

**Greater Portland Old English Sheepdog Club
General Membership Meeting, Spring Fling and Bone Hunt**

The meeting was held on May 16, 2009 at Reynolds Kennels in Tualatin, OR.

Board Members Present: Jeff Menzel, Dianne KcKee-Rowland, Joanna Smith, Matt Alston, Marsha King, Junior Director Hanna Menzel.

General Members Present: Priscilla Menzel, Gary & Judy Keller, Kevin Stewart & Betsy Rice, Elise McCreary, Gretchen & Ron Hayhurst, Victor King, Lita Long,
Guests: Jerry & Belinda Holcombe, Shannon Hager, Emily Satterfield, Brad Jackson & family, Sarah Tallard & friend.

Supervising OES: Harrison & Sophia, Nelson Healy, Marley & Molly, GiGi, Fiona, Parker, Dan & Angel, Barkley, Calliope & Mulligan, Dezz, B.B., and Bracken, Forest Monster.

President Jeff Menzel called the General Meeting to order at 1:32p.m.

Jeff welcomed everyone to the Spring Fling and Bone Hunt. He commented on the great spring weather and thanked Reynolds Kennels for hosting the event . A brief explanation was given about AKC requirements for breed clubs to have a number of activities during the year. This general membership meeting satisfies one of the requirements as well as a chance to enjoy the company of members and dogs.

The Board members Matt Alston, Dianne McKee-Rowland, Joanna Smith, and Marsha King were introduced. Sylvia Lindman, the Pinkertongue editor was unable to attend.

Lita Long, the contact person for Old English Sheepdog Rescue gave a brief report about the work that she has done recently.

Priscilla Menzel, co-chair for the 2009 GPOESC Specialty dog shows Friday, July 17 at the Portland Metropolitan Exposition Center reported that these will be held in conjunction with the "Stumptown Cluster" Portland Kennel Club Dog Show held July 17-19. There will two OES shows, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Lita Long said that specialty shows such as these were an excellent opportunity to learn more about the breed--particularly watching someone who has groomed OES for years can be an education in itself. After dogs are finished in the ring, she said it was fine to ask questions of handlers, owners, groomers--don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it. Also, there are many vendors so it's possible to buy just the right equipment and dog-related items.

Jeff talked about the Club calendar of events--the Club tries to have an event every month. The next event on Saturday, June 20 will be the Sellwood Walkabout. As with previous walkabouts in other neighborhoods (Beaverton, the Pearl), everyone meets at 11:00, socializes and then the walk takes 30 minutes to an hour to complete depending on how many people want to pet the dogs, ask questions, and interact with them. The walk usually ends at a place for coffee and snacks. In July, the Specialty dog shows will be big events. The August Walkabout will be in cool, shady Washington Park. Looking ahead to the Holidays, that Party includes a general membership meeting, Board elections, and gift exchange. The details of all of the events are at www.gpoesc.com which is the Club website. If anyone has any ideas for events, such as a beach walk, let the Board know!

The Club website is an increasingly important way for the Club to communicate. It is updated frequently and Jeff encouraged members to suggest content and pictures for the site.

Members Camille Tourje and Elijah Michalowski recently lost their beloved OES, Digby. A sympathy card was passed around for everyone to sign.

Jeff pointed out the tables around the room with OES crafts. Artist and member Judy Keller, GPOESC Treasurer Dianne McKee-Rowland, and Board member Marsha King brought items. Dianne has established an area on E-BAY and donated her work to sell for the Club benefit. More are welcome join in with crafting.

Lita Long passed around information about the Online OES Health Survey . It is open to anyone who owned an OES anytime in the last 10 years. OESCA (Old English Sheepdog Club of America) sponsored the comprehensive survey and will use the information collected for direct funding for specific research that can improve the health issues identified in the survey. Lita emphasized the importance of completing this survey. (Secretary's Note: the survey was online until 5/26/09)

Lita also alerted everyone to the National Specialty Oct 18-22 in Dixon, California (near Sacramento.) Held once a year, OES from all over the country come together to compete in obedience, herding,--everything! Lita said that it wasn't THAT far away when you consider the size and importance of the event.

Jeff again thanked Reynolds Kennels for providing a place for our Spring Fling and Bone Hunt.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55p.m. to begin the Bone Hunt.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Smith
Secretary