



# Shep-O-Gram

German Shepherd Dog Club of Minneapolis/St Paul

January 2008

## **Shep-O-Gram Monthly**

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A new year to try new things. Maybe this year it will be herding? Rally? Obedience? The conformation ring? We have a versatile breed and they just love to please us.

One of the suggestions for the Shep-O-Gram was to include historical pieces. How did we all get involved with German Shepherds? I know my first impressions came from watching Rin Tin Tin on TV in the 50's. Of course the original Rinty was in the movies much earlier than that. I contacted Daphne Hereford who has headed the Rin Tin Tin organization for over 50 years and she sent an article on the history of Rin Tin Tin. I will be running it in two segments. It took a fair amount of luck and a lot of determination to bring Rin Tin Tin to the United States and onto our theater and TV screens.

In honor of the new and the old I am bringing back Soggy, the cartoon strip I started many years ago. Soggy (named for the Shep-O-Gram - SOG), is a well meaning, but somewhat bumbling German Shepherd who likes to try new things, but usually misses the mark on whatever he tries.

I had an abundance of articles this month and had to make two of them into two part series. Carol Ouhl has written a great article on Therapy Work and of course the Rin Tin Tin article is also concluding in February. My apologies to Mike Metz who submitted some excellent tables of information on the findings of the Budget and Finance committee. I could not fit the tables in, but I am sure he will have them at our Special Meeting on January 18. There is more information on the Special meeting on page 3 and on the back page of this issue. It is important that members attend.

The December German Shepherd Review listed names of parent club 30 year members including 3 of our members: Julie Richards-Matosky, Julie Swinland, and Bo Vujovich. I was wondering when I would finally make it on that list!

There has been a lot of work on dog related legislation recently, partially due to the increased publicity of dog attacks and puppy mills. I have included some information on the Farm Bill in this issue.

Please check [www.AKC.org](http://www.AKC.org) to find a listing of current

Julie Swinland.

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## **SOG Due dates**

FebruarySOG - Jan 21

March SOG - Feb 21

April SOG - March 21

## 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

### January 2008

3 St Paul Dog Training Rally

4 St Paul Dog Training Obedience

4 North Star Herding Group , MN

5-6 Land O'Lakes , MN OB & Rally

12 Winnegamie KC,WI

13 Oshkosh, WI

19-20 Central Iowa KC, IA

25 North Star Herding Group Rally

26 North Star Herding Group Obedience

27 North Star Herding Group Rally & Obedience

### February

17 Keomah KC Des Moines

23-24 Minneapolis KC obedience and rally

### March

01 Wisconsin Kennel Club, Inc.

02 Wisconsin Kennel Club, Inc.

08-09 Wright County Obedience & Rally

22 Dubuque Kennel Club

23 Dubuque Kennel Club

29 Clinton Iowa Kennel Club

30 Clinton Iowa Kennel Club

Check events at [www.AKC.org](http://www.AKC.org) for more information

**Remember to either send your ballots in or bring them to the banquet.**

## Review of Remembering to Breathe – Inside Dog Obedience Competition by Willard Bailey

This is a fairly expensive book (by my standards) at \$24.95, but it is 350 pages long so you get something for your money. Willard, who calls himself Skippy, takes you on his 12 year journey through obedience training and trials with his first dog, Honeybear, a Golden Retriever. He must have kept a journal or has an incredible memory, because he could name who the judges were for every show he mentions and recounts detailed stories of many of the shows. I have trouble remembering the match a few days ago and have no clue as to who was in the class. He has an interesting writing style and recounts the techniques he learns along the way to his UDX (Utility Dog Excellent) and OTCH (Obedience Trial Champion).

He has several instructors on his quest for the OTCH and tries various techniques to get Honeybear to perform. One of his mentors, Patty Ruzzo, he only met via video, and I will critique her 2 DVD set on obedience in the future.

There is humor, love, and sadness in this true story. Honeybear was diagnosed with mild hip dysplasia in one leg as a young dog. There was always the worry about that. When she had 89 points, just 11 points from her OTCH, she had an ACL injury. She was already over 9 years old.

If you like a good dog story or are interested in training and obedience, this is a good choice. The chapters are short and Willard keeps you interested. There are some pointers about how to train for various exercises.

Willard is a treat trainer, which was not popular in his area of Arizona at the time he was competing with Honeybear so he received a lot of criticism. It helped him to stay on track when he learned about Patty Ruzzo and her success with treats.

Through it all he kept reminding himself of one of his first instructor's comments, "remember to breathe". Any of you who have shown in obedience can probably relate to that. I know I have felt like falling over during the stay exercises because I am concentrating so hard I just don't remember to breathe. Even in Novice a 1 minute sit stay and a 3 minute down stay can feel like an eternity.

## January 18 Special Meeting

### Discussion points

2008 Back to Back Specialty show financial discussion:

#### 1) Entries

What can we do to drive entries

B&F Recommendations:

Advertising

Define Communication Plan

Electronic

Printed

B&F Membership Discussion:

Incentives?

Early Entries?

All Breed Obed?

Supporting Puppies/Juniors is costing \$300

The Quad Cities club as moved their shows to the same weekend as ours, conflicting and likely impacting our conformation entries negatively.

#### 2) Grounds Expense

Should we move to a less expensive site

Should we re-visit inside obedience

Potential Savings of \$650 over 2007

#### 3) RV

Should we Promote RV Parking

Should we offer RV parking free with a five dog entry?

#### 4) Temperament Test

Should we add a temperament test?

Grounds are already paid for, so this could add dollars

#### 5) Food

Pursue Food Donations for each day

Expense Savings of approx \$250

#### 6) Judges Expenses(2009)

Should we require one or both Conf. Judges to be local in the future

Should we remove the courtesy stay over for the Saturday judge(savings, 1 Hotel night, could cost more for travel)

#### 7) Trophies

Trophies should be limited to \$1800 as a guideline, the membership should cover all pledges

#### 8) Obedience

The membership voted for outdoor obedience in 2008

Will an outdoor event negatively affect our entries

Should we consider All breed Obed

#### 9) Selective Raffles

## 2007 Farm Bill

the US Senate passed their version of the 2007 Farm Bill. Below is a summary of provisions affecting dogs.

\* Senator Richard J. Durbin (D-IL) has announced that his amendment to the Senate Farm Bill to protect the health of puppies imported into the United States has been accepted. The measure will require that any puppy brought in to the US have all vaccinations and be in good health as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. Imports of puppies for resale under the age of 6 months are prohibited.

This amendment will NOT negatively impact fanciers and responsible dog breeders who import an animal for use in their own breeding programs or as a pet.

\* Senator John Kerry (D-MA) authored amendments that will strengthen the existing laws on dog fighting, making it easier to prosecute those who would abuse our canine companions.

Federal law already prohibits dog fighting ventures and the Farm Bill amendment would expand and strengthen the current prohibition to include those who knowingly "sponsor" or "attend" a dog fighting venture. Additionally, it would make it unlawful to buy, sell, possess, train or transport any dog or other animal for the purpose of having the animal participate in an animal fighting venture. The amendment defines a "dog fighting venture" as an event that involves a fight between at least 2 animals, including at least one dog, which is conducted for purposes of sport, wagering, or entertainment.

The AKC has long opposed dog fighting, the breeding and training of dogs to fight, and supports making participation in organized dog fights a felony.

\* Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) sponsored an amendment that will ensure that all dogs and cats sold to research facilities are obtained through legal means. The measure will require that Class B dealers, those who sell animals to research facilities, be licensed and provide documentation on the source of the animals. The 2007 Farm Bill will now proceed to a conference committee in January.



## RIN TIN TIN .... *A Living Legacy* 1918 ~ 2007

**Rin Tin Tin** is considered the most recognized name in the history of the German Shepherd Dog and likewise one of the oldest continuous bloodlines in the breed's 107-year history.



The auspicious beginnings of **Rin Tin Tin** would lead to two families dedicating their lives to the preservation of not only his legacy, but also the quality lineage for which he would become known.



The original **Rin Tin Tin** was a mere puppy of five days old when Corporal Lee Duncan insisted that his battalion in Lorraine, France check out a bombed war dog kennel during World War I. What he found on that fateful day of September 15, 1918 was a mother German Shepherd Dog and her litter, the only survivors of the bomb dropped. Betty des Flandres had five puppies sired by Fritz de la

Chasse royale.

Duncan chose two of the puppies, a male and a female, and members of the battalion took the mother and remainder back to their camp.

Ironically, the only survivors over the next few months were the two pups Duncan had claimed.

He named the pups after tiny (1" tall) French Puppets named Rintintin and Nenette that were given to the American soldiers for good luck. Duncan named the male pup **Rin Tin Tin** and the female Nannette after the puppets.

Duncan worked with the dogs training them to perform as he had seen the German war dogs perform during the war. He was wildly impressed with the breed's ability and wanted to learn more. Duncan discovered that the German Kennel Master in charge of the bombed kennel had been captured by the Americans. He went so far as to visit Kennel Master in the American prison camp to learn more not only about the new breed called a German Shepherd Dog, but Betty and the puppies he had rescued.

When the war was over Duncan made special arrangements to take his two pups back to the United States with him to his home in Los Angeles. He and the pups were allowed aboard a ship that transported them to New York on a 15-day journey.



During the trip Nannette became ill with distemper and by the time Duncan arrived in New York she was quite ill.

With his driving interest in the breed, upon his arrival in New York he met Mrs. Wanner, at that time considered a premier breeder of German Shepherd Dogs in the U.S. She offered to keep Nannette to try to save her from her illness, but the pup died before

Duncan's train to California had arrived.



Mrs. Wanner, knowing Duncan's love for the breed, sent him one of her finest female puppies to replace Nannette.

Once back home and with the war over, Duncan returned to his job at a hardware store. Still enamored with his dogs, he attended dog shows with his beloved **Rin Tin Tin**.

In February 1922 at a Shepherd Dog Club of America unsanctioned two-day show, **Rin Tin Tin** amazed everyone with his ability to perform by jumping 11 feet 9 inches. Following the show, Charles Jones who asked if he could try out his new camera that made moving pictures approached Duncan. Novograph Pictures Company who had purchased Jones' film offered Duncan \$350 to film the dog in action. Duncan accepted and knew at that moment there could be a future for him and his dog in films.

Duncan pursued the film concept, contacting nearly every studio in Hollywood with his dog and a script, *Where The North Begins*. He was turned down by one studio after another, but determined he would not give up. He knew **Rin Tin Tin** was special.



Finally one day while approaching studios on what was called 'poverty row' he saw a film crew trying to shoot a scene with a wolf and not having success. He approached the crew and told them he and his dog could do the scene in one take. He was told to go away and to take his dog and script with him.

He persisted, and finally, they allowed him to try the scene with **Rin Tin Tin**. Voila, the scene was shot in one take as he had promised and they kept him on for the filming of "Man From Hell's River."

The name of fledgling studio on the verge of bankruptcy was Warner Brothers Pictures. The film was a hit and **Rin Tin Tin** was a sensation. The public loved him and his heroic ability. **Rin Tin Tin** ultimately made 26 pictures for Warner Brothers before his death on August 10, 1932. He was referred to as the mortgage lifter and credited with saving the studio from financial ruin during the silent film era.

At the peak of his career with Warner Brothers he received some 10,000 fan letters a week and was considered to be one of Hollywood's top stars.

When **Rin Tin Tin** died unexpectedly on that fateful Friday he was scheduled to begin a new film for Warner Brothers the following Monday.

Not only was Duncan devastated at his loss, but also so was the studio as they both found themselves without a star. Duncan had raised several litters from **Rin Tin Tin** and had kept a pup he called Junior.

According to Duncan, Junior was a nice dog, but not the image of his father in structure or ability but he was committed to continue the legacy with what fate had given him.

The studio rather than start the new picture put Duncan on the road to promote the son of **Rin Tin Tin**. During that tour in 1933, **Rin Tin Tin** made the first commercial airplane flight by a dog and like his father won the hearts of fans across America.





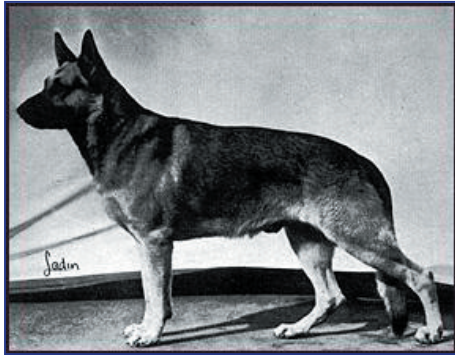
Duncan was dedicated to **Rin Tin Tin** and his ability and during a tour in England a report was published in a book that said Duncan's wife had filed for divorce citing **Rin Tin Tin** as co-respondent saying Duncan loved the dog more than her. The divorce case was dropped and never granted.

When World War II began Duncan wanted to serve his country but because of an injury during the first war was not allowed to re-enlist. So he did the next best thing.

He approached the U.S. Army and suggested they consider a training camp for military dogs in California. After many times being turned down, the army finally agreed and Duncan and **Rin Tin Tin III** became the head trainers for Camp Hahn.

During the course of the war, Duncan and **Rin Tin Tin III** – who was an official soldier with his number tattooed on his leg – trained more than 5,000 dogs and handlers for the war effort.

When the war was over it is said that Duncan untrained many of the returning war dogs and re-placed them with the families that had donated them for the war effort.



Duncan, although he loved Junior and **Rin Tin Tin III**, also a son of the original, continued to learn about the breed itself in a search for the finest bloodlines available. He attended dog shows and participated in the development, progress and betterment of the breed as a whole.

He was listed as breeder of Champion Tasso of Villa Marina, Register of Merit, one of the most well known show dogs of the time. Tasso was the grandson of International Champion Grand Victor Odin von Buescher Schloss, FH (herding) and

the 1936 SV (German) Champion.

Odin was one of the most recognized dogs of that time and the grandsire of the dog that would be registered as **Rin Tin Tin II** by Duncan.

**Rin Tin Tin II** would sire **Rin Tin Tin IV**. **Rin Tin Tin IV**'s lineage has been traced to Betty des Flandres and Fritz de la Chasse royale., the parents of the Original **Rin Tin Tin**. Both **Rin Tin Tin II** and **Rin Tin Tin IV** were the primary dogs used in the filming of *The Adventures of Rin Tin Tin*, which first aired on ABC 1954-1959. Two other dogs, one owned by Duncan called Hey You and the other owned by a trainer employed by Duncan (Frank Barnes) called JR were also used in some scenes of the series.



Many people who wanted pups from his famous dogs approached Duncan, but only one of those relationships would maintain the dedication necessary to continue the lineage for future generations.

It was in 1956 that Jannettia Brodsgaard Propps contacted Duncan about a puppy for her breeding program. She and Duncan communicated frequently and finally on July 5, 1957 her first **Rin Tin Tin IV** son arrived at the airport in Houston, Texas. She would ultimately acquire four dogs directly from Duncan as well as his endorsement for success in her breeding program to continue the lineage.

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The conclusion of the Rin Tin Tin story will appear in the February issue

# Therapy Animals A to Z By Carol Ouhl

## Part 1

I've been doing therapy animal visits for 14 years and evaluating potential animal-handler teams for 12 years. I've evaluated over 1,500 teams, visited just about every type of facility that currently accepts therapy animals and have done countless demos & programs everywhere from the Mall of America to the Mayo Clinic. While I could write volumes on this subject, I'll try to be brief.

The world of therapy animal visiting has changed dramatically over the past decade. Being accepted in facilities has improved 10-fold locally yet there are still hospitals and other facilities that will not allow such a "dangerous and unhealthy" activity. In other parts of the country, there is little hesitation in any facility.

A therapy dog means to most people taking a pet dog to a nursing home so lonely people can pet it. But facilities today receiving therapy animal visits include hospitals, chemo treatment areas, ICUs, cardiac units, eating disorder clinics, mental health counseling centers, surgical recovery units, children's behavioral units, seizure observation units, physical rehab, occupational rehab, speech rehab, nursing homes, assisted living quarters, group homes for people with disabilities, Alheimers' units, special education classrooms, chronic illness day care programs, library reading programs, juvenile incarceration sites, and prisons. The list goes on and on. And, of course, there have been many visiting therapy teams working at the tragic disasters of the Oklahoma City bombing, World Trade Center following Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, the school shootings in St. Cloud and Oregon and at the 35W bridge collapse. These types of visits require the most solid, brave and experienced teams as it is physically and emotionally demanding for both dog and handler.

Not just therapy dogs. Today we talk about therapy animals or teams since not only dogs visit, but cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, domestic rats, cockatoos, cockatiels, parakeets, llamas, miniature horses, pot-bellied pigs and chickens. Each of the species have their admirers. And, yes, they are all trained for the activity. Thanks to operant conditioning, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs come when called and do a "sit-stay" in their baskets. Pot-bellied pigs and chickens come when called, sit on cue, and even retrieve objects. We now know that it is not just the animal that visits. The animal is the motivator, catalyst, conversation starter, bridge to human interaction. It is the human handler who leads both the animal and the visit & helps people interact with the animal. The handler's skills are crucial to a safe and enjoyable visit for all involved.

Scientific studies on the positive effects of therapy animals have increased in the last 15 years. Studies have proven benefits in many areas, to name a few: decreased boredom, loneliness, and isolation; lower blood pressure; reduce anxiety/depression; reduce pain and anger; and reduce doctor visits. Visits also increase or improve social interaction; empathy; conversation; appropriate touch; nurturing; respect for boundaries; gentle conflict resolution. They increase human longevity after heart attacks by one to four years. (This has been proven to not be due to walking a dog. Even if the pet is just a bowl of goldfish, the entire world of a survivor improves.)

As the studies multiply, so do the requests for visiting therapy teams. There are hundreds of people locally doing visits of all kinds. There are also about 5 local groups of visiting teams. These groups all usually have a 2 year waiting list of facilities wanting visits.

Why the shortage of teams? There are many reasons. Many people have no interest in this type of activity or are interested but cannot devote the time needed. Once you begin visiting, that facility counts on you to be there at the expected times. With our busy, hectic lives, this becomes one more commitment of time, energy and money. Many people want to do this but don't have an appropriate dog. Not all dogs are suited for this work and not all dogs - even though suited - like doing this work.

interact with the world, and hardened criminals learn empathy and gentleness. The positive responses are so frequent and varied, one cannot help but become addicted to this activity.

**This article will conclude in the February Shep-O-Gram**

## Brushing Teeth & Home Dental Care

**Holly Nash, DVM, MS**

*Veterinary Services Department, Drs. Foster & Smith, Inc.*

Brushing your dog's teeth should not be a chore for you or your dog. Instead, it should be an enjoyable time for both of you. If you take things slowly at the beginning and give lots of praise, you and your dog will start looking forward to your brushing sessions. But first, we need to gather together what we will need.

### **Toothpastes and rinses**

There are many pet toothpastes on the market today. Make sure you use a pet toothpaste. Toothpastes designed for people can upset your dog's stomach. Pet toothpastes may contain several different active ingredients. Various veterinary dentists have recommended those toothpastes, gels, and rinses that contain chlorhexidine, hexametaphosphate, or zinc gluconate.

For dogs with periodontal disease, fluoride treatments or toothpastes may be prescribed by your veterinarian. (Please do not use any human fluoride containing toothpastes on your pet.) Flavored toothpastes can make toothbrushing more acceptable to pets.

### **Toothbrushes, sponges, and pads**

The real benefit of toothbrushing comes from the mechanical action of the brush on the teeth. Various brushes, sponges and pads are available. The choice of what to use depends on the health of your dog's gums, the size of your dog's mouth, and your ability to clean the teeth.

Use toothbrushes designed specifically for pets – they are smaller, ultra-soft, and have a somewhat different shape. Finger toothbrushes that do not have a handle, but fit over your finger, may be easier for some people to use. Pet toothbrushes are available through our company, your veterinarian, or some pet stores. For some dogs, starting out with dental sponges or pads may be helpful since they are more pliable. Dental sponges have a small sponge at the end of a handle, and are disposable. They are softer than brushes. Dental pads can help remove debris from the teeth and gums but do not provide the mechanical action that brushes do.

### **Where to begin**

Number one, this should be fun for you and your dog. Be upbeat and take things slowly.

Do not overly restrain your dog. Keep sessions short and positive. Be sure to praise your dog throughout the process. Give yourself a pat on the back, too! You are doing a great thing for your dog!

1. First, have your dog get used to you putting things in her mouth. Dip your finger in beef bouillon. Call your dog with a voice that means "treat" and let your dog lick the liquid off your finger. Then rub your soaked finger gently over your dog's gums and teeth. After a few sessions, your dog should actually look forward to this and you can move on.
2. Now, place a gauze around your finger. (You can again dip it in the bouillon.) Gently rub the teeth in a circular motion with your gauzed finger. Repeat this for the number of sessions it takes your dog to feel comfortable with this procedure. Remember to praise her and keep an upbeat attitude.
3. After your dog is used to having the flavored gauze in her mouth, you are ready to start with a toothbrush, dental sponge, or pad. We need to get your dog used to the consistency of these items, especially the bristles on a brush. So, let your dog lick something tasty off of the brush or pad so she gets used to the texture.
4. Once your dog is used to the cleaning item you are going to use, we can add the toothpaste (or rinse). Pet toothpastes either have a poultry, malt, or other flavor so your dog will like the taste. Get your dog used to the flavor and consistency of the toothpaste. Let your dog lick some off your finger and then apply some to your pet's gumline with your finger. Praise your pet.



5. Now your dog is used to the toothbrush and toothpaste and you are ready to start brushing. Talk to your dog in a happy voice during the process and praise your dog at the end. At first, you may just want to brush one or both upper canine teeth (the large ones in the front of the mouth). These are the easiest teeth for you to get at and will give you some easier practice. As before, when your dog accepts having several teeth brushed, slowly increase the number of teeth you are brushing. Again, by making it appear to be a game, you both will have fun doing it.

#### Brushing Your Dog's Teeth & Home Dental Care

##### How often?

Certainly, the more often you brush the better. Always aim for daily dental care for your dog, just as you aim for daily dental care for yourself. The hardest thing about home dental care for dogs is just getting started. Once you have done it for a while, it just becomes part of your daily routine. If you cannot brush daily, brushing every other day will remove the **plaque** before it has time to mineralize. This will still have a positive effect on your dog's oral health. I have developed a habit of brushing my dog's teeth after I am done brushing mine. I talk to my dog, through the procedure, praise her when we are done, and then give her a treat to chew on. Now when she hears me brushing my teeth, she comes into the bathroom wagging, and waits for her turn.

##### Other dental care items

**Water-piks:** A water-pik-type dental system has been developed for dogs. It works on the same principle as similar devices for people. Chlorhexidine is added to the water to kill the bacteria in the mouth, and the water stream removes the plaque. This may be especially useful for some pets with gum disease, who bleed from the gums if a brush is used.

**Food:** Studies show that hard kibbles are slightly better at keeping plaque from accumulating on the teeth. There is a veterinary dentist-approved food on the market called t/d made by Hill's, the Science Diet people. Research studies have shown that pets eating this food have less plaque and calculus build-up. This food is available through your veterinarian. Avoid feeding dogs table scraps or sweet treats because they can increase the build up of plaque and **tartar**, and can lead to other health problems.

**Toys:** Mechanical removal of plaque can be accomplished by using toys such as Plaque Attacker dental toys, rope toys, or rawhide chips. Do not use toys that are abrasive and can wear down the teeth. If your dog is a very aggressive chewer, choose toys that are not so hard that he could possibly break a tooth on them. You may need to look for toys he cannot get his mouth around. Rawhide or other chews that soften as the dog chews are another option. Always supervise your dog when he is chewing on a toy.

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### Brags

#### Mythical Zeus of Black Forest

Granite City KC

Dec 8, 2007 WINNER'S DOG

Dec 9, 2007 RESERVE WINNER'S DOG

Minneapolis KC

November 18th, 2007

WINNERS DOG, BEST OF WINNERS, BEST OF BREED ( from the 9-12 month puppy class)

Owner- Connie Karner

Breeder- Julie Swinland

Judge- Helen Miller Fisher Granite City Kennel

#### Am Can Int'l Ch Oak Have Xena of BLK Forest RA, OFA H&E

Jan 3 St Paul Dog Training

Rally Excellent first leg

#### Cinosam's That Girl

Granite City Kennel Club - Judge Mrs Patti Long Smith

Winners Bitch, Best of Winners and BOB

Breeder/Owner Cindy Muehlbauer

**Black Forest Amelia Earhart RN Thirteen Club TC OFA H/E** celebrated her 13th birthday January 5, by chasing and nearly catching a rabbit



## Rally Signs by Julie Swinland

In the October issue Virginia Bailey, our club Rally Instructor, told you a little about the basics of Rally. I will followup with a little more about the signs you see on a Rally course. In the last year and a half I have gotten 6 Rally titles on my dogs Novice through Excellent, so I have some experience with the scary nature of signs. Once they are demystified it is much easier. You can get a set of small flash cards with all the signs and an explanation of what to do. There are several kinds. I have a set that gives you complete instructions for each sign. It can be a handy thing to review just before going into the ring at a show.

At the Novice level (A&B) Your dog is on leash walking beside you. You will have between 10 and 15 stations marked by signs between the Start sign and the Finish sign. The general rule is that you keep the signs to your right as you pass. There are exceptions such as exercises which include cones, like the weave and spiral exercises.

The easy and fairly obvious signs are directional. Left turn, right turn, 360 degree circle or a 270 degree turn to the left or right



These are not always precise. You need to look where your next sign is and be sure to align yourself appropriately. It might not be exactly a 90 degree right turn for instance.

Then there are some slightly less intuitive signs such as call front finish left or right. There are two varieties of these. Some have a stop sign which means the dog should sit in the heel position before moving forward with you. The variety without a stop sign is telling you to move forward with your dog healing when the dog comes to your left side. At the Novice level you are allowed to take a step back when you call the dog to front. The dog should sit directly in front of you just as in a recall exercise in obedience. Then you give your command to heel however you indicate a left or right finish.

That is an overview of 10 of the 31 signs which can be used in Novice Rally. For more information, look at the AKC rule book for Obedience and Rally, look up Rally Signs at [www.AKC.org](http://www.AKC.org), or order a set of flash cards. You can find them on the internet or contact Alan Holtz (310)323-3758, [aholtz@dslextreme.com](mailto:aholtz@dslextreme.com).

## SOGGY by Julie Swinland



**German Shepherd Dog Club of MSP  
Membership Meeting  
At the Animal Inn Training Center, Lake Elmo,  
MN  
December 14, 2007**

Meeting came to order at 8:45pm

In attendance Verna Kubik, President; Kelly Salava, Vice-President; Conni Sokolouski, Secretary; Pamela Magadance, Treasurer; Board members- Liz Oster, Julie Swinland, Eileen Varhalla.

There were 37 voting members present  
Paul Johnson moved to dispense with regular order of business. Dave B. Second and passed.

Bo V. motioned to not hold training on January 4th, 2008. Helen F. Seconded and passed

- ☐ No training on Dec 21st, 2007
- ☐ We will have training on Dec. 28th, 2007
- ☐ No training on January 4th, 2008
- ☐ New Obedience class starts on Jan 11, 2008.

Budget and Finance:

- ☐ Mike M. reported that it looks like we could be profitable for the next years Specialty show.
- ☐ Mike M. moved that we have a SPECIAL MEETING on JANUARY 18th, 2008 to review the Budget and Finance Reports. Jinny Bailey seconded. Passed.

All Breed Liaison:

- ☐ Bobbi Moore would like to have an informal meeting after training on December 28th with anyone interested to discuss what area All Breed shows our club will support the coming years.
- ☐ We will vote on the Eau Claire show weekend at the Special Meeting on January 18th, 2007.
- ☐ The Annual Awards Banquet is going to be held at Gulden's on January 26th, 2008. Linda Salava is in charge of this event. The following list is who you need to send Banquet

information to:

Program - write ups –Mada Parnell. Due 12-20-07

Trophies- name and title on plaque or bar – Mada Parnell Due 12-20-07

Dinner reservations and monies – Linda Salava Due 1-23-08

Pictures for the Slide show – Monika Frendt, 1629 – 70th Street, New Richmond, WI 54017

Or you can email them to her at mefrendt@yahoo.com.

There were forms for the banquet and trophies in the November SOG, please fill out by the appropriate date.

New business:

- ☐ Nominating Committee Report:
- ☐ Dave Bissonnette reported the following candidates and the positions they are running for:

PRESIDENT: Michael Metz

VICE PRESIDENT: Paul Johnson

SECRETARY: Janice (Mrs. Nils) Anderson

TREASURER: Mada Parnell

The following individuals are running the Open Board Position:

Ann Jeddeloh

Eileen Varhalla

Charles Reinhardt

Ginny Altman

The nominations were open to the floor for Candidates for the Board:

Doug Oster nominated Kelly Salava. Kelly S. accepted.

Bo motioned for nominations to close. Mike M. seconded and passed.

All of the nominees have accepted to run for the above positions as listed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59pm.

**The Family Dog**

Did you know that the AKC has a bi-monthly magazine called The Family Dog? It contains many interesting articles on dog behavior, activities, and care. A recent issue had an article on dog back packing and organizations that give titles for that activity. Go to [www.akc.org/pubs/index.cfm](http://www.akc.org/pubs/index.cfm) to find more information on this magazine or contact the AKC call toll-free 1-800-490-5675. The cost is 9.95 per year.



## **Training Friday nights at the Animal Inn Lake Elmo**

Check the web site for exceptions

[www.gsdcmsp.org](http://www.gsdcmsp.org)

7:00 Conformation

Intermediate Obedience

7:45 Beginning obedience

Rally - all levels

## **GSDC/ MSP Herding Trial 2008**

Eileen Varhalla is continuing her work on organizing the Sanctioned Plan A Herding Trial in the spring 2008.

Let Eileen know if you have gotten any herding titles with your dogs. She needs to show the AKC that our members have been active in herding.

If you would like to participate, help, plan, or work at this event please contact Eileen Varhalla. This will offer an opportunity to get a feel for herding if you haven't tried it yet. You can see what it is all about.

Contact: [evanhalla@aol.com](mailto:evanhalla@aol.com) 651-462-12220

Shep-O-Gram

1087 Allen Avenue

W. St Paul, MN 55118



German Shepherd Dog Club  
of Minneapolis & St Paul

## **Special Membership Meeting Jan 18**

We will be discussing:

Plans for the Specialty shows

Budget and Finance Committee status report

March match

New training director

## **GSDC MSP Annual Banquet and meeting January 26**

Gulden's 2991 Hwy 61 Maplewood

Time: 6:00 Cocktails (cash bar)

7:00 Dinner

8:30 Program

Contact Linda Salava by Jan 23 to make your reservations

