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### **August 2003 – Come to the picnic!**

Our next meeting will be our picnic, at Camp Bandy, Monday, August 18 (**THE THIRD MONDAY OF AUGUST**). You are welcome to come any time after 5:30 p.m. We'll eat around 6:30, and hold a brief meeting about 7:30. Meat and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. R.S.V.P. by August 13 by calling Beth Knotts at 344-0173 or email [BethKnotts@hotmail.com](mailto:BethKnotts@hotmail.com) or Bring your dog for agility play. Check out our updated web site at <http://www.trdogtraining.com>.

### **Minutes of General Membership Meeting 7/14/03**

President Laurie Bandy called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. Also present were Carol Lang, Val Barden, Bud Schuh, Kris Punke, Terese Barta, Cheryl Brimmer, VerJean Smith, Beth Knotts, Karlene Ferrante, Deb Bartkowiak, Mary Ann Ralston, Cherilyn Antin, Phyllis Christensen, and guest Mickey Smith.

Minutes. Phyllis moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes. Bud seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Our checking account has \$154.30 in it and our savings account has \$659.98 VerJean paid our estimated state and federal tax, and she sent \$75.00 to the South Wood County Humane Society. She took in money from leash sales, and will be getting some money from upcoming training classes.

### **Old Business**

2004 UKC Obedience and Agility Trials March 27 and 28. Trial Chair Terese Barta is still waiting for the UKC application packet, but she will begin to contact judges.

2004 AKC Obedience Trial Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2004. Trial Chair Chris Gilbreath has hired three judges for each day. If we get a lot of entries, we'll be ready; if we don't get a lot of entries, we'll make less money from the show.

Upcoming Labor Day weekend AKC Agility Trial. Heather Varco is in charge of volunteers. If you can work, but have not yet turned in a worker volunteer form, please call Heather at (715) 824-7235 or email Heather at hvarco@wi-net.com. The premium is posted on our website.

Upcoming Obedience and Agility Match on August 9. Kathe Carter has arranged for Ellen Hardin and Bob Brzezinski to judge obedience, and Laurie Bandy will judge agility. Depending on the number of entries, we may need another agility judge. Cherilyn Antin made up the entry form, which is included again in this newsletter. Mary Ann Ralston reported that pre-entries are arriving slowly. Karlene is looking for volunteers. We need 4 ring stewards for obedience. Val Barden, Carol Lang, and Terese Barta volunteered. Several others said they were willing to help, though they may not be able to work the entire morning. Mary Ann and Beth will work during the afternoon agility match. We are counting on members entering agility to set up courses and to help out during the afternoon.

### **You'll have a great time at the picnic!**

- \*enjoy tasty main dish grilled by Steve Bandy
- \*taste classic and exotic dishes in the potluck
- \*visit with members you haven't seen in ages
- \*meet other members and their cool dogs
- \*play in an agility course with your dog
- \*get credit for coming to a short meeting

**Don't miss it!**

### **Old Business**

Training Classes. Kris Punke reported that she is offering Beginning Obedience and Puppy classes starting July 15. Heidi Goethel referred a number of people to Kris, and the classes are already full, with a waiting list for the next series of classes.

### **New Lock Combination.**

Because the building was burglarized last month, we have a new combination lock on the key box. Members can get the new combination from the "members only" part of our website or by contacting any of our board members. We will be changing locks about every six months.

A Chance to Clarify our Training Philosophy. Karlene pointed out that our application for membership states that new members agree with our philosophy of dog training, but that we haven't really stated what that is. This will be an agenda item for our September meeting, so members are encouraged to think about your philosophy of training and come prepared to discuss it.

Phyllis pointed out that our logo includes a drawing of a choke collar, which we do not allow in our training classes. Members discussed the possibility of having a graphic artist redesign our logo. Karlene will check into the possibility of getting a graphic design student from UWSP to come up with some sketches in the fall semester. Val Barden might be able to persuade her mother, who is a graphic designer, to come up with some ideas too. It seems logical to redesign our logo at the same time we clarify our purpose and philosophy.

Hospitality. Laurie asked for volunteers to provide hospitality for future meetings. Micky Smith was volunteered to provide hospitality for the September meeting. Cherilyn Antin will do it in October, and Phyllis Christensen will take care of November.

Introduction of Guest. Mickey Smith introduced herself to the members present. Mickey, who is also called Merryl, is Laurie Bandy's sister. She has four Irish Setters, all rescue dogs. Mickey has already worked at a lot shows, and she is training and competing in agility.

Adjournment. Phyllis moved to adjourn. Bud seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:25, and members enjoyed Kris Punke's banana split torte.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karlene Ferrante  
Secretary

### **Minutes of Board Meeting 7/14/03**

President Laurie Bandy called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Our checking account has \$154.30 in it and our savings account has \$659.98. VerJean paid our estimated state and federal tax, and she sent \$75.00 to the South Wood County Humane Society. She took in money from leash sales, and will be getting some money from upcoming training classes.

### **Old Business**

Building looks good! Board members were dazzled by how clean the building looks. Someone has been cleaning! And the pamphlet rack is facing outward, as it should. Thank you to whoever has been cleaning!

Upcoming Obedience and Agility Match on August 9. Kathe Carter has arranged for Ellen Hardin and Bob Brzezinski to judge obedience, and Laurie Bandy will judge agility. Depending on the number of entries, we may need another agility judge. Cherilyn Antin made up the entry form, which is included again in this newsletter. Mary Ann Ralston reported that pre-entries are arriving slowly. Karlene is looking for volunteers. We need 4 ring stewards for obedience and several for agility.

New Combination. Board members discussed ways to get the new combination to members without having it "out there" for a thief to find. It was decided to post the combination on the secure part of the webpage, and to announce the combination at the general membership meeting, but not to publish it in the newsletter. Members wanting the combination can get it from the webpage or from any board member.

Training Classes. Kris Punke is offering beginning obedience and puppy classes, and both have filled.

Labor Day Agility Trial. Heather Varco is the volunteer coordinator for the upcoming agility trial, and we need members to work.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karlene Ferrante  
Secretary

### **\*\*\*Announcements\*\*\***

#### **Obedience Run-Throughs**

At Ellen Hardin's Training Building, 2603 Ridge Road, Custer  
7:30 p.m.  
August 11  
\$2.00 per dog per run-through

#### **Support the Animal Rescue Site**

From Kathy Schuh: The Animal Rescue Site is having trouble getting enough people to click on it daily to meet their quota to get free food donated every day to abused and neglected animals. It takes less than a minute to go to their site and click on "feed an animal in need" for free. This doesn't cost you a thing. Their corporate sponsors/advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate food to abandoned/neglected animals in exchange for advertising. Here's the web site! Pass it along to people you know. <http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com/>

#### **\*Braggs \* Brags \* Brags\* Brags \***

Cherilyn Antin's French Bulldog U-CD U-Agz Turbo CDX NA NAJ FDCH completed his UKC CD on June 22 in Rockford, IL.

Cherilyn's Newfoundland Ch U-CD Socorro's Snowdrift Tsunami CDX TD NJP also completed his UKC CD at the Rockford show, with a second place finish.

Val Barden's Gordon Setter Tartana Feathers and Tar took first place in Puppy-Dog 6-9 Months on Saturday, June 28, at the Paper Cities trial. She took second place on Sunday, June 29.

Val's Tartana's Leine Red pointed and held her first bird at four minutes on June 30.

From Kathy Schuh: On Fri. July 4th, U-CDX U-AG1 U-AG2 Silvercreek Hav Gun Wil Trav'l CDX, MX, MXJ, TDIA,V, added another leg to his Exc.Std. wins, and on Sun. July 6th, he took 2nd place in Exc.Std.again.

On Sun.July 6th, Silvercreek Lit'l Miracle Boy, Kirby CD,NA, OAJ, took a 2nd place in Open Std.

On Sat. July 5th, Kobold Blue Suede Schuhs, Brodie CGC, TDI finished his Novice Std. title with a 1st place finish. This trial was at Lake Elmo in Minn. and all 3 dogs are Border Terriers owned by Bud & Kathy Schuh & run by Kathy.

From Karlene: The Samoyed Club of America has published the 2002 AKC rankings for Samoyeds, based on dogs defeated. Chelestina's Cinnabar CD, AX, AXJ (Sasha) was ranked 6 in Excellent Agility, and 16 in Novice Obedience.

Congratulations to all!

UD legs, and was not going to get another. Now, she is losing her eyesight and hearing. Some days we need to help her in and out of the house, but the tail still wags and at almost 12 years, Mandy is doing fairly well, all things considered.

My new Lab "Keeper" came along in 2000. Same breed, but much different attitude. Keeper is so bonded to me (almost too much so) but I feel we make a good team. Keeper loves to work and is a joy to train.

Keeper and I have benefited over the years from the many different seminars I've attended, and those seminars have given me new ways of thinking about dog training. One in particular, with Sylvia Bishop, was really a turning point for me. With her beautiful English accent and her inspiring presence, Sylvia turned me on to the importance of **play**.

I truly believe this is why Keeper has such a great attitude about training. I don't mean that after training we go play ball or swim; I mean **one-on-one** playing—tugging, bouncing, touching, spinning, etc... I even get on the floor at her level and do a recall, which ends up with us playing on the floor. I keep it fun and vary our play so she doesn't know what's coming next. Then, I was delighted to get strong reinforcement for this approach at Cindy Sierkerke's excellent seminar, "The Power of Play." It's not only fun for you and your dog; play is a magical key to bonding and learning!

Of course, play is also central to successful agility training. Keeper loves agility, but unfortunately we don't compete much because my knee injury—and two surgeries. My husband has tried to run her, but she will have no part of that. (It goes back to that bonding thing!) We just continue to train and have fun, and I think it helps keep her in condition.

Now, because of Keeper's uncontrollable enthusiasm, we are starting to train in field work. Keeper will pick up anything and everything except—you guessed it—a duck! She has no problem retrieving pigeons and even pigeons with duck scent, but so far, she won't retrieve a duck, so I guess we just will play around in the field, but will not be entered in any field events for a while, if ever. (If a qualifying score would be to find the duck, sniff it and walk away, we could enter tomorrow!)

I'm not sure how we will approach this challenge in the future, but I know it must be positive. I don't ear pinch or use any other corrections with Keeper. She has a very low stress tolerance and can barely handle a verbal correction. She literally falls apart. So everything with her is positive. For Keeper, simply getting no treat and no praise is a powerful correction. Now I know Mandy would have responded well to stronger correction, but Keeper will not. I guess you have to know your dog and base your type of corrections on their individual responses.

I've also learned it's important for us to train often, and to be systematic in breaking complicated exercises into simple components. I try to train every day and pick out a couple of exercises to work on. I will throw in a couple of open or even novice exercises for the fun of it. If we are having problems with an exercise, I break it down to many small steps to find out exactly where the problem is.

Any complicated exercise can be divided into many simple parts, which can all be learned separately first. For example, I wouldn't teach a dumbbell retrieve until the dog knows a solid stationary hold with the dumbbell. I also don't put a heeling pattern together until halts, fast, slow, about

*Thanks to Lori Whitney for this month's training story!  
Next month, Terese Barta writes about her foster dog, Tilly.*

### ***Lori and Those Darned Chocolate Labs***

When I was asked to write about my dogs and training, I didn't really know what I would write about, as I am not as experienced as many members of our club, but here's my story and what I've learned along the way.

I got my first Lab in 1991. "Mandy" was my first "everything dog"—the first I trained, the first I've shown, and the first dog who taught me to be humble and to keep a sense of humor. Mandy is my TD, CGC, CD, UCD, CDX dog. I had some good trainers with her and am grateful we got as far as we did. Then one day, arthritis forced Mandy to retire. She had two

turns, left and right turns are taught separately. I do think it's a good idea to teach open and even some utility exercises while teaching the novice exercises (to keep things interesting). I was also told, and have never forgotten that what you get in training will always be better than what you get in the ring.

We are very lucky to have some good trainers in our club. I feel having an open mind and training with as many people as possible will really benefit you and your dog in the long run.

I think you can tell that I really love obedience! For me, obedience is the foundation of everything else we do, and if training is centered around play, it can't possibly be boring. It's up to you to make it fun!

Yes, I will always own Chocolate Labs; they are the only breed for me (although I love ALL dogs). Some day down the road I will open my heart and home to an older Labrador who may have been neglected or simply given up, through Labrador Rescue, but as of right now, I'm thinking how cool it would be to have a puppy! ☺

Lori Whitney

### Timber Ridge Building dates for August

Second Monday after 12:00: August 11

Tuesdays after 12:00 noon: August 5, 12, 19, 26

Thursdays after 12:00: August 7, 14, 21, 28

Saturdays all day: August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

### Timber Ridge Building dates for September

Second Monday after 12:00: September 8

Tuesdays after 12:00 noon: September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Thursdays after 12:00: September 4, 11, 18, 25

Saturdays all day: September 6, 13, 20, 27

### Our Time at Camp Bandy

August 3 9:30-11:30 a.m.

August 17 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Sept 7 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Sept 21 9:30-11:30 a.m.

*If you have items, announcements, cartoons, items for sale or swap, a training story, or brags for the newsletter, please send them to Karlene Ferrante at 1324 Portage Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481 or email to [kferrante@uwsp.edu](mailto:kferrante@uwsp.edu).*

Linda Redfield passed this along:

### LETTERS FROM DOGS TO GOD:

Dear God, Why do humans smell the flowers, but seldom, if ever, smell one another?

Dear God, When we get to heaven, can we sit on your couch? Or is it the same old story?

Dear God, Why are there cars named after the jaguar, the cougar, the mustang, the colt, the stingray, and the rabbit, but not ONE named for a dog? How often do you see a cougar riding around? We dogs love a nice ride! Would it be so hard to rename the 'Chrysler Eagle' the 'Chrysler Beagle'?

Dear God, If a dog barks his head off in the forest and no human hears him, is he still a bad dog?

Dear God, We dogs can understand human verbal instructions, hand signals, whistles, horns, clickers, beepers, scent ID's, electromagnetic energy fields, and Frisbee flight paths. What do humans understand?

Dear God, More meatballs, less spaghetti, please.

Dear God, When we get to the Pearly Gates, do we have to shake hands to get in?

Dear God, Are there mailmen in Heaven? If there are, will I have to apologize?

Dear God, Let me give you a list of just some of the things I must remember to be a good dog:

*I will not eat the cats' food before they eat it or after they throw it up.*

*I will not roll on dead seagulls, fish, crabs, etc., just because I like the way they smell.*

*I will not munch on "leftovers" in the kitty litter box; although they are tasty, they are not food.*

*The diaper pail is not a cookie jar.*

*The sofa is not a face towel; neither are Mom and Dad's laps.*

*The garbage collector is not stealing our stuff.*

*My head does not belong in the refrigerator.*

*I will not bite the officer's hand when he reaches in for Mom's driver's license and registration.*

*I will not play tug-of-war with Dad's underwear when he's on the toilet.*

*Sticking my nose into someone's crotch is not an acceptable way of saying 'hello.'*

*I do not need to suddenly stand straight up when I'm lying under the coffee table.*

*I must shake the rainwater before entering the house.*

*I will not throw up in the car.*

*I will not come in from outside and immediately drag my butt across the carpet.*

*I will not sit in the middle of the living room and lick my crotch when company is over.*

*The cat is not a squeaky toy; so when I play with him and he makes that noise, it's usually not a good thing.*

Dear God, May I have my testicles back?