

Paw Prints



The Newsletter of the Rand Park Dog Training Club, Inc.

February/March 2019

Message from the Paw Prints editor:

Ten Years! A Decade! It's time to pass the torch along

The March 2009 issue of Paw Prints is being emailed to you along with this issue. It was one of the first newsletters I did as Rand Park's newsletter editor. I hope you will take time to read it, or at least skim through it.

It's hard for me to believe that ten years have gone by since I started wearing the Paw Prints editor hat. But my granddaughter, the little girl in the photo on the front page of the 2009 issue is now almost 17, and these days she can often be seen driving the family jeep on Park Ridge streets, hopefully not over the speed limit. So there's no denying those ten years! Children get older - we don't, right? But seriously, looking through Paw Prints issues from all those years has been a pleasant stroll down memory lane.

I've enjoyed doing the newsletter, but it now is time for someone else to take over.

A lot has changed since 2009. Sadly, many of the dogs that were then part of our lives are gone - dogs just don't live long enough - and some members also have passed away. One of them, Margo Milde, used to write a lengthy legislative report every month that kept us informed of important dog legislation, information that we now get online. Kathy Hahn, too, is gone. Kathy and Joe used to take care of mailing the paper copies of Paw Prints that were sent to all members in the past. I was grateful to Kathy and Joe for taking care of this tedious task. Now most members get the newsletter by email.

Life has changed, mostly for the better, I believe. With all the information that now is online, it's easy to find interesting things to publish in Paw Prints. The Internet has been a big help to me. And I've been able to count on members, Barb Krynski for one, to send me meaningful information for the newsletter - thank you Barb! The Tracking program sends reports, with photos, about their tests. And the "brags" section continues to be a very full, busy part of the newsletter. Our members have a lot to brag about.

I have appreciated the support I have gotten from club members through the years. I'm sure they will be as helpful to a new Paw Prints editor.

Ursula

Inside

Spring is Around the Corner - Anniversaries - Welcome New Members - Slate of Officers -
Trial Donations Request - Brags - Jobs at Trials - Awards Banquet Information - Raffle -
Banquet Reservation Form - Show Tips - Trial Tips - Why do Dogs Heel on the Left?

Rand Parkers take heart: Spring is right around the corner

I just can't get my head around the fact that it's 2019! Every time I write a check, which isn't often these days what with all the automatic ways bills now get paid, (or maybe I should say the way money gets sucked out of my checking account) I have to stop and remind myself that it is no longer 2018. Where did the year go? It seems to have vaporized!

Although the weather is still cold, take heart in the fact that Spring is right around the corner, and Rand Parkers will soon be enjoying another wonderful Awards Banquet, this year on May 5. Marion Meseth is again planning a terrific event for us. Look for information about the Banquet and the reservation form in this issue of Paw Prints.

The Awards Banquet is always big time fun! This year there will again be a raffle, and if it's anything like previous years, which I'm sure it will be, some terrific stuff will be raffled off. Information about the raffle is also in this issue of the newsletter.

Members are again asked to help at our Obedience and Rally Trials, this year on April 27 and 28. (See information in this issue of Paw Prints). And Rand Park members and their dogs are always a popular addition to the Park Ridge Memorial Day Parade, an event members are invited to take part in. Watch for information.

So while the cold that's been gripping the Chicago area has had people huddling inside, there's lots to look forward to in the months ahead. Participating in club activities will make being a member of Rand Park DTC more enjoyable and rewarding. Join in!

Ursula

The following anniversaries will be recognized at the Awards Banquet.

25 Year: Gloria and Bill Urquhart, Jan Long, Ruth Shields, Barb and Mike Larsen, Sally Bushwaller
10 Years: Karen Korab

Welcome new members ...

Barbara Stelk
Nancy Henderson
Carol Schmidt
Kirsten Majeski

We hope you and your dog(s) will benefit from your association with Rand Park Dog Training Club. Rand Park is a very active, busy organization. Participating in club activities will make your membership more beneficial and, we believe, more enjoyable.

And your help is needed to ensure their success.

2019-2020 Slate of Officers

ADVISOR to the Board: Lois Breslow
CHAIRMAN of the Board: Marion Meseth
PRESIDENT: Jean Eremo
VICE PRESIDENT: Lois Leidahl-Marsh
SECRETARY: Linda Forman
TREASURER & INSURANCE: Gloria Blanton
ASSISTANT TREASURER: Teena Horne
Board of Directors:
Lin Hartnett
Jean Eremo
Kathy Baureis
Mary Laurie (New 2019-2020)
Sonja Lund (New 2019-2020)
Don Fester (New 2019-2020)

Be sure to attend the meeting on February 26.

Members in good standing (members who have paid their membership dues) will be eligible to vote.

As stated in the Club By-laws:

(e) Additional nominations may be made at the membership meeting next preceding the annual meeting provided that the person so nominated does not decline when his name is proposed and provided, further, that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, his proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one office. However, no person who has declined the Committee's nomination may be nominated at said membership meeting for the same position.

(f) In the event an incumbent Director at large is nominated for another office and is elected, his Directorship shall be deemed vacant and the membership shall nominate and elect his successor at such annual meeting.

Obedience and Rally Trial Donations

Monetary donations to the General Fund are needed. Any amount is appreciated. Donations are used to help pay for all the Ribbons, High In Trial and High Combined prizes and any placement awards offered at our trials. Please complete the form below and mail it, along with your check, to Gloria Blanton. **She must receive your donation no later than April 15 for your name to be included in the trial catalog.**

Please fill out the form below and mail it, with your donation, to Gloria Blanton.

Donation to the 2019 Obedience and Rally Trial General Fund

Name(s): _____ Amount _____

Mail to: Gloria Blanton, 168 W. Kathleen Dr., Des Plaines, IL 60018

Rand Parkers have a lot to brag about

Good news:



From Karyn McCoy

Buddy and I went to Yorkville Paws & Claws barn hunt on Saturday. The sunrise was beautiful peaking up over a blanket of snow as the temp read -11 on the car. Buddy managed to find his four rats, and he got his 2nd leg at the senior level. Good enough for 1st place to boot. Buddy is in the photo on the left

From Lori Buckley

Paisley is finally registered with AKC and received her CGC and CGCA official titles.

From JoAnn Neville

Lilly (Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier) received her C-Wags scent work Level

1 title, CW-SP (scent patrol) on 1/20 at For Your K9. This is the very first title for my timid rescue girl. So proud of her.

That's Lilly in the photo on the right, relaxing underneath her ribbons.



Congratulations



**YOUR club
needs YOU!**

There are A LOT of jobs that need to be filled at Rand Park's Obedience and Rally Trials on April 27 and 28. They include:

Gate Steward
Table Steward
Ring Steward
Equipment - Set-up, etc.
And More

No experience needed - On the job training will be provided.

If you're new to the exciting world of dog performance sports, stewarding is a great way to find out what a Trial is all about.

To learn more about stewarding and/or to volunteer contact:

For Obedience, Co-Chief Ring Stewards: Patty Beckstrom (Home 847- 934-9630; Cell 847-533-8638 - patsgsps@att.net) - Karen Schaubel (847-370-4028 - lunaria22@yahoo.com)

For Rally, Barb Krynski (847- 577-9163 - klevr-k9@att.net)

It's not too early to think about Rand Park's Annual Awards Banquet May 5th will be here before you know it!

If you've never been to a Rand Park Awards Banquet, don't miss it this year! (Those who have attended in the past know what a good time it is.) You'll enjoy a delicious meal, and you'll bask in the good fellowship that's always abundant when Rand Park members get together.

And you'll be inspired - I always am! - when you see all the fantastic awards that will be presented to Rand Park members for their achievements during the past year. You'll be motivated, too, to dedicate more time to training so that you'll be among the folks receiving awards next year.

But you won't go home empty handed even if you're not getting an award. Everyone will receive a gift.



Just a few of the awards presented in past years

(I don't know what the gift will be - it's a secret - but I'm sure it will be something good.) And with a little luck, you'll win one of the terrific raffle prizes.

The Banquet invitation is in this issue of Paw Prints. Be sure to fill it out and send it to Marion Meseth. Marion needs to have reservations by April 29. Bring your family and friends. But if

you're not coming with a group, don't worry about filling in the "seating request" section. The folks in charge of the Banquet will seat you with interesting and friendly folks. It's easy to do - all dog lovers are interesting and friendly!

Be there or be square!

Awards Banquet Raffle:

No multi-million dollar prize, but - with your help - lots of great stuff to win!

In addition to great food, adult beverages, good fellowship, interesting "dog talk," and a plethora of awards, there also will again be a Raffle. Please consider donating items. This year, Karyn McCoy and Sonja Lund are in charge, and they want to have as much "stuff" as possible to raffle off without dipping into the Club's treasury. To do that, they need your help!

They will welcome donations of dog gear, of course, and will also be glad to get just about anything else you care to donate. Some of the items they receive will be included in baskets geared to a particular theme, so you might consider things for gardening, scrapbooking, picnicking, reading, a romantic evening at home, to mention just a few. Think of others - be creative! Small items will also be appreciated; they'll be included in baskets and will make for more variety. Consider sponsoring a whole basket - maybe ask someone to partner on it with you. Ask businesses you frequent to donate a gift certificate. Money donations will also be gratefully accepted.

Bring your raffle donations to the training hall. To make other arrangements call Karyn (773-774-0558) or email Sonja (slund2009@sbcglobal.net). Karyn and Sonja need items for the raffle by April 9. If you plan to bring a basket/donation to the banquet (which would be very nice), please let them know so they can save room on the tables.

Ursula Hoeft



Come celebrate with us at the Rand Park Dog Training Club's Annual Awards Banquet And Raffle



Des Plaines Elks Club – 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL

*Join us on Sunday, May 5, at 12 noon,
for complimentary Cocktails and Hors d'Oeuvres*

*Lunch to follow at 1 p.m. – Filet Mignon and Chicken Breast
Bar open until 3 o'clock*

★ *Members in good standing: \$20 per person*

Non Members: \$40 per person

Must RSVP by April 29

★ *Dues for 2019 must be paid in full by March 1, 2019 to be in good standing.*

Donations for the Banquet Raffle will be appreciated.

**Bring your donations – gifts, gift certificates, money – to training, or contact
Karyn McCoy (773-774-0558), or Sonja Lund (slund2009@sbcglobal.net) to make other arrangements.**

*For more information, contact
Marion Meseth (847-827-6530 - demeseth@yahoo.com)*

Send your reservation(s), with your check payable to Rand Park DTC, to:

*Marion Meseth
P.O. Box 1354
Des Plaines, IL 60017*

Name(s): _____

Number in party: _____

Check enclosed: \$ _____

Please seat me/us with: _____

Tables seat eight. Seating requests will be accommodated where possible.
No worries if you're not including a seating request - you'll be seated with interesting, fun people!

Show Tip of the Day from Barb Krynski

When your dog does something goofy in the ring, beware of laughing out loud at him. The rest of the performance can become a comedy act...

Barb and Ralphie

That's Ralphie in the photo: cute - not a dog to laugh at.



Ten Obedience Trial Tips for my Students ...

Reprinted with permission of the author, Monique Anstee, www.naughtydoggie.com

- 1) Consider today the day to show your Judge just how fabulous your dog is. Show him off. You've paid for the honour, so use it.
- 2) Trialling is your reward. We are blessed to be able to trial our dogs. Our lives are so perfect that on the weekends we can sit around, hoping to prove that our dog is indeed the best. We are so very fortunate.
- 3) While trialling is your reward, it is nothing compared to the joy of training your dog every single day, living with your dog, hiking your dog etc. The Journey is the reason that we do this. Trialling is just an added bonus at the end.
- 4) Remember your jobs in the ring. You need to handle your dog from the start, until the end. This means that you need to know your routine, and have rehearsed it all in your head in advance.
- 5) My favourite judges are efficient judges who move you quickly around their ring. However, sometimes I'm excited in the ring, and the speed of the judge, mixed with my own emotional level, means that I race through everything and forget to do my jobs. Before you agree to the start of an exercise, take a deep breath, remind yourself of what you must do, then agree. Taking this moment really helped me to focus.
- 6) Stay in the moment. Yes you just screwed up, let it go, and be determined in the "now." Nail the next challenge. Then nail the next challenge. Then be determined to nail the next one. Never jump ahead. Stay right in that moment.
- 7) Be determined to get your dog through each and every component of each and every exercise. Don't abandon them by jumping ahead, and assuming you passed. There is no quicker way to fail. It is not over until it is over, so do not rejoice until your leash is handed back to you, and you have been told that you qualify.
- 8) Mastering the right warm up for your dog can be a huge challenge. If your dog is green and you don't know what they need, experiment and take notes. Generally less is more.
- 9) DO NOT DRILL before you go in the ring. Keep it fun. Keep it short and sweet, and be precise in your goals.
- 10) Take notes about your routine. Were you in control of yourself mentally? Physically? What did you do right? What do you need to alter for your next class? Does your dog need more energy or less? Do you need more energy or less? What job must you remember to do in your next class to help your dog more?

Happy Trailing folks. I wish I could be out there with you.

Suggested for publication in Paw Prints by Barb Krynski. Thanks, Barb!

In case you've wondered

Why Do Dogs Heel On The Left?

Reprinted with permission of the author, Wayne Booth, owner of Canine Behavior Specialists

It's a fair question: why do we ask our dogs to heel on our left side? For that matter, why do we do so many things to the left? Why do we mount a horse from the left side? The reason is basically the same. We have our dog's heel to our left because this is a right handed world.

In the old days, when men still wore swords, it was necessary to mount horses from the left side for safety purposes. With the swords hanging on the left side (for right handed riders), it was easier and safer to mount from the left. Consequently, all of the tack for horses has always been made to be buckled and put on and taken off from the left, too.

When it comes to dogs a similar logic applied. When handling a dog a person would want their right hand (usually the stronger hand) free. The left hand could hold the leash. They would want their right side unimpeded. The dog could be on the left. And so, the dog should walk and heel on the left side. Or so it used to be. Today owners often teach their dogs to heel on either side.

Many dog activities rely on training a dog from the left because the trainer or owner needs to keep the right hand free to signal. Many herding and hunting dog trainers train their dogs from the left because they need to have their right hands free for using equipment or giving signals.

So many people in the world are right handed (approximately 80 percent) that training dogs from the left has become the standard way of training. It's not necessarily good or bad, it's just the usual way of doing things. Dogs probably don't care which side is used.

On the other hand, dogs do seem to be right-pawed or left-pawed themselves. You can tell if your dog is right-pawed or left-pawed by filling a Kong with peanut butter or some other food your dog loves. Place the Kong in the floor for your dog. Record which paw your dog uses to touch the toy first – until he has made 100 touches on the Kong with either his right and his left paw. (Don't record touches with both paws at the same time.) Dogs that use their left paw 64 times are left-pawed; dogs that use their right paw 64 times are right-pawed. If your dog has fewer than 64 uses of either paw then he is ambidextrous.

You may already have some idea of whether your dog is left or right-pawed. Does he always paw at you with one particular paw? Does he try to pick things up with one of his paws? These can be tip-offs that he favors one of his paws over the other.

So, there is really no particular reason why dogs are taught to heel on the left. It's mostly due to the fact that the majority of people are right handed. We teach dogs to heel on the left as a tradition now. People have learned to teach their dogs to heel on the left and it would probably confuse people to start teaching them otherwise.

My thanks go to Barb Krynski for sending me this article for Paw Prints.

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