

From the President's Desk – The April trials were a rousing success!! The weather was beautiful and the food delicious!! **Connie Carstens**, as usual, did a great job on the food, no one went away hungry! Our members really came through with food donations and some delicious desserts for our guests. Thanks to all who stepped up to help steward, set-up, clean-up etc. There's no way I can mention everyone by name, but your hard work and team spirit did not go unnoticed. Without you things just wouldn't have gone so smoothly. You may have noticed some well needed new signage directing our guests to the various areas. Thanks to **Anita Gard** for creating them. The judge's dinner proved to be a really good time as well. Lots of great food and fellowship! Congrats to all of you who earned legs and titles. Also, thanks to all who contributed to this trial's trophy fund. It's been a while since donations covered the cost of trophies for the trial. That's the spirit!! And thanks to **Ginny Ruskuski** for serving as trophy chairperson. It's not an easy job, even though she makes it look that way. One of our repeat exhibitors summed it up the best with "Ya'll not only put on great trials, but turn them into a party - we never want to miss K-9's trials". I get many compliments on the warmth and friendliness our club members extend to our guests. The winners also seemed pleased with the gifts given for their success in the ring.

The basket raffles were again a success. So many wonderful baskets and items were donated and the winners seemed very pleased and happy to support the raffle. Our 50/50 raffles also added to our bottom line, thanks to **Elizabeth Adams**.

The nominating committee has completed their work and a new board has been proposed for next year. Thanks to all of you who will serve.

The next General meeting is on the 20th. Hope to see everyone there. -**Laurie**



Chihuahuas Rule! Above, Sandi Mercier & Cami (left), Judge Patricia Young (center), and Beth Berry & Emma (right), celebrate their blue ribbon Rally success.

Welcome New Provisional Members

Pam Korn

Sally Ray with Goldens

Claudette Barker with Jack Russel Terriers

Meetings

Board Meeting – May 13th (7:00 PM)

General Meeting – May 20th (7:30 PM)

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

From the Nominating Committee (**Carol Stevens**, Chairman)
Proposed Board of Governors for 2010 – 2011

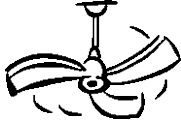
President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Sec.
Treasurer

Laurie Billinge
John Wernert
Diane Cohen
Gary Jarrett
Carol Stevens
Beth Barry



Board:
Colleen Whalen
Ken Stevens
Connie Carstens
Gail Larson
Member

Training Director
1 yr. Board Member
2 yr. Board Member
2 yr. (carry-over) Board Member



Upcoming Events

05/01 – Canine First Aid & CPR

Upcoming Classes & Events for May & June

05/03 -- Ready for Rally & New Beginner Novice, 7:00 PM, Larson

05/04 -- Beginners/CGC, 7:00 PM, Billinge

05/13 -- Board Meeting, 7:00 PM

05/15 -- Freestyle Group, 10:00 AM

05/20 -- General Meeting, 7:30 PM

05/22 -- Puppy K & 1, 9:30 & 10:45 AM, Whalen

05/24 -- Beginners/CGC, 7:00 PM, Gard

06/02 -- Puppy K & 1, 9:30 & 10:45 AM, Whalen

06/07 -- Pet Therapy, 7:00 PM, Ennis

06/21 -- STAR Puppy, 7:30 PM, Whalen

Classes in Progress:

Mondays

6:30 Puppy K & 1, Whalen

7:00 CGC - Prep for Test, Gard

7:00 Beginners/CGC, Gard, new group May 24th

7:00 Ready for Rally & **New Beginner Novice**, 7:00 PM, Larson

Tuesdays

7:00 Beginners/CGC, Billinge, new group May 4th

7:00 Novice Foundations - Intermediate/Adv., Ruskuski

7:45 Competition Proofing

Wednesdays

6:30 Puppy K & 1, Whalen

7:00 Novice Foundations- Beginner, Ruskuski

7:30 Confirmation classes

Saturday Mornings

09:30 -- Puppy K, Whalen

10:00 -- Freestyle Group- 3rd week only

10:45 -- Puppy 1, Whalen

***Editor's Note:** I've gotten a lot of brags this week and I've done my best to include them all in the newsletter. If I've missed your email PLEASE don't be offended, just email me and let me know. I'll catch up on those I overlooked next month. If you haven't sent in your brags, please email me as soon as possible. (I'm not psychic!) Your accomplishments inspire all of us! - Ginny*

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Congratulations!

K-9 AKC Trials

Wanda Edge & Simon

1st RAE leg

(Sunday, Rally Ex. 2nd place)



Torie Marks & Frisco

2nd RE leg

Gail Larson & Hank

3rd CDX leg – NEW TITLE!

Elizabeth Adams & Kava

Novice, 1st leg, 1st Place

Sandi Mercier & Cami

2nd & 3rd leg Rally Adv.

(1st Place Sat., 2nd Place Sunday) – NEW TITLE!

Ginny Ruskuski and Ricky

3rd leg Rally Excellent – NEW TITLE!

Beth Berry & Emma

3rd leg Rally Novice – NEW TITLE!

Emily Foster & Ollie

3rd leg Rally Advanced – NEW TITLE!

Janice Hoffenberg & Diva

2nd & 3rd legs Rally Advanced – NEW TITLE!

Anita Gard & Parek

1st & 2nd legs, UD (wow!)

3rd leg Rally Excellent – NEW TITLE!

Nancy Refsnider and Lottie

3rd leg Open – NEW TITLE!!

Pam Johnson & Abby

1st & 2nd legs, Rally Novice

Irma Schwartz & Splash

1st UDX leg

Ann Hamlin & Maggie

2nd & 3rd leg Rally Novice (1st place Sat.) – NEW TITLE!

(Other AKC events)

Emily Foster & Ollie, Cavalier Specialty

1st & 2nd leg Rally Advanced

Elizabeth Adams & Durance, Hilton Head

Best of Winners, Best of Breed

Newfoundland Club of America - Alachua

Janice Hoffenberg & Diva

Qualified as DD (Draft Dog), Qualified again as DD1

Orange Park Kennel Club

Lisa Mallory & Aero

Winners Dog and Best of Opposite sex

Amanda Lee & Maxi

Winners Bitch

Club Librarian Needed! A huge “**Thank You,**” to our former librarian, **Violet Krebs**. She decided to retire from competition and has donated lots of boxes and bags filled with great books and videos! These items include everything from grooming, retrieving, agility, obedience, recalls and fabulous seminar tapes from some of the top trainers! All members can check out books and tapes for free! We need someone to catalog these new donations to the notebooks, make labels for each, etc. I will assist getting you started. Call or email Colleen Whalen 399-5343, cwhalen@bellsouth.net

Stamps to the rescue!

Starting April 30th you can buy stamps at the post office that help to buy food for shelter pets. You can pre-order them online. <http://www.stampstotherescue.com/>

Personal Notes:

I received a note from **Irma Schwartz**: Ginny ... when you write up the newsletter, if you have a blip of room, could you ask: "Would the member who bought **Connie Rooke's** large 48" wire crate/no pan that is sitting near the obedience rings please call Irma Schwartz at 904/477-4585." I've never seen a dog placed in the crate by the person who owns it and would like to re-buy it for a service dog. Thanks.

Speaking of Irma, I have to point out that she earned her U-UD last month. For whatever its worth, I think the United Kennel Club's Utility glove exercise is the hardest of any obedience exercise out there. Qualifying with **Splash** three times is a tremendous achievement and K-9 has not had a U-UD since **Mitch Criswell and Twilight** many years ago. Bravo, Irma!

It was good to see **Phyllis Vandavelde** at the trials. She couldn't do the ticket "stretch," with her injured shoulder but seems to be on the mend otherwise. **Marweese Hines** was also present hobbling on her broken ankle which is healing, albeit slowly. It was nice to see them present and accounted for during the trials. NOT present was Betty Jean Shuman – very disturbing as Betty has attended every trial since I joined 15 years ago and probably before that, but as it turns out she had lost her voice and was nursing her throat at home. Betty Jean, keep in touch!

A tragic loss to the dog community; our good friend, **Joan Dever**, passed away April 23rd. Joan had been fighting cancer and her chemo treatments adversely affected her immune system leaving her vulnerable to the massive infection that took her life. Her sudden passing was a shock to all of us. Joan was a well-known and respected Flat Coat breeder who enjoyed success right up the ladder to Westminster as well as training for the Obedience Ring. There is a sad irony here. Joan was quite open about the fact that much as she loved her breed, cancer was the Flat Coat Retrievers' Achilles heel – she had lost many of her beloved dogs to the terrible disease that indirectly took her life as well. We will miss you, Joan. Exercise Finished.

Laurie has thanked people for their efforts for the trials but it's my turn to add my own...Big thanks to **Patsy Whaley** for her big donation of toilet paper, paper towels, drinks, etc. Patsy, along with **Ernie White, Diane Hughes, Vicky Ford and Betsy Reiney**, made LARGE donations to the trophy fund. Jumping in with the "wish list," stuff was over-the-top – and we appreciate it. Thank you to all who donated to **FCNMHP's** food bank, in particular **Barbara Elrod**, who brought a garbage can (plus food) for them, and **Wanda Edge and Ginny Rouse** who have donated multiple times. We can only hope the donations provide a reprieve to deserving family pets who would otherwise be surrendered to Animal Control. We should thank the stewards who served all weekend, among them **Ed & Cheryl Buck, Carol McNemeony, Jennifer Satur, and Barbara Elrod**. I should mention **Phyllis Vandavelde and Beth Berry** who kept the raffles going throughout the weekend. Thank you **Irma** for helping with the baskets and ribbon set-up. Finally, THANK YOU to those who stayed late on Sunday and helped us clean up! This time we had a lot of help; **John Wernert, Elaine Smith, Beth Berry, Gary Jarrett, and Ed Buck among others**. And finally, when I braced myself to empty trash and poop both Saturday and Sunday, I found **Anita** had beaten me to it. Thanks, Anita – this is the nasty job nobody notices but is absolutely vital. (As long as I'm on a roll I should mention **Gail Larson, Rick Koenig, Anita Gard, Irma Schwartz, Emilie Foster, Tom Bradley, and Diane Cohen** who did so much to make the UKC trials a success.)

Now I know there were others who pitched in above and beyond the call of duty. I can only write down the people who stand out in my memory (and my memory isn't what it used to be). I haven't mentioned trial set-up or the Friday run-thrus because I wasn't there. You know who you are. The trials are the result of ALL of us stepping forward to steward, clean up, help organize, etc. Thanks to EVERYBODY who donated to the trophy fund, donated money for food, brought food, brought drinks and ice, contributed to the wish list, stewarded, brought in a raffle basket, set up, tore down or just pointed a visitor to the rest rooms or kitchen. We ALL make this work, and I hope you had as good a time as I did. The judges couldn't have been nicer, and thanks to everybody who pitched in it was a wonderful weekend. If I didn't mention you by name, I should have, and you have my apologies.

Last, but most important, **THANK YOU, LAURIE!** Laurie has the awful-awful job of Trial Secretary. There are way too many of us who fail to thank her – shame on us! Does anybody else want this job? I think not. While WE are practicing, Laurie is collating the entries, editing the catalog and trying to decipher illegible handwriting. While WE are accepting congratulations or consolations, Laurie is entering scores into the computer, trying to cull HIT and High Combined, or fielding complaints from outraged exhibitors that she misspelled a dog's registered name or got a jump height wrong. (By the way, Laurie, you got Ricky's jump height wrong.) *And this is in addition to teaching her Tuesday night Beginners Class and her Presidential duties (the day-to-day stuff involved in keeping K-9 running).* Laurie once told me she felt "like the hired help." I hope everybody at some point will take a moment to express appreciation for her – she does the one job NOBODY wants and a lot of other jobs nobody's lining up for either. **Laurie, we need you and thank you for all you do for us.**

Speaking of trash, I brought some contractor drum liners (3 mils!) that I left in the training shed (marked, "Train"). This shed is always unlocked so feel free to empty the trash into the dumpster and replace the drum liners. I harp on that because nothing is as disgusting as an over-flowing trash can. And the poop container! Words almost fail me but I'll try... I can't bear to think of the public coming for classes or visitors seeing K-9 for the first time being greeted by the green monster with its gag-inducing fumes that can knock you over from 10 feet away, not to mention the halo of flies buzzing around it. Nothing says, "AMATURES," like an over-flowing poop container. It's an embarrassment to all of us. Was there something in the By-Laws I missed? Some rule that says when you attain a certain title you are exempt from getting your hands dirty? If YOU are able-bodied and YOUR DOG contributes to the poop container YOU should feel obligated at some point to empty it. (Hint – it's not too bad if you do it when its only half-full, and I think Patsy brought hand soap, too.)

READY FOR RALLY/ Beginner NOVICE!

Ready for Rally class begins Monday, May 3 and has been revised to include the exercises from the **Beginner Novice (BN title) Obedience** class to be offered at Obedience Trials starting in July 1st. Beginner Novice is intended to be a bridge from Rally to Obedience and most likely will replace Pre-Novice which did not result in a title.

The 5 exercises from Beginner novice include an on leash heeling pattern using Rally signs, on leash figure 8, a sit for exam on leash, a sit-stay while the handler walks around the ring, and a recall from half the length of the ring with no finish. The skills required for Rally include many of the same skills required for Novice Obedience, so it is logical to teach them simultaneously.

The emphasis in the Ready for Rally and Beginner Novice class will continue to be predominately run-thrus but we will spend a bit more time on skill development, along with teaching rules and signs. Because of the expanded content, the class will now run for two 4 week sessions.

Is this class for you? If your dog can walk beside you on leash, can sit, down and stay, then you are Ready for Rally! This class will also be excellent for anyone wanting to get a novice dog used to working around other dogs and distractions, and those obedience handlers who want to begin young dogs in the new Beginner Novice (BN) titling class.

For more information, contact Gail Larson at 476-0179 or gaillarson@bellsouth.net

First Coast UKC Trials

Ginny Ruskuski & Ricky
3rd leg RO2 – NEW TITLE

Gail Larson & Hank
3rd RO 2 leg – NEW TITLE!

Anita Gard & Parek
2nd & 3rd legs, Novice, 3rd place both days –
NEW TITLE!

Anita Gard & Zeli
1st leg Novice, 2nd Place

Irma Schwartz & Splash

UKC TRIALS/Ocala.

2nd & 3rd legs of her U-UD, earning 5 U-
OTCH points as well. – NEW TITLE!
2nd & 3rd legs, URO1, Trial #2. - HIT

Ernie White & Thor

(Eustice)

3rd leg, 1st place Open – NEW TITLE!

Emily Foster & Ollie

1st & 2nd legs RO1



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