It’s been quite a year for our club. We managed to put on a great show last April at a new park and we had the biggest training year ever. We have welcomed new members and new dogs. And we can now look forward to next year and all the good things that it may bring. (Including new, cooler show dates – March 23 and 24!)

We wouldn’t be where we are if it weren’t for our training program. Our instructors have affected the community in great ways with respect to helping owners train their dogs to become good family members and to also get involved in the world of dog sports. And I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the personal accomplishments of our instructors at the Old Pueblo Dog Training Club trials, three of our instructors placed 1st, 2nd (one handler) 3rd and 4th in the Rally Intermediate class with all 3 titling that weekend!! It made me proud to see our club do so well!!
Some Major Brags !!!

At the Old Pueblo Dog Training Club Trials on November 3 and 4, three of our instructors showed, titled and rocked the house!!

Carol Madeheim with Emma Jay, Jenny Hamilton with Buddy, Theresa Tuttle with Bridget
Yay! Road Trip!

Yeah, but — This co-pilot may get into big trouble. This evening as I came to a busy intersection I saw something small and white frantically zig-zagging around cars in front of me. In the glare of the red brake lights and headlights a small white dog (maybe a miniature poodle/mix) was running across the road, barely missed being hit by a car, and then turned around and ran back to the other side of the road, somehow making it in spite of several cars honking and swerving. Where did he come from?

A car had been rear ended a short distance away. The car door had popped open and the little guy/gal escaped the car only to face bright lights, big cars and honking horns. The co-pilot was in deep trouble. The owner was frantic.

Click here to see a video of a dog leaping from a moving SUV window into 3 lanes of traffic. He survives – so o.k. to watch!


Many people think their furry friends are fantastic traveling companions. Unfortunately, few pet parents stop to consider the hazards that come into play when pooches become passengers.

Allowing dogs to be free in a car subjects them to the same injuries as human passengers without seatbelts. We wouldn’t think of putting a child in a car without seatbelts or a child safety seat. We should care as much for our pets. A hurtling pup can become a lethal missal that can injure or kill itself and the human passengers.

In a car crash at 35 mph an unrestrained 60-pound dog becomes a 2,700 pound projectile. The impact could kill both the dog and the human occupants.

But dogs love the fascinating smells that drift by on the open air, and hanging his head out the window is so much fun – people always smile, and point to the happy pooch.

Yeah, but – he may get so enticed by outside smells that he may - with a window wide open - even bail.

Remember the movie "Marley and Me" and the scene where Owen Wilson is leaning out the car window holding Marley’s hind end as his front feet paddle on the road?
**So - What to do?**

In 2011 New Jersey made it a violation of its animal cruelty laws to carry a dog unrestrained in a car. That same year, the Center For Pet Safety (CPS) adopted the Federal Motor Vehicle Standard 213 which regulates child-restraint systems as its guide and developed tests for dog restraints. Initial results on existing products: 100% failed! Now many forms of restraint have vastly improved and address three main considerations for keeping your dog safe when driving: preventing distractions, managing the dog’s deceleration rate upon impact, and keeping the dog restrained post-crash.

In the UK it’s against the law to travel with your pet unrestrained!

Most well-stocked pet stores carry harnesses designed expressly for dogs. Unfortunately, not all are approved by the CPS. Harnesses that have been crash-tested carry the CPS logo. However, a large dog with a backseat harness still comes in contact with the front seat. There is danger also that upon impact, the dog could slingshot or cantilever through the harness and get tangled or strangled in the harness. During CPS crash tests, some dog crash dummies had limbs severed.

A car dog seat should be tightly secured so it won’t slide around. But it could present the same dangers as those of the harness. During a crash, the dog could possibly slide through the seat or get tangled.

An easy way to secure a dog in a car is with a divider between the back seat and the cargo area. But again - check the quality. If you can pull it out with your hands, it’s not going to stand up under an impact. Get one that can be bolted in. Even then, in a roll over, or if rear windows are broken, it doesn’t protect the dog.

Travel crates are not all of safe quality. Many plastic crates just don’t hold up in an impact. They can splinter and kill or injure the dog. Check out the Center For Pet Safety website to see videos of crate, carrier and harness crash tests and recommendations:

[https://www.centerforpetsafety.org/test-results/carriers/2015-carrier-study-results/](https://www.centerforpetsafety.org/test-results/carriers/2015-carrier-study-results/)

Another interesting point: if the crate is too large and the dog can bounce around in it on impact, they can be badly injured – so crate size is important too. Of course, the crate has to be securely attached by bolts or straps. Bungies – no.

The fact is, cars are built for humans, not dogs and until dog safety is considered, we humans have to adapt the car to provide as much safety as possible for our co-pilots. I know – big dogs need big crates. Some dogs don’t like crates. Some dogs don’t enjoy the ride if confined. Yeah, but —

After being in a hit–and-run rear-end accident, with my dogs in simple plastic crates (no one hurt thank goodness), I took a second look at crate safety. After watching CPS crash test videos and researching a variety of crates I purchased one that will probably provide more safety for my dogs than my seatbelt and air bags provide for me. It’s a bit smaller than my old wimpy plastic crate (no more doggy ping pong ball). It passed the CPS crash tests. It’s thicker, stronger and a bit darker. It has a good strong latching system. It is strapped to the backseat frame. It was expensive! Yeah, but — I want my co-pilot to be safe.

*Carol Madeheim – Editor*

Really!??
Hello fellow members and dog enthusiasts. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, I’m Jenny Hamilton, I’ll be serving as part of the training director team this year. I am currently owned by two dogs and two cats, Buddy, Chewy, Kalla and Trouble Kitty. Buddy is my 7 year old Papillon mix. He was picked up on the side of the road and has been a bundle of frustration and fun since. Within the first few days of having Buddy I could tell he is intelligent and requires stimulation and boundaries. So I enrolled at the Big Box Pet company’s training class and promptly failed. That is when I began my journey with the German Shepherd Dog Club in 2016 and since then Buddy and I have titled in Canine Good Citizen, AKC Tricks Novice, AKC Rally Novice and Intermediate and have one qualifying run in Rally Advanced. We have also started training Nose Work.

So what does all this have to do with Dog Training and you? Well, I’m here to testify Buddy and I are a product of this fabulous training program, hard work and some luck. Buddy was dog and leash aggressive. Like, murder-in-his-heart, aggressive. Training a dog with an unknown history and well past the impressionable puppy and youngster days is tough, but not impossible. Through trial and error, I have established my preferred method of training; marker training while holding the dog accountable for the behaviors I know he knows.

Marker training relies on both classical and operant conditioning, understanding your dog’s motivation and really good timing. Part of understanding your dog’s motivation is limiting distractions in the training environment until you have consistent performance of the behavior. So if you want your dog to not rush out the front door when you open it, first you will need to train a really reliable sit with a stay or a wait before you just fling that door wide open and hope for the best. Start small, break the desired behavior down into simple parts and train each of those until your dog is performing them 90% of the time the first time you ask. And then add your three D’s, distance (from you), duration and distraction (try it with another dog nearby, a favorite person, a nice smelly treat on the floor).

If any of this resonates with you, please join us for an upcoming training session! Spread the word with your family, co-workers and neighbors. Buddy and I will be looking for you!

Jennifer Hamilton – Instructor/Training Director
Which means that we are now able to hold AKC Scent Work trials. This is a great sport and most dogs are a natural. One of the nice things about learning and teaching your dog how to compete in this sport is that much of the work can be done at your own residence at your own pace – progressing on to public places like the park, PetSmart, Lowes, etc.

Supplies are not expensive. You can get started for $25 with scent oil, tins and Q-tips. It is easy to build your own kit or purchase a kit already put together.

Jennifer Hamilton and “Buddy” and Kevilee Watterson and “Haddy” have been working on learning this sport. We have 3 new members that have been competing in the sport for as many as 9 years – Sheryl Nosbish, Betsy Wolf and Jim Kousbaugh. They will be working with us to plan/hold trials in the coming year.

We are working on a “Jump Start” meeting where members who are interested in learning the sport can get information, resources and guidance for getting started. Once we get past the “introduction” phase we can all meet to practice together. Who knows, this could turn into an actual class for us in the future. Look for more on this meeting after the first of the year.

If you are interested in the sport and attending the Jump Start meeting please send an email to info@gsdcsaz.org and let us know. You will be included on any upcoming club notifications about Scent Work.

Kevilee Watterson - Treasurer
After my last mastiff went to the bridge, I knew wanted to downsize to a different breed and I wanted an easier dog that I could do more with. So I chose a Finnish Lapphund from the Herding Group and picked the busy confident boy in the litter. In Cosmo’s first year, we have done a lot!

Cosmo earned his AKC STAR Puppy certificate and AKC Tricks Novice title at 5 months old. Then at 7 months old and at my first ever conformation show, he got a Puppy Group 4 and NOHS Group 4. At 10 months old, Cosmo landed as the #7 owner-handled lappie in the country. At 11 months old, he earned his first conformation points by going BOW three days in a row in his first show with other lappies and earned the AKC Puppy of Achievement award. This busy little boy does not slow down! In between all these highs, there have been puppy classes, barking, home training, practice groups, jumping, obedience classes, show matches, more barking and jumping, and tons of support from my friends.

In some ways, Cosmo is much easier than my mastiffs were, but in other ways a challenge - keeping me on my toes and constantly looking for new ways to train. Our goals for the new year are training for the AKC CGC (not ready to sit still for greetings and did I mention he likes to bark and jump?), more obedience classes, learning AKC Rally exercises at home, AKC Tricks Intermediate and Advanced titles, more NOHS points while solo at our local shows, and attending our breed national specialty in May. This sounds like a lot, but I am sure it is all very do-able for my busy confident boy.

Maria Swarts – Secretary/Training Instructor

Cosmo
**In Mid-November At The Coyote Classic**

dog show at the Pima Fair Grounds, yours truly had her first experience as a dog handler. Lucky for me with a champion Finnish Laphund, she could have handled herself in the conformation ring. My first interaction with the Judge was after the lovely dog walked up a ramp and did a free stack. The Judge said one word to me, “Bite”. My instant response with visible shock and confusion spread across my face was, “Oh, No! She does not bite”. With nary a smile, the judge responded with a hand movement, my brain then was able to process the true meaning of her request and showed her the dog’s teeth.

I am sure many German Shepherd owners have chuckled with understanding for my response. I don’t know how many hundreds of times I have been asked that very same question, the same one word, usually filled with fear and trepidation, “Bite?” This is the typical greeting I receive while they look at my kind, loving, loyal and gentle soul of a dog. My answer has always been a swift and reassuring, “No!” along with details on the body language of my dog’s readiness for a greeting. This can be the wagging of the tail, the angle of her ears, her stance, etc.

For me it is always important to “read” the dog’s signals, since there are many owners who will insist their dog is a friendly one, while for whatever reasons, the dog is not in the mood at that moment.

*Cathy Gray - Vice President*

Are you SURE she doesn’t bite?!
Saturday, December 15th

we had a wonderful lunch and dog games day at the park! Several of us gathered to acknowledge our trainers for the hard work that they put into our training program. Without their dedication and work, we would not have a training program without which, we would not be able to afford to hold our annual shows and trials or special events.

Our instructors have years of experience in a variety of disciplines and they are also exploring new avenues for our training program to progress down such as the new Focus and Foundations class and AKC Scent work. They volunteer their time and energy. Their involvement improves the quality of lives for the dogs/handlers that they work with. They are a blessing not only to this club but to the community.

We also were able to show our appreciation to Mark Gray for his service as Training Director. He has decided to step aside and let some new blood take over that portion of the program. We are pleased to announce that Jennifer Hamilton and Carol Madeheim are our new Training Directors!

A big shout out of thanks to Theresa Tuttle, Carrie Franz, Maria Swarts, Jennifer Hamilton, Steve Watterson, Cathy Gray, Kit Smith, Carol Madeheim and Candi Colson for your support of our training program!

After lunch we had K9 Nose work and Tricks demonstrations as well as a fun Reverse Rally game. Jenny demonstrated Nose work with Buddy (who is an upcoming Nose work superstar!) and, Maria and Cosmo showed us how to teach 5 tricks in 5 minutes! Reverse Rally is an old Kit and Steve concoction from a few years ago. Reverse Rally is a game where the handler does the dog portion of the sign exercises and the handler does the dogs portion.

We had a good time – and look forward to the next training season!!

Kevilee Watterson - Treasurer

Check out the photos on the next pages. See if you can ID them by matching the number with the description!
Can You ID These Tricky Gamesters?

Answers at the bottom of the “Submission Guidelines” page.
A ______ Tess trying Nose Work and finding the carrot.

B ______ Jenny & Buddy get 1st Place in the Reverse Rally

C ______ Reverse Rally – Left About Turn

D ______ Manny

E ______ Buddy alerts on hide during Nose Work Demo.

F ______ Reverse Rally – Sit and Walk Around your dog – backwards!

G ______ Maria and Cosmo demo 5 tricks in 5 minutes. Cosmo spins!

H ______ Steve and Colt Reverse Rally. Heeling on the right.

I ______ Elliot tries the Nose Work game and finds the carrot.

J ______ Tess gives Candi both the Cone and the Carrot during trick demos.

K ______ Haddy does Reverse Rally in style by starting backwards!

L ______ Tess

M ______ Maria & Cosmo
Old Pueblo Show

Hank & Rylee – Title & 1st Place Rally Excellent

Hank & Rylee – Rally Excellent

Candi and Tess – Rally

Candi & Tess – Rally Novice Title &
Old Pueblo & Canyon Cluster Shows

Carol & Emma - Rally Intermediate
Old Pueblo

Jenny & Buddy - Rally Intermediate Canyon Cluster

Theresa & Bridget - Rally Intermediate
Old Pueblo

Kevilee & Haddy - Rally Novice - 4th Place, Canyon Cluster

Steve & Colt - Rally Intermediate Title-3rd Place Canyon Cluster
This girl deserves a page of her own! Betsy Wolf sent this pic of "Majik," an American Cocker Spaniel, when we requested pictures for the first page. And she was the only one who did! So while we are not changing the first page picture this issue, we certainly want to give credit to Betsy and Majik!

Her official name is Zev’s Majik Diamonds. She will be two February 11th. She is a smart little stinker who loves people especially kids. She watches television and talks to it. She loves Barn Hunt and playing with her brother Zev & mother Davi. She likes swimming but prefers to float around the pool on a float. Her best friends are three Flat Coats. – Betsy Wolf
Submission Guidelines

Articles

- Related to or about German Shepherd Dogs, other breeds or mixes.
- In easily edited digital format – MS Word DocX, Rich File Text. **No PDF.**
- If possible – but not necessary - in the font Arial.
- Provide links to other articles. Provide credit if summarized from other sources.

Photos

- JPEG format. Medium to high resolution.
- Identify subjects in photo and credit photographer. (photo release forms?)

Suggested Topics

Club Events, Calendar, Meeting Minutes, Health Info for dogs, Training, In The News, Breeder Info, Whelping Box, Responsible Dog Ownership, Dog Friendly Places (restaurants, hotels, etc.), Rainbow Bridge, Brags and Wags, Doggie Spotlight.

Send submissions to sonoraqwest@gmail.com

Deadline for submissions for the April, May, June issue:

March 10

Items submitted after this date will be in the next issue.

Material submitted subject to copyright laws if not a member’s own work.

The e-newsletter committee reserves the right to edit contributions for length & language and which articles will be included in each issue.

Answers: A-7, B-2, C-1, D-9, E-3, F-11, G-4, H-13, I-6, J-5, K-8, L-10, M-12  Easy, huh!
The German Shepherd Dog Club of Southern Arizona, Inc. is dedicated to the promotion, protection and improvement of the GSD through education, training and sound breeding practices.

We also work to benefit our community by providing training programs that are open to dogs of all breeds.

We believe that through training, it is possible to reduce the number of dogs that are surrendered to shelters.

Each year we host AKC sanctioned Obedience and Rally Trials along with a German Shepherd Dog Specialty Show.

President – Steve Watterson
Vice President – Cathy Gray
Treasurer – Kevilee Watterson
Secretary – Maria Swarts

Directors
Robin Crehan, Beverly Porter, Candi Colson

Show Chairman – Theresa Tuttle
Co-Training Directors
Jennifer Hamilton/Carol Madeheim

Newsletter - Carol Madeheim

German Shepherd Dog Breed Standard

General Appearance

The first impression of a good German Shepherd Dog is that of a strong, agile, well muscled animal, alert and full of life. It is well balanced, with harmonious development of the forequarter and hindquarter. The dog is longer than tall, deep-bodied, and presents an outline of smooth curves rather than angles. It looks substantial and not spindly, giving the impression, both at rest and in motion, of muscular fitness and nimbleness without any look of clumsiness or soft living. The ideal dog is stamped with a look of quality and nobility—difficult to define, but unmistakable when present. Secondary sex characteristics are strongly marked, and every animal gives a definite impression of masculinity or femininity, according to its sex.

For the complete standard see the AKC website: www.akc.org. On the Breed Explorer select “Search for a Breed.”