

Samoyed Association of Mpls/St. Paul



CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 6/2003 June 30, 2003

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

Next Newsletter Deadline: July 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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General Meeting Notice

Upcoming Events

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SAMS Weight Pull Event Recap

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Next General meeting is scheduled for September 15th at Minneapolis Humane Society.

No further details regarding the program are available at this time.

Upcoming Events

- July 12th** **Microchip Clinic** from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Cost: \$25 per dog plus \$15 registration fee per dog or a flat registration fee of \$40 for 3 - 8 dogs (same owner).
Address: Smith Veterinarian Hospital
 1110 East Hwy 13, Burnsville, MN
 Phone: 952-736-8278 ask for Amy
- August 16th** **Cleary Lake Park Dog Event** Located in Burnsville from 8:30am – 12:00pm. SAMS will have a booth.
- August 30th** **Sammy Day at the Mn State Fair** Details listed in this newsletter. Contact is Betty Gerlach.
- Sept 26-28th** **SAMS Annual Camping/Pack Hike at Gooseberry Falls** Details coming soon.
- Oct 4th** **A-Fair with Dogs at Anoka County Fairgrounds**

The following 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, **September 15th**
Monday, **November 10th**

Board Meetings with locations to be determined

Monday, August 25th Contact Leny Wendel for location and time
Monday, October 6th
Monday, December 8th

Sammy Day at the Minnesota State Fair

Betty Gerlach is once again sponsoring “Sammy Day” at the Minnesota State Fair. The date is **August 30th** with presentations scheduled at *9am, 11am, and 1pm*. This is a GREAT way to show off our dogs. Betty is asking for volunteers to present their dog(s) at the fair. I’ve personally done this event myself and it is well worth the time. You meet lots of people and the dogs catch their “limit” of hugs and pets. Plus it’s a good way to educate the public about our breed and local club. Please contact **Betty** if you can help out at this year’s fair. Requirements are:

- Rabies Vaccination
- Groomed
- 6 months and older
- Well socialized

Everyone should take the opportunity to attend this event at least once. If you and your dog(s) are available Labor Day weekend, please consider helping out with this event. Thanks!

SAMS 1st Sanctioned Weight Pull Recap

By Barbara Gage

Our first annual weight pull was held on June 15th. The weather was delightful, not too hot or humid which both the handlers and dogs appreciated. We started with a clinic in the morning, followed by a pot luck lunch, then a sanctioned Novice and Regular Weight Pull in the afternoon. Attendance was excellent. We had approximately 30 people and 34 dogs. A total of 29 dogs attended the clinic and 31 dogs participated in the weight pull between the Novice and the Regular Division. Of those 8 were members of our club with 12 dogs participating. They really did a wonderful job representing our breed and their many talents.

We had several goals for this event and I'm happy to say we met all of them. Learning how to work with your dog in a safe and positive manner was at the top of the list. Our instructor Rhonda Schrader gave us lots of positive input and shared her ideas of how to train in a logical and easy to understand way. The dogs had the opportunity to practice with tires and then progressed to the empty cart with lots of coaching from Rhonda.

Another goal was to provide an opportunity for dogs to acquire points toward their working dog degrees. By keeping the increments of weight at the beginning of the pull to smaller amounts, several of our club members plus dogs from the Saint Bernard Club and the Malamute Club were able to meet their requirements. So many times at a regular pull the weight is added in such large amounts the dogs miss their required weight by just a few pounds.

During the Novice pull we wanted the dogs to get as much practice as possible in working through any problems they might be having. So again, by keeping the weight low in the beginning, they were allowed to practice with slowly increasing amounts of weight. During the Novice Pull, I was so pleased to see all of the experienced handlers coaching the beginners and sharing their expertise. Many of the novice dogs were able to pull 1,060 lbs. which is an impressive amount for a beginning dog.

It was a lot of fun to watch the experienced dogs in the Regular division. The top weight pulled for the day was 2220 lbs. by a Saint Bernard. We were getting nervous as we only had 2500 lbs. of weight available.

Everyone just pitched in and all the jobs got done. Even people who were participating in the pull helped between their pulls with holding dogs, adding weight, moving the cart, and applauding each and every dog for their effort. If you've never tried weight pulling with your dog I would encourage you to give it a try. It's just another fun and rewarding activity you can experience with your dog.

There are some pulls being scheduled in our area so watch for them under upcoming events in the Newsletter.

SAMS 2002 Top Agility Dog Award

By Dawn Sawdey

Congratulations to Norma Pinkert & Docker for earning the S.A.M.S. Top Agility Dog Award for 2002. Docker earned 633 points in 2002, which included earning both her MX and MXJ (10 qualifying scores of 100 for each title). Those titles stand for Master Agility Excellent and Master Excellent Jumpers With Weaves.

Norma was presented the S.A.M.S. Top Agility Dog traveling plaque at the S.A.M.S. Specialty on May 17th.

Mona Rauen and Meeka turned in a score of 278 points and earned several new titles.

Congratulations, and thank you, to those participating in this award in memory of Gordy and good luck in 2003!