



From the President's Desk

Looking back over the last year, a lot of new and exciting things come to mind. We celebrated 60 years with an old fashioned weenie roast, and had many successful matches thanks to **Anita's** hard work in planning and organizing them. Thanks to the efforts of our "elves," (**John Wernert** – Chairman of the Elf Committee!) we have remodeled and repainted bathrooms, planted beautiful gardens, poured new concrete and have made a front gate. The new lighting offers a MUCH safer entry way and front steps access. Now, most of the windows in the clubhouse actually open. Electricity to the outbuildings is now complete. I'm working on a "before and after" slideshow to remind us how far we've come in the past years. Even I have to marvel at the wonderful changes that have taken place.

I'd like to thank **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 yet another resolution to do better next year☺. Thanks Ginny for all your work on the tails.

Thanks to **Shannon Shepherd** for her work with our facebook page, and to **Anita Gard** for her continued work with our website.

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!

Annual club dues were due by the end of the year. Get those to Connie Carstens. We don't want to lose you! **If you are mailing in the key fee, be sure and send along a self addressed stamped envelope for your key to be returned. You should have the required agreement form via e-mail earlier this month. Be sure to include it as well.**

Get your new titles and accomplishments to Anita Gard by Jan 31st 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. A special thanks go to all the instructors who once again, "kept the lights on" this year. 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 before 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 on the 19th. Hope to see you all then. – **Laurie**

Welcome New Members!

Karin Schleiger and Lauren Dickson and Kris Dickson

Ellen Chiafair and Joseph Chiadair with Rudy, a Golden Retriever

Tony Mazzola and Rory Mazzola with Izzy, an Aussie

Sharon Kimble (*Welcome Back!*)

**Congratulations to our newest *Full Member*,
Sally Ray**



Meetings

Board Meeting – January 12 (7:00 PM)

General Meeting – January 19 (7:30 PM)

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



Upcoming Events

New Classes & Events for January

- 01/04 -- Puppy K & 1, 6:30 PM, Whalen
01/09 -- Pet Therapy, 7:00 PM, Ennis
01/10 -- Basic Obedience/CGC, Billinge & Carstens
01/10 -- Advanced Obedience, 8:00 PM, Carstens
01/12 -- Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
01/16 -- Basic Obed Plus, 7:00 PM, Gard & Mallory
01/17 -- Practical Clicker Skills, 6:00 & 7:15 PM, Mallory
01/18 -- Novice/Beginner Novice, 6:30 PM, Gard
01/18 -- Clicker Foundations, 7:00 PM, Rogers
01/18 -- Open FUNdamentals, 7:45 PM, Gard
01/19 -- General Meeting 7:30 PM
01/21 -- Puppy K & 1, 10:30 & 11:45 AM, Whalen

Weekly Classes for January

Mondays

- 7:00 Pet Therapy, Ennis
7:00 Basic Obedience PLUS, Gard & Mallory
7:30 Open & Utility Proofing, Shepherd

Tuesdays

- 6:00 Practical Clicker Skills, Mallory
7:00 Basic Obedience/CGC, Billinge & Carstens
7:15 Practical Clicker Skills, Mallory
8:00 Advanced Obedience, Carstens
8:00 Agility, Cohen

Wednesdays

- 6:30 Puppy K & 1, Whalen
6:30 Novic/Beginner Novice, Gard
6:30 Clicker Foundations, Rogers
7:30 Conformation, Mello
7:45 Clicker Foundations, Rogers
7:45 Open FUNdamentals, Gard

Thursdays

- 7:00 Freestyle (1 class per month), Nabors

Fridays

- 6:30 Puppy K & 1, Satur

Saturday Mornings

- 9:30 Puppy K & 1, Satur
10:00 Freestyle Group, 3rd week only
10:30 Puppy K & 1, Whalen
11:45 Puppy K & 1, Whalen

Congratulations!



Diane Cohen & Isaac (Min Poodle)
Paws & Pals
Novice Fast, 3rd leg – New Title!
Novice Jumpers, 3rd leg – New Title!
Novice Standard – leg earned

Anita Gard & Parek (GSD)
N. Fl. Schutzhund Club Trial 11/27
TR3 (Working Dog Tracking) – New Title!
Anita Gard & Zeli (GSD)
Highway Club Schutzhund Club Trial 12/11
TR1, OB1 (Working Dog Tracking and Obed.) – New Title!

(From Press Release)

The AKC/Eukanuba national Championship is the largest prize money dog show in the world, with cash and prizes awarded totaling more than \$225,000. This prestigious competition is invitation-only. Dogs can qualify to attend the show by:

- Ranking in the top 25 of their breed based on breed points accumulated at AKC shows
- Receiving an all-breed Best I Show win at any AKC show during the qualifying period
- Winning “Best of Breed” at any AKC parent club national specialty (dog shows of all one breed)
- Attaining the Grand Champion title or a Grand Champion Achievement Level within the qualifying period
- Completing their AKC championship in the Bred-by-Exhibitor or Amateur-Owner-Handler class within the qualifying period

This year, Veteran dogs (7 years or older) that have won an All-Breed Best in Show, a National Specialty or were ranked I the top five of their breed during their career are also invited.

For more information about the AKC/Eukanuba Championship, please visit www.akc.org/aenc.

Competitors from K9 Club of Jacksonville include:

Anne Baxter competing with an Australian Cattle Dog
Torie Marks competing with a Tibetan Spaniel
Ken Stevens competing with a Tibetan Spaniel
Jan Wernert competing with a Briard
Shannon Shepherd competing in Obedience with a German Shepherd.

For more information contact: Laura Billinge, K9 Club of Jacksonville, President, 904-724-4987 or John Wernert, K9 Club of Jacksonville, Vice-President, 904-215-1822.

(Editor’s note: Congratulations to these members who competed at Eukanuba. As they say at the Oscars, “It’s an honor just to be nominated.” Best wishes for continued success in 2012!)

***Practical Clicker Skills**

When Tue, January 17, 2012, 6pm – 7pm

Description

Practical Clicker Skills – “Catch and Click Success”

This course is designed to provide a balanced mix of discussion, demonstration, training, student participation and just plain fun!

Using knowledge of basic clicker training you'll teach your dog practical, useful behaviors that will enhance your relationship and make your furry friend a more enjoyable companion to live with. All behaviors will be taught with a clicker and positive reinforcement.

Behaviors taught include:

- Loose Leash Walking (LLW) – Learn to improve your timing, delivery of treats, importance of treat placement, and just how enjoyable it can be to walk with your partner at your side.
- Go To Mat – Famed clicker trainer, service dog trainer, and author Sue Ailsby writes “Picture your dog crated whenever you need a moment without her, no matter where you are, and without having to carry a crate around.” Enough said J
- Stay – Teach your dog to stay with confidence in the face of distractions, and stay put until asked to do otherwise.
- Coming when called (Recall) – Along with jumping up and pulling on the leash, this may be one of the most requested behaviors trainers are asked to help teach. Teaching a reliable recall could save your dog's life. We'll go beyond the basics and condition your dog to happily romp, race or run to you whenever you call.
- Handle with care – We'll go over basic concepts of teaching your dog to accept and enjoy having their ears and teeth examined or cleaned. We'll also begin shaping nail trimming without the drama or fear. You'll be introduced to the concept of writing training plans to help ensure clarity and success in your future training.

Classes include e-mail and video support. Class size is limited to ensure everyone gets ample individual attention.

Requirements: Clicker Foundations or permission of the instructor. Attendance at a minimum of 5 classes is required for a Certificate of Completion.

Course: 7 weeks, 1 hour on Tuesday evenings, 2 groups: 6:00 & 7:15 p.m.

Cost: \$80.00 for non-members/\$48.00 for K-9 members

Contact: Lisa Mallory 641-9089/673- 4320 Lemallory@bellsouth.net

Youtube channel - <http://www.youtube.com/user/lisarnoon>

Personal Notes:

Colleen Whalen has agreed to put on a demo at Nocatee for their monthly Farmers Market to be held February 18th from 10:00 – 2:00. They usually provide some sort of entertainment and since February is National “Love your Pet” month (or some such occasion) they’ve asked if K-9 members would be willing to demo Obedience, Rally, etc. Please contact Colleen if you’ll be able to make it. Sounds like a good opportunity to train in a different location with a lot of distraction. Colleen’s # is 399-5343.

A couple of reminders, **please send or give your dues to Connie Carstens** – nobody else. We’ve experienced mix-ups in the past, with dues being given to Laurie, me, other board members, etc. The dues may have been deposited but the Membership Chair was not informed of the payment and so the member was recorded as lapsed. Needless to say this results in hurt feelings if not downright indignation. Please send your dues to the right person. Connie’s address is
Connie Carstens
224 News Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32211

The other reminder is the Awards to be given at the February Meeting. The form is attached and you will **list ONLY titles earned during 2011. Please return that ASAP to Anita Gard.** In the past we’ve had several members on the warpath as they were not included in the awards. They neglected to send in the form but insisted, “You all should have known!” I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again, the only titles we can keep up with are our own dogs’ – and I’ve even confused mine a few times. Help us out! Send in the form to:

Anita Gard
3414 Regatta Way
Jacksonville, Florida 32223

For the 20% - A few words about the new key policy.

I remember well a trial we had about 10 years ago. In the most recent newsletter I had asked that if members were showing and could not steward, perhaps they could drop off a case of Cokes or bag of ice. While chatting with one of the judges in the clubhouse, a member interrupted our conversation to say, "I didn't bring any Cokes or ice since I feel I'm supporting the club with my entry." She left abruptly, clearly feeling that she had been unfairly – and personally – solicited. I could have died of embarrassment. The judge laughed and said, "We've got members like that at our club. But we now have a policy that they cannot use the grounds unless they contribute a certain amount of service to the club or at least donations of food or drinks for trials."

Well, I've been pushing for that policy ever since and had hoped that it would be reflected in the new key policy, but alas, all that's required is a relatively small amount of money. I am always amazed that some of our members who come to the club to practice on a regular basis react with horror when they are asked to help with the trash or come to a work day to clean up the grounds. I'm taken aback when somebody sees me changing the

poop bag and asks, "Hey, Ginny, how'd you get stuck with that job?" I didn't. I was just walking by and noticed it needed to be done. Kind of like at home when the garbage needs to go out; I can wait for somebody else to do it or do it myself. I'm not a martyr and there's no special place in heaven for me – I just hate a nasty, reeking garbage can.

I've also pondered Why Things Are The Way They Are and there are some Laws that seem to be universal to all clubs, churches, and volunteer organizations. In clubs, churches and similar organizations

1. 10% of the members do 90% of the work required
2. 20% of the members contribute nothing at all other than dues
3. The most bitter and vocal complaints come from the 20% previously mentioned

Okay, so now that I've got that off my chest let me soften the blow by saying I get it, really, I get it. Many of you came here from a different club. You first got involved in training somewhere else – this is not the club you consider your home. Believe me, I understand. Unfortunately we still need your help to put on trials, run matches, keep the grounds clean, etc. I also understand that none of us are getting any younger and some of us have

infirmities – bad backs, torn rotator cuffs, plain old arthritis, whatever – that makes physical labor beyond your capabilities. If that's the case, consider hosting a meeting, serving on the Board, helping judge at a match or calling run-throughs, or stewarding at a trial (I've never met anybody that couldn't be a figure 8 post). I also understand that some of our members live a prohibitive distance from the club and coming here is a hardship. But if you can come for a trial or class you can surely do something to help out when you're here for those occasions.

Finally, my last Law:
What you get out of a club or organization is directly proportional to what you put into it.

It's no coincidence that those of us who are the most enthusiastic about K-9 are those of us who volunteer regularly to help out in one way or another. We love the club because we've put so much of ourselves into it.

I'd like to thank all of you who have donated your time and effort to K-9 Obedience Club (and I'm happy to say, that's most of you!)

Wishing everyone a happy new year! – G.R.

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New Years; drinking fireworks, noise makers – not my favorite holiday...

