



Karlene Ferrante
 1324 Portage
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September 2003



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| Website Coordinator: Phyllis Christensen | (715) 842-5361 email: pkchris@pcpros.net |
| Coordinator of Classes: Kris Punke– 2004 | (715) 539-1665 email: kpunke@MSN.com |
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September 2003

Our next meeting will be Monday, September 8, at 7:30 p.m. Board meeting starts at 7:15 p.m.
 Mickey Smith will provide hospitality.

Check out our updated web site at <http://www.trdogtraining.com>.

Minutes of General Membership Meeting 8/18/03

Laurie and Steve Bandy hosted our picnic at Camp Bandy. We had beautiful weather and a good turnout—people and dogs. We agreed this was the best food yet, with Steve's grilled steaks and a huge spread. President Laurie Bandy called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. Also present were Steve, Rachel and Josh Bandy, Karlene Ferrante (with Sasha), Heather Varco, Pat and Rick Rose (with Lexi and Asia), Kris Punke (with Sadie), Val Barden (with Leine), Cindy and Dan Brick, Kathy and Bud

Schuh, Lori and Tom Whitney, Phyllis Christensen (with Katie), Kathe and Steve Carter (with Caesar), Mickey Smith (with Truman), Jared, Linda, and Jessica Redfield, Ellen and Jim Hardin, Lori Waltonen (with Jagger), Mark and Bailey Plonsky (with Cree and Schatze), Sue, Mark and Dan Fecht, Bob and Sue Roeske (with Moab), Jennifer Clark (with Merlin), Mary Ann Ralston (with Scottie) Beth and Chris Knotts, Mary Lutz (with Sadie). Welcome guests included Joyce and Patrick MacKay (with Dax, Mutley, and Bayla) and Laurie's sister Tina Smith, who will work on our logo.

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

Old Business

August 9 Obedience/Agility Fun Match. Our fun match was a huge success! We had 30+ runs in obedience and 70+ entries in both standard and jumpers agility. We got lots of positive feedback. Mary Ann Ralston, who took pre-entries, said there are a few things we may want to do differently next time. We need a person in charge, a definite cut off date for pre-entries and definite limits for each class. You are welcome to send other ideas for improvement to Mary Ann, who will write up some recommendations for the next fun match. Kathe Carter thanked all who volunteered, and said she hopes even more members will volunteer at our next match.

Training Classes. Kris Punke, Coordinator of Classes, reported that she is getting an average of two calls per day about training classes, thanks to Heidi Goethel's referrals. On Sept. 9, she will start 6 week sessions for puppy and beginning obedience. At the end of that session, agility will start, probably limited to 8 dogs. Kris may want to change the day of classes to Mondays, and Phyllis expressed an interest in helping Kris with the classes. Registration forms are available on our website, though it is not possible to pay online.

Labor Day Weekend Agility

*We need members to bring in coolers filled with ice on each day of the Trial (Saturday, Sunday, Monday). Please call Ellen at 592-4618 if you can bring your ice filled cooler.

*Only people on the set up team will be allowed to set up crates and tents on Friday. To get on the set up team, call Heather at 824-7235. Set up is from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Friday.

*We are counting on members for clean up on Monday after the trial. The more help, the faster it goes!

Labor Day AKC Agility Trial. We are about ready for the upcoming three day agility trial at Camp Bandy. Heather Varco distributed work assignments to volunteers. Only the 15 members on the set up team will be allowed to set up tents and crates on Friday. Ellen Hardin reported that food will be provided by Victoria's Ladle. Ellen has hired people to serve the food. We need large coolers filled with ice for each day (Saturday, Sunday, Monday).

**A huge thank you to Lorah Marquardt
for doing all the advance secretarial
work for the Labor Day trial!**

Timber Ridge Website. Members gave a big round of applause to Phyllis! We really appreciate our new and improved website. Phyllis reported that we are averaging 15 hits per day.

Media Coverage of Labor Day Agility Trial. Pat Rose will send a press release to area newspapers and television stations, so we can get some good publicity.

Discussion of Our Training Philosophy. Laurie reminded us that we will discuss our training philosophy at our next meeting, so it's a good time for members to begin thinking about how you would describe your approach to dog training.

Club Logo. We still want to consider new designs for our club logo. Laurie's sister Tina Smith, who is a graphic designer, said she might be interested in playing around with the design. Karlene will also inquire about the possibility of an intern at the UWSP Department of Art and Design.

Hospitality. Laurie reminded us of the volunteers for hospitality for the rest of the year. Mickey Smith will provide hospitality for the September meeting, Cherilyn Antin will take care of October, and Phyllis Christensen will do November.

New Business

Domain Name Renewal. Phyllis asked if we want to renew our domain name for one, two, or three years. The longer the renewal time, the less it costs per year. Beth moved that we renew for three years. Mary Ann seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Concerns about Website Security. Heather pointed out that anyone who reads the newsletter on the website can get the password for the members only links. Phyllis said she deleted that information before posting the newsletter. Laurie then raised the question of whether we want our treasurer's reports to be public. Discussion ensued about whether we want to split the newsletter into protected and unprotected sections. It's something to think about.

January, 2004, Fun Match. Karlene asked if we might want to have another obedience/agility fun match in January. After some discussion, members decided to hold a fun match on either Jan. 17 or 24. We need someone to take charge, and that person can decide on a date.

Proposed Split of Secretary/Newsletter Position. Because of the time involved in producing the newsletter every month, Karlene brought up the possibility of splitting the office of Secretary/Newsletter into a Recording Secretary (who would take minutes and write/edit the newsletter), and a Corresponding or Membership Secretary (who would maintain the membership list and website, and print and mail the newsletter). Some other clubs have made this split. It might require that we change the list of officers in our bylaws.

Members then discussed the possibility of saving time and postage by emailing the newsletter to members who have email. Several members said they would prefer to get the newsletter through email, and it would save money and postage. Karlene pointed out that, as long as one-third of our members do not have email, it is still necessary to do the mailing; in fact it may save some money on stamps, but it may actually take more time to maintain and update two separate

lists. Some members said, if the newsletter is posted on the website, it doesn't need to be emailed. Others said they would like to receive the newsletter or a link to it as an email.

Phyllis indicated that she would be willing to try printing and mailing the newsletters, but she thinks we should not combine the Website Coordinator and Membership Secretary into one office at this time. Mark suggested we try this for a few months and, if it works, then we can proceed with changing the bylaws as necessary. (*I am grateful to Phyllis for giving it a try. I think this will cut my newsletter time from approximately 8 hours per month to about 6 hours—a huge improvement for me!)

Setting up Building Dates. Kris Punke has agreed to serve as liaison with Chuck about building dates. (*I am grateful to Kris for taking this responsibility once every three months!)

Barrel for Storage of Jump Bars. Kris Punke asked if we can get a barrel to store jump bars in our club building. Laurie has a barrel for Kris to use.

Many thanks to Steve and Laurie Bandy for hosting a great picnic! It was fun, and really good to have so many members participate at beautiful Camp Bandy.

New Training Coordinator at Camp Bandy. Laurie announced she has hired Heather Varco to serve as Coordinator (OR DIRECTOR?) of Training at Camp Bandy, so if you have any questions about training, ask Heather!

Is it ok for non-members to use our equipment? It has come to our attention that people other than club members may be using our equipment. Members discussed the ramifications. Because of liability and maintenance concerns, members decided this equipment should be used only by club members. Laurie will contact other building tenants.

Sad News about a Former Member

Diana Burns, who was until recently a member of our club, died Friday, Aug. 15, 2003, of a suspected asthma attack in Story City, Iowa, en route to a dog show at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines. After graduating from Almond-Bancroft High School and UWSP, Diana taught school in Campbellsport. After she completed her Master's degree in Library Science, she worked as a librarian at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School and then, in 2002, at River Falls High School. Diana achieved a high level of success in dog training, including herding. Her dogs currently are being cared for by friends. The Timber Ridge Dog Training Club is making a \$50 donation in Diana's memory to the American Eskimo Rescue Organization. We send our deepest sympathy to Diana's family and friends.

Nominating Committee. Laurie announced that we will need to assemble a Nominating Committee at our next meeting. This committee will be charged with putting together a slate of

candidates for all open offices. Please contact Laurie if you are interested in serving on the committee, or in having your name on the ballot for an office.

New Member. This was the second meeting for Mickey Smith, who has four Irish Setters, all rescue dogs. Mickey is training Truman in agility, and she has already worked for the club. Kathe moved that we dispense with the secret ballot and that we accept Mickey Smith as a new member. Mary Ann seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mickey Smith
6984 Country Beautiful Ln.
Stevens Point, WI 54481
592-6461
reddogs2@voyager.net

Welcome Mickey!

Guests. Other guests were Pat and Joyce MacKay, and their dogs, Mutley, Dax, and Bayla. Pat and Joyce are experienced agility and obedience trainers and are willing to work for the club.

Pat MacKay - mack9@charter.net
Joyce MacKay - Joycem1@charter.net
2921 Chippewa Dr.
Plover, WI 54467

Sad News. Laurie reported that a former member of the club, Diana Burns, has died unexpectedly. Diana had been a member until 2002, when she moved to River Falls. Members decided to make a donation in Diana's memory to the same American Eskimo Rescue group we found for Jackie Berg. Mary Ann moved that we donate \$50.00 in memory of Diana. Ellen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karlene Ferrante
Secretary

There was no Board Meeting.

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

Sept 7 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Sept 21 9:30-11:30 a.m.

***Brag * Brags * Brags* Brags ***

Val Barden's Gordon Setter Tartana Feathers and Tar took both first place in Puppy Sweepstakes and Open Puppy at the Great Lakes Gordon Specialty Aat Elkhorn on July 25. Jesse Barden and Tar took first in Novice Obedience at the same show.

Tartana Feathers and Tar took first in 9-12 Puppy and Reserve Winners Dog on both Saturday and Sunday at the Marshfield Area Kennel Club show.

Barvals Ashes Reimer received his ILP! Watch out now. We're ready to go!

Lori Waltonen's Golden Retriever Jagger completed both his Novice Agility and Novice Jumpers titles at the Fond du Lac agility trial.

Silvercreek's Lit'l Miracle Boy CD, NA, OAJ, CGC (Kirby) Border terrier owned by Bud & Kathy Schuh & handled by Kathy, got his 2nd leg in Open A at the Marshfield Obedience trial on Sun. August 17th. He took 3rd place with a nice score of 193.

Congratulations to all!

*****Announcements *****

If you would like to get your newsletter online via an email link each month, please contact Phyllis Christensen at pkchris@pcpros.net.

Obedience Open House

At Ellen Hardin's Training Building, 2603 Ridge Road, Custer
7:00 p.m., Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29 - \$1.00 at the door
Classes will start in October.

Clicker Expo

Nov. 7-9 near O'Hare Airport. For more information, go to
www.clickerexpo.com

Terese Barta wrote this story just after she surrendered Black Lab Tilly for the next stage of her training with PAWS FOR A CAUSE, which trains and places service dogs with people with various disabilities. It was hard to say good-bye.

Fostering a Service Dog-in-Training

Tilly was my second foster puppy for PAWS WITH A CAUSE, an organization based in Michigan whose mission is to train service dogs for people with mobility or hearing impairments. Tilly became part of our family a year ago last June. As a foster mom, my responsibilities included providing her with basic obedience training, a warm stimulating home environment, and socialization experiences that will aid her in her future career as a service dog. But the most important thing a foster family does is to provide lots of love and care until the dog is ready to begin formal training (usually around 14-18 months). Tilly made her return to PAWS on July 23. My house is a bit quieter now.

During her stay with us, Tilly went virtually everywhere with me. She accompanied me to the classes I teach at the university. In fact, even students that weren't in my classes knew me as the professor with Tilly. During the rare times she wasn't with me, it felt strange not to be hanging on to her leash while toting a little rug and a bone or Kong toy in addition to my own books and notes. Outside of the university, she went with us to restaurants, stores, church, and even to a few movies (keeping her from eating the stray popcorn on the floor was a challenge!). One of her earliest socialization adventures was a Milwaukee Brewer's baseball game.

My long-legged Tilly has a comical swagger to her walk, with a tail that moves back and forth like a metronome. When she looks at you with her big brown eyes, her face could melt your heart. She is always happy. Her tail never stopped wagging except when she is asleep. I have never known a dog that loves people (and other dogs) more than she does. Perhaps the only thing that would get her more excited than greeting someone was seeing a robin in the backyard. On many occasions she lived up to her name "Silly Tilly."

The question I get asked the most is "isn't it hard to give them up?" And the answer I have to give is "Yes!" I knew my heart was bound to break from the moment I signed the foster contract. But I have come to understand what these service dogs mean to the people who get them. These dogs not only mean greater independence in the world, but they are also constant friends and close companions. Last January, I was blessed to be able to witness the reciprocal love and devotion of owner and assistance dog when I visited the woman who received my first foster puppy Koda.

Somewhere out there is a person on a waiting list who needs a dog. Maybe he's waiting for his first service dog. Or maybe she's waiting for a dog to replace a dog that had to retire. The phone will ring one day, maybe six or seven months from now, and he or she will be thrilled to find out that Tilly was chosen to be their new helper. That's what I'm going to be thinking about when I see that empty crate in my room that makes me want to cry.

Good-byes of any type are hard, and handing over that leash was hard for me. But as I bid farewell to Tilly at the PAWS training facility, I did so knowing, with complete certainty, that she will have a great life. She will get to go places our pet dogs cannot go. She will make many new friends. And she will be doted on by her new owner.

The latest news from PAWS is that Tilly passed her entrance temperament examination and also scored well on the aptitude test for being a hearing impaired dog. I am excited to think someone will be getting this four-legged hearing aid and it will be one of my happiest and proud moments when I hear that she has completed her training and has been placed with a client!

Terese Barta

For more information on PAWS WITH A CAUSE, see:
<http://www.pawswithacause.org>

Addendum 8/20/03

The article above was written a few days after Tilly was returned to PAWS. It was written with the highest of hopes for her success as a service dog. However, those hopes were dashed when I received a call from PAWS less than a

month later informing me that Tilly was being "released from training," and I could pick her up within the week if I wanted to adopt her. The reason for her release came as a total shock to me: she had some problems with verbal commands on the retrieve. Imagine, a Labrador Retriever with poor retrieving skills! As a foster home, I was not allowed to train the retrieve, but Tilly's willingness to pick things up and give them to me gave me no indication she would have problems in her later training.

Despite the fact I get to have my Tilly back, I am devastated by the news. I feel deep disappointment and even a certain sense of failure. I wonder what I could have done differently during her time here that would have made a different outcome. This also means it will be a long time before I can foster again, as three dogs seems to be the optimum number we can manage in our household and still have time for individual attention. When Tilly comes home, I plan to continue obedience training her, and I'm considering other avenues such as tracking, field training, or even agility.

I'm experiencing the other side of the proverbial coin when it comes to being a foster parent. Now, when people ask me "Isn't it hard for you to give them up?" I can answer, "Yes, but it's even sadder when they come back." *TB*

What training book or website do you recommend?

Pat Rose has suggested that we include an article on the basics of agility and obedience competition—venues, eligibility, scoring, titles, judges' signals, etc. What a good idea! I'm looking for someone to write up the basics or to recommend a book or website that will help orient the new handler.

Any ideas?

If you have training stories, announcements, cartoons, items for sale or swap, a training story, or brags for the newsletter, please send them to Karlene Ferrante at 1324 Portage St., Stevens Point, WI 54481 or email to kferrante@uwsp.edu.