



Working Notes

Northstar Working Group Association monthly publication

May 2009 Issue 4

2009 NWGA Board of Directors

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Vice President

Kirsten Ludwig

Secretary

Diane Levin

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Jim Olson

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Debby Wilkins

Thank you Deb Merritt for your two stories about your adventures with Bayou. Both are heartwarming and I hope everyone enjoys them as much as I did.

Recently there was a group of schnauzer owners who wanted to try herding sheep. I called around to some places where they teach herding and inquired about having a seminar with schnauzers herding sheep. There were some people who weren't interested because they don't think schnauzers can herd. I came upon a woman who agreed to help us so our event day came in November last year.

As we were gathering and exercising our dogs outside the barn, the instructor came out to talk with us and give us an idea of what she's looking for when the dogs are with the sheep. At the end of it she announced she didn't have much hope for the breed in this sport. I've heard that before and then I've seen surprise when they actually see the dogs work. She then asked if any of the dogs had ever seen sheep. Yes, Beata, had when she was a puppy. So, Beata was chosen to start the event and off they went into the corral with the sheep. They were down at the other end for about 10 or 15 minutes.

It seemed like a long time. When they returned, the instructor said, "this dog is incredible!" Then she explained that Beata would come up along side the sheep to make them look at her which meant she was making them do what she wanted by looking at them in the eye. (I don't really know much about sheep herding.)

Then the others took their turns. There was only one dog out of 9 who wasn't really interested in herding the sheep. Aspen, my 12 year old, did an outstanding job and one of the puppies did play bows in front of the sheep. Most of the dogs did a very decent job of moving the sheep rather than just chasing them. It was a fun day!

When it was all over we had a little meeting with the instructor. She wanted to tell us what all she saw in the dogs and explain the event. But in the end, she said,

"this has definitely changed my mind about to potential of the standard schnauzer. And, Beata is still working sheep.

Sunny Lambert, Newsletter Editor

Next Meeting Thursday, May 21, 2009

7:30 PM

Board Meeting: 7:15 PM

at Perkins in Lakeville, 1787 Kenyon Ave.

Directions to the meeting: Take I-35E south or north to Exit 85 (County Rd. 5/ County Road 50 in Lakeville). Go northwest on County Road 5 to 172nd St. W. Turn left onto 172nd St. W., then turn left again onto Kenyon Avenue. Perkins Restaurant is at the end of Kenyon Avenue.

BAYOU IN CPE

Bayou is finally starting to think that agility makes sense. It's always been FUN for her since she was a puppy. Agility training, even if you don't ever plan to compete, is one of the best things you can do with your dog. It builds confidence, coordination, muscle, and a working relationship between the two of you. When you and your partner are communicating, it's a dance out there. Sometimes, though, there's a lot of stepping on the feet of your

dance partner in the learning process! We've changed the mindset and focus of our training a bit this year, and it all came together at the St. Paul Dog Training Club's agility trial on April 4-5. Bayou (Wifasa Blew By You v BWD RN) had her first two qualifying AKC agility runs, and earned the first two legs (of three) for her Novice Agility Jumpers title. Look out, this Dane can do agility!



NORTHSTAR WORKING GROUP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 16 2009

The Board of the Northstar Working Group Association met at Perkins Restaurant in Lakeville on Thursday, April 16, 2009. The meeting was called to order by President Sid Levin at 7:15 p.m. A quorum was present.

Board members in attendance: Bliss Bancroft, Kari Hahn, Sunny Lambert, Diane Levin, Sid Levin, Kirsten Ludwig, Sharon Olson, Jim Olson, and Debby Wilkins.

Club members present: Valorie Lockburner, Deb Merritt, John Wilkins.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Sid Levin. A quorum was present.

Sid noted that the purpose of the meeting was to vote on the membership application of Lynai Torabpour. Lynai, who lives in Owatonna, has Mastiffs and was sponsored by Kirsten Ludwig and Lisa Armstrong.

It was moved and seconded to dispense with a paper ballot and conduct a voice vote. The motion was carried.

Lynai was unanimously elected to membership.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Levin, Secretary, NWGA

NORTHSTAR WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2009

The Northstar Working Group Association met at the Perkins Restaurant in Eagan on Thursday, April 16, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Sid Levin. A quorum was present.

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the March meeting as printed. The motion was carried.

President's Report: Sid said that he had received an announcement regarding AKC's new mixed-breed dog program. The details will be discussed under new Business.

Secretary's Report: Diane Levin reported that she sent no correspondence except for advertising for the Pat Miller seminar. Correspondence received included a flyer from the Kettle Moraine Kennel Club advertising their back-to-back shows in June; an e-mail from AKC promoting Responsible Dog Ownership Day events; and an announcement from AKC regarding the new mixed-breed dog program, as mentioned by Sid. Debby Wilkins received thank-you notes from January show judges Linda Malinowski and Gary Bassett.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Olson reported that there had been no activity in the previous month and the club's checking account balance was \$16,586.22. The CD balance is \$12,400.00. Because of anticipated expenses for the July agility trial and the August show, Sid and Jim opted not to take out another CD until those events were closed out. Jim will look into changing insurance brokers before next year's insurance premium is due in June.

Committee Reports:

Show: August 2009 Show: Diane reported that everything is current. Anyone wishing to submit a catalog ad can obtain an advertiser's form from Diane; cost is \$40.00/full page plus \$10.00 for each photo. Ads must be returned to Diane by June 30, 2009. Anyone wishing to sponsor a Best of Breed or Group award should contact Trophy Chair Ann Porwoll. Anyone who would like to steward should contact Chief Ring Steward Jim Olson. Anyone who can help out with grounds should contact Grounds Chair Kari Hahn.

January 2010: Diane has received the Minnesota January Specialties packet from Pat Holdren at Land O'Lakes Kennel Club (LOLKC) and will return the specialties agreement to Pat. The show application must be submitted by July 1, 2009. Entry fees for January have yet to be determined. The club must also decide if we want to do a supported entry at the LOLKC shows on Saturday and Sunday, and if so, do we want to offer any awards.

Judge Selection: Debby Wilkins said that she is working on the panel for the January 2010 show. She received two suggestions for provisional judges. One of them has enough assignments that she will have completed her provisionals by then; the other can be offered a provisional assignment. Sid mentioned another judge who would come for the provisional rate. Debby went over the judges on the LOLKC panel who could do the group and miscellaneous breeds for us; of those available, Mrs. Helen Lee James would be our first choice. Debby asked that anyone with objections to a specific judge for their breed, or with any other

suggestions for the panel, please e-mail her. She hopes to complete the panel by the end of June.

Obedience: Diane had nothing to report. The applications for the 2010 trials are not due until the end of July. Sharon Olson reported that the 2010 judges have returned their signed contracts and assignment sheets.

Agility: Sharon said that the premium list should be out soon, and that as soon as it is published, Deb Merritt will put a volunteer sign-up form on the club web site.

Match: Deb Wuetherich said that current plans are to hold a combined conformation/obedience match sometime in July. Animal Inn is a likely location because it has three rings; however, cost has not been confirmed and it may be too expensive. Animal Inn will confirm the rental charge with Deb in a week or two. Sid said he was concerned about having enough stewards for three rings. Several people commented that they liked the conformation match/picnic that we did last year; it was noted that we could do the same thing and also hold an obedience-only match in July. Plans need to be settled soon so that we have time to advertise the match to breed and training clubs.

Membership:

Lynai Torabpour's membership application received a third reading and vote at the Board meeting earlier in the evening, and she was accepted as a member.

Membership Application, Second Reading: Catherine Shonka and Carol Van Nostrand.

Education: The Pat Miller seminar was held on March 28-29 and was quite successful. Diane read the seminar report, which will be printed in the May newsletter. Sid is still working on the financial report, but all bills have come in and it looks like the club will make around \$900.00. The report noted that refunds had been issued to four people who were unable to attend at the last minute. Coleman Nemerov asked what percentage of the fee had been returned. Of the \$175.00 charge, we returned \$100.00 and sent a copy of the handouts as well. The remaining \$75.00 covered charges that we had to pay the Conference Center as part of our confirmed minimum attendance. Two of the four cancellations were replaced by last-minute registrants.

Finance: Sid suggested that we should start thinking of charitable donations or other activities we might do to put some of the club's money to use, as our cash balance after the August show should be in excess of \$30,000.00.

Web Site: Deb Merritt has completed putting a newsletter page on the web site; it will contain the previous month's newsletter. The agility volunteer form will go up with the agility premium list. August show information will also be posted.

Librarian: Debby Wilkins suggested that since we have funds available for projects, we replace our VHS breed standards with a complete set of DVD breed

standards. Sid asked Debby to bring a cost estimate to the next meeting. Deb Merritt said that she will post the library contents on the web site so that members will know what is available for their use.

Ways and Means: John Wilkins has no new items. Anyone interested in available stock should contact John.

Legislative: The most recent Minnesota breeder's bill has been tabled, but will be brought up again next year. A new bill, very similar to the Minnesota bill, has been introduced in Wisconsin. Sharon noted that Kathy Francis has been e-mailing Minnesota state legislators and has been getting responses back.

Old Business: Diane noted that the AKC Canine Experience/Educational Match that St. Croix Valley Kennel Club (SCVKC) had planned to host in July has been cancelled. She spoke with Denny Stoterau, SCVKC match coordinator, who told her that because of changes in AKC's support of the event, he felt that it was less likely to be a successful project for the club. We will need to hold an independent match to satisfy the "event" portion of our show eligibility requirements.

Coleman reported that the proposed AKC breed group realignment has not yet been finalized, and Northern group clubs cannot be formed until that has occurred.

Sunny Lambert asked for submissions to the newsletter: brags, reports of activities, anecdotes, etc.

New Business: Diane gave a brief statement of the main points of the AKC mixed-breed dog program: only spayed/neutered mixed-breed dogs may be listed with AKC; dogs can be listed starting October 1, 2009; there will be several phases in developing the listing program; listed mixed-breed dogs will be able to compete in free-standing companion events (i.e., trials held independently of any conformation events) starting in April, 2010; mixed-breed dogs will compete in separate classes and will be given distinct titles. Our club is unlikely to be affected by the new program until our July 2010 agility trial. Jim noted that Fred Bock, Key City Kennel Club's delegate to AKC, thinks that there are likely to be many changes to the program before it goes into full effect.

Debby suggested that we consider a handling seminar as our next public education project, as none have been given in our area for years. She will look into available options.

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded to adjourn. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Levin, Secretary NWGA

Bayou competed in an NADSR weight pull for the first time May 9-10, in the Novice class since we're still learning (first time we actually pulled was in March). Weights started at 300 lbs and increased by 75 lbs each round, with a max weight of 975 lbs for Novice. A successful pull is a distance of 15 feet, and is timed with a maximum time allowed of 60 seconds.

Saturday she picked right up where we left off, head down and pulling like a pro, although she still wasn't sure when we got up to the weights where the cart resists starting easily (about 700 lbs); she required a bit of convincing. She successfully pulled each round, though, which earned her a 3rd place in her class for the day.

Sunday she once again picked up where she left off (which improves each time). No hesitations at all this time! She walked forward until she felt the cart weight, put her head down, leaned into the harness, and pulled... just like she's an old hand. Competition was tough, but by

pulling the max weight of 975 lbs in the fastest time, she won 1st place in her class!

These are the full final results for Sunday's Novice Class. This just covers our Novice class, there's also a Regular class and a Champions class. Lots of working breeds competed in each class. Bogart, a Great Dane, won most weight pulled each day, from the Champions class.

Dog's Name (dog's weight) - breed / Highest Weight Pulled / Time of Highest Weight Pulled

Maggie (44.2) - Coonhound / 975 lbs / 11.82 seconds

Bagheera (52.2) - Samoyed / 825 lbs / 57.42 seconds

Lexi (56.6) - Samoyed / 975 lbs / 20.52 seconds

Tempo (101) - St. Bernard / 750 lbs / 48.09 seconds

Bayou (117.6) - Great Dane / 975 lbs / 9.21 seconds

Sassy (127.8) - Great Dane / 975 lbs / 19.29 seconds

Bell (133) - St. Bernard / 975 lbs / 10.81 seconds



FUN MATCH

ST CROIX VALLEY KENNEL CLUB

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2009

6:00 PM

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Hot Dogs and Hamburgers will be available for a nominal cost