



# **Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club**

## **Newsletter for June 2011**

### *Fun in the Park*

#### **President**

**Frank Mason**  
208-524-5284

#### **Vice President**

**Abbie Zaladonis**  
208-524-1799

#### **Treasurer**

**Glenda Haller**  
208-523-3374

#### **Secretary**

**Kathe LaRosa**  
208-881-4550

#### **Board**

**Steven Olson (3 yr)**  
208-524-2958

**Theresa Mathis (2 yr)**  
208-403-3855

**Suzanne Belger (1 yr)**  
208-542-6552



**Newsletter Submissions:**  
Email your trial results,  
stories, photos, or items  
for the newsletter  
to the editor at  
[guardyan@ida.net](mailto:guardyan@ida.net)



**Photos courtesy of Bob Deurbrouck**

### **Next Club Meeting**

**Thursday, June 9th at Pachangas**  
**(at the corner of Park and B Street)**  
7:00 p.m. Board Meeting  
7:30 p.m. General Meeting

# Meeting Minutes

## I Call to order

Frank M. called to order the **Board Meeting** of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club at 7:00 P.M. on May 19, 2011.

Members Present:

Steve Olson  
Frank Mason

Glenda Haller  
Abbie Zaladonis

Kathe LaRosa

## II Call to Order

Frank M. called to order the **General Meeting** of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club at 7:45 P.M. on May 19, 2011 at Billman's Restaurant.

## III Attendance

Jim and Sun Norell  
Bill and Judy Grof  
Nataiela Shomaker  
Vicki Stewart  
LeeAnn Chaffin  
Margi Vanover  
Steve and Lois Olson

Bill and Diane Orr  
Rosha Adams  
Heike Vitacolonna  
John Baughman  
Duane Loomis  
Cheryl Loomis  
Dan Croft

JoAnn Croft  
Shyne Brothers  
George and Glenda Haller  
Frank Mason  
Abbie Zaladonis  
Kathe LaRosa

Special Presentation- Guest, Ina Merrill, a supporter of Leader Dogs for the visual and hearing impaired. Ina spoke on the following:

- History of Leader Dogs
- Cost of Training (\$30,000) per dog
- Professionals and volunteers train and work with the dogs from puppyhood up through senior life.
- How applicants or the receivers of the dogs are selected.
- Now the individuals can use G.P.S. systems with his/her dog.
- Trained dogs are given to the applicant, NO CHARGE.
- Leader Dogs is funded through donations.



## IV. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Glenda H. made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from April's meeting Steve O., seconded, motion carried.

## V. Report From the Board

*President*, Frank M., Nothing at this time.

*Vice President*, Abbie Z., Annual USRVDTTC picnic scheduled for July 14, 2011. Abbie circulated a food sign-up sheet for the potluck. The club will provide hamburgers and hot dogs.

*Secretary*, Nothing at this time.

*Treasurer*, Reviewed the balance sheet from the period of April 22, 2011 through May 19, 2011. Our club received \$298 from the Rabies Clinic. Glenda wanted to thank all of those who participated in the clinic.

*Board Member*, Steve O., Nothing at this time.

## VI. Committee Reports

Agility – The Agility Trial will be held March 23, 24, and 25, 2012. The club members voted and passed the change in date.

Tracking – Steve O., tracking is progressing well.

## VII. New Business

Application for new membership was read for Carolyn J Davis. Will vote at the next general meeting on June 9, 2011.

## VIII. Unfinished Business

Nothing at this time.

IX. Motion to Adjourn – Motion to adjourn general meeting made by Bill Orr. Steve Olson seconded, meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting - Pachangas, June 9, 2011**

## Trial Tips for Beginners

A few years ago I watched a handler step confidently up to the line. She walked out past the first jump and was quickly startled by the sound of the judge's whistle. Unfortunately, her dog's collar had several dangling tags and she was eliminated. This handler had forgotten one of the fundamental rules of agility . . . no hanging tags on the collar during an agility run. Here are a few quick reminders for your first trial.

- Don't ever step into an AKC ring with food, chewing gum, toys, or treats.
- Remove noisy items like keys or cell phones before your run.
- Make sure you have your catalog number on before you enter the ring.
- Always have your leash on your dog before you enter or exit the ring.
- Don't drop the F-bomb (or any other bombs). Swearing on the course will result in an instant NQ.
- Remember the four paw rule and the rules regarding lead outs. (See the regs below).
- You can be eliminated if you touch the obstacles or your dog in a manner that helps the dog's performance. For example, you cannot bump your dog with your leg to get him into the weave poles.
- Potty your dog before you run. If your dog eliminates in the ring, you will be eliminated.



It's always a good idea to read and understand the regulations before you compete in agility. Click on the following link for Agility, Obedience, & Rally regs: <http://www.akc.org/rules/>

### *Four Paw Rule & Lead Out Advantage Regulations*

***"Four Paw Rule:*** If a dog commits all four feet on any ascent portion of a contact obstacle and fails to negotiate the ascent side of that obstacle, the judge shall instruct the handler to move the dog on to the next obstacle. If the dog re-engages the obstacle with one or more paws, the dog shall be excused."

***"Lead Out Advantage.*** The following must be adhered to regarding lead out advantage:

- *Handlers may lead out to as many obstacles as they wish.*
- *A handler may touch the dog to position the dog for the start of the course and may return to the dog and reposition it nicely without restriction, as long as neither the handler nor the dog has crossed the start line.*
- *Once a handler crosses the start line to lead out, he or she may not touch the dog for any reason. If the handler does so, he or she shall be faulted with an "F" or "E" depending on the circumstances.*
- *Once a handler has taken a lead out, if the dog breaks position (without crossing the start line), the handler may go back to reposition the dog to successfully approach obstacle #1, but may not touch the dog while doing so. The handler may not lead out again (e.g. the dog must leave with the handler).*
- *If a dog breaks position before the handler is ready and has started the course, the handler may not reposition the dog at the start of the course. This is training in the ring and the handler shall be excused."*

*(Source: AKC Agility Regulations)*

## **A Few Important Reminders**

**Exhibit good sportsmanship.** Have you ever felt like arguing with a judge about a decision? Have you ever felt like physically punishing your dog when he misbehaves? Have you ever felt like throwing a last place ribbon on the ground? Think twice - all of these actions are considered misconduct and could lead to fines or suspension from AKC activities. Whether you are at a show or a host hotel, always conduct yourself with dignity and exhibit good sportsmanship.

**It's a small world.** Most of the people involved in showing dogs are connected in some way. Avoid negativity and gossip lest you find yourself ranting to someone's friend or relative.

**Don't be in a big hurry.** We all have a tendency to speed up when we're nervous. Our systems are flooded with adrenaline which makes us walk faster, talk faster, and breathe differently. Our dogs are masters at reading body language and quickly realize that we're nervous. In order to compensate for our nervous state, dogs will start to offer calming signals like yawning and sniffing. When you see these behaviors, don't assume your dog is being difficult. He might be trying to soothe your nerves.



**Just breathe.** The following breathing exercise is a quick way to alleviate ring nerves. Breathe in slowly while mentally counting to four and then breathe out slowly while counting to four. This helps slow your breathing, as well as refocus your mind.

**Never abuse your dog.** Any abuse of a dog on show grounds can lead to excusal, fines, or suspension. In severe cases, you could be banned from future AKC events.

**Be receptive to learning.** There are many talented, knowledgeable individuals at dog shows. What a great opportunity to ask questions and learn something new!

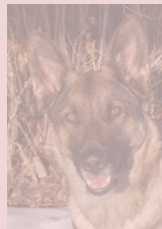
## **In Case of Emergency . . .**

**Attach Emergency Crate Tags to your Crates.** Emergency crate tags provide useful information to first responders in the event of an accident. For dogs with health issues, consider fastening a laminated sheet to each crate along with a list of medications, contact information, and relevant health information.

**Determine the Location of Emergency Vets.** If you will be away for an extended stay, consider programming the location of emergency vets into your GPS system. Bloat happens fast, so you need to be prepared.

**Embroider your collars.** Many of us leave our ID tags home since AKC does not allow hanging tags inside the ring. This makes our dogs vulnerable if they get lost. One way to address this issue is to embroider your dog's name and phone number on his collar. It's also important to microchip your pets in case they ever become lost and aren't wearing a collar.

### **Sample Emergency Crate Tag**



**Name: Rain the Pain**

**In case of emergency, contact  
Karen B at 208-555-5555  
or our vet at 208-552-0662.**

**My dog(s) welfare is my primary concern  
All medical expenses will be reimbursed**

## Lessons Learned the Hard Way

*We've all made mistakes, but sometimes I wonder if I have made more than my fair share. In preparation for the Blackfoot cluster, I am sharing a few of my mistakes in the hope that you will avoid my past misfortunes.*

**Always look at the jump.** *Gavin's first trials in Open obedience were immensely frustrating. He kept qualifying in all of the exercises but the broad jump. Finally, a wonderful handler told me to look at the jump when I said "over". Instant success! Now I'm always careful to look at the broad jump or high jump as I give the jump command. I could have avoided a lot of NQs if I had known that sooner.*

**Arrive prepared.** *As you can see from the list on the right, there are about a million different things to bring to an agility trial. Two years ago, we went to the Pocatello trials and forgot the sunblock. We were sunburned and miserable for the majority of the weekend. It's important to pack everything in advance and plan on arriving early to set up.*

**Avoid premature celebration.** *You guys know what this is, right? You're watching someone run and they're doing great. Just as the dog goes over the last jump, the handler throws their hands in the air to celebrate and down goes that last bar. Heartbreaking. Avoid premature celebration by purposefully walking past that last jump during your walk-throughs.*

**Bring extra water.** *At the Farmington obedience trials, I gave Gavin hotel tap water. Around three a.m., I heard a rather curious intestinal grumbling from the side of the bed. This was followed by a huge German Shepherd leaping up with a stare that could only be translated as "I need to go out NOW!!!" Around the 47th trip rushing down two flights of stairs, I decided I would always bring extra water to dog trials.*

**Dress the part.** *Years ago, I took Kyrie to the cluster in South Jordan. She did marvelous the first day. The second day, we stepped in the ring and she consistently lagged the entire way around the ring. I was perplexed until one of the ring stewards basically said, "It's your sweater, stupid." My long sweater was flapping in my poor dog's face with every step, causing her to lag. Oops! Here are a few other clothing considerations:*

- *Excessively noisy shoes like flip-flops may be considered a double command by some obedience judges.*
- *White shirts in white buildings make Utility signals invisible. Wear colors that contrast with the environment so signals are easy to see.*
- *Matching your pants to your dog's coat color might help you retain points in the heeling exercises (and it looks snazzy).*
- *Consider wearing layers to outdoor trials. Brisk mornings can quickly become sweltering afternoons.*
- *Bring shoes with good traction for outdoor trials (especially if there is rain in the forecast).*

*Everyone makes mistakes, but I hope these tips will help you avoid some of the easily preventable ones.*

### Things to Bring

- ✓ Sunblock
- ✓ Directions to show site, hotel & emergency vets
- ✓ Crate or X-pen
- ✓ Shade
- ✓ Stakes (for Idaho wind)
- ✓ Hammer (for the stakes)
- ✓ Collar and leash
- ✓ Retractable leash (to potty the shy dog)
- ✓ Waste cleanup bags
- ✓ Dog dishes
- ✓ Dog food
- ✓ People food
- ✓ Chairs
- ✓ Copy of the regulations to obsess over
- ✓ Water (LOTS!)
- ✓ Dog treats (LOTS!)
- ✓ Height card
- ✓ AKC number
- ✓ Dog toy(s)
- ✓ Rain coat
- ✓ First Aid kit
- ✓ Hand sanitizer
- ✓ Zip ties (handy for crates)
- ✓ Camera
- ✓ Person to run aforementioned camera
- ✓ Pencil (to draw on course maps)
- ✓ Good book(s) to read
- ✓ \$\$\$ (for all the cool dog vendors)

Most importantly, always bring your sense of humor!

## **Which collars do you think are acceptable inside the agility ring?**

- A. Choke Chain
  - B. Head Halter
  - C. Buckle Collar with Tags
  - D. Prong Collar
  - E. Buckle Collar with No Tags
  - F. Buckle Collar with Contact Information Embroidered
  - G. No Collar - Run Naked!
- (Answers below.)

## **Congratulations!**

*Dawn "Baughman" (a.k.a. Sprit's Soar with the Red Dawn) earned her first AKC title! With her fourth pass in the novice division at the Sierra Nevada Retriever Club (Fallon, NV); she has her "Junior Hunter" title. Her record is perfect with four passes in four attempts. Dawn will spend a few more weeks in Montana with her trainer/handler working on her Senior Hunter Title. She will be back in Idaho Falls over the summer so "Dad" can help her with obedience work and hopefully earn more titles at the USRVDTTC Obedience Trial.*



*Desert Mtn Malinois is proud to introduce the Hope Litter . . . Boneman, Sage, Shelby, Black Boy, and Pink Girl born April 1, 2011.*

*"Celeste" Belger earned her first HIT from the Open B class at the YVKC Obedience trial on May 15, 2011. She also earned her first fifteen "Obedience Master Points".*

## **Upcoming Practice**

*There will be an agility/obedience/rally practice on June 26th from 2 until 4 p.m. at Tautphaus Park.*

*A: Choke Chain. Trick question. You can enter the ring with a choke chain, but you cannot run your dog in one.*

*B: Head Halter. Head halters are not allowed on trial grounds.*

*C: Buckle Collar with Tags. Remove all tags before running agility or you will be excused.*

*D: Prong Collar. Prong collars are not allowed on trial grounds.*

*E: Buckle Collar without Tags. Buckle collars or rolled collars are perfectly acceptable as long as they don't have anything affixed or dangling from them.*

*F: Buckle Collar with contact information embroidered. These are perfectly acceptable, but do not include titles with your dog's name.*

*G: Run Naked! (No collar) You can't run agility naked, but your dog can!*

# June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 "Myra" Zaladonis	2 "Olive" Zaladonis	3	4
5 David P'Pool "Bob" P'Pool	6 Glenda Haller Sharon Sakson	7 "Lola" Keele	8	9 "Cider" Anderson	10	11 Gary Ricks
12	13	14 Robert McAteer	15 "Baby" Loomis	16	17	18 "Talyn" Bennett
19 "Pewter" McKee Cathy Hjelm "Sarah" Croft	20	21	22 Mira Chester	23	24	25 Theresa Mathis
26 Gwen P'Pool	27	28 Judy Grof	29	30 Kristie Rasmussen		

## Upcoming Events

- June 3-5 Agility in Bozeman, MT
- June 3-5 Agility in Caldwell, ID
- June 11-12 Agility, Obedience & Rally in Farmington, UT
- June 12th Tracking Test in Missoula County, MT
- June 14-15 Obedience & Rally in Filer, ID
- June 16-19 Agility, Obedience & Rally in Blackfoot, ID
- June 24-25 Obedience & Rally in Great Falls, MT
- June 25-26 Herding Tests & Trials in Caldwell, ID
- June 26-28 Obedience & Rally in Missoula, MT

