

**From the President's Desk** – The February General meeting was our opportunity to acknowledge our members who have earned titles in 2009. Congrats to all!!! We had a big crowd in attendance and everyone seemed to have a great time. This year we awarded club jackets and patches to the recipients. (A huge Thank You goes to **Anita Gard** who compiled the titles-earned information and organized the awards!)

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 **Carol Stevens**. 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; jackets, shirts, bags, umbrellas, and can koozies. All have the club logo imprinted on them. Show your club pride and support.

The April trials are fast upon us! Let **Carol Stevens** know how you can help out. The kitchen always needs ice and cold drinks. Don't forget to help with set-up on Thursday before the meeting, and we always need help on Friday night for the match.

An area that has been overlooked is the kitchen. How about stopping by before you leave and see if anything needs to be carried to the dumpster? We also need someone to stop by Sunday afternoon and return the drinks to the fridge from the cooler. **Connie Carstens** will be taking over the concessions, so check with her on food needs, cash donations, or help. Send trophy donations to **Ginny Ruskuski**. We need help on all these areas if we are to continue to include matches and concessions at our trials.

The next General meeting is on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see ya'll there! -**Laurie**

**Meetings**

**Board Meeting – March 11 (7:00 PM)**

**General Meeting – March 18 (7:30 PM)**

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

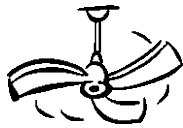
*March Meeting Program*

*Please join us for a pot-luck dinner!  
Call Phyllis Vandevilde to coordinate dishes at  
387-6038*



**Welcome New Provisional Members!**

**Jennifer Satur and son David with poodles**



## Upcoming Events

### Upcoming Classes & Events for March

**CGC - Prep for Test** Forming Now, Contact Anita Gard  
 03-01 -- Rally Adv/Exec., 7:00 PM, Larson  
 03-09 -- Beginners/CGC, 7:00 PM, Billinge  
 03-15 -- Pet Therapy, 7:00 PM, Ennis  
 03-11-- Board Meeting, 7:00 PM  
 03-18 -- General Meeting, 7:30 PM  
 03-20 -- Puppy K & 1, 9:30 & 10:45 AM, Whalen  
 03-20 -- Freestyle Group, 10:00 AM  
 03-29 -- **UKC Rally Rules, 1 Night Only**, 7:00 PM, Larson  
 03-31 -- Puppy K & 1, 6:30 PM, Whalen

### Classes in Progress:

#### Mondays

6:30 Puppy K & 1  
 7:00 Rally - Advance & Excellent  
 7:00 Pet Therapy  
 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 Competition Proofing

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

**Pat Ennis will be starting a new Pet Therapy class on March 15 at 7:00 PM and openings are available! Please call Pat at 731-2308 to reserve your spot!**

**ALSO - Rally and Obedience match** at the Jacksonville Dog Fancier's club on Morse Avenue on Sunday March 28th. For more information, contact Jeanine Mello

[jmello@southcoastcapital.com](mailto:jmello@southcoastcapital.com)

## MetLife

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## Congratulations!



Brooksville

**John Wernert and Chase**  
 (Sat.) 3<sup>rd</sup> leg, Open, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
 (Sun) 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – New Title!

Mid Fl Golden Ret. Club  
 Hunt Test

**Nancy Refsnider and Lottie**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> leg, Jr. Hunter

**Betsy Reiney and Condi**

3<sup>rd</sup> leg Master Hunter – New Title!

**Maria Oehler and Macy**

Finished her HSAs title (herding started)  
 (reserve high in trial two times and was high scoring  
 belgian tervuren) – New title!

### Get Ready for the Spring Rally Trials!

**Advanced and Excellent Rally** Class will begin Monday, March 1 and will run for four weeks. All signs and rules will be taught and we will do at least two run thrus each night. Novice level dogs may attend and work on leash. On Monday, March 29, at 7 PM there will be a one-time drop-in class for UKC Rally signs and rules. Rally run thrus on April 5, 12 & 19 at 7 PM. Contact Gail Larson to register. [gaillarson@bellsouth.net](mailto:gaillarson@bellsouth.net) or 476-0179.

### A Personal Note from Marge Rogers

I wanted to share a resource I came across. One of my YouTube friends is a service dog trainer. She told me about Sue Ailsby's Levels Book. She has incorporated the Levels Book into their service dog training program. I'd never heard of it, so I checked it out. It's very cool. Sue Ailsby developed the book as a written training plan to keep her and her students on track. Many of the behaviors are free-shaped, which, if you've never done it, is thoroughly addicting and totally fun. I personally think her method for training "fronts" is genius. I haven't even started Pride on leash behaviors (other than loose leash walking) and he is making excellent progress, off-leash, after only 1 week. And, there are no props to fade. Here is the link to the intro. You know I'm hooked on free-shaping so I find the program very interesting. I am loosely working Pride through the levels. If you think anyone else may be interested in working through the levels too, please have them contact me so we can provide each other moral support. :-)

<http://www.dragonflyllama.com/%20DOGS/Levels/LevelBehaviours/LevelsBook.html>

First of all, **I owe an apology to Pat Ennis**. Last month I listed her as being approved for Full Membership and I must explain my mistake. After **Bill Milburn** left Jacksonville the membership records fell into disarray. In the past few years or a couple of people have stepped up as Membership Chairman to tackle the problem but quickly resigned, utterly defeated by the mess. To her credit, when **Gail Larson** took over as Chairman she stuck with the job and spent many hours trying to untangle Provisional Members/Full Members/Life Members. (I used to joke that we not only had Life Members, but *Afterlife* Members, as several people who had been deceased for ages were still included on the roster and I was still getting labels to mail their newsletters to them!)

At the January Board meeting Gail brought up the fact that for some reason Pat was still being listed as a Provisional Member although it was obviously an error; Pat had been a Full Member for as long as anyone could remember. In fact, Pat won K-9's Outstanding Achievement Award about 3 years ago for her work training Therapy Dogs Teams to work in the community, and the following year presented the same award to Gail Larson! Gail asked the Board for permission to fix this in the computer records and of course the Board unanimously approved it. Unfortunately, their "approval for Full Membership" was included in the report I received from Gail. At the time I thought it was weird but who am I to question the Board of Governors? I was in a hurry to get the newsletter done and being a good little editor I included it in the Tails.

Since then, several people have questioned why Pat has only recently been made a "Full Member," and she's been getting fishy looks from some of her students. Be advised, Pat Ennis has been a Full Member of K-9 for years, as well as one of our most qualified instructors and valued friends. Her promotion to "Full Member" was simply to correct an error in the membership records and reporting it in the newsletter was a stupid mistake on my part. I sincerely apologize for the misunderstanding.

Our sympathy goes out to **Barbara Elrod** whose grandmother passed away in February. We are all sorry for her loss.

**Phyllis Vandevelde**, who was battling pneumonia, fell last month injuring her shoulder and as of today (2/26) she was off to physical therapy. She is slowly recovering although I think we should consider putting her in bubble wrap with an IV of antibiotics.

**Marweese Hines** is back home after her stay in rehab from her broken ankle. Ironically, Phyllis was helping her with errands, etc. We hope both of these ladies will get better quickly.

**Calling all Conformation Enthusiasts!** As you all know, **Charlotte Miller**, who taught the Conformation Class held at K-9, suffered a stroke in December. While she is recovering **Larry Garrett** (who substituted for her in the past) **is still holding classes on Wednesday evenings at 7:30. You can contact him at 904-221-3074.**

A note from **Lisa Mallory**: "Hi Everyone, I'm doing a project for K-9 and need digital photos of member's dogs. I will be combining graphics and photos to make a poster board that can be transported to the different community events that K-9 may attend. I'm looking for a wide variety of photos. I want pictures of your beloved pets and companions at home, doing tricks, obedience & Rally dogs doing their thing, hunting, tracking, Schutzhund, therapy, freestyle, whatever you and your dog do together. Please submit high resolution digital photos to me via e-mail. I will use scrapbooking software to put it together and then post to Facebook when I'm done, so people can see the results. I won't be able to use every photo, but I'll do my best to include what I can. So before you put it off and forget about it, send me those great photos of you and your dog. Lisa's email is [lemallory@bellsouth.net](mailto:lemallory@bellsouth.net)

### Canine First Aid & CPR Clinic at K9 Obedience

The March 13th clinic filled quickly. Cathy Couch can commit to **Saturday, May 1st from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.** for the next PetTech First Aid Course at K9. **Please note: No dogs attend the clinic.** Large stuffed dogs are used for hands-on experience.

Several people were on a "wait list" so they will have first choice for the May date. Cathy has the list of names. **Contact her directly** if you want to reserve a spot for the May 1st clinic. She has openings for the clinics she holds in Orange Park. The cost in Orange Park is \$55. 904-772-1430 [heartsandpaws@live.com](mailto:heartsandpaws@live.com)

Cathy's course includes demonstrations, lecture, hands-on skill practice, a handbook and two year certification. She limits the class to 8 students and the course is 4 hours long.

Pet CPR ♥ Rescue Breathing ♥ How to help your pet in an emergency ♥ ABC's of Pet First Aid ♥ Snout to Tail Assessment  
10 Situations that require immediate veterinary care, and much more.

### Training Tips – submitted by Beth Schmidt

I recently attended a Janice Gunn seminar. Janice is from Vancouver, Canada and has excellent working Golden Retrievers. I would like to pass on a three tips I learned. If you would like a full copy of my notes, I would be happy to share them with you. Send me an email and I will pass them on. Janice also has DVDs for sale showing most of what was covered at the seminar.

1. If your dog is intent on sniffing something on the ground stomp on the area where he is sniffing like you are stomping on a giant bug. If he goes back to sniff again, stomp again.
2. For small dog trainers, to avoid bending over while heeling, stick your cookie or cheese on the end of a straw and hold it straight down in your hand above your dog's eyes. To gradually fade the straw out of the picture, hold more and more of the straw in your hand so less of it is exposed making the cookie higher, closer to your hand. Soon the cookie will be in your hand and you will no longer need the straw and you did not need to bend over.
3. Janice teaches something she calls "conditioned jumping." It means that when a dog hears a jump command regardless of where it is in relation to a jump, it should look for the jump and jump. If a dog is off to an angle and is given a jump command, it should jump, not come directly to the handler. This is taught by putting the dog slightly off to left or right of the jump along with the handler slightly off to the left or right (directly in front of the dog) the handler gives the jump command. If the dog comes instead of jumping, the handler shows the dog the correct action. No hand signals are given; this is not a directed jumping exercise.

**RALLY & OBEDIENCE MATCH Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. (After UKC trials.)**

AKC Rules to Apply - **No bait in the ring**, praise permitted.

Obedience Ring fully matted. Saturday Only Beginning at 2 PM. Obedience limited to 25 Entries, \$10 per class.

Rally limited to 60 Entries, \$5 per class. **Day-of-Match Entries taken only if limits are not reached!**

**Don't be disappointed – Pre-Register!**

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Handler \_\_\_\_\_

Dog \_\_\_\_\_

Breed \_\_\_\_\_

Obedience Class \_\_\_\_\_

Obedience Class \_\_\_\_\_

Rally Class \_\_\_\_\_

Rally Class \_\_\_\_\_

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**Checks Payable to FCDOC.  
Mail to  
Gail Larson, Match Secretary  
7925 Joshua Tree Lane  
Jacksonville, FL 32256**



**Ginny Ruskuski  
5030 Azure St.  
Jacksonville, Florida 32258  
ruskuski5030@comcast.net**







