



In This Issue...

From President Jim Elderpg 1
Presidents Message.....pg 1
Letter to USA Members.....pg 2
Message from Your WCCpg 3
Holiday Greetings to Our E-Connected Membershippg 3
Members Questionpg 3
USA in International Competition ..pg 4
USA Website Linkspg 4

From President Jim Elder:
October 6, 2002
USA / WDA 1-Team

Board Members,

This letter is to inform you of the phone conversation I had with **WDA President Wayne Davis**.

I have copied Steve Robinson of the WCC on this because the committee is getting calls from concerned members about our headway in the one team issue.

My call was a simple introduction to let Mr. Davis know I am available for any discussions should the need arise. I also informed him that this administration would go out of our way to work towards a better relationship. We both concluded that neither organization is going away and that we need to act like good neighbors. Wayne brought up that we would need to meet soon to resolve the one-team issue and that after the holidays season would be a better time. My response was I would be ready whenever they are available.

It's a start.

All of our efforts should be directed towards acting professional and being better than our competitor. We will gain nothing by being negative and will only lose our own self-respect and that of our peers.

It is important that we do everything we can to protect our organization, but lets look for the most positive ways available.

I will keep you all posted,

Thanks,

Jim

USA

Presidents Message

As of the writing of this newsletter the SV has had their general elections for executive board members, the new governing body of the SV is:

- ❖ President – Wolfgang Henke, SV Working Judge
- ❖ Vice-President- Erich Orschler, SV Conformation Judge
- ❖ National Training Director Gunther Diegel, SV Working Judge
- ❖ National Breed Warden – Dr. Helmut Reiser

We are adding more features to the members area of the USA website including this monthly newsletter which was introduced December 15th, the newsletter is available by logging on to the Members Area of the USA website. Please copy the newsletter and take it to your local club for those that have not logged in to the members area and/or do not have web access. We have also added a Members Comments and Feedback Form; as well as being a good source for input it will also be used for future topics of the newsletter and for questions from the members in the magazine.

USA always needs members that are willing to donate their time. USA is looking for a Webmaster that is versed in web maintenance and design and is accustomed to working with E-commerce and databases. If you are interested please contact me at your convenience.

The Magazine staff would like to produce more articles from our grass roots members with pictures, information about your club, training, or spotlighting a special club member. Training and handling articles are always interesting to our membership; it would be nice to receive more information from our competitive members about their training ideas to share with the membership. Please send your articles to USAoffice@germanshepherddog.com

The first three days of December I was at the USA office; Kelly and I reviewed many of the operating procedures and along with Cheryl Morris discussed the USA Magazine. The office staff is doing an excellent job and in general things are running very smoothly. Here are a few of the changes that occurred from this meeting:

- ❖ All documents will be processed in the order received; any uncompleted or incorrect documents received at the office were previously handled through phone calls and/or e-mails by the staff trying to retrieve the correct data. Contacting those individuals that send incorrect information is cost and time prohibitive, which significantly reduces the office efficiency, and costs incurred are absorbed by the entire membership. Instead the office staff will send a form letter upon receipt giving the sender 30 days to send the correct information, after which if the correct documents are not received they will be returned and a processing fee assessed for shipping and handling.

- ❖ All necessary documents will be made available through the website and Regional and Assistant Regional Directors. Members that do not have web access will be able to contact their Regional Director for most forms that the office currently supplies.
- ❖ All sports medal awards received by the office will be sent to the Regional Director and to be awarded to the receiving member at an appropriate time to reflect the importance of the award.
- ❖ The USA sportswear will be upgraded to reflect a modern and more appealing product line.
- ❖ An e-commerce account has been added to the USA website so that we may soon begin offering on-line sales.
- ❖ The magazine will be stripped of all none essential boiler plate pages that are run from issue to issue, instead these forms will be available through the Regional Directors, Web-site or USA office. Cheryl will be adding a new advertising section for those that wish to run short informational ads, and will be adding more color throughout the magazine. You be the Judge will be included in future issues, as will a new questions from the members section.

The new USA office database will be operational by January 6th; the staff will undergo three intensive days of training in its operation. This addition to the USA office will greatly increase the efficiency of many of the services that we currently offer and will present a multitude of opportunities in the development of electronic transfer. New user-friendly score sheets are in design, and the new USA Performance Rule book, which will include Schutzhund, IPO, and DPO rules, will be available by the 1st of the year.

Qualification for Handler Owned and Trained dogs was changed at the General Board meeting; the new requirements are for those dogs regardless of age that were titled by the registered owner. The structure of the HOT Tournament was also modified to allow new titles to be earned during the event. This year it will be held in the Pacific Northwest Region, March 21-23. For more information about the HOT go to <http://www.germanshepherddog.com/2003hot/>

We have proven over the years that the membership of USA is a hard working dedicated group, if we continue to work together we can rest assured knowing that it will be a very exciting and positive year for USA in 2003, I wish you all a great Holiday Season and a Happy & Prosperous New Year.

Best Regards,

Jim Elder

USA

Letter to USA Members

November 25, 2002

Dear USA Member,

The United Schutzhund Clubs of America is very pleased to offer Breed Surveys with USA's own Breed Survey Judges. I believe it is in the best interest of the German Shepherd Dog in America and the natural progression and development of our organization as a Breed Club for USA to provide our own Breed Survey Judges. Your support of these ideals by entering your dog in the upcoming breed survey is greatly appreciated.

This letter is to inform you of the recent development regarding the processing of the breed survey documentation by the SV office that may effect your decision to support this USA program. While we do hope that you will see the value in supporting this and other USA programs it is our responsibility to make sure you fully understand the situation.

While the SV office assured us that producing the documentation for those breed surveys conducted by USA Judges would be handled in the same manner as for SV judges, recently we received a letter from the SV office stating that they would not at this time produce those documents and would not post them in the USA section of SV breed book. We hope to be able to resolve this issue with the SV and have scheduled a meeting to resolve this matter.

As we know any titles awarded by USA Judges are not recognized by the SV for purposes of breeding within the SV system, this will only effect those members whose dogs will be entering back into the SV breeding program. In addition any of these breed reports will not be entered on the offspring using the current USA/SV pedigree.

If during the course of our discussions, should the SV determine that they wish to continue providing us with these services to include the awards given by our Breed Survey Judges like they currently do for our performance judges, we will make every effort to ensure that your information is recorded with the SV.

In the interim the USA office will produce those Breed Survey documents conducted by USA judges.

I appreciate your understanding in this matter, should you have any questions please contact your Regional Director, National Breed Warden or myself.

Sincerely,

Jim Elder

President

USA

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

The WCC is now accepting applications from anyone interested in serving as Team Captain for USA's participation at the WUSV World Championship to be held on October 3 - 8, 2003, in Ravenna, Italy. Duties include securing team accommodations, transportation, and uniforms, arranging for practice fields at the event, attending various meetings and functions, and assisting Team members as necessary before and during the competition. There will be organizational help available for many of these duties, but the ultimate responsibility will be yours. A working knowledge of German (and possibly Italian) would be helpful, but is not necessary. Most important is a dedication to helping the Team be the best it can be by providing all of the necessary support services. You will also be asked to represent USA as a part of your duties. Anyone interested in this position should send a letter of intent to the USA office postmarked no later than December 15, 2002. Please include your credentials and any other information, which you feel would be useful information for the Committee to consider. A final decision will be made by December 31st, and the person selected notified by phone. Please feel free to contact any member of the WCC if you wish more information.

Sincerely,

The World Championship Committee
Steve Robinson, Chairperson
Gordy Esselman
Gary Hanrahan
Howie Rodriguez
Jim Elder

USA

Holiday Greetings to Our E-Connected Membership

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the past three years. I also look forward to working with you all in the coming months.

Since the General Board Meeting, the Executive Board has been actively discussing topics like, membership involvement, getting information to you, and growing together as an organization in this high tech world. We are examining all our present procedures, in hopes of becoming a bit friendlier and lessening the load for you and the Office.

In a recent E-ballot, we approved for USA K-9 Officers the ability to compete at both the SchH3 National and the International Police Dog Competition.

Future Sports Medal Recipients will be awarded their medal by their Regional Director at either a Regional Event or honored at their club trial. We are also looking at doing something along the same lines for our SchH3 Club Members.

I am currently working with several judges, to translate Judge's Books and Scoresheets for electronic downloads by clubs. This should cut down on last minute requests for trial materials, and save on postage. I hope to complete this project soon after the minutes from the GB Meeting in Nocalula Falls, Alabama. (*At the time of this release the minutes should be in the mail*).

At Nocalula Falls, I had the pleasure of meeting Lee Wilcox from Chattahoochee SchH Club. Lee was the editor of the 2003 National Catalog; he also helped Dennis VanderLinde with drawnight. At drawnight, they used a computer projector that projected the catalog on a large screen. As the competitors drew for their flights, the flight numbers and draws were projected overhead from Dennis' laptop. The competitors could easily write the info into their catalogs from viewing the screen. Lee was kind enough to loan us the computer projector for the General Board Meeting. This proved to be an excellent tool for keeping everyone on the same page for agenda items, wording on motions, and wording for bylaw changes. I can see the benefits of this technology and recommend we explore its use at future events.

Christmas Wish List from the Secretary

The organization hopes for a Computer Projector.

If anyone knows someone, that knows someone, or has a relative that could give us a family discount, please contact Jim or myself. Of course, donations will graciously be accepted!

I also wish you all good health and happiness through the holiday season.

Diane

USA

Members Question?

Martin from CA. writes:

USA needs to be more family friendly by making sure that the dates of the major competitions (including the Sieger Show) do not fall on holidays. It is hard for people with children and close-knit families to choose between competition and spending this quality time with their families. The Nationals almost always fall on Halloween causing parents to miss this fun holiday with their kids. The North American usually falls on Mother's Day weekend. The German Shepherd Championship usually falls on Easter. All of these events could easily be rescheduled to avoid these holidays, which may help keep families to remain supportive of the competitors and take the stress off having to choose.

Give us your opinion on this comment or send in one of your own, go to the USA Members Forum:

<http://www.germanshepherddog.com/members/Members%20Forum.htm>

USA IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

The SV Sieger Show

The SV Sieger Show is the largest specialty dog show in the world and many people refer to it as the “World Sieger Show”.

Like in any FCI recognized dog show held anywhere in the world, only dogs stemming from a FCI recognized breed book can be entered and shown. The AKC registration certificate and the four-generation pedigree are FCI recognized and are the proper “papers” required to enter an American dog into the SV Sieger Show. The dogs must also be tattooed and the tattoo number must be officially entered on the pedigree. Likewise, the dog must be healthy and be current on its rabies vaccination.

What is important for you to know when entering a dog in the SV Sieger Show “Working Dog Classes”?

- Dogs from foreign countries do not need any show ratings to qualify for entry.
- Dogs from foreign countries do not need an “a” stamp or a breed survey to obtain a V-rating.
- Dogs from foreign countries, where no breed survey is provided, do not need a breed survey to obtain the title “Sieger” or a VA-rating.
- Dogs from foreign countries must provide proof of an international working title (IP 1-3) unless they have obtained a title accepted by either the VDH or WUSV test regulations or any test regulations accepted by the SV. A SchH title obtained by a USA Judge is accepted. In this case, the degree will be distinguished by placing (USA) behind the dog’s title.

So how many USA members participated with their dogs in this year’s 2002 SV Sieger Show?

A total of 16 dogs owned by Americans were entered in the Working Dog Classes of the 2002 SV Sieger Show. From these 16 dogs, 13 are imported dogs and 8 of these dogs are not USA registered.

The other 3 dogs are American bred dogs and 1 of these dogs is not USA registered.

From the 13 imported dogs, only 5 dogs were shown.

From these 5 dogs, 2 dogs are not USA registered and they were excluded because of lack of TSB (T = Drive, S = Self-confidence, B = Ability to Cope with Stress). The remaining 3 imported dogs placed V48, V120, and V125.

From the 3 American bred dogs, 2 dogs are USA registered.

These 2 dogs placed V36 and V67. Therefore, a total of 5 USA registered and American owned dogs were shown in this year’s 2002 SV Sieger Show Working Dog Classes.

Two other American bred dogs not owned by Americans, where also successfully shown.

Johannes Grewe

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
(Not on web at this time)

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

(Not on web at this time)

2003 National Championship

(Not available at this time)

USA



Happy Holidays and Seasons Greetings From the
Office Staff at USA

USA