

FVDTC

February, 2023



WAGGIN' TALES

David Lewis, Editor, waggintales@fvdtc.org

Est. 1948

A Note From the President

Hello All,

As keeper of the FVDTC web site, I have a series of end-of-year tasks to accomplish in December and January. On New Year's Eve, I changed the masthead on the web site to say "Celebrating our 75th Year". Seventy-five years, ¾ of a century, Diamond Jubilee – however you look at it, that's a milestone to be celebrated.

In 1971, Fred and Joyce Scharringhausen paid 36¢ for a gallon of gas, paid 53¢ for a dozen eggs. They also paid for a one-year membership at FVDTC and have been members ever since. Of the roughly 145 current members of the club, they have the longest tenure. Please enjoy, in Joyce's own words, their canine journey over the last 52 years.



German Shepherd Dog Dusty was born in July, 1967, on Fred's parents' farm, just a couple weeks after our wedding, and he came to live with us in August. As he grew up, I had trouble controlling him, so I signed us up for a community dog obedience course, instructed by a member of the German Shepherd Club of Chicago. She told me about obedience clubs and shows and encouraged me to go on with training. Living in Wheaton, we joined Glenbard DTC until we moved to St. Charles in 1971, and joined Fox Valley Dog Training Club.

One night we went to a shopping center to buy a coat and instead came home with a Norwegian Elkhound puppy, Star. We knew nothing about the breed and thought all dogs had the temperament and personality of our German Shepherd. Surprise! Star was very independent, outsmarted us every chance she got, and was a great hunter. Now we had two dogs to train. I don't remember if I trained them both or if Fred trained Dusty. Fred worked long hours and didn't have much time to train a dog. In looking at my records now I see Star earned her CD in June, 1971, her CDX in December, 1972, and her UD in May 1974. She died of pancreatic cancer in April 1975. During the same time period Shepherd Dusty earned his TD, CD and CDX. Now I wonder where I found the time to all this training and showing.



We were now hooked on training and dog shows. FVDTC was where we made all our friends during the years we lived in Illinois. I remember training tracking with Aldyth Comstock, and Ingrid Hamburger. Chuck Liberton also helped a lot in training stubborn elkhounds! In looking back to the few papers I have from the early years, I remember all the names and people mentioned. I have a booklet from the 1992 awards dinner and I remember all the people mentioned in it. I still have all the silver awards given in the early years and all the CD photos of our dogs. There are still people listed in the current Waggin' Tales whom we used to know.

Although he was busy working, Fred came to Thursday night classes, Wednesday night meetings and helped out wherever he could. He also came to all the dog shows to help cheer on all the dogs and people at FVDTC. We had a fenced acre in St. Charles and our dog family increased and changed through the years. We had a total of six Elkhounds and three German Shepherds. All of them had obedience titles. Our second Elkhound Mandy also earned a UD which earned my 2 UD Elkhounds a mention in a Norwegian Elkhound book. At that time Elkhounds earning a UD were a rarity. Star and Mandy were also registered with the Canadian Kennel Club and earned two CD's and one CDX there. Our trips to Canada with several other FVDTC members were a real blast especially one where four of us (husbands stayed home) shared a room with at least seven dogs.



Laurie Hatcher & Sunny, Jane Weidel & Willa, Diane Ott & Andy, Patti Anderson & Cynthia

Fred retired in 1998 and we moved to Gold Canyon, Arizona to be near my family. We moved here with our GSD Kess, Elkhound Nissa and one cat. Kess was young and only had time to earn her Canine Good Citizen from FVDTC and a temperament test certificate from the German Shepherd

Club of America. We were very disappointed to not find any dog training clubs in our area, 40 miles out of Phoenix. I heard a local heart hospital was going to start a dog therapy group and because Kess had her CGC, they had Therapy Dogs, Inc. test her. She was then approved to visit patients once a week, which she did for the next six years. So, instead of another CD, Kess's training at FVDTC enabled us to continue our accomplishments with trained dogs.



Aldyth Comstock

After Kess died we rescued a shepherd mix from the Apache Junction Police Animal Control. We went to Pet Smart for obedience training and found out from our instructor that she was a highly trained search dog. She had issues with small white dogs (they're good to eat) and worked with two different personal trainers to get over her aggression. After that, she got along with everyone and every dog. If it weren't for our training experience with Fox Valley, and knowing when to get extra professional help, she probably would have been euthanized. She was going to be our last dog because, at our ages, we didn't want to outlive another dog. That idea lasted for two years before history repeated. As supporters of the Arizona Humane Society, we were invited to a program on photography use in shelters. The kennels had been closed to the public since the beginning of Covid but were now open. So, we just wandered through petting dogs. There was a small, purebred German Shepherd female, five years old. The adoption person on duty that day said she was turned in by her owner because her two Mastiff dogs attacked her three times. She would have to be the only dog in a home and, because she was so anxious about people and dogs, we would need to cross the street if someone else was walking a dog in public. We weren't looking for a dog, anyway. The next day, I asked Fred what would happen to her if someone who didn't understand dogs

adopted her. The influence of Fox Valley Dog Training Club kicked in again and we couldn't leave her there. So October 21, 2022, XoeY came to live with us in our retirement community, where there are 650 people and 100+ dogs. Her medical record is 18 pages long from the Humane Society but being able to read XoeY and finding a treat she likes, she started allowing people to come up to her. She loves to chase balls in our pet park and plays with many of the other dogs. This week our progress had her going up to two individual women to greet them rather than only allowing people to come up to greet her. So thank you, Fox Valley Dog Training Club, for all we learned and the friendship you provided us and all you do for the canine population.



That's Fred and Joyce's story, but we'd like to hear and share yours as well. If you are a long-time member of FVDTC, send your memories to us at waggintales@fvdtc.org. (We love pictures; we **really** love pictures).

Membership Report

Mary Szczurek
Yorkville, IL
Guest trained 8 times
Shetland Sheepdog

Douglas Donaldson
Big Rock, IL
Bernese Mtn dog
Golden Retriever

Thomas Hazel
Geneva, IL
Lab mix

Janet Lyon
St Charles, IL
Guest trained 8 times
Golden Retriever

Calendar

March 2023

02 Thu Regular Training
 08 Wed Membership Meeting
 09 Thu Regular Training
 Health Clinic
 Puppy Ends (8:00pm)
 Advanced Puppy Ends (6:00pm)
 Beginner Ends (6:00, 7:00, 8:00pm)
 16 Thu Fun Match
 23 Thu Regular Training
 Puppy Begins (8:00pm)
 Advanced Puppy Begins (6:00pm)
 Beginner Begins (6:00, 7:00, 8:00pm)
 30 Thu Regular Training
 31 Fri Agility Trial

April 2023

01 Sat Agility Trial
 02 Sun Agility Trial
 06 Thu Regular Training
 Puppy Ends (6:00pm)
 10 Mon Board Meeting
 13 Thu Regular Training
 Puppy Begins (6:00pm)
 20 Thu Fun Match
 23 Sun Annual Dinner
 27 Thu Regular Training

Volunteers Needed!

Kent Hildebrand needs track layers for the Fall Tracking Test (September 9-10). Here's a chance to get some fresh air, and to earn some work credits, email Kent (tracking@fvdtc.org) for more information.

Board Meeting Highlights – February 13, 2023

Meeting brought to order at 7:30 p.m.

Carolyn Pearson (Secretary) The December Meeting minutes were approved as published. Several items of correspondence were read.

Carla Tsoris (Second Vice-President) reported that she will need to order more Graduation ribbons probably during the third session of classes.

Phil Nuger (Treasurer) stated that as of today and per the provided financial statements, the YTD total revenue was \$9,430.50 and the total current assets of \$295,940.

It is too early in the year to make any judgement or projections for the year. A better assessment of our financial trends can be made at the April board meeting when we will have the 1st quarter to review.

The investment value has recovered a little from the September 2022 low of \$248,000 to a January 31, 2023 valuation of \$284,000.

Phil provided a PayPal transaction log, and he asked whether anyone had heard of any problems with payments. He stated that he had heard of possibly one issue. Dave reviewed the entry records for the scenario that Phil was referring to and determined that the club member's entry were not finalized using the on-line entry functionality. Phil reported that he will speak to the club member to make sure that they fully understand the steps necessary to successfully enter a fun match.

In response to Dave's question, Phil reported that our federal income taxes are due on or before May5th.

Will Short (Director of Training) reported that the Kane County 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator, has contacted him regarding the start date and show date of the dog training program. At this time, the start date is scheduled for March 23, with the show date scheduled for Wednesday, June 21.

In response to Will Short's question about eliminating the offset starting dates for the puppy class, it was explained that the class was initially started to reduce the number of weeks that puppy owners needed to wait before a puppy class began. It was agreed that this schedule offered the community members the best opportunity to get into a puppy class and take advantage of early socialization.

Will also stated that if he can find a club member that has a strong knowledge of the Rally signs and would be willing to work in the Rally ring, he would be able to offer Rally ring run-throughs starting at 6:15 p.m.

Taffy Wille (Obedience Trial Chairperson) asked the Board to consider pros and cons of moving the November Obedience and Rally trials from the Kane County Fairgrounds, to the Car-Dun-Al training building in Huntley. Technical issues prevented Taffy from providing a preliminary list of things to consider. She made arrangements with Carolyn that she would update her list with the ideas that were brought up during the meeting and Carolyn would send the updated list. The discussion is ongoing.

Kent Hildebrand (Tracking Test Chairperson) reported that judges Sandy McMillan and Carla Wolter have been secured for the September 9 and 10 Tracking Test. The test will be at Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve and shelters have been reserved. The AKC applications have been submitted. The next step is to get volunteers to act as drivers, Pole Carriers, and Track Layers. Anyone interested should contact Kent.

Director at Large – vacant

Dave reported that he was mistaken about the process for a single person holding multiple board positions. As a result, we will be seeking an individual for the Public Education Liaison position.

Old Business

- Dave reported that according to the members voting, the preferred method of conducting the Membership Meetings is using the Zoom application. Dave stated that he will need a volunteer or two to handle the administrative portion of the Zoom meeting, such as recording the attendees, or any issues that members have getting into the meeting.

New Business

- Agility Timers – Dave stated that Kent found some older electronic Agility timers that were stored at Ingrid and Hermann Hamburger's house. Kent is attempting to sell them because we no longer need them.
- Shed – Dave reported that he met with Dave and Wendy Waddick, Carolyn Pearson and Rebekah Lewis to look over the condition of the external shed used to store our equipment that is only used for the trials or tests. Replacement/repair options are being considered.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

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