



Minutes from the YFDDC 4th Annual Meeting Held at Paws & Effect in Hamden Connecticut On February 9, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 6 PM by YFDDC President, Gail Mirabella following a pizza party that started at 5 PM.

INTRODUCTION

Those in attendance were: Carrie Neri, Joan Hamel, Belinda Lang, Joelle Budd, Magdiel De Leon, Jennifer Tallmen, Beth Szczygiel, Kevin McDonnell, Judith & Gladys Ushchak, Ed Jakubowski, Nick Grabosky, Marilyn Forbes, Sarah Stewart, Todd Bachl, Barry Griffin, Michael Porter, Aimee Mard, Chris Mard, Gail Mirabella, Herb Hicks, Betty Gram-Hicks, and last but not least Paul Winslow.

The meeting started with a brief description of our club and what we are about. We have an informal annual meeting once a year and we are just out for fun for ourselves and our K9 companions. We do this by organizing and participating in local events, and demos. We currently have members located from Maine to Atlanta. Our founders, Gail Mirabella, and Ed Jakubowski bring years of talent and experience to our club. Ed has been in the sport since 1978!

Gail expressed her deepest sympathy for Crystal's family in Atlanta. Crystal regrettably passed away recently after struggling with cancer.

Event Hosting

Currently YFDDC works with 3 organizations to organize events:

Skyhoundz (formerly sponsored by Alpo) in coordination with Peter Bloeme
USDDN (US Disc Dog Nationals) with Liberty Flyers running their 1st series this year
UFO local and regional competitions

Ed Jakubowski, our Event Coordinator, informed us about currently scheduled Skyhoundz events each using the new K10 discs:

May	5 th	Bronx, NY – run by Bob Warwick
	18 th	East Hartford, CT
June	1 st	Branford, CT
	9 th	Norwich, CT
July	13 th	Rocky Hill, CT
	31 st	Wallingford, CT
Aug.	17 th	Manchester (also a BIG HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO GAIL)

Ed announced that he had K-10 Hyperflite and Fastback discs for sale for \$2 each.

The new Hyperflite K10 discs are smaller, denser, more rigid, and fly differently than the fastbacks we are used to, so those of you that have not had experience with the new discs ought to practice a little before competition time. Also rubberized Hyperflite discs are available on their website for winter practices. Rubberized Fastback Frisbees are available through Discovering the World (714)522-2202.

It was announced that there will be Hyperflite events being held for children 14 & under that are without K-9 companions. This will include regional and world finals.

Hyperflite events will take place at the Skyhoundz events in E. Hartford on May 18th, Norwich on June 9th, and at Rocky Hill on July 13th.

We had a UFO event last year during August and they would like for us to run a major this year where participants can earn points towards titles. The UFO Major event is planned for sometime in October, possibly at Dodd stadium in Norwich.

USDDN intends on holding a qualifier event maybe at Durham Fair Grounds in CT. Liberty Flyers may help us out with that one.

The club needs to find a site near NY to hold an event, so if anyone has any information, please contact Gail or Ed. Also Nick is working on finding a site near him in RI.

Other sites that we could use for events or play days are Wickham Park in Manchester and Rocky Hill is another possibility. Manchester was excited about last year's event and they would allow us to use their site in the future. We may have difficulty planning events at Norwich.

There will be a total of 12 competitions in the area including 8 local Skyhoundz events, US Disc Dog Nationals at Durham Fair Grounds, and a UFO event to be scheduled in the future. The Durham Fair Grounds event will have a better field this year, although last year's field was not too bad.

Gail is going to inquire about the Incredible Dog Challenge, because club members expressed regret that it appears there will not be an event in our area this year.

From now on IDDHA requires membership in order for a club to use their rules. We opted not to use their rules.

YFDDC would like to put on its own event again this year although, it was not discussed at meeting, and this is something we need to think about in the near future.

Playdays/Clinics with the "top dogs"

Melissa Heeter joined us last year and luckily she may come back again this year. She is the 1997 World Champion and she is known as the best female thrower. She can throw a fastback 60 yards! She has a wide variety of throws and teaches showmanship. The price was brought up as a question. Melissa usually charges \$300 plus airfare & lodging, but if she is in the area and someone can put her up, it may be cheaper.

The club is looking for suggestions of other experts if anyone knows of a dog trainer that also knows Frisbee.

The club is planning a possible 2 day seminar in PA with Julie Norman, an expert in K9 musical freestyle. The first day would contain her freestyle techniques and the second day would integrate those moves into Frisbee. We would have to get a "top dog" for the second day.

This seminar would be helpful because rules have changed a little bit and judges are now looking for Choreography that will add showmanship to your routines. This also helps you warm up. They will be looking for dance or rhythmic interaction with the dog so the handler performs as a team with their dog. The clinics are helpful because they allow people to see what different breeds and different trainers are capable of. This will help handlers learn new styles and techniques. We want to encourage continual growth, innovation, and individuality. This is what the judges will be looking for. We want to encourage all those that are apprehensive about doing routines to just go out there and have a good time with their dog for 60 sec. to 2 min. and that is all that matters.

During our events this year it was suggested that we judge freestyle and distance in between one another. That means judge one distance then one freestyle, another distance , another freestyle and so on. This will give time for the freestyle judges to score the routines and it will keep the audience more entertained.

There is going to be a summer camp for dogs and handlers this summer in Putney VT and this is a good way for dog enthusiasts to bond with their dogs. Ed will be one of the trainers, and you can contact him if you are interested.

Sound System

The need for a more adequate sound system was brought to the club's attention. If anyone knows where there is used sound system equipment, please contact Ed or Gail. Nick raised the idea of having a club fundraiser to raise funds for the equipment, possibly a raffle. Another idea was to invite a DJ to cover the event. Also it was mentioned that a radio station may be able to broadcast an event and they may have some extra equipment for playing our songs. Ed's system is good for smaller events, but inadequate for events like UFO. If necessary, we will have to rent some equipment for USDDN & UFO. Ed will look into this matter. Although if the UFO event is held at Dodge Stadium in Oct. we will not need to rent a sound system.

Accumulation of Points

The idea of developing a point system for YFDDC members that would accumulate towards awards at the end of the season was mentioned. Points could be earned for participation, top ten ranking event participants, and volunteer points. The great need for volunteers was expressed. Help with registration, timing, score keeping, setup, cleanup, and judging would be greatly appreciated. There could be points for different levels like Novice or Experienced. All in attendance seemed receptive to the idea of points.

Demonstrations

Gail will check on insurance coverage for demos, she is uncertain about demo coverage, but all club events are covered.

Todd Bachl is the demonstration coordinator and he expressed the need for more volunteers. Todd, Ed, and Gail have done demos for years. He requests more help this year. He mentioned that it is not very lucrative and some are more successful than others. Club members felt that other than non-profit organizations like humane societies and the such, demos should have compensation. Norwich Navigators and Arts Festivals do not compensate as they should. It was stated that demonstrators should charge a minimum of \$100 a team.

Sponsors

Gail informed us that Animal Health thru Pfizer is fizzling out and we may not get sponsorship this year, which was previously \$1000 per year. Our insurance is \$336. We have about \$2000 in our account now.

It was mentioned that sponsors may pay for advertising per big event if we have their logos put on our shirts.

Suggestions about sponsors are welcomed. A possibility that was brought up at the meeting was Shagbark and Mohegan Sun.

Reminder: membership is due 1 year from sign up and new forms have to be filled out for insurance purposes. Gail will electronically forward membership expiration dates.

Website

Gladys is in the beginning stages of developing a club website. If you have any photos, or suggestions, please e-mail her at gushchak@aol.com. Ed suggested links to Events, Rescues, Scores, other sites, club history, and member of the month.

Our current logo is a dog that came from clip art. If anyone can come up with an original design for our logo, it would be greatly appreciated.

People Play day

Todd Bachl will coordinate a play day for just humans. This will be a good way to get better acquainted with other club members, and it is also good for those with children. Possible excursions were brainstormed:

Farmington River Tubing
Six Flags
Whitewater rafting
Etc.

This could also be when we have our Awards ceremony. Possible awards could be for Senior, Junior, or most improved.

Nominations

Nominations were made at the meeting and will extend to members that were not able to attend via electronic means.

President: Gail Mirabella
Vice President: Ed Jakubowski
Event Coordinator: Ed Jakubowski
Demo Coordinator: Todd Bachl
Treasurer: Carrie Neri
Secretary: Gladys Ushchak

Closure

Thanks for coming it was a great turnout!

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM followed by doggie playtime