

## President's Message Spring 2014

Hope everyone has survived the wild winter here in East Tennessee and Mother Nature will be much kinder to us as spring rolls in.

There have been many things going on inside our club and it is a very exciting time for us as we continue to grow and expand.

First I would like to thank Beth White and all of her help for putting on two great weekends of Agility Trials in December and February. They were very well run, attended, and profitable. Beth continues to shine for us as we attempt to continue to grow our performance area within the club.

As many of you know performance events have been an area that the board has been trying to improve club participation in for a long time. Recently due to the hard work of Keith Bailey, Beth White, and Ace Russell TVKC was able to secure the use of the new arena facilities at UT Veterinary School. This has enabled TVKC to better serve all our members and the dog community in general by allowing us to provide some type of agility classes and training area. We are also now using an adjacent area for conformation classes, puppy kindergarten classes and we are planning basic obedience classes with Janis Flaherty, Richella Veatch and other stepping up to plate to get these things going. All of the classes take place on Monday nights at UT and you can find a current training schedule and information on our **TVKC.org** web site.

Our club has also listened to its members and has done our best to come up with a meeting room solution that will hopefully allow us to meet the needs of our members both to the East as well as the West. At one of our recent meetings it was voted to hold meetings at the UT Vet School Sequoyah room during the months of April, May, July, August, and September. with October, November, January, February, and March will be held at the Emergency Clinic on Kingston Pike near Pellissippi Parkway. The June meeting is our annual awards meeting and the December meeting has been our annual Christmas get together so those sites will be determined each year. The UT schedule allows us to meet during the summer months when the days are longer and also allows us to avoid basketball season when the parking issues had been a problem in the past. **We will be meeting at UT in March this time due to a scheduling conflict with the emergency clinic.**

One of our long term goals as a club has been to grow our areas of interest within the world of dogs. With the decision by the Oak Ridge Kennel Club to leave the cluster we are taking steps to try to build up our show weekend into one that will hopefully draw more of the general public to our show and possibly bring more dog people to the TVKC. We have created a task force with the goal of adding a variety of events to our Saturday show to give the general public a look into all of the things our sport has to offer. This task force is working with other groups to bring in events and exhibitions in numerous areas to share with the general public. Some of these areas are; Barn Hunts, Lure Coursing, CGC, Herding, My Dog Can Do That, Agility & Obedience Demos, Dock Diving, Freestyle Dancing, Fly Ball, Search and Rescue, Drug and Therapy dogs, and so on. If any of you have contacts or you have a special area of interest or just wish to help please let us know.

On March 30<sup>th</sup> the UT vet school is sponsoring a "Dog Show Extravaganza" and the TVKC has agreed to sponsor a booth and to be involved. Neena Van Camp is acting on our behalf and she is looking for volunteers to assist us in this project. This is a great opportunity for us to strengthen our relationship with the UT college of Veterinary Medicine as well as to interact with the students. I know many of you

will see this as an opportunity to interact with these Veterinarians of the future and help them understand the world of the “pure-bred” dog breeder-exhibitor.

Please remember that the TVKC web site is a valuable tool and Beth White does a great job of attempting to keep things current. Most of our training schedules as well as upcoming meetings and events are posted there. You can also find the meeting minutes; officers contact info as well as current membership information on the site.

Over the past several years one of my goals was to attempt to provide quality programs every month for our members and I think that along with the assistance of Barbara Price and Pam Stanner on the program committee we have been doing a pretty good job. We are always looking for new and interesting topics and speakers and so please let us know if you have someone in mind that we can contact.

I feel very strongly that as a club our mission is to promote the sport of pure-bred dogs and to assist and educate new people into our sport. I think we would all agree that our sport is in a changing mode and with so many new areas of interest and competition we too must also be open to these changes. As we move forward I encourage all of you to invite people to our club meetings that may have interest in all of these new areas of competition. We need to be an inclusive group that will make these people feel welcome. As a breeder I know that not every puppy we produce will be in a show home, but I also know that each and every one will become a part of someone’s family. So if someone in that family becomes interested in agility, flyball, coursing and so on it is a win-win for the puppy, the family, and the sport of pure-bred dogs. We need to nurture and encourage these people. Remember we all started somewhere many of us with a pet, some through obedience class at a local club or 4-H etc.

We have a great group of very talented people in a variety of areas. With all of us working together we can build our club into a well-rounded and diversified bunch of enthusiasts that will become a great asset to our community.

I look forward to seeing all of you at an upcoming meeting, class, or event.

Walter Sommerfelt