

USCA NEWS & VIEWS

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Presidents Message

The last four weeks has been a whirlwind of activities for our membership, anyone that competed at or attended even a few of these events had an ambitious schedule, and for dog and handler, it would have been exhausting. I wish to congratulate all those that competed at these events and give special recognition to the champions.

**HOT Champion, Rowdy vom Enzta & Dave Hambrook
AWDF Champion, Rex v. Karthago & Dean Calderon
USA Sieger Show**

**Sieger, VA1 Hooper von der Rohburg & John E. Henkel
Siegerin, VA1 Acka vom Seebachtal & Toni Brezel
German Shepherd Dog Champion, Bastin vom Koketal &
Gary Hanrahan**

Congratulations to you all!!

I also express gratitude to everyone that was involved in hosting these four events but a special thank you to:

Cascade Working Dog Association

Bob & Pam Bauman and Caine Manor

**Southwest Region, & Greater Washington DC SchH
Group**

for providing venues, support and management of these events.

As a member of the WUSV family, we will continue to invite judges from the WUSV countries to obtain an international opinion on our training and breeding efforts and to demonstrate our sincere friendship within the WUSV family.

It is therefore with my deepest appreciation to thank Mr. Humberdros and Mr. Seibel of the SV, Mr. Garbin of Chilcoa (Chile) and Mr. Vodioka of the ZDS (Czech Republic) for officiating at these events.

The Executive Board meeting was held in conjunction with Sieger Show. The meeting was productive with several changes and some important recommendations for membership consideration. Diane Madigan will have the minutes prepared for publication within the next few weeks. The Executive board is working diligently to provide more educational programs, support for our breeders, youth and for the numerous members that qualify as H.O.T.

To recognize our Handler Owned & Trained dogs at every level we have implemented:

- ❖ Handler Owned & Trained dogs will be distinguished in the event results of the magazine.
- ❖ Awards for top 5 H.O.T placings at National events
- ❖ The H.O.T Tournament will continue, but separate from the Judges College.

To recognize our Youth Handlers, the Youth Program Director has taken steps to implement programs to support our youth handlers and has recommended:

- ❖ A reduction in the youth membership fee from \$39 to \$12 per year.
- ❖ Youth handlers will receive awards at local & national events.
- ❖ A yearly National Youth Champion Award.
- ❖ A youth section in the magazine
- ❖ An interactive youth handler handbook to receive special recognition.

A preliminary program was adopted for USA Regional Policy. This program will be undergoing a few minor changes before full implementation, but includes regional direction for education at the regional and club level. The program includes along with the current regional positions:

- ❖ Regional Training Director
- ❖ Regional Secretary
- ❖ Regional Helper Committee
- ❖ Regional Youth Committee

These are all training and educational positions that will work with the Regional Director and their respective National Program Directors. A regional dues structure has been recommended in the form of an increase in Club dues with the increase going directly back to the region.

Funding created by the new sponsorship program will be used to cover costs incurred for regional and National training programs that will allow free education for all of our members.

Our new Director of Marketing, Blake Fohl, has started a process for the strategic planning to meet our advertising, marketing and public relations needs. This process has already begun with the collection of specific data to assess our status. The board supports Mr. Fohl and his abilities in this area and with board cooperation a Marketing plan will soon be in place.

The AWDF held its annual board meeting in conjunction with the AWDF Championship. Once the AWDF board determines the validity of the multiple meetings and makes an official announcement as to the outcome of the two elections, we will receive minutes of the meeting.

While at Caine Manor I had the opportunity for a brief meeting with Wayne Davis to discuss the 2003 WUSV team. A written proposal based on previous discussions with GSDCA President Kenneth Downing Jr. was provided for Mr. Davis to review. No agreement was reached at this meeting. I can assure you that USA will send a minimum of three dog teams to represent the United States at the WUSV this year. In closing, I would like very much to recognize a gentleman that for over 20 years has served our organization in many capacities, from committees to Regional Director, Ambassador and USA Judge. Mr. Floyd Wilson has dedicated himself to USA, always an unwavering devotee of our cause. He has recently relinquished his position as the South West Regional Director and ran instead for the assistant RD position to support the new regional director. He will be judging what possibly will be his last championship at the North American Championship May 1 through 4, this year. I would urge all of you to take just a moment of your time to thank Floyd for all his dedication to our great sport and organization and to thank his wife Bobbie of her support of her husband, and USA. Thank you Floyd!

Best Regards,

Jim Elder

USA

Vice President's Message

Recently, it was my pleasure to be able to attend the HOT Tournament. I would like to personally congratulate all of the dog / handler teams that participated in this event for their efforts and sportsmanship. The host club, Cascade Working Dog Association proved to be outstanding hosts for this event. The weather, while being less than perfect at times, could not detract from the fact that the host club had provided excellent tracking fields and their trial field proved to be an excellent venue for all in attendance. I would also like to thank all of the members for the excellent food that was readily available throughout the entire weekend. The Cascade members get a "V" rating for their efforts in hosting this event. I look forward to attending next year's HOT Tournament that will be hosted by the Western Indiana Schutzhund and Police Club. This administration has placed a high priority on the marketing and public relations of our organization. The EB is currently helping USA's Marketing and PR Director, Blake Fohl to develop a five year strategic plan. Our organization is showing signs of positive growth and our continued efforts to market USA to the public will in turn bring an increase in membership. As we grow, we must be cognizant of the need for proper management of a growing membership. We must also place a high priority on programs that will benefit the entire membership. If we are to positively channel this anticipated growth into an educated and impassioned membership; then we must establish, embrace and support new training programs for handlers, helpers, breeders and clubs.

Lyle Roetemeyer, Vice-President

USA

Secretaries Message

Hello Sportfans,

Major changes in both the format and content of our forms will soon be coming to your computers. The Litter Registration Application is now available as an Adobe Acrobat Fill-In Form. Simply click, enter data, print, and send to the Office. There are 5 pages to this application, so please read all instructions and review the documents required. Our forms team hopes to have new computer fill-in Trial Scoresheets available for your spring trials. Check the Official Forms Section in the Member's Area for their release. I'd like to thank **Sharyn Baker** for her assistance. After 48 versions of this document, I think it's safe to say that we have plenty of experience writing form fields in Adobe. **Liz McNamara** is also helping with our soon to be released fill-in membership and scorebook applications. Thanks for stepping up!

ATTENTION TRIAL SECRETARIES:

USA Membership is now a requirement for trial helpers and trial secretaries.

We will soon be reporting Handler Owner Trained information in our trial results. Should your club have a supply of old scoresheets (formerly known as Bewertungsliste) please place (HOT), next to the dog's name, if eligible. Placing a HOT check box on your event entry forms may help you to acquire this information. The Office is not responsible for providing this information. If you do not include it, it will not be printed. Please also verify that the owner's page in the back of all scorebooks is completed.

DPO Entries: Must be a full time police officer. If the dog is not a service dog the dog must have the BH. Proof of employment status of handler and/or dog must accompany your entry on department stationary. Trial secretaries will verify employment status with the department prior to the event.

Other news that has crossed my desk, or is sitting in a pile to be filed:

Vicki Keller is the newly elected Regional Director for the Southeast Region. Vicki replaces **Floyd Wilson** who dedicated 20+ of service to USA. **THANKS FLOYD** It's been a pleasure working with you. Floyd is now in the co-pilot's seat of the SE Region.

Please also welcome two newly elected Assistant Regional Directors; **Travis Shope** (Pacific Northwest) and **Vickie Bartley** (South-central).

Hope you have much success on the field and/or in the ring.

Diane Madigan, Secretary

USA

Treasurer's Message

No Updated news

Bill Plumb, Treasurer

USA

Director of Judge's Message

No Updated news

Mark F. Przybylski, USA Director of Judges

USA

National Breed Warden's Message

The National Breed Warden's speech at the Breeders and Judges Reception at the 2003 Sieger Show in Bakersfield, California

Mr. President, Honorable Guest Judges, Ladies and Gentlemen

The Sieger Show is the primary breed event of our organization. Breeders and spectators have the opportunity to see first hand the result of our breeding efforts as a national organization in general. The individual breeder should take these results and compare them with his or her own achievements to realize the quality of his or her kennel offspring.

Since this is the only national event where you, the breeders, come together in a large number, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you on the present standing of the breed in our country and where we would like to go with our breeding efforts as a breed organization. I also believe that you need to be informed about the political situation nationally and internationally.

USA is coming a long way from a primary sport organization to a complete German Shepherd Dog Organization. For a long time, this was your wish and the Breed Advisory Committee has worked very hard over the last years to achieve this goal. The final result is documented by a by-law change implementing the position of a National Breed Warden and Regional Breed Wardens. This has been a tremendous step for us in achieving our recognition as a German Shepherd Dog Breed Organization.

Breeding must be the center of our activity in our organization. This means we must create our own dogs rather than leaving this responsibility to other organizations and countries.

The German Shepherd Dog is a versatility dog in all aspects of mankind's use. Versatility is a wide spectrum, but health and temperament is needed in any kind of usage. Schutzhund as the ultimate temperament selection cannot be overseen.

The General Board of the WUSV has overwhelmingly agreed to establish, within a time frame of 10 years, breeding selections based on the criteria of health, temperament and working abilities. We, the United Schutzhund Clubs of America, have established our breeding selection policies in these regards seven years ago. It is up to you as breeders to accept USA's regulations as the only acceptable breeding selection process for your breeding program.

We have recognized the worldwide declining numbers in the breeding sector. Years ago, I had already given you some warnings on the fact that there was an increasing shortage of working dogs. Worldwide terrorism has also taken its toll in these regards. Working dogs are needed in such large numbers that the traditional supplying countries cannot fulfill the demand anymore. I feel that we have a great responsibility in

this respect and cannot close our eyes any longer. There is nothing wrong in creating a good dog with a correct structure, but extreme oversized and extreme angulated dogs do not have the correct form for function.

The evaluation of dogs in a breed show is the selection process for correct structure and the evaluation in a Schutzhund Trial is the selection process for the correct temperament for a working dog breed as the German Shepherd Dog is. Both processes are important and cannot stand for themselves. In other words, breeding dogs only for Dog Shows is as wrong as breeding dogs only for Schutzhund Trials.

I have reviewed reports from SV Presidents going back over 30 years and find warnings on the dog's sizes on the large side. It is no secret today that a majority of our dogs worldwide are out of standard on the size factor. A large dog is in general an appealing dog and that is the only reason why we have come to this result. Of course, it is very difficult for us to downgrade imported dogs from the motherland and to oversee the other positive criteria's that these dogs may offer. But, I like to ask you to take this factor in consideration when importing breeding stock.

I remember a time when dogs were bred in Germany with an over angulated rear end because America liked that as the breeders were saying.

We all know that this country is producing enough of this kind of dog and we do not need the help of other countries as a justification for unbalanced and unstable dogs. When we import breeding stock, we should look for a dog that is as correct as possible to be able to make a difference for America.

I have recently reviewed the videotape of our 1997 Sieger Show that was held here in Bakersfield. In all aspects, our dogs are much better today. We have made great achievements. This counts for the structure as well as for the temperament in the performance test. It was very detrimental to all of us here in America when pictures of some of the American Champions were shown to the delegates at the WUSV meeting in Karlsruhe, Germany last year. It was agreed that the structure of these dogs is grotesque and disturbing. I would like to point out here that we, as breeders of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America, do not produce this kind of dog nor do we understand that these dogs are being crowned as champions. We stand now and will stand in the future for the true and correct German Shepherd Dog and we ask for your help to be the guardian of the breed in America.

I will recommend to the Breed Advisory Committee to change some rules for the Sieger Show.

1. The 3-6 month puppy class should be changed to 4-6 months of age simply because a 3 month-old puppy cannot be immunized against rabies.
2. I do believe that it is time to say goodbye to the adult class without titles. We should not have this class anymore in our Sieger Show.
3. We will offer to our breeders a free of charge posting of their kennel name on USA's web-site.
4. We will also introduce our breeders under the headline "Breeders Portrait" in every *Schutzhund USA*. I am currently working on these guidelines.
5. A noticeable number of dogs in the Working Classes have dental notations documented on the pedigree. In regard to our

Sieger Show policy these dogs do not meet the formality for the rating of VA. I do believe that we need to change this since these are not genetic problems.

The titles Sieger/Siegerin and excellent select are only given once a year and only at the Sieger Show. This should already demonstrate that these titles have a deeper meaning than just a classification rating in general term of dog shows. These titles are given in the hope of stimulating and directing the breeding in a certain direction. My recommendation from a few years back in regard to the working class females seems to work well. Remember, I had asked to use the VA females' primary be used for breeding and not to bring them back to the Sieger Show in the following years. Of course, the exception would be the dogs that would have a chance of the Sieger title.

The VA dogs in the working class males are still my concern. None of the VA dogs from the 2001 Sieger Show had a progeny class in the 2002 Sieger Show and also, there is none in this year's 2003 Sieger Show. There is something wrong here.

It is not our intention to make the Sieger and VA title to a selling tool. It only can be a tool for the breeding selection from our organization's point of view. I am analyzing this factor very carefully and ask for your cooperation. In the same regard, I would also like to address your attention to the fact that a sieger dog if owned by an American resident should stay in this country and be made available to the American breeder. A breeder must know what he or she wants, otherwise the achievements are only based on good luck and have no direction. The accomplishments are often only possible through small steps and sometimes, even back steps need to be taken. We all have more or less experienced this.

A breed organization must of course also know what it wants to accomplish and what it stands for. It must be solid and stable and its members must be able to rely on the organization's principles and policies. All policies that we have established within the last few years are established all for the same reason: increasing better breeding practices and awarding the breeders who follow our policies consistently. If we want the German Shepherd Dog breed to evolve in this country, then we must stay united and strong with our organization and our programs. Of course, we are guided by the SV and we have done so very willingly because we know that the breeding practices must be regulated rather than leaving a wide and open door for any breeding as some other organizations.

We should be very proud of this organization and the members of this organization who knew a long time ago that something needed to be done for the betterment of our breed. All other organizations have been failing widely and never had or completely lost sight of what this breed is all about.

Is there any **doubt** that it is the United Schutzhund Clubs that has brought the elements Schutzhund, Temperament and Form for Function to this country?

Is there any doubt there would ever have been a Schutzhund 3 Championship with 150 entries if it would not be for the hard work of USA?

And are you not sure that there would be no Sieger Show and SV style shows in this country without the United Schutzhund Clubs of America?

You better be sure of that!!

The SV and WUSV member clubs understood the importance of our organization for this country and that is the reason why we are a member of the WUSV.

Yes, perhaps it could be better if there would be only one German Shepherd Dog organization in each country and perhaps it could be better if that organization would be affiliated with the Kennel Club and perhaps it could be better if all Kennel Clubs would be a member of the FCI and recognize the dog's standard. And – and – and – of course it could be better, but unfortunately the reality is different. Of course we talk with the representatives of all organizations involved and most important, we talk with the SV because we must make clear to them what is in the best interest of the German Shepherd Dog in America.

Yes, we are also aware that the AKC is working on the implementation of a working dog trial program for all breeds. But, we do not think that they get it. If such program is not implemented in breeding regulations for working dog breeds, then this program will not make any difference on the quality of the working dog breed in America.

This program is not designed for the ordinary AKC breeder and this program will also not be implemented in the guidelines of the affiliated breed clubs.

This program is designed to target you, the breeders, who a long time ago have adopted this system within an organization just like ours. So, if the AKC really wants to make a difference for working dog breeding, then they must talk to the organizations that are the guiding clubs for breeders that do care for the WUSV breeding plan. For the German Shepherd Dog, that is you!

Please continue within these breeding practices and please continue your support for the United Schutzhund Clubs of America.

Good luck to all of you.

Johannes Grewe, National Breed Warden

USA

World Championship Committee Message



No Updated news

USA

National Events Committee Message

No updated news.

USA

Nominating Committee Message

Committee Positions for 2003 Elections

Judges Committee (2) Members-at- Large

National Events Committee (4)

Nominating Committee (5)

[USA](#)

Police/K9 Committee

No updated news.

[USA](#)

Helper Committee

No updated news.

[USA](#)

Bylaws Committee

No updated news.

[USA](#)

Comments From USA Members

Forum:

Nancy from TX says: "Hi - the website is great! I do want to make a suggestion though. Can you make sure there are dates of last update on things. Like the rules and regs. They take a while to load and if they are the ones we already had loaded and don't have any new changes it them, it isn't always necessary to recheck them. Not that they are going to change often, but ya never know:) - dates on things are nice since not everyone was a member the last time things were updated. Thanks and again, GREAT JOB!!"

Mike from PA says: "If we are continueing to take the stand of our own breeding program maybe at the next National's and Sieger show there should be a special note to the dogs that were not imported but bred and raised and trained in the states. I know we have the HOT events. But our National Champion should be from Here ?? Just an idea..."

Charity from NV says: "Once signed in, after I click on Announcements, I can see the listing of 10-15 or so, but I have a firewall sign in screen for your site that only accepts an ID but no password. As said, this is after already signing in. This is not the members sign in screen, but rather, looks more like the webmaster's sign in. As such, I cannot read any of the announcements. I am using W98SE, Mozilla 1.3.

rozro223 from TX says: "I guess everyone knows that the SV has gone wild over Agility. Are they making the Agility titles the same as breeding titles like schutzund or HGH title? And if they are, will USA follow suite? Adding Agility to our sport could bring many people to our clubs and help membership to grow. I see Agility in our sport in the very near future and in a big way."

Diane from MI says: "Dear Johannes and All Members That Helped With the Sieger Show, Thanks for your collaborative efforts. You're successful Team Work produced a high caliber event for USA. They say, "The devil's in the details." Except for the rain at the garden party, it appeared you had everything covered. Thanks for a great job!"

The Madigan-Johnson Team

Give us your opinion on these comments or send in one of your own, go to the USA Members Forum:
<http://www.germanshepherddog.com/members/Members%20Forum.htm>

[USA](#)

USA Web Site Links:

Events page

www.germanshepherddog.com/eventcalendar.htm

Members Page Sign On

www.germanshepherddog.com/memberssignupstaging.htm

2003 Seiger Show April 4-6 2003

www.webhund.com/2003ss/index.htm

2003 USA H.O.T. Championship March 21-23 2003

www.germanshepherddog.com/2003hot/

2003 GSD Championship April 11-13, 2003 Annapolis, MD

<http://www.gwdcsg.com/home.html>

2003 North American & FH Championship May 1-4, 2003 Bowling Green KY

<http://www.wksc.org/>

2003 National Championship

(Not available at this time)

[USA](#)