



# Bur Oak Hundesport News

*A Dog Sport Club in Northern Illinois Specializing  
in Schutzhund and German Conformation*



*Bur Oak Helper Eddie Calderon works Mike Karlov's Captain toward a SchH 2 at Bur Oak's Nov. 6 Club Trial. (Photo by Connie Nicolita)*

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## **WINTER, 2011**

This Newsletter is published for Members & Friends of Bur Oak Hundesport as its official publication. It is sent to all Club members & on an exchange basis with regional Schutzhund clubs. Opinions expressed in the articles are those of the writers & not necessarily that of the Club.

## What We Are

Bur Oak Hundesport was formed as a non-profit organization on Jan. 12, 2003 to encourage & promote training of purebred German Shepherd dogs & other desirable breeds for the dog sport of Schutzhund.

Diverse founding members include several breeding kennels, & expert through novice proponents of all three phases of Schutzhund training & competition (tracking, obedience, & protection work). Other key interests of the Club involve conformation & ring training.

Bur Oak Hundesport is affiliated with the German Shepherd Dog Club of America-Working Dog Association, Inc., (GSDCA-WDA). As a member of the World Union of German Shepherd Dog Clubs, through its affiliation with the GSDCA, the WDA provides enthusiasts with a framework for activities in the U.S. patterned after those available to the world-wide German Shepherd dog community. All members of Bur Oak Hundesport are part of the GSDCA- WDA.

## Where We Train

Bur Oak Hundesport's regular training facility is located at Gridley Field in Long Grove, IL, just east of Route 83 & Gilmer Road.

## Our Officers

President	Mike Karlov
Vice President	Bill Plumb
Treasurer	Joe Barry
Membership	Sandy Nueschen
Secretary	Judy Braginsky

## To Contact Us

Membership information:  
[memberinfo@buroakhundesport.com](mailto:memberinfo@buroakhundesport.com)

Bur Oak Hundesport Web site:  
[www.buroakhundesport.com](http://www.buroakhundesport.com)

# Got Tracks?



*Club member Jamie Elliott's Hovawart, Radar, is burning up the tracking fields, passing both TR 1 and TR 2 tracking tests within 2 months' time. (See Hot Dogs column inside.) (Photo by Judy Braginsky)*

## Bur Oak Hundesport Training Schedule

Each Sunday, the following training is available:

TRACKING -- 8:00 a.m.

OBEDIENCE – 9:00 a.m. on the Training Field

SITS & DOWNS SESSION\* -- 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

PROTECTION – 10:30 a.m. (or after obedience training is finished) at the training field.

\*This is a group session where we work on various distractions while maintaining group sits and downs. The time of the sits and downs will be increased as dogs gain confidence with the exercises.

Various distractions to dogs learning to maintain a sit or down can include other dogs and handlers working on eye contact, a person walking or jogging by, car drive-bys in front of dogs, people playing catch in front of dogs, or starter pistol shots fired from a distance.

\*\* Guest trainers: There is a \$20 cash fee (per round) for the first dog and \$15 for each dog thereafter to participate in all three event areas above (including ring training, if held). See Membership Chairperson Sandy Nueschen to sign the necessary waiver and pay the fee.

# Club news...

## Lepto Lurks the Area

Skycrest Animal Clinic reports diagnosing cases of canine leptospirosis in the area and urges dog owners to consider lepto vaccine if their dog has not had it.

"We have found cases of leptospirosis in dogs that have gone swimming or played in Buffalo Creek in Buffalo Grove," the alert said. "If your pet has been to Buffalo Creek and was in or near the water, please give us a call (847-634-3538) so you can consult with a veterinarian."

The bacteria are spread through the urine of infected animals, which can get into any stagnant surface water, moist soil, and recreational water sources like ponds and lakes. Lepto is treatable with antibiotics.

## Sherri's Tree

Sherri's bur oak tree that we planted in memory of our late DOT on our training field has struggled in recent months but will do better next spring.

It was resilient. Kept making new leaves right up to the first frost.

Now time for a winter rest.

Sherri's daughter, Dawn Strawser-Molski, is that way, too. Been a rough year. But she is resilient.

Sherri would be proud. --- Georgia

## New Webmaster

Club member Ed Bohrer is now in charge of Bur Oak's web site and welcomes any photos and achievement reports from members to showcase. E-mail Ed at: [LCHIAMI18@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LCHIAMI18@GMAIL.COM).

And while you're at it, cc Newsletter Editor Judy Braginsky ([amosmom07@yahoo.com](mailto:amosmom07@yahoo.com)) so we can brag about you and your dog in print, too!

## Potty Talk

Club members will be happy to hear we've just replaced our Port-a-potty with a new model after the old one was vandalized over the summer. Same spot, for the pause that refreshes.



Tawny Wagner's Max

## Alpha Mail

I think we had a great 2011, and I think we can have a better 2012.

Congrats to all of the Club members who earned titles this year.

Keep up the great work and let's see more in 2012.

Congrats to Judy with our newsletter winning 1st place.

Thanks much to everybody who helped with our Trials. With all of your help, we had two very good ones. --- Mike



Mike and Captain, SchH 2

# The Dog at the Gate

The dog was sitting by the gate when the young boy arrived home from school. The German shepherd seemed to be waiting for the child, greeting him with a wagging tail.

The boy looked up and down the street. He saw no one who seemed to belong to this dog. He ran into the house and told his parents about this most beautiful animal outside the gate.

**With some prodding**, his parents agreed to let the dog into the safety of the yard. They knew the dog could be easily seen in the yard by the owner, who must be frantically searching for him. They notified the local police about this lost dog.

Days passed, and no one came to claim this lovely shepherd. Then, on the third day, a very grateful man arrived to claim his dog. That man happened to be a well-known dog trainer at the time whose kennel was on the outskirts of this German village Bretten.

It was hard for the boy to give him up, but the dog belonged to the man.

**This encounter was** the spark that ignited a lifelong love affair with the GSD breed in a young man's heart. He was soon to be a frequent visitor at the training kennel of Herr Pahl.

The young boy was Harald Hohmann, who grew up to become a policeman, a detective, a K-9 trainer and handler, and an SV Schutzhund and soon-to-be conformation judge.

**Through our** conversation, it was very evident that Herr Hohmann is quite family oriented and very pleased that his

daughters and wife share his passion for the German Shepherd dog. His wife, Nichole, and daughters Katrin and Sari, are all very successful with dog training and showing.

**The Hohmann** Kennel name is Von Melanchthon.

Herr Hohmann told me a sweet story about his eldest daughter, Katrin, "helping" him track a dog.

She was only about 2 years old at the time and would walk right next to the dog's head, making sure he kept his nose to the ground. If the dog lifted his nose from the track, Katrin would give this disapproving look at her father and demand that the dog be correct.

**Herr Hohmann laughs** that he still sees that look on her adult face... when she is a passenger in the car and she tells him he is driving too fast!

This article was written to let others know a little more about Herr Hohmann, who judged Bur Oak Hundesport's Nov. 6, 2011 Trial.

It is always interesting to know how our judges first became enraptured with this wonderful breed. --- Georgia



Herr Hohmann

## Hot Dogs

Congrats to **Mike Karlov** and **Captain**, who earned their SchH 1 (and High in Protection) at Mill Creek Schutzhund Club of Northern Illinois' Club Trial Nov. 5, SV Judge Harald Hohmann.

Congrats to **Mike** and **Captain** again, who earned their SchH 2 (and High SchH 2, High Obedience, High Protection, and High Tracking) at Bur Oak Hundesport's Club Trial Nov. 6, SV Judge Harald Hohmann.

Congrats to **Lee Marconi** and **Amuk**, who earned their SchH 2 (and a perfect 100 score in Tracking) at Prairie State Dog Club's Midwestern Regional Championship Show Sept. 30-Oct. 2, SV Judge Guenther Mullagger.

Congrats to **Lee** and **Amuk**, again, who earned their SchH 3 at O.G. Edgerton/Wisconsin Schutzhund Club's Trial Nov. 12, SchH USA Judge Nikki Banfield.

Congrats to **Jamie Elliott** and **Radar**, who earned their TR1 at Prairie State Dog Club's Midwestern Regional Championship Show Sept. 30- Oct. 2, SV Judge Guenther Mullagger.

Congrats to **Jamie** and **Radar**, again, who earned their TR 2 at Bur Oak Hundesport's Club Trial Nov. 6, SV Judge Harald Hohmann.

Congrats to **Margo Tsim** and **Mica**, who earned their SchH 1 (and High SchH 1 and High Protection) at Tri-State Schutzhund Club's Trial Oct. 2, Judge Ray Reid.

# For Amuk, Schutzhund 's as Easy as 1- 2- 3!

Club member Lee Marconi's German shepherd bitch, Amuk von Karthago, was really meant to be a "starter dog" for Lee to get his feet wet in a bit of Schutzhund training.

Then, Lee figured, he'd get a male GSD and head for some serious trialing and titling in the rugged, macho sport.

**Amuk, however**, had other ideas.

By the end of 2011, within one year's time, Amuk had earned her BH and SchH 1, 2, and 3 titles – all by the age of 25 months.

PLUS, she scored a perfect 100-point track and High in Tracking honors while polishing off her SchH 2 at Prairie State Dog Club's Midwestern Regional Championship Show.

Well, Amuk does have a working dog's genes.

**Lee says Amuk's** mom, Grisella von Karthago, earned similar achievement at a young age. And Amuk's mother's littermate, Ginoginelli von Karthago, won Germany's

fabled Bundessieger Profung (National Championship Exam) competition in September 2011.

**You won't see Lee** and Amuk Sundays at Bur Oak, when members usually come out to train on our field.

He plays bass guitar at Mt. Prospect Bible Church services that morning.

Lee, a master carpenter who helped build the shelter that overlooks Burt Oak's training field, usually drops by Saturday mornings for what are now Amuk's "tune-ups."

**So what's left** when you've gotten your SchH 3 and still have a lot of dog left?

"We might try to better our Schutzhund 3 scores, or think about competing in a regional trial," Lee says.

"Maybe compete in the Nationals. She's got the right foundation.

"She's a good dog." --- *Judy*



# Payoff Time

Club President Mike Karlov (right) and honors for earning his and Captain's BH, SchH 2 and High SchH 2, High Obedience, High Protection, and High Tracking) at Bur Oak Trials



Jamie Elliott (above) and honors for earning his and Radar's BH and TR 2 titles at Bur Oak Trials (Top 2 photos by Judy Braginsky)

Margo Tsim and Mica (right) and honors for earning their SchH 1, High SchH 1 and High Protection at Tri-State Schutzhund Club's Trial (Photo by Pat Behles)



## Hot Dogs



Congrats to **John Odh** and **Ganti**, who earned their SchH 1 at Mill Creek Schutzhund Club of Northern Illinois' Club Trial Nov. 5, SV Judge Harald Hohmann.

Congrats to **Ruth Black** and **Dr. Neda Tkalcevic's Odin**, ranked VA-7 at the North American Sieger Show Oct. 23, SV Judge Erich Bosl.

Congrats to **Sonia Arackal** and **Obsidian von den Blauen Bergen**, who earned a VP-3 (9-12 month males) at the Chicago Schutzhund Verein Show June 11-12, SV Judge and Kormeister Bernd Weber.

Congrats to **Sandy and Fred Nueschen** and **Riva**, who earned a VP-1 (stock coat/9-12 month females) at the O.G. Indianapolis Schutzhund and Polizei Club Show Nov. 12, USCA Judge Johannes Grewe.

Congrats to **Sandy, Fred, and Riva**, again, who earned a VP-1 (long stock coat/3-6 month females) at the Topline German Shepherd Dog Club Show May 21, SV Judge Wilfried Scheld.

Congrats to Bur Oak's Newsletter Editor **Judy Braginsky** for a first place in the German Shepherd Dog Club of America/WDA's 2011 Regional Club Newsletter Contest.

*(Don't forget to send your dog's accomplishments to Newsletter Editor Judy Braginsky and to Club Webmaster Ed Bohrer so we can honor you and your Hot Dog for all to see!)*

# More Payoff...



Photos clockwise: Fred Nueschen (above) handling Riva to a VP-1 (long stock coat/3-6 month females) at Topline's Show; Mike Karlov (from left), Jamie Elliott congratulated by SV Judge Harald Hohmann for Radar's TR 2 title at Bur Oak, and Joe Barry; Mike Karlov's Captain and Helper Dean Salamone training in the protection phase of Schutzhund. (Photos by Connie Nicolia, My Bodyguard Dogs, and Sandy Nueschen)

## Focus to Die For



6.

TOM FONDER

HAPPY-JAR.COM

# Want protection? Try a \$230K dog

Submitted by Elaine Rushton

by John Tierney  
New York Times

Don't call her a guard dog. When she costs \$230,000, as Julia did, the preferred title is "executive protection dog."

This 3-year-old German shepherd, who commutes by private jet between a Minnesota estate and a home in Arizona, belongs to a canine caste that combines exalted pedigree, child-friendly cuddliness, and arm-lacerating ferocity.

**Julia and her ilk** have some of the same tracking and fighting skills as the dogs used in the elite military units like Navy SEAL Team 6, which took a dog on its successful raid of Osama bin Laden's compound in Pakistan in May. In fact, Julia was sold by a trainer, Harrison Prather, who used to supply dogs to SEAL Team 6 and the British special forces.

But then Prather switched to a more lucrative market.

"Either rich people discovered me or I discovered them," said Prather, the president of Harrison K-9 Security Services in Aiken, S.C.

**He and others** in the high-end dog training business say prices have shot up recently thanks to the growing number of wealthy people around the world who like the security – and status – provided by a dog with the right credentials. Moguls and celebrities now routinely pay \$40,000 to \$60,000 for a German shepherd that is certified as an expert in the sport of schutzhund, which means "protection dog."

The price can go much higher if a dog does well at an international championship, as Julia did.

**"She's a top deal,"** Julia's owner, John Johnson, said as she escorted him around the grounds of his 15-acre estate near Prior Lake.

But \$230,000?

"It's a lot of money," he said matter-of-factly. "It's the speed, the smartness, the quickness – and you would not believe the roughness she has inside."

Johnson said he got his first protection dog after receiving personal

threats while he was running a debt-collection company in Minnesota.

**Now he has six** protection dogs, all German shepherds, and normally takes a couple in his car whenever he goes out.

"It's for both security and companionship," he said as Julia nuzzled his leg, looking like a gentle-enough companion.

But when an intruder emerged near the tennis court of his estate, all it took was one command, "Packen!" (the bite command from the German word for "seize") to send Julia racing across the lawn.

She sunk her teeth into the intruder's arm, which was encased in padding for a demonstration, and hung on even as he lifted her off the ground in a vain attempt to shake free of her.

**She let go only** upon being commanded and then stood guard over her new prisoner, barking and threatening to bite again whenever he made a move to escape.

Julia's was a controlled ferocity, which trainers distinguish from the anger manifested by ordinary dogs. When two dogs try to intimidate each other, they stiffen, growl, bare their teeth, and stare intently. Protection dogs are trained to continue looking around and protecting their owners, not establish their own dominance. And, when commanded, they are supposed to switch instantly from attack mode to pet mode.

**"The dog has to get along with children,"** Prather said. "The client is often a guy on his second family. He travels a lot, leaves his wife alone with the kids in a large house – maybe 30,000 square feet,

so big you don't even know what's going on at the other side of the house."

Why the big price tag?

**The price tag** for a protection dog has risen because of increasing demand in the United States, Latin America (especially Mexico), the Middle East, Asia, and other places, said Prather and Wayne Curry, the owner of Kraftwerk K9 in Rochester, Wash.

"I've turned down offers of more than \$200,000 for one of my champion dogs," said Curry, who added that he knew of a dog that had sold for more than \$400,000 because of its bloodline and breeding potential.

To clients who can afford the \$50,000 price for a typical well-credentialed dog, there are lots of ways to rationalize the price.

**"When you compare** the costs of a full-time bodyguard versus a dog, the dog makes a lot of sense," Curry said. "And the dog, unlike the bodyguard, can't be bought off."

At her new home in Minnesota, Julia has a part-time trainer, Jeremy Norton, who also works as a firefighter in Minneapolis. Norton agreed that Julia was a special dog, but he smiled a bit uncomfortably when asked to explain the \$230,000 price.

"It's in the eye of the beholder," he said. "That's as politic an answer as I can muster."

"I mean, Julia's nice, but that's half my house. There's no way to wrap your head around that." (Source: A version of this article appeared in print on June 12, 2011 on page A1 of the New York edition.



Julia

--- Allen Brisson-Smith New York Times



Margo Tsim and Mica (Photo by Pat Behles)

## Words to Train By...

*To handle yourself*, use your head. To handle your dog, use your heart. --- Donald Laird

*The will to win* is important, but the will to prepare is vital. --- Joe Paterno

*The fastest way to learn* a sport is to watch and imitate a champion --- Jean-Claude Killy

*It's not necessarily the amount* of time you spend at training that counts. It's what you put into the practice. --- Eric Lindros

*Do what you can*, with what you have, where you are. --- Theodore Roosevelt

*Ask not what your (dog)* can do for you. Ask what you can do for your (dog). --- Magic Johnson

*Every time you are not* practicing, someone else is. And they will beat you. --- Anonymous

*You always get* the dog you deserve. --- Anonymous

*The journey* is the reward. --- Chinese proverb

## Bur Oak Hundesport

[www.buroakhundesport.com](http://www.buroakhundesport.com)

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