



## YANKEE FLYERS DOG & DISC CLUB

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### **Minutes from the YFDDC 5<sup>TH</sup> Annual Meeting Held at Paws & Effect in Hamden, CT on January 18, 2003**

The meeting was called to order at 1 PM by YFDDC President, Gail Mirabella.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Those in attendance were: Steve & Gladys Ushchak, Gail Mirabella, Elizabeth Smith-Fries, Jamie Fraize, Aimee & Chris Mard, Arianna deVre, Ed Jakubowski, Belinda Lang, Shannon Maeurer, Corinne Brewer, Eric & Laura Anderson, Dan Pascarelli, Paul & Roxanne Winslow, Melissa Charity, and Todd Bachl. The 17 members present were residents of CT, NY, and RI.

The meeting started with a brief description of our club and what we are about. We are a canine Frisbee club that has been in existence since 1999. The purpose of our club is to promote the canine sport, to increase both the ability of the handler and the dogs, and most importantly, have fun!

#### **NEW CLUB ITEMS FOR SALE**

Gail Mirabella, our club President informed us about club items now available for sale. Order forms are available at our club website: [yfddc.tripod.com](http://yfddc.tripod.com)

Standard White Fastbacks with Club Logo	\$3 each or 2/\$5
Tank Tops	\$10
T-shirts - youth	\$10
T-shirts – adult	\$12
Long sleeve	\$15
Sweatshirts	\$20

#### **DISCS & DISC MAINTENANCE**

Ed Jakubowski, our club VP and Event Coordinator, informed us about discs & maintenance of discs. Ed has been in the sport since '78 and is both a judge and a competitor, also our club expert on discs. There are many different kinds of discs that are good for canine Frisbee play. The fastback is the type that our club has on sale at very reasonable prices. This type of disc was the original type used in canine disc sport events. The main problem with this type is that they are prone to cracking during the

cold winter months. Another disc that was recently introduced to the canine Frisbee sport is the Hyperflite K-10 disc which is made up of denser plastic, is smaller, holds up better, and flies better and further. This type of disc has ribs on the inside and out, which helps with aerodynamics, but the problem with this disc type is that due to its density, there exists the potential to knock a tooth out if the dog catches the disc head on. During the winter, flex discs, Gumabone, Jaws, or Floppy cotton discs are safer for your dog. Flex discs are good in the winter, because they are softer and will not crack, but if your dog has a good bite, they may stick to your pet's teeth. Jaws, made by Hyperflite and acquired at Skyhoundz.com, lasts well in the winter and can fly far, but is expensive (\$13-\$14), is tough to throw, and does not hold a hover. Jaws can outlast any disc, but Gumabone. Gumabone flies real good, is cheaper than Jaws, holds a hover better than jaws, and cannot be punctured like fastbacks. These can be purchased online, at Walmart, or mail order.

The cheapest way to buy discs is bulk, or seconds at dtworld.com. Other places to buy discs are through our club at yfddc.tripod.com, skyhoundz.com, Walmart, Old Navy, or your local pet store. The important thing is to make sure the disc is not too rigid, so it does not hurt your dog's mouth. Discs should always be kept clean, and filed down. You can use sandpaper to file discs down if your dog gets sharp bite marks on the disc surface.

1:30 PM Short Pizza Break

### **Frisbee Events**

Last year 8-10 Frisbee events were hosted by our club. We sponsored events that were structured by USDDN, IDDHA, UFO, and Skyhoundz rules. Before going to an event, it is important to familiarize yourself with the rules for that event, since there are many differences. These events consist of toss & fetch, freestyle, and sometimes distance competitions.

One issue about hosting UFO events is that they do not share any of the fees they collect for the events. This poses a problem, because our club has many costs that go along with these events that include insurance, permits to use fields, etc.

Entry fees for most events run from \$5-20, and club members get a discount. These entrance fees cover things like plaques, judges, etc.

Our first competition is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> at the Brooklyn Fair. This event is a YF event with trophies and plaques and will follow USDDN rules.

Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> we are considering having an event at the Durham Fairgrounds. We pulled off an event there the last couple years, but last year there were a few headaches that had to do with the field allocated to us.

We are open to suggestions for fields that allow dogs off lead and the typical space needed is 75'X 180'.

Wickham Park in Manchester is a very good site for future Frisbee events.

Check our club website at [yfddc.tripod.com](http://yfddc.tripod.com) for more events as they are scheduled.

We are always looking for volunteers to assist at our events. Any assistance that can be provided is greatly appreciated. Setup, judging, timing, cleanup, etc. is always desperately needed.

We are also interested in purchasing or renting an inexpensive, portable sound system to be used at events.

### **MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATIONS**

An e-mail regarding membership expirations will be sent shortly.

Membership forms are available at our club website: [yfddc.tripod.com](http://yfddc.tripod.com)

Renewed memberships have choice of: T-Shirt(s) or 6(12) Discs

Yearly membership \$25 per person/ \$35 for family (single membership receives 1 T-shirt, Family membership receives 2 T-shirts).

Please make checks payable to **The Yankee Flyers Dog & Disc Club**.

Send your checks to:

YFDDC c/o Gail Mirabella  
106 Way Rd.  
Salem, CT 06420

### **DEMOS**

Our demo coordinator, Todd Bachl informed us about demonstrations that our club members can volunteer to participate in. Volunteers are always needed and greatly appreciated. This past year it was difficult to find volunteers, and Todd will have difficulty covering as many demos as he has in the past. Many thanks go to Chris, Amy, Sue, Ken, and Bonnie for their participation at demos this past year.

You do not need a freestyle routine to perform a demo; however, if you would like to volunteer Todd, Gail, or Ed would be happy to work with you to get a demo together. All you have to do is demonstrate the abilities of you and your dog to show the spectators what a dog is capable of. You can give training tips, talk about the club and explain about competitions. The main idea is to show your enjoyment for the sport and the dog will always steal the show. All you need is a boom box, music, and your dog. Many demos do not compensate, but they sometimes will cover your expenses. We are invited to do demos at humane societies, camps, and sporting events. There is a demo scheduled Memorial weekend at Saratoga Race Track. Contact Todd, Gail or Ed if you are interested in volunteering for a demo.

Todd Bachl  
860-446-8110  
tbachl@ebmail.gdeb.com

### **Play Days**

We are looking for fields that can be used for our club play days. Play days are sponsored by our club to help our members develop their skills, improve throwing techniques, and develop a freestyle routine. These clinics have proven to be beneficial for handlers of all skill levels, and are also very fun. We are also requesting suggestions for animal trainers to teach at the play days. We are looking for trainers that are knowledgeable about all breeds, and have good people skills. Some possibilities are:

Lourdis Edlin  
Melissa Heeter  
Greg Truson  
Julie Norman, and Craig Rogers.

### **CLUB NOMINATIONS**

Since there were no new nominations, and our old officers are available to maintain there same positions, our officers will remain:

Gail Mirabella- President  
Ed Jakubowski- VP & Event Coordinator  
Todd Bachl- Demo Coordinator  
Gladys Ushchak- Secretary  
Carrie Neri- Treasurer & Photographer

### **THROWING DRILLS**

There are many different ways to throw a disc. The two basic are forehand and backhand. Others are butterfly, upside down, side arm, over hand wrist throw, skip disc, around back, air brush, under legs, tap disc out, deflections off knees, use of multiple discs, and many more. A helpful training video by Peter Bloeme is available at skyhoundz.com. Also available at this website is a vaulting vest if you want to train your dog to jump off your body. This material is made out of Neoprene and will help prevent scratches from your pet's nails. It is important if you want to do freestyle routines to get your dogs used to multiple discs. Skyhoundz allows up to 5 discs, USDDN allows up to 10, and UFO allows up to 7 discs during freestyle performances. Judges look for variety and gracefulness.

For the basic backhand throw, stand sideways with your shoulder to the target. You need to bring your arm up across your body release with a snap of your wrist and follow through as you would in golf. When you release be sure it is at a downward slope called heiser. If you release too late or too early, you will throw off target. If it wobbles, you did not put enough spin on it. Consistency in your throw, body language, and commands will help your dog make a successful catch.

**Meeting adjourned at 5PM after individual instruction with each dog present.**