



From the President's Desk - I'd like to welcome the new board members joining us this term, and thank those staying to serve for another year. Once again, we have a great mix of old and new members serving. Your board works hard trying to keep things running as smooth as possible, and this year will not be an exception. We welcome any suggestions you may have. Please send them in. And please consider serving a term next year. If you're not sure what you may want to do, come and sit in with us for a meeting or two. If your not interested in board service, how about hosting an event such as a match, dinner, or fund raiser. While the classes are still a big source of income, it's those extra events that help replace the funds used to improve the grounds and facilities. This year I challenge everyone to pitch in.

The October trials are fast approaching and it's time to think about where you can help out. The kitchen can always use bags of ice, drinks, snacks, etc. We always need stewards (contact **Carol Stevens**), or how about helping put things away on Sunday afternoon? If you are showing that weekend, how about stopping in the clubhouse and grabbing a bag of trash and throw in the dumpster on your way out? Every little bit helps make the event run smoothly. The trial committee begins work on the trials months in advance, work from start to finish all weekend, and often, still get left with a lot of the clean-up. Just a small amount of your time is needed to make these trials a success. Our trials have gained a great reputation for our facilities, food, and especially our hospitality to our guests.

We have finally going to have kitchen cabinets installed in the clubhouse!! Proceeds from this October's trial concessions will go towards paying for them, so don't forget the food donations for the trials. Check with **Connie Carstens** about what we need or cash donations are always appreciated to offset the cost of food bought.

In addition, at the General meeting in September, we are holding a "basket" raffle similar to those held during the last few trials. We will gratefully accept basket or item donations. These proceeds combined with the concessions should about cover the cost of the cabinets. Thanks for all your help and participation. The cabinets will eliminate much (if not all) of the clutter that make our clubhouse interior unsightly.

We have also completed work on the drainage around the training pavilion. I've been assured that there will be no more flooding during our typical Florida rains.

This month's meeting is on the 20th. Hope to see a crowd! -**Laurie**

Meetings

Board Meeting – August 13 (7:00 PM)

General Meeting – August 20 (7:30 PM)

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

Welcome New Members!

**Susan Howard and Lab mix, Kona
Michelle Hughes Ali and Dobie, Estelle
John Wernert and Briard, Chase**

August Meeting Program

(Yes, we have a program!)

Al Dodd recently returned from 2 years in Iran working with his cadaver dog. He is going to talk about his experiences working with dogs in Viet Nam and Iraq.

(Big thanks to **Elizabeth Adams** who has agreed to serve as Program Coordinator!)



Upcoming Events - New August Start Dates

Aug. - CGC Prep for Test, Contact Anita Gard
 08-10 -- Puppy **K & 1**, 9:30 AM, Whalen
 08-13 -- Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
 08-15 -- Freestyle Group, 10:00 AM
 08-20 -- General Meeting, 7:30 PM
 08-25 -- Beginners/CGC, 7:00 PM, Billinge

There will be no Freestyle Guild meeting in August.

Classes in Progress:

Mondays

6:30 Puppy K, Whalen
 7:30 STAR Puppy, Whalen

Tuesdays

7:00 Beginners/CGC, Billinge
 7:00 Polish Novice/Beginner Open, Schmidt
 7:00 Novice Foundations - Beginners, Ruskuski
 8:00 Polish Open/Beginner Utility, Schmidt

Wednesdays

6:30 Puppy K, Whalen
 7:30 STAR Puppy, Whalen
 7:00 Novice Foundations- Inter, Ruskuski
 7:30 Confirmation classes - Contact Charlotte at 398-8347

Saturdays

09:30 -- Puppy K, Whalen
 10:45 -- Puppy 1, Whalen

For information on CGC class contact Anita Gard at
krisova@comcast.net
 She's waiting for student to start a class.

Congratulations!



Savannah

Amanda Lee and Maxi

(Sat) 1st leg, Rally Novice
 (Sun) 2nd leg, Rally Novice, 1st Place
 (Deland) 3rd & 4th legs, Rally Novice – **New Title!**

Gary Jarrett and Lexi

2nd leg, Open

Ginny Ruskuski and Ricky

3rd leg, Rally Adv., 1st leg, Rally Excellent

Deland

Sandi Mercier and Cami

2nd leg, Rally Novice

Elizabeth Adams and Kava

3rd leg, Rally Excellent, 1st Place – **New Title!**
 1st RAE leg, 3rd Place Rally Adv. B

CFF Trials – Chattanooga

Elaine Smith and Rhyme – 1st Place, Level III – **New Title!**

Elaine Smith and Itchie – 1st Place, Level IV – **New Title!**
 (High Artistic Award!)

Beth Berry and Emma – 1st Place Level II (both days)

Sunday, qualifying score - **New Title!**

Maria Oehler and Macy

New NADAC titles: NAC, NCC, NJC, TN-N, TG-N.
 also, 2nd leg, Graduate Novice

Vicki Benninga and Summer (out West for the summer)

Summer earned her Open Preferred Standard and FAST at a trial at Argus Ranch, WA in June. She earned her Open Jumpers Preferred title earlier. Now it's on to Excellent again. We went to a NADAC trial on the Oregon coast where she got 2 Qs.

Rally Class News (Rally Class Schedule for the remainder of the year.)

Rally Advanced/Excellent class. Rules, skills, signs and run-thrus with an emphasis on pivots, figure 8's, jumps, the kick back stand, backing up, and stays (honoring). Anyone who has completed the Ready for Rally class or who has Rally Novice legs may enroll. You will be able to work both on and off leash during run-thrus. Mondays, August 10, 17, 24, 31 from 7-8:30. Email or phone Gail Larson your name, phone and email address and your dog's name, breed and jump height. glarson@bellsouth.net 904-642-5394

AKC Rally Prep for the October 10 & 11 show at K9. Two courses, two run-thrus per dog at the level of your choosing. We will also work on problem skill areas. Open to any dog and handler at the Novice level or above. Mondays from 7-8:30 on September 14, 21, 28, and October 5.

UKC Rally Prep for the November 7 & 8 show at K-9. Emphasis will be on the differences between the AKC and UKC rules and signs. Open to any dog and handler at the Novice level or above. THREE weeks only on Mondays from 7-8:30 on October 19, 26 and Nov 2.

Nov 9, 16, 23, 30 - Ready for Rally - Introduction to Rally skills, signs rules and courses. Open to any dog who can walk on a loose leash, sit and down.



Above - John Pacsay's Leah meets Toby.

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DOCOF

Dog Obedience Clubs of Florida is a statewide competition between the dog clubs in the state and is held in Orlando on Labor Day Sunday – this year it will be Sept. 6. There have been some changes to K-9's team. We hope you will wish us all well as we do our best to represent K-9.

Novice

John Pacsay and Riou

Maria Oehler and Macy

Open

Anita Gard and Parek

Gary Jarrett and Lexi

Erin Poirier and Bullet

Utility

Beth Schmidt and Emmy

Jane Vittitoe and Rainy

Ginny Ruskuski and Ricky

Practices will be held on Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM. All are welcome to come out and join us, although you might want to email Ginny Ruskuski first to confirm practice at ruskuski@bellsouth.net

Personal Notes:

Our most sincere condolences go to **Patsy Whaley** whose mother passed away in July.

Also, our deep sympathy goes to **Janice Hoffenberg** who lost her beloved Newfie, **Dov**, in the early part of last month.

For those of you who were wondering, as I was, "What's happened to **Barbara Buchanan**?" I received this: "Hey Ginny -- Think I've been in the hospital 3 times since last November. They couldn't figure out what was wrong at first because so many organs (heart, lungs, kidney, fever) were involved, but have finally decided I was trying to reject my transplanted kidney which was backing up fluid and toxins in my body. I have been feeling awfully tired. They do blood work once a week to keep watch on this kidney, which so far they have saved, but something's going on and my kidney doctor had me come into Shands yesterday to run some more tests. There was some consideration of re-hospitalizing me, but thank God they're not going to do that right now. Not sure I could stand another round in the hospital right now unless I'm outright dying! I'm just starting Tribbie on a canine physical therapy regime. I was pretty clumsy with it the first couple of days, but think I'm beginning to get the hang of it. Hope maybe to get over there to the club one of these days. It's been a long time." I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say we miss you, Barbara, and hope your health improves and you can come back soon.

From **Marge Rogers**: Thought you might be interested. The American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (ACVB) and the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behaviorists has come out against Merial (Heartguard & Frontline) for their sponsorship and association with Cesar Millan and The Dog Whisperer Program.

The following link is to an article explaining the myths of dominance theory. It has video clips from the Dog Whisperer show, along with written commentary by a veterinary behaviorist. It is definitely worth a look & will help you to respond to the questions like "isn't he just trying to dominate me?"

<http://www.drSophiaYin.com/dominance.php>

I have to make special mention of **Beth Berry and Emma**. At the (musical) Freestyle trials in Chattanooga Emma earned her first title ever and carried herself with all the self confidence of a Great Dane. She was the biggest little Chihuahua in America for those two days. Beth is now whetting her appetite with thoughts of Rally titles. You GO, girls!

Rick Koenig has been making a lot of progress as our Chairman of the Grounds Committee. The fence behind the shed has been repaired and – whew! – a major drainage project has been completed. Thanks to Rick and the BOG!

Snake Avoidance Clinic



Saturday, August 15th, starting at 9 am
Home of Geoff and Patty Hart, 17404 NW 251st Lane, Alachua, FL 32615
First-time dogs: \$35, Refresher: \$25. Please make checks payable to Dr. Bud Calderwood

A limited number of entries will be accepted. Dogs must be leash-trained, over 6 months old and weigh at least 20 pounds. Day of event entries may be taken as space allows.

The Hart's place is located north of Gainesville in Alachua.

From I-75, take exit 404, (CR 236) and go east .7 miles to CR1491 and turn left. Go about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and turn right on 251st Lane. Go another couple of hundred yards until the road ends in a "T". Turn right at the "T". The road ends at the gate to the Hart's place, which is marked #17404.

For a registration form contact Gail Larson who has the flyer with all the particulars at gailarson@bellsouth.net

A "Heads Up!" from Diane Cohen –

While at trials this weekend I found fliers re: IPOC in Lakeland hosting **Bridget Carlsen** for an obedience seminar August 22 & 23rd, 2009; audit spots for 2 days-\$125 for one day-\$75. There are no working spots left.

Bridget has 6 OTCh's 147 HIT's and perfect 200 scores in open and utility. Her website is www.bridgetcarlsen.com if you want more details. Send registration information and email to Jean Rodoski at 16760 Commonwealth Ave. N, Polk City, FL 33868. Her email is jmarshep@aol.com.

Ginny Ruskuski
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E-Collars and Training – by Gail Larson

Do electric training collars have a place in a trainer's tool bag? Well, yes and no. Electronic collars, or e-collars, have a bad reputation because the early collars did not have adjustable intensity and because e-collars are very easy to use improperly.

There are three situations when an e-collar may be appropriate:

1. You want to convey the message THIS WILL KILL YOU – BE VERY AFRAID.
2. You want to mark inappropriate behavior at the exact instance that it occurs.
3. You want to re-enforce a particular behavior you have already taught the dog.

THIS WILL KILL YOU – BE VERY AFRAID.

Rattlesnakes, chasing cars, killing your neighbor's pet ducks or goats, these are all situations that can result in the death of your dog. When used correctly, the e-collar is unsurpassed in conveying danger to a dog.

When we conduct snake-proofing clinics, a veterinarian places two 5 foot rattlesnakes (with their mouths taped shut) in a field. With the e-collar turned up to the maximum setting the dogs are allowed to roam the field. After teaching hundreds of dogs, the veterinarian's timing is perfect, and this is key. The instant the dog becomes aware of the snake the collar is activated and the dog is shocked.

The dog is then led into the area of the second snake. About half of the dogs turn and run when they encounter the second snake. For the rest, they receive one more correction. We've never had a dog that needed a third correction. Most of us re-test our dogs every year, and in the past three years I've never seen a dog that needed a reminder correction.

The key to instilling fear of a deadly situation is the level of correction (MAXIMUM) and the timing of the correction (INSTANTANEOUS). An e-collar should only be used this way when the dog is of an appropriate age and size, the situation is extremely dangerous, and the trainer with the controller has perfect timing.

Using a collar to mark inappropriate behavior.

Just as we use a click to tell a dog the EXACT moment he's offered a desired behavior, the e-collar can be used to tell a dog the EXACT moment he has offered an incorrect behavior. The collar stimulation intensity level is set to a point where the dog finds the stimulation to be uncomfortable, but not painful – a discomfort level just below an ear pinch.

In pointing dog field trials and hunting tests, a dog who has established point may NOT move a foot until released at the end of the flushing sequence. A momentary correction reminds a dog

who has just lifted a foot off the ground to keep “four on the floor”. A collar used this way is not a quick fix or a shortcut to training, but an effective proofing aid.

As in teaching any obedience command, the “stand/stay” (or WHOA as we say in the field) is first taught without distractions, then mild to severe non-bird distractions are added. Birds at a great are added as distractions, and then brought closer. Collar correction is not introduced until the dog has proven himself consistent in a controlled situation. However, once the dog understands the concept of stand/stay in any situation, a momentary nick when a foot is lifted reminds him to remain stationary, even with the pressure of a walking or flushed bird. Since the dog is often working up to 150 yards or more away from the handler, an e-collar is the only effective way to proof bird distractions in a field environment.

Re-enforcing learned behavior

An e-collar is a very effective tool for re-enforcing learned behavior, particularly when the dog is off leash. A dog that does a reliable recall in the obedience ring will not necessarily be as reliable when he’s out running the neighborhood with his friend from next door. I like to use the recall to teach the dog how to turn off the collar stimulation; in fact, it is exercise I use to introduce the dog to the collar. The stimulation level is annoying enough (somewhere between a pinch collar and an ear pinch) that the dog wants to stop it.

With the dog on a long line and away from me, I initiate the stimulation and then call the dog to me, using the long line to direct him to me if necessary. At the moment that the dog moves toward me, I stop the stimulation. After several repetitions, the dog learns that responding to the recall STOPS the stimulation. I usually only do three recalls a session, and spread three or four sessions over as many days. Once the dog has learned how to turn off the stimulation, you can then call him and only use the collar if he refuses to come or becomes distracted on the way back.

A final caution on electric collars

Many dogs have been ruined by trainers who misused collars – and not because they were ill-intentioned. If you think you might want to use a collar for a particular training problem, my recommendation is to find a qualified trainer. While there isn’t an e-collar certification for trainers, TriTronics does have a “Influentials Club” and screens members.

Be certain that you are comfortable with the training philosophy of that trainer and ask him or her to explain the process to you, particularly how the intensity setting is established, how to teach the dog to turn the collar off, and how to use the collar as a correction. Collars are never used for punishment and are never used as short cuts to good training. Used correctly a collar can save a dog’s life, help him to understand what you are asking him to do, and give you the ability to correct him when he is away from you.

As a CFF member who wanted to exhibit my dog, paid the entry fee and seriously trained for the event, I was disappointed to find my sound-sensitive dog could not feel comfortable in the show site. On Saturday, as soon as we entered the East Ridge Community Center Ricky started straining at the leash in the direction of the door. In the gym that served as the performance area, every little sound echoed off the concrete block walls, startled him and with eyes wide, ears laid flat, he tried to breaststroke against the leash toward the exit. Against my better judgment, I was urged to at least *try* doing our routine. We were the first to perform that day; it was our job to set the tone of "dignity and refinement" that is CFF Freestyle and it turned out even worse than I feared, with Ricky repeatedly headed toward the parking lot for his ride back to Florida in Beth Berry's car. (In fairness to Ricky, four other dogs left the ring during their routines also.) The judges generously suggested we start over again, *on-leash*. The difference in that effort was Ricky trying to pull me out of the ring like a sled dog. *MUSH!* But I rather think the highlight of our performance was the part in the middle when I literally stepped out of my right shoe and, hanging on to the leash in my left hand for dear life, tried to pull the back of my shoe over my heel with my free hand while Ricky redoubled his efforts to escape, so for a while I was actually hopping along on one foot in time to the music. (Try to picture Lucy Ricardo and Marly doing freestyle. You get the idea.) I tell you, my routine *was* memorable.

Now, I'm no stranger to a bad day in the ring and I learned a long time ago this is part of the game that must be accepted - as much a part of the sport as Bil-Jack and poop bags. Really, no big deal. We either train for the sound problem or move on to something else. I apologized to the judges and thanked them for the opportunity to at least try. I then put Ricky in his crate and settled back to watch others perform. If there's a better way to handle such a situation I'm not aware of it.

After the trial Margaret Hamilton,* observed me working with my dog, i.e. - feeding lots of treats in the performance area after she had invited exhibitors in to do just that. I must explain that Ms. Hamilton, in her own mind at least, is the reigning czarina of freestyle. She is the soul, the guiding force, the Alpha and Omega of CFF. She is to CFF what Queen Elizabeth is to the British people. When the trial was over she mingled with the exhibitors, giving a nod of approval here, a tip on improving choreography there, a smile, a frown, and occasionally singling out a handler for more esoteric advice. Although I understand it's customary for her to critique each performance, in cases like mine it might be better to take a cue from Obedience judges who shake their heads and say, "Too bad. Maybe next time..." and leave it at that, rather than trying to "help" neophytes with her expertise. Anymore help from her and I would have taken my dog to the pound and then gone home to commit suicide.

She began her judgment with a single word, "YOU..."

In 16 years of exhibiting I have NEVER been singled out for humiliation, harassment, and personal attack as I was in Chattanooga by Margaret Hamilton. Knowing that Margaret is sincerely loved by my fellow guild members was the only reason I stood there and suffered her harangue although I suppose it's more likely I was simply struck dumb by her abuse. Years of work in customer service prepared me for this moment, but strangely, the harder I tried to be polite and respectful the more vitriolic she became. I even ventured to nod in agreement with her on one or two points which only served to infuriate her further.

The relevant points I was able to gather were that she thought the music I had selected was all wrong for Ricky's gait. (This was the same music that about 10 different people said was perfect for his movement - and three of those being CFF judges.) She also damned me for trying lateral movements and pivots when it was obvious Ricky was incapable of doing either. For the rank and file CFF exhibitor these two criticisms would have earned a lengthy tongue lashing if not a day in the stocks, but in my case they were merely footnotes to the total outrage my presence generated. She had watched us for a total of perhaps 15 minutes on our Absolutely Worst Day Ever exhibiting and yet she knew everything there was to know about me and my dog. I piped up to explain that Ricky and I had indeed trained for our routine, that Competent Ricky had been possessed by Crazy Ricky. I managed to squeak in the fact

that Elaine and other Guild members had helped me plan my routine and encouraged me to come -

At this Ms. Hamilton exploded.

"Now you've done it! Now you've really made me angry! Wait till I get my hands on them!" (*Now I've made her angry?*) From the way she carried on, I thought she might have crucifixion in mind for them - but not for me. For me she seemed to be thinking of something special, like a wooden stake through my heart and my head mounted on a pike as a warning to future exhibitors who might need a reality check concerning their dog's readiness. Or perhaps she just expected me to go home and fall on my target stick. Then she took a deep breath and pointed out that my dog had "talked" to her. It wasn't the sound or the site that was causing him to crash and burn - it was me. After getting some insight on how my birth managed to ruin poor Ricky's life 50 years later I managed to slink off to the ladies' room for a good cry.

Sunday morning I almost collided with Ms. Hamilton as I walked into the gym and offered a foolishly optimistic, "Good morning." She made an effort to be civil, saying she had heard that I had pulled my entry and that she was sorry I had traveled all the way to Chattanooga for nothing. Sensing a truce, I tactfully disagreed and brightly said that I had seen some great Freestyle and had an opportunity to train my dog a little... This just served to launch her off on a new tirade.

"Fine!...that's fine...Just...fine!...What-*EVER!* ... fine!...Whatever it takes to make YOU feel better," biting off each word and injecting it with venom. "But let me tell you this..."

In the technical terms and twisted English that serves as Freestylespeak, she seemed to be telling me that not only was I incapable of training a dog, I was also unworthy of even *watching* freestyle, let alone attempting to do it myself. And she wasn't done yet.

She repeatedly pointed out that my back was stiff, breathing shallow and eyes unblinking. Come to think of it, this is also how I react to gum surgery and pelvic exams, which gives an idea of how pleasant was time spent with Ms. H. Strangely enough, I am *not* usually this way! Apparently, this is also how I react when a perfect stranger gets right in my face, nose to nose, and proceeds to insult every facet, every tiny aspect of my being as well as implying I am a liar for claiming to have a trained dog. After yet more disparaging remarks about my physiology and poor judgment in coming to the trials (we agreed on that, anyway) she was moved to pity; "You poor thing. You don't even know what I mean, do you?" From her manner toward me, one would have thought I'd shown up at the trial falling-down drunk. (Not a bad idea; that and a restraining order and I'm ready for the next CFF competition!) Standing there listening to her rant on about my shortcomings in what seemed like a horrible dream akin to night terrors, I tried to tell myself that since she didn't know me from Adam, this couldn't be personal. But I don't know; posture, personality, judgment - it seemed pretty personal to me.

I've told myself that nobody died on the operating table because I had an itch to try brain surgery, I didn't serve poisoned potato salad at the church social nor did I leave the baby in the car on a hot day. Nevertheless, my very existence on Earth offends Madam Hamilton deeply. Somebody, please pour her a stiff drink and assure her that *her* bad dream is over - I will never, NEVER enter a CFF trial again.

We're entered in Utility A this weekend in Deland, and I am so looking forward to an NQ and hearing a sane, stoic dismissal like, "Not today. Oh well, next time maybe..." Any judge who says something like that might just get kissed in the ring because *that* will be sweet music, indeed! -G.R.

* Not her real name. Margaret Hamilton was the actress who immortalized the Wicked Witch in "The Wizard of Oz." She was also a passionate animal lover and a dedicated advocate for children's and animal rights.