

From the President's Desk – The February General meeting was our opportunity to acknowledge our members who have earned titles in 2010. 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.

From the feedback I've gotten back, the weenie roast and show'n'go on the 20th was a great success. **Ken Stevens** and **John Ruskuski** kept the weenies coming so that everyone was fed. Many enjoyed making their own S'Mores with the firepit loaned to us by **John Wernert**. It was nice to spend the afternoon hanging out around the fire and catching up with old friends and getting to know some new ones. I've had a lot of requests for more of this kind of thing, so look for more to come.

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 me. 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 by purchasing and using some of these items.

The April trials are fast upon us. Let **Diane Cohen** know how you can help out with stewarding. 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 is often 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 help return the drinks to the fridge from the cooler. **Connie Carstens** will be doing concessions, so check with her on food needs, cash donations, or help. We need help in all these areas if we are to continue to include matches and concessions at our trials. Send trophy donations to **Ginny Ruskuski** (there's a donation sheet attached to this month's Tails.)

The next General meeting is on the 17th. Hope to see ya'll there!

Laurie



Welcome New Members!

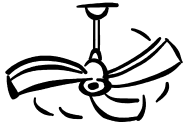
No new members to report.

Meetings

Board Meeting - March 10 (7:00 PM)

General Meeting – March 17 (7:30 PM)

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



Upcoming Events

Upcoming Classes & Events for March

03/07 -- Rally All Levels, 7:00 PM, Whalen
03/07 -- Proofing & Troubleshooting for Open & Utility, 6:30 PM, Shepherd
03/08 -- CGC Test 7:30 PM, \$10
03/10 -- Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
03/13 -- Obedience Show-n-GO, 3:00 PM
03/15 -- Basic Obed/CGC, 7:00 PM, Billinge & Carstens
03/15 -- Advanced Obed/CGC, 8:00 PM, Carstens
03/17 -- General Meeting, 7:30 PM
03/19 -- Freestyle Group meets at 10 AM
03/19 -- Puppy K & 1, 9:30 AM, Whalen
03/25 -- Puppy K & 1, 6:30 PM, Satur
03/28 -- CGC Test 7:30 PM, \$10

Weekly Classes for March

Mondays

6:00 Basic Obedience/CGC, Gard
6:30 Proofing & Troubleshooting for Open & Utility, Shepherd
7:00 Rally Adv. & Excel., Whalen
7:15 Basic Obedience/CGC, Gard
7:30 Intro to Agility, Cohen
7:50 Rally Novice/Beginners, Whalen

Tuesdays

6:30 Clicker Foundations, Rogers
7:00 Open Ring Rdy, Cohen
7:00 Basic Obedience/CGC, Billinege & Carstens
7:45 Clicker Foundations, Rogers
8:00 Advanced Obedience, Carstens

Wednesdays

6:30 Buidling on Success, Rogers (Feb)
6:30 STAR Puppy, Whalen
7:00 Novice Foundations, Ruskuski
7:30 Conformation, J.Mello, call 614-9282

Fridays

6:00 Puppy K & 1, Satur
7:10 Puppy K & 1, Satur

Saturday Mornings

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

Congratulations!

Elizabeth Adams and Durrance

HIC (Herding Instinct) and HT (Herding Tested) earned – New Titles!

Lisa Mallory and Kelly

3rd leg, Grad. Novice – New Title!

(Please don't forget to send me your brags!

ruskuski5030@comcast.net

Thanks!)



Note from the Editor – After several years of doing the newsletter I would really like a break. If anybody's interested in taking on this job for a year I would be very willing to help you get started. Please contact me at ruskuski5030@comcast.net.

(With fingers crossed!) Thanks, Ginny



Personal Notes:

From **Pat Zaborowski** – “At the meeting last week, Laurie came up with an idea for advertising for our catalog for the April trials. It is a good time for everyone to put an ad in the catalog regarding our 60th year. Like a \$5.00 for a business card size, \$10.00 for a 1/4 page ad, \$20 for a 1/2 page and \$35 for a full page.” Think about it!

Some disappointing news from **Celeste Meade** in New Hampshire: “Hi Diane ... Well I have bad news. I cannot do the seminar this April for you. I am <on> real restricted vocal use and have to cancel judging and seminars til the end of May. I have been sick and lost all use of my voice for weeks and now I am working with 3 doctors to fix it. Vocal cord nodes...real bad so I need to not speak multiple hours a day... Me??? A little hard but the pain tells me to shut up... Sorry for the inconvenience. –Celeste”

Hopefully, Celeste will debut Sparky at Crufts as part of Team USA in Obedience. **Beth Schmidt** reports that decorating crates with cards from well-wishers is a tradition at Crufts and Dave Maurer and Celeste hope to have respectably colorful crates. If you’ve enjoyed Celeste’s seminars please send a Good Luck card to Celeste Meade and David Maurer, American K-9 Country, C/O Crufts Cards, 336 Rt. 101, Amhearst, N.H., 03031.

Monday evening **Anita Gard** went into the **club house** for a coke and found that once again we’d been **broken into**. After all the trouble we went to removing the bars from the windows (making window entrance easier), the unsubs (again) chose to kick in the back door (leaving the door frame on the kitchen floor). Adding insult to injury it appeared nothing was taken. (Anita was informed by the police that these days nobody can be bothered stealing a television unless it’s a flatscreen). The doorframe was apparently the only loss we suffered but unfortunately this damage will require a lot of repair. On a happy note, they didn’t find the can of coke money on top of the fridge and that \$2.75 (estimated) will come in handy when paying a contractor.

Colleen Whalen had some pretty serious surgery on her wrist a few weeks ago but is on the mend and (amazingly) back doing classes and working with Kate. Our best wishes for a successful recovery!

If you haven’t heard, there’s a **rabies alert in Mandarin** from Orange Picker Rd north to about 295 and west to St. Augustine Rd. Keep those shots current! Also, remind friends and neighbors that FCNMHP is offering free spay/neuter to owners of Pit Bulls who are residents of Duval County.

Big thanks to **John Wernert** for the use of his fire pit at the weenie roast. It was a very convivial afternoon chatting, eating, and doing run throughs with our dogs.

Of course we’re proud of all our members’ accomplishments, but special congratulations are due to **Maria Oehler**. She and **Macy** have earned 50 (!) titles! This is the result of a lot of hard work and a true “team” relationship. Congratulations, Maria and Macy!

Susan Howard was very kind to give me a subscription to the Whole Dog Journal for Christmas. A recent issue rated dog foods and I told her how helpful I found it. Received an email from her that I thought some of our members might find interesting...

“As a dry dog food I feed Livesmart Lamb & Brown Rice which is made by Smartpak (www.smartpakcanine.com) – look under allergy food. It is made with free range, pasture fed, antibiotic free New Zealand lamb, and contains no yukky stuff like corn, wheat, corn gluten, soy, by-products, animal fat, etc. I would certainly recommend it for Annie (and for Ricky). It was the Whole Dog Journal’s editor choice for 2010. It is quite a reasonable cost for a quality food – I order the portion paks & they arrive every month like clockwork. It is a basic \$7.95 shipping charge, but they sell treats/heartworm/flea & tick/beds/etc, etc. as well that you can add to your order for no extra shipping. It’s nice not having to worry about dog food running out! The portion paks really do ensure that the food is fresh – it is manufactured in small batches then sealed in individual portion paks (great for travel, trials, etc)

Smartpak has incredible customer service, best I think I have ever come across, so if you need to change your monthly order for any reason they will accommodate any request (thinking about if you need to change the amount of food Annie is eating seeing as she is still young). I have fed Kona on raw (initially with some kibble) since she was 10-11 months old as when I got her at 6 months she was itching all over with skin issues, etc, etc.. Past vet tried to prescribe Benedryl/cortisone/science diet prescription, etc, etc.

Gracie, I started on the Smartpak when I got her 2 years ago (still can’t believe I’ve had her for almost 2 years), and having the food in the individual meal portions is fantastic as I really have to watch her weight seeing as she only has 3 legs now. People that saw Gracie initially & then now cannot believe how good she looks & I am sure it is the food, etc. Since actually adopting Gracie, she is now fed on raw too, but they still have a little kibble at the end of each meal – they love the stuff. They’ll do anything for one little piece! **Smartpak will send you a free sample if you ask them**. They also sell Wellness but I prefer their own Lamb & brown rice. I also use a couple of supplements from www.springtimeinc.com

1. Longevity – bee pollen, spirulina, kelp, plus joint health
2. Omega 3-6-9 softgels.

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I have a neighbour that was feeding her dog Science Diet i/d (as per her vet, don't forget vets get paid for selling SD) & dog still had problems with digestion/pancreas, etc. She switched to Smartpak & supplemented with 'Prozyme' enzymes & Alaskan salmon oil, and is soooo pleased. Dog is so much healthier & has no digestive problems at all. Coat & skin much better too. In addition add 'Probios' probiotic tabs. Plus, vet was charging her over \$120 for the enzymes, when you can buy Prozyme for \$25/30 – same size container!!!

Just looked at the first 3 ingredients for Science diet i/d compared to Smartpak lamb!!!

ScienceDiet:	Whole grain corn	SmartPak:	Lamb
	Brewers Rice		Lamb Meal
	Dried Egg 'product'		Brown rice

Where's the meat here????? Anyway, just a few ideas. See you soon, Susan."

Anyway, I'm going to try the samples and see what Annie – aka, "Her Royal Fussiness," thinks. The galaxy of dog foods available are confusing and its nice to hear suggestions and endorsements. Thanks, Susan!

Editor's note – we often have months that are slow for news. If you know of a food or product that our members might find useful email me the details and I'll pass it on. Thanks!



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