

TRAP FALLS KENNEL CLUB NEWSLETTER



January-February 2014

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AKC Delegate

Chris Sweetwood 877-6157

Canine Legislation Rep.

Jill Bregy

MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be February 4, 2014 meeting will be at Apple Rehab/Shelton Lakes at 7:30 p.m. Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The March 4, 2014 meeting will be at Apple Rehab/Shelton Lakes at 7:30 p.m. Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

CALENDAR 2014

February 4-meeting

March 4- meeting

April 1- meeting/guest speaker-East Coast

Assistance Dogs

May 6- meeting

June 3- meeting

July-picnic, date to be determined

August 5- meeting

September 2- meeting

September- RDOD, date to be determined

October 7- meeting

November 4- meeting

December- Christmas Party-date to be announced

AKC BAILEY AWARDS

Trap Falls continues on its high road of recognition from the AKC. At the December delegates meeting in Florida, Trap Falls was honored with two new awards called "Bailey Awards". Below is the description of the Bailey Awards,

The Bailey Awards, named for AKC's mascot Bailey the Beagle, were created this year to recognize AKC member clubs and their members for outstanding communications, public relations and outreach initiatives. The Awards this year were selected by an AKC committee. There were 7 awards and 19 total recipients

The **Best Club PR** award is given to the club that accomplishes outstanding promotion of club events in local and/or national press. **The 2013 Bailey goes to Trap Falls Kennel Club.** The club's 2013 activities

included a visit to the Multicultural Magnet School in Bridgeport, Connecticut with their Doggie Safety program and a very successful AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day. Promotion and coverage of the club's activities appeared in the Shelton Herald, Valley Gazette, Amity Observer, and Connecticut Post.

The **Best Promotion of the AKC Community** award is given to the club or club member who best shares the mission of AKC and its affiliates with local and/or national media. **The 2013 Bailey goes to Chris Sweetwood, Delegate from the Trap Falls Kennel Club.** Chris worked with AKC Reunite and local clubs and fanciers to assist the Newtown Police Department's K-9 unit in obtaining a new police dog after the retirement and passing of their previous police dog, Baro. The AKC Reunite community presented the new dog St. Michael to Newtown in a special ceremony, which was covered in MSNBC the Newtown Bee, Shelton Herald and Shelton Patch.



Cindy Sherman, Recording Secretary and Chair of Public Relations with the Best Club PR medal and Chris Sweetwood, Board member and AKC Delegate with the medal for Best Promotion of the AKC Community

Wags and Brags

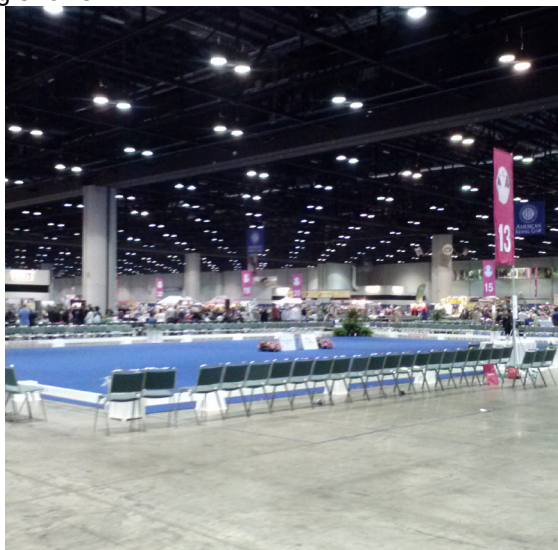


CH Crajo's More Mine Than Yours, CGC, RN (at 10.5 years old), made Jane very proud by taking best veteran in Show at the Queensboro in October 2013, beating 10 other veterans under a sporting judge.

AKC Eukanuba Dog Show
Orlando, Florida Dec 13 – 15, 2013

Escaping the freezing temperatures of New England, Ron and I headed South in our motorhome and arrived in Orlando, FL on December 11, 2013, to a much milder climate. We set up alongside 120 additional motorhomes. Lauren and Chris arrived the same day and stayed in a hotel, which was secured by the AKC to cater to the AKC ACE Award winners.

The site of the Orlando Convention Center was enormous with private shuttles from the motor home lot to the convention hall. There were acres of hotels and parking. This was clearly the Emmy Awards of dog shows.



Eukanuba trophy

The convention hall was very inviting with convenient maps and kiosks everywhere you looked which directed you to hundreds of locations within the million square feet of show space. The AKC booth was right in the middle of the convention space. While Dock Diving, Obedience and the Agility competition were separated from the main rings, they were well within walking distance. We all found our own little corner of space where we set up camp for the next four days.



On Friday December 13, 2013, GrCh Wllslands Salt Rocks St James Guinez CGC TT went OH BOB (owner handler-Best of Breed) along with a group 4 ribbon in the Working group out of 27 dogs! Ron and I went there with the intention of winning on Friday and we did! We could have left the next day and been happy!



The Saturday showing of Chris and Lauren's Spinone Italiano, Ch. Drago Castellano of Trolbo MH CD RE CD JHR THD CGC TT, earned an Award of Excellence in the Breed ring.



Lauren, Drago and AKC VP Dough Ljunggren

Saturday night's festivities included the finals for the International Dog Show and the presentation of the AKC ACE Award to Drago. It was very impressive to see all the ACE Award winners that night along with some stunning top-ranked show dogs from around the world.

Many friends from the dog world were present and good times, and wins were had by all. (Submitted by Laura Wells)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Dues notices will be going out at the end of January and are due by March 1.

Please renew promptly or let me know if you are not renewing. Eve Skrabl 203-732-5939

sableskrabl@comcast.net

CLUB MEMBERS NEEDED for April Show

We need stewards for the Obedience and Rally rings for the April show. If you are interested in stewarding please contact Lauren Friedman at LMF13@att.net or call her at (203) 877-6157. No experience needed

TFKC WINS AKC COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

It's time to Celebrate as once again Trap Falls is being honored by the AKC for the role that we are playing in the community. This award is for the 2013 Responsible Dog Ownership day held in September at Warsaw Park in Ansonia. This is a big effort that we work on together but we always ask for more club member participation. While we haven't chosen the date (always held in September) or location for 2014 we do need club participation. Step forward and be part of the team that makes it such a great success! Become a team player.

The AKC press release is listed below which details our accomplishment. This in the third (2008 and an Honorable Mention in 2011) time we have received this honor.

AKC Delegate News

Trap Falls Kennel Club, Northwest Obedience Club, Inc. and Black Hills Dog Training Club Honored with AKC Community Achievement Award

(Thursday, January 16, 2014)

New York, NY –

Trap Falls Kennel Club (TFKC), Northwest Obedience Club, Inc. (NOCI) and Black Hills Dog Training Club (BHDTC) have each been honored with an AKC Community Achievement Award for the fourth quarter of 2013 for hosting exceptional AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day events. The AKC Community Achievement Awards support and recognize outstanding public education and

legislation efforts of AKC-affiliated clubs, AKC-recognized federations and their members. The AKC selects award recipients who promote responsible dog ownership within their communities or who have successfully introduced, monitored and responded to legislative issues affecting dog ownership.

Trap Falls Kennel Club (Connecticut)

Trap Falls Kennel Club (TFKC) held its 10th annual AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day event "Pawz in the Park" on September 15th in Ansonia, Connecticut. The event attracted a crowd of over 2,000 people and their dogs from surrounding towns in Connecticut, and from as far away as Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York State. The club offered demonstrations and discussions of AKC programs, Canine Good Citizen® testing, a Parade of Breeds, AKC Rally® and Obedience matches, 42 Meet the Breeds booths, 25 vendor booths, a Children's area and a kennel club information booth that assisted people in completing paperwork for the AKC Reunite program and dog registration.

The club encouraged attendees to bring items to donate to a local shelter, and by the end of the event, TFKC had enough shelter items to fill two SUVs. The club also collected donations through raffle ticket sales and donation jars. The funds were donated to "Hand for a Paw," an organization providing urban dogs and their owners with a mobile clinic, education, and a food pantry for the low income and elderly. Publicity for the event included a feature spot on the Channel 12 News "Pet Talk" program, articles in the *Shelton Herald*, *Connecticut Post* and *New Haven Register*, and courtesy public service announcements on WICC AM radio. Mayor Della Volpe of Ansonia also signed a proclamation declaring September 15th to be Responsible Dog Ownership Day in Ansonia, Connecticut.

Northwest Obedience Club, Inc. (Illinois)

Northwest Obedience Club, Inc. (NOCI) hosted its AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day event on September 22, 2013 in Cary, Illinois, offering low-cost microchipping, engraved ID tags and free "lost dog" photos, among many other activities and programs. Visitors could play "Guess the Breed" with NOCI club members and Boy Scouts had the opportunity to earn their Dog Care merit badge at the event. Demonstrations helped all attendees learn about Obedience, AKC Rally®, Nosework, Carting and Agility. Information was also provided about the Canine Good Citizen® and S.T.A.R. Puppy Programs and how to get started in therapy dog work. Club member Tim Dyer said, "Our members and visitors had a great time together, all marveling at the wonderful opportunity to learn about Responsible Dog Ownership while enhancing the bond with their dogs."

Pre-event coverage appeared in the *Barrington Courier-Review*, *Chicago Tribune* and the *CBS Chicago* website. Photos of the event appeared in the *Northwest Herald* and Cary Village Mayor Mark Kownick proclaimed Sunday, September 22, 2013 as Responsible Dog Ownership Day.

Black Hills Dog Training Club (South Dakota)

Black Hills Dog Training Club (BHDTTC) joined Region 4H Dog Project to host its 9th annual RDO Day on Saturday, September 21, 2013. The public was invited to bring their dogs and participate in an introduction to basic obedience training, Canine Good Citizen® testing, Pet Pilates, Agility and AKC Rally®.

Local groomers provided hands-on training in proper grooming techniques for different kinds of dog coats as well as toenail clipping, while local vet clinics educated visitors on vaccinations, parasites and answered many questions. The spay/neuter clinic Operation Pets was also on-site to greet the public and answer questions. Club members encouraged kids to become involved with their dogs by showing the safety around dogs DVD "The Dog Listener" and by hosting a kids coloring contest.

BHDTTC advertised the event in newspapers throughout the state of South Dakota and were invited to do radio interviews on KIMM 106.7 and 1150 AM. Rapid City Mayor Sam Kookier proclaimed the month of September as Responsible Dog Ownership month.

["We depend on AKC clubs to help us educate the public about responsible dog ownership, and these three groups hosted highly successful, well-attended AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Days in 2013," said Lisa Peterson, AKC Director of Communications. "The important work done by the members of these clubs will go a long way to help turn dogs owners in their communities into responsible dog owners."](#)

Nominations for the AKC Community Achievement Award are accepted year-round. Honorees receive a certificate of appreciation and a \$1,000 check payable to their AKC club or AKC-recognized federation to further public education and government relations efforts.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

-- The Way Forward in 2014 --

New York, NY - Everyone who has ever produced a litter of puppies knows this time of year brings holiday cards from puppy buyers with heartwarming photos and most-welcome news about the progress and antics of those puppies during the year. The cards are both informative and inspiring as the breeder considers their accomplishments and what they hope to achieve in the year to come. With that as my

guidance, I will first share some news about this year. As I mentioned in my November report, this has been a year of relentless positive action. The dozens of initiatives and innovations outlined in that report, along with a number of others throughout the year, have yielded growth in several areas. Assuming December achieves budgeted levels, we expect to have stronger revenue than 2012 - reaching \$58 million this year. Staff managed expenses extremely well which should yield an operating profit also stronger than 2012 and should be approximately \$7 million for 2013. Our balance sheet has also strengthened due to good investment performance and prudent protection of cash flow.

The American Kennel Club has grown in participation by clubs and exhibitors during 2013.

*46 new clubs chose to join with the AKC bringing the total to 5,090 licensed and member clubs.

*Those 5,090 clubs created 341 new events for a total of 22,750 events this year - the largest number in the history of the AKC.

*Exhibitors participated more than ever, bringing 25,323 new entries through October for a projected total of about 3.2 million this year - the largest number in the history of the AKC.

*Breed recognition continues to grow with fully recognized breeds and varieties up by three for a total of 190 and FSS added one for a total of 64.

However, as good as our overall performance has been this year we do have several significant areas of concern.

Participation in Conformation, Obedience and Rally declined in the past year. As I stated in my November report, the issues impacting our sport today have been clearly identified and discussed. They can be collected into three categories - societal, economic, and legislative. While the apparent reasons are simple to discover, the solutions are significantly more complex. It will take very sophisticated marketing to achieve our goal of bringing more participants to our events and more members to our clubs. We are not only up for addressing it - we are capable of delivering it.

Our litter and individual dog registrations continue to decline - although at a much reduced rate. Some progress is being made, but we still have much work to do.

We have initiated some programs to help breeders and we have several in development. The AKC Breeder of Merit program now has more than 10,000 participants. These are breeders who are members in AKC clubs, participate in AKC events, adhere to the health test guidelines of their parent clubs, and register their litters with AKC. This program has contributed significantly to helping slow the decline of litter registrations. We are currently evaluating

programs that will impact the other 80% of breeders who register litters with AKC, but do not qualify for the Breeder of Merit program. In addition, we added Breeder of the Year recognition for 12 sports this year - a clear demonstration of the importance of breeders.

An important aspect of litter registration is expanding the base of educated breeders. Today marks the inaugural AKC Breeder-to-Breeder Seminar - an opportunity to learn from the experts as they share the thinking behind their successful breeding programs. The workshops are live today and will be available on AKC.org in the near future.

In addition to mentors, the most valuable resource a breeder can have is a veterinarian with an expertise in reproduction. We have formed a strategic alliance with the Theriogenology Foundation and the Society for Theriogenology to help ensure future repro vets for breeders by funding the first ever residencies in small animal reproduction in the United States. We currently have proposals from Auburn University, the University of California-Davis, and the Veterinary Hospital at the University of Pennsylvania for residencies beginning with the 2014 academic year.

Helping breeders find homes for their puppies and buyers find puppies for their homes is the goal of the newly expanded effort behind the complete redesign of the AKC online breeder classifieds making this resource the go-to place for prospective puppy buyers. We will be launching the new site, complete with a new name and a strong marketing program, later in 2014.

Making individual dog registration more desirable to the general public is a primary focus. We know that communicating AKC's Good Works increases the likelihood of registration by about 4%. We will continue to tell that powerful story as part of the registration process. In addition, we are exploring a new concept that adds value to registration - one which has a direct benefit to the dog and owner beyond participating in events. We will be testing that idea in 2014.

We are reaching out to the 99 million dog owners who have not discovered us yet through a variety of communication opportunities. This year we added a million friends we didn't have before through our efforts on Facebook and our AKC Dog Lovers blog. We are beginning to drive our story through exciting new content, including videos and Woofipedia by AKC - a new website (www.woofipedia.com) aimed squarely at the 99 million. As we persevere for responsible and reasonable dog legislation, our new friends will help protect our rights to own and breed our dogs. We have begun to see that in the number of legislators who have signed up to be Honorary

Chairs for AKC Meet the Breeds in New York - up 25 this year to 113.

Our way forward in 2014 demands delivering true customer focus for both our current and potential customers; unleashing greater innovation throughout everything we do; creating relevance and motivation in everything we offer; and continuing and improving on our Good Works. We plan to use every effort to do all that by challenging ourselves every day to do the right thing, not the easy thing, in everything we do.

I am positive we can do that. And as Ellen DeGeneres says, "It makes a big difference when you stay positive."

Sincerely,

Alan Kalter
Chairman

AKC CGC

The AKC's Canine Good Citizen program trains dogs from Puppies to the Community.

The following is the series of steps that provides a comprehensive 3 level training program for the dog and handler team.

AKC STAR Puppy: The first step in Training, You and your puppy attend at least 6 weeks of class to earn the STAR certificate and gold medal. This training is up to one year old.

AKC Canine Good Citizen: Well-mannered dogs and Responsible Owners: The AKC's Canine Good Citizen program is recognized as the gold standard for dog behavior. After passing a 10 step CGC test, the dog and handler team can earn an official AKC title. Dogs with the CGC title have the suffix, CGC after their names.

AKC Community Canine: The new Advanced CGC. The AKC Community Canine extends the skills learned in the CGC to the community. The AKC Community Canine is the advanced level of AKC's Canine Good Citizen program. As with the CGC test there is an additional 10 step test of skills that dogs must pass to earn the official AKC Community Title. Dogs who pass the AKC Community Canine test are eligible to earn the CGCA title.

The requirements for this advanced title are:

- 1) Must already have the CGC title
- 2) Must have an AKC number (registration, PAL or Partners number)

To review any of the test requirements you can visit the AKC.org website

DEADLINE for the March- April newsletter is March 7, 2014

Editors Comments: Please send photos (Photos must be sent as jpeg attachments) directly to me at csweetwood@att.net. Articles should be in MS Word or simply written in your e-mail. Remember to include "TFKC" in the heading or it may never get opened due the high SPAM content these days.



Trap Falls shed cleaning courtesy of Cindy Richardson and Mae Elliott.



2013 TFKC Christmas Party