



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

March/April 2014

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



There is an organization T.A.G.S. (Train, Assist, Guide, Serve), an all-volunteer organization, that helps veterans train their personal pets to pass the public access test required for service dogs in PA.

This new mission has given the former soldiers a new confidence to enter public places and handle crowds through carefully-honed teamwork with their pets. These dog teams are made up of Poodles, Springer Spaniels, terrier mixes not typically associated with service dog work, but these, after all, are family pets. Many have been rescued.

These former soldiers have been clinically diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorders by the Veterans Administration and were referred by them to the T.A.G.S. program. These soldier-and-dog teams are identified by the camouflage service-dog vests made from the owner's original fatigues.

The group has been training at Obedience Training Class of Harrisburg, and the difference these dogs have made in these veteran's lives is amazing. The focus is off of them and on the dog. Many Veterans are being treated at VA Hospitals for PTSD and working with a dog as a companion animal has brought many rewards to them and helped their families

These dog teams can be seen on field trips training in stores and on elevators. Since these individuals look fine and healthy there is some confusion and the participants have been confronted in stores and elsewhere questioning their authenticity. Some of these folks are recovering from brain injuries and PTSD, and most cannot afford a pre-trained service animal that can cost thousands of dollars.

For more information you can check this out at www.dogtagsprogram.org.

There is a Para Olympic competition in Sochi, Russia (following the Winter Olympics), which will be held from March 7 to March 16 for disabled athletes. My son-in-law, Kevin Bittenbender, will be with a Bi-athlon team from the U.S. competing March 8, 11, 14. He designs and works with the rifles used by athletes for this event. There will be live coverage of these events as there was with the Winter Olympics.

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (February 18, 2014)

submitted by Karen Sodrick

No Class February 11 because of the trip to the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show

Be sure to have all dues paid and up-dated shot records by March 1. Kelly will be making up a new membership list so this should be taken care of by that time.

Anyone who would like to do therapy visits at nursing homes is welcome. Please let Connie know if you plan to attend.

From time to time there are items on the table and you are welcome to them.

Be sure to sign in on the attendance sheet.

Dave is taking care of 50/50 tickets. He will do this every other week. This helps with small expenses such as stamps, copying and dog treats.



Notes and Notices



It is with great sadness that I have lost a true friend and honorary club member, Dr. Donald Kamsler. In years past, he donated time in teaching Red Cross Pet First Aid classes and purchased STDTC pins which have been available to our club members. Many times I consulted him on health issues for our members and he was always willing to give his advice. May his legacy live on in all the volunteer work and mentoring he did over his lifetime.

I want to thank the Club for the gift of a trip to Westminster Group showing. Our group, Kelly, Nan, Dagny, Sara and Marjean had a wonderful day meeting many breeds and the showing of Leonbergers, Bernese Mt. Dogs, Springer Spaniels, and Golden Retrievers. It was nice to go to the grooming area and talk to owners and pet the dogs. Kelly provided us with a van and Dagny navigated us for the trip. Next year we hope more will be able to join us and experience the ultimate in dog shows.

Marjean's puppy class is doing well and everyone is working hard toward attaining the AKC Star Puppy Certificate.

Our weather has caused some cancellations, but we must be aware that our members come from a wide area so I must take into consideration weather forecasts early for towns further away. Unfortunately we will not have the use of the gym for April 1, 8, 15 because the Center will have a Spring Fling for the residents.

I will probably stay at the Center until the end of May to give us more light at the Marina, and having an indoor facility for rainy conditions. There will be a posting on our web site along with an E-mail sent to current members when our move to the Marina will take place. Please keep checking the calendar for upcoming visits and activities.

Dave has been taking care of a 50/50 at class and it has helped with copying, stamps and treats for class. Our insurance covering the Center and Marina has been paid for 2014.

Everyone should have purchased a Dog License for 2014. Newspaper articles mention that Counties will be canvassing to check if your dog is licensed. When we train at the Marina, I have seen a Dog Warden there. Also, be sure your rabies is up-to-date.

I still have a few people who have not renewed membership. I would like to update my records and need you to do this as soon as possible.

Since we will not be in class for 3 weeks in April, I have included March and April in our Club activities and will not be printing an April newsletter.

I have reserved an Activity Room at Riverwoods in Lewisburg, for Tues. April 15 at 6:30pm for therapy dog testing. If you plan on being tested, I need you to sign up so we can schedule time slots and get information from you.

We will be walking in the Lewisburg 4th of July Parade on Saturday June 28 with the large American Flag. Kevin has guaranteed me that we will be at the beginning and since he is President of the Committee there will not be a problem. At class, I will have sign ups since we will need quite a few people to do this. We will be walking without the dogs. As I get more information you will be informed.

We welcome new members:

Autumn & Drew Faust from Dewart with a Beagle
Sally Thomas from Selinsgrove with a Golden Retriever
Joyce Levy from Selinsgrove with a Great Dane
Christine Smith from Dalmatia with a mix breed
Mikki Anselmo from Danville with a Labrador Retriever
Dana Burton from Northumberland with a Boxer
Pat Pickering from Northumberland with Mix breed
Mike & Stacy Piecuch with a Lab mix
Amy Brouse from Middleburg with a Golden Retriever
Connie Hackenburg from Selinsgrove with a Golden Retriever
Charles & Denise Frost with a German Shepherd
Brooke Vrael from Selinsgrove with a mix breed
Gretchen Nash from Lewisburg with a Pug
Winnie Foreman from Lewisburg with a Goldendoodle
Suzie Smith from Middleburg with a Yorkshire Terrier

Everyone enjoyed the birthday party for Buffy who turned 5. There was cake for all. Thanks Gail and Rick.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

March 3 (Mon)	Grayson View, Selinsgrove	6:30pm
March 5 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
March 6 (Thurs)	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2:00pm
March 11 (Tues)	Maximum Prison, Allenwood	12:00pm
March 12 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
March 13 (Thurs)	Shamokin Hospital	1:00pm
	Life Geisinger	2:00pm
	Northwestern Academy	2:30pm
March 17 (Mon)	HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY	
	Nottingham Village	6:30pm
March 19 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
March 20 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital	1:00pm
	Mansion Nursing Home	2:00pm
	Sunshine Corners	2:45pm
March 26 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
March 27 (Thurs)	Holy Family Convent	1:00pm
	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2:00pm
April 1 (Tues)	NO CLASS SELINGSGROVE CENTER	
April 2 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
April 3 (Thurs)	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2:00pm
April 7 (Mon)	Emmanuel Home, Northumberland	6:30pm
April 8 (Tues)	NO CLASS SELINGSGROVE CENTER	
April 9 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
April 10 (Thurs)	Shamokin Hospital	1:00pm
	Life Geisinger	2:00pm
	Northwestern Academy	2:30pm

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

April 15 (Tues)	NO CLASSS SELINGSGROVE CENTER Therapy Dog Testing, Riverwoods	6:30pm
April 16 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
April 17 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm
April 20 (Sun)	HAPPY EASTER	
April 21 (Mon)	Maria Joseph Manor, Danville	6:30pm
April 22 (Tues)	CLASSES RESUME SELINGSGROVE CENTER	
April 23 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
April 24 (Thurs)	Holy Family Convent Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm
April 28 (Mon)	Bucknell University, Library	6:00pm - 8:00pm
April 30 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am

March 2014

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
 US Holidays

February 2014

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March 2014

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24 6:30 PM Penn Lutheran Village	25 6:45 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 6:45 PM Training 7:15 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:30 PM Beginner Training	26 10:00 AM Riverwoods	27 1:00 PM Holy Family Convent 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	28	1
2	3 6:30 PM Grayson View	4 6:45 PM Training 6:45 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:30 PM Beginner Training	5 10:00 AM Riverwoods	6 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South	7	8
9 Daylight Saving Time Begins	10	11 12:00 PM Maximum Prison, Allenwood 6:45 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 6:45 PM Training 7:15 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:30 PM Beginner Training	12 10:00 AM Riverwoods	13 1:00 PM Shamokin Hospital 2:00 PM Life Geisinger 2:30 PM Northwestern Academy	14	15
16	17 St. Patrick's Day 6:30 PM Nottingham Village	18 6:45 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 6:45 PM Training 7:15 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:30 PM Beginner Training	19 10:00 AM Riverwoods	20 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 2:00 PM Manston Nursing Home 2:45 PM Sunshine Corners	21	22
23	24	25 6:45 PM Training 6:45 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:30 PM Beginner Training	26 10:00 AM Riverwoods	27 1:00 PM Holy Family Convent 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	28	29
30	31 CLASSES CANCELED April Fools Day	1	2 10:00 AM Riverwoods	3 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South	4	5

April 2014

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
 US Holidays

March 2014

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April 2014

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 CLASSES CANCELED April Fools Day	2 10:00 AM Riverwoods	3 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South	4	5
6 6:30 PM Emmanuel Home, Northumberland	7 6:30 PM Emmanuel Home, Northumberland	8 CLASSES CANCELED	9 10:00 AM Riverwoods	10 1:00 PM Shamokin Hospital 2:00 PM Life Geisinger 2:30 PM Northwestern Academy	11	12
13	14 6:30 PM Maria Joseph Manor	15 Tax Day CLASSES CANCELED 6:30 PM Therapy Dog Testing, Riverwoods	16 10:00 AM Riverwoods	17 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:45 PM Sunshine Corners	18	19
20 Easter	21 6:30 PM Maria Joseph Manor	22 Earth Day CLASSES RESUME 6:45 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 6:45 PM Training 7:15 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:30 PM Beginner Training	23 10:00 AM Riverwoods	24 1:00 PM Holy Family Convent 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	25	26
27	28 6:00 PM Bucknell University, Library	29 6:45 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 6:45 PM Training 7:15 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:30 PM Beginner Training	30 10:00 AM Riverwoods	1	2	3