

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 work 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 many other goodies were received. If you couldn't make it this year, you REALLY missed a fun evening!

**2010 dues are due by the end of the year.** Get those to **Gail Larson**. We don't want to lose ya!

**Attention New Members – Our annual Blessing of the Animals is scheduled for New Years Day (Friday, Jan.1<sup>st</sup>) at 1:00 PM.** Bring a finger food to share and all your pets (in training or not) for their blessing. Cats, ferrets, etc. should be in carriers to prevent any accidents. Pastor Richard Dow from St. Mark's Lutheran church on Hendricks is scheduled to do our blessing this year.

**Get your new titles and accomplishments to Anita Gard by Jan 28th 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**



**Meetings**

**Board Meeting – January 14 (7:00 PM)**

**General Meeting – January 21 (7:30 PM)**

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

**January Meeting Program**

**Cathy Couch will talk to us about canine and feline First Aid.**

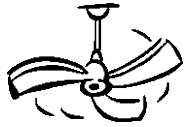
**Congratulations to our newest Full Member, Barry Sales, with Chesapeake Bay Retrievers**

**Welcome New Members!**

**Frank A. Green – family membership with Dora GSD and Jack, American Standard Pit Bull**

**Dot Mitchell with Golden Retriever, Sunshine**

**Carol McMenamy with GSD, Gus**



## Upcoming Events

### Upcoming Classes & Events for January & February

#### 01-01 – Blessing of the Animals, 1:00 PM

- 01-04 -- Ready for Rally, 7:00 PM, Larson
- 01-05 - Polish Novice/Open Training, 6:45, Schmidt
- 01-05 – Novice Foundations Intermed/Adv., 7:00, Ruskuski
- 01-05—Heeling Drill & Proofing, 7:45, TBA (see page 3)
- 01-05—Utility, 8:15, Schmidt
- 01-06 – Beginner Novice Foundations, 7:00, Ruskuski
- 01-08 -- Puppy **K & 1**, 6:30 PM, Whalen
- 01-11 -- Pet Therapy, 7:00 PM, Ennis
- 01-12 -- Beginners/CGC, 7:00 PM, Billinge
- 01-14 -- Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 01-16 -- Freestyle Group, 10:00 AM
- 01-21 -- General Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 01-23 -- Puppy **K & 1**, 9:30 & 10:45 AM, Whalen
- 01-25 -- **STAR** Puppy, 7:30 PM, Whalen
- 01-28 – **Deadline for Awards form!**

- 02-10 -- Puppy **K & 1**, 6:30 & 7:30 PM, Whalen
- 02-22 -- Puppy **K & 1**, 6:30 & 7:30 PM, Whalen

### Classes Already in Progress:



#### Mondays

- 7:00 CGC - Prep for Test, Gard
- 7:30 STAR Puppy, Whalen

#### Tuesdays

- 6:45 Novice/Open, Schmidt
- 7:00 Beginners/CGC, Billinge
- 7:00 Novice Foundations - Intermediate/Adv., Ruskuski
- 7:45 Heeling Class - Drop In Fee \$2.00 for everyone**
- 8:15 Utility, Schmidt

#### Wednesdays

- 6:30 Puppy K & 1, Whalen
- 7:00 Novice Foundations- Beginner, Ruskuski
- 7:30 Confirmation classes

#### Fridays

- 7:00 Puppy K & 1, Whalen

#### Saturdays

- 09:30 -- Puppy K, Whalen
- 10:00 -- Freestyle Group- 3rd week only
- 10:45 -- Puppy 1, Whalen

## Congratulations!



Savannah

### Emily Foster and Ollie

3<sup>rd</sup> leg, 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Rally Novice – New title!  
1<sup>st</sup> leg, Rally Adv., 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

### Vicky Ford and Tassie

2 legs (both 3<sup>rd</sup> place), Rally Excellent – New title!  
2 pts toward Ch

Wiregrass Hunt Test

### Barry Sales and Grommet

Final leg, Master Hunter test – New title!

Elkton Agility (Belgian Terv. Club)

### Pam McCaleb and Rudy

3<sup>rd</sup> leg, Excellent Fast – New Title!

ASCA trials

### Irma Schwartz and Splash

all Utility legs – New title! (Irma writes, “Paired with the ASCA TD she held, she now has earned a UDT from both ASCA & AKC.”) – New title!

Ocala

### Elizabeth Adams and Kava

10<sup>th</sup> RAE leg – New title!

## MetLife

### Rick Koenig

Financial Services Representative  
Registered Representative

7077 Bonneval Rd., Ste 550  
Jacksonville, FL 32216

Tel (904) 486-2454  
Cell (904) 327-2859  
Fax (904) 332-8649  
rkoenig1@metlife.com  
www.southcoast.metlife.com



Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (MLIC), New York, NY 10166.  
Securities offered by MetLife Securities, Inc. (MSI) (FINRA/SIPC). MLIC and MSI are affiliates.

**Personal Notes:**

Our deepest condolences go out to **Beth Berry** who lost her father two weeks after her brother passed away. This double-blow has been especially hard on her family during the holiday season. Our thoughts and prayers are with her.

Our good friend, **Charlotte Miller**, who instructs the Wednesday night Conformation Classes held at K-9, suffered a stroke in December and is currently in Memorial Hospital. I spent many a Wednesday evening chatting and laughing with her as we waited for our students and can tell you she is a lovely, vibrant lady and accomplished dog trainer. We are all sending fervent prayers for her recovery. You can send Charlotte a card at 1331 Nicholson Rd., Jax 32207

Sadly, after all the efforts to alleviate **Zack Ruskuski's** dental problems he passed away a week before Christmas and John and I keep reaching out to stroke the head that's no longer there. Exercise finished, old friend.

And some good news! **Sandi Mercier and her Chihuahua, Cami**, were selected to be a therapy team at Wolfson Children's Hospital. This is kind of the "Special Forces" of Therapy-Dog work and a high honor, indeed! Congratulations!

**Vicky Ford's** generosity has been instrumental in endowing the new University of Florida Small Animal Rehabilitation and Fitness Center. This rehab facility is a boon to performance dogs especially and includes an underwater treadmill, regular treadmill, exercise equipment, electromagnetic therapy, shockwave therapy and laser therapy. This facility is truly state-of-the-art. Apparently Vicky's generosity has no limits...

**Phyllis Vandeveld** is no long dog-less! She has taken in a rescue - a Toy Poodle named **Reisa!** Although Reisa comes with some rescue baggage she's slowly coming around and starting to feel comfortable in her new home. In time I'm sure she'll realize how lucky she is to find herself in Phyllis's home.

Finally, I would like to thank **Diane Cohen** for her hard work in organizing the Celeste Meade Seminar. I have to report that the weather was horrible - cold and rainy on Saturday, cold on Sunday - but the seminar was a bonanza of information on training techniques. Some of the information is finally sinking in and making sense to the hard cases like me. (All who attended will be happy to know I've practiced and can finally do "About-turn- step-to-the-right!") A wonderful lunch was provided both days. Thanks for all your efforts to make this possible, Diane.

Some of our members may not know that **Beth Schmidt and Diane Cohen** went to New Hampshire back in Oct/Nov. to spend a week at Celeste Meade's training facility, All American Canine, taking private lessons, joining in classes and observing. They came back bubbling with enthusiasm and with many ideas for improving the performance of all our dogs. One example is that in Beth's class we were instructed to do the long down (standing close) with the dogs back-to-back! (The dogs actually laying down touching each other.) I was surprised but then thought of all the times in groups I had seen one dog slowly creep/swim/roll into the dog next to him without actually getting up or doing anything that would necessitate the judge telling the steward to take the dog away from the group. This is good proofing indeed! We ended the long down with a group of dogs who had learned they CAN have their personal space invaded without taking offense or leaving. That said I would like to draw your attention to the new class (below) scheduled for Tuesday nights at 7:45. This class is a direct result of Beth and Diane's visit to New Hampshire. Thanks Beth and Diane, for being ambitious for OUR success in the ring as well as your own.



*Zack's Christmas portrait taken at FCNMHP's fund-raiser.*

### **New Heeling Class!**

**We're happy to announce a new class at K-9. On Tuesday nights from 7:45 to 8:15 we will offer a 30-minute heeling class which will consist of drill and proofing.** The class will cost \$2.00 per class - put your money in the coffee can - and there will be no particular instructor, rather 4 or 5 people will take turns calling the class. (This way there will be no instructor fee either - all proceeds will go to the club.) There will be regular drill ("Forward...fast... normal...left turn...halt.") and proofing at whatever level the handler feels is appropriate for their dog. ***It will be the responsibility of the handler to say when enough is enough or to ask for more challenging proofs.*** We will also incorporate stays, recalls, and other exercises/proofs into the class although not necessarily at every class or on a set schedule.

This class is open to everybody at all levels of formal training. It is NOT recommended for dogs that have not been trained at some level in formal, precision heeling. Dogs should be well into Novice Comp or Rally Comp training before attempting to join this class. So grab your dog, your toys, your treats, and join us! Class starts Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing YOU!

## 2009 Titles Earned Awards

Every year at our February meeting we recognize members who earned performance (Rally, Obedience, Field, etc – i.e. not conformation) titles on their dogs during the previous year. In the past we gave an umbrella, utility tote or similar item to each of these members. However, some members have an unconscionable habit of earning titles year after year after year, and they are running out of space to store all those umbrellas. So this year we will start something different: Each member who earned a title in 2009 will receive a red K-9 Obedience Club jacket. You will also receive a club patch for each title earned (up to 5 titles/patches). In subsequent years, you will receive a patch for each additional title you earn (up to 5 titles/patches per year). You can sew the patch (es) onto the jacket, thus adding to the jacket as you earn more titles. After a certain amount of time (to be determined, e.g. 5 years), you will receive a new jacket, assuming you keep earning more titles. If you didn't earn a title last year, don't worry – you will receive a jacket the first year you earn one. You may also purchase a jacket for \$20 (you can pay when you pick up the jacket).

Here's how to request your jacket: Fill out the enclosed form or download it at [http://www.k9obedienceclub.org/public%20documents/K9AwardsForm\\_distributed.pdf](http://www.k9obedienceclub.org/public%20documents/K9AwardsForm_distributed.pdf)

Fill in your information and click the "submit by email" button.

Thanks, and congratulations to everyone who will be receiving a jacket! - *Anita Gard*, Awards Committee

**Ginny Ruskuski**  
5030 Azure St.  
Jacksonville, Florida 32258  
[ruskuski5030@comcast.net](mailto:ruskuski5030@comcast.net)

*...hope all my buddies  
come for their  
blessing...some of  
them really need it!*







