

WAGGIN' TALES

<http://www.fvdtc.org>

waggintales@fvdtc.org

Volume IV, Issue 8

August, 2000

IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY VETTEL

On August 3rd the dog world lost a dedicated friend: Dorothy Vettel died in Harrison, Arkansas at the age of 78. Dorothy started in obedience in 1952 after the breeder of her cocker puppy told her that the puppy should have dog training. (The breeder just happened to be Aldythe Comstock, one of the founders of our club.) Dorothy obviously enjoyed training enough to devote nearly 50 years of her life to it.

Fox Valley trained at the bird house in Phillips Park until 1961, when they moved to the Armory in downtown Aurora. In 1968 the Armory burned down and we moved to our present location at the Kane County Fairgrounds. Dorothy served two terms as president of the club from 1955 to 1957. At one time or another she held every office except treasurer. She was a board member for many years. She was Waggin' Tales editor from 1973 - 1978 and served on many different committees. She received the Dog World Award For Outstanding Service in 1961.

Another of Dorothy's loves was 4-H dog training. She tutored classes for 4-H for many years and helped write the 4-H Dog Training Manual. In 1968 Dorothy started judging Novice; in '69 she judged Open and in '71 Utility for AKC. She also helped many of

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From Peggy Sue Seehafer

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Many letters have come to me via our web site in the last several months. I would like to thank all the people who have taken the time to write or call with their opinions about training with e-collars. It has enlightened me in the power of the written word. I must admit that the extreme letters, although they may get more attention, prove to be damaging to the communication we are working toward.

THAT is what we are training our dogs, communication. Them understanding us and us listening to them. If a command is too harsh (which may be verbal as well as contact) then the results may backfire on us.

The use of electric collars is nothing new. The same with prong or choke collars. The handler is the one that controls those tools. In the educated hands these tools can prove to be very effective and kind. Such collars have approximately the same effect on dogs as electric fences. Why are electric fences not up for debate? Is it not better to try to communicate with the dog in the teaching process to let them know through your supervision rather than letting the fence do the teaching?

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Histories are more full of examples of the fidelity of dogs than of friends.

- Alexander Pope, 1709

From Peggy Sue Seehafer

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 1)

We had a special meeting and discussed this issue (The minutes are included in this newsletter). As a board, we have had to make a decision that is hopefully affecting the positive perception of our club. Even though we may feel that there is a place for e-collar training, at this time we have voted to not allow the use of these collars at our site. Our policy of kind and positive training is foremost with this organization. The beginner or uneducated trainer may not understand, thus misinterpret and possible misuse certain training tools.

You have a very responsible board that is looking out for the best interests of this club. If your individual training is hindered by this decision, then I am sorry and I hope you will understand why we have made this difficult conclusion. You, as a member, are encouraged to talk to us with your concerns and we will listen.

Kindly,

Peggy Sue Seehafer

OUR SYMPATHY...

Our sympathy, thoughts and prayers are extended to Alice and Ray Larson, whose son Ray passed away last week.

From Nancy Cox

DOROTHY VETTEL

(Continued from page 1)

us get into obedience showing by taking us to fun matches and (when we were ready) trials. She helped found the Illinois Obedience Association and served as secretary.

After Dorothy's cockers were gone, she had poodles. We all loved Andre and then her CH Tory, CDX. Her last two dogs were Tory's pups, Zip and Zap.

Dorothy and her husband Bernie retired to Harrison, Arkansas in 1990. Dorothy was once more back into

training with helping out the dog club there. They made several trips back to Illinois before ill health prevented them from coming.

Our heartfelt condolences go to Bernie, Dorothy's sister Marian and the rest of her family. Good-bye, good friend. We thank you, we love you and we will miss you.

A memorial in Dorothy's name is going to be set up. Donations can be sent to the club, or left at the table on training night. Be sure to specify that your donation is in memory of Dorothy Vettel.

From David Lewis, Editor

PUT YOUR NEWS IN WAGGIN' TALES

If you have news or announcements you would like to share with the club, put it in the Waggin' Tales.

There are a few guidelines to follow to ensure that your message is presented in the way **you** would like:

Submit your articles to:

David Lewis
Waggin' Tales
232 Mistwood Lane
North Aurora, IL 60542
(630) 897-4267
waggintales@fvdtc.org

Plain text E-Mail is the best way to get your article included. Attachments in Rich Text Format will work

also. Typed letters and faxes are OK, too, but handwritten notes are the most likely to result in errors.

Always include your name and a phone number with your article.

What Gets Included

Waggin' Tales is the primary means of communication for the Board to the membership, so announcements from the Board and meeting minutes get highest priority. Next are news, brags and stories from the membership. If space permits, dog-related classified ads and for-sale items from members will be included.

I am always interested in your comments (both good and bad) and suggestions for improving Waggin' Tales.

From Suzan Scott

AGILITY NEWS

FVDTC is still taking entries for both Standard Titling and Jumpers with Weaves. Send entries to:

Suzan Scott
1040 Northfield Drive
Aurora, IL 60505

Entry Fee is \$20.00 for the first entry and \$10.00 for the second entry of the same dog. Entries close August 25, 2000.

From Taffy Wille

FRONT & FINISH PIX

Pictures from the 2000 Front and Finish Ad are at the front table in an envelope. The following members should stop by to pick up their pictures.

Anne White	Drew Graham
Heidi Terlizzi	Penny Brcich
Nancy Pederson	Marietta Huber

There are also two pictures left from 1999's ad - they are unmarked and of a golden and a rottweiler. There are others from previous year's, so stop by to look if you had your picture in the Front & Finish ad to see if these are yours.

From Suzan Scott

CORRECTION CLINICS

The next Fox Valley Dog Training Club correction clinic will be held on Thursday, June 15. As usual, there is no correction clinic in July. The dates for the remaining 2000 FVDTC correction clinics are:

August 17 - September 21
October 19 - November 30

E-MAIL WAGGIN' TALES

If you would like to save the club a few dollars, receive your Waggin' Tales up to a week before everybody else, and get your pictures in color:

Get your Waggin' Tales via E-Mail!

You need to install the Adobe Acrobat Reader (free from <http://www.adobe.com>) and send an e-mail to waggin-tales@fvdtc.org.

A COMPLETE BREAK-DOWN

We need help breaking down after training on Thursday, August 31. Work credits are offered.

From Cathy Fleury

AGILITY HELP

If you would like to help FVDTC Agility Trial on September 16 at Creekwood Meadows, please contact Cathy Fleury at (847) 464-5909.

We can use part-time help, and people who can stay all day. No experience necessary.

HELP WANTED

The following positions are open. Anyone interested should contact Carolyn Pearson at (630) 231-5658 or via e-mail at secretary@fvdtc.org.

Second Vice-President
Director of Training
Demonstrations
Member-at-Large
Graduation Chair

From Kathy Hubbard

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The following people have submitted applications for membership:

Sue Bohr and Janet Nims
373 Messenger Circle
North Aurora, IL 60542
(630)907-2086
bohr24@aol.com
Lab/Shepherd/Chow mix
Completed Beginner class

Cheri, Christina and Eugene Leinneweber
2721 Gateshead Drive
Naperville, IL 60564-8986
(630)548-9309
LCheriL@aol.com
Great Pyrenees
Completed Beginner class

BRAGS AND OTHER GOOD STUFF



At the Badger Golden Retriever test July 23, 2000 held at Bong, the following three Labradors from FVDTC qualified:

WCX (a land triple, and a water double with an honor with no collar)

- Suzan's Rusty Phoenix Rising CD JH MX AXJ, handled by Suzan Scott
- Candlewood's Ribbonquest CD SH NA NAJ, handled by Anne White

WC (a land double and back to back water singles)

- Shamrock Acres Celebration JH UD OA OAJ, handled by Tim White

Enter your brags online at the FVDTC web site (<http://www.fvdtc.org>, then click on "News")

At the Winnebago Labrador Retriever Club, June 17, 2000

- Shamrock Acres Celebration JH UD OA OAJ earned a leg in Open B with a 192, handled by Anne White

At the Backwater Retriever Club, Indiana, August, 05, 2000

- Candlewood's Ribbonquest CD SH NA NAJ earned another "Senior" hunt test ribbon, handled by Anne White

JP finished his U-CD on 8/5, despite having decided that fronts and finishes are optional, good only for extra credit. He would have placed in 2 classes if had remembered what the word heel or get back means.

— Trudi Kimm

From Carolyn Pearson, Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARD MEETING

The special meeting was called to order at 7:30pm

The following board members were present:

Judy Anderson	Trudi Kimm	David Lewis
Tracey Mohr	Carolyn Pearson	Will Short
Taffy Wille	Peggy Sue Seehafer	

New Business

Use of electric/stimulator training collars at training

This special meeting was held to discuss a series of e-mails, phone calls and personal comments regarding the use of electric/stimulator training collars at training during the June correction clinic. The correction clinic committee asked the Board to make a policy prior to the August 17th correction clinic regarding the use of the collars rather than "leaving it to the discretion of the clinic judge". The correction clinic committee members felt that it was too open for confusion – the exhibitors would not know from one judge to another whether a stimulator collar was allowed in the ring or not. The communication was from

members as well as non-members. The majority of the communication supported the ban of the stimulator collars. Each concern was addressed and discussed. Several of the board members also asked questions regarding the proper use of the collars. Issues and concerns that were addressed and played a part in the decision were:

- Use of many collars in the building. For instance, without a large selection of frequencies available, it is possible to correct a dog other than your own.
- The perception of people coming in to observe our training methods and perceiving that we are "electrocuting" our dogs. This perception can also occur with the use of the citronella anti-bark collars because their design is similar to the stimulator training collar. Unfortunately, not every person walking in to observe our training methods can be educated immediately, should they view someone using a "collar with a box". This can be damaging to the image that Fox Valley strives to achieve to the

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From Carolyn Pearson, Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARD MEETING

(Continued from page 4)

general dog-owning public, that we are a great place to bring your dog to train. Our bylaws state "3.11 To provide training to other community organizations, such as 4H, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, or others who desire to have such training services provided to them on an organizational basis." Looking at that from a business standpoint, we cannot afford to "push" the community away from us, before we've had a chance to properly educate them about our training methods and the use of appropriate training tools. Any person seeking to learn about our club (whether to take a puppy or beginner classes, etc.) is strongly ENCOURAGED to drop by and see what we are all about. It is not always possible to greet those individuals visiting us for the first time.

- The discussion also entailed the many positive aspects of using the stimulator collar to correct a specific training problem. The stimulator collars can be used to effectively and quickly correct problems that have eluded other training corrections.
- Several of the board members also discussed the misuse of more standard training methods. It is possible to incorrectly use ANY training tool, one board member discussed the permanent esophageal damage done to their dog on a nylon slip collar.
- It is possible to misuse ANY training tool, and cause discomfort to the dog. Even a poorly timed "look" can cause a dog to be uncomfortable.

The board members want the membership to clearly understand that we take our responsibility very seriously of making decisions regarding all aspects of our club (Bylaws section 5.3.1 - The duties of the Board shall be to determine policies of the Club and to make all necessary decisions not covered by these By-Laws. A quorum shall consist of at least five (5) members excluding the President.). This means we must find the balance of satisfying our club members and satisfying the general community members' needs by providing an educated and kind training facility. It is through the community members that we welcome new club members into our club.

After a very difficult discussion, the board members felt that as a business decision, it was best to set a policy to ban the use of the collars on the training grounds. The discussion looked at both sides of the

issue: allowing our members to use their training tools, as well as maintain our responsibility to the general pet-owning public. We also stated that after the policy was publicized, that any and all club members would be strongly encouraged to present their opinions to the board regarding this policy. Judy Anderson made a motion to ban the use of stimulator collars at the Fox Valley training site. Will Short seconded the motion, the motion was approved by four and opposed by three Board members. There were no abstentions.

Graduation

It was suggested by several Board members to change the current format of the Beginner's class Graduation. Currently the 10th week of class is devoted to the beginner's students "performing" what they have learned in the past nine weeks in front of a "judge". This is similar to a novice run-through at a pre-novice level. Many of the Board members expressed concern about the stress level that the students experience during the run-through. It was felt by many Board members that due to the stress, many students may not be exhibiting the true extent of their training improvements. During the discussion, it was suggested that perhaps the most accurate method of evaluating a beginner's student progress would be the observations of the instructors over the 10 weeks of class. The final evening of class would be changed from a night of unnecessary stress to a celebration of all that the students have accomplished. The responsibilities of the Graduation Chairperson would change to more of a "celebration coordinator". The instructors would then be responsible for providing feedback to each student whether they should continue to the Advanced Beginners classes or whether they would benefit from repeating the Beginner's class. After the discussion, Will Short made a motion to eliminate the current format of Beginner's class Graduation. Dave Lewis seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all members present, without any abstentions.

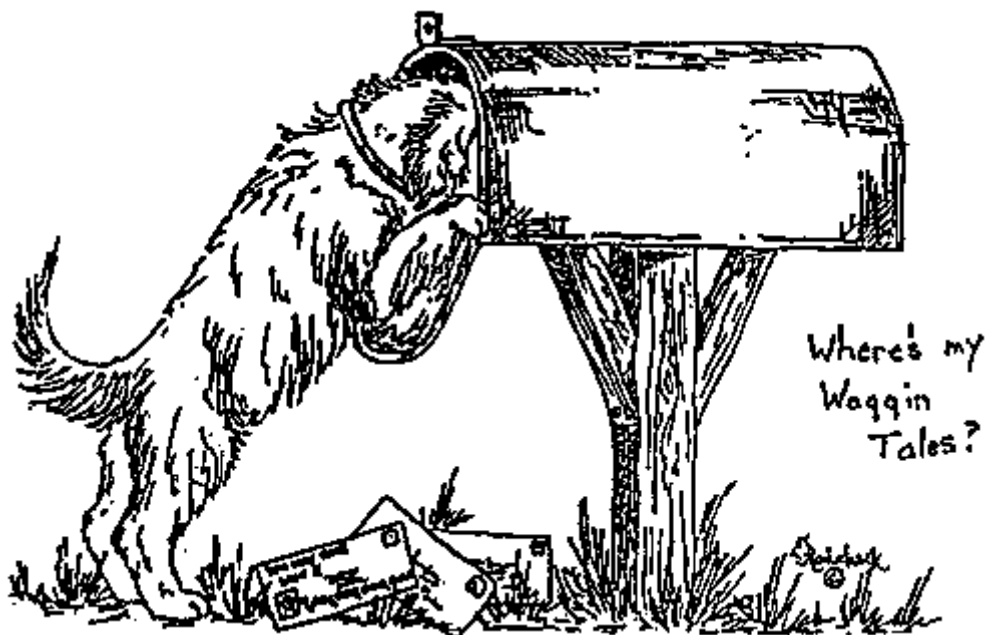
Awards for the November Obedience Trial

Will Short presented a list of trophies that have been sponsored by the club in the past. He made a motion to allow an expenditure of a maximum of \$750.00, for the club to sponsor trial trophies. Judy Anderson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all members present, without any abstentions.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

FOX VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB

David C. Lewis
 Waggin' Tales
 232 Mistwood Ln
 North Aurora, Illinois 60542
 waggintales@fvdtc.org



FVDTC CALENDAR— AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

August	2	Wednesday	Board Meeting	September	6	Wednesday	Membership Meeting
	3	Thursday	Regular Training		7	Thursday	Regular Training
			Beginner Graduation		10	Sunday	Tracking Test
	6	Sunday	Waggin' Tales Deadline				Waggin' Tales Deadline
	8	Tuesday	Regular Training		14	Thursday	Regular Training
			Start Beginner Session 4		16	Saturday	Agility Trial
			Start Puppy Session 4		21	Thursday	Correction Clinic
	17	Thursday	Correction Clinic				Beginner Class
			Beginner Class		28	Thursday	Regular Training
	24	Thursday	Regular Training				
	31	Thursday	Regular Training				