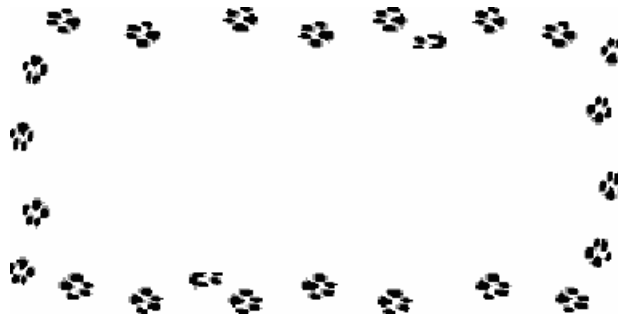




Karlene Ferrante
 1324 Portage
 Stevens Point, WI 54481

June 2003



President: Laurie Bandy – 2004	(715) 824-3196	email: laurie@campbandy.com
Vice President: Terese Barta – 2004	(715) 342-1764	email: tbarta@coredes.com
Treasurer: VerJean Smith – 2004	(715) 842-9265	email: vjsmith@g2a.net
Secretary/Newsletter: Karlene Ferrante – 2004	(715) 344-7304	email: kferrant@uwsp.edu
Board Member: Cheryl Brimmer –2004	(715) 693-3537	email: brimmer@mtc.net
Board Member: Beth Knotts –2004	(715) 344-0173	email: BethKnotts@hotmail.co
Board Member: Kathe Carter – 2005	(715) 341-1258	
Board Member: Kris Punke – 2005	(715) 539-1665	email: kpunke@MSN.com
Website Coordinator: Phyllis Christensen	(715) 842-5361	email: pkchris@pcpros.net
Coordinator of Classes: Kris Punke– 2004	(715) 539-1665	email: kpunke@MSN.com
Building Owner: Chuck Brod	(715) 693-6634	email: reeldoctor@juno.com

June 2003

Our next meeting will be Monday, June 9, at 7:30 p.m. Board meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. Hospitality will be provided by Kris Punke. Check out our updated web site at <http://www.trdogtraining.com>.

Minutes of General Membership Meeting 5/12/03

President Laurie Bandy called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Also present were Karlene Ferrante, Beth Knotts, Terese Barta, VerJean Smith, Kris Punke, Chris Gilbreath, Cheryl Brimmer, Heather Varco and Forrest, Sue Roeske, Sandy Hunt, and Annie Wood. Guests included Val Barden, Cherilyn Antin, and Jennifer Clark.

Minutes. Cheryl moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes. Heather seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

VerJean reported that we have \$1656.77 in savings and \$298.41 in checking, after paying rent, taxes and trial expenses. Our April donation is to the Lincoln County Humane Society, and our May donation will go to the Portage County Humane Society. Beth moved to accept. Heather seconded. Motion passed

Old Business

2004 AKC Obedience Trial. Chris Gilbreath is chairing the AKC obedience trial scheduled for Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2004. Chris has not yet hired an extra judge. We need a volunteer who will not be entering, to serve as trial secretary. Terese said she may be able to serve as trial secretary. We will need someone to take care of food.

2003 UKC Obedience and Agility Trials. The UKC has sent us a letter asking for clarification on who the trial secretaries were for our obedience and agility trials. They had Heather Varco down as chair for both. Heather was secretary for agility, but Kris Punke was secretary for the obedience trial. Laurie has clarified this for the UKC.

Correction to Membership List Published in May

Annie Wood's phone is (715) 693-4113. She has Gordon Setters and a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling retriever.

2004 UKC Obedience and Agility Trials. Last month, members asked whether we should continue to hold a UKC trial, even though not many club members entered the UKC trials. At this meeting, members agreed that we should continue to sponsor UKC trials, and we can make some changes to make it more efficient. Heather and Beth suggested we include a volunteer form in the premium. Kris suggested we consider either having no gate entries in obedience, or having gate entries that close at 7:00 a.m. This would alleviate the stress of late gate entries right until the trial starts.

Shall we sponsor a NADAC Trial? Heather Varco will look into the possibility of sponsoring a NADAC trial.

Vacuum Cleaner. Members have found our vacuum cleaner, though it is missing one tube.

When you use our training building, please

1. lock the key in the box outside
2. sign in at the table on your left
3. pay Chuck \$3 per hour if outside of our time
4. turn out overhead lights when finished
5. be sure the door is locked when you leave
(If you need to lock it, use key on the string.)

New Business

Hospitality. Laurie asked for volunteers to provide hospitality. Terese will provide hospitality for our June meeting, Kris Punke will take care of July, and Laurie and Steve Bandy will host our picnic the THIRD MONDAY in August.

Membership List Online. Karlene reported that the updated membership list will soon be posted on our website. The list was delayed because so many members did not pay their dues until March. Phyllis will post the list on a link open to members only.

Fun Match. Several different members have been discussing the possibility of holding fun matches in both agility and obedience. After some discussion, members expressed interest in holding an obedience fun match one morning in July, and an agility match that same day, in the afternoon. Obedience would be inside. We may want to hold an outside obedience event for 4-H. Agility would have one ring inside for sure, and another ring outside, weather permitting. We are looking for someone to chair the fun match. This will be a great opportunity for practice without the expense and pressure of a trial.

Rewards for Workers at Trials. Beth suggested we consider some ways to reward people who work at our trials. She noted that other clubs are beginning to offer a variety of incentives to volunteer. One possibility would be to offer \$5 off of a future trial entry, for each class worked. Heather told of one club that uses a punch card to record the number of classes worked. Workers are credited \$3 per class, up to \$30 for a filled card.

Rewards for Major Service to the Club. The discussion of rewards expanded to include the possibility of rewards for people who perform major services for the club. Members discussed the possibility of a reward for each of the following:

- Awards Coordinator (1 reward per year)
- Trial secretary (9 days/rewards per year)
- Trial chair (9 days/rewards per year)
- Volunteer coordinator (9 days/rewards per year)
- Newsletter editor (1 reward per year)
- Website coordinator (1 reward per year)

We could reward chairs, secretaries, and volunteer coordinators for each day of a trial worked (not matches). We might also offer one award per year each to the Awards Coordinator, the Newsletter Editor, and the Website Coordinator. (Members who teach classes for us already get a small stipend for their work.)

Members discussed what kind of reward would be appropriate. One possibility is to provide free membership for the year. Another possibility might be to give a \$15 credit toward a future trial entry.

Terese moved to table this item so that other members can also have some input. Heather seconded the motion to table. Motion carried.

Introduction of visitor. Laurie asked guests to introduce themselves.

Valerie, Michael, and Jesse Barden
9419 Damrau Rd.
Amherst, WI 54406
9715) 824-5235

Val has an English Field Setter training in agility and two Gordon Setters. Val likes to volunteer!

5/12/03

President Laurie Bandy called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

VerJean reported that we have \$1656.77 in savings and \$298.41 in checking, after paying rent, taxes and trial expenses. Our April donation is to the Lincoln County Humane Society, and our May donation will go to the Portage County Humane Society.

Old Business

VerJean reported that we have found our vacuum cleaner. VerJean and Chris cleaned it. Someone who uses the building is turning our information rack around, and not putting it back. We would like to have this rack facing forward.

New Business

Board members reported that there is interest in having an agility fun match. We also discussed the possibility of an obedience fun match.

Beth raised the question of whether we might want to reward people who work at our trials.

Kris reported that the padlock was unlocked when she came to practice at the building one time this month. We agreed to publish procedures for using the building.

Respectfully submitted,
Karlene Ferrante
Secretary

*Braggs * Brags * Brags* Brags *

Terese Barta's Tasha earned 20 points towards her UKC Agility Championship title, with first, second, and third place finishes May 10 and 11 at the Liberty All Breed K9 Club in Mishicot, WI.

Beth Knotts' Belgian Sheepdog Rix completed his UKC Ag I title on March 10, at the Liberty All Breed OKC trial.

Heather Varco's Forrest completed his Elite Regular title and his Elite Gamblers title on May 3 at the RACE NADAC trial in Lake Geneva, WI.

Also at the Lake Geneva trial, Heather's Charlie completed his Novice Gamblers title.

From Lori Waltonen: Lotty, Absolut I Lva Latte, a Golden Retriever bred by Lori Waltonen, entered Leader Dog For the Blind training last November. She graduated from training, with her human partner, in May at less than 2 years of age.

Val Barden's Gordon Setter, Tarlana Feathers and Tar, won first in Puppy Dogs and Winners at his first show at 7 months of age on April 26 at the Packerland Kennel Club.

Portage County Humane Society Walk June 14
Animal lovers can support the Portage County Humane Society by taking a stroll in the park June 14 at the annual Walk for the Animals. Participants can collect pledges and walk through Pfiffner Pioneer Park, with or without a pet. Registration is at noon; the walk starts at 1:00 p.m. The first 125 walkers to turn in \$50 or more in pledges will receive a T-shirt. Prizes will be awarded to the top fund-raisers in youth, teen and adult categories. After the walk, there will be a demonstration by the Illinois-Wisconsin Search and Rescue Dogs, a raffle, a most patriotically-dressed pet contest, and amateur pet photo contest and refreshments. For more information or a pledge sheet, go to <http://www.pchs.org>, or visit the Humane Society office outside of Bukolt Park.

New Members. Terese moved to dispense with the secret ballot. Cheryl seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Members voted to accept Cherilyn Antin as a member.

Cherilyn Antin
2068 Ronald St.
Mosinee, WI 54455
(715) 359-5139

Cherilyn has 2 Newfoundland Retrievers and a Poodle, and she's willing to work for the club.

Members voted to accept Jennifer Clark as a new member.

Jennifer Clark
2039 Prairie Meadow Dr.
Mosinee, WI 54455
(715) 241-0651

Jennifer has a Shetland Sheepdog, Merlin, training in agility.

Welcome to the club!

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karlene Ferrante
Secretary

Obedience Run-Throughs

At Ellen Hardin's Training Building, 2603 Ridge Road, Custer
7:30 p.m.
on June 16, July 7, and August 11
\$2.00 per dog per run-through

Val Barden's 4 year old rescue English Setter, Ashes Reimer, found and held point while birds were flushed at the Badgerland Gordon Setter Fun Match on March 29. Ashes had never hunted before.

Ch. Aftershock Foxfyre Plaid Lad OA OAJ, a.k.a. Scotty, made the cut in the Best of Breed judging at the ABTC National Specialty show at Purina Farms in MO. on May 10, 2003. There were 66 male champions there, and Scotty ended up in the top 23! I am very proud of my boy! Of course he was very naughty in agility and NQ'd all four runs, but making the cut made up for it...almost! Mary Ann

Karlene's Samoyed Sasha (Chelestina's Cinnabar CD AX AXJ) completed his CD (finally!) at the S.A.M.S. specialty show in Lake Elmo, MN, on May 17, with a second place finish in Novice A. He qualified again on May 18, with a first place finish.

Congratulations to all!

Our club building in Mosinee is available for the use of club member at these times. If you use the building at any other time, you need to pay Chuck \$3.00 per hour. Please sign in whenever you come.

Timber Ridge Building dates for June

Second Monday after 12:00: June 9

Tuesdays after 12:00 noon: June 3, 10, 17, 24

Thursdays after 12:00: June 5, 12, 19, 26

Saturdays all day: June 7, 14, 21, 28

Our Time at Camp Bandy

The training building at Camp Bandy is available for the use of club members twice each month, on the first and third Sundays.

June 1 9:30-11:30 a.m.

June 8 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.

Therapy Work and Your Dog

Three and a half years ago I attended a Canine Good Citizen test in Eau Claire with my 1 year old pup, Shylo. They were also offering therapy testing for dogs by Therapy Dogs International. I had never even heard of dogs doing this type of work. After being briefed by the TDI evaluator, and with a lot of encouragement, I put my dog in the test. We passed with flying colors, and I was on the way to the most rewarding thing I will ever do in my life.

Therapy dogs have many different roles. They do everything from educating school children about dog etiquette to bite prevention. They visit people in hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted care facilities; they work with counselors in schools and troubled kids, and with families experiencing domestic violence. The possibilities are endless. Some dogs do reading programs in schools and libraries; some work with support groups, like I am at the present time, for military families.

Shylo and I have tried it all. And I can tell you it is never boring; there are always new challenges to meet and new skills to learn for each new job. There are always new tricks to learn (saluting for the military support group), new obstacles to handle (back traction bars on patients beds), and new commands to teach. It is an ongoing learning experience for both of us.

Some days can be long. We have put in up to 10 hour days, though the average visit is 1 to 2 hours long. The difference you make in that 2 hours is immediate. People show it on their faces - the smiles where there was a frown when you entered, the pain decrease in hospital patients, and the first words spoken after a traumatic event in a person's life, the increase in a child's grades after Shylo helped them learn to read better. I could go on forever, but you really need to witness it to understand the joy your dog can bring. Even the workers at places you visit seem less stressed and happier when you leave.

It took a lot of hard work and, in some cases, years to open doors for us to visit in our area (I wasn't alone in not knowing about this program). But I am happy to report that Shylo and I have more work than we can handle now. And I am in the process of training and evaluating the next group of lucky handlers and dogs to start doing this rewarding work.

All therapy work done through TDI is volunteer and there is no charge to the place of visitation for your services. Although you don't receive money, the smiles and thank yous are more than enough, we have a whole scrap book of cards and letters we have received from clients we visited. Some even have become good friends - A woman who was confined to a wheel chair for more than 2 years due to a muscle disease - is now training a new puppy with my help to do therapy work. You will meet people who will inspire you and teach you that life is more precious than you ever thought.

There are the hard days also; the death of a client is always tough, especially on the dog. But you learn to move on and do what you can for the next person - knowing that you made the end a little happier for who ever has passed.

Shylo and I also do Disaster Relief Therapy work, but that is a whole other story for a different time. If you would like more information on therapy work, you may contact me directly or check out TDI on the web at www.tdi-dog.org. Not every dog can be a therapy dog and not every handler can do the work, but if you are lucky enough to have a dog, like Shylo, you can change the world one smile at a time. Remember - Paws for Love!
Arleen Ravanelli, Certified Therapy Dog Trainer, TDI Evaluator

We'd like to hear from you!

Thanks to Arleen Ravanelli for this story on canine therapy work. The members of Timber Ridge Dog Training Club have a lot of experience and wisdom, and a lot of great stories to tell. If you have enjoyed reading these stories, I hope you'll think about submitting a story of your own for others to enjoy.