



Board of Governors

2016 -2017

President – Colleen Whalen

cwhalen@bellsouth.net

1st VP - Ginny Ruskuski

Ruskuski5030@att.net

2nd VP - Tom Wiley

tlwiley@bellsouth.net

Treasurer – Marla Holliday

marlamarla@comcast.net

Recording Secretary – Betsy Raiford

Betsy.Raiford1369@gmail.com

Membership - Vicki Ford

viford@bellsouth.net

Board Member - Cindy Torre

exburghgirl@outlook.com

Correspondence - Jennifer Gorman

jegorman@bellsouth.net

Board Member /Past President

Alison Nelson

anelsonphs@yahoo.com

Training Director

TBD

From the President's Desk

We recently shared the sad news that **Wanda Edge** passed away. She was a long time member of this club (long before K9 acquired the current property) and we miss her very much. In her honor will purchase a figurine for the flower garden. I asked Ginny Ruskuski to write about Wanda.

The **large tree stump and two dying oak trees** behind rings B & C were removed. The pavilion roof debris was blown off and the gutters cleaned out by the tree company. This will be a yearly maintenance clean-up prior to our April trials.

This is the busiest time of the year for trainers nationwide. Many people get a new puppy or dog in December or January. We just filled STAR Puppy groups (40 pups!) and the Family Dog course. If you are interested in assisting with the puppy classes or are thinking about teaching any course, let me know. We could use the help!

I'm preparing the premium for the **April trials** now as the opening date is February 22nd.

Jennifer Gorman is heading the Nominating Committee for the 2017-2018 Board. She'll need two or three full time members to assist with the process. Contact: jegorman@bellsouth.net.

The entrance **gate lock** change went smoothly thanks to **Bob Hahn**. No complaints!

2017 Membership Dues: All dues should have been received by Victoria Ford as of today.

We have a new section for the newsletter titled: **Trainer's Tips & Reviews**. About every four months, a trainer will offer insights, tips and perhaps a review on their favorite resources. **Alanna Lowry** has volunteered to write for this month's issue.

Colleen Whalen

Meetings

Board Meeting – Feb. 9, 7:00

General Meeting – Feb. 16, 7:30



No training will be allowed on the grounds during the General Meeting.

New Members



Please welcome our new full member:

Kevin Daudelin

And our new provisional member:

Vickie T Baker with Crew, a Portuguese Water Dog

Nosework News

Congratulations to

Marcia Ladendorff
and Marnie White

for obtaining

their Certified Nosework Instructor (CNWI)
accreditation through NACSW (National
Association of Canine Scent Work).



They spent numerous hours over the past
year attending classes and seminars,
assembling a dossier of their work and finally
passing their final exams with flying colors.

They are the only CNWIs in the Jacksonville
area!

Upcoming Events

February

02/05 CCI Service Puppy - 2:00 pm

02/09 Board Meeting - 7:00 pm

02/16 General Meeting - 7:30 pm

02/19 CCI Service Puppy - 2:00 pm

March

03/05 CCI Service Puppy - 2:00 pm

03/09 Board Meeting - 7:00 pm

03/16 General Meeting - 7:30 pm

03/19 CCI Service Puppy - 2:00 pm

April

04/02 CCI Service Puppy - 2:00 pm

04/13 Board Meeting - 7:00 pm

04/16 CCI Service Puppy - 2:00 pm

04/20 General Meeting - 7:30 pm

04/22 AKC Obedience and Rally Trials

04/23 AKC Obedience and Rally Trials

Congratulations K9's 2016 NOC and RNC Qualifiers

K9 is proud to announce that the
following member teams have qualified
for the National Obedience Championship
and/or the Rally National Championship
to be held in Perry, Georgia in March of
2017. Good luck to all!

National Obedience Championship

Shannon Shepherd and Gunner

Rally Obedience Championship

Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE)

Shannon Shepherd and Gunner *

Ginny Ruskuski and Annie

Alanna Lowry and Flynn

Melissa Hess and Adam *

Christine Crews and Maizie

Rally Excellent (RE)

Christine Crews and Truly

Catherine McDonald and Nicholas

Tom Wiley and Rip

Rally Novice (RN)

Amy Wiley and Smoke *

Alanna Lowry and Nessie

(*) *not attending*

Congratulations!



Dot Mitchell and Sunshine (Golden Retriever)

NACSW nose work trials, Lumberton, NC
(January)
NW 3 *NEW TITLE!*
L1C *NEW TITLE!*

Alanna Lowry and Flynn (Border Collie)

Dog On It USDAA Orlando, FL (January)
Masters Gamblers – 1 leg
Masters Snooker – 1 leg and Super Q with 1st place
Master Jumpers – 1 leg

Shannon Shepherd and Gunner (Eng. Springer Spaniel)

MADTA AKC Obedience Ocala, FL (January)
UB win and High Combined win

Shannon Shepherd and Kazee (Eng. Springer Spaniel)

Ocala Owner Handler Dog Show – Ocala, FL (January)
CH Breed Champion *NEW TITLE!!*

Elaine Nabors and Lycan (Belgian Tervuren)

Ocala Owner Handler Dog Show – Ocala, FL (January)
Winners Dog, Best of Winners, Best of Opposite Sex

Alanna Lowry and Nessie (All American)

Dog On It USDAA Orlando, FL (January)
P3 Standard – 1 leg, 2nd place
P3 Snooker - 1 leg, SuperQ, 1st place
Performance Grand Prix leg, 2nd place
MPD (Master Performance Dog) *NEW TITLE!*

Greater Ocala Dog Club AKC Agility Orlando, FL (January)
Master Standard - 1 leg, 3rd place

MADTA AKC Obedience Ocala, FL (January)
CD – 1 leg

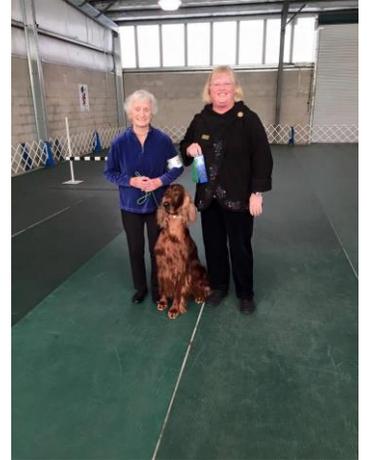
Remember to send your brags and pictures to Melissa at hess124@bellsouth.net

Personal Notes

It is with great sorrow I must inform you that Wanda Edge has passed away.

I first met Wanda about 10 years ago or so when she came to my Novice Foundations class with her PBGV, Simon. Like me, Wanda had been involved with K-9 on and off since the earth was cooling and the club was relatively new. It was obvious that, also like me, Wanda's training education had originally been grounded in the old "yank and crank" method of dog training; operant conditioning baffled her. After the second class she said she didn't think positive reinforcement would work. Every week we had the same conversation; Wanda saying she just didn't think it would work and me begging her to give it another week. To be honest, Simon seemed confused about the strategy too. To sum it up I had a crossover dog AND trainer and every week wondered if they would be at class. Finally, toward the end of the 6 weeks, Wanda literally skipped in the gate and rushed to tell me that somehow, something had clicked. Simon was looking up at me, wagging his tail while she explained the breakthroughs they had had, as if to say, "Yes! That's right! I figured out what she wanted!"

I can't remember very many details of Simon's Obedience career. I know he earned his C.D. title. Beyond that I'm not sure. It doesn't really matter. A club member's achievements in the ring are not what I remember best about them. What I remember about Wanda was her sense of humor, her perseverance, and her willingness to keep an open mind, particularly about training methods. Keeping an open mind is not something dog trainers are noted for. Generally, we find a method/philosophy, that works for us and are loathe to consider anything else. Not only are we certain it is the only method that will work for us, we KNOW it's the only method that will work for any dog, period. Some of us come perilously close to jihad in our efforts to promote the holy cause. But Wanda evidently felt she could learn something from any instructor. She attended a wide variety of classes since mine and was willing to try different approaches toward her goals and problems. That Wanda was free of any trace of ideological self-righteousness made her a breath of fresh air.



When Wanda started training her drop-dead gorgeous Irish Setter, Speed, for obedience, I had my doubts. Neither hounds nor setters are known as "obedience breeds," and I hoped she wasn't setting herself up for disappointment, but I was wrong, wrong, wrong. Wanda and Speed slowly but surely started climbing the obedience title ladder, all the way to UD. If there's one regret I have for us as a club, it would be that we couldn't find a way to get those last two qualifying scores needed for Speed's UD title. When Wanda was diagnosed with liver cancer her training and trialing days became progressively more "iffy." It's a pity she died without that last official credential on her training resume. But she did have one qualifying score, which is one "q" more than many of us will ever achieve. Wanda was a Utility trainer.

When asked to be on our DCOF team several years ago, at first Wanda declined saying she didn't think the rest of would want to be with an "old lady." I assured her she was being ridiculous and she eventually joined us with her always-supportive husband, George. Old lady? We should all be as young as Wanda! We will miss her sharp-as-a-tack sense of humor, her willingness to learn, and her readiness to be friendly to everybody.

When we see members who are brand spanking new to dog training, unsure of exactly how to hold the leash or struggling with Obedience-speak, rally rules, etc., we see ourselves when we *started*. With Wanda's illness and passing we see the road ahead of us. I hope we can all age as gracefully and face the inevitable as graciously as she did. In life - and death -Wanda set an excellent example for all of us.

Exercise finished, Wanda.

-G.R.

Trainer's Tips & Reviews

Remember that how you enter the ring with your dog can set the tone for your run. A dog that enters the ring in a confident, happy and attentive manner is going to start you off on the right foot and give you confidence! In contrast, if you enter the ring and you are having to ask or beg for attention or have difficulty setting your dog up, this can increase your stress level. Which of course increases your dog's stress level and can lead to a drop in their performance.

Training ring entries is an important part of preparing your dog for competition! It is the first exercise your dog will do in every level of obedience. I spend time training this skill and reinforcing it as much as the "real" exercises. There are many ways to work on ring entries. Here is a brief description of some of the steps that I take to get my dog motivated to go in the ring and set up. First I simply use classical conditioning to condition an emotional response to going through the ring gates. This can be in an actual ring or just a set of ring gates I've put up to practice this skill. As soon as the dog crosses the threshold of the gates, we immediately break into a big party, toys, treats, personal play whatever your dog loves. This happens in the ring. As we leave the ring, the party stops. At this level, there is no expectation of behavior on the part of the dog. I am simply wanting them to learn that going into a ring is fantastic. This is a great skill to work with your puppies or inexperienced dogs.

The next step that I take is to allow the dog to cross the threshold of the ring and I pause and wait for the dog to default eye contact. If the dog has had a good experience in step one, they should turn and look at you, as if to say, hello please start the party! The instant they do this, they are marked and rewarded. So now I am training the cue for attention is to walk through the gate.

There are many other steps I go through after this to build up to a complete set up in heel position for exercise number one. I build on the eye contact, introduce distractions, add some heeling, etc. Hopefully this will give you a starting point to work on your ring entries! Feel free to contact me with any questions on how to progress this exercise.

Alanna Lowry
gooddogs@hotmail.com

Marla Holliday, Tails Editor
12328 Leafy Tree Ln
Jacksonville, Florida 32258
marlamarla@comcast.net

