

USCA NEWS & VIEWS

February 15, 2003

Volume 2 Issue 2

In This Issue...

President's Message	pg 1
Vice President's Message.....	pg 2
Secretaries Message.....	pg 2
Treasurers Message.....	pg 2
DOJ Message.....	pg 2
National Breed Warden's Message..	pg 2
WCC Message.....	pg 3
NEC Message	pg 3
Nominating Committee Message	pg 3
Police/K9 Committee Message	pg 3
Helper Committee Message.....	pg 3
Bylaws Committee Message	pg 3
Members Forum	pg 4
USA Website Links	pg 5

Presidents Message

AWDF Championship

Late last year the American Working Dog Federation board approved a substantial dues increase based on individual breed club membership. Previous USCA dues were \$350 per year and have increased to approximately \$3800 per year. Like so many of the AWDF breed clubs, the USCA budget for this fiscal year did not include this new increase. While this increase has been included in our budget proposal for the next fiscal year, according to AWDF rules, in order for our membership to enter the AWDF Championship and qualify for the FCI Championship, dues must be current. At my request, the AWDF executive committee presented a motion to the board for all breed clubs to remit last years dues and be granted a 6-month extension on the balance. While the deadline for this mail ballot is 2/21/03, in speaking with AWDF President Mike Caputo, a quorum of the AWDF board has approved the extension. This means all entries from clubs current on last year's dues structure will be accepted for this year's event.

I urge our membership to support the American Working Dog Federation Championship, entry deadline is March 3rd, and all German Shepherd Dog entries must be sent directly to the USA office. More information and entry forms can be found at <http://www.awdf.net/events.html>

New Rulebook

The 2003 Rulebook is available from the USA Office. This rulebook contains BH, SchH, IPO, DPO and WPO rules and comes in a 4-1/2" x 8-1/2" binder. This is the last rulebook you will ever need; revisions will be available on the USA Website, then simply print and replace the outdated pages in the binder. For a short time this special Volume discount is offered:

1 book = \$30.00 + \$5.00 postage
5 books = \$25.00/ea + \$13.00 postage
6 books = \$25.00/ea + \$15.00 postage
7 books = \$25.00/ea + \$17.00 postage
8 books = \$25.00/ea + \$19.00 postage
9 books = \$25.00/ea + \$21.00 postage
10 books or more = \$20.00 – please call USA for postage costs for 10 or more books.

Fax your order with a credit card number to USA at 314-638-0609; mail your order in with check, money order or credit card number to USA 3810 Paule Ave. St. Louis, MO 63125. If you have any questions please contact Kelly or Debbie at 314-638-9686 or email them at usaooffice@germanshepherddog.com

Webmaster

Please welcome Erin Sampson as the USA Webmaster. Erin has a multitude of web experience and I am confident she will be an excellent administrator for the USCA website. I wish to thank those members that contacted me regarding this important position, I am grateful that each of you are willing to participate, as volunteerism makes the wheels of our organization turn.

In only five short weeks the USCA National Events schedule commences with the Handler Owned and Trained Tournament in Tenino Washington, followed by the Sieger Show in Bakersfield California and then the German Shepherd Dog Championship in Annapolis Maryland. I know all of those involved are working diligently to provide another year of outstanding events for our membership and as always I look forward to seeing you there.

Lights, Camera, Action!

On January 27th, a film crew from WinnerCom Productions, out of Tulsa Oklahoma rolled into White Bluff Tennessee. Who is WinnerCom? Why are they in White Bluff? What are they filming? Read on to find all the answers.

WinnerCom is a television production company with special talents in producing outdoor shows. If you watch ESPN, then you probably have seen their work. They produce the entire Thoroughbred Racing from the Kentucky Derby through the Triple Crown for ESPN. They created the 100 greatest moments in sports history, which ran throughout all of the year 2000.

What are they doing in White Bluff? They are filming a television show all about the sport of Schutzhund. Later this year, ESPN will be airing a new dog show. This show is exclusively about working and sporting dogs, and is tentatively named K-9 Nation. Within the sporting and working dog world, our objective for this show is to entertain, educate and motivate people who have a passion for their animals. The show is sponsored by Tractor Supply Company, a retail company based in Nashville TN., with 450 store

locations east of the Rocky Mountains. Why are they in White Bluff? That's easy, it's the home of the Cumberland Valley Schutzhund and Police Club, directed by Lyle and Debbie Roetemeyer.

"This is a great opportunity for the United Schutzhund Clubs of America, getting national exposure for our sport and the German Shepherd Dog is priceless," says Lyle. In working with WinnerCom and Tractor Supply Company, we all have the same objectives. First, is to educate as many people as possible about Schutzhund—its history, original purpose and current state of evolution today. Next is to show that Schutzhund has something for everyone, from the paid professional competitive trainer, to the family wanting a great activity that includes their pet, to the individual that is learning how to get the most out of their own training and dog. Finally, to dispel any negative associations with the protection phase of the training, and to explain its function and importance within the overall sport. People are fascinated by the bite work; just ask the film crew, when they watched the process for the first time. "It is very exciting, it gets your adrenaline flowing," said one cameraman. "Now I understand that you can do tracking and obedience without the protection phase, but you could (or should) never do protection without the obedience work, it all starts to make sense to me, how the three elements work together to create the ultimate dog." A great deal of thanks to the club members of Cumberland Valley, who dedicated two days of their time for interviews and creating a mock trial. A special thanks to Al Govednik who participated as the judge in the making of this video and his wife, Marcia. At press time, it appears that the show will be aired in the late April or early May time frame, three times, then again in the November and December another three times.

Best Regards,
Jim Elder

USA

Vice President's Message

No updated news.

Lyle Roetemeyer, Vice-President

USA

Secretaries Message

Hello Sportfans,

The month of January started out with a quick trip to the St. Louis Office. USA Member, Erica Butler, gave a walk through demonstration of our soon to be installed new database. Once this program is installed, both the Secretary and the Treasurer will have electronic access 24-7. This will be a big help for the secretary having access to membership information in the early mornings, evenings, and on weekends when most of our members are away from their jobs and doing personal business.

Upon my return from St. Louis, and at Jim's request, I completed the new fill-in Report of Breeding Card now on the website. The rest of January was the pits. With the loss of

John Mulligan as a sounding board and confidant, my work on the new web fill-in trial scoresheets is on hiatus. It is too tough right now to deal with, so I am concentrating my efforts on alterations to my interview with John and John's memorial page for the March/April magazine.

Folks we need volunteers. This is your organization. Some of you have some very good ideas that need to be explored and implemented. We need passionate members that have plenty of time and good computer skills in Excel and Writing in Adobe. On the job training could also help with your resume. Interested? Please give me a call (734) 699-9207 or drop me a line Diatbda@aol.com

Mail Ballots:

Approved unanimously was the slate of judges for the 2003 GSD Championship:

Tracking - Willie Pope, USA

Obedience - Carla Griffith, USA

Protection - Glenn Stephenson, USA

Office travel to the 2003 National Events was also approved.

Please review your club contact information in the current magazine. If needed, update and add an e-mail contact.

Address all club contact changes to Kelly Hope
accounting@germanshepherddog.com

Happy Tails,

Diane Madigan, Secretary

USA

Treasurer's Message

No updated news.

USA

Director of Judge's Message

No updated news.

USA

National Breed Warden's Message

The Sieger Show 2003 is just around the corner and preparations are well under way for the first Sieger Show sponsored by USA.

With good planning, we were able to reach an agreement on the room rate at a price which is lower than the 1993 Sieger Show!

Our goal is to create an affordable family atmosphere to bring all German Shepherd Dog friends together. We are going to have a garden party Friday night at the pool side at the host hotel. The judges and breeders reception will be Saturday night in the ballroom at the host hotel. Both of these events will only cost \$10.00 per person.

At the show site you will find all amenities are within a very short waling distance. There will be no charge for parking and the spectators fee will be kept to a minimum. It is our intention to make this Sieger Show a very friendly event for handlers as

well as their dogs. Dogs need only proof of proper vaccination a health certificate is not required.

Due to the amount of time it takes to properly process each entry in this large event, the first deadline date for entries is set for February 18th. However, if you have missed this deadline, the late entry deadline date has been set for no later than March 4th.

The host hotel is almost sold out, but the hotel personnel will assist you in reserving a room in one of the surrounding hotels.

For the first time, the entire Executive Board will be joining us in this very important event.

Hope to also see all of you in Bakersfield.

Johannes Grewe, National Breed Warden

USA

World Championship Committee Message



SUPPORT YOUR USA WORLD TEAM!!

The 2003 WUSV World Championship will take place in Ravenna, Italy on Oct 1-5. Our Team Captain, Howard Rodriguez, is busy working on details to support the team's efforts, and will be making a trip to Italy next month to procure accommodations and finalize arrangements. Anyone interested in attending this event and supporting the team should contact Howie by e-mail at: Howie@Californiak-9.com. For those who cannot attend, you can support your team in another way. All team funding for 2003 will be from member contributions. Your financial support will help to defray the high costs of competing in this event. This is your team. It is our responsibility to ensure that USA maintains its position as a world leader in the sport of Schutzhund and as a member of the WUSV. Please mail all contributions to Kelly Hope at the USA office and designate them for 2003 USA World Team expenses.

Sincerely,

The World Championship Committee
Steve Robinson, Chairperson
Gordy Esselman
Gary Hanrahan
Howie Rodriguez
Jim Elder

USA

National Events Committee Message

No updated news.

USA

Nominating Committee Message

No updated news.

USA

Police/K9 Committee

No updated news.

USA

Helper Committee

No updated news.

USA

Bylaws Committee

No updated news.

USA

Comments From USA Members Forum:

Colleen from OR suggests: Regarding the World qualifier for one team – “Perhaps we could have a joint world qualifier trial to see who will be on the world team. Each organization could still have their own trial then send ex number of the top finishers by their systems to the joint trial. The joint trial could be judged by a USA, WDA, and SV judge to help with neutrality. Then the top finishers could make up the world team. (And in an ideal world no one could cry too much about biased judging as it would kind of cancel out.)”

Nathaniel from CA states: “Excellent job on the web site, I have received positive comments from members in my region.”

Daryle from OH asks about forming a club:

“I would like to know if you can provide information about how to form a training Club on the website. It would be very helpful. Either on the website, newsletter or Magazine. I am sure that there are many others with the same questions. Thanks”

Editor:

Information regarding the process of forming a USCA Club is obtained from the Regional Director. That information is on the web site and also in “Schutzhund USA”.

Annette from CO asks: "I will be a first time dog handler trialing this year, has USA implemented the written BH test required in Germany now? If so, were can I get info on it? I had the opportunity to check on the on-line BH test from the SV, I was quite amazed at the variety of questions, regarding nutrition, disease and law. I sure would appreciate a reply on this, I plan on getting the BH this spring.
Thank you for your consideration

Editor:

Not at this time is USCA implementing the written portion of the BH test. All USCA rule changes, updates, etc. must be posted on USCA's Website from USCA's DOJ before implementation and also is printed in "Schutzhund USA", regardless of what or when Germany implements rule changes. So keep checking USCA's website for important rule changes and not the SV's.

Ken from IL asks: Please clarify, do you recognize gsdca-wda titles?? reason is that: I have SchH 2 dog BH was done w/ SV and SchH 1 and 2 were done w/ USA, but I need to put SchH 3 before North America- actually by mid april for the dead line. I am from Chicago area and there are no trials in Feb/March/ and April. But there are some trials by gsdca-wda. I would try to get SchH3 if USA would recognize that if I can enter for North America. Please let me know ASAP. Thank you so much.

Editor:

USCA does recognize GSDCA-WDA titles with the following exceptions: for breeding purposes and, for any USCA National Event. Eligibility to enter any USCA National event must come from a sanctioned USCA event by USCA recognized Judges.

Give us your opinion on these comments or send in one of your own, go to the USA Members Forum:
<http://www.germanshepherddog.com/members/Members%20Forum.htm>

USA

January Members Question?

Jason from PA writes:

I have been involved in sports most of my life in swimming competitions and we had to compete locally before we could qualify for Regional events and then we would have to qualify to go on to National events. Being relatively new to the sport I was wondering why USA bypasses the Regional championships, it seems to me that it makes the Regionals somewhat meaningless, and it allows less prepared people to get a 270 at their own club and go directly to the Nationals. Just wondering.

Comments From USA Members Forum:

John from WA states: "I have to agree with Jason from PA and the lack of any importance our Regionals play in our

National and our World team selection. One model to consider would be our neighbor to the north. The Canadian organization uses the Regional trial for it's National and World team selection. They require a participant to enter their Regional in order to compete at their National and obtain a spot on the World team. If the participant doesn't enter the Regional, they can still compete at their National but cannot earn a spot on their World team. I feel this approach would encourage more support at the Regional level and also create stronger Regions. I know the process to make the World team is very demanding and one more trial isn't going to make the process any easier but I feel the Regional should somehow come into consideration for National events and World team selection."

Gary from CA states: "Yes, I agree with Jason that our Regional Championships are pretty much meaningless and not supported by the membership. I would propose that to qualify for the Nationals that the qualifying score be from the entry at the Regional Championship."

Colleen from OR states: "I think that the original reason for the by-passing of the regional championship as an entry requirement was the fact that we didn't have that many entries in the national. If last years entry amount is repeated again perhaps it is time to go to an entry system similar to Germany's and in so doing boost attendance at the Regionals."

Susan from VA states: "I'd like the newsletter to be easier to read. I currently go down the column then have to go back to the top, over, down again, then find the top of the next page on the left side and repeat this tedious process. Do I need different software to improve the reading process?
I cancelled my membership to WDA based on your recommendation to support one or the other. Clearly USA is in the better interest of the GSD. I wrote a letter to the pres. of WDA protesting the farce of crowning a universal seiger when there was only one entry. That issue was not addressed in his reply. He did however deny that the WUSV had any criticism of the GSDCA. He sent me a copy of the Jan WDA publication reporting on the "Worlds" in Austria which elucidated the facts of their team's performance but failed to note who was 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc. I find this to be obfuscating and am composing a response indicating my disappointment in the lack of openness and forthrightness. The reason I joined WDA was in discussing the state of GSD breed clubs, I was told that USA was in a sorry financial state and was going down. I see this is now a reversed situation. I was also told that the same people are always at the top in competition with their expensive bought, finished dogs and that the organization exists for their pleasure. Say it ain't so! I went to Nationals and saw some very fine performances that could have had an extra point or so. I saw a very fine performance by a handler wherein he gave multiple signals to his dog about what was coming next, increasing the dog's drive. This was carefully done when the judge wasn't looking. Is this allowed, accepted? Should others be emulating this competition behavior or are we held to a different standard? I am sincerely curious. I observed many mediocre performances by dog/handler teams who clearly did not belong in the competition for National Championship. I hope steps are being

taken to rectify this. Thank you for all the recent changes. I really am pleased to be a member of USA."

Editor:

The newsletter is designed to be print optimized, in other words it is better if you print it to read it, but you should not be experiencing the problems you stated. I would recommend checking to make sure you have the newest free version of Acrobat Reader 5.0 and make certain you have the window fully opened and check the page tab on the top right of the taskbar it gives three options for sizes.

I think often it appears that " it exists for their pleasure", but those people are at the top because they train better, harder and smarter than those with lesser scores. So I think it really isn't so.

As far as handling techniques-It seems as fast as handlers are dreaming up tricks the judges are learning them, the rules say that deductions will be made for handler help, the judge needs to see it to determine if it is help and how much help was it.

We see this at all levels of the sport, some from simply nervous handlers and sometimes from well thought out training. It is up to the handler to decide how they want to handle and up to the judge to catch any helps.

USA

USA Web Site Links:

Events page

www.germanshepherddog.com/eventcalendar.htm

Members Page Sign On

www.germanshepherddog.com/memberssignupstaging.htm

2003 Seiger Show April 4-6 2003

www.webhund.com/2003ss/index.htm

2003 USA H.O.T. Championship March 21-23 2003

www.germanshepherddog.com/2003hot/

2003 GSD Championship April 11-13, 2003 Annapolis, MD

<http://www.gwdcsg.com/home.html>

2003 North American & FH Championship May 1-4, 2003
Bowling Green KY

(Not available at this time)

2003 National Championship

(Not available at this time)

USA