



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

April 2015

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



It is good to refresh our training skills even though we have been working obedience commands for quite sometime. We get careless and forget the fine points in training. "Come" is probably the most basic command every dog needs to learn.

Come needs to be the sweetest word your dog ever hears. It is fundamental to all training. With this command you establish your authority, teach your dog respect for you, and keep him out of harm's way. "Come" must always mean that something good will happen to him, something better than whatever he's doing at the time. When you need to correct, go to him; don't make him come to you. "Come" should mean joy, hugs and treats, never punishment.

First you must have the dog's attention. Until he learns, don't make the mistake of calling him when he is busy checking out something more interesting than you. Using the whistle, gets the dog's attention. When calling him, use his name - for the rest of his life, never when you want to tell him off.

Dogs are easily distracted, especially if other dogs are around. Learn to cultivate your voice. Try not to sound angry - the tone is all important.

Remember, make sure if someone else in the family is training the dog that they are using the same words, extra words are superfluous; your pet only understands the "come" part.

Food, carefully used is a motivator for the dog, but make him earn his tidbits. Toys are also a good motivator. If using a toy, after he gives you his full attention, break off and play. Don't be so predictable that your dog knows exactly what you are going to do next.

Be sure to let your dog know that saying "come" one time is what he should do before he responds. If you yell "come" three times that is what he will get used to.

If a dog is treated with love he will give you unconditional love. The more the dog respects you, the more intense the bond between you and your dog.

Till next time,

*Connie*

## Minutes (March 10, 2015)

submitted by Karen Sodrick

### President's Report

All dues must be paid by the end of March in order to keep your membership active and be covered by our insurance.

Several members have graduated classes and received certifications. Star Puppy graduates include: Lisa Bonshock and Ozzie; Krishna Martz and Guinness; Larry and Florence Long with Blue and Siobhan White with Cordelia. Trick Class Novice graduates are: Suzy Smith with Cooper, Myra Dietrich with Toby, Kathi Flock with Reggie, Pam Grose with Sadie and Karen Sodrick with Lizzie. Stacy Faust with Bella and Brenda Jaworski with Nittany received their CGC certificates. Chelsea Mensch with Benson received Therapy Dog certification

Jim Smith one of our members is recuperating at home from knee surgery

Thank you to Suzy Smith for all her photography work for the club and also to Elaine and Bob Walz for creating Club cards. Please feel free to take some from the table.

We received a thank you letter from Mostly Mutts for our Christmas donations.

There are no classes on March 31, April 7 and April 14. The March 31 date is not in the newsletter so please be aware of that change.

There are several upcoming events for all members including two at Bloomsburg University. Please check the sign up sheets on the table to see if you and your dog would be able to attend. They do not need to be certified but should be friendly especially around children for the Bloomsbury events. We also participate in the July 4th parade in Lewisburg.

There is a bill in the legislature to allow small dogs on Amtrak trains.

The Friends of the Marina Park organization would like to upgrade the playground equipment. Since we train there members were in agreement to make a \$25 donation to this cause. Everyone will be notified when we move to the Marina to train. We will be at the gym until further notice.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Sodrick



## Notes and Notices



I received a thank you from Friends of the Shikellamy State Park for our donation of \$25 toward new playground equipment for the Park.

Please be aware that we will not have use of the Selinsgrove Center gym Mar. 31, April 7, April 14. We will resume training on April 21. Our classes will be moved to the Shikellamy State Park as soon as the weather permits. Since we had problems with bad weather on Tuesday evenings last year, I have Wednesday available in case of rain on Tuesday. You will need to check emails and our web site for class notifications and up-dates.

We have been asked by many organizations and facilities to have our dogs visit and be involved for socialization and pet therapy. Since it is a wonderful experience for both you and your dog, please consider becoming involved in some of our activities. There are sign-up sheets at class each week, and if you have any questions please ask me about them or you can email me to be added to the list. Not all visits need to be therapy certified, but your dog should behave well and be housetrained. Nursing home visits prepare your puppy for testing with many distractions and the socialization with the residents.

Sympathies to Chris Wert with the loss of her Golden Retriever, Levi. He enjoyed doing therapy work and delighted many who he visited.

Get well wishes go out to Faye Gaugler who recently underwent surgery.

Our membership for 2015 was due by March 31. Anyone not paid by then will be removed from the list because of our insurance policy.

We welcome new members:

Lori Steele from Elysburg with Golden Retriever, Maggie

Barry & Monica Shovlin from Sunbury with Labrador Retriever, Sambucca

Kaley Long with Weimeriner

Carol Hanson from Selinsgrove with Australian Shepherd, Zoe

Beth Holmes from Mifflinburg with Shih Tzu Mix Sweeney

## UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>March 31 (Tues)</b>	<b>NO CLASS SELINGROVE CENTER</b>	
<b>April 1 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>April 2 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Vintage Knolls, Danville Geisinger Rehab, Health South</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm</b>
<b>April 6 (Mon)</b>	<b>Elm Croft, Lewisburg</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>April 7 (Tues)</b>	<b>NO CLASS SELINGROVE CENTER</b>	
<b>April 8 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>April 9 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Shamokin Hospital Life Geisinger Building Bridges Northwestern Academy</b>	<b>1:00pm 1:45pm 2:15pm 2:45pm</b>
<b>April 14 (Tues)</b>	<b>NO CLASS SELINGROVE CENTER</b>	
<b>April 15 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>April 16 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Manor Care &amp; Sunshine Corners</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm</b>
<b>April 18 (Sat)</b>	<b>Springfest, Bloomsburg University, Nelson Fieldhouse</b>	<b>12pm - 2pm</b>
<b>April 20 (Mon)</b>	<b>Buffalo Valley Nursing Home, Lewisburg</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>April 21 (Tues)</b>	<b>Medium Security Allenwood (FCIC only) CLASSES BEGIN SELINGROVE CENTER</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>
<b>April 22 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>April 23 (Thurs)</b>	<b>FCC Allenwood Emergency Prep Training Center</b>	<b>9am - 1pm</b>
<b>April 27 (Mon)</b>	<b>Sr. Health Expo, VFW Rt. 522, Selingsgrove Bucknell University Library</b>	<b>10am - 12pm 6pm - 8pm</b>
<b>April 29 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>April 30 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Holy Family Convent Geisinger Rehab, Health South</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm</b>

# April 2015

March 2015



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April 2015

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May 2015

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 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club  
 US Holidays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 April Fools Day 10:00 AM Riverwoods	2 1:00 PM Vintage Knolls 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab Health South	3	4
5 Easter	6 6:30 PM Elm Croft	7 CLASSES CANCELLED	8 10:00 AM Riverwoods	9 1:00 PM Shamokin Hospital 1:45 PM Life Geisinger 2:15 PM Building Bridges Academy 2:45 PM Northwestern	10	11
12	13 CLASSES CANCELLED	14 CLASSES CANCELLED	15 Tax Day 10:00 AM Riverwoods	16 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:45 PM Sunshine Corners	17 12:00 PM Springfest	18
19 6:30 PM Buffalo Valley Nursing Home	20 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	21 12:00 PM Medium Security Allenwood (FCIC only) 6:30 PM Training Class 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	22 Earth Day 10:00 AM Riverwoods	23 9:00 AM FCC Allenwood Emergency Prep Training Center	24	25
26 10:00 AM Sr. Health Expo 6:00 PM Bucknell University Library	27 6:30 PM Training Class 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	28 6:30 PM Training Class 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	29 10:00 AM Riverwoods	30 1:00 PM Holy Family Convent 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	1	2