

USCA NEWS & VIEWS

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Presidents Message

Recently I spoke with GSDCA President Ken Downing Jr. regarding sending a unified team to the WUSV Championships in 2003. We discussed options on determining the team members, team captains, uniforms and recognizing both organizations on the uniforms. Most importantly we discussed standing together, as Americans, under the United States of America's flag representing our country at the WUSV Championship. Mr. Downing seemed sincere in resolving this matter in a fair and equitable fashion, and I believe his interests, like mine, are to do what is best for our membership and the German Shepherd Dog. While we did come to an agreeable solution, Mr. Downing has requested that on behalf of the GSDCA, Mr. Wayne Davis, President of the GSDCA-WDA, work out the final details of this agreement. Mr. Davis and I have been communicating frequently and will soon have a solution ensuring fair and equal representation from both organizations.

The latest "buzz" is about the AKC's proposed Working dog program and concern that it will affect our organization. There is tremendous amount of conjecture about this issue and very little fact. Before commenting directly about this new program it is better to wait and hear about it directly from their officials so we can deal with the facts. What we do know is that in the past AKC has offered many programs that were already being offered by alternative organizations, such as field trials and agility. Those alternative organizations are still around today

and prospering. By offering similar programs AKC validated what those clubs and organizations were already doing. The AKC used the turn of events on September 11th to market and promote what we have already come to accept over the last 25 years as a fascinating and exciting sport and more importantly one of several tools we use for proper breeding practices in USA. As I previously alluded to in my first message in the January issue of the *Schutzhund USA* "Schutzhund is a great sport, which through our trials lends us the opportunity to excite and educate individuals while promoting the German Shepherd Dog. It is however through our own breeding programs and our conscientious efforts as breeders that will make a difference for the future of our breed in this country." A remarkable road has been set before us by the experience of the SV and other WUSV countries. Sometimes there are difficult obstacles to overcome on this road, hip ratings, conformation ratings, breed surveys, endurance tests, working titles, all about proper temperament. . . form and function. Our organization opted to travel this road not only because it is a well traveled and proven road, which has directly benefited the longevity of the working German Shepherd Dog and other working breeds, but also because that road was nowhere to be seen in this country other than the one our founding members so laboriously created. It is my duty to attentively listen to the AKC proposal because it should always be our consideration to do everything possible to work together for our breed in this country, but a road that leads us away from proper breeding practices is not a consideration our membership nor I should entertain.

The AWDF Championship and Board meeting occurs on March 27th. Diane Madigan and I will be attending the meeting. I would ask all of our members to go to the AWDF website and review the proposal for NEW AWDF Bylaws. You will find them at <http://www.awdf.net/awdfdraftbylaws.html#pgtop>, print them and take them to your club, please include my email address JimElder@attbi.com. I am asking that you and your members send your comments to me about these changes. Hopefully your comments will be helpful in presenting a strong opposition to these proposed bylaws. They clearly indicate the AWDF's inclination to being an organization that is in direct competition with USA and other member breed clubs rather than following the ordinance set forth in the current by laws as the preamble clearly states. "We herein create a federation of working and breed clubs for the working dog breeds in the United States of America. The purpose of our Federation shall be to act on the national level to preserve and protect these working breeds." Furthermore any reference to the FCI has been removed from these proposed bylaws specifically under Article IV of the current bylaws, Section B. In general, all sport systems existing under the auspices of the Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI) may be promoted and conducted by the federation and individual member clubs. Section D. The AWDF and the member clubs shall recognize titles awarded under FCI rules conducted by FCI recognized entities internationally and by member clubs in the United States.

I am very concerned about the current direction the AWDF leadership is proposing and what affect it may have on the



future relationship between the AWDF, USA and the other member breed clubs. Regardless of the outcome, USA will always be there for the breed clubs that have chosen a parallel path, and will support those clubs or individuals in any way we can.

Please join me in welcoming USA Silver Sponsor, Tri-Tronics Company. Tri-Tronics has provided trainers with safe and reliable training aides for over 40 years. Tri-Tronics supports several well-recognized National organizations, they know by giving back to these organizations, we all can ensure that these dog sports will be around for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. Please take the opportunity to stop by the Tri-Tronics booth at any of our National events and thank them for their support.

While there is not a tremendous amount to report at this time over the next 16 weeks I am scheduled to meet with SV President Mr. Henke, the AWDF board and AKC representatives for their working program, attend our Executive Board meeting, the judges college and four USA National Events. I have been invited to attend the American Doberman Association's first ZTP and Show and will officiate at six USA club trials. I am certain there will be plenty to report to you in the coming months. Our National events season officially opens with the 23 entries at the HOT tournament and I wish you all perfect and pleasurable training for the upcoming year and hope to see you all soon at the Sieger Show and GSD Championship.

Best Regards,

Jim Elder

USA

Vice President's Message

No updated news.

Lyle Roetemeyer, Vice-President

USA

Secretaries Message

With 6 inches of snow on the ground, it's hard to believe that spring is around the corner. The month of February was a month of planning. Four National Events, the Executive Board Meeting, a club trial, and the AWDF Championship, the spring calendar is beginning to look like a bingo card.

The EB decided that the state of Alabama would best be served by the Southeast Region if it was included in the Eastern Zone of the National Events Rotation. The Southeast Region was previously divided between the East and Central.

This move will provide continuity for members of the Southeast Region.

Another "Call to Arms" or maybe "Call to Keyboards" is more appropriate. Last month I received one response for help with fill-in forms for our website. We need to take our trial forms into the 21st Century. I'd like to thank Sharyn Baker for volunteering last month. Plenty of help is needed on our trial scoresheets. If you have any experience with writing in Adobe or Excel please contact me. Diatbda@aol.com

Think Spring,

Diane Madigan, Secretary

USA

Treasurer's Message

February brought us good news from the IRS.

Last year with the generous contributions of many of our members we paid off our tax liability earlier than our installment agreement with the IRS called for. Upon making the final payment we wrote a letter to the IRS asking that they consider rebating the penalties they had assessed us since we paid the obligation in full before it was due under the agreement. On February 4th we received a check from the IRS for over \$ 3,600 which represented a full refund of all penalties.

Best Regards,

Bill Plumb, Treasurer

USA

Director of Judge's Message

Just a few brief notes from the Judges side. Many of our members are still saying that they are having difficulties getting judges for events and that in some instances judges are not returning their calls. I will talk to the other judges about this particular problem and try and make sure that you all get replies in a timely manner.

One thing that may help is that many times we arrive at an event (two-day) and find out when we get there that the trial could have been successfully completed in one-day with very little difficulty. I think there are a few judges who would accept more trials if they were scheduled as a one-day event instead of a two-day, especially if Sunday was trial day. It would also cut expense for the club, make it easier for competitors to travel to the trial and also still enable the judge to do some of the things that can only be done on the weekend. If all of the clubs would consider this option, I am sure that getting judges for your trials may not be such an ordeal.

On a more serious note, from time to time, I get complaints on the way a judge has acted at a trial or something they have said or done. Many times all I get is a phone call to which I ask if they wish to make a formal complaint and if so, please write a letter detailing the complaint and sign it. This seems to stop most right in their tracks; there will be no recrimination for filing complaints with a letter. The judge will see the letter most certainly, but I will take great pains to make sure that all instances to the name of the complainant and any references when possible to the particular trial are edited out.

When I do not get a signed letter I cannot look at it as a complaint if the person was not willing to stand behind their accusation with facts. I do confer with the judges in instances such as these and then try and get corroborating stories so that it can be determined what the facts are and to try and make sure that it is not just a personal vendetta against one person or the other. Getting someone to validate a complaint is usually harder than getting the original complaint in writing.

Just a few things for all of you to think about and consider, hope to see all of you at a few trials this year and here's to the success you are all hoping for.

Mark F. Przybylski, USA Director of Judges

USA

National Breed Warden's Message

No updates.

Johannes Grewe, National Breed Warden

USA

World Championship Committee Message



No Updated news

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:

Orville from AL states: What benefit does the USA get from the AWDF? It is apparent that the

AWDF will never be recognized as anything other than a working club by the FCI. I don't understand the why the due into the AWDF have jumped from \$350 to \$3800. I could understand it if the AWDF had a chance to be recognized by the FCI. Is there anything that has happened in the last six months that warrants such an increase?

Diane from MI asks: My question is for the National Breed Warden:

Is there a maximum age a puppy can be tattooed without anesthesia?

Shinteetah from IN asks: Wasn't the rule book once online, with all the details for trials and earning titles? I think this would be a nice feature. Thanks!

Bob from MA regarding membership & rule book asks: this is jst an idea , how about giving new members a discount on rule books - such as 60\$ for single and 20 for rule book as a package , an allow the new member decide which he or she wants -

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

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

<http://www.wksc.org/>

2003 National Championship

(Not available at this time)

USA