



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

August 2009

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



In class I have tried to incorporate the word "wait" along with "stay" and how to tell the difference.

Wait means you're going to get up and come to me when I call you, and the one-minute or three-minute stay means you never come, no matter what happens until I release you. The whole debate is our cues mean whatever we teach our dog they mean.

*Wait* means pause. When you go out the door, you use wait until you go out first, feeding at the food dish, getting in and out of the car. If you are using stairs, tell them to wait until you are safely down the stairs. If you walk your dog off leash and they get too far ahead of you, tell them to wait until you catch up.

In the *stay* command there are three components to this behavior - duration, distraction and distance.

Duration - Your dog will stay for however long you ask. First you start at a few seconds and work your way to longer stays. Don't rush this exercise. If your dog starts getting up go back to square one.

Distraction - Your dog will stay for any type of exciting things going on. Move away a very small distance and work up to longer ones. The Marina is an excellent training area for distractions - skate boarders, joggers, baby buggies, squirrels, ducks and even strange out of control dogs on leash.

Distance - Your dog should stay even if you are far away. This happens, of course, after you work up from a short distance and your dog is comfortable.

We like to use the out-of-sight stay. If for nothing else when we do a demo it is so impressive for the people to see our dogs waiting for our return.

## Old Friends (Continued)

If your dog does get up say "Oops!" and be sure to go back to your dog and put him in the same place you have left him, step to his side and give him the stay command.

Always have a release cue for your dog from the stay command. It's your option - okay, release, break, all done or free. Be sure to be consistent. Also be sure your dog gets up with the release command, not if he feels like it.

All obedience work must be incorporated into our every-day lives to make it worthwhile. Coming to class and not using it daily doesn't teach our dogs to respect us as their leader.

*"If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles."*

- Doug Larson, American Columnist

Till next time,

*Connie*

## Minutes (July 7, 2009)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the STDTC was called to order by President, Connie Cuff, with 32 members present.

### REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT:

I would like to address some training and socialization issues as we bring our dogs to class each week for obedience classed. It is wonderful to see so many people interested in coming to class and getting their dogs trained.

I have become lax as a trainer in that I have not been more instructional in how we should socialize our dogs is not the same. Some people do not like dogs in their face, while others do not have a problem with this.

I encourage anyone who has a dog that may have a problem to let a person know that they do not want to socialize their dog. Just stand back and let the dog observe. Dogs that do like to socialize should get together as a group and do so.

It is our responsibility as owners to keep an eye on our dogs at all times, especially in using the leash. When Ray Ramos was here he mentioned shortening your leash. We all make excuses for our dogs, but it is us as the trainer who is responsible for our dog's behavior.

## Minutes (Continued)

I have a copy of the By-Laws of our club which was written when the Club was formed four years ago. If anyone cares to read it I will bring it to class each week and have it available.

As Ray mentioned when he came to observe our class, each breed of dog trains differently. No matter how well your dog can be, there are times when he may have an issue and we must be prepared to correct it. At times we may not feel well or not be into training and our dogs sense this. If at anytime anyone is having a problem or needs help in anyway, I want you to talk to me, Marjean, Sarah or any other member of our /club.

It has been very helpful to me since we have broken up our groups into different levels of training. Marjean has a nice group of AKC Star puppies, Sarah is working with the potential CGC/TDI dogs and I will be breaking up my group so that we can give more individual attention to the beginner group at 6:15.

For those who do TDI work I have been asked if we could do more evening visits. Since I am committed to daytime visits that have been scheduled for many years, I would like someone who could schedule some evening TDI visits and see that Kelly gets them posted in the newsletter. Jim Hepner and Phil volunteered to do this, and it was agreed upon.

There are some problems with the state budget and the possibility exists for closing down state parks for a time. This issue has occurred before. If this should happen I will make arrangements with the Selinsgrove Center and move our training there until we can get back at the Mariana. We will post this notice on our web site and send E-mails should this occur.

### REPORT OF TREASURER:

(Treasurer's reports are not available in the online edition of the STDTC newsletter.)

### NEW BUSINESS:

We would like to re-order whistles, The Hepners had purchased them for the club from Whistles on Fire Promotions, Shamokin Dam and a set up fee was established. The ones we currently have are .84 each for 250 or \$222.50 with tax or one that lights up for 1.12 each for 250 or \$296.80 with tax. Cindy Cardenis made a motion to buy the one with light. Motion was seconded and carried by those present.

New members were introduced.

### OLD BUSINESS:

TDI visits: Northwestern Academy, Life Geisinger, and Shamokin Hospital.

Meeting Adjourned.

## **Breed of the Month**

### **Standard Schnauzer**

submitted by Connie Cuff

The Standard Schnauzers' sense of humor entertains owners. They're known as the dog with the human brain. They have a super attitude, but you have to show them affection and spend a lot of time with them.

Their intelligence is a double-edged sword, however, because if you do not train them, they learn things on their own. They are an excellent breed for those who want to devote time and energy into training and working with their dog.

Breeding usually occurs among responsible hobbyists rather than commercial breeders. Since their numbers are low, this keeps interest primarily with owners dedicated to the dog rather than those motivated by money and trendiness.

The breed came to the United States 100 years ago from native Germany where they were farm dogs whose duties included herding livestock and guarding produce carts in the marketplace. Since then they have performed for the police, search and rescue work and have become therapy dogs.

The breed's strong watch dog qualities have persisted over the centuries, but a well-trained and socialized dog should voice the arrival of strangers but once greeted by the owner they should relax.

Grooming requirements require clipping or stripping the coat and beard and leg hairs may need occasional combing to avoid matting.

Standard Schnauzers have remained a robust, healthy breed, and breeders are working to rid them of hip dysplasia.

Most Standards enjoy an active lifestyle. They play outside tag in the house and as one owner states, nothing plays like a Standard and they even make up games.





## Notes and Notices



On August 22 there is a kick-off event at the Priestley-Forsyth Library in Northumberland for “Read Across the Valley”. This event is the beginning of programs which you can see on the internet at <http://www.readacrossvalley.org>. This event is in conjunction with John Grogan and “Marley & Me”. He will be at Susquehanna University Weber Chapel on Saturday, October 3rd from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The Library event will have a pet parade from 11:00 to 1:00 pm. We will set up a stand at 9:30 in the park across from the Library which is located at 100 King Street. The club will sell homemade dog bones (recipes on our website), fireman window decals and chancing off a dog item basket. We will stay from 9:30 a.m. to sometime into the afternoon. Anyone who comes can leave for our demo at the Northumberland County Expo at 3:30 p.m.

At the Expo we will Square Dance and have a demo from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. I would like to have two squares and would appreciate anyone who can help out on that day. They have us inside with fans so we shouldn't have to worry about the heat.

I have heard from Chief Shikellamy and we will be starting our Reading program there for the fall. The dogs must be TDI certified. The dates for our visits are Mondays, Sept. 21, Oct. 5, Oct. 26, Nov. 16 and Dec. 7 at 9:00 a.m. for ½ hour. Anyone interested in doing this should contact Connie.

The membership has decided not to participate at the Sunbury Riverfest this year. The cost for setting up our stand for a few hours is \$90. The little profit we make selling dog bones was not worth the cost.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for our Club Picnic at the Shikellamy State Park Marina Pavilion 2, Sunday September 27th at 1:00 pm. Bring a covered dish and a dog item for the Chinese Auction. The Club provides hot dogs and soda.

We will visit the residents of the Selinsgrove Center on Wed. Aug. 26 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. We will be located at a patio next to the main building. I will do some training and our square dance, but most important is the interaction with the residents. I would appreciate a good turn out since the Center is kind enough to allow us to train there. In case of inclement weather we will be inside in the auditorium.

**The AKC Star Puppy Graduates are:**

**Abby, a Yorkie owned by Tammy & Elmer Straub from Milton  
Bella, a Golden Retriever owned by Karen Dyer from Danville  
Asha, a Pug owned by Robert Fontaine from Coal Township  
Sadie Ray, a Chocolate Lab owned by Sue Noll from Selinsgrove  
Jenna, a boxer owned by Rachael Meckley from Northumberland  
Koda, a Golden Retriever owned by Parren Troup, from Northumberland**

**Marjean Krech's next AKC Star Puppy Class will begin August 11th.**

**We welcome new members:**

**Julie & Clint Rockey from Northumberland with their yellow Lab Jacs  
R. Larry Geist from Northumberland with his Golden Retriever Jack  
Thomas Albert from Northumberland and his Weimaraner**

**Congratulations to Beth Longer for passing the CGC test with her Beagle, Honey.**

## UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>Aug. 5 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Aug. 6 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Nottingham Village, Northumberland</b>	<b>6:45 pm</b>
<b>Aug. 11 (Tues)</b>	<b>US Penitentiary Medium Prison TDI Memo Members only</b>	<b>12:00 pm</b>
<b>Aug. 12 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Aug. 13 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Northwest Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital Kramm Health Center, Milton</b>	<b>1:00 pm 2:00 pm 3:00 pm 6:45 pm</b>
<b>Aug. 19 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Aug. 20 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners Elmcroft, Lewisburg, Rt. 45</b>	<b>1:00 pm 1:45 pm 2:15 pm 6:45 pm</b>
<b>Aug. 22 (Sat)</b>	<b>Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library In the Park selling dog bones, etc.</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
	<b>Northumberland County Expo, Square Dancing &amp; Demo, Mile Hill Road, Sunbury (Armory Building)</b>	<b>3:30-4:30 pm</b>
<b>Aug. 26 (Wed)</b>	<b>National Dog Day</b>	
	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
	<b>Selinsgrove Center Demo Main Building Patio</b>	<b>6:45 pm</b>
<b>Aug. 27 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Geisinger Rehab Health South</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>

# August 2009

US Holidays

Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

July 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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August 2009

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September 2009

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30						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes</li> <li>7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Riverwoods</li> <li>11:00 AM Reading to Children, Union County Library (TDI ONLY)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South</li> </ul>			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes</li> <li>7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Riverwoods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:45 PM Nottingham Village</li> </ul>		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:00 PM Allenwood Medium Security Prison (MEMO-ED ONLY)</li> <li>6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes</li> <li>7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Riverwoods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM Northwestern Academy</li> <li>2:00 PM Life Geisinger</li> <li>3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital</li> <li>6:45 PM Kramm Healthcare</li> </ul>		
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes</li> <li>7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Dog Day</li> <li>10:00 AM Riverwoods</li> <li>6:45 PM Selinsgrove Center (Demo - Main Building Patio)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South</li> </ul>		
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes</li> <li>7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Riverwoods</li> </ul>			