

General Membership Meeting
Sierra-Tuolumne Kennel Club, Inc.
Monday, May 15, 2006
Meeting Hosts – Jim and Carol Frazier

President called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Members present were: Fred and Pat Helmbold, Linda Grant, Larry Blackmore, Cherie Gessford, Bruce Bertholf, Carol and Jim Frazier, Bonnie and Warren Belisle, Mary Barrett, JoAnn Gritz, Monika Stattner, Pat Barnes, Jan and Rocky Costa.

Jim and Carol's daughter, Karen, was a guest at the meeting.

President's Report – Fred: No report

Vice President's Report – Cherie: No report

Secretary's Report – Linda: Correspondence which was received was shared with the members.

It was stated that STKC has non-profit status with the Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce and we do not have to pay a fee.

There will be an agility fun run at Nunes field in Turlock on May 21st from 9 – 1 p.m.

New ruling from AKC that AKC Judges cannot judge other venues. That cannot judge ASCA or UKC shows, or any other non-AKC. There is more coming out on this and will be shared with the membership as soon as it is received.

Treasurer's Report – Carol: Has a monthly spreadsheet and we had more money than last month, but the instructors have not yet paid. Approximately 10-15% is profit from our classes.

Committee:

Obedience/Conformation – Linda: Nine graduated on 5/10 from CGC with one student that did not pass but will be returning. Conformation had only 4 show up, but more are going to come next session. Have about six pre-registered for May 31st. There will be no classes during August. Fred added that Club members need to spread the word about our classes. Carol offered to put an ad in the Union Democrat. Thanks to Rocky and Jan for the great BBQ at Graduation.

Basic Agility – Linda/Cherie: We have the following students -- Maltese, German shepherd, Schipperke, Golden Retriever, Doberman, and Aussie. Cherie stated that Mike and his Sheltie will be coming next week. Fred's group will be down at the field to try and get it weed-eated and raked to get the stickers removed.

Agility Fun Runs – Jim: Have had two of the six sessions. They are well received.

Puppy/Rally – Cherie: Had 8 in the class and the 5 that showed up, graduated. Some of the smaller puppies have signed up to repeat the class. She has about six already signed up. In Rally class, everyone did great. Fred and Sydney were unable to attend. There were six that graduated.

Sunshine – JoAnn: The May birthday is Warren and he was presented with a card and gift certificate. A basket donated by Jan, was available to put items for Leslie, plus left over foods were to be given to her from Pat Barnes. Pat Helmbold was present with a sore back. Sydney was not at the meeting since her mother was seriously ill in Florida. Laurie had eye surgery and Bonnie reported she was doing well. The surgery was required for vision correction. Laurie's husband's grandfather passed away and a card was sent.

JoAnn brought the collage she created for the Pet Expo and wants to put it up at the AKC shows. She asked for additional photos of dogs not represented. She got a round of applause for her great work on the collage. She also showed the "President's Plaque" with Linda's and Fred's names on it. Photos were taken of it. JoAnn also asked for each member to write down the members' dog's names and birthdays.

There was a grand round of applause for JoAnn's wonderful work in the Sunshine Committee.

Membership – Pat H: Nothing new to report. Bonnie would like to know who the members of the Club were, and went through the membership binder.

Education – Bonnie: Asked if there was additional interest for the First Aid Class and no response, other than JoAnn. A list was started by Bonnie.

Historian – Cherie: Nothing to report

Website – Linda: Nothing to report

Howler – Bonnie: Next month's "Doggie of the Month" will be Jan and Rocky's dogs.

Update on Pet Expo – Warren: Turnout was better than expected. Great weather that day. Had rally, obedience, agility demonstrations. Extreme Canine Demo was fantastic. Randy at the Humane Society felt that the overall Expo was probably going to be a profitable event. There was lengthy discussion on was to make it more educational and fun for the public if we decide to attend next year.

Big Show Update – Bruce: The Big Show for 2006 is moving right along. STKC was contacted by Yosemite Kennel Club out of Merced asking us if we would like to join them for a 4 day circuit. Linda and Bruce met with two couples in Mariposa to discuss the possibility of working together. Dates will be April 6, 7, 8, 9, 2007. To go with YKC

would be considerable cost savings in grounds rentals. The grounds rental at Merced is approximately \$4,500 for 2 days and Mother Lode Fair wants approximately \$7,100. The set ups are hired out and Bruce shared some of fees which were reasonable. YKC is making money on each show they have, even with hiring jobs out. We would have trade offs on different items – we have items up here, they have items down there. We would be competing with the 4 day cluster in Las Vegas, and this would give the big handlers an opportunity to come North and then on to the Sacramento shows the following weekend. Bruce and Linda have talked to several handlers and exhibitors at shows and the general consensus is that it would be a great idea. With the gas prices and the fact that we are “out of the way”, handlers/exhibitors are picking and choosing where they enter their dogs, and our show isn’t one of them. We would have to have people to work the different areas, but we would need day of show parking assistants, judge’s hospitality, etc. The lunches are done by Pea Soup Anderson’s and they are also a food vendor at the show. The judge’s dinner has been prime rib, potato, salad, tiramisu, no host bar, etc. for \$21 per person.

Bruce had met with Jan Hayden-Meyer, the Fairgrounds Manager, to try and get some of the fees reduced in line with other fairgrounds in the area. Most other fairgrounds have a non-profit status. There is not a non-profit status at our fairgrounds. Bruce is on the agenda to meet with the Fair Board tomorrow night (May 16th). There was discussion regarding the \$1500 exclusive use fee. The appearance of the grounds was also discussed. The grass areas are not being maintained.

There was discussion about the Work Release program is possibly going to be eliminated due to budget cuts. This severely hampers what STKC will be able to accomplish as far as set ups, etc.

Some of the benefits to going with Yosemite KC would be: 1) ½ of the air fare, 2) one judge’s dinner, 3) combined catalog (1/2 the cost), 4) reduced fees to MBF, 5) exhibitors would be able to set up and stay for 4 days. Rally and Obedience entries are very high at this Merced show and it is expected to continue. But it will take the full support of all Club members to make this whole thing happen.

There was also discussion about having specialties and supported entries which will bring in more entries. This will be a possibility in future shows.

It was M/S/P by Pat Helmbold that we pursue doing the 4 day cluster with Yosemite Kennel Club. Seconded by Cherie Gessford. Motion passed.

AKC Agility Trial – Linda: 30 entries so far. The entries close on May 27th. Work release program will be there. Fred and Pat will not be at the trial. Warren and Bonnie will not be there on Saturday. Discussion on how to get the Club trailer to the show site, and Rocky will be available to haul the trailer. Jan and Rocky will be doing the Judge’s dinner and needed a head count.

New Business: None

Old Business: The Copier story continues. Turns out that we will be receiving another copy in replacement for the one that we have, which is presently unserviceable. It will be a digital copier and will be under warranty. We have a loaner copier and all the copies for about a year's worth of classes were done on it for just the cost of the paper.

Braggs:

Cherie and Mori (Aussie) – At CPE Level 5 already and was at the top of his classes several times. Clavey went for a nice trip, too.

Pat and Dexter (Boston) – Pat bragged that Dexter has had five days of normal poop!! A large round of applause broke out.

Jan and Rocky – announced that they will be picking up “Ridgerunner’s Sierra Ebony – aka Ebbby” on Sunday. She is a black tri female Australian Shepherd.

Pat Helmbold – had a phenomenal show with lots of sales at the Michigan Bernese Mountain Dog specialty. Unfortunately she injured her back during the show Fred expanded on how wonderful this show was, including the weather, the people, the location. The people really were concerned about Pat and her condition.

Linda – helped handle another person’s Vizsla and the dog went to Reserve Winner’s Dog. Also bragged that two of Dexi’s puppies have agility and obedience titles.

JoAnn and Sunshine (Aussie) – Received Gamblers Veteran’s Novice title, and her Jumpers Veterans Novice, and Jumpers Novice in ASCA. She went to an obedience seminar over the weekend at Walnut Creek that she really enjoyed.

Monika and Sugar (Pomeranian) – Passed her Canine Good Citizen exam.

Fred – discussed the way the rings were set up at the Berner Specialty. The people were placed away from the rings at quite a distance.

A tape will be made available for everyone to record a message to give to Leslie.

Next month’s meeting was on June 19th at Warren and Bonnie’s home.

Meeting adjourned at M/S/P at 8:12 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Grant
Secretary