



WAGGIN' TAILS

Newsletter of the
Hangtown Kennel Club of
Placerville, CA

www.hangtownkc.org
www.facebook.com/hangtownkc/

PO BOX 2176
Placerville, CA 95667

September 2019 CALENDAR:



- 7th Western Slope 11:00 am
- 9th Boys and Girls Club Reading Program 3pm
- 14 th Eskaton Placerville 10:00 am
- 10th General Membership meeting 7pm**
- 16 th Boys and Girls Club Reading Program 3pm
- 23 rd Boys and Girls Club Reading Program 3pm
- 28th Eskaton Cameron Park 10:30am
- 24th Board Meeting 6pm – NEW TIME**
- 30 th Boys and Girls Club Reading Program 3pm

**NOTICE: NEW MATCH DATE FOR 2020!
JANUARY 19, 2020 AT THE FAIRGROUNDS!**

PLEASE CHANGE YOUR CALENDARS!



September GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

7:00 pm

THE BREAKROOM RESTAURANT

SHINGLE SPRINGS, CA

Come early for dinner!

Meetings are short but sweet!

**PICNIC DATE SET: SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 8, 2019 at Bradford Park
in Shingle Springs from 11am to 2pm.**

Details inside!

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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OUR CLUB:

SEMINAR OCTOBER 5-6, 2019! Conformation handling and conditioning event – contact Mary Clark or Melinda Grosch to help or sign up.

PICNIC! Sunday, September 8 11am-2pm

Upcoming Seminars and Matches:

Oct 5-6 Vicki Ronchette sponsored by HKC! Save the date all of you who have been asking for a conformation/handling workshop! SIGN UP NOW THERE ARE A FEW WORKING SPOTS LEFT!



A sad note: Chris Jones has lost her 4 year old Doberman, Bonnie. (Ch. Renaissance Total Eclipse of the Heart CGC WAC.) Our deepest sympathy to Chris on this unexpected and sad loss.

OUR ANNUAL PICNIC! Shout out to Donna DiMartini for stepping forward. The date for this event is Sunday, September 8, 2019 The location: 4300 Motherlode Drive, Shingle Springs, CA “Bradford Park”. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND. Bring your dog, an exercise pen, something to BBQ, a dish to share and your sense of humor. This is always a fun event, very low key – bring your dogs and enjoy doing nothing! Get to know new members and renew old friendships. Please make an effort to attend!

Elections! Want to run for a Board position?

Club Banquet – Saturday, January 18, 2020

2020 Match – Sunday, January 19 and yes! The day after our banquet! Fun times for all!

Session 5: September 5-Oct.10 Fairgrounds

Conformation

Puppy Kindergarten

Beginner

Rally Novice

CGC

Our classes are subject to change based upon instructor availability

2019 Membership list is available now for download from the Website. Please print a copy and keep it handy for all that volunteering you plan to do this year! If you don't know the password to the members only site, contact me by email and I will give it to you. It is a secret LOL

BRAGS:

Carol Sweeney bragged that Maverick (Clumber Spaniel) earned his TKI during our recent Tricks class! Yah!

Mary Clark bragged that Buzzy (Cocker Spaniel) earned his TKN during the same Tricks class!

(Brag, cont)

Sherry Howard bragged that Whitney (Samoyed) was 4-6 month Puppy BIS at both the Lodi Show and the Dixon Show! We used to call that puppy a “flyer” - congrats!



Editor's Corner:

Up on my soapbox...

Why do we do it? Why do we volunteer our time and energy to this club? Is it for the glory? No glory that I can name. Is it for the experience? Maybe sometimes. Is it for the friendships we make? This is one of the reasons for me. Or, is it because we believe in the “mission” of our club...?

Recently I have started to question whether volunteering for this job or that committee is worth the headaches that can come with it. It

seems that often, even our own club members don't appreciate the sacrifices that are made to do the things we do. Heck, when my kids were little they knew that I would NEVER attend a Thursday night Open House or Back to School Night because I would be at the Fairgrounds teaching dog class. (I did make it to my oldest son's kindergarten Open House). How many Memorial Day events have we ALL missed because of our show? Over the years many of us have been the telephone contact person which involves hours on the phone every month and believe me that is a job I was delighted to hand to Cheryl Tibbals at one point and she then handed it off to Cathy Keeler...Let's talk about being on the Board of HKC. That is a commitment of 2 meetings per month pretty much year round. Not to mention the emails and other communication that happen during disasters, crisis or because other important club business pops up. There are so many jobs to do but we always seem to be able to find a "willing" volunteer among us.

So why do we do it? I think most of us do it because of the good work that Hangtown Kennel Club does both in our community and in the outside world. Every meeting it seems we are donating money to worthy causes, to disaster areas, to animals in need and occasionally even to people. We also donate our club property for use at community events without question. We send people to help put on 4H events, read with kids and so much more. It is an admirable accomplishment to

have the funds and the willingness to share our time with strangers and animals who need help.

But what about when we are not appreciated? What about when someone doesn't think we are honorable or doing the very best job we can do as a group of just "dog" people? Then what? Well, for me, I just keep on going, doing the best I can to make a ripple of good relationships with people and our community at large. It is a worthwhile endeavor and one we can be proud to do.

We are volunteers and we are doing the best we can. Thanks to all of you who step up!



Hangtown Kennel Club
Mission Statement

The Hangtown Kennel Club of Placerville, CA, Inc. is committed to promoting responsible dog ownership in our community by providing training and educational opportunities for all dog owners. We encourage sportsmanlike competition and support dog related activities; ie, American Kennel Club licensed dog shows, performance events, and other community activities that enhance the lives of people and their dogs. We also support legislation that protects the rights of ownership and management of our pets.



Hangtown Kennel Club 

Membership meeting notes:

At the July General Membership meeting the club members approved a \$500 donation to Almost Eden Dog Rescue in Ridgecrest, CA. They had suffered some facility damage and were in need of funds to repair fences and other infrastructure. The motion was brought by member Linda Johnston.

We had a guest in attendance: Joanie Grace who has Havanese.

Cheryl Tibbals, Sherry Howard and Patty Skinner are looking for judges names for upcoming shows. If you have a favorite or the opposite of a favorite that you would like to share with them, please email Cheryl Tibbals.

Our banquet date has been set for Saturday, January 18, 2020.

Our Match date has been changed to Sunday, January 19, 2020 due to a Fairgrounds conflict.

Calling all Members!

You asked for it and we got it! A conformation handling training workshop October 5-6. We have been trying to get this for you for several years and finally have an awesome speaker and trainer coming to work with you and your dogs. Let's fill the facility with HKC members! Sign up now...Flier is on the website and on our FB page! Don't procrastinate, there are still a few working spots available!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: CATHY KEELER

My life in dogs began at a very young age-too young for me to remember when we got her-Peggy. At the time our family was living in Rutland, Vermont. Peggy was a French-Canadian import, a designer dog, if you will, a Spitz Pomeranian.

I am not sure how long we had her but she went on our annual Lake Champlain vacations and, it seemed, everywhere else. She also was the foster mother, of sorts, to the 15 outdoor cats that adopted spots on the parlor window sill which was right above the radiator-steam heat in those 'olden days'. I do know that she was not with us on our move to Southern California in 1960, which by the way tested the patience of my father more than I will ever know. You see, there were 5 of us in our 1967 Chevy towing a U-Haul trailer. Somewhere along the way, my grandmother left her purse at a restaurant-yes, I still can here the few cuss words my father knew in French. What happened next would never be attempted today. My father unhooked the trailer and drove to the last place we were with the four of us standing by it waiting for him to return. My brother and I got brave and walked around a bit until we spotted Mr./Ms. Rattlesnake. Interestingly, no one stopped to inquire.

A few years after our move, my high school years, we acquired a sheepdog of sorts. I never did figure out what breed she really was-Princess.

While I was in Nursing School and living away from home a German Shepherd appeared in the household. I have no clue how she came into my dad's life but he adored her.

Finally, after I was married and had 2 children did we think about getting a

dog. A co-worker had a litter of Irish Setters-the sire's father was Walt Disney's Big Red. Shiloh was beautiful, smart and had the best temperament with the kids. I knew nothing about showing-or anything else so he was our pet. He played tag with our goat which was hilarious to watch. Sadly, he contracted heart worm and died as a result of the treatment-too long ago to remember how old he was.

Next came Trent, another Irish, who was tried to a tree in the hills of Oakland and left to die. The person who rescued him had relatives here and brought him to a baseball picnic—he came home with us. He was so laid back and we were lucky, another smart one! Trent died from heart failure.

Our last Irish was Beau who was also a rescue. The people who had him had seen Trent in the back of my husband's truck. A conversation ensued and he came home with us.

We were really dog stupid for the first 20 years of our marriage. I look back on some of the things with and about the dogs and just cringe. It was long, long after Beau died-Gastric dilatation volvulus-that we decided to get another dog. We just didn't know what.

My husband had been involved with racing a Funny Car when we were in So. Cal and that endeavor transferred to a race family up here-the Arnolds-yes, the father and brothers of Mike Arnold-Arnold's for awards. One of the pit crew had a Chesapeake Bay Retriever and my husband really liked this dog. He was big as was his heart. So, it was decided that we would get another dog—a Chessie, joined our home-Gipper (of old Notre Dame fame)-a gal from my work had a litter. He was

as bowlegged as they come-told you we were dog stupid. We should have named him cowboy with those legs! He just needed a hat and a pistol. He died of a seizure disorder-what hell that was.

Biting the bullet at Chessie ownership again, my father-in-law knew of a Chessie breeder in Paradise.

We surprised my husband with a female who he named Shaka. She too was a great dog in every way.

We, well I, was still in the pet mode. She died of lymphosarcoma at age 7.

I guess that brings me to the reason I am writing this-my Gordon Setters and once again the Chessies.

Left without a dog, yet again, and the kids grown, we would not be getting another Chessie. My husband was devastated with the loss of his beloved Chessies-they were now out of the picture. Through a series of very weird coincidences and karma (read my article in the newsletter archives of March 1995 on the web site) we did acquire our first Gordon Setter-Mahri in 1988 (named after Sgt. Marty Mahr in the movie "The Long Grey Line"). We went to pick her up and were taken out back to see her worked on a quail wing. I was absolutely hooked watching this 8-week-old Gordon Setter on staunch point. We went back to Petaluma the next couple of Saturdays for her training. My husband was not really interested in this competition stuff so I went by myself and eventually we hooked up with a small group of other Gordon owners who the breeder was working with. The goal was to be able to handle our own dogs in hunt test and field trial competitions.

The breeder, Norm Sorby, was classified as a 'pro handler' and after realizing that this group of students were extremely serious about

competitions, he dropped his pro status and worked with us to achieve our goals. I was thrilled to be learning something new and to watch the progress of the dogs and the members of the group. Sadly, Mahri never got to compete. She was hit by a car-stupid dog people did not have a fenced yard-and ruptured her diaphragm.

My husband and children got together with Norm and surprised me with another female-Echo. I continued the field training but was encouraged to try showing and later obedience. I was enjoying learning these new aspects of the dog world. She was never a show or field champion but had one major in each venue plus other points. Echo had National placements in the field trial Gordon Setter Retrieving Stake stats for 3 consecutive years. She attained the title of Master Hunter and graced the cover of the Gordon Setter Club of America magazine. She finished her CDX and did compete in Utility but when she tried to jump the bar jump in the adjacent ring I was told to get her eyes checked!!!

I do have many fond memories of her but the biggest one was at the National Hunt test in 1996. After the testing was completed those remaining on the grounds are allowed to run their dogs-all at once and gunners are allowed to shoot the birds found. My friend Liz and I took Echo out and she started finding bird after bird and being without a gunner, I just fired my blank gun. After about the third bird I had men asking if they could shoot for me. Heck, yeah. When we finally walked out of the field Echo had found & pointed 8 birds plus retrieved the ones shot-the other dogs in the field had NONE!! It was a blast especially because the men in the field were the good old boys from Southern California who supposedly had all the hot shot dogs!!

I went on to have a total of six Gordons in the house at one time-2 intact males who got along beautifully, and four bitches, two intact- Echo, Hannah, Tanner, Skeeter, Pogo & Bogey. Aside from my purchase of the first Gordon, Mahri, and the gift of Echo all of the other Gordons in my life were gifts from the Norm. I worked with him from 1988 until his death in 2014. There are many, many other Gordon stories to tell re: show championship, more hunt test titles, obedience titles, GSCA titles and stuff that was just plain fun.

The return of the Chessie-Every once and awhile I would ask the Gordons if they wouldn't like a Chessie puppy to play with. This was always in earshot of my husband. I heard a resounding "no" at each asking. Time went by, the Gordons passed and I got another female gift, Piper, from Norm-born in the van on their move from Petaluma to Eagle Point, Oregon. Their timing for the move was good but momma had other ideas about the delivery! Once again, my question about the Chessie playmate was asked. This time there was no rely! So, on the hunt I went. It just so happened that the HKC show was coming up-lo and behold Michael McGuire (past member and pro handler) was showing a gorgeous Chessie. I literally ran across the lawn after the owner to find out where she got him.

I did make contact with the breeder in New Jersey, Joanne Silver of Silvercreek Kennels, filled out an application and waited. I was to get pick bitch of the litter as I anticipated her to be shown. I told the breeder what I had accomplished with the Gordons but told her I could not promise

more than a championship on this new bundle. She was fine with that. The wait was not long and soon, the year California nearly burned up-2008 we picked her up at the airport. My husband named her Taita after a character in a book series.

She made her show debut with Michelle Collingwood handling at 6 mo. of age at Napa taking BOB from the classes. Michelle agreed to continue handling her winning her first major again taking BOB from the classes over four Specials at Grass Valley. That second major was elusive-aren't they always? -so we agreed to ask Mike McGuire to take her in the ring—second major and Championship accomplished. What next? Michelle continued to handler her in AKC shows and I showed her in UKC and IABCA shows. Both of those championships came easily with Taita being chosen "Best of the Best" of all four shows for her Grand Sieger title at the IABCA shows (google search if you wish). Her Grand Championship came easily too but due to ring conflicts for Michelle and lack of show clothes for me, John Roberts, club member too, showed her to her Grand.

I had toyed with the idea of learning about Retriever Hunt Tests but that was put on hold for a 2013 litter that was sired by the Winners Dog at the 2010 Chessie National, which Michelle and I attended. 8 puppies, six females and two males made their debut on May 13, 2013. The end of Taita's show career came five days after the puppies were born-she had retained placental fluid and needed to be spayed. Seven of the eight were graded show quality, 2 females stayed with us, and one male went to Alaska (he's traveling the country), one male to Colorado, 2 females to Folsom (one now in Alabama), one female to Auburn (now in Arizona) and one female to Arcata. Our two

females and the Alaska male have been consistently shown.

Taita and I entered retriever hunt test training, which is MUCH different than hunt tests with the Gordons, 5 months after the litter was born. She completed her Junior Hunter title rather easily passing 4/5 but the Senior Hunter title was elusive due to her decisions to do things on her own and do the finger wave to me. At age 9 on the very last day she could compete-I had told her this was her last chance due to her age (she was healthy but the age thing). She got her last Senior pass with the straightest lines she had ever run.

In addition to her Junior and Senior Hunter titles she has earned her Beginner Novice, Companion Dog, Working Dog Retrieve Excellent, Novice Tricks, Rally Novice and CGC titles—AND a Brood Bitch BIS in May with Helo and Luna as get.

Taita's official title:

GCH INT'L MBIS MRBIS Grand Sieger
INT'L/NAT/UKC/AKC GR CH
Silvercreek's Mandan Sun Vow- JH SH
WDX CD BN RN TKN CGC

The girls we kept, Luna and Chase have done their fair share in the show ring at hunt tests, obedience and other venues.

Luna is:

INT'L/NAT/UKC/AKC GRCHB Birch
Meadow Under the Flower Moon, SH
JH WD BN RN CA TKN CGC

Chase is:

INT'L/NAT/UKC/AKC GRCH Birch
Meadow Chasin' Moonbeams, JH BN
RN TKN CGC-working on Senior Hunter title-has one of the four passes needed.

Heló, the Alaska child is:

GRCHS INT'L MBIS, RBIS INT'L/AKC
CH Birch Meadow Just Add Water
JH WD DN CA TKA CGC

P. S. The Gordons are not out of my life-I co-own a companion male who lives with a relative.



Thank you to Cathy for everything she does for the Club. She would be pretty close to impossible to replace at least not with just ONE person!

**SEE YOU AT THE
PICNIC! THIS SUNDAY!**