

TO THE POINT



American Pointer Club

March 2016



The Board Meeting that was held on March 9 approved the membership application of John Kearney and also approved the 2016 Lifetime Members. They are Helayne Parker, Cicely Robertshaw and Paul Zapun. Look for a bio on each in the next issue of Pointer Points.

The President announced that the AKC is now offering a Reserve Best Junior Mandatory at All-Breed shows beginning after July 1, 2016. Group and specialty clubs have the option to offer Reserve Best Junior. We had a question for the AKC so until that question is answered the vote to approve offering reserve was tabled until the next meeting. The Board approved to add Sportingdogpro.com as a link in the magazine & zines section of the APC Website. Two contracts were approved: Orchard Hills Training Center for Agility for 2017 National Specialty and Papa Joe's Restaurant - the location of the 2016 Awards Dinner.

With a little tweaking, the Board approved the Health Statement for the AKC website. The Health Statement is found at the end of this newsletter.

There was a request from a member for the APC to recognize Coursing Ability Test titles as part of the Versatility Award. The Board felt it should not be done at this time. Kathy Shorter, Chair of the Versatility Committee, confirmed that in 2014 the committee voted not to include the title of the Coursing Ability Test as part of the versatility award.

NEW DEADLINE DATE

DEADLINE FOR ADS FOR THE NEXT POINTER POINTS IS MAY 1ST

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS APRIL 20TH

Theresa Lyons – pointerpointseditor@gmail.com

The photographer has told us that the Specialty pictures will be sent within 10/14 days after the show. Plan your ad and be ready for the picture. Send to Theresa at pointerpointseditor@gmail.com

This issue will be the judges issue!!!!!!

Up Date from the Website Committee

Good news! The website committee is working on developing a new website that will provide not only our members a state of the art website, but will be an open invitation to people who want to get a Pointer, prospective members, and even be a "go to site" for people who may want to judge Pointers.

We have had several website designers look at our current website and give us some ideas for direction. We have been looking at many other breed websites and talking with their webmasters and members about what they like, what they would change, etc. so we can learn from them.

What we have learned is to make sure we answer a lot of critical questions so that our website will be a product that can grow with our Club and with quickly developing technology. These areas include:

1. **Strategy:** Asking ourselves how and why are people going to visit and use the website. We all use a website for a reason. Our goal is to help both members and potential members and others find the information they need as quickly and efficiently as possible.
2. **Understanding our users better:** The better we understand our users, the better we can cater our design, voice and messaging to suit our users' needs.
3. **Choosing the best language to build in:** By visiting other websites and seeing how interactive they are, what devices will be used to access our site we can choose a language and then find the team to build it the way we want it.
4. **Create a site map:** By doing this we can help our users find what they are looking for easily, lay out different paths, a roadway that easily offers stops relevant to each visitor. The site map will also allow committee chairs and others as assigned, easy access to update and change information so our site is always up to date.

5. Optimize the design for different devices: Instead of desktops most users now use cell phones and tablets to access websites so designing our site to be user friendly for every device and how can we respond. Also looking at which sites may we want to interact with, such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram and others.

We always like input from our members, so if you have ideas to share, please contact Marva at pointgold@netzero.net

March 2016 AKC Delegates' Quarterly Meeting

The March 2016 AKC Delegates' Meeting took place March 7th and 8th, 2016 at the Doubletree Hotel, Newark, New Jersey. The March meeting is actually the Annual Meeting, at which Directors are elected.

Committees meet on the first day, so, on Monday, I attended the Parent Clubs Committee. Items of significance which were discussed included:

AKC.org/Marketplace: Each Parent Club is supposed to have a "storefront". AKC will be sending out a set of instructions as to what it is, what purpose it serves, etc. To date, about 60 clubs have their storefronts. We don't yet but I will be looking into it.

Parent Club Health Statements for the Online Classifieds: each Parent Club has been asked to develop their own statement about the health issues in their breed and required and/or recommended health testing. Pam Waitman, APC's Health Committee chairman, has done an excellent job with this. The statement was approved by our Board last Wednesday, and will be submitted to AKC as soon as possible.

Bred With Heart Program: A new AKC program in which breeders make an on-going commitment to the health and well-being of purebred dogs by committing to:

H Health: certifying that breeding stock is health tested according to Parent Club recommendation.

E Education: Pursue AKC provided continuing breeder education requirements

A Accountability: Comply with AKC Care and Conditions Policy, including inspections.

R Responsibility: Accept responsibility for the health and well-being of puppies and comply with all laws regarding health and maintenance of dogs.

T Tradition: Uphold AKC's tradition of breeding happy, healthy, purebred dogs.

This program is aimed not at the fancy, or at Breeders of Merit who produced 17% of 2015 litters, nor at the commercial breeders (13%), but at casual breeders (aka backyard breeders who produce an average of less than one litter per year), who produced 70% of all litters in 2015. Its purpose is to improve the condition of dogs. This is a voluntary program in which the occasional breeder commits to health testing, proper care, record keeping, educational requirements, documentation of all these and Inspection.

Puppy of Achievement Award: This award will be given to puppies who amass 10 POA points from the 4-6, 6-9, and 9-12 classes. They will be given a certificate of achievement but no points toward championship.

Following the committee meeting, I attended the Caucus, where the candidates for the Board were presented with a series of questions. Basically, nothing new here.

On Tuesday, the Delegates Meeting began an hour earlier than usual, to allow for multiple balloting. A candidate needs a majority of the number of ballots cast to be elected. There were seven candidates for three spots on the Board. Candidates were: Linda Ayers Turner Knorr, Rira Biddle, Pat Cruz, Bill Feeney, Gretchen Bernardi, Tom Powers, and Karolynne McAteer. The general feeling was that we would probably need two or three ballots but when the results of the first ballot were announced at 11 AM, it was apparent that we had three winners. They are Bill Feeney with 207 votes out of 366 ballots cast, Pat Cruz with 200, and Karolynne McAteer with 189. While awaiting the results, the meeting went on to voting on two amendments to the B-Laws. The first would allow Delegates who are judges to charge \$150 per day in addition to their expenses (presently they may only charge expenses). The motion failed. I had voted against the motion, as instructed. The second motion established a National Specialty for Beagle Packs. Motion Passed.

After the Chairman's Report, that announced that the video of the Eukanuba show will be televised on ATTUvs sports and on Fido TV from April 1-June 1.'

The Presidents Report stated that AKC has more money now than ever before, is showing a healthy Profit, and for the first time since 1996, there is an increase in both litter registrations (1%) and individual dog registrations (3%). Pres. Sprung also announced that AC will continue to maintain two offices, as they do now.

The CFO reported that the 2015 fiscal report is on the website at the Delegates Portal. Basically, he said that AKC is doing well financially.

The next meeting will be June 12-13 at the same location.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen R. Spey, AKC Delegate

Education Committee

We appreciate all the support the membership provides at your local Meet the Breeds events! Please contact the Public Education Committee if you are planning on attending any in your area. We will provide you with all the approved brochures and hand-outs to distribute.

Also, keep sending photos that you are willing to allow the club to use in publications! We are working on a new brochure and always have a need for photos at public events. When sending, please specify if the pictures are for APC use only, or if they may be sent to third parties upon request as well.

Christine Foreman - Public Education Chair

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Health Statement that will appear on the AKC website.

The American Pointer Club (APC) has been the Parent Breed Club and steward of the "aristocrat of gun dogs" since 1938. Our dedication to the health and well-being of this elegant and athletic breed is fueled by our desire to ensure their ability to fulfill their purpose, and fill the hearts of Pointer fanciers, for centuries to come.

Pointers are large, active dogs with an average lifespan between 12 and 14 years. They are robust companions with few health issues, and thrive best in environments that include shared activities with their owners. Pointers excel in venues as varied as show rings, field trials, hunt tests, obedience, rally and agility courses. Like many other short-coated breeds, Pointers can be affected by skin issues such as hives, often caused by a simple contact allergy or by autoimmune issues. Hip dysplasia and some forms of cancer (bone, liver and mammary) have been experienced. Epilepsy has affected Pointers over the years, and while we believe the instances have diminished, it is still a concern.

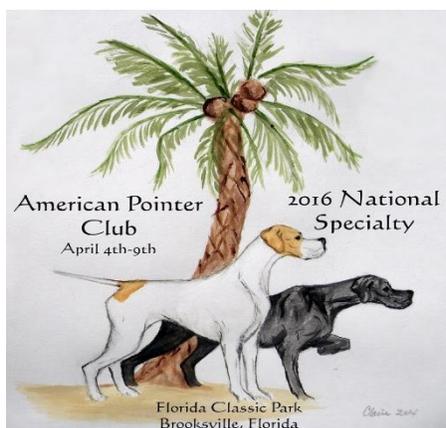
The following health tests *are recommended* for every Pointer:

- Hips - to rule out dysplasia,
- Thyroid - to rule out autoimmune thyroiditis,
- Eyes - to rule out eye diseases

Results should be reported to the OFA.

Prospective puppy buyers are encouraged to do your homework, research the breed to be certain you're ready to welcome a bright, energetic dog into your home, and discuss health testing regimens with the breeder you choose.

We invite you to visit our website: americanpointerclub.org to learn more about Pointers, our club, APC breeders around the country, and our dedication to the activities surrounding our wonderful all-purpose breed.



HEALTH SEMINAR: Please plan to join us Thursday afternoon, April 7, at the Show Site, following Sweepstakes judging, for a presentation by reproduction specialist, Dr. Shauntelle Gallaher. She is a graduate of Purdue School of Veterinary Medicine, and studied canine reproduction and small animal medicine under renowned repro specialist, Dr. Robert Hutchison, at Animal Clinic Northview, Center for Canine and Feline Reproduction and Infertility in Ohio. She went on to spend six years as an associate at Northview, refining her skills in medicine and surgery. Dr. Gallaher moved with her family to sunny Sarasota, FL, to join Bay Road& Crossings Animal Hospitals in 2012. Her special interests include canine reproduction, pediatrics, hereditary disease of purebred dogs, and soft tissue surgery. This is an outstanding opportunity to learn from, and ask questions of, an expert in canine reproductive medicine.

PLEASE HELP US PLAN for seating and light refreshments: please contact Laurie McCarty at dancindollpntrs@gmail.com by Tuesday night (April 5) and let her know you're coming.

Results and reports from 2016 APC events

APC All-Breed Agility Trial – submitted by Deb Pereira

On March 11th we held an American Pointer Club sponsored all breed agility trial in Hamden CT. It was a day full of fun and challenging courses from our wonderful judge Michele Fletcher. I couldn't have done it without the help of my very special committee members: MJ Kushwara, [Doreen Palmer](#), [Jennifer Marks](#), and our trial secretaries [Robin Ohrt](#) and [Sue Clarke Barnett](#). Following several days/nights of severe joint and muscle pain I awoke on the morning of the trial with double vision which was very disconcerting - I kept telling myself I just needed to get through the day so I could go to the emergency clinic! These ladies were awesome - stepping up to the plate to help me when I was under the weather. And of course our wonderful agility community of volunteers - we could not put on trials without all of their help. Our club President Susan Savage even stopped by to watch for awhile! We would like to congratulate the following teams; Pat McKinney & MACH5 Jester, Blanche Wisniewski & MACH Cruiser, Christine Yankowski and MACH6 Darin who achieved their titles at our trial. There were a few additional MACHs at the Toller trial following ours as well, congrats to everyone.

Colorado Pointer Club – Field Trial March 19-20

The Colorado Pointer Club held their spring trial in between snow storms this year. Last year they had to cancel the spring trial. Their trial is open to all pointing breeds, but they were happy to report that they are getting more Pointer owners participating at every trial.

There were two pointers that placed:

Open All Age Stake 2nd - Indian Summer owned by Jack and Tracy Haines

Open Puppy – 1st – Heller's Southern Attitude owned by David Heller* non APC member

Up Coming APC Supported Events: June - July

American Pointer Club - APC Supported Show & Sweepstakes - July 2, 2016

Oklahoma City Kennel Club - Oklahoma City, OK

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Superintendent - Onofrio

Breed Judge - Donna Buxton; Sweepstakes - Helen Dorrance