



### In This Issue...

**President's Message ..... pg 1**  
**Vice President's Message..... pg 2**  
**Secretaries Message..... pg 2**  
**National Breed Warden's Message..pg 2**  
**WCC Message..... pg 3**  
**Members Question ..... pg 3**  
**USA Website Links .....pg 4**

### Presidents Message

The holiday season kept the USCA (United Schutzhund Clubs of America) Office Staff and Officers quite busy. I met with the Editorial Staff and computer consultant at the Office on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Items occurring from that meeting are as follows:

- ❖ Database conversion - the data is being transferred to the new database eliminating hours of manual data entry, completion of this process will take a couple of weeks, however the new system is operational. The added features and ease of operation will increase efficiency in the office with the day-to-day tasks. The staff completed the training on the system and is pleased and excited that they will be able to provide better service to the membership.
- ❖ The "Report of Breeding" card - is now available on USCA's web site in the members' area. Complete this form when the breeding occurs and send it to the office. The breeding information will be printed in *Schutzhund USA* to provide breeders a better opportunity in placing puppies rather than waiting for announcement of the actual litter report.
- ❖ The "Performance Rule Book" - currently is at the printer; it was delayed due to a last minute proof read. Look for a posting on the web site as soon as they are available for purchase.
- ❖ *Schutzhund USA* – Art Director Cheryl Morris brings a new look to the magazine with the New Year, I look forward to the future issues. In addition, brought back by popular demand is "You be the Judge" column. Send your judging questions to the Director of Judges at [DOJUSAMARK@aol.com](mailto:DOJUSAMARK@aol.com).
- ❖ A new advertising section was added – "Straight to the Point" – check the January issue of *Schutzhund USA* for details.

- ❖ The editorial staff greatly appreciates the article contributions received, and urges the membership to continue your support by providing informative articles and club reports.
- ❖ World Teams - to generate greater support and contributions for our Teams, a check box was added to the membership and membership renewal forms asking members to "please show support for our world teams by including a \$5.00 donation." Contributions of \$5.00 and greater have been rolling in since we started this program in December showing great support from you, the membership. I want to Thank all the contributors to this important fund and encourage all members to participate in the support of USCA's World Teams.

### Positions:

USCA Web Master:

I have personally been responsible for the USCA website maintenance and design over the last four years, without any knowledge of this field I was able to build a respectable informative site for our membership. With my current duties it is impossible for me to provide the level of service that our membership has come accustomed to. I am confident that there are many qualified members that are capable of bringing added features to the USCA website. If you are interested in filling this important position, being a part of the Public Relations Team, have experience, knowledge and design in Web maintenance, or know of someone that might be encouraged to assume those duties, please contact me. The time has come for the membership to step up and support their organization.

### USCA K-9 Committee:

I am sad to report Mike Andrel recently resigned from the USCA K-9 committee, Thank-You Mike for all of your efforts as chairman; it was a pleasure working with you. Mike Diehl has accepted the duties of the USCA K-9 Chairman; you will recognize Mike from the cover of *Schutzhund USA* as the 2002 WPO Champion. I am confident that Mr. Diehl will do an excellent job, and I look forward to working with him and the USCA K-9 committee.

### New Appointments:

Two new appointments occurred this month. Please welcome both Dawn Hernandez and Blake Fohl to the USCA management team. Both will act in administration and advisory positions in their respective programs and will report directly to the President and Vice President.

Dawn Hernandez is currently developing and presenting plans for a comprehensive USCA Youth Program. Dawn has expressed a great interest in promoting a youth program within USCA; I am very excited about this new program designed for the youth and look forward to our progress in this area. Dawn can be reached at [USAYouths@aol.com](mailto:USAYouths@aol.com).

Blake Fohl is the new Director of Marketing and Public Relations. Blake brings a magnitude of experience in this area and is currently working closely with VP Lyle Roetemeyer in the development of marketing strategies and promotional materials for the USCA. Information regarding the progress in

these areas will be forthcoming in future issues of the newsletter.

## Events:

### USCA Judges College

The conception of the USCA Judges College is to ensure that the USCA membership receives correct, consistent and fair evaluations during performance tests. The USCA Judges College is held yearly in conjunction with the HOT Tournament. USCA is honored to have the SV National Training Director Gunther Diegel attend the 2003 Judges College as a guest speaker. Judges from the German Shepherd Schutzhund Club of Canada are invited to attend. Inclusion of judges from outside of the USCA judges program, such as Herr Diegel, is essential to assure proper interpretation of the VDH rules and to maintain a high level of continuity between USCA judges and approved judges that officiate at our events.

### 2003 HOT Tournament

USCA office is receiving entries for the 2003 HOT Tournament. A large turnout is expected for this year's event based on the numerous calls received from across the country for information about the event. Please visit <http://www.germanshepherddog.com/2003hot/> for all your information needs.

### AWDF "FH" Team

Members that are interested in representing USCA for the AWDF "FH" Team, please complete the AWDF declaration form and send to Al Govednik @ [Algovfh@yahoo.com](mailto:Algovfh@yahoo.com) or WCC Chairman Steve Robinson @ [csents@earthlink.net](mailto:csents@earthlink.net) The deadline for declaration has been extended from the end of December so please send this promptly. The form can be found in the member's area at:

<http://www.germanshepherddog.com/members/officialforms.htm>

USCA Members this is your organization, please consider your involvement in areas of USCA that interest you. Offer your expertise and become involved, whether at the local, regional or national level, USCA needs your input and support.

Comments can be sent to the members' forum found at: <http://www.germanshepherddog.com/usa/index.html> or contact any of your local representatives.

Best Regards,

**Jim Eldex**

USA

## Vice President's Message

The Mid-Eastern Region held their Conformation Championship on December 7 and 8 with USA National Breed Warden, Johannes Grewe presiding. It was a pleasure to attend the event and listen to Judge Grewe's informative critiques with respect to the structure, movement and temperament of the German Shepherd Dog. The host club received several compliments from those in attendance for having selected Judge Grewe to preside at this event. They were appreciative of his friendly demeanor and his willingness

to share his knowledge and training experiences with the GSD spanning four decades.

This weekend also marked Judge Grewe's first official trial as a USA Working Judge. The host club, Cumberland Valley was pleased to host Judge Grewe's first working assignment and wishes him the best in his future assignments.

We should be proud of our organization and in particular those who have stepped forward to share their knowledge and expertise by becoming members of the USA Judges College. Having been a member of USA for the past twenty years, I am well aware of the vast amount of talent and knowledge that many of our members possess. I would like to challenge each of you to make a commitment to the continued growth of OUR organization by entering the USA Apprentice Judges Program for working and/or conformation. Please contact Director of Judges, Mark Przybylski or National Breed Warden, Johannes Grewe for more information on the Apprentice Judges Programs available for both working and conformation judges.

Best regards,

**Lyle Roetmeyer, Vice-President**

USA

## Secretaries Message

### Happy New Year to All!

This being a regional elections year, I would like to ask all newly elected regional officers to provide me with their current address, phone number and also e-mail. All outgoing RDs, Assist. RDs, and Regional BWs should transfer all records to their successors according to the approved Records Retention Policy (30 days). Any questions feel free to call.

**Todd Morganti** Pacific/Northwest RD, resigned for personal reasons on December 12, 2002. Replacing Todd is the Assistant RD, **Ray Blomberg**.

**Bob Adams** was elected the Mideast Assistant RD at a special election meeting on December 7, 2002.

### Approval of the 2003 North American Judges via Mail Ballot.

Tracking – Floyd Wilson USA

Obedience – John Mulligan USA/SV

Protection – Lance Collins GSSCC

Best wishes for a successful training year with your dog.

**Diane Madigan, Secretary**

USA

## National Breed Warden's Message

### USA MUST BECOME A BREED CLUB.

### EVERY LOCAL CLUB NEEDS A BREED WARDEN AND TATTOOER.

For the past years, I have explained to the boards how important it is for our organization to make the move from a primary sport-oriented club to a complete German Shepherd Dog Organization as set forth in our by-laws "to preserve the

German Shepherd Dog in accordance with the breed standard as a working dog.”

We have to overcome the idea that “doing Schutzhund” makes a difference. It is a great sport and offers lots of opportunities, but realistically by itself it does nothing to better the breed. Making the breed better comes from better breeding practices and using those tools provided by the SV to evaluate our breeding stock, and then reading the complete data of those tools to determine which breeding should take place. Once the breedings have taken place then all the data good or bad needs to be collected and shared so better decisions can be made in future breedings. Breeding must be the center of activity in our organization. That means we must create our own dogs rather than leaving this responsibility to other organizations and other countries. Our organization has done more than an outstanding job when it comes to the achievements in bringing the sport of Schutzhund to the United States of America as well as the excellent achievements in international competition. While many of our members would wish for the future to achieve even higher ranking places at any of these events, it is certainly my wish that we could achieve that goal with products of our own breedings. We cannot just enjoy Schutzhund and/or just enjoy Dog Shows. We must breed our own dogs for Schutzhund and for Conformation. For temperament and working abilities as well as for the correct structure.

There is a common goal between the schutzhund enthusiast and the show enthusiast and that is breeding. If we want to step up to what our organization is supposed to be and what the WUSV is expecting our organization to be, we must drastically and now increase our breeding activity. The current numbers are at an alarming low level. We must understand that there is no room in the WUSV without being a Breed Organization. The SV has built that bridge for us and we are a member of the WUSV like every other organization. But the SV has expectations with building that bridge and that expectation is bringing breeding practices for the GSD in America to the result of healthy animals in accordance to the standard. They had in mind the thousands of German Shepherd Dogs born every year in America, products of breedings with no other selection requirements than being pure breed German Shepherd Dogs registered with the Kennel Club. They supported us in the hope that we would make every effort to change that. We made a change in perhaps 1:00% of the overall population in America. For example, if we had been able to accomplish a breeding selection based on HD evaluation in at least a substantial percentage of all German Shepherd Dogs used for breeding, we would have made a big difference in the breeding practices in America.

We must understand that we must protect our organization first, so that we can protect the German Shepherd Dog in America. When you sit on an airplane that is loosing pressure and somebody needs your help, you must first take care of yourself otherwise you cannot take care of somebody that needs your help. Our mission can only be accomplished when our organization is united, strong and stable. We have strong regulations in place and most of all we have a network like no other organization in America. We must utilize this network to accomplish our goal. The local clubs fulfill a very important task in our network. They are the most important link in this

network, because nothing will work without the local clubs. Everybody seems to understand this in terms of training the dogs. But we need to understand that our breeding efforts can only be carried out at the local club level. If there is no local Breed Warden and/or Tattooer, there is no breeding. If our local clubs do not guide a person interesting in breeding, that breeder will not be able to comply with our rules. We need to become an inclusive organization that has more room than just training. This goal can only be achieved at the local level. Please contact your Regional Breed Warden to assist you in electing a Breed Warden and Tattooer in your local Club.  
*I wish all of you a very happy and successful New Year.*  
**Johannes Grewe, National Breed Warden**

---

USA

## ***World Championship Committee Message***

The World Championship Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of Howard Rodriguez as Team Captain for USA's 2003 World Team competing at the WUSV Championship in Ravenna, Italy on October 3 – 8, 2003. Howie brings with him organizational skills, international experience, and a competitive edge. He was the unanimous choice of the Committee. Information regarding travel, accommodations, and details of the event will be published in both Schutzhund USA and on this website as soon as they are available.

Sincerely,

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

---

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.*

Give us your opinion on this comment or send in one of your own, go to the USA Members Forum:

<http://www.germanshepherddog.com/members/Members%20Forum.htm>

---

USA

## December Members Question?

**Martin from CA. writes:**

*USA needs to be more family friendly by making sure that the dates of the major competitions (including the Sieger Show) do not fall on holidays. It is hard for people with children and close-knit families to choose between competition and spending this quality time with their families. The Nationals almost always fall on Halloween causing parents to miss this fun holiday with their kids. The North American usually falls on Mother's Day weekend. The German Shepherd Championship usually falls on Easter. All of these events could easily be rescheduled to avoid these holidays, which may help keep families to remain supportive of the competitors and take the stress off having to choose.*

## Comments From USA Members Forum:

**Kelly from Pennsylvania says,** "... I agree for the major events, such as the Nationals, North Americans, etc. that it would be more convenient for families if the major events were not scheduled on a holiday."

**Diane from Michigan says:** "I think if our National events had a three-week window, this could possibly help when scheduling events around holidays. What also might help is having sufficient notice of the dates and places of the events to give all our members, clubs, competitors, spectators ample time to make arrangements."

**Sue from Tennessee says,** "Agree on the scheduling of big events on/about holiday weekends; family, time and cost are all big factors...."

**Sam from Montana says,** "I agree with Martin from CA regarding scheduling of National events. My son, who is now 8 years old, spent months planning and making stuff for his first Halloween party. It was a big hit and he wants to make it an annual event. Sadly, that means I may not make another SchH3 National for many years. I really want to represent my club at the General Meeting and see the competition, but since it conflicts with my son's favorite holiday of the year (well, besides Christmas!) it looks unlikely."

**Kenny from Illinois says,** "Yes, you have my vote! Regarding changing dates for big events away from holidays to respect family values, is an excellent idea. Easter, Mother's, and Halloween weekends are almost must to spend time with family members... The values that USA carries are greatly appreciated from each of extended family members with this decision (if go through it)."

---

USA

## USA Web Site Links:

Events page

[www.germanshepherddog.com/eventcalendar.htm](http://www.germanshepherddog.com/eventcalendar.htm)

Members Page Sign On

[www.germanshepherddog.com/memberssignupstaging.htm](http://www.germanshepherddog.com/memberssignupstaging.htm)

2003 Seiger Show April 4-6 2003

[www.webhund.com/2003ss/index.htm](http://www.webhund.com/2003ss/index.htm)

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

[www.germanshepherddog.com/2003hot/](http://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 on web at this time)

2003 National Championship

(Not available at this time)

---

USA