

Samoyed Association of Mpls/St. Paul



CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 11/2003 December 15, 2003

Club Website: <http://www.samsmn.org/>

Next Newsletter Deadline: December 31st

Editor: Lori Sorenson

S.A.M.S. 2003 Board of Directors:

Leny Wendel – President
Jane Anderson – Vice President
Roland Anderson – Treasurer
Lynne Sparks – Secretary
Jon Gauthier – Member at Large
Cyndy McGrath – Member at Large
Sharon Dobson – Member at Large

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Holiday Party Notice

The next general meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26th at the United Methodist Church. Address: 1524 W. Co Rd. C2 and Snelling in Roseville. The church is at the SE corner. Use the east (main) entrance. Signs will be posted to direct you to the meeting room. **Directions:** from hwy 36, take Snelling north and turn right (east) on Co. Rd C2. The parking lot is east of the church. From I694, go south on Snelling and turn left (east) on Co. Rd. C2

Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be on Monday, February 2, 2004 at Lynne Sparks and Karen Palms home.

Upcoming Events

- S.A.M.S. Holiday Party: Saturday, January 10, 2004 (see special flyer)
- *Born to Win, Breed to Succeed*. Patricia Craige Trotter Seminar: Saturday and Sunday, January 17 & 18, 2004 at Bandana Square. For more information, contact J.E. Kayser at jekayser@aol.com

President's Message By Leny Wendel

Happy Holidays and all the best for 2004. It's unbelievable how fast this last year went. Looking back at 2003, I have very much enjoyed being your president. Thank you for electing me and giving me your trust and support.

2003 marked the first year that we had a back to back specialty and what a success it was! My thanks again to everyone who helped to make this happen. It's hard to believe, but our 2004 specialty is less than six months away... Our 2004 chair, Jane Anderson, had a meeting with all her committees last month, and seems well on her way to completing all the tasks necessary to pull off yet another successful back to back.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our next club meeting: Monday, January 26, 2004 at the United Methodist Church location. It will be an important meeting: election of the 2004 Board of Directors and final judges vote for the 2005 specialty. My special thanks to the 2005 judges committee: Jim Shea, Larry Mackai, and Pam Landers.

This newsletter contains the plaque application for your dogs' 2003 achievements. Lori Sorensen will once again head up the plaques. Larry Mackai will continue to evaluate the Hall of Fame, and Dawn Sawdey the Gordy Sawdey Memorial Agility award. Thank you Lori, Larry, and Dawn!

I also want to mention that Larry has created an electronic file of all the Hall of Fame achievers and put together a fantastic binder. Thank you, Larry! That was quite a job.

Our annual holiday party is scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 2004. Once again, the Harpers have very graciously opened their house for the party. Thank you GJ, Jeanne, and Jack! See the flyer in this newsletter for more information.

Again, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Club Pack Hike

September 28th was a lovely but cool day. Great for the dogs but a bit chilly for the people at times. I was glad I had taken some polar fleece along. If I counted correctly we had 13 people and 16 of our four footed friends in attendance.

We all met at Lake Minnewashta County Park which is right off of Hwy 7. The park is really beautiful with very nice paths that weave their way through stands of huge trees. There was also a really large stand of horsetail that we passed. Karen Palm was our hike leader and managed to get us all organized and out on the trail in an orderly fashion. She also managed to keep track of us all and didn't lose a single hiker. We saw some deer but fortunately none of the Sammies decided to try herding them. After the hike we also did some carting on the roads in the park.

Karen was also in charge of our picnic, which was delicious as usual. Everyone brought a dish to share and it's always a treat to try everyone's special contribution.

So a big thank you to Karen for all her hard work in making it a fun day for everyone.

Braggs

Sandbeck Mr. Dillon R U Ready TT, CGC, TDI, HIT, CD, WS, HCT, HT, WSX

Dillon has earned his WSX (Working Samoyed Excellent) title. He chose therapy dog visits, herding and back packing as the ways he wanted to earn his points. He entered and received titles in 2 herding trials, carried his back pack for 5 miles with 15 pounds in it and he did many, many therapy dog visits. Dillon is so proud to be one of 136 Samoyeds world wide to be called Excellent.

Linda A. and Donaven Murray

The Journey

When you bring a pet into your life, you begin a journey. A journey that will bring you more love and devotion than you have ever known, yet will also test your strength and courage. If you allow, the journey will teach you many things, about life, about yourself, and most of all, about love. You will come away changed forever, for one soul cannot touch another without leaving its mark.

Along the way, you will learn much about savoring life's simple pleasures -- jumping in leaves, snoozing in the sun, the joys of puddles, and even the satisfaction of a good scratch behind the ears. If you spend much time outside, you will be taught how to truly experience every element, for no rock, leaf, or log will go unexamined, no rustling bush will be overlooked, and even the very air will be inhaled, pondered, and noted as being full of valuable information.

Your pace may be slower, except when heading home to the food dish, but you will become a better naturalist, having been taught by an expert in the field. Too many times we hike on automatic pilot, our goal being to complete the trail rather than enjoy the journey. We miss the details: the colorful mushrooms on the rotting log, the honeycomb in the old maple snag, the hawk feather caught on a twig.

Once we walk as a dog does, we discover a whole new world. We stop; we browse the landscape, we kick over leaves, peek in tree holes, look up, down, all around. And we learn what any dog knows that nature has created a marvelously complex world that is full of surprises, that each cycle of the seasons bring ever changing wonders, each day an essence all its own.

Even from indoors you will find yourself more attuned to the world around you. You will find yourself watching: summer insects collecting on a screen; how bizarre they are; how many kinds there are or noting the flick and flash of fireflies through the dark. You will stop to observe the swirling dance of windblown leaves, or sniff the air after a rain. It does not matter that there is no objective in this; the point is in the doing, in not letting life's most important details slip by.

You will find yourself doing silly things that your pet-less friends might not understand: spending thirty minutes in the grocery aisle looking for the cat food brand your feline must have, buying dog birthday treats, or driving around the block an extra time because your pet enjoys the ride. You will roll in the snow, wrestle with chewie toys, bounce little rubber balls till your eyes cross, and even run around the house trailing your bathrobe tie with a cat in hot pursuit, all in the name of love.

Your house will become muddier and hairier. You will wear less dark clothing and buy more lint rollers. You may find dog biscuits in your pocket or purse, and feel the need to explain that an old plastic shopping bag adorns your living room rug because your cat loves the crinkly sound. You will learn the true measure of love. The steadfast, undying kind that says, "It doesn't matter where we are or what we do, or how life treats us as long as we are together."

Respect this always. It is the most precious gift any living soul can give another. You will not find it often among the human race. And you will learn humility. The look in my dog's eyes often made me feel ashamed. Such joy and love at my presence. She saw not some flawed human who could be cross and stubborn, moody or rude, but only her wonderful companion. Or maybe she saw those things and dismissed them as mere human foibles, not worth considering, and so chose to love me anyway.

If you pay attention and learn well, when the journey is done, you will be not just a better person, but the person your pet always knew you to be. The one they were proud to call beloved friend.

I must caution you that this journey is not without pain. Like all paths of true love, the pain is part of loving. For as surely as the sun sets, one day your dear animal companion will follow a trail you cannot yet go down. And you will have to find the strength and love to let them go.

A pet's time on earth is far too short, especially for those that love them. We borrow them, really, just for a while, and during these brief years they are generous enough to give us all their love, every inch of their spirit and heart, until one day there is nothing left. The cat that only yesterday was a kitten is all too soon old and frail and sleeping in the sun. The young pup of boundless energy now wakes up stiff and lame, the muzzle gone to gray.

Deep down we somehow always knew that this journey would end. We knew that if we gave our hearts they would be broken. But give them we must for it is all they ask in return. When the time comes, and the road curves ahead to a place we cannot see, we give one final gift and let them run on ahead, young and whole once more. "God speed, good friend," we say, until our journey comes full circle and our paths cross again.

~unknown~

Awards Plaques Request & Order Form

It's already that time of year again. Please complete the following form and submit any requests for a S.A.M.S. Award Plaque no later than January 31st, 2004. Again, the timing of the award must have been achieved by *December 31st, 2003* to be considered. I do NOT need the original AKC certificate to order the plaque, a copy will do.

S.A.M.S. Awards and Plaques Form

Samoyed Association of Minneapolis/St. Paul

Eligibility

Any dog receiving a new title is eligible:

Awards:

- **New Champions** –submit a copy of the AKC Championship certificate
 - **Obedience** – submit a copy of the AKC Championship certificate
 - **Agility** – submit the AKC Championship certificate
 - **Breeder plaques** – submit the name of the breeder, dog's registered name, and dog's title
 - **President plaque** – name of club President and years served
 - **Hall of Fame** – submit dog's name and classifications of the award (ex: Progenitive Bitch)
-

(Please type or print legibly)

Type of plaque: ___ AKC Champ ___ Obedience ___ Agility ___ Breeder ___ Hall of Fame

Dog's Name _____

Dog's Title or classification _____

Breeder's name _____

Hall of Fame classification _____

The information to be engraved will be sent to confirm accuracy before the plaque is made. S.A.M.S. club members will pay one half (50%) of the cost of the plaque for new champions, obedience, agility, breeder and Hall of Fame plaques.

Deadline for awards and plaques submission is January 31st 2004. The plaques will be awarded at a scheduled general club meeting.

Send your completed form no later than January 31st 2004 to Lori Sorenson.



ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

You're cordially invited to the S.A.M.S. Annual Holiday Party:

Date: Saturday, January 10, 2004

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: GJ Harper's house

RSVP: GJ Harper, leave message including number attending and the type of dish you plan to bring.

Note: **Please be sure to RSVP so that we can plan for the right amount of food!!!**

SAMS will provide the entrée, soda, and coffee. Please bring a dish to share (hors d'oeuvres, salad, dessert).

As always, the highlight of the evening will be the **S.A.M.S. Holiday Auction**. Please bring a gift-wrapped item (preferably Sam or dog related). Please join us for this evening of fun, great food, and good company. We look forward to seeing you all!

