

From the President's Desk

The October trials are here again. To donate a bit of your time stewarding, helping with set-up, etc., contact **Diane Cohen**. **Connie Carstens** will be handling concessions again this year. If you would like to donate to the kitchen, we need lots of ice, Sodas, lots of bottled water, home made deserts, and donuts to go with morning coffee. Cash donations to offset the food cost are always appreciated. We won't have a General meeting before the trial, so contact **Ginny Ruskuski** if you wish to donate to the trophy fund.

We ALWAYS need help on Sunday afternoon with clean-up. If you can't stay on Sunday, how about stopping by the clubhouse and see if a bag of garbage can be taken out? Every little bit helps those who work the entire weekend and are really pooped by Sunday afternoon

If you missed September's General Meeting, you missed a good time. We had a delicious array of food to eat, and the basket raffle was a rousing success!! We made enough to cover the other half of the cost of the cabinets!

On the 11th, we had a club fence-building day. Everyone worked very hard to build all new ring gates and fence sections for the agility area. In just a few hours, the grounds were looking great. Please respect the hard work these folks put in and remember to clean up after yourself and put things away where you found them when done using them. Huge thanks go to **Rick Koenig** for organizing and supervising, and of course, those who came out and got our club grounds looking awesome. It looked a bit like Santa's workshop as everyone worked in teams to complete this big project. Way to Go Ya'll!!! Pictures have been posted on K-9's Facebook page. (Yes, we have a Facebook page).



It is with a heavy heart, that I say goodbye to 2 of our members this month. We lost **Carol Stevens and Betty Jean Shuman** this month. Both of these women were long time dedicated members, who were always willing to jump in and help out whenever and wherever they were needed. I am proud to call both of them my friend, and they both will be severely missed.

The next General meeting will be on the 21st. Hope to see a big crowd there. Good Luck at the trial! -Laurie

October Meeting Program

At this time no program is scheduled.

Meetings

Board Meeting – Oct. 14 (7:00 PM)

General Meeting – Oct. 21 (7:30 PM)

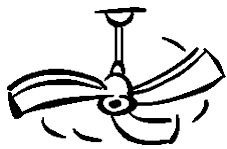
There will be no training allowed on the grounds during the General Meeting. Thank you.

Welcome New Members!

Sharon Farshing and Donald

Joycelyn 'Lyn' Brownell

**Marnie White
and Maria Holliday**



Upcoming Classes & Events for October

- 10/1 – Puppy K and 1, 6:30 PM, Whalen
- 10/2 & 10/3 – UKC Trials (Match Sat.)
- 10/10 –Obedience Show ‘n Go, 6:00 PM
\$5.00 per run
- 10/12 – CGC test, 7:30 PM, \$10.00 cash
- 10/14 - Set up for AKC Trials, 6:00 PM
- 10/14 – Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 10/15 - Show and Go, 6:00 PM
- 10/16 & 10/17 – AKC Trials!
- 10/19 - Basic Obedience, 7:00, Billinge
- 10/21 - Judges Selection Committee meets, 6:30 PM
- 10/21 – General Meeting, 7:30
- 10/25 - Introduction to Agility, 7:00 PM, Cohen
- 10/26 - Advance Obedience/CGC, 8:00, Carstens
- 10/30 - Puppy K&1, 10:00 AM, Whalen

Classes Already in Progress:

Mondays

- 7:00 Pet Therapy, Ennis
- 7:00 Basic Obed/CGC, Gard

Tuesdays

- 6:30 Clicker/Marker Foundations, Rogers
- 7:00 Basic Obed./CGC, Billinge & Carstens
- 7:45 Clicker/Marker Foundations, Rogers
- 8:00 Open Fundamentals, Ruskuski

Wednesdays

- 7:00 Puppy K & 1, Whalen
- 7:00 Novice Foundations- Intermediate, Ruskuski
- 7:30 Conformation, J. Mello call 614-9282
- 7:45 Novice Foundations- Beginner, Ruskuski

Friday

- 7:00 Puppy K & 1, Whalen

Saturday Mornings

- 9:30 -- Puppy K, Satur
- 9:30 -- STAR Puppy, Whalen
- 10:00 -- Freestyle Group- 3rd week
- 10:45 -- Puppy 1, Satur



Celeste Meade seminar: Last chance to enroll for an audit position. Nov 13 and Nov 14 - \$75 for one day or \$100 for both days. All working spots are taken. 9:00 to 5:00 each day, lunch provided. Contact **Diane Cohen** for your spot.
udxtara@comcast.net or 730-0770

Congratulations!

Nancy Refsnider and Lottie
3rd leg, Junior Hunter – NEW TITLE!

Elizabeth Adams and Durance
Herding Instinct Test, Certificate earned!

Diane Cohen and Taxi
Toy Dog Show (Orlando) 1st Novice leg, 1st leg, 2nd Place, (St. Pete) 2nd leg, (Jonesboro) 3rd leg, 4th place – NEW TITLE!
CPE agility trials in Palm Bay: 5 "Q's" with 4 first placements and one 2nd place

Emily Foster and Ollie
Toy Dog Show
Rally Excellent, 3rd leg, NEW TITLE!

John Wernert and Ellie
(Briard Nationals)
1st leg, Novice

Introduction to Agility

Classes begin on Monday night, Sept 25th, 7 pm. Call **Diane Cohen (730-0770)**

as we may have one class for small dogs and another for big dogs, both on Monday nights for 6 weeks. As there will be time spent working off leash, we request no dogs with assertive issues.



CALLING ALL K-9 EXHIBITORS!

It's time to choose judges for our 2012 trials! Please send your suggestions to Trial Chairman John Wernert. John will compile suggestions and judges will be chosen when the Judges Selection Committee meets in October. (The Trial Selection Committee is comprised of Competitors who show regularly in Obedience and Rally. All K-9 members who exhibit regularly are welcome to send suggestions and attend the meeting.)

Good judges are reserved years in advance, so it's imperative that we get busy now! To get the process started simply email John at jwboater@bellsouth.net and give him the names of the judges YOU would like to see in our ring.

The Judges Selection Committee will meet Thursday, October 21st at 6:30 PM.



Above Brendon, Colin, and Shannon Shepherd working hard on ring gates at k-9's work party. 9/11/10

Basket Raffle!

Don't forget, the AKC Trials will feature our popular Basket Raffle.

(Join us for a little innocent gambling.)

YOUR gift basket is welcome. Please drop off your basket or items for a gift basket at the clubhouse the week BEFORE the Trials.

Please let **Phyllis Vandeveld** or **Ginny Ruskuski** know that it's there. (Mark your basket or items plainly with your name and day of use; either Saturday or Sunday raffle.)



Personal Notes:

A huge thank you to **Rick Koenig** who organized ordered materials and organized our work party at K-9 to build the beautiful new ring gates. These gates provide a sturdier barrier and a greater sense of privacy for the areas they enclose. Of course, we also want to thank everyone who came out and spent the morning working:

Marge Rogers
Brendon Shepherd
Terri Reel
Anita Gard
Ann Lentz
Laurie Billinge

Ron Cohen
Colin Shepherd
Barbara Elrod
Jeannine Mello
John Wernert

Diane Cohen
Ken Stevens
Tori Marks
Sally Ray
Sandy Arts

Shannon Shepherd
Ginny Ruskuski
Grace Carter
Connie Carstens
Victoria Ingangi

Violet Krebs continues to recover: "I had surgery to repair a detached retina in my left eye about 7 weeks ago. They put a gas bubble in your eye and you wear a green bracelet warning that you shouldn't be given Nitrous Oxide. Can't fly (not that I was planning to do so). It is much better now after a loooooott of eye drops. I got the pics of the ring gates. They look great!!! Talk to you later. vmk" Incidentally, the old J&J folding baby gates we've been using were originally purchased by Violet years ago who generously allowed them to stay at the club for our use. Thank you, Violet.

Shannon Shepherd writes, "I have a full size deluxe telescoping ramp for sale if anyone is interested. I purchased it at Drs. Foster and Smith for \$120.00 a little over a year ago and it has been used maybe 10 times (when I had dogs spayed or neutered). It is extremely sturdy and in excellent shape. Since I've traded in my big SUV for a minivan, I no longer need the ramp. I'm asking \$50.00 for the ramp and I can bring it to the club with me on Tuesdays if anyone would like to see it. Thanks, Shannon" You can reach Shannon at shannonshepherd@me.com

Patsy Whaley, one of our favorite people, has moved to Jacksonville, North Carolina. She writes, "We are loving our new home in N.C. but I really miss the K-9 club. There is no obedience training club here – the closest is in Wilmington – 50 miles away." We'll miss Patsy and her two lovely Clumber Spaniels, **Timmy and Mia**. (Patsy, I can't make out your return address. If this newsletter finds you please send me your new address and spell out your street name! I'll forward the Tails until January.) We wish the Whaleys the best of luck in their new life.

Life member **Bill Milburn** also enclosed some news along with a donation (as always) to the trophy fund: "...I thought I would send you a note about my life since I left Jacksonville. In 2004 when **Maria** passed away we had 12 dogs. I was able to find good homes for 6 of them before I left Jacksonville. Our six oldest guys stayed with me. Of course time has taken its toll. After arriving in Dallas I met a family to had Greyhounds and they adopted Emily. Charley (Bichon 17) died in 2005. Chelsea (Bichon 18) died in 2006. Rocky (Basset 14) died in 2007. My boy, James (Fox Terrier 15) died in 2009. [Oh, Bill, who could forget James?!] And Annie (Cairn 18) passed away last month. I have no dogs of my own now but my son has two. I thought I retired when I moved to Dallas, but I work more with my son and his business than when I had a regular job. My thoughts and prayers go out to Betty [Jean] and Jeannette. I wish you all at k-9 the best of everything. Sincerely, Bill." Thanks for the update, Bill. It's hard to lose our old dogs. We wish you the best also. Thank you (and of course, Maria) for everything you did for us when you were in Jacksonville.

Memoriam

This has been a hard summer for us. **Carol Stevens** passed away in late July and we lost **Betty Jean Shuman** in September. I first met Betty Jean back in the 1970's when we were both training our Springer Spaniels in Blanche's Basic Obedience class held on Riverside Ave. After much hard work we earned our CDs 1976 – my Rosie with scores right around 171 and Betty Jean's Champ with scores that weren't much better. We were both proud as peacocks. I moved on both literally and figuratively but Betty Jean became a member and a familiar fixture at K-9 events. When I came back to the club in 1992 I found Betty Jean still there and although not actively training, certainly active.

Her service to the club fell into two major areas. Until about 20 years ago, the American Kennel Club was much less user-friendly and ruled its member organizations with an iron fist and little tolerance for error. Although good trainers and successful exhibitors are a dime a dozen Betty Jean's distinction was being an eagle-eyed Trial Secretary who could spot an error in paperwork from 2 rings away. For many years she was THE Trial Secretary of K-9 obedience club and sent flawless applications and results to the AKC. Before officially retiring as Trial Secretary she trained Laurie, helped smooth the transition to electronic record-keeping, and was always on hand at trials and matches to lend assistance with her expertise.

The other area Betty Jean's energy was directed toward was the Jacksonville Dog Festival. Among the many regulations governing Obedience clubs the AKC inserted a caveat to the effect that clubs could give matches, but only for their club purpose. Thus, an Obedience Club could give an Obedience Match, but Conformation could not be included. I suppose this was to encourage AKC sanctioned matches - useless to the exhibitor for training purposes and intended as practice for the club in giving trials. (One might also note the sanctioned match and accompanying 12 reams of forms could keep the paper industry and AKC in revenue for weeks.) This rule was bad news for the little Obedience club that hoped to gather entries from the many conformation people who only wanted a little practice for the real show ring.

So, in 1959 a group of K-9 members formed a little corporation called, "The Jacksonville Dog Festival." Its sole purpose was to give matches and other un-official dog events. Not being under the thumb of the American Kennel Club, the Festival was free to include Conformation, as well as any other venue it could dream up. Their matches were BIG events, as big as our trials today. Although established as a corporation the Jacksonville Dog Festival's income was actually distributed to a variety of causes, among them, Scott Research Fund at Auburn, Cornell University Distemper Fund, University of Georgia Vet School, Fla. Vet Research Foundation, Heartworm Research (we should think about that when we give our dogs their monthly Heartguard), and the Jacksonville Humane Society. The culmination of the Festival's generosity was a \$100,000 gift to the Laboratory of Dermatology at the University of Florida's School of Veterinary Medicine in 1979. Although this gift was made possible through some large donations by individual K-9 members, the bulk of it was raised by the Festival - entry-by-entry and one sandwich at a time.

Betty Jean was a core member of the Festival and as other officers retired from active duty, moved or passed away, she became, in effect, the sole torch-bearer. About 10 years ago there was some question regarding the AKC rules governing clubs giving matches. Laurie called to get a definite answer and was told by Pat Krause herself, "*We don't care what you do at your matches.*" With those words the Jacksonville Dog Festival was officially kaput. Ah, but what wonderful work it did during its 40 years of matches and fundraising.

Regarding her personal life, to paraphrase Winston Churchill, Betty Jean was an enigma wrapped up in a box of contradictions. She worked for Southern Bell for 40 years, yet she didn't have a telephone until the last year of her life. Although she was a member of Jacksonville Dog Fanciers and a staunch supporter of Conformation, during the latter part of her life her dogs were mixed-breed rescues. By all evidence she had no money, yet raised thousands and thousands for the Jacksonville Dog Festival to be used to benefit others. She was a quiet person with a soft voice but she could fight like a tiger for what she believed was best for this club. She was affable and friendly to everybody yet had only a few close friends within the club. She served K-9 since the 1960s, attended all trials, matches, meetings and other club functions, served as President, served on the Board for many, many years, yet we know little about her personal life.

So faithful was her attendance at all things K-9 that when she didn't show up at the April trials Laurie and I speculated that Something Was Wrong. Afterward, Betty Jean blithely offered a sore throat excuse, and we let it pass. Only months later did we learn she was suffering through the last stages of thyroid cancer. Phyllis sent flowers, of course, but somehow it seemed too little, too late. We would have liked the opportunity to give back, to help her a little if we could as she had helped us, but Betty Jean Shuman died as she lived - privately. The people who might have known her well - Blanche, Mary, and her dear friend, Torchy - all passed away before her, and we are left with silence. Apparently, all she ever intended for us to remember (if anything) was that she loved dogs enough to spend much of her life scratching up dollar bills in order that we could take such things as heartworm prevention for granted.

Thinking about it, that's quite an enviable epitaph.

Exercise Finished, Betty Jean.

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