

Southern Senniments



2008 Cotton Classic Winner: "Keygan" owned by Melissa and Brett Jarriel
BISS CH Rippling Waters Havelock Key CDX, NAP, OJP, DD, WWDX, WPD, VGSX, TT

With Perry Just Around the Corner...

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President's Message

Welcome to our newly remodeled Front Porch! Many thanks to Laura Bullock and her committee for their efforts. I'm as excited as anyone to see them stamp the newsletter with their own brand of SouthBound hospitality.

On behalf of the entire membership, I'd like to recognize and thank Bunty Volls and Linda Yanusz. Bunty and Linda both served SouthBound on the 2007-08 Board of Directors. Depending on the day, serving on the Board can be fun and trying. Thank you for your time, your efforts and your sense of humor.

SouthBound has always been a leader in the general Swissy Community. We are the heart of packing and gaining quite a reputation in the drafting world. Thanks to all of you who have coordinated and participated in our working events. We need you to continue to provide the quality events we all enjoy.

The Cotton Classic is coming up. Please consider joining us for the Pack Dog hike, Fun Day and Specialty. I guarantee that you and your Swissy will have fun.

If you have any suggestions, don't hesitate to contact me at eichhoefer@nettally.com or give me a call at 850-212-9581.

—Molly E.

Thank you to all who volunteered to serve on the board and to all the members who cast ballots. Please welcome your new SouthBound board.

President: Molly Eichhoefer

Secretary: Cilla Phillips

Directors: Faye Erickson, Glenda Parks, Leigh Poole

Vice President: Val Guthrie

Treasurer: Scott Patton

Thank you to outgoing board members Bunty Volls and Linda Yanusz for your years of service.

Complete election results are posted to the files section of Yahoo Groups in the election folder.

—Kathy Nebel, for the Nominating Committee

Perry Is Just

Around the Corner

Peach Blossom Cluster / SouthBound Cotton Classic Week April 9-April 12					
Activity	Thurs- day	Friday	Satur- day	Sunday	Location
All-Breed Conformation	All Day	All Day	All Day		Judging Program for times
Obedience	All Day	All Day	All Day		Judging Program for times
Rally	All Day	All Day	All Day		Judging Program for times
Agility	All Day	All Day	All Day	All Day	Judging Program for times
Junior Showmanship	XXX	XXX	XXX		Judging Program for times
SouthBound Cotton Classic Sweeps/ Veteran Sweeps				9am	Miller Murphy Howard Bldg
SouthBound Cotton Classic Specialty				Follows Sweeps	Miller Murphy Howard Bldg
SouthBound Junior Showmanship				Follows Sweeps	Miller Murphy Howard Bldg
SouthBound Swissy Fun Day			Starts 12-1pm		Field near South Gate - Parking pass needed*
SouthBound Membership Meeting/Dinner			Follows Fun Day		Field near South Gate - Potluck
SouthBound Board Meeting		4:30pm			Green Derby
SouthBound Pack Dog Hike		8:30am			See Molly Eichhoefer for details
Microchipping	Show Hrs	Show Hrs	Show Hrs	Show Hrs	Roquemore Conference Center
CGC Testing			10-12; 1-3		Inside Heritage Hall
Herding Intro to Stock		10-1; 2-6	10-1; 2-6		Field near South Gate
Cardiology Screening		9:30- 5:00	8:30- 4:00		West Central Entrance Grooming Bldg
Eye Clinic		9:00- 4:00	9:00- 4:00		Office in McGill Building
Fly Ball		All Day	All Day		Registration required/ Multipurpose bldg
"B" Match	PM				30 minutes after BIS / McGill Bldg
New Exhibitor Briefing			XXX		Check Judging Program for time & location

Premium List with more information, hotel listings, and sign up forms for most activities can be found at www.onofrio.com

Additional information about the overall cluster may be found at www.peach-blossom.org

*Parking pass for Southbound Swissy Fun Day is available in the files section of the SouthBound Yahoo Groups Page

**Entries for Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Agility, Sweeps, and Specialty Activities
close on 3/25/09**

Packing for Perry

For your dog(s):

Collars and leashes (all types)
Crate(s)
Hiking equipment
Dog bowls
Food
Water
Clean-up bags
Treats and bait
First aid kit
Towels
Grooming supplies
Spray bottle with water
Sheet/blanket for covering beds/crates

For yourself:

Show clothes
Hiking clothes
Fun Day raffle items
Camera
Bottled Water and snacks
First aid kit
Rain gear
Sun screen
Chairs
Money for vendors
Afghan (for Linda Yanusz)
Sense of humor
Good sportsmanship

For health tests, you will need to have this information available:

Registered Name
Microchip number
AKC number

A Major for Coda!

Living Water's Coda Bear

Owned, Shown, & Loved by Stacy Gwin

Special Thanks to Judge Sharon A. Krogh



2009 Cotton Classic

Trophy Sponsors

Thank You to All the Sponsors!

Sweepstakes	Sponsored by:	Regular Classes	Sponsored by:
6-9 Puppy Dog	Valerie Valle	Best of Breed	Southbound GSMDC
9-12 Puppy Dog	Valerie Valle	Best of Winners	Faye & Eric Erickson & "The Boys"
12-15 Junior Dog	Stacey Gwin	Best of Opposite	Cilla Phillips, Bermuda High
15-18 Junior Dog	Leigh Poole & Ryan Fleek	1st Award of Merit	Natalie & Mark O'Neill in Memory of Jonah, TWINEPINE'S AIKO
6-9 Puppy Bitch	Tracy Brainard & Darlene Ward	2nd Award of Merit	Sooner GSMD in Memory of Sooner's Lucky in Love "Nookie" 4/3/08 - 9/20/08
9-12 Puppy Bitch	John & Ann Gallagher, Xemplar Swissys	Winners Dog	Brendamines Swissy's Brenda and Harry Naylor
12-15 Junior Bitch	Stacey Gwin	Reserve Winners Dog	Molly Eichhoefer in Memory of CH Shadetree's Rough N Ready Teddy, WPD
15-18 Junior Bitch	Tracy Brainard & Darlene Ward	Winners Bitch	Brendamines Swissy's Brenda and Harry Naylor
Best Puppy-Sweeps	Margaret Poole	Reserve Winners Bitch	Gary & Sheila Nash
BOS Sweeps	Margaret Poole	6-9 Dog	Valerie Valle
		9-12 Dog	Valerie Valle
7-9 Veteran Dog	Natalie & Mark O'Neill in Memory of Jonah, TWINEPINE'S AIKO	12-18 Dog	Mac McFadden & Debbie Echols
9-11 Veteran Dog	Faye & Eric Erickson & "The Boys"	Bred by Exhibitor Dog	Brendamines Swissy's Brenda and Harry Naylor
11+ Veteran Dog	Kathy Nebel & Jeff Schmitt in Memory of Yankee	American Bred Dog	Bunty Volls, Schaffhausen GSMD
7-9 Veteran Bitch	Cathy Cooper, Shadetree GSMD	Open Dog	Monica Kelly in Memory of CH Waterford's Becket Von Ironclad HIC, TT, CD, NJW, CGC
9-11 Veteran Bitch	John & Ann Gallagher, Xemplar Swissys	6-9 Bitch	Jackie & Stewart Mathis
11+ Veteran Bitch	Cilla Phillips in Memory of Scooter	9-12 Bitch	Glenda Parks in Memory of Pepsi-Cola, CGC
Best Veteran-Sweeps	Kathy Nebel & Jeff Schmitt in Memory of Toby	12-18 Bitch	Paula, Spencer and Robert Botkin
BOS Veteran	Bunty Volls in Memory of Amos, CH Schaffhausen's Anselm ROM	Bred by Exhibitor Bitch	Brendamines Swissy's Brenda and Harry Naylor
		American Bred Bitch	Cathy Cooper, Shadetree GSMD
Obedience	Sponsored by:	Open Bitch	Dan and Priscilla Sparks
Highest Scoring GSMD in Obed. (Sat)	Cilla Phillips, Bermuda High	Veteran Dog	Bunty Volls in Memory of Amos, CH Schaff- hausen's Anselm ROM
Highest Scoring GSMD in Rally (Sat)	Natalie & Mark O'Neill in Memory of Jonah, TWINEPINE'S AIKO	Veteran Bitch	Glenda Parks in Memory of Pepsi-Cola, CGC
Jr Showmanship	Sponsored by:	Brace	Valerie Valle
All 6 Junior Classes	John & Ann Gallagher, Xemplar Swissys	Stud Dog	Linda & Danny Yanusz
Best Junior	Faye & Eric Erickson & "The Boys"	Brood Bitch	Cathy Cooper, Shadetree GSMD

Dog Event Etiquette

By Kathy Nebel (Re-printed with permission)

As much as we'd like to believe that everyone, human and canine, loves our dog as much as we do, it's not always true. Practice "Doggy Etiquette" to make a good – and safe – impression at the Perry events.

- Keep your dog on a short lead when in a crowd. Avoid using a Flexi-lead in situations where you may need instant control of your dog.
- Be aware of where your dog is looking and always control his head. Your dog may not want to eat that little dust mop on legs he's staring at, but the little dog's owner doesn't know that.
- Ask before you allow your dog to approach another dog.
- Do not allow your dog to approach any unattended dog in a crate or vehicle. Contained dogs may feel a need to defend their space.
- Don't use someone else's crate or x-pen unless you are invited to.
- Keep a water bowl for your dog handy. With the current concerns over canine influenza, people may be less willing to share their dogs' bowls.
- Always clean up after your dog, even if it "looks" like a place no one will see.
- If your dog will be sleeping in the hotel bed with you, bring an old sheet to put on top of the hotel bedding.
- Crate your dog if he is to be left alone in the hotel room. If your dog barks when left alone, do not leave him unattended in the room.
- Do not bathe your dog in the hotel room.
- Leave a tip for your hotel maid when you leave (\$2 per person per night is appropriate). Happy maids are less likely to complain to management about dogs in the rooms.
- Keep your dog on a leash in the public areas of the hotel.
- Assume that dog-less hotel guests don't want to be greeted by your dog.
- If your dog wins a trophy, thank the person who sponsored it.
- Practice good sportsmanship, whether you win or lose.



Upcoming Conformation Shows

Tarheel Circuit - Raleigh, NC - March 18-22
Newnan, GA shows - March 28-29
Birmingham KC - Columbiana, AL - April 3-5
Piedmont KC - Charlotte, NC - April 4-5
Peach Blossom Cluster - Perry, GA - April 9-12
Columbia KC - Aiken, SC - April 18-19
Montgomery, AL shows - April 24-25
Treasure Coast KC - Vero Beach, FL - April 25-26
Myrtle Beach KC - Lake Waccamaw, NC - April 25-26

Meet the Board Members

President - Molly Eichhoefer

How did you get involved in Swissys?

Teddy was my first Swissy. He joined a pack of two old dogs and 4 cats in July of 2000. Unfortunately, neither of the old dogs would play with him. Only Apachee the Cat would play with him. I consider myself still a novice in the Swissy world. My Swissy involvement came at the expense of my Cowboy the Cat. I had adopted a short-haired Saint [Bernard] mix from my vet. After 4 months, he decided to start killing cats. I'd always been raised with purebred dogs and quickly realized that if I was going to have a really big dog, I needed to do my best to get one whose temperament was predictable. Or as predictable as it could be. I went looking for a short hair, dry mouth big breed. Swissys fit the bill.

Where are you from?

Chicago, Illinois. Was great to be raised with all the museums and the various ethnic cultures (and food!!!). Went to high school in Dade City, Florida. Graduating class of 250. Was culture shock from Chicago.

Do you have any other pets?

Apachee the cat is the top dog in this household. He trains all of my dogs, and he cat trains the HalfMoon pups. Both Dreamer and Lucy get him in the whelping box. He grooms both of them every night.

What's one little-known fact about you?

My house was built in 1936; so I've done more than my fair share of home improvement. I own quite a collection of power tools and have done everything from roofing to insulating the floors. Now that my time on the National Board is done, I'm looking forward to doing a little sprucing up around the house. I'm really good at cutting in. Have paint brush, will travel.

What is your most memorable moment so far in SouthBound?

SouthBound sponsored an "All Swiss Breed" fun day north of Atlanta. Ted was just a 4-month old junior puppy but took Best Swissy Puppy in Match. I'm convinced it was because on the final line up, he held his stack to perfection. Peeing as only a Swissy can pee the entire time.



Vice President - Val Guthrie

How did you get involved in Swissys?

I started researching large breeds and fell in love with the Swissy. Got my first Swissy in February 2003 - CH. Noble Farms Alpine Avalanche, CGC, TDI, TT. So far, I have been involved with conformation, some obedience work, some weight pulls, have attended 2 draft clinics, and have served on SouthBound board for 4 years.

Where are you from?

Born and raised in Georgia.

What's one little-known fact about you?

I Played college softball at Georgia state University.

What is your most memorable moment so far in SouthBound?

Meeting several life-long friends through this great group.



Secretary - Cilla Phillips

How did you get involved in Swissys?

My good friend Bunty Volls helped me out with that one. My dog at that time, Mikey, was getting up in years and I was starting to think about my next. I asked her opinion about what kind of mix I should start looking out for at the shelters. When she asked what I wanted out of a dog, I answered, large, short-haired, athletic, smart, companionable, healthy, dry-mouthed, etc. With every word, her grin got bigger. She finally crooked her finger at me and said, "Let me introduce you to someone." That was it, I was hooked. I got my first Swissy in 1991 after a three year wait. Breeding and conformation are my first loves. I've also put several CDs on my dogs along with packing and drafting titles. Lola recently became the third Swissy and first bitch to get a Master Draft Dog title.

Do you have any other pets?

Zing (feisthound of undetermined Hispanic origins), Ham Bone (hound mix), his sister Pork Chop (more bird dog), Pancho and Carley (brother/sister cats), Chelsea (Appendix Quarterhorse), Mickey (Appaloosa) and Abner (a very large gourami). We also have a refugee from I-20 living with us named after his area of origin: Aiken.

What's one little-known fact about you?

OK, hardly anybody knows this about me but I have a little trouble with paperwork and deadlines. No, seriously, I do. I'm sure it's hard to believe but I do. And you guys elected me secretary. *Irony!!!* [Ed. Note: it took five emails to get this bio from Cilla. No, seriously.]

What is your most memorable moment so far in SouthBound?

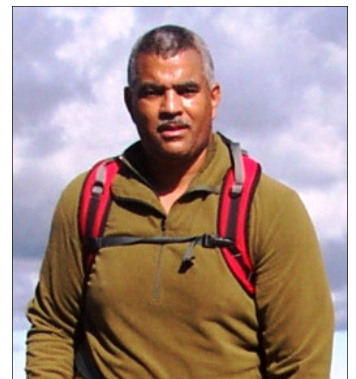
I bet you're expecting me to say "signing the incorporation papers," or "the 2002 National Specialty in Perry." But actually, after some reflection, I have to say that my most memorable moment kind of snuck in the back door. Some years ago, I was talking to a Swissy friend from another part of the country and she mentioned that she never allows a puppy buyer to take their dog to compete in their first conformation event without her going along. When I asked why, she described such antagonistic ringside behavior that, in one instance, made a puppy buyer call her after the show and tell her that they would never show their dog again. I explained to her that not only would I feel comfortable sending a newbie without me, but that I would send out the word that he was coming and to make him welcome and include him in Swissy after-ring activities at the show. That is the hallmark of a great club and good friends and Southbound is both. I couldn't be more grateful to be a part of this organization.

What is your vision for SouthBound?

I think that too many people don't realize that life doesn't end with a CH. We are truly blessed to have found this breed that can excel in so many other disciplines. Your pride in your conformation champion and your love of a great companion is only the beginning. Your relationship with your Swissy just continues to grow deeper and fuller with performance training, and I would like more of us to experience the incredible bond that can evolve from that expanded relationship.

Treasurer - Scott Patton

[Ed. Note: Scott is a man of very few written words, but he and his wife make sure that SouthBound has the very best ringside breakfast at Perry—making all the other clubs very jealous (and hungry). So, I forgive him for not sending his information for this article. He is also planning to finish 8 1/2 year-old Flurry's Working Pack Dog Excellent title in Perry this year.]



Director - Faye Erickson

I came to Swissys the long way around. I had several dogs when I was growing up, mostly mutts. I didn't have a registered dog until we moved to Columbia in 1978. My sister had a Golden Retriever bitch that had a litter of puppies. We got one, a bitch, and named her, appropriately, Goldie (we're nothing if not original!). Unfortunately, we were told that while Goldie was a nice dog, she was too small, her ears were too long, and her eyes were too light. Back to the drawing board and into obedience. It was at obedience class one night that I fell in love with an Irish Wolfhound. My first one, Mickey, had a great head, a fair front, and every fault known to Irish Wolfhounds, and some he made up on his own. Someone said that Mickey's tail was not only gay, it was hysterical! Back to that drawing board – and obedience. We did manage to put CD's on Goldie and Mickey, and Mickey was high scoring sighthound at one trial. We lost Mickey at 9 ½ years, and two years later, we got Sully, another Irish Wolfhound, from a breeder in Georgia. He was our first show dog, and I finished him – YEA! Three years later, Ranger, another Wolfie came to live with us. Ranger had a real show dog attitude– he thought everybody at the shows came to see him. He loved it! He decided at one show that he was not through showing and tried to drag me into a ring with Standard Poodles. Unfortunately, we lost both Sully and Ranger within 9 months – Sully to cancer and a rare heart problem, and Ranger to a heart problem.

Now, finally, we're getting to the Swissys! While I was showing the Wolfies, I had been looking for a second breed. I looked at Flat Coats, Curley Coats,

Pointers, Vizslas, Berners, and finally, Swissys.

After watching them for about three years, I finally decided that the Swissy was the breed I wanted, and if I got one, I wanted a puppy from Cilla Phillips' Jenny Beaufort (Ch. Pool-side Bavarian Crème). Long story short, Gunner (Ch. Bermuda High's Top Gun) came home with us. We've had a lot of fun with Gunner. He passed his herding instinct test in Lexington, KY, at the National, we've done drafting trials (never passed, but we had fun trying), and backpacking. He's now 10 years old and thinks he's top dog around here. Of course, you can't have just one Swissy, so four years ago Magnum (Reinherz Mystere) came to live with us (from Chuck and Pam Kalupa). Unfortunately, Magnum (named for Magnum, P.I., not the gun) had a shoulder problem that required surgery, so I have not been able to finish him – he has 7 points and one major. He loves to pull the cart (especially if he can get in front of Cilla's Moon Doggie), and we tried a weight pull once. I still want to try backpacking with him, if I could just get my bones outside and walking again!



I've been the Southbound treasurer since 2004, and president of the Columbia Kennel Club since 2004. I love being involved with the dogs and with dog people, and look forward to many more years of this insanity!

Director - Glenda Parks

How did you get involved in Swissys?

I began showing my Irish Setters in obedience in 1973. Worked for Canine College Dog Training in Abilene TX while Frank was in the Air Force as a trainer for several years then moved back to Louisiana and started Obedience 101 Dog Training. Handled client dogs in Obedience ring for many years. Never wanted a conformation dog because it was cut-throat in Setters. It was not as bad in obedience so I made my home there. I was involved with Swissys long before I even realized it. In 1989 I ended up taking a severely abused rescue girl from CAAWS as a last resort for her before the kill

shelter. Fell in love with that tri-colored hound dog. Around 1993 when I got internet access, I was playing on the AKC site and BAM! there

was Pepsi's face! I finally had a name for her - Greater Swiss Mountain Dog. I emailed Elyn Signet pictures. She put me in touch with Margaret Poole



and that began the love affair with Swissys and my involvement in the breed! When Cilla Phillips put together Southbound as a Regional Club, I immediately got involved with it. At that time we were paralleling the Magnolia Club out of Atlanta. When Magnolia dissolved, I took over the membership duties, and have been doing that ever since.

Where are you from?

Louisiana, originally from New Orleans but have lived in Baton Rouge for 24 years now.

Do you have any other hobbies?

Art Quilts! Traditional Quilts! Anything quilts! Also, I have been in Toastmasters for 25 years now and have achieved my Distinguished Toastmasters Award; I have been active in Capital Area Animal Welfare Society (CAAWS) since I got Pepsi and now I am a 6th year board member; keeping up with friends but mostly dogs and quilting!

What is a little-known fact about you?

For 11 years, Pepsi was a poster dog for CAAWS until she crossed the bridge at age 12. She would attend all their functions and fund raisers, prance around in a costume at the drop of a hat. She was my heart. So many people knew her and celebrated the fact that she was a dog who had beaten the

odds and found that forever home. And in all of that, she introduced me to the breed and the people behind the breed.

Most memorable moment so far in SouthBound?

I guess it would have to be the first time I flew to Orlando, FL to meet someone I had never met before and lived with her for a week. And we drove 5 hours to Perry to fall in love with the show and the people there. It was so overwhelming; I had never done anything in my life like that before. It was incredible. And I keep going back, it is the most amazing thing, to be in the middle of so many people and so many dogs. I still marvel at the fact that a goofy tri-colored dog can bring so many people of so many difference backgrounds together as such wonderful friends.

What is your vision for SouthBound?

I would like to see some of the early history documented. Like the information Margaret Poole has to share, or Cilla Phillips or Bunty Volls and Brenda Naylor. They were involved in making the breed what we have today. They were making the choices that created what we see in the SouthBound dogs of today. Without them and people like them, we would be back in the Misc. Breed Ring.

Director - Leigh Poole

How did you get involved in Swissys?

My husband, Ryan, spotted Swissys on Animal Planet's 'Breed All About it' and called me to the TV to see these beautiful dogs. We had been wanting a Rottie and instead after watching 'Breed All About it' started researching Swissys and a year later we brought Herschel home! I owner-handled Herschel to his AKC championship, Herschel has his WPD title, and we are beginning training for rally.

What do you do (other than chase Swissys around)?

I work full-time for a non-profit evaluating our existing and new educational offerings for teachers and now that I've finished my master's degree I'll get back to working-out several times/week and begin training with Herschel for rally novice.

Most memorable moment so far in SouthBound?

Well, so far I have two memorable moments - both in the show ring: Herschel's first major in Greensboro in August '07 when he went WD and BOW over 7 dogs/1 bitch; and Herschel (at just 2 years old) making the cut in Perry '08 with Keygan, Oscar, Dede, and Cash - what a thrill! I remember Melissa [Jarriel] leaning over and saying to me "Do you see who is behind you?"

I'd like to encourage members to continue to volunteer and for our membership to continue to encourage our volunteers and provide a supportive environment. This is our Club and it takes many willing volunteers to reach our goals. The Board is here to serve the membership. Let us know what goals you would like to see your Club working towards. I'm personally looking forward to continuing to help plan and host working events, as well as working on the 2011 National Specialty. It's going to be a fabulous National!



2009 Pack Dog Hikes



Eglin Trail Hike—Scott Patton, Molly Eichhoefer, Debbie Echols, Amy Allen, Mac McFadden



Moonlight Hike—Molly Eichhoefer, Amy Allen, Robert Botkin



UWF Hike—Victory Hulett, Molly Eichhoefer, Jennifer Adams, Amy Allen



Umstead Back-to-Back—Ryan Fleek, Leigh Poole, Jennifer Davis, Scott Patton, Jenna Lea (with Am-Staff), Danny Yanusz, Linda Yanusz, Tracy Brainard, Darlene Ward (not pictured)

NEW WORKING PACK DOG! CONGRATULATIONS, DASH!

Halfmoon's Dashing Big Blue CGC HIT WPD

Dam: CH Suddanly Halfmoon I Love Lucy NWPD HCT
Sire: CH Bermuda High's Big Top CGC HIT WPDX

Thanks to our Breeder, Molly Eichhoefer, for letting us have this very handsome, special blue boy!

Owned & Loved by Linda & Danny Yanusz



Getting Started in Pack Dog Hiking

By Linda Yanusz

You have your first Swissy puppy, have seen or heard about owners doing hikes with their dogs, and now you are ready to get started. Where do you begin?

When we have our Swissy picnic and discuss packing, the first thing I do is pass around a fully-loaded dog pack with 20% of the dog's weight, which for us is about 23-24 pounds. I tell everyone that the dog needs to carry this weight for 10 miles. Some comments have been "I couldn't even carry this to my car," or "I couldn't carry this for one mile." The point is these packs are very heavy and you cannot put them on a dog that hasn't been gradually conditioned to carry them for long distances.

It is important that all dogs being considered for packing be healthy, fit, and well-behaved around people. Remember, just like people, dogs must be thoroughly conditioned for any working activity. If your dog is a couch potato, don't expect him to suddenly be able to carry a full pack on a 10-mile hike. And you can't expect to easily hike 10 miles (sometimes at a brisk pace) either! Both of you need to train and gradually build up your muscles and stamina. Untrained dogs will just refuse to carry a pack that is too heavy and others will injure themselves trying, so remember to start off with short hikes and light weight and build up weight and distance gradually. Also, they should be current on their shots since they may encounter wild animals in the woods.

That being said, how do you start? How do you get your dog to even carry a pack if he's (for purposes of this article, I'm referring to a male throughout) never had anything on his back? When he's still growing, you can put a small towel on his back while speaking in a "happy" voice to make it fun and get him used to something on his back. When he is at least a year old, you can start "training" with an empty pack. Have him wear an empty pack around the house (so when he bumps into walls, he knows he has the pack on) and when you go for short walks. Make it a happy time, a time he'll look forward to. If he refuses to wear the pack, don't force him. Wait a few days and try again, praising and treating if he accepts it.

Our first pack was from PetSmart, an Outward Hound

pack, about \$20. We were there shopping for our puppy, saw it and said, "That's a neat thing, let's get that for him." Later, when we started training for packing, it was fine, but once we had to add a lot of weight, it just wouldn't hold enough. And the buckle protectors always pulled away from the buckle, causing the buckle to rub against the dog's skin. Plus it was not meant for serious hiking – it just wasn't made well enough and started to fall apart. But it was a great first pack, we still have it, and have used it as the training pack for our subsequent dogs. When you get into serious packing, you'll need a better-made pack, such as Mountainsmith, Ruff Wear, or Wolf Pack, which, I think, are all guaranteed for life!

Once he's comfortable wearing the pack, you can add a pair of 16-24 oz. plastic water bottles, one on each side – they are about a pound each. When the pack is on, it should place all the weight on the dogs shoulders (not the back), but allow his elbows to move normally. Straps should be very snug, but loose enough to fit a finger beneath. Packs should not move around a lot and make sure they are balanced. If riding to one side, you'll need to adjust the weight. Remember to use lots of praise, tell him he's a good working dog, and just have fun. Start off with light loads and brief walks several times a week. In the beginning, the weight carried should consist of just water (take many water breaks if warm outside), a collapsible water bowl, and treats. You should add weight gradually on a young dog, two pounds a week is enough.

Once your dog is 16 months or more, you can start training for hikes where he can get legs toward a Novice Pack Dog title – he must be at least 18 months old on the day of the hike. It usually takes about 8 weeks to train you and your dog for a 10-mile hike where the dog carries 20% of his body weight. There is a suggested training schedule on page 12 of this newsletter.

Now that you are training for a title, what do you put in your pack to get the eventual 20% body weight of your dog? As listed above, we carry water and a collapsible water bowl. But instead of carrying many small water bottles, go to an outdoor store, or go online, and get Platypus collapsible water bottles, the 80-ounce size. It eventually takes four of them, 2 per side, to make up the 24 lbs for a 120-lb dog since each Platypus weighs about 5 lbs when full. When training, you can easily adjust the amount of

water you need to get to your training weight.

How do you know how much your dog's pack weighs? We just put the loaded pack on our bathroom scale. There are also digital fish scales you can get in outdoor stores (about \$20) that have a hook on the bottom and you just hang your pack from it to get its weight. This is the type that you'll see most hike coordinators using.

Now back to training. You can just walk around your neighborhood at first, doing anywhere from one to four miles per day during the week. We'd have packs on one night, off the next, but they always wore packs on Wednesdays. On Saturday or Sunday, we'd do longer hikes (four to seven miles) in parks with natural trails and some elevation, depending on the hike we were training for. They always wore their packs on the weekend hikes. Of course, we followed the training schedule, adding weight weekly and we usually trained five days per week. Our dogs did not like wearing packs on the neighborhood streets, but they loved hiking the natural trails on the weekends. We both work, so during the week, training usually occurred after dinner in the dark. We never trained if it was over 75-80 degrees, so sometimes trained in the mornings before work. If you are hiking in warm weather, make sure you have plenty of water and watch out for heat exhaustion and heat stroke: rapid panting, bright red tongue or mucous membranes. If your dog is overheated, stop training or hiking, get him into the shade, put cool water on his belly and groin, and wait until his symptoms subside. A six-mile hike at full weight is now required during training.

If you go to a park with trails, check with the park ranger to make sure you can bring your dog on the trails or see if they have a sign posting this information. Keep your dog on leash – most parks require a 6' nylon lead and don't allow retractable leads – and most hike coordinators don't allow retractable leads anyway. You should use whatever you can maintain control of your dog with. This is for your dog's protection as well as unexpected animals or other critters you may meet along the way. When you approach a horse, a biker, or another hiker, move to the right and wait and let them pass, keeping your dog on your right so you are between them. You are responsible for the health, welfare, and actions of your dog!

What to pack on a hike, going for a leg toward your title: On hikes, only you and your dog can consume what is in the dog's pack. In addition to water, you can also add food items, your lunch, the dog's lunch in a zip-lock bag, a dog energy bar or paste, fruit, granola bars, etc. You can also use rolled coins, or exercise

hand weights to make up the weight, but we prefer food and water. Pack heavier things on the bottom and remember that we practice "leave no trace hiking," which means we leave no garbage on the trail, so all peels, cores, papers, etc., must be put back into the dog's pack since it was part of the original weight carried. Also, any measurable leftover water in the dog's bowl must be poured back into the Platypus – it can't be discarded. And make sure your saddle bags, or panniers, are balanced – one is not hanging lower than the other. This is definitely felt by the dog and he can refuse to move if he's off balance! Other items to pack are dog booties in case your dog is injured, a first-aid kit (Benadryl, Gas-X, tweezers, Neosporin, plastic gloves, vet bandage), and poop bags. Some hike coordinators also carry duct tape for emergency pack repairs! Since the dogs always bang the pack into trees or rocks, don't put anything fragile inside their packs. Finally, make sure their nails are trimmed since too long nails will make a dog set back on his feet and make him lame.

We started working on our Pack Dog titles after we got championships on both of our dogs. One of our dogs didn't really enjoy showing, so we wanted to start "the fun things." We loved the outdoors and wanted to get, and stay, fit, so packing was an excellent choice for us. My husband, Danny, and I each had a dog to hike and we did all the hikes together. We wound up loving it so much that we got our boys' NWPD, WPD, and WPDx titles at exactly the same time. Kaiser and Kasey are the first and second dogs in the country to get the WPDx title. I am now hiking with Kasey's son, Dash, and he just completed his WPD title. We'll start his WPDx title this fall. Danny still does hikes with either Kaiser or Kasey, just for fun, and couldn't wait to get back to hiking after his knee surgery last September. His knee, with hiking as his physical therapy, is better than ever (we call it his "bionic" knee) and we look forward to many more hikes in the future. Hope to see you on the trail sometime!

Descriptions of hike title requirements are located on the next page.



Here are, *in simplified terms for this article*, the requirements to get pack dog titles through the GSMDC (Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America). Please check the National website for the complete set of requirements for each and also for the Pack Dog Qualifications, Policies, and Rules:

Novice Working Pack Dog Title (NWP):

- Dogs must be 18 months of age or older on the day of the hike
- Dogs must carry minimum of 20% of body weight
- Need 4 qualifying legs
- Can use any number of day hikes and back-to-backs, but only one primitive.

Working Pack Dog Title (WPD):

- Dogs must be 24 months of age or older on the day of the hike
- Dogs must have completed requirements for the NWP title
- Option #1 – Dogs must carry minimum of 20% of body weight for 5 qualifying legs (in addition to those of NWP)
- Option #2 – Dogs must carry minimum of 30% of body weight for 4 qualifying legs (in addition to those of NWP)
- Can use any number of day hikes and back-to-backs, but only one primitive

Working Pack Dog Excellent Title (WPDX)

- Dogs must be 36 months of age or older on the day of the hike
- Dogs must have completed requirements for the NWP title and the WPD title
- Option #1 – Dogs must carry minimum of 20% of body weight for 10 qualifying legs (in addition to those of NWP and WPD)
- Option #2 - Dogs must carry minimum of 30% of body weight for 8 qualifying legs (in addition to those of NWP and WPD)
- Can use any number of day hikes and back-to-backs, but only two primitives

Hike Descriptions:

- Day – one 10-mile hike done in one day, completed within 8 hours. Earns one leg.
- Back to Back – a minimum of 8 miles each day on no more than 2 consecutive days. Both days must be completed and no credit will be given for only one day's participation. Earns two legs.
- Primitive – a minimum of 5 miles each day on no more than 2 consecutive days. Requires a primitive overnight camp without access to modern conveniences, such as bathroom facilities, running water, electricity, structures, picnic tables, or transportation. Both days must be completed, and only trails rated moderate or strenuous will be approved for a primitive hike. No credit given for one day's participation. Earns two legs.

Pack Dog Training Schedule

(from www.gsmdca.org):

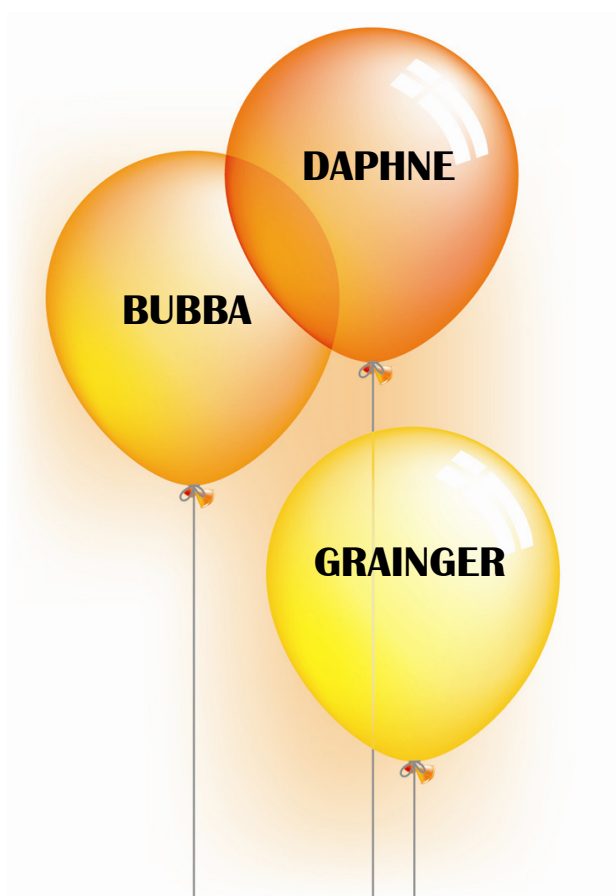
Start training with a pack that weighs about 5 lbs. Add 5 lbs per week until you reach 20% of your dog's weight. The dog should wear the pack at least 3 to 4 times a week (in addition to walks without a pack on "off days." The daily distance should be 1 to 3 miles. Each week, at least one of the treks with a pack should be 3 miles. After the first month, at least one trek

with the pack, every two weeks, should be 2/3 of the event distance of 6 to 7 miles. It is important to vary your training workouts to include hills as well as flat ground. As much as possible, the training workouts with a pack should be on trails or dirt roads to toughen your dog's feet. Do NOT attempt to train or participate if your dog has an injury or disability.

HAPPY 2ND BIRTHDAY

To

**The Deme X Keygan Threesome
Whelped 3/19/07**



Three Gorgeous Pups

Three Outstanding Two-Year-Olds



Dam: CH Riverwalks Lunar Diademe
Sire: BISS CH Rippling Waters Havelock Key, CDX,
NAP, OJP, DD, WWDX, WPDx, VGSX, TT

At Stud for Approved Bitches. See details at:
WWW.KEYSTONEGSMD.WEBLY.COM
Melissa and Brett Jarriel



Owned by Denise Glass

CH Sawmill's Nymph of Riverwalk



Owned by Judy & Steve Fletcher

CH Sawmill's River Key Bubba



Owned by Laura Bullock

Sawmill River's Grainger McKey, RN

Pack Dog Puzzle: Test Your Knowledge

By Molly Eichhoefer

First, select true or false for the following statements:

1. It's ok to throw out the back wash in my dogs bowl.
2. My vet has to certify my dogs weigh on his office letterhead.
3. Extra legs are awarded for speed.
4. My dogs pack has to be "EXACTLY" 20% of his body weight.
5. Puppies are ok to hike 8-10 miles with no weight.
6. Pack Dog Events test my dog's ability to hike over time.
7. Basic obedience control is tested before each hike.
8. I must verify that I've done at least one 6 mile hike at full pack weight.
9. Only one dog per handler is allowed on a hike.
10. The Pack Dog Committee is just like AKC and will automatically send my title upon completion.

Then, look at the bottom of the next page for answers.

A PRINCESS "PACK"AGE

Federal Hill's Alpine Raven WPDX and new TD!

Way back in February Raven earned her Working Pack Dog Excellent title. Carrying a backpack or pulling kids in a cart aren't her favorite activities. She is much too girly! But she does them without fuss because I ask her to. Raven would rather have her hair brushed, her nails done, her belly rubbed, or bask in the warm sunshine. Constant petting and being fawned over are what she expects. Hence, the Therapy Dog certification!

Raven has hiked over 180 pack dog title miles on trails in AL, FL, GA, NC and SC and even on the Appalachian Trail!

She is loved by one lame lady - Amy Allen



Revised Ad/Brag Fee Schedule for the New Electronic Newsletter

Full Page: \$30

Half Page: \$20

**Send all content and high resolution photos to Laura Bullock at
lauracbullock@earthlink.net**

Mail checks payable to SouthBound GSMD:

**SouthBound Newsletter
c/o Laura Bullock
4820 Morning Edge Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27613**



Answers for Pack Dog Puzzle: Test Your Knowledge

1. TRUE...The few ounces left in a bowl may be poured out. With an average of a break every 2 miles, the back wash in your dogs bowl does not affect the pack weight enough to qualify as deliberate off-loading or dumping.
2. FALSE...The weight may be recorded on office letterhead, on a receipt or statement, prescription pad or on a business card.
3. FALSE...Pack Dog title legs are awarded upon the completion of the hike within an 8 hour period. Trail terrain, trail blazing, and weather, for example; will all impact the hike pace.
4. TRICK QUESTION-TRUE and FALSE...Most hike coordinators use fish scales to weigh packs. Hike coordinators should not assign a false level of "precision" to these \$20 Wal-Mart specials. Some hikers like to carry extra weight. This is permissible.
5. FALSE...The Pack Dog regulations were set to minimize the potential to damage a puppies growth plates. Training for pack dog events should not start before the growth plates have closed. Estimated to be 12-14 months.
6. TRUE...The Pack Dog regulations were set to test a dog over the dog's life.
7. FALSE...Basic Obedience control is tested as part of Drafting not Pack Dog. However, aggressive dogs can be excused.
8. TRUE...Before your first hike of the season, you must complete at least one practice 6 mile hike at full pack weight.
9. TRUE...Safety should always come first.
- 10.FALSE...The Pack Dog Committee is made up of volunteers and the Pack Dog records are manual. We need your help by submitting a Title Confirmation Form when you've completed the requirements for a title.

Cat People vs. Dog People

from *Planet Dog; a doglopedia*, by Sandra and Harry Choron

Cat people go on diets. **Dog people work out.**

Cat people leave a message and tell you when they will call back. **Dog people hang up.**

Cat people drink white wine spritzers with a twist of lime. **Dog people drink beer.**

Cat people swim. **Dog people surf.**

Cat people write on attractive stationery that has picture of kittens and little paws on the matching envelopes.
Dog people send postcards.

Cat people go to Broadway shows. **Dog people go to rock concerts.**

Cat people get pulled over for driving 45 mph in a 35 mph zone. **Dog people can outrun the cop.**

Cat people invest in money market accounts. Dog people can get a 3% bonus in addition to the regular annuity on their investments by rolling over their IRAs into short-term corporate accounts.

Cat people plant annuals. **Dog people plant perennials.**

Cat people listen to lite FM. **Dog people listen to Sirius radio.**

Cat people turn off the TV at ten o'clock and read a book. **Dog people fall asleep clutching the remote.**

Cat people know how to tape shows automatically. **Dog people have TiVo.**

Cat people send Hallmark cards. **Dog people send e-greetings.**

Cat people patiently wait behind you as you purchase fourteen items at the six-items-and-under checkout line.
Dog people will follow you to your car, tailgate you all the way home, and then yell, "I know where you live," as they speed off.

Have an article or event photos you'd like included in the next newsletter? Please send everything to Laura Bullock (lauracbullock@earthlink.net). Please provide high resolution pictures and any text you'd like included.