

Paws 2 Dance General Meeting

Sunday April 14, 2013

In Attendance:

Executive: Karen Eskilson, Gail Walsh, Lin MacDonald, Lydia Francescutti
Other Members: Debra, Ray, Annette, Alison, Tristan, Joan, Ann

Correspondence:

See Demos.

Treasurer's Report:

- Current Balance: \$6795 All bills paid.
- Membership Fees
 - to encourage members to renew their membership on time, we will institute the following:
 - **\$5 Discount** if fees are paid by May 15
 - **New Membership:** \$30 for Lower Mainland, \$25 for others (increase of \$5)
 - **Renewals:** \$25 for Lower Mainland, \$20 for others (no change)
 - **Lapsed:** If membership fees are more than 60 days late, considered a new membership.
 - see April 2nd Executive meeting minutes for full discussion
- Financial Support of Satellite Clubs
- This year we find ourselves in the position to give some financial assistance to the organizers of the Island Fling and Boot Scootin' Boogie. This year organizers of the Island Fling and Boot Scootin' Boogie will each receive \$200. Lyd will contact organizers with that information.

Demo Update:

- Brookwood Open House postponed.
- Ladner Animal Expo, August 11. Jenna Ascroft D@delta.ca
- Peace Arch: October 18, 2:15. Friday. Gail will contact members closer to the time.
- Sunday, April 21st. Rotary. Outside. Karen will respond. We have no one available this year.
- Jewish Seniors Group: Sunday October 27, 2:15. As we already have one in October, Karen will set up a November date.
- Abbotsford Agrifair, first week in August. Lee Riesig @ 604-859-9455 . August 2 – 5 Friday to Monday. 4 – 5 people are interested. Karen will get more information.
- Animal Rescue group, Bellingham in July. Gail will respond to them.
- Lin will change the web site to put Karen down as the demo contact.

Yellow Tie:

- at a recent freestyle event, a dog fight and another act of aggression (by a dog) occurred.
- one idea to avoid aggressive incidents is to encourage owners to tie a yellow ribbon on the dog's collar – something that is used at agility events. The tie would indicate that the handler does not want his or her dog approached by another dog. It would not necessarily mean that the dog is aggressive. It would be completely voluntary.

General Meetings:

- we will continue to hold two regular general meetings, one in the spring before the *Prancing Paws* competition and one in the fall. Other extraordinary general meetings will be called as needed.
- The Executive will continue to meet four times a year and in addition as needed.
- all members are invited to the executive meetings and will be notified about the meetings. Minutes from the executive meetings will be made available to all members. Input from all members is welcome.

Prancing Paws Competition: May 4, 2013

- We still need a few volunteers to help out. Contact Lyd at freya9@telus.net if you are available.
- Last year, we had considerable congestion around the entrance, so we will have a separate exit and remind handlers to keep their dogs on leash or in a crate except when competing or warming up, and to keep clear of the entry and exit area.
- We request that handlers who will be crating their dogs indoors leave the shaded parking spots for those who wish to keep their dogs in their cars.

Future Facilities for Prancing Paws

- Lin will check the curling rink at the George Preston facility.
- Gail will check two hotels
- Annette will check Fernridge
- Alison will check the Mason Hall in New West

Group Training Sessions:

- Informal monthly training sessions will begin again in September.

Fun Match update:

- Lin was thanked for arranging the fun match. Handlers appreciated the opportunity to work their dogs in a new facility.

Showcase of Talent:

Several people have expressed interest. Ray suggests deciding the format and determining what would be needed to carry this off. Then we would be able to set a date. Annette will hold a meeting at her home some time after *Prancing Paws*.

Escape The Darkness

Lyd has made collages of everything to do with *Escape the Darkness*. Lin will put the documents on line and let members know how to view them. If you wish a copy, let Lyd know. We will have Staples print up copies and distribute them. Cost will likely be around \$15.

Elections:

Each of the members standing for executive positions was elected by acclamation.

Our new executive:

President: Ray Underwood

Vice President: Gail Walsh

Treasurer: Lin MacDonald

Secretary: Tristan Underwood

Acting Demo Chair: Karen Eskilson

Big thanks to all who have agreed to serve.

In Attendance

Lin, Gail, Karen, Lyd

Next Meeting: AGM: April 14th @ 10:45 a.m. at the Brookwood Hall. (Changed from the 7th)

Treasurer's Report

- Current Balance: \$6,906 All bills paid.
- Often, members don't renew in May. Lin sends out reminders, but after six months, removes members from mailing lists and other club data. Then, when they do pay their fee, say before an event, she puts the information back. All this takes time she can ill afford. To mitigate this problem, she makes the following proposal:
 - **\$5 Discount:** if people pay by May 15th, they will pay \$5 less
 - **New Membership:** \$30 for Lower Mainland, \$25 for others (increase of \$5)
 - **Renewals:** \$25 for Lower Mainland, \$20 for others (no change)
 - **Lapsed:** If membership fees are more than 60 days late, considered a new membership.

Demo Update

- Currently, we are without a Demo Chair for the Lower Mainland. Joan took care of the first three months and Karen and Jan have been taking care of recent ones. Karen should be able to field the bookings for the summer. Thank you Joan, Jan, and Karen.
- Change in booking policy: We have booked many demos well in advance only to find that members are not always available for the booking. Suggestions:
 - book only one Care Home per month. The bookings would be tentative and then confirmed three weeks prior to the demo, thereby giving recreation directors time to make other arrangements.
 - book no Care Homes during the summer, but accept special-event demos such as Critter Care, Zajak Ranch, SPCA, etc.
 - Make all dates known to members well in advance and send out requests for firm commitment four weeks prior to the event.
- Current demos: Gail contacted the Cloverdale Rodeo people and Whistler but has not heard back from either so we will not be doing those two demos this year. Thank you, Gail.
- Members have commented that with only three or four members performing at many care homes, it means changing quickly and rushing on. Dogs are often not warmed up. Suggestion: relax, warm up the dog in the ring as much as necessary before starting the music.

Group Training Sessions

- Although attendance was not great for the final two (held at the same time as agility matches), the three training sessions were well received and considered by participants worth continuing. Lyd would like to step back from organizing future group sessions. Lin suggests that we take turns setting up the sessions and continue to hold them periodically.

Fun Match

- Saturday, April 13, 2013, 2 – 6 pm
- @ TNT Training Facility, 27624 Watson Road, Abbotsford
- Cost: \$5 per 5 minutes
- a great chance to try out new routines, props, and costumes in a great new facility.

- participants may use the ring time for anything
- toys and food allowed (but ensure it is not crumbly)

Prancing Paws Competition May 4th

- Most positions are filled but we still need a second person for the registration table (morning), front door, second ring steward, set up of food table.
- Cloverdale Rodeo double-booked the Alice McKay so we are now in the Shannon Building, adjacent to the Alice McKay. This facility will suit us well.
- If members have difficulty with the form, please just e-mail Lyd with the details.
- We are still working on welcome bags and prizes.

Competition Prizes for Paws 2 Dance Events

- The tradition of giving prizes to first, second and third-place finishers began when the club had very few divisions. Now, we have over thirty possible winners, with several of those being teams. The cost of prizes and ribbons has become huge.
- The executive proposes the following minimum ribbons and prizes. Anything else would be completely up to the hosting club.
 - qualifying ribbons
 - first, second, and third place ribbons
 - either a ribbon or prize for high technical, high artistic, high MF, High Dressage, and high versatility.

Financial Support of Satellite Clubs

- At each AGM, we discuss how we can support the satellite clubs. This year we find ourselves in the position to give some financial assistance to the organizers of the Island Fling and Boot Scootin' Boogie. The executive recommends giving each group \$200 toward their competition.

Show Case of Talent

- We will discuss the viability of staging this show in the fall of 2013 at the AGM.

Elections

- Gail and Lin are willing to stand again for Vice President and Treasurer respectively.
- Lyd and Karen will be stepping down as secretary and president respectively.
- The Demo chair position is also open.
- With the Galas complete, the work load is minimal.