



# Shep-O-Gram

German Shepherd Dog Club of Minneapolis/St Paul

May 2009

## Shep-O-Gram

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Virginia Altman

Lisa Marie Fortier

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Dave Bissonette

Jecoda@dishup.us

## GSDC MSP web site

WWW.gsdcmisp.org

I have another sad event to report this month, Mada Parnell and Bob Skare lost both of their German Shepherds recently. There is a short memorial to them on page 3 of this issue.

It's just about 6 weeks until our specialty shows in June. Are you ready? It promises to be a great event again this year.

I have heard a lot of people talking about ticks lately and how bad they are already so I included an article in this issue to refresh our memories on the topic. You may remember that we had a great presentation by Lisa Lunde DVM last year on tick borne diseases.

In April we had a presentation by Paul Johnson and Mike Metz on the form and function of the German Shepherd Dog. It held people's attention and I counted at least 16 people still there at the end a little after 9 PM. That in itself tells you that it was a very interesting and well planned event. When Paul and Mike were working on preparing it they realized that there was much more to this topic than could be covered in a Friday night so they are planning one or two more sessions, probably on weekends.

The herding events are coming up this month, May 17 and 24 in Pine City. They are full, but please come and watch if you are interested. Bring a chair and something for the pot luck.

Our first geocaching event will be May 30 at Afton State Park. There is a map and more information on page 11 of this issue. This is not only an opportunity to get out with our dogs, but to meet the public, and show them what a wonderful, friendly, well behaved breed we have. Remember you are representing our club and our breed when you are out there and we want to make a great impression. This is a time when people are trying to find fault with dogs, especially those of large breeds and of breeders. So let's prove them wrong.

We still need donations for the performance raffle at our shows, so if you have any dog related items you would like to donate please let me know. We had a great raffle last year.

Julie Swinland.

(651) 457-5459

Blackforestgsd@msn.com

**SOG Due Date**

June issue - May 21

**May 8 Membership Meeting 8:30 PM Animal Inn**

JOIN THE GSDC OF AMERICA TODAY!

German Shepherd Dog Club of America Membership Application

Requirements: Minimum age of 18 years. Must be in good standing with AKC. Membership includes subscription to *The German Shepherd Dog Review*.

Membership Type: (circle one)

Single \$66.00      Family\* \$100.00

*Dues are not tax deductible \* Family is defined as same household or significant other.*

**Make checks payable to GSDCA (Outside the US add \$24.00)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

***I (we) hereby make application to the above Club and agree, if accepted for membership, to abide by its Bylaws and the Bylaws of the AKC. Upon application I will be eligible for all privileges except the right to vote. Thirty days after my name is published in the Review, provided no objections have been filed I will be granted the right to vote***

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Gail Hardcastle, 49 Lakeview Road, White Salmon, WA 98672

hardcastle@starband.net

**AKC CALLS ON ALL DOG ORGANIZATIONS TO SPREAD RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP MESSAGE THIS SEPTEMBER**

- Annual AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Days Comprised of Hundreds of Events -

New York, NY - Each year, the American Kennel Club® calls on its nearly 5,000 affiliated dog clubs and all other pet-related organizations from around the country to participate in AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Days. The nationwide initiative educates the public about the importance of being a responsible dog owner and celebrates the deep bond between humans and their canine companions.

“Last year more than 600 organizations across the U.S. held AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day events in their communities,” says AKC spokesperson Lisa Peterson. “We are thankful to those who have helped us spread this important message and encourage more organizations to join us in 2009.”

**Sponsors and ad rates**

In order to keep costs down, we are offering sponsorships (you can donate whatever amount you want) and you will be listed as a sponsor in the issue(s) you sponsor. We also will accept advertising.

Business card - 1 time \$10

1/4 page \$35

1/2 half page \$50

Full page \$75

This is based on a page size of 8 1/2 X 11. All rates are for black and white print, but may appear in color in the PDF version.

**Upcoming Shows**

There are many shows in MN, IA, WI and the Dakotas. See Events at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) for a complete listing or look at the calendar on the [www.gsdcm.org](http://www.gsdcm.org) web site.

## At the Rainbow Bridge

Mada Parnell lost both of her Shepherds in the last month.

Sam Skare - March 5, 1996 - March 19, 2009  
Jecoda Ridge Runner "Ridge" - Jan 19, 1999  
- April 23, 2009

Prior to getting Sam I was deathly afraid of all dogs and especially German Shepherds. After buying Sam and later Ridge (both Bob's idea) and raising them both from puppies I realized that dogs were wonderful companions, not scary at all if properly raised.

Sam showed in obedience until he lost interest, so we only got 2 legs on a CD title. Ridge trained in obedience but didn't want to do anything Sam wasn't doing. The dogs had basically not been separated since we got Ridge from Connie & Dave in May of 99. Sam slept in our bed - kept Bob from taking my blanket. Ridge slept next to the bed on one of the many dog beds throughout the house. When my dad was with us they stayed near him and watched over him - even allowing nurses to come and go without us home.

Best Dogs, Friends & Companions we could have ever asked for. They will be greatly missed in our lives.



**Jecoda Ridge Runner and Sam Skare**



### *The German Shepherd Dog Club of Minneapolis and St Paul Inc. Presents our 2009 Specialty Shows*

June 20 and 21  
Roseville Armory

#### **Conformation Judges:**

Saturday	Sunday
Mr. Lewis Bunch	Mr. Michel Chaloux

#### **Junior Showmanship**

Mr. Lewis Bunch	Mrs. Virginia Altman
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#### **Obedience and Rally Judges:**

Mrs. Sharon Hodgens-Wood	Ms. Susan Pauline Emerson
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**Show Chariperson**  
**Jan Anderson**  
763-473-8977

**Show Secretary**  
**Holly Bryan**  
612-239-5293

#### **Team Second Judge**

Ms. Linn Klingel	Mrs. Virginia Altman
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**Photographer Valerie L. Harrington**

**Premiums are in the mail**

**Entries due June 3**

Plan to attend the Scorch the Porch pot luck at Mike and Sheila Metz's on Friday night following run throughs at the Armory. See more information on the back cover of this issue

**Food will be available at the show site**

# Ticks: Life Cycle, Anatomy & Disease Transmission

Drs. Foster & Smith, Inc.

[Race Foster, DVM](#)

Ticks are a common external (on the skin) parasite of many animals, including dogs.

## What are ticks?

Ticks are not insects like fleas, flies, and lice, but are arachnids like mites and spiders. There are approximately 850 species of ticks worldwide. Scientists have classified ticks into two families based upon their structure: Ixodidae and Argasidae.

### Ixodid ticks

The tick family Ixodidae consists of ticks that have a hard outer covering called a 'scutum,' and therefore, are termed 'hard-shelled ticks'. Table 1 lists the most important hard-shelled ticks for dogs and cats.

**Table 1: Ticks commonly found on dogs and cats**

Tick	Common Name	Geographic Distribution in U.S.	Tick-associated Disease(s) in Dogs and Cats*
<i>Amblyomma americanum</i>	Lone star tick	Southeast, Midsouth and coastal Northeast	Ehrlichiosis, tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tick paralysis
<i>Amblyomma maculatum</i>	Gulf Coast tick	Gulf Coast to Midsouth and lower Midwest	Hepatozoonosis
<i>Dermacentor variabilis</i>	American dog tick	Eastern 2/3 of U.S.; West Coast	Ehrlichiosis, tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, cytauxzoonosis, tick paralysis
<i>Dermacentor andersoni</i>	Rocky Mountain wood tick	Northwest; Northern Rocky Mountain states	Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tularemia, cytauxzoonosis, tick paralysis
<i>Ixodes scapularis</i>	Eastern black-legged tick (deer tick)	States east of and adjacent to Mississippi River; Eastern TX and OK	Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, tick paralysis
<i>Ixodes pacificus</i>	Western black-legged tick	West Coast and Eastern NV	Lyme disease, anaplasmosis
<i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i>	Brown dog tick	Throughout U.S	Ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, babesiosis, anaplasmosis, hepatozoonosis, haemobartonellosis
*See links to articles on these diseases at the bottom of this article.			

### Argasid ticks

The family Argasidae contains the argasid ticks, which are soft-shelled. Their body lacks a scutum. An argasid has its head located ventrally (on the underside of its body) and when the tick is viewed from above, the head cannot be seen. The soft-shelled ticks or Argasids are fewer in number. The one most known is *Otobius megnini*, also known as the Spinose Ear Tick. It is most common in the Southwest and usually attaches to the ears of animals.

## What are the anatomical features of ticks?

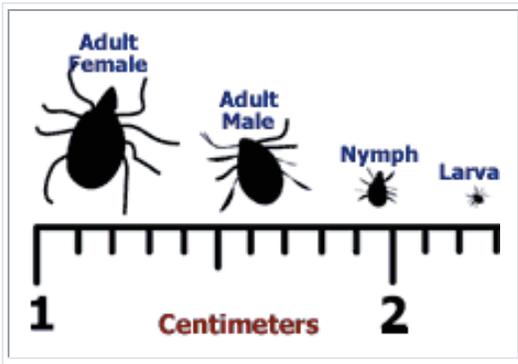
All ticks have three pairs of legs during the immature stage and four pairs as an adult. They crawl but cannot fly since they

have no wings. Ticks possess a sensory apparatus called 'Haller's organ.' This structure senses odor, heat, and humidity. This is how the ticks locate their food source. They climb upon tall grass and when they sense an animal is close by, they crawl on.

## What do ticks eat?

A tick's diet consists of blood and only blood. The tick imbeds its mouthparts into the animal's (or human's) skin and sucks the blood. Except for the eggs, ticks require a blood meal to progress to each successive stage in their life cycle.

## What is the life cycle of a tick?



Most ticks are what we call three *host* ticks, that is, during their development which takes two years, they feed on three different hosts. All ticks have four stages to their life cycle: egg, *larvae* (seed tick), nymph, and adult. Let us look at the life cycle of the deer tick, as an example.

Adult female deer ticks lay eggs on the ground in spring. Later in the summer (depending on moisture and temperature), the eggs hatch into larvae. The larvae, which are smaller than the period at the end of this sentence, find an animal (the first host, which is usually a bird or rodent), live off its blood for several days, then detach and fall back onto the ground. For deer ticks, this most commonly occurs in the month of August. In the ground, the well-fed larvae now molt into the next stage and are called nymphs.

The nymphs remain inactive during the winter months and in spring become active. The nymph now finds an animal (the second host - a rodent, pet, or human) and feeds again. Once well fed, the nymph detaches and falls back to the ground. Here it molts and changes into an adult. Throughout the fall, both adult male and female ticks now find another animal (the third host - a rodent, deer, pet, or human) and feed on blood and mate. Once well fed, both males and females fall back to the ground. The male now dies and the female lives through the winter and lays eggs in the spring, completing the cycle. If the adults cannot find a host animal to feed on in the fall, they will survive in the leaf litter until the next spring when they will feed, mate, and produce eggs.

**Each female tick lays approximately 3,000 eggs.**

Other species of ticks may be at peak activity for each life stage at different times of the year than the deer tick we described. Your local university or health department may have information on peak tick activity in your area.

## What diseases do ticks transmit?

Ticks can transmit or cause:

- Babesiosis (Piroplasmosis)
- Cytauxzoonosis
- Ehrlichiosis
- Haemobartonellosis in Dogs and Cats
- Hepatozoonosis
- Lyme Disease
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- Tick Paralysis
- Tularemia in Dogs and Cats

# **GSDC MSP Performance Training Class Descriptions**

Effective 4/17/2009

## **S.T.A.R. Puppy Class :**

As a precursor to the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) evaluation through AKC, we are proud to offer the S.T.A.R. puppy program. This class is designed for puppies 2-6 months of age. It comprises 6 weekly lessons. The focus of this class is education in responsible dog ownership, socialization with people and other dogs and basic training in manners and good behavior.

This class follows the AKC guidelines and upon completion students will be eligible to take the S.T.A.R. puppy evaluation (these will be held approximately every 2 months). If the AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY evaluation is passed, your puppy may receive a certificate and medal from AKC (for an additional fee payable to AKC). In addition to the AKC's guidelines, we also incorporate knowledge of the GSD breed and work with you to develop an appropriate life long plan for your puppy to aid in their development as a well mannered, confident and happy German Shepherd Dog.

The cost is \$24 per block for GSDCMSP members; \$30 for non-members. No prior training or handling experience is required. After the first block, additional lessons can be purchased for \$4 for members; \$5 for non-members.

## **Beginning Obedience Class :**

The Beginning Obedience course is designed for dogs and puppies at least 6 months of age. It comprises 10 weekly lessons focused on teaching the handler/dog team the basic Companion Dog exercises of heel, sit, down, stay, come, and stand for examination. No previous training is required to participate in this class, but previous puppy socialization and basic leash training is desirable. Unused lessons cannot be carried over to another class.

## **Intermediate & Pre- Novice Obedience Class:**

This course is designed for dogs and puppies at least 6 months of age who have completed a basic 8-10 week obedience course. It comprises blocks of 10 weekly lessons focused on the basic pre-Novice exercises of heel, sit, down, stay, come, and stand for examination. It is intended to be a transition from the beginners obedience to the new AKC pre-novice level.

## **Competition Obedience Class:**

This course is designed for dogs whom have completed at least 16-20 weeks of basic obedience training and have approval of the trainers. It will be offered if 4 or more students have active blocks. It comprises blocks of 10 weekly lessons focused on preparing for AKC competition in Companion Dog exercises of heel, sit, down, stay, come, and stand for examination. It includes on & off-lead heeling, recall, and figure 8, polishing footwork, rules for competition, and may include preparation for AKC Open obedience exercises of drop on recall, retrieving, and jumping.

## **Rally Obedience Class:**

The Rally Obedience course is designed for puppies at least 6 months of age. It comprises blocks of 10 weekly lessons focused on teaching the moves, rules, and scoring of Rally Obedience, and providing experience on practice courses. A basic 8-10 week beginner's obedience class or trainer approval is required to participate in the class.

**A Two Day Competition Obedience Seminar**  
June 27-28, 2009

Saint Paul Dog Training Club  
Presents  
Connie Cleveland

This is a two-day theory and problem solving workshop. Connie will spend some time on day 1 discussing how dogs learn, and the remainder of the 2 days will be spent addressing participant questions and training problems. We have room for 24 working teams, and for unlimited auditors. Preference for working spots will be given to current members of SPDTC until April 30, 2009, at which time non-member registrations will be accepted.

Go to [www.spdpc.org](http://www.spdpc.org) for registration information

**St. Croix Valley Kennel Club**  
**Sanctioned B Match**

**Conformation, Obedience & Rally**

**When:** Tuesday, May 19, 2009 Registration: 5:30-6:30 P.M. Judging starts at 6:30 P.M.

**Where:** St. Croix Valley Show Site Washington County Fairgrounds 12300 N. 40th St. Lake Elmo, MN  
Match Classes: 3-6, 6-9, 9-12, 12-18, Bred-By-Exhibitor, Open, Junior Showmanship & Exhibition Only Pre-Novice, Graduate Novice, Novice A & B, Open A & B & Utility. Rally-Novice, Advanced & Excellent.

**Cost:** \$5.00 per dog. Junior Showmanship Free  
**Match chair:** Marcia Joslyn (763)784-1117

**GSDC MSP Class Schedule**  
Obedience Classes

Class	Time
Alt weeks--Team & Run Thrus	6:00-6:45
Intermediate & Advanced Novice	6:45-7:45
Beginning Obedience	7:45-8:30
Advanced Obedience Run-Thrus	8:30-Done

**PPT & Rally Classes**

S.T.A.R. Puppy	6:45-7:30
Competition Obedience	7:30-8:30
Rally-All Levels	8:30-Close

**Conformation Classes**

Class	Time
Socialization Only	7:00-8:30
Litter Socialization	6:30-7:00
Novice Conformation Handlers Class	7:00-7:30
Advanced Conformation	7:30-8:30
Open Ring Conformation	8:30-Close



**Braggs**

**Hunter (Kubistraums Mastermind RA, CGC, TC),**  
Cristina McColl

**St Paul Dog Training Club Obedience Trial**

April 24 - Novice obedience 174 - 1st leg  
April 25 - Novice Obedience 185 2nd leg and placed 4th.

**CH Mythical Zeus of Black Forest -Connie Karner**

**Clinton KC**

March 28 - Best of Breed  
March 29 - Best of Breed

**Fond Du Lac KC**

April 18 - Best of Breed  
April 19 - Best of Breed

**Heart of Iowa KC**

April 26 - Best of Breed

**Badger KC Jefferson WI**

May 1,2,3 - Best of Breed all three days

**Zytut's Something to Talk About -**

Connie Karner

**Clinton IA KC**

Reserve Winner's Bitch

**Fond Du Lac KC**

April 18 - Winner's Bitch, Best of Winners, and Best Opposite

**Heart of IA KC**

April 25 - Reserve Winner's Bitch

April 26 - Winner's Bitch, Best Opposite Sex

**Badger KC**

May 2 - Reserve Winner's Bitch



German Shepherd Dog Club of  
Minneapolis/St Paul  
March Board Minutes  
April 04, 2009

Mike Metz, President  
Julie Swinland, Vice President  
Jill Myers, Secretary  
Mada Parnell, Treasurer  
Board Members:  
Ginny Altman, Board (2 year remaining)  
Board Members Absent:  
Liz Oster, Board (1 year remaining)  
Lisa Marie Fortier, (3 year term)

Guests – Holly Bryant, Eileen Varhalla

Mada hosted this months meeting at her home. After providing us with a delicious lunch of sloppy joes and chips the President called the meeting to order at 12:45pm

**1 President's Report -**

- Obedience attendance has been very impressive and we want to keep that going
- March match had a great turn out, went very well and was a lot of fun. Nice job Charles!

**2 Vice President's Report –**

- Survey on the website didn't receive a lot of responses but enough to get an idea of what people want.

**3 Secretary's Report -**

- Herding Test & Trial Packet for October was submitted & confirmed received.

**4 Treasurer's Report -**

- Checking \$6,525.38, savings \$5,698.07, total \$12,223.45
- Mada will look into a CD that may have a higher interest rate than the current money market the savings is in.
- Ginny's motion that up to \$5,000 be moved into the higher interest bearing account for up to 12 months was seconded and passed unanimously.

**5 Training Report –**

- Reviewed Competitive Obedience training class, prerequisite of 16 – 20 week prior training and instructor approval. 4/17 tentative start date.
- Rally discussion; re-introduce combo training card, offer beginner's class, ideas for promoting it more

- General discussion of the overall training schedule

**6 Budget and Finance Report –**

- No report

**7 Match Report –**

- Because of the excellent turn out the Obedience and Rally went very long. Retaining an additional judge to start Rally immediately after Conformation ring is free was discussed.
- Cleaning supplies were not available which the Animal Inn needs to provide; garbage bags & broom.
- Not closing the before the class is up for judging was also discussed

**8 Website Report -**

- A meeting next week will be scheduled.
- Adding a disclaimer to Ginny's health articles was discussed.
  - PayPal and on-line entries was discussed again.

**9 2009 Show Report –**

- Discussion followed regarding mats, judge expenses, trophies & the Mating Game.
- Promotion is the biggest and most critical item left to be done before the show
- Ginny Altman has been approved as a non-regular rally & obedience judge, she can be judge #2 on team competition.

**10 2010 Show Report –**

- Judges acceptance received from Dick Jones, Tony Monk, Chuck Kline & Kathy Galotti
- Holly is heading up a committee to search for a new location for next year's event.
- Outdoor fencing for obedience ring, club should already have some, check in trailer.

**11 Events –**

- Eileen gave an overview of the Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> Herding Test & Trial, the event is for non-shepherds as well but shepherds have priority, a lunch wagon will be on site for food, in September volunteers will be needed to help set up the site at Polly Simpson's farm in New Richmond, WI, stock will be sheep & ducks.

**12 Program Report –**

- GSD structure i.e. working dog vs show dog, Paul Johnson will present April 24<sup>th</sup> with a video and panel discussion to follow, should run 45 minutes to 1 hour. Roger Salava will be asked to bring a screen.
- Mada has booked Josee Girard, Animal Chiropractor for Friday evening May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mada's

motion to give \$75 as an honorarium fee was seconded and passed unanimously.

### 13 Shep-O-Gram

- Lots of work but going well.

Next Board meeting date and place TBD

Meeting adjourned at 3:23pm

Jill Myers, Secretary

## German Shepherd Dog Club of Minneapolis/St Paul April 10, 2009

Board Members:

Mike Metz, President

Julie Swinland, Vice President

Jill Myers, Secretary

Board Members Absent:

Mada Parnell, Treasurer

Liz Oster, Board (1 year remaining)

Ginny Altman, Board (2 year remaining) Lisa Marie

Fortier, Board (3 year term)

President called the meeting to order at 8:45pm

### 1. President's Report:

- Once again Mike noted how well attended the training classes have been and the great positive attitude exhibited.
- Discussion regarding titles received by some of our local dogs in current shows taking place around the country.
- Programs – Paul will be presenting a program of the structure of the GSD, working vs show on April 24<sup>th</sup>, Mada has scheduled a presentation by a dog chiropractor for May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Events – Two herding days - May 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, Geocaching weekend event still planned for May.
- Herding Trial – Mike asked Eileen to put together a one page report of expenses and expected income.

### 2. Vice President's Report:

- Julie reiterated that Geocaching is planned for May 30<sup>th</sup>
- If you have had problems with the website buttons since the revamp a year ago, try downloading and installing Java, it is a free program.

### 3. Secretary's Report:

- Signed contracts from the Herding Trial judge, Ann Witte and show secretary Polly Mumma have been received.

### 4. Treasurer's Report:

- Mike mentioned that a comparison between money market and CD rates would be done to find the best rate to for some of the club funds.

### 5. Specialty Show Report:

- Lori reported that donations for trophies have surpassed last years for a total so far of **\$2,626.00**. Great job Lori and Holly! A HUGE thank you to all who contributed to this outstanding amount!
- Holly can still use lots of help, contact her if your available.
- Sheila is finalizing the mating game.
- A discuss followed regarding which handlers will be participating. Members can influence show handlers but need to contact them.
- There was also a discussion of the show ads.

### Membership Report:

- A new member application was received from Amber Stewart, welcome Amber!
- Connie and Debbie Halfen and were attending their 2nd meeting which makes them official members. Great to have you Connie and Debbie!

### 6. Training:

- Verna presented the new training schedule & class descriptions. It includes new competitive obedience class. It will result in a later close time; trainers will be responsible for locking up the building.
- Verna motioned to implement the new schedule effective next week; it was seconded and carried unanimously.
- Verna motioned to cancel classes on July 3<sup>rd</sup>; it was seconded and carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:50pm

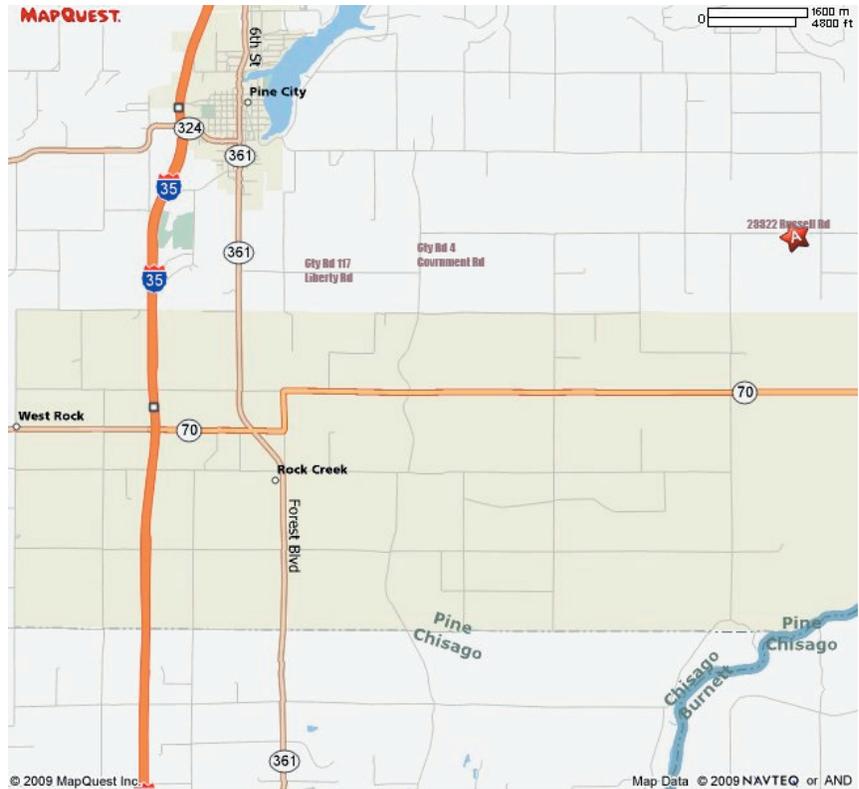
Jill Myers, Secretary



## Herding Fun Days May 17 and 24

The fun days filled up quickly but people are welcome to come and watch and learn. There will be a pot luck lunch. Bring a chair, bring a camera. Enjoy the sight of GSD's herding sheep.

Please arrive by 7:30 to sign a waiver and get registered for your time slot. It will start at 8 AM each day. For information contact Elleen Varhalla [evanhalla@aol.com](mailto:evanhalla@aol.com), 651-462-1220

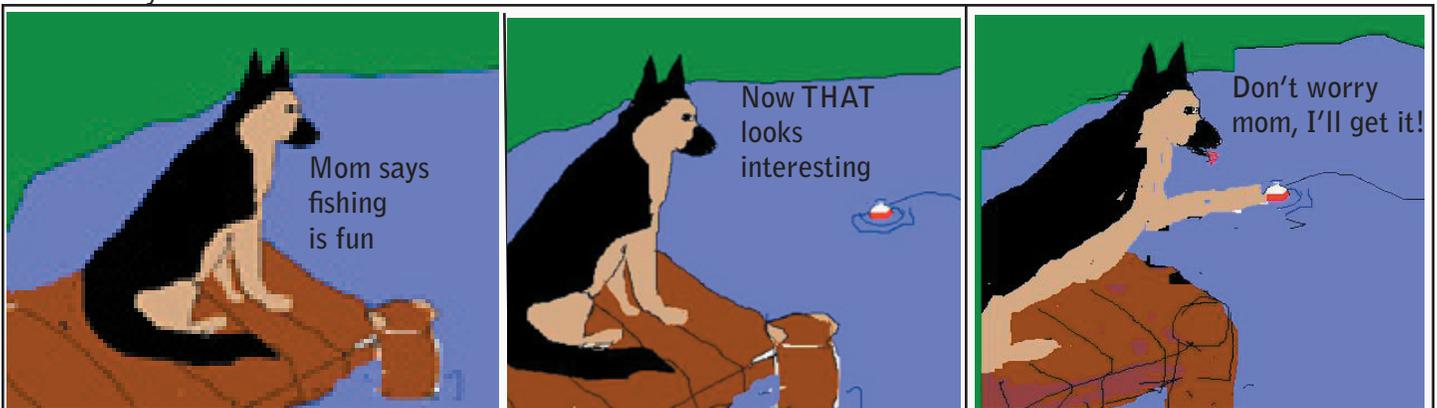


### Directions:

Elysian Farm  
Joe and Kim Schneider  
23322 Russell Road  
Pine City, MN 55063  
H: 320-629-1068 C: 651-332-6778

From I35 North: Take 35 North to Exit 165/County Road 70 (Rock Creek Exit). Head east (right) till you reach the 4 way stop. At the stop take 361 North (left). Follow 361N to County Road 117 /Liberty Road (1.3 mi). Head east (right) on 117/Liberty Road. Follow the road until it stops (2 mi). Head north (left) on County Road 4/Military Road/Government Road. This is a paved road. From County Road 4 head north until you reach Russell Road (.6 mi). Head east (right) on Russell Road. Elysian Farm will be the 3rd house on your right (.6 mi). Our driveway is not paved. Please use caution when driving or parking if it is wet out.

### SOGGY by Julie Swinland



## GSDCMSP Geocaching Event and Picnic May 30



Our first club geocaching event will be May 30 (no that is NOT Memorial Day Weekend!) at Afton State Park. We will gather at the Rangers Station just inside the park gates at 9:30 AM. I have reserved 4 of the GPS units for that day for our members and if we need more they are on a first come first serve basis. Some of us have our own handheld units already and you don't have to be the person holding a GPS to be the one who finds the caches. I talked to Ranger Rachel and this is a four part multi cache this year and they have selected easier terrain. Multicache means that when you find the first one it gives you the coordinates for the next one and so on, until you find all four. In the fourth cache there will be a card that you can keep to show that you have completed the hunt.

There will be various trinkets in the caches and you can trade for those if you wish. These are usually anything from small toys, to collapsible dog bowls. I have even found a dollar bill. If you look at the Minnesota State Park web site, they have several articles on geocaching at the parks. To select a geocaching name for yourself and register your finds online, go to [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) and sign up. You can get a free basic account or you can join for a yearly fee and then you have access to special features.

The ranger will help you get started with the GPS and several of us also have experience with these. I have been geocaching for nearly a year and have found approximately 150 caches in my spare time. They are everywhere! Some parks have 20 or 30 in them. Almost every park has at least one. They can be found on street corners and parking lots. If you sign in to [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) you can look at maps of your area and see how many caches there are.

A few things to remember:

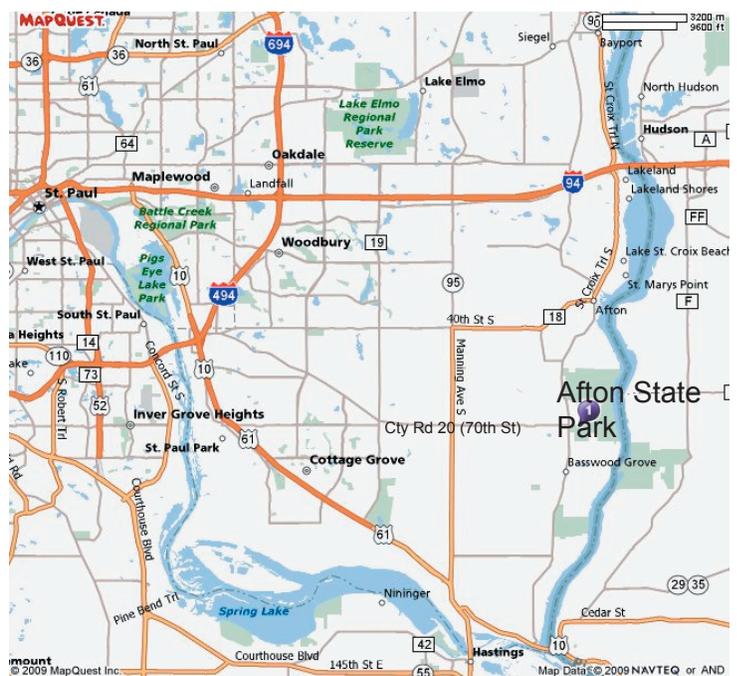
- We will be representing our club and our breed in public so please keep your dog under control.
- Please bring only one dog per person and be prepared to cleanup after the dog.
- It is a State law that dogs must be kept on leash and that the leash be no more than 6 feet in length. We could get into a real tangle if people use flexi leads.
- Park permits are required. You can get a day permit for \$5 per vehicle or a yearly permit \$25.

### PICNIC

There will be a club picnic following our hunt for the geocaches. Please bring food items to eat and share. The park has very nice picnic areas and grills. We need to have some idea how many people will be coming so please contact me (Julie Swinland) by e-mail [blackforestgsd@msn.com](mailto:blackforestgsd@msn.com), in person, or by phone (651) 457-5459 and let me know you are coming. If we have more than a few people, we can break into teams. If you have any questions please call or send an e-mail.

### Directions to the park:

From St. Paul, go 9 miles east on I-94, then 7 miles south on Highway 95 (Manning) and 3 miles east on County Road 20 (70th ST).



## Club Events

### Herding Fun Day

Come and watch the herding fun days May 17 and 24. There will be a pot luck. This was a lot of fun last year.

### Geocaching Event

We are planning to have a geocaching day with a pot luck picnic at Afton State Park. May 30 at 9:30 AM. Let Julie Swinland know if you are interested. [blackforestgsd@msn.com](mailto:blackforestgsd@msn.com).

### Team Obedience

We have two teams set up. Our plan is to compete at our June specialty shows and possibly form one team that goes on to the nationals. We are looking for ways to help sponsor our club team to go to the nationals.



Shep-O-Gram  
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German Shepherd Dog Club  
of Minneapolis & St Paul