



Message From The President

Karl Blakely



Greetings All!

The New Year is right around the corner. As we close 2012, we can look back at another successful year for SPDTC. All of our shows went off without a hitch, and our obedience and agility programs continue to prosper. As always, just like everyone's household budget, the Board struggles with maintaining our excellent programs and keeping within our financial means. One thing we are looking into is adding another agility trial to our calendar. The AKC recently increased the number of trial days allowed per club from 8 to 12. We are planning on adding a day to our August Trial and are currently in the application process to add another show starting in February 2014. Besides being very popular, our agility trials have been a lifesaver with regard to helping our bottom line.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Club's annual awards banquet, scheduled for Saturday, February 23rd.

Once again, the banquet will be held at *Joseph's*. Please be sure to get your reservations into Marcia or Carol. Equally important is to remember to record your dog's accomplishments on the "brags board" in the club kitchen area. The annual awards banquet is the time we elect new board members. If you are interested in being a member of the Board of Directors, or you know of a fellow club member who might be a good candidate, please contact Sharon Hodgens-Wood or Camay Blakely.

Finally, since we are closing out another year, I would like to thank everyone who helps keep our club running. This list is long and I can't mention everyone, but I would like to give special thanks to all of the Board members, Training Directors, Instructors, Show Trial Chairs, Committee members and volunteer workers. It takes many hands to keep the Club running smoothly. I hope to see you at one of our events in 2013.



Director of Training Report Greg Kirmeier



We are at the closing of another successful year at Saint Paul Dog Training. A quick glance at the New Titles listing in the kitchen area will show you how much our members have achieved this year - Congratulations to everyone!

Obedience classes continue to do well. Ron's program is running smoothly and our students continue to meet their goals in both competition and domestic obedience.

We are looking to improve the Obedience training area with the addition of wall mirrors to help students observe their work. There are a few logistics to this, but look for these helpful tools to be in place some time in the New Year.

We are considering options for an Obedience Seminar in the coming year. Support for the last workshop (Laura Romanik) was somewhat light, even though those participating found it very helpful.

I would love to hear from Instructors and students as to what would make for a good seminar, and who we should bring in.

Agility classes are full and running smoothly. I was extremely pleased to see how well our students did at our November 2012 trial - the Novice and Open handlers in particular. Kudos to Camay and all the Instructors.

There have been some equipment upgrades. We bought 2 more tunnels, and added a new teeter to our set. If you haven't noticed the new teeter, check it out. It is very light, fully rubberized, and height-adjustable (for use in training). It is also locally made. so if you have a teeter on your Christmas shopping list, I can point you to a quality source! As with our previous upgrades of equipment, the old equipment was sold and the money rolled back into the SPDTC budget.

The Agility program hosted a weekend seminar with Barb Davis in October. Barb brought the participants a variety of fresh insights. She worked beautifully with students at all levels, and I think the participants went away excited about their new skills.

We are currently working on a plan to offer some winter weather training options for our students. near future. Keep an eye out for announcements concerning Open floor time in the near future.

My heartfelt thanks goes out to the Instructors and students in both Obedience and Agility. If our Club is a success, it is because you make it a success.

Saint Paul Dog Training Club



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MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Above Photo: Will & Marcia Koukkari MACH5
Cache Oct. 6th, 2012



Above Photo: Carol Lauren-Schmidt with Casanova



Above Photo: Jon Scandurra & Gemma

Right Photo: MACH6 Indy & Del Mehlhaff
Nov. 2012



Left Photo: Michelle & Anne OS title
Hilary & Raleigh NJ title
Sharon & Dublin NS Title
Bev & Seth NSP Title



Seminar Review



Magical, Mystical Dogs and a Barb Davis Seminar By Ginny Hayes

I sat down at my computer with the idea to write an article sharing some of the wonderful insights and knowledge I gained from the Barb Davis seminar held at our club on the last weekend of October. One look at my notes and I was convinced I could not convey in any one article all I learned from spending an amazing Saturday and Sunday with Barb.

What came to mind was this question: How do the great handlers run a magical, mystical, once-in-a-lifetime dog not once or even twice during their careers, but every single time they set out with a new puppy?

I think they have a true eye for agility, a gift hallmarked by the ability to train in exceedingly small segments and then put it all together, creating the total package as if by magic. Voilà, here comes another AKC USA World Agility Team dog. This holds true for great handlers in obedience and other canine venues.

Attending seminars is an added expense to an already expensive sport. Why spend the extra time and money when maybe all you really want to do is have fun? My answer is simple. The better you are as a handler, the more fun you and your dog will have doing agility. And seminars are definitely a great way to become a better handler.

As an agility instructor and competitor, I'm excited about learning through the insights and sheer genius of the world's best handlers. I want their agility wisdom and experience focused on my dog and me. I really enjoy watching and understanding how minute training steps unfold and take hold. I can make those shrewd training practices part of my agility life so that I continue growing as a handler and instructor. Best of all, my dog grows and has more fun right along with me.

Do not be intimidated by our agility gurus. They love agility and they love to help the inexperienced, the nervous and, in some cases, the bewildered. Maybe for your first time out on the seminar circuit, you could try auditing and just take notes. Watch the handlers and working dogs in attendance. See what the presenter does to help them out. You might find you have the same problems. You also might discover some superb solutions.

For me, the best way to experience a seminar is through a working spot. I can only afford a certain number of seminars each year, but I always find I've made a wise investment.

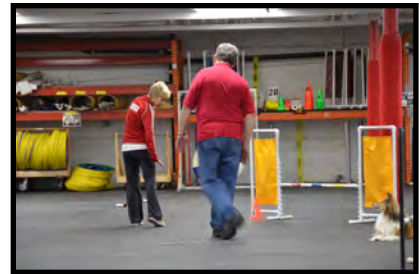


Seminar Review Continued

I have never left a seminar without learning something valuable and feeling motivated.

St. Paul Dog Training Club holds at least one agility and one obedience seminar every year. As a member, you get a break on the price. Our club is a great place to start your seminar experience. You'll be among friends and instructors you know. Our club is a familiar haven for both you and your dog.

I hope to see you at the next agility seminar. Get ready to be inspired!



St Paul Dog Training Club's Annual Meeting and Banquet will be held on Saturday February 23, 2013.

Come and see what it is all about, a little friendly conversation and time with other club members.

Make sure to fill out the paperwork (see information regarding banquet in this newsletter) and mail or drop off at the club.





Knee Surgery by Donna Sonnek



This thing we do...dog agility. We thrive on the rush of threading the agility labyrinth in tight connection with our dog. It is a deep part of our life. When physical limitations get in the way of this activity we experience real loss. This is not one person's story. It is a story that is lived out in many of its variations by all agility competitors.

In Strike's sixth year he and I finally came into sync in the agility ring, earning an additional 11 QQs. But there had also been a slow deterioration of my knees, then the knee braces, the lose of smooth function and the cutting pain that stopped the running. Through it all Strike kept adapting by running further away and holding contacts for far too many seconds while his pal

struggled, then finally by embracing the opportunity to run with Jacque and Toni.

Two wonderful total knee replacements by Dr. Weiss and lots of intense physical therapy later, Strike and I tried a practice agility run. It ended at obstacle 3 with the handler piled on the ground with a broken clavicle and a future of rotator cuff surgery and more PT. We were finally able return to agility after a 17 month hiatus. I can not describe sensation of seeing the pure joy on Strike's face as we ran together again. The second weekend out the proverbial stars aligned as Strike and I worked through 4 clean runs to finish our MACH 1 at the MAC trial. The real prize? ... the joy of running with one's heart dog again!





2012 SPDTC Awards Order Form

USE ONE FORM PER DOG (turn in by Feb 1, 2013)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

(owner/trainers/handlers –Specify Which)

Address: _____ Email: _____

Membership Date: _____

There are two methods for submitting awards/orders forms:

1. Mail to SPDTC Annual Awards, P O Box 2443, Inver Grove Hts, MN 55076
2. Deposit in mail box of Marcia Koukkari at the club (near front desk).

LIST ALL TITLES EARNED IN 2012 – Circle the THREE title pins you want SPDTC to award for this dog. You may purchase additional pins for titles earned. In the box at the bottom of this form, list any pins you wish to buy in addition to the three that SPDTC will award. Additional pins are \$10.00 each.

Dog's Name		Eligible for Dual Performance or Championship Award	
Venue	Agility Titles	Obedience/Rally Titles	Special: HIT,VCD, win at National Event
AKC			
UKC			
USDAA			
NADAC			
CPE			
CKC			

Volunteer participation for at least two SPDTC events, programs or projects in 2012 is required to receive awards. My Volunteer service in 2012 includes:

1. _____
2. _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Your membership allows for up to three pins per dog for titles earned. You may purchase any additional title pins you want at the cost of \$10 per pin. I wish to purchase these additional title pins for my dog.

List: _____

Title pins & Quantities Purchased: _____ X \$10. = _____ Total Enclosed



**St Paul Dog Training Club's Annual Meeting
and banquet will be held on
Saturday February 23, 2013.**

See Below for details, including costs and times.

Annual Membership Dues

Membership dues are payable between October 1, 2012 and the annual meeting date (which is February 23, 2013) for the current membership year. If you joined the club on or after October 1, 2012 you **DO NOT** need to pay dues until 2013. Everyone else owes dues in the amount of \$15 for a single membership, or \$20 for a family membership. Note: Club policy states that junior handlers and their parents must purchase a family membership. Please fill out the membership application and send in with your payment to the club.

Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet Reservations

When:	Saturday, February 23, 2013	Cocktail Hour:	5:30 – 6:30 PM (Cash Bar)
		Buffet Dinner:	6:30 – 7:30 PM
Where:	Joseph's Grill 140 South Wabasha St Paul MN 55107	Meeting:	7:30 – 9:30 PM
		Price:	\$20.00 per person

Reservations are due by Wednesday Noon, February 19, 2013

Name(s):	_____	Number of People Attending:	_____
	_____	Total \$ enclosed @ \$20 per person:	_____

Mail forms and Check payable to SPDTC to:

St Paul Dog Training Club
PO Box 2443
Inver Grove Heights MN 55076



St. Paul Dog Training Club, established in 1953, is licensed by the American Kennel Club.

St Paul Dog Training Club
219 13th Ave South
South St Paul, MN 55075

Mailing Address:
P O Box 2443
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

Membership Application

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Other Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Single Membership \$15.00 Family Membership \$20.00

Family Members: _____

In which events would you be willing to work? Obedience Rally Agility

Do you have a special talent (plumbing, carpentry, and painting) that you are willing to help at the club with?
