



Shep-O-Gram

Shep-O-Gram Editor

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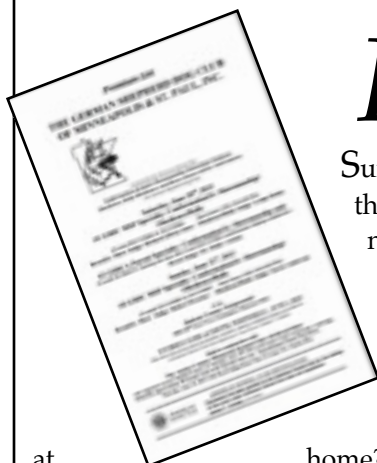
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It's Showtime!!

Summer is upon us, and for many members of the GSDCMSP, that means busy weekends traveling to show venues far and near to compete in events including conformation, rally, obedience, agility and herding trials.

It's hectic, it's hot, and often we leave the show grounds without a win. So, why endure the hassle of travel, why incur the expense of entry and handler fees when we could be sipping iced tea and enjoying a relaxing weekend

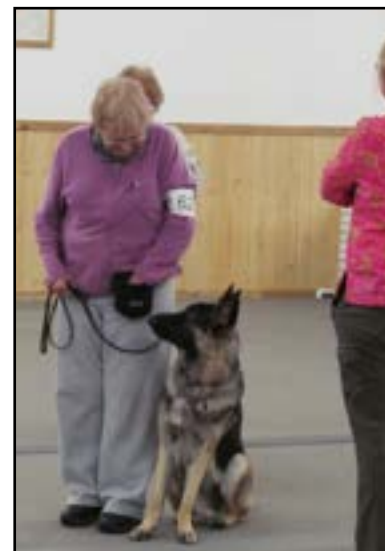
at home? Whether we are breeders or one-dog-owners, whether our focus is conformation or performance, our goal is the same--to show off our fabulous dogs and all that they can do. Competing for points, ribbons and titles alongside our rivals and friends, we strengthen the bonds we have with our German Shepherds and enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded enthusiasts of the breed or the sport. We also have the opportunity to meet new people and offer encouragement, support and information to those just starting out in our respective venues.

Beyond the enjoyment of competing and winning, however, dogs shows and performance events help improve the health and overall temperament of the breed. It is the people who show their dogs who do the most outside the show ring to ensure that only animals which are healthy, strong, and sound of mind are used for breeding.

If you are new to the world of dog shows or competitions, search out events of interest and enjoy a day of watching and learning. Contact a club member for information on how to find nearby shows. If you are a competitor, here's wishing you good weather this summer, and good luck in the ring.



Karizma's Raven of RiverRock owned by Zoa Rockenstein, handled by Kent Boyles



Pam Magadance and Kubistraum's Torrey Pines

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 12: June Membership Meeting 8:30 at Animal Inn in Lake Elmo.

June 19: German Shepherd Dog Club of America (GSDCA) Midwest Futurity/Maturity (conformation) hosted by the GSDCMSP at the Dakota County Fairgrounds in Farmington. Dogs and handlers from all over the midwest and beyond will come to compete for Midwest Best in Futurity/Best in Maturity and receive the honor of representing the Midwest region at the GSDCA National in October. **If you are planning to attend the "GSDCMSP Country Dinner" hosted by the club, your RSVP is needed by June 6 (please fill out the form in the premium list found on the club website.**

June 20-21: GSDCMSP Specialty Shows (conformation, obedience, rally) at the Dakota County Fairgrounds in Farmington. Dedicated to the memory of our Club's founding member and former GSDCA President, Helen Miller Fisher. Three conformation shows and two obedience and rally shows offered. **Entries are due June 3. If you are planning on attending the dinner Saturday night, RSVPs are needed by June 6 (please fill out the form in the premium list found on the club website.**

July 17-19 GSDCMSP AKC Agility Trials at Soccer Blast in Burnsville. Open to all breeds. Agility is a fast-paced, dynamic display of athleticism and teamwork between dog and handler.

July 25 GSD Fun Day Bring your well-mannered GSD for a day of fun activities and learning at the Animal Inn starting at 9 a.m.

SHEP-O-GRAM

Shep-O-Gram
N7925 986th Street
River Falls, WI 54022



CLUB CALENDAR

*Regular Classes are held at the following times unless otherwise noted. Please remember that the calendar is subject to change **and the most current information can be found on our website.***

- 6:45-7:30 Puppy Socialization
 - 6:30-7:30 Rally
 - 7:30-8:30 Reg Nov Ob
 - 7:30-9:00 *Conformation- All Ages*
 - 8:30-9:30 Beg Obedience
-

June 12-- Membership Meeting **and** Regular Classes

June 19—NO Regular Classes

- *MW Regional Futurity & GSDC MSP Spec. Shows/ Obedience & Rally Trials*

June 26-- Regular Classes **and** Graduation for Puppy and Beginner Obedience

July 3: NO Regular Classes- Animal Inn Closed

July 10 : NO Regular Classes- Animal Inn Closed due to Renovation

July 17-- Regular Classes / TBD New Obedience Classes ORIENTATION may start here- more info. to follow

July 24-- Regular Classes

July 25th --*GSD Fun day at the Animal Inn. Watch for more info. on the GSDCMSP website and Facebook page*

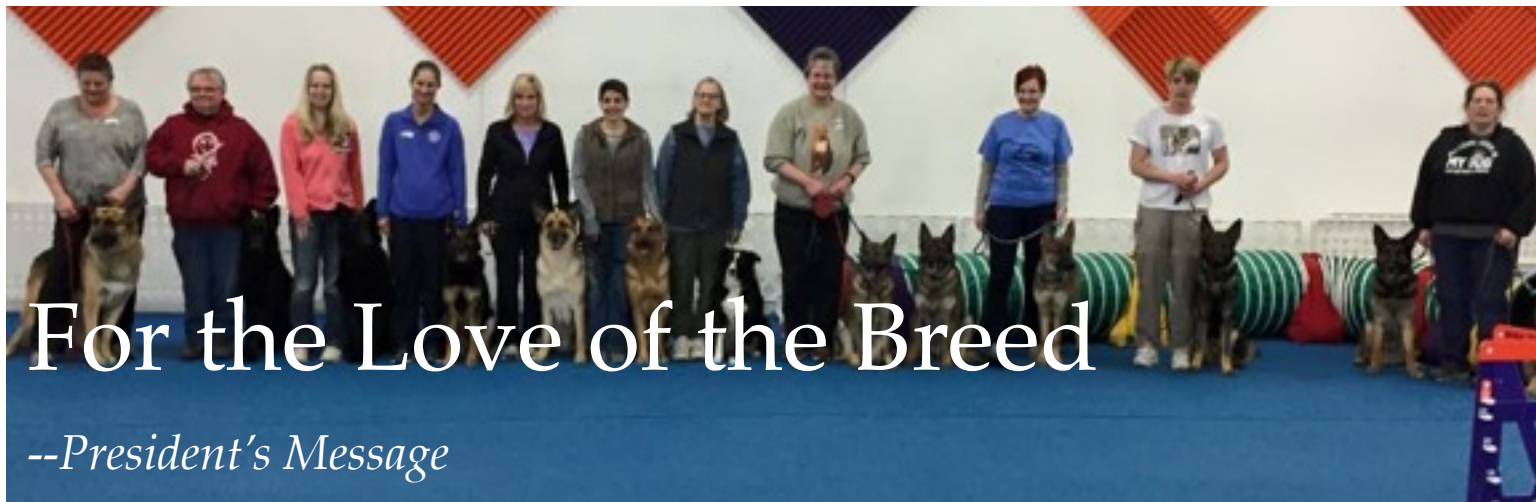
July 31--- Regular Classes

August 6- Regular Classes

August 13-- Membership Meeting and Regular Classes

August 20-- Regular Classes

August 27-- Regular Classes



For the Love of the Breed

--President's Message

For the love of the breed. That's why we come together in the German Shepherd Dog Club of Minneapolis & St. Paul, established in 1950. Our club has a long-standing history with the German Shepherd Dog, through events in performance and conformation, social events and a presence in the community. We are well into our 65th year as a club, and this year's board is committed to these fundamental goals:

1. **Transparency** of the board. The board is sharing our activities and goals through meetings, minutes and emails. We welcome questions regarding the business of the club, so don't hesitate to ask us about what we are doing! If we don't have an answer to a question, we will do our best to find the answer and share. Open communication is key!
2. **Breaking down barriers** between conformation and performance. We enjoy all types of activities with our dogs, and we should recognize that it is ok to be involved in just one activity or more. Sharing our activities with members of the club and the public will encourage those new to the breed and to what our

club can offer. We want to recognize the activities and accomplishments of our members with their dogs in all venues. This will help us create a stronger connection with each other.

3. **Participation** in the club and events in our community will increase as we share our enthusiasm with the public and the membership. There is truly something for everyone in our club! Browse the club website at GSDCMSP.org. Like and share us on Facebook. Interested in learning more about an activity? We have our Specialty Show and Obedience weekend, including the GSDCA Midwest Futurity / Maturity Show, June 19th-June 21st coming up, and we always need more volunteers!

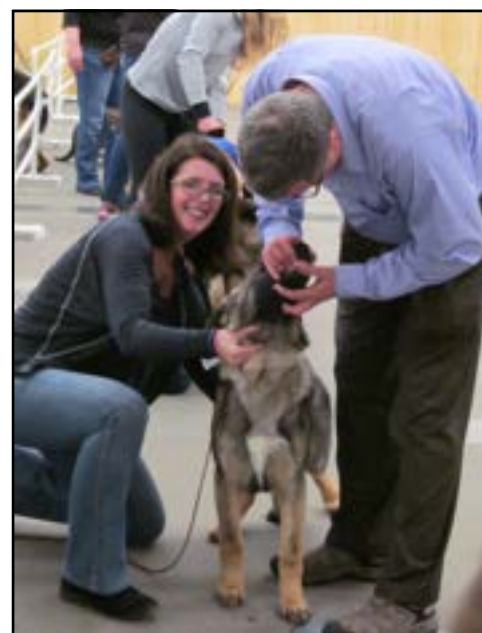
Future events to volunteer for and participate in:

- Membership Meeting, Friday June 12th- to learn more about needs for upcoming events
- Social walks in July and August – dates to be determined
- Agility Trial, July 17th-19th
- GSD Fun Day, Saturday July 25

- GSD Demo Day at the Minnesota State Fair, Sunday September 6th
- Herding Trial- Dates tbd

Enjoy your dogs through participation in events, learning about new activities, mentoring a new member and sharing your knowledge!

*For the Love of GSDs,
Peggy Simerson
President, GSDCMSP*



2015 Showcase of Excellence

GSDCMSP Annual Specialty Show and Midwest Futurity/Maturity Show

Interested in learning more about the German Shepherd breed or the club? Plan to attend this year's show at the Dakota County Fairgrounds.

One of the most enjoyable events of the summer is our club's annual specialty show, where exhibitors congregate to compete and share camaraderie in celebration of the German Shepherd Dog.

If you are a newcomer to the show scene, envisioning an elitist, stuffy "Best-in-Show"-type atmosphere, think again. Breeders, handlers and spectators mingle outdoors in lawn chairs drifting from the conformation rings to the obedience and rally contests, the potluck lunch and raffle tables.

Spectators are welcome to attend and encouraged to enjoy the show and ask questions of the breeders and club members in attendance.

Additionally, the club will be hosting an "all out, down home, country dinner" on Friday at approximately 5 p.m., following completion of the Futurity / Maturity judging. Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided compliments of the German Shepherd Dog Club of Minneapolis & St. Paul and its members.

A special event at this year's show will be presentation of the Inaugural Helen Miller Fisher award to the GSD awarded Best of Breed on Sunday. Helen Miller Fisher, a founding member of the GSDCMSP and long-time supporter of the breed, died on January 21, 2015. This year's specialty show is dedicated to her memory.

Please consider coming out to watch and take part in some of the show events. For more information on the show location and schedule, please visit the GSDCMSP website or facebook page.

SHOW SCHEDULE

All classes held at the Dakota County Fairgrounds, Farmington, Minnesota

Friday, June 19

2015 Midwest Regional Futurity / Maturity Shows

Saturday, June 20

2015 GSDMSP Specialty with Obedience and Rally Obedience Trials

Sunday, June 21

2015 GSDMSP Specialty with Obedience and Rally Obedience Trials

- Show catalogues will be available for purchase at the site.
- Coffee and rolls will be available each morning.
- A potluck lunch featuring sandwiches, soft drinks, and homemade salads, snacks and desserts will be served daily.

Understanding the Futurity / Maturity Show

The GSDCMSP is hosting the GSDCA Midwest Futurity / Maturity Specialty Show on Friday June 19th, along with our Specialty Conformation and Obedience Shows Saturday and Sunday, June 20th and 21st. For a glimpse into the Futurity / Maturity System of the GSDCA, we looked to the GSDCA Red Book: The Year in Review. Additional information can be found on the GSDCA website.

The GSDCA Futurities are among the most prestigious events held by the parent club, second only to the National Specialty show. Futurities have the same status with the AKC as a sanctioned match: no championship points are awarded, and instead of "Best of Breed" and Best of Opposite Sex," the top Winners of each sex are named "Best in Futurity" and "Best of Opposite Sex in Futurity." Originally designed as a "breeder's showcase," the Futurity gave fanciers the ability to view multiple progeny from many different breeding programs.

The GSDCA has divided the country into nine Futurity regions. The GSDCMSP resides in #5 Midwest Region, which includes Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin.

There are four Futurity classes, each divided by both sex and age. The four age classes are as follows: Junior, Teenage, Intermediate and Senior.

From the nine regional Futurity shows, there will be two overall winners and two reserve winners, one designated Best in Futurity, and the other Best of Opposite Sex in Futurity, and two Reserve in Futurity, one of each sex, respectively.

The Futurity Winners and Reserve Winners are eligible to compete against each other at the National Specialty Show's National Futurity Sweepstakes. At the National, a Best Futurity Bitch and Best Futurity Dog will be awarded the titles of Futurity Victrix and Futurity Victor, as well as Best in Futurity and Best of Opposite Sex in Futurity. The winner's photos will appear on the cover of The German Shepherd Dog Review.

A Maturity show follows the Futurity show for all dogs entered, but not necessarily shown in the previous year's Futurity. There are only two classes, divided by both sex and age, Junior and Senior. These dogs compete for the same titles and honors as the Futurity except titled as Best of Maturity, through to the National Level.



News from FaerieLand German Shepherd Rescue

This update is provided by Kathy DuVall, President & Founder, FaerieLand Corgi & German Shepherd Rescue
www.faerielandrescue.org

We are looking for foster homes for German Shepherds. If you can open your heart and your home, we can match the personality of one of our current rescues to your house and family.

Website update:

We are in the process of getting a new webmaster and new website. Please bear with us at this time.

You may find adoptable dogs on www.petfinder.com rescue #MN312 and on our facebook rescue page. Please click LIKE and follow us: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/FaerieLand-Corgi-German-Shepherd-Rescue/164817653542653>

Event calendar:

- Canine Carnival, May 30th with a booth in Columbus, Minn., at the Wildlife Science Center.
- German Shepherd Specialty / Futurity / Maturity Shows with a booth June 19-21.
- Plans are underway for a Garage Sale Fundraiser but no date is set. Possibly sometime in August or September. We would like donations of household items, knick knacks, tools, garden supplies, items that are in good condition; clothing, small appliances etc. We are also looking for aluminum cans and newspapers.

Volunteer update:

Elaine Varhalla has helped to clean up my property & grounds. She has been invaluable. This is a work in progress and much more needs to be done.

Lisa Veit has been helping with applications and home visits.

Dan Fisk, who adopted Jasper, has been volunteering his help with various projects too.

I am planning to expand the existing kennel areas in my back yard for the German Shepherds. Currently I have 3 pens but plan to expand 2 of the pens to make them larger and give the Shepherds more room to run around. I have plans to fence in a 4th area, as my brother donated kennel panels.. We need help to put the kennel panels in place. We are planning a work Saturday on June 7th from 10:30 am into the afternoon. Lunch will be served to all who attend and help work. With more hands, this large job becomes a smaller one. Let me know at marienterprises@msn.com if you can make it out. We are planning on sunshine that day.

Volunteer Positions to add:

The rescue needs more help, as we are growing and expanding. We are looking to bring on more volunteers to start sharing some of the different tasks that Kathy DuVall has been doing. Her plate is very full and it would be nice to lighten her load. The positions we are looking to fill are: foster intake manager; event manager; volunteer manager and someone to help with home visits. If you are interested, please contact Kathy at her email below.

It takes a community of people to help; unless we get more foster homes, we cannot take in more dogs. I get at least 15 to 21 calls per week where people want to surrender their German Shepherds. The rescue need is great; please consider volunteering and or becoming a foster home.

Kathy DuVall
President and CIO
612.414.4073



Our totals for 2014:

44 adoptions
26 were German Shepherds
41 dogs taken in
24 were German Shepherds

Our totals to date for 2015:

10 adoptions
5 were German Shepherds
11 dogs taken in
7 are German Shepherds

Current rescue German Shepherds:

Ashta 11 yr male
Molly 10 yr female
Easton 6 yr male
Lucas 6 yr male
Hercules 5 yr male
Sonic 3 yr male
Lilly 2 yr female
Morgan 1 yr male
Maska 1 yr male
Mason 6 month male

New Email addresses:

For inquiries:
faerielandrescue@gmail.com

For an application or foster inquiry:
info.faerieland@gmail.com

For Contacting Kathy only:
marienterprises@msn.com



Can the Internet Help Save my Dog?

In this age of instant information access, is it any wonder that when all else seems to fail, we look to the net for answers to questions about our dogs' health and well being?

It would be wonderful if breeders could selectively choose to breed only those dogs that are "guaranteed" to produce healthy offspring. In fact, many conscientious breeders do contribute to and consult the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) when selecting breeding stock in order to control diseases in the breeding population.

Likewise, in a ideal world, veterinarians would experience a 100 percent success rate in diagnosing canine ailments so that expenses for testing and treatment would be minimized and health could be restored to animals quickly and without any undue suffering.

Alas, however, genetics and medicine are inexact sciences, and despite the best efforts of responsible breeders and knowledgeable, experienced veterinarians, our beloved breed (and others) can suffer perplexing and heartbreaking ailments.

Unfortunately, I have such a dog. Obtained from a conscientious, knowledgeable breeder, then tested and treated by several highly-recommended veterinarians, she has not thrived. Last week at 13 months of age she was 41 pounds and dropping. Diarrhea every day of her life kept her thin and waking every night several times to be let outside. My husband and I were nearing the end of our attempts to save this poor dog, and in a last effort to find help, I joined a facebook group recommended to me by another GSDCMSP club member.

On May 17, I posted an entry outlining my dog's condition and my hopelessness in trying to help her. By the end of that day, eighteen people had provided me with background about their own dogs' experiences with the symptoms I had outlined and suggestions for further

action. Although some of the advice was easily dismissed, the overwhelming majority of people provided solid context and suggestions. As a result, we consulted a third veterinarian--this one at the University of Minnesota--and it appears that, at long last, our dog might be improving.

I hesitated in writing this piece for the Shep-O-Gram for fear it would be misconstrued as a recommendation that instead of veterinarians, dog owners use online sources to help treat their animals' conditions. That is not my message.

My husband and I are seasoned dog owners, realistic and well-intentioned, yet in the quagmire of despair and frustration over our dog, there were things we didn't think to do. It was a logical step to see a third veterinarian, to seek another answer other than the one we'd been given, but in truth, I'm not sure we would have done that without a push. This facebook group was helpful in presenting ideas from varied perspectives, in offering support, understanding, hope and empathy. And those intangibles were what we needed; they propelled us forward to try one more time.

I have been wondering whether my experience was unique, whether other people routinely seek information through the internet when perplexed by a pet's health condition.

Interestingly, I found an article in the Journal of the Medical Library Association that focused on how the use of internet sources for pet health information varied by pet owners' age, gender and identification. Although this study doesn't specifically address the use of social media as an information source, I'm going to assume that most people willing to spend money on pet health care will not rely solely on social media as a source of health information but, rather, use it as one available tool.

Quite frankly, I was less interested in how pet owner differences impacted use



of the internet than in what respondents did with the information obtained. According to the survey, most did exactly what I did: they checked the accuracy of information and followed up with their veterinarians.

One of the many advantages of being involved with the GSDCMSP is the ability to network with other owners, most of whom are eager to offer any support, perspective and advice possible. I wouldn't have found the aforementioned facebook group without a fellow club member. I am guardedly optimistic that my dog may recover, but if she doesn't, I know I'll have somewhere to "go" to work through her loss with people who understand all we have done to save her and who have experienced similar struggles. For that alone, I am thankful.

Kogan, Lori R., Regina Schoenfeld-Tacher, and Ann R. Viera. "The Internet and Health Information: Differences in Pet Owners Based on Age, Gender, and Education." Journal of the Medical

A Sampling of Canine Health-Related facebook Groups

- Dogs with Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Dogs with Allergies
- Dogs with Epilepsy
- Canine bloat awareness
- EPI Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency
- Degenerative Myelopathy (DM) awareness group
- Canine Fertility, Reproduction and Neonatal Issues
- Canine Discoid Lupus
- Canine Diabetes Support and Information
- Canine Pancreatitis Support
- Von Willebrand Disease Awareness
- Canine Bloat & Torsion -Talk & Conversation

GSDCMSP Spring Match

March 20, 2015

Animal Inn

Lake Elmo, Minn.



Julie Swinland

Much can be learned about a person's passion by watching her interact with the objects of said passion. Accordingly, one only needs a brief introduction to the lives of Ch. Oakhaven Xena of Black Forest and Lindenhills Eywa Black Forest v Gracelyne to recognize Julie Swinland's commitment to German Shepherd dogs.

"I like their loyalty and intelligence. They're willing to lay down their lives for you, and you have to be loyal to them."



Past President of the GSDCMSP, Swinland has also previously served as club vice president, training director and Shep-O-Gram editor. In her work as a club leader, Swinland's foremost goal was always to increase new-member outreach and encourage "conformation and performance people to work closely together, appreciating each other and each other's dogs."

Swinland's first German Shepherd was Miri von Rundelhorst, obtained in 1973 from Dr. Bill Munns in River Falls, Wisconsin. Miri lived to age 13, a Frisbee dog extraordinaire with a keen tracking ability. Walking frequently at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Miri's innate ability developed into a game played regularly in which Swinland would say "find the car," and Miri would lead her from wherever they were to the parking lot, no GPS needed. One cold winter day, "find the car" became "save the master," when Swinland, still recovering from a recent gall bladder surgery, suddenly became weak and sick. Knowing she wouldn't be able to traverse the remaining 1.5 mile trek to the parking lot, Julie told Miri to "find the car." She did, via a shortcut that had the duo safely back in the parking lot five minutes later.

Swinland's second GSD, was "Sami", from Paul and Joan Johnson's Saxony German Shepherds. Sami grew into a slightly long-legged camping companion rather than a breed ring champion, enjoying her share of adventures including a bear encounter in the Sawtooth Mountain Range near Lake Superior, where on a trail known for the occasional bear sighting, Sami caught wind of one ahead and stopped Julie, standing in front of her and refusing to proceed. Miri was Julie's sole canine companion until, at an Eagan park, she encountered a hostile man who threatened violence to Julie and Sami, should they pass by where he happened to be letting his own dog run loose on a trail. "I decided then that I needed to have two when I was walking in the woods," Julie recalled.

Thus, Ch. Rosewood's Sabrina of Lindenhill became Julie's third German Shepherd, and her first champion. Purchased from Bo Vujovich and Sheila Metz, Sabrina earned almost all of her points at specialty shows, including several Best of Breed.

Sabrina had one litter, from which Julie kept a female, Black Forest Amelia Earhart. Amy was "not a breed dog," according to Julie, so she became Julie's foray into performance events, earning her Rally Novice title at 12 years old. From Amy's one litter, Julie kept two female pups, one of which was Black Forest Amazon Queen, known as Gabby, who earned both her CD and Rally Excellent titles. And while Julie was working Gabby in performance, she was showing the other pup in the breed ring. That pup was Julie's Ch. Oakhaven Xena of Black Forest, who will be 15 year old in August.

Until recently, anyone who has seen Julie at GSD events has seen Xena by her side. American, Canadian and International Champion titles preceded Xena's performance career, which has been no less impressive: she has her CD, Rally Advanced Excellent I, and three legs toward her RAE II title. At age 12 she earned her HT in herding and her Master Agility Excellent title. Xena competed at Nationals twice; at age 11 Xena placed in several of the four classes she was entered in at the Nationals, and earned second place in the nine and over bitch class, the oldest dog in any class at the Nationals that year. At age 12, Xena was at Nationals again, entered in agility, rally and confirmation classes. She was in the Parade of Greats as both an 11 and 12 year old. Now 14, Xena, is enjoying her well-earned "retirement."

Julie's conformation and performance companion now is the beautiful and already accomplished Eywa. When Mike and Sheila Metz of Lindenhills German Shepherds brought three litter sisters known as "the Boss Squad" from Hawaii to the mainland, Julie had her pup, a stunning breed ring prospect already well on her "performance path", training in obedience, rally, herding, and agility.

Why invest such effort, expend so much time? Julie has a ready answer. "I like people to know we can breed dogs that are not only beautiful and can move nicely but also have brains and can do other things." And indeed, Julie "walks this talk", striving to exhibit the talents of the GSD dog in and out of the breed ring.



Thank Heaven for Little Girls CGC, TDI, BN, RN, owned by Pam Magadance. Great Dane Photos

Summer Training Classes Scheduled

Training classes for German Shepherd dogs are offered by the GSDCMSP and held at Animal Inn, Lake Elmo, Minn., on Friday evenings.

Puppy Socialization

New class begins on July 10, 6:45-7:30

Beginner Obedience

New class begins on July 10, 8:30-9:30

Rally Obedience

Ongoing, 6:30-7:30

Novice Obedience

Ongoing, 7:30-8:30

Conformation

Ongoing, 7:30-9:00

For further information and changes for specific Fridays due to availability of the Animal Inn, please check the website and Summer Calendar

http://www.gsdcmsp.org/pdf/2015training_calendar.pdf

Give that Shepherd a Job!

By Amber Eisfeld, Obedience Instructor

It's no secret that the German Shepherd Dog is smart, confident, and courageous. However, often times people may not recognize that with such a smart, confident, and courageous dog, that dog needs a job.

So, what is your dog's job? What does he or she get to accomplish to feel they have earned a place in your life? Taking naps, getting fed, and chewing bones, while fun for the dog, are not accomplishments. Accomplishments start and end with you. Whether you interested in agility, nose work, obedience, herding, therapy work, or simply a daily walk/run outside, these activities all require you to engage your dog. These are the basic ingredients to create accomplishments.

Not sure what you and your dog should be doing? Check out the club training calendar, stop by any Friday night to see dogs working, or contact Amber at aisfeld15@gmail.com to discuss some potential options.

The Shep-O-Gram: Yours, mine, ours

It is my pleasure to join the many contributors to the GSDCMSP by becoming The Shep-O-Gram's new editor. My goal? To continue the high standards set by long-time, award-winning previous editor Julie Swinland. Julie is one of the first active members I got to know after joining the club in 2013; her warm welcome, wise counsel and friendship are reasons for my continued involvement with the club, and I look forward to being able some day to offer the same type of mentorship that she provided for me.

Right now, though, I'm excited to take on the challenge of the Shep-O-Gram, and I am also extending an invitation to all club members to contribute regularly. I won't get to every club event, so please share your photographs, results and ideas. I see myself as a collaborator and collator rather than the sole editorial

voice. The more information shared, perspectives explored and voices heard, the richer will be our Shep-O-Gram.

That said, let me introduce myself. I'm a high school English teacher at Maple Grove Senior High. My life before teaching included a long tenure as a weekly newspaper reporter and sometime freelance writer for the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Milwaukee Sentinel and Cabin Life, Cabin Living Magazine.

Since their puppyhoods I have been the owner of delightful white Standard Poodles Sophie, 12, and Hank, 8. My love for the GSD breed was fostered by my beautiful Xena, a lovely pup with whom I had just started competing in obedience competition when she died last July at age 14 months from torsion. The void her loss created has been ably filled by two GSD girls--Straight A's Dharma DoGood v Kenlyn and Hellwigg's Rapid Fire

(Spark). I've dabbled in conformation with Spark, but my passion is training.

If you are around to see the Beginning/ Intermediate Obedience class on Friday nights, I'll be in the ring with my Spark, a bi-color spitfire with white on her chest and a big, big stride. Please say hello and share any and all ideas for future editions of the Shep-O-Gram.

