

Shep-O-Gram

German Shepherd Dog Club of Minneapolis/St Paul

January 2012

Shep-O-Gram

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Linda Salava Ginny Altman Lisa Marie Fortier

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Has everyone gotten their reservations in for the annual banquet? You should have your ballot for the election. You can bring it to the banquet or mail it to Roger Salava in the envelope provided.

Last year in the January issue I ran a quote from a Maxine cartoon:

"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, martini in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming WOO HOO what a ride!""

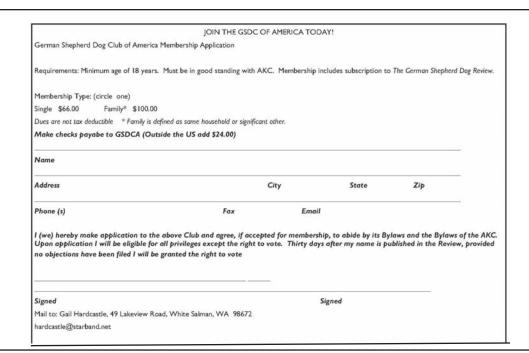
I think that we have lived that out this year. When you look at the year we have had, the banquet, matches, specialty shows and the futurity, the GSD Fun Day, the agility match, the State Fair demos, the herding trials, the pot lucks, the geocaching day - another great year! And we won the regional competition large club division, the newsletter monthly large club division and got 3rd place in the web competition. Our member's dogs did very well again at the nationals. Our club is growing and we have big plans for the coming year, including our first 3 day agility trial.

On Friday Dr LaVallie gave an excellent presentation on degenerative myelopathy, a condition that we should all be aware of and breeders may want to start using the DNA test available through the OFA. I hadn't realized that there was such a test, but it can tell you if your dog is free of the genes which must be present to develop and/or pass on DM. Dr Lavallie will be giving another talk in two weeks, January 27, at 8:15 on cold laser therapy and on whatever conditions we would like to hear about that can be helped through chiropractic. This is a great opportunity to learn and will be the last time that Dr LaVallie is offering a free presentation.

Our annual banquet, meeting and election is Saturday January 21. We will be bringing our new officers on board and let's think of how we can make our club even better in the next year. Be sure to show your appreciation for the officers who are leaving office too. It is not an easy job trying to run such a large club with so many interests and activities.

Julie Swinland 651-457-5459 Blackforestgsd@msn.com

SOG Due Date Feb Issue - Jan 21

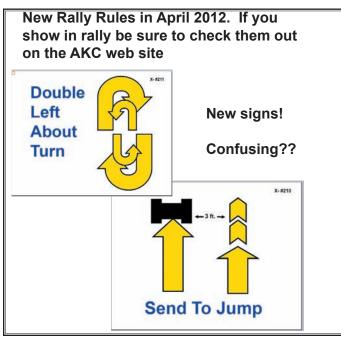


This is the membership application for the German Shepherd Dog Club of America. For the application for our club see the club web site or pick one up at training



Dr LaVallie's presentation on Cold laser therapy and other chiropractic methods of helping dogs continues January 27 at 8:15 It promises to be very interesting

Dr Mark LaVallie and Dr Josee Gerad Work on a dog with potential DM



sponsors and ad rates

In order to keep costs down, we are offerring 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 advertsing.

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 81/2X 11 All rates are for black and white print, but may apbear in color in the PDF version.

PUPPY SOCIALIZATION – What is it and How Important is it? Carol Ouhl ©2011, All right reserved.

Most people know me as training and working therapy dogs. That's only one of the dog training aspects I do. I've spent the last 15 years doing remedial training and behavior work with dogs of all ages. My favorite thing to do is take a puppy (7 weeks to 12 weeks) into my home for 1 or 2 weeks of socialization. Why? Because I see the problems that arise if enough socialization and training isn't done at that early stage. I spend a lot of time and energy helping people resolve or eliminate problems that could have easily been avoided had the socializing been done correctly.

Canine behaviorists (the folks with the PhDs in applied animal behavior) have for decades known that the prime learning period of puppies is between 4 weeks of age and 4 months of age. During that time period, puppy brains are sponges soaking up every second of learning. Yes, their nervous and mental system is still developing, but learning is also occurring. And in the last 10 years research has shown us that puppies as young as 4 weeks of age when coaxed over various tiny obstacles become more sure-footed and confident as they grow up. We also know that 5 week old puppies can easily be taught to sit for their food bowl and come when they're called. Puppies 7 weeks of age can easily be taught to heel off leash, sit on cue, lie down on cue and do a breed stack (depending on the physical difficulty of the stack). When you ask people to describe puppy socializing, you get a myriad of answers. Anything from just letting them play with other puppies, to taking them everywhere, to introducing them to lots of people. Each of those answers is correct; but they really just scratch the surface. All of those answers together, still just scratch the surface.

Yes, puppies need to play with other puppies to be able to cope with other dogs. They also need to play with teenage dogs and adult dogs to learn boundaries and respect and good doggie body language. That is assuming, of course, that the dogs with which they play are skilled in those areas - which many aren't.

Yes, they need to go many places. But just taking them is a small percentage of what is important. When I say taking them many places is a good thing, I am first assuming they've been well started with crate training by 5 weeks of age so they happily enter and become relaxed in a crate. I'm also assuming they've been properly exposed to traveling in a vehicle (a 16- step process in my opinion) so that going to the places isn't stressful. I'm further assuming that the owner really recognizes and is alert for the slightest hesitation on the part of the puppy. Then going many places focuses on not just going but being introduced to all the sights, sounds, smells and energy that are different about that place. AND that the exposure is done in a very safe, happy manner creating a positive experience.

Yes, they need to meet many different people. But again, it is HOW they meet those people that is important. Just seeing them might be enough for some puppies. Some puppies might need seeing and petting, Some might need seeing, petting, moving or making different sounds. Some will have a good experience if the new people come up to them; some will not. Some will only really be "meeting" their shoes. Some will do better if the new people sit quietly, not moving and allow the puppies to come to them on their own terms and timing. Some will do better if the new people are sitting or lying on the floor at the puppy's level.

The more "behavior issues" I see; the more I realize how much more socializing we could all be

doing. Owners are amazed when I call them and ask "Did you know your puppy (or teenage dog or adult dog) is afraid / worried/ concerned/ startled by X?". I am continually amazed by what that "X" might be. And I am continually amazed by how people THINK they are doing a good job of socializing their puppies. I'm also amazed at how many people adopt a rescue of any age and immediately assume that (a) the problem rescue just need socializing it missed and (b) socializing for the rescue animal is does the same as it is for a puppy.

To give you an idea of how we THINK we're socializing or training our dogs and it turns out we weren't watching closely enough, here's a few examples of what I've seen.

I worked with teenage dog afraid of a garbage bag being snapped open. His owner had acquired the dog as a 9 week old puppy from a reputable breeder. And the owner opened trash bags all the time. What was different? He was only exposed to it when he was not in the same room and the exposure was only the bag being shaken open. I had to start back with very quiet , low key basics while the youngster was eating treats or playing with toys.

I've had an 8 week old, small breed puppy sent to me by a very conscientious breeder. I discovered that it growled and bit if you reached for its food bowl. Easy enough to cure at that young age. But to my surprise, I discovered I had to "cure" it for every different person. It took me a week to cure it for just two people. The good news was the new owners were made fully aware, were very committed and started working intensely with a trainer in their city as soon as the puppy arrived. Since the puppy had been on semi-solid food for 4 weeks, you know that behavior started long before it came to me. And it could have easily been cured had it been tested, recognized and addressed as soon as it appeared. The breeder never saw it because she never set up the scenario.

I had a 6 month old tiny breed dog that would bite its owners if they tried to connect a leash. Actually it would bite if you tried to do almost anything. They had two, very young, high energy children. While you can easily fill in the blanks on that one, curing the problem is a very involved process. It would have been so much less traumatic for the puppy if it had been taught to go towards an outreached hand, a tug on its collar or a leash being produced. And maybe the manhandling and tug of war with the little ones would not have occurred or at least been lessened.

Breeders that have two or three steps in their home or yard frequently assume the puppy now knows how to go up and down stairs. But frequently if you take that puppy to a flight of 10 stairs, it will freeze. Or if it doesn't freeze, it will go dangerously charging up or down the stairs with little self control at all. That's when I get the call and so starts the process of carrying the puppy to the bottom of the stairs. Then we have to teach the puppy to not jump up stairs but step up one leg at a time, , or two legs at a time depending on the size of the breed. I've worked with a 7 month old large breed and 2 year old giant breed on this. As you can guess, the older the dog and / or the bigger the body, the more difficult this training becomes and the more dangerous it is for both the dog and the people if the problem isn't fixed. What surprises me most is the surprise people have when their dog "suddenly" becomes afraid, or aggressive towards something that never used to bother it. WE know the dog probably gave them several clues before the problem really occurred. While most animal trainers and all behaviorist agree that taking a "history" of the issue is very important, a lot of us know we're just hoping for some glimmer of information.

I have stopped being surprised by the lack of information received during a history interview. Here's the typical course of events.

- ➤ When asked what happened to cause the behavior, people either say "Nothing" or "I don't know".
- ➤ When asked: "Did it have that problem when it was a puppy? ",typical answers are: "Can't remember"; "Sometimes"; "I don't think so"; "I don't know"; "No, it just started after 'x'."
- ➤ When I ask, "Why are you calling me now?", typical answers are: "We can't stand it anymore."; "Our friends told us we could or should fix it."; "We took it to obedience school but that didn't help."; "The dog is getting worse."; or the saddest answer "Family member X has decided if this isn't cured, the dog has to go.".
- ➤ When I ask, "Have you discussed this with your breeder?", I hear "No."; or "We can't remember who that is."; or "I lost the information on how to contact my breeder. They are the Hansons, or maybe the name was Smith in Timbucktoo. Do you know them?"; or "My breeder didn't want to talk about it."; "My breeder said it was my fault and won't help.".

So what does all this have to do with socializing? My point is, the more socializing of all facets of puppy development that is done, the better chance those puppies have of living a happy life – some times that will be inspite of what their new owners do or don't do.

Years ago a vet friend of mine told me that easily 60% to 75% of animal abuse comes from well meaning owners who don't know any better. I know that percentage has dropped dramatically in the last decade. But I can also tell you it still occurs – even when owners are simply "playing" with their puppies. That playing frequently is owners scaring their puppies and laughing when the puppies react. I'm convinced the broader job we do of socializing those puppies to anything and everything, the better off we all will be.

So how do we do that? Unfortunately it takes time and it takes separating each puppy to socialize each one separately – because they all react differently. How do we start. Here's my opinion:

- ❖ First, stop relying so heavily on the Volhard Puppy Temperament Test. Originally it was designed specifically to pick out the puppy in any litter to have the most skills desirable to become an obedience competition puppy. And people experienced at giving the test know that the results can easily be skewed based on the many variables that need to be managed when giving the test.
- ❖ Second, read, assess and understand the goal all the puppy temperament tests available. I know of 7 of them; there are probably many more. Some are geared to choose puppies with skills for search and rescue, or police / protection work or guide dog work, etc. Then decide when and how to use them.
- ❖ Third, understand that the tests give you a read on the puppies in one litter compared to each other. Yes, there are specific responses on each exercise that give you a reference point to a standard level of all puppies. But understand that the results of those tests can be skewed based on some breed specific characteristics and based on the typical temperament raised by a particular breeder. In the interest of space, I'll refrain from

Puppy Socialization Continued

giving you examples of what I mean

- ❖ Fourth, go through your house and itemize every sight, sound, feeling that exists room by room. Make a list much as you would for listing everything in a room to be covered by insurance. Example: Kitchens have dishwashers have different sounding cycles, different temperatures, produce steam, have drop-down doors that give way when stepped upon, shelves that slide in when bumped and "attack" you when slide out, refrigerator doors that slam and pop when the suction seal is released, freezers, garbage cans, garbage disposals, timers that ding and buzz. And on and on and on.
- ❖ Methodically introducing the puppy to all those things. Methodically making sure the introduction isn't scary, e.g. don't let the dishwasher shelf slide out and "attack" the puppy as its first experience.

If you have the time to take this approach, I will guarantee you there will be <u>something</u> to which each puppy reacts negatively and that "something" is very likely to be different for each puppy. There's your opportunity to create a more confident puppy before it leaves your home. Let me leave you with my favorite riddle: "How long does it take"

How long does it take to teach:

a Dog	NOT to jump up on people	10 minutes
a Dog's Owner	How to teach the dog not to jump up	10 hours
the Owner's Family	on people Be Consistent in teaching dog not to	10 days
the Owner's Family		10 days
Owner's Friends and	NOT to reinforce the dog's jumping	10 weeks
Relatives	on them	

Presentation on Cold Laser Therapy by Dr Mark LaVallie on January 27 8:15 PM Animal Inn

Cold laser therapy is an advanced modality for the treatment of inflammatory or painful conditions in animals.

The most common indications for laser therapy are:

- 1) Arthritis (degenerative joint disease)
- 2) Back pain (intervertebral disc disease)
- 3) Joint pain and injuries
- 4) Trauma (skin, muscle and bone)
- 5) Wound healing
- 6) Surgery (incision healing)
- 7) Inflammatory conditions:
- a. Acute or chronic otitis (ear problems)
- b. Anal gland inflammation
- c. Periodontitis (gingivitis)
- d. Hot spots
- e. Lick granulomas
- f. Idiopathic Cystitis (bladder inflammation)
- g. Sinusitis, Rhinitis (nasal and sinus problems)



Be Gentle: I know my dog is old A call for improving our etiquette with older dogs By Susan Seligson

reprinted with permission from The Bark Magazine
This article first appeared in The Bark, Issue 63, Feb/Mar 2011

Like everyone else in a society loudly lamenting a decline in civility, I recognize there are new breaches of etiquette every minute. On any typical day, cell phones alone account for the rudeness factor going off the charts.

But I believe there is one type of impolite behavior among adult humans that goes pretty much unchecked. I've been guilty of it myself and slinked away feeling really stupid. It just isn't something that makes it into the etiquette books and it apparently isn't even worth Miss Manners' fleeting consideration.

I am referring to the blunt, utterly uncensored and often just plain mean things people say

to us about our dogs (by "us" I mean dog people). My close friend Pam has a 12-yearold German Shepherd who is visibly aging. So are the rest of us, human and canine, but to what person would you ever be so crude as to say the following: "Is that your mother? Wow, she looks awful. She can hardly move!" Yet this is the unsolicited blubbering my friend endures from strangers, all day long, about her old dog. I empathize because I've been through this three times, beginning with our family Beagle, Sam, who lived to be nearly 17, mostly out of spite.

"How old is he?" People would ask this unrelentingly about my now-departed Irish Setter, Amos. I didn't mind telling them that he was 12 or 13. "Wow. They don't live much longer than that, do they?" How tacky is this?

But it gets worse. When my big, hairy mutt, Louie (we called him our "Bavarian crotch-smeller") was old and frail, someone once asked me, "Have you thought about putting him down?" First of all, that's kind of like asking a woman in her 40s (this also happened to me), "Have you ever thought about having children?" "Gee, there's an idea! Why didn't I think of that?" When your dog is old and sick, the end is pretty much all you can think about. Your heart is breaking and you're preparing



yourself to come to that decision in a way that spares your dog unnecessary suffering while giving yourself time to feel as peaceful as possible about letting him go.

People assume they can say anything they like about a stranger's dog. While they'd (I hope) refrain from saying, "Excuse me, but it looks like your husband is losing his hair," when Louie was suffering from Cushing's disease, strangers constantly took it upon themselves to point out his hair loss. "Do you know your dog is losing his hair?" And what can you do except mumble, um, yes, this is my dog, he's part of my family, I'm nearly always with him, I bathe him, I brush him, he sleeps with us, and throughout most, if not all, of these activities, I am looking at him! And it's always too late when you think of how you could've said, "Do you know you have a wart on your chin?"

Pam is at the point where she dreads walking her dog in public because she knows passersby will make insensitive comments she can't bear to hear. Out in the world she is thoughtful and tender enough not to remind everyone she encounters that they are mortal. Like the rest of us, she can tell when a person's on his or her last legs, but she keeps herself from saying, "Gee, you sure are slowing down" or asking the person's daughter, "So how long do people in your family tend to live?" When approaching people like my friend, it helps to remind oneself that she knows her dog is old. She knows it every waking second of every day.

The last years and months we share with our geriatric dogs are among the most bittersweet

German Shepherd Dog Club of Minneapolis and Saint Paul Membership Meeting Minutes December 9, 2011

Officers present: Julie Swinland, Chris Duffy Absent: Ginny Altman, Eileen Varhalla, Linda Salava, Roger Salava, Lisa Marie Fortier

- I. Call to Order 8:18 PM
- II. Reading of the Minutes
 A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the minutes as they had been published in the Shep-o-Gram. (Passed)
- III. Reports of Officers
 - a. President Julie SwinlandNo report
 - b. Vice President Eileen VarhallaNo report
 - c. Secretary Chris Duffy No Report
 - d. Treasurer Roger Salava No report
 - e. Auditing Committee No report
- IV. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership Linda Salava No report
 - Shep-o-Gram/Website Julie Swinland No report. Occasionally, issues have been combined.
 - c. Training Julie Swinland No report. Training begins again on January 6th.
 - d. Herding Zoa Rockenstein No report
 - e. All-Breed Linn Klingel No report
 - f. Agility Rhonda Meath
 All systems Go. Ribbons have been purchased.

- g. Program Committee Martha Simonette
 On January 13, at 830 PM, a chiropractor will give a talk about myelopathy. Would we want this sort of thing to occur monthly?
- h. Budget and Finance Committee
 Roger Salava and Mike Metz
 The committee is working on the 2012 budget.
- 2012 Specialty Show Show secretary is Christina McCall, a new member.
- j. 2013 Specialty
 The committee will meet soon and have a presentation ready by February.
- k. 2012 Herding Trial Verna Kubik and Pam Magadance are looking into finding a site. They will give a report at the February meeting.

Old Business

Nominations Committee Kathy Balaban, a recent member, did a great job.

Nominations are:
President – Julie Swinland
Vice President – Connie Sokolouski
Secretary – Roberta Moore
Treasurer - Denise Gilbertson
Board member (one 3-year term) – Lisa Lunde

Patrick Miller was added to Vice Presidential nominations at the meeting

New Business

Don Cliff award nominations should be made soon. Nothing has gone out to membership about it yet. Verna pointed out that there are very specific rules in



the by-laws for nominations.

The Board directed that a sympathy card be sent to member Edna Murto, living near Duluth, who lost her dog, Charlie Chaplin. Chris will do this. The Board has decided to make this a regular practice and encourages members to notify them if a member's dog has passed away (theirs or someone else's), or in cases of a member being seriously ill, having surgery, etc.

Members are encouraged to get title information to Mada Skare ASAP for the banquet. Bring photos – forward to Bobbie. Members are invited to do a "write-up" about dog(s) as well.

Final words:

Why is this dog club so successful? Some answers that came to mind:
Great training center
Great people!!

Motion made to adjourn. Passed. Adjourned 8:40

Be Gentle: I know my dog is old conclusion

times in dog lovers' lives. We know, from the moment we choose these guys as puppies or meet their limpid stares at the animal shelter, that our hearts will be torn apart some day. What makes it so much worse is that the older they get, the sweeter they get, and when they reach absolute critical sweetness—you simply cannot love them any more than you already do—they grow completely exhausted and die. So a person patiently coaxing an old dog on his increasingly shrinking route is someone who could benefit from a little compassionate restraint. Like a simple hello for the owner, or a tender pat on the head for the doggie emeritus.

Brags

Jumpin' Jack Von Noblehaus UDX AX AXJ RN
Owned by Mary Bente
Earned his final leg on his Excellent Jumpers with
Weaves (AXJ) title at the St. Paul Dog Training Club
agility trial on November 19, 2011

Gambler was shown in Novice Agility-Standard Preferred (NAP) and Novice Agility-Jumpers with Weaves Preferred (NJP)-- classes Saturday and Sunday at the NorthStar Agility Trials this weekend. He qualified in all four classes with 3rd place in standard and 2nd place in Jumpers on Saturday and 1st in Standard and 3rd in Jumpers on Sunday. He had scores of 100 (no refusals or time faults) in all four runs, and earned two of the three legs required for a title in each class.

Northstar HBA & Land O Lakes Shows this weekend. Bosco (Ch. Kubistraums All the Right Moves, TC), co-owned with Kristin Salava went Best of Breed over 4 specials all 3 days to complete his Grand Championship.

"Beemer" (Kubistraums BMW, CD, RE, TC) went 2nd Open Dog all 3 days---won a 3 pt. major RWD Saturday and another 2pt Reserve on Sunday.

Jetta (Kubistraums Jetta, TC) was Winners Bitch on Friday for 2 pts, 1st open & RWB on Saturday, and WB, BW, and BOS over 2 bitch Specials on Sunday for 2 more points to finish her Championship.

German Shepherd Dog Club of Mpls/St Paul

Annual Awards Banquet

January 21, 2012

Place: Gulden's 2999 Hwy 61.

Maplewood, MN 55109

Time: 12:00 Cocktails (cash bar)

1:00 Lunch

2:15 Awards and general meeting

Cost per person: \$18.00 (Includes

Coffee, Tax & Gratuity) Children Under 12: \$10.00

Registration due by January 16, 2012



Directions: 1. From Wisconsin: I-94 west, take Ramp towards I494/I694, take Ramp onto I-694. At exit 48; turn off onto Ramp towards US-61. Keep left to say on Ramp towards US-61. Bear left (West) onto Local roads. Turn left (South) onto US-61 (Maplewood Drive).

- 2. From St. Paul: I-94 east, take I-694 Ramp. At exit 48; turn off onto Ramp towards US-61. Keep left to say on Ramp towards US-61. Bear left (West) onto Local roads. Turn left (South) onto US-61 (Maplewood Drive).
- 3. From Stillwater: Take Hwy 36 West to HWY US-61. Go right (North). Restaurant is on the left.

Buffet Menu:

Veggies & Dip

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Green Beans

Rolls

Celebrate our national awards Garden Salad

Winner of the Regional Challenge large club division Pasta Salad Winner of the Large Club Monthly division of the

Fried Chicken

GSDCA newsletter competition Sliced Beef 3rf place in the website contest **Baked Cod**

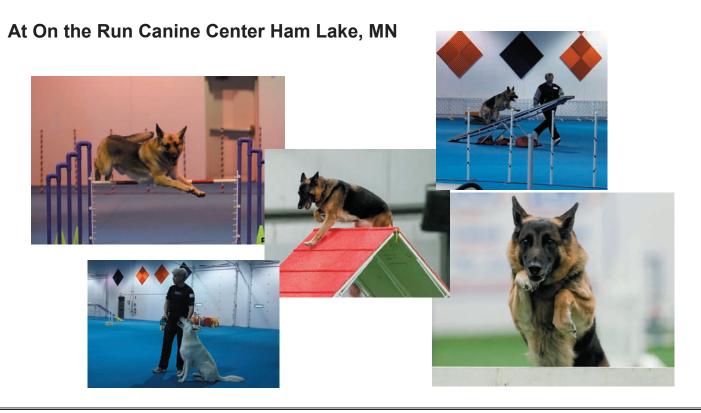
Coffee cake

	Gratuity) Children Under 12: \$10.00
Name:	
# of people attending:	Amount enclosed:

Send checks to: Jan Anderson

910 Kingsview Lane Plymouth, MN 55447

Come to the GSDC of MSP Agility Trial March 30- April 1, 2012





Kathy DuVall www.faerielandrescue.org Rescue & Foster Home Care - Minnesota for German Shepherds & Welsh Corgis only Time Period: 2011-12-19 to 2011-12-25

Total Pet Views: 389

Sarge 126 (GSD)

Miss Oprah 123

Suzie (formerly Dakota)54 (GSD)

Beauty 45 (GSD)

Hank 22 (GSD)

Kaydee 4 (GSD)

Claire 3

Ranger 2

Brodie 1 (GSD)

June 1

Harvey 1

Teddy Bear 1

Arrow 1

Stryker 1 (GSD)

Sadie 1 (GSD)

Hopkins 1

Amigo 1 (GSD)

April 1

Club Events

Jan 6 STAR Puppy and Beginning obedience blocks start

Jan 13 and Jan 20 chiropractic demowith Dr Mark LaVallie at 8:15 PM

Jan 21 banquet at Gulden's

Mar 30, 31, April 1 GSDCMSP Agility trials at On The Run Canine. Ham Lake

Spring match date?

NO TRAINING Feb 10



Shep-O-Gram 1087 Allen Avenue W. St Paul, MN 55118



German Shepherd Dog Club of Minneapolis & St Paul

GSDC MSP Class Schedule

Obedience Classes effective July 1. 2010

Ring 1

Eileen Varhalla

Run throughs 6:00-6:45
Intermediate Novice 7:00-7:45
Beginning Ob or Advanced Puppy 8:00-8:45
Advanced Puppy will be offered between

Beginning Obedience blocks

Ring 2

Lisa Marie Fortier

S.T.A.R. Puppy Class 7:00-8:00

Jinny Bailey

Rally Class 8:00-8:45

Ring 3

Jinny Bailey

Competition Obedience 6:45-7:30

Various Trainers

Jr Handlers/Puppy Conformation 7:30-8:00
Adult Conformation 8:00-8:30
Puppy Socialization -designed for breeders and owners to chat 8:30-9:00

Training Director:

Julie Swinland 651-457-5459