast Dog Obedience Club will hold their first Rally obedience trials at K9 in conjunction with their upcoming obedience trials on Sat, April 4th and Sunday, April 5th. So learn about the difference in the signs/judging between AKC and UKC by attending a seminar and match on **Sunday, March 1st at K-9**. The United Kennel Club has just initiated Rally titles to be offered in Jan of this year. There will also be one rally UKC trial held in Ocala by MADTA on Friday, April 10th so you can earned a UKC Rally title in the month of April.

Our seminar will begin at 1pm, taught by Diane Cohen with judged run-throughs to follow. All signs will be explained and demonstrated, then all participants will be given their score sheets following their ring performances. While the signs look almost exactly the same as for AKC, there are different rules in scoring and also in the performance of some exercises.

Cost is \$10 per person for the seminar which includes one run through. Additional run-throughs will cost \$5 each. For those interested in joining UKC to earn your first titles, you may contact their website or contact Phyllis Vandeveld who is our trial secretary for the April events.

A DOG'S TEN COMMANDMENTS (submitted by **Steve Picciuolo**)

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.
 2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
 3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.
 4. Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment, but I have only you.
 5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when speaking to me.
 6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.
 7. Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I could hurt you, and yet, I choose not to bite you.
 8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I have been in the sun too long, or my heart might be getting old or weak.
 9. Please take care of me when I grow old. You too, will grow old.
 10. On the ultimate difficult journey, go with me please. Never say you can't bear to watch. Don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there, because I love you so.
- ~Take a moment today to thank God for your pets. Enjoy and take good care of them. Life would be a much duller, less joyful experience without God's creatures. We do not have to wait for Heaven, to be surrounded by hope, love, and joyfulness. It is here on earth and has four legs!

Ginny Ruskuski
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Jacksonville, Florida 32258
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*Don't forget the Run-throughs on 2/28 at 4:00
and the UKC Rally Seminar on 3/1 at 1:00
PM! See you there!*