

Samoyed Association of Mpls/St. Paul



CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 2/2003 February 28, 2003

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

Next Newsletter Deadline: March 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

Items in this issue:

General Meeting Notice

Upcoming Events

Club Reminders

Northern Heritage Sleddog Race Recap

SAMS T-Shirt Fundraiser

Permits Required to Dogsled/Skijor Anoka County Trails

The ABC's (and AKC's, APR's and UKC's) of Dog Registries

Approved December Board Meeting Minutes

No General Meeting Scheduled for March. Next meeting will be in April.

The next general meeting is scheduled for April and the program will consist of the SAMS Awards/Plaques Ceremony. The March newsletter will have the meeting notice information.

Upcoming Events

March 13th Alone Across the Arctic by Dogsled Author Book Signing
Pam Flowers from Talkeetna, Alaska, and author of the book Alone Across the Arctic by Dogsled will be giving a slide presentation of her trek across the Arctic for the St. Paul Audubon Society. She will also be selling and signing her books.
Time: **7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** (Social hour 7:00 p.m.; program starts at 7:30 p.m.; book signing prior to and after the program)
Address: **2077 Larpenteur Avenue, St. Paul** (just east of Cleveland Ave and north of the U of M St. Paul Campus)
Admission: **Free and open to the general public**
For questions, contact Leny Wendel at Leny_Wendel@msn.com

March 15-16th Land O'Lakes Kennel Club AKC Sanctioned Match at Animal Inn, Lake Elmo
Saturday: Conformation--Working Dog at 11 a.m. in ring #2; Jr. Show at 12:30 p.m. in Ring #2
Sunday: Obedience starting at 8:30 a.m.--Novice A & B, Open A& B, Utility A & B
Entry Fee: \$5.00 per dog

(This is an excellent opportunity to check out our Spring Specialty show site in advance!)

May 17-18th SAMS 2003 Spring Specialty
Location: Animal Inn, Lake Elmo
Judges:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Conformation	Jeanne Nonhof	Douglas Shipley
Sweeps	Pat Barkhaus	Karen Nyhuis
Obedience	Louise Botko	Donna Larson
Agility	Carol Smorch	Carol Smorch

Oct 4th A-Fair with Dogs at Anoka County Fairgrounds

Club Reminders

The Activities committee is establishing a broadcast email list to notify members of activities that might be of interest. If you haven't been receiving them and would like to be included, please send Barb Gage your email address to be added to the broadcast list at:

Barbarag@winternet.com

2003 Spring Specialty: Please notify Ann Musker (ptgygsyl@msn.com) or Mishelle Katzman (<mailto:Katzf526@cs.com>) about any auction or raffle items you have to donate. Jon Gauthier is still collecting for trophy donations.

Here is a listing of the scheduled general and board meetings for the remainder of 2003. All dates are subject to change due to facility availability and will be updated in subsequent newsletters.

General Meetings to be held at Minneapolis Animal Humane Society

Monday, **April 14th**
Monday, **June 9th**
Monday, **September 15th**
Monday, **November 10th**

Board Meetings with locations to be determined

Monday, May 5th
Monday, June 23rd
Monday, August 25th
Monday, October 6th
Monday, December 8th

Northern Heritage Sled Dog Run for HART Animal Shelter Recap By Pam Landers

SAMS co-sponsored the first annual Northern Heritage Weight Pull, Cani-Cross race and Mini Mush at the Brainerd Northland Arboretum on Feb. 22. We were unable to hold the planned sled dog races because the trail conditions were unsafe. The events were organized by Barb Gage, Leny Wendel, Helen Newman and Pam Landers.

Weight Pull

The Weight Pull attracted 30 entrants of many sizes, from Siberian Huskies to Saint Bernards. Top weight pulled was 1091 pounds by two dogs, Timber, a Malamute, and Dozer, a Saint Bernard. 13 Sams and one Sibe made up the 0-60 pound class, all novices except for the Sibe (Goose) and Barb Gage's Bucca. Goose placed first, and Bucca second in that class. In the 61 – 80 pound class there were 5 dogs, two of them Sams. Naoisha, Newman's male, pulled as a novice. Among the regular entrants, Pam Landers's Samoyed, Boomer, placed second to a Mal named Buddy.

Cani-Cross

The Cani-Cross race, in which a human runs with a dog attached to a skijor belt for a little over a mile, attracted 6 entrants. It was won by Steve Benedict and his Rottweiler, Guinness. Second place went to Bob Newman and his Sammie, Gavin. This competition is rare in the mid-west; only one other such race has been held in Minnesota. Two of the six dogs entered were Samoyeds.

Mini-Mush

The HART staff organized the Mini Mush for kids. Mushers donated dog sleds and a sled dog so that eight children could ride the sleds for 75 yards. The kids seemed to enjoy it, and the dogs certainly did!

Many thanks to all the volunteers and donors who helped make this a terrific day and a good first time event. In particular, we want to thank Lori Sorenson's Girl Scout Troop #1254 from Eden Prairie who traveled all the way to Brainerd to help out as trail spotters, dog holders, and anything else that needed to be done.

Sponsors of the events were:

Samoyed Club of America (SCA)

Heartland Animal Rescue Team (HART)

Northland Arboretum

Samoyed Association of Minneapolis - St. Paul

Free Spirit Outfitters

Brainerd Nordic Ski Club

All proceeds go to the Abby Fund and the Northland Arboretum. The Abby fund will receive about \$1,000 and the Arboretum about \$300. The Abby fund was created to provide veterinary services for those puppies and dogs in need for whom no person is taking responsibility.

SAMS T-Shirt Fundraiser

The fundraising committee is offering a Samoyed T-shirt for sale to club members. Extras will be available for purchase at the Spring Specialty in May. To order your T-shirt in advance and obtain the special club member rate of \$10.00 (sizes above XL are \$13.00), please submit an order to Lori Sorenson (gsorens@mn.rr.com) by **March 21st**. The t-shirts will be delivered at the April General meeting and extras will be sold at the Specialty for \$12.00 (sizes above XL at \$15.00). The t-shirt is white with a sammy head design from the giftwrap artwork that the club owns.

Permits required for dogsledding/skijoring Anoka County Trails submitted by Barbara Gage

WE ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE PERMITS TO SLED ON THE TRAILS AT BUNKER.

Please share this information with anyone you know that may be planning to use this trail. It would be awful to have someone receive a fine because they didn't even know.

Please see page # 20 in the newsletter that can be found at the following link.

<http://www.anokacountyparks.com/qlinks/mapsbro/WinterGuide.pdf>

Per the web-site info (the trail is specifically on page 20) an annual Anoka County Parks patron permit (Annual Vehicle Entry Permit) of \$20 is needed as well as a Greater MN Ski Pass (daily \$3.00, annual \$10, 3 yr \$25) available anywhere fishing licenses are sold.

The ABC's (and AKC's, APR's and UKC's) of Dog Registries by Nellie Hofmeister

Last summer, I received an e-mail that had me researching the Internet for an answer. After giving me some information the inquirer had on the breeders and the potential puppy he asked me: "**Does this sound OK to pursue?**"

The puppy being considered was APR registered. Since I had not heard of that registry I went to the Internet and punched in "dog registry" and there it was: American Purebred Registry (APR.) The Registry has a website: <http://www.americanpurebred.com/>

My inquirer had stated, "**She also said that she could get them AKC registered if we wanted, but many people don't feel the need to do that.**"

I wondered why anyone would prefer to register their dogs with APR when they could register them with AKC? So I continued to research the Internet for information. Then I came to: <http://www.wonderpuppy.com/kc.htm>. What a wonderful informative site! Be sure to check it out.

In addition to information on a few registries was the following warning:

Buyer Beware!

*Soon, you may start seeing more dogs from registries other than AKC in pet stores. I know the Missouri and Oklahoma commercial dog breeder's association members are unhappy now that AKC's got stricter rules, and is requiring a DNA profile in stud dogs that produce 7 or more litters in a lifetime. Many of these breeders are breaking away from AKC and now registering their pups (often found for sale in pet shops nationwide) with other, less restrictive, registries. Regardless of where you get your pup, if your pup is registered with anything other than AKC or United Kennel Club, the chances of your pup being bred by an irresponsible breeder rises dramatically. It's up to you, the potential puppy buyer, to educate yourself and to avoid being part of the puppy mill/ backyard breeder problem. Do not put your money into the pockets of irresponsible breeders under **any** circumstances. The only thing they'll feel is getting hit in the wallet."*

WOW! Interesting. I wondered what were the requirements for registering a dog under the American Purebred Registry (APR) so back to website: <http://www.americanpurebred.com/>. Here is what I found:

"When an application is received by our office and accepted, we issue a registration certificate. From that moment on the animal is considered a registered animal. On the application the owner has certified that the dog or cat is a purebred representative of the breed. We take his word for it. All the registration agencies in the United States are based on the honor system."

And...

We believe there are many fine dogs and cats in America that should be and deserve to be registered. These days many people look down on any unregistered animal. Purebreds need to be recognized as such and given the respect that registration will offer.

Okay, so APR takes money from people who complete applications to register their dogs or cats and enters that information into a computer then produces and mails to the applicant a certificate stating the dog is registered. No questions asked. So how does this differ from what AKC does?

A few years ago, AKC was accused of not protecting the integrity of its Stud Book by the media and I knew efforts were being made at AKC to remedy this problem.

I wanted to learn more about the changes in AKC investigative and disciplinary procedures. I found the following information at: <http://www.naiaonline.org/body/articles/archives/akcsus.htm>

"As a result of recent changes, inspectors now have the authority to freeze a kennel's privileges if they discover discrepancies in a sampling of records. If the infractions appear to be minor and easily fixed, they give the breeder 45 days to get the records in order. If the infractions seem to be major, if the records cannot be brought into compliance with the rules, they notify the breeder that the Management Discipline Committee will recommend suspension and that the breeder can request a hearing on the charges. If the trial board upholds the charges and the recommendation of the committee, the breeder can appeal to the board.

During the 45-day grace period or the investigation, the breeder may not register new dogs, breed or sell dogs, or participate in any AKC events. Co-owned dogs are included in these prohibitions. An inspector or investigator revisits the kennel after 45 days and goes through the records in great detail. If all is in order, the breeder can get on with business. If all is not in order, the breeder faces suspension.

If the breeder refuses access to the inspectors or fails to get his records in order or if the investigation turns up widespread inconsistencies, the breeder will be suspended. The length of the suspension depends on the nature of the infractions, but can range from five-to-10 years and include a \$500 fine. Suspensions are announced in the secretary's pages in each issue of the AKC Gazette.

Suspensions affect all dogs owned and co-owned by the breeder and result in cancelled registrations on dogs whose parentage is in dispute. In some cases, breeders and brokers have attempted to circumvent suspensions by continuing to sell AKC dogs registered in the names of their friends or relatives or by taking possession of the dogs without filing transfer papers with AKC. In the latter case, the blue slip goes with the dog but does not include the buyer's name; when the suspended breeder-broker sells the dog, he fills in the

name of the customer, who then can register the animal. Upon complaint that such deception has taken place, AKC inspectors will check those new owners.

AKC will also suspend any breeder convicted of cruelty or neglect, any breeder who surrenders dogs in order to avoid suspension or conviction, and any exhibitor who substitutes dogs in the ring or shows a dog that has been dyed or surgically altered. Suspensions for cruelty can be as long as 25 years. In some cases, a breeder will be suspended for records violations before a cruelty case gets to court and then will be suspended for an additional period.

Any breeder who loses privileges for five years or longer must start with a new colony of dogs after the suspension is up.”

Okay, so both the AKC and the United Kennel Club (UKC) have the right to check dogs they register using DNA but APR prides itself on trusting the applicant.

There is a desire on the part of many to have AKC do more to help eliminate puppy mills...but the more they do...the more those who do not want to be "managed" have ways to circumvent the "rules" and "control" that AKC has imposed. Obviously, the unknowing and uneducated public is led to them because it's cheaper and easily available.

A few more clicks on the computer keys and I found the following written by Norma Bennett Woolf at www.naiaonline.org in an article titled “AKC Takes it on The Chin- Again,” went on to provide background to the situation:

“Breed integrity — and registry respectability — depend on breeder honesty. The more popular a breed becomes, the more money there is to be made and the more likely that uneducated, dishonest, or profit-motivated breeders will enter the picture.”

Going back to the beginning question: **"Does this sound OK to pursue?"** Considering the information gleaned from the information above I would say the fact that the breeder chose to register with the APR rather than AKC does not bode in favor of pursuing. But does having an AKC registered puppy make it worthy of pursuing?

Whether you agree or not with all the principles stated in IMOM.org (http://www.imom.org/reading_room/akc_voices.htm), Kerry Meydam’s article on AKC & Puppy Mills is clearly in favor of purchasing a dog registered and bred by a quality breeder. She begins her article by saying:

“Most people who breed purebred dogs claim some affiliation with a registry as a seal of quality for their puppies. Many use that affiliation as a marketing tool, but buyers often learn the hard way that an AKC puppy purchased from a pet store or a backyard breeder is highly unlikely to be of the same caliber as an AKC registered puppy purchased from a reliable breeder.”

Addressing the topic “AKC Registered and Quality,” she writes:

"There is a widely held belief that "AKC" or "AKC papers" and quality are one and the same. This is not the case. AKC is a registry body. A registration certificate identifies the dog as the offspring of a known sire and dam, born on a known date. It in no way indicates the quality or state of health of the dog. Quality in the sense of "show quality" is determined by many factors including the dog's health, physical condition, ability to move and appearance. Breeders breeding show stock are trying to produce animals that closely resemble the description of perfection described in the breed standard. Many people breed their dogs with no concern for the qualitative demands of the breed standard. When this occurs repeatedly over several generations, the animals, while still pure-bred, can be of extremely low quality."

The inquirer provided me more data on the breeder and went on to ask: **"However, do you have any advice on how we can tell if a breeder is a good one?"**

How would you answer that question?