



Photo by Judy Skorup



Phoebe (L) & Patton Manwiller charm the public at the Canine Learning Experience, as Fred Unger (R) supervises.

Report of the Nominating Committee

by Dianne Migas

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Dianne Migas, Chair, Doreen Choffel and Nancy Coombs submits the following nominations for the positions listed:

For Vice President: Lorraine Garaguso and Roz Wenrich

For Secretary: Marci Port

For Director (2 positions open): Dianne Migas and Fred Unger

Nominations for any office may be made from the floor of the Annual Meeting, however, nominees must either be present, or have agreed in writing to be nominated for the specific position.

2006 Membership Report

by David Kintsfather

As of December 31, 2006 the Club's membership was:

Total Members	123
Total Households	89

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Penn-Dutch

*Serving Pyrs & Pyr People
in Southeastern Pennsylvania*

Board of Directors:

*President (2006, 2008)-
Vice President (2001, 2007)-
Secretary (2003, 2007)-
Treasurer (2006, 2008)-
Director (2002, 2007)-
Director (2006, 2008)-
Director (2006, 2007)-
Director (2002, 2008)-*

Barbara Bowes, greatpyr@enter.net. 570-386-3017
Annette Manwiller, pyrjam@zodial.com. 610-987-3896
Roz Wenrich, reedialer1@aol.com. 610-670-0716
Charlotte Powell, pyrmagic@comcast.net. 215-464-2309

Gail Hillard.
Fred Unger, fshairydog@aol.com. 610-767-7457
John Wenrich, reedialer1@aol.com. 610-670-0716

Committee Chairs:

*Educational Events Committee-
Fun Events Committee-
Fund Raising & Auctions Committee-
Match & Show Committee-
Nominating & Audit Committee-
Regional Specialty Committee-*

vacant
vacant
Fred Unger, fshairydog@aol.com. 610-767-7457
Dianne Migas, bluepyrs@comcast.net. 732-477-8097
Dianne Migas, bluepyrs@comcast.net. 732-477-8097
Jay Manwiller, pyrjam@zodial.com. 610-987-3896

Contact Persons:

*GPCA Regional Representative-
Membership Database Manager-
Newsletter Editorial Staff-*

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David Kintsfather, kintsfat@kutztown.edu. 610-682-2419
David Kintsfather, kintsfat@kutztown.edu. 610-682-2419
Nancy Kintsfather, nancy@pyrbred.org. 610-682-2419

President's Message

by Barbara Bowes

Well, another year has come and gone. Happy 2007, everyone! I hope this new year will bring good things to Penn-Dutch GPC and its members and friends.

The Holiday Party was loads of fun and a big thanks to Bea Gottesman for coordinating the food and doing a great job on the decorations! And let's not forget Chic Gottesman and the rest of the folks that helped out. The Canine Learning Experience came off without a hitch. Thanks, Fred, for stepping in and taking it over. Karl Edinger was sorely missed, as was Ann.

Our next event is the Annual Meeting to be held at the home of Marci and Bill Port in Langhorne, PA. I hope you will all make attending a priority.

This is where we elect the Officers and Board members and set the calendar of events for the coming year. We have important things to discuss. We still need someone to head up the Fun Events Committee, and I have some suggestions for new Committees. We also have leftover Rescue funds in the Treasury that I'd like you, the members, to decide the disposition of, since Penn-Dutch no longer does Rescue. Last year the new Board of Directors decided that if the electronic newsletter was a success, we should reduce dues. We will have a vote on this as well. Don't forget to bring along something good to eat to share with your fellow members! So join us, dig in and get your hands dirty, and let's make 2007 a GREAT year for Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club!



Thank You, Great Pyrenees!

by Judy Skorup

A year ago, Dr. Gustavo Aguirre, a veterinarian and professor at the University of Pennsylvania, requested Penn-Dutch's help with his research on multifocal retinopathy. He needed Pyr blood samples to help him isolate the gene that causes this disease.

At the Canine Learning Experience in Allentown, PA on January 27, 2007, Dr. Aguirre personally thanked Dr. Dianne Skorup for organizing the Penn-Dutch blood draw, and Wyndhamhill (Virginia) Great Pyrenees Kennel for contributing blood samples from all of their Great Pyrenees.

Wyndhamhill had no affected dogs and was pleased to participate in the multifocal retinopathy research. For further information from this kennel, please contact Joan Ziehl (joan@jmdist.com) or Janet Ingram (jlingram@usit.net).

Dr. Aguirre isolated the gene that causes multifocal retinopathy and has completed his report for publication. His article was accepted for publication in three days from receipt with no requests for any revisions. The article will be published in two months in a veterinary journal and will include an acknowledgement of the help given to him by Penn-Dutch and Wyndhamhill Great Pyrenees.

In addition to helping further our knowledge of canine eye disease, it is hoped that the results of this study may help scientists gain an understanding of similar human eye diseases. Again, a big thank you to the wonderful dogs and their owners for their help with this research!

The PDGPC newsletter, *Pyr-A-Scoop*, will be published at least 4 times a year for the members of the Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club as a means of sharing information. Opinions reflected in articles and advertisements are those of the writer(s) and are not necessarily held by the editorial staff, PDGPC members or the Board of Directors. Any material in this publication may be reprinted (unless otherwise noted), as long as credit is given to both the author and source and no changes are made in the copy without permission.

Deadline for the next issue is: April 1, 2007.

Advertising Rates:

Full Page \$10.00
Half Page \$5.00
Quarter Page \$3.00

B&W Photos (per photo) \$10.00
Color Photos (per photo) \$25.00
Business Card for One Year (5 issues) \$8.00
Business Card (per issue) \$2.00

Board Meeting Minutes, 3/19/05

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Unger at 11:45 am. Present were Stephanie Unger, Annette Manwiller, Maureen Simon, Judy Skorup, Karl Edinger, Roslynd Wenrich and John Wenrich.

Minutes from the Board Meeting of July, 2004 were read and a motion was made by John Wenrich and seconded by Annette Manwiller to accept the minutes as presented. The motion passed.

President's Report

* The Canine Learning Experience in January, 2005 at Allentown Fairgrounds was successful thanks to Karl Edinger. We won an Honorable Mention Award at the event for our booth design. There was a good turnout and we disseminated a large quantity of educational materials. Karl sponsored the booth fee as a gift to Rescue.

* The Fort Washington Pet Expo, March, 2005 was also a success due to the hard work of Judy Skorup. We have decided to book the same corner space next year. Cookie sales were brisk and covered the entire cost of the booth.

Treasurer's Report

* The Report was distributed to members. It was reported that Club funds were extremely low. The Board discussed difficulties meeting Rescue expenses as well as general Club funds. Since Rescue is a major portion of Club expenses the Board discussed ways to manage the costs. Options will be discussed at the Membership Meeting to follow the Board Meeting.

* The fact that liability insurance for Rescue has been discontinued was discussed. Maureen will investigate options to replace previous insurance, however insurance may be unobtainable. It was also suggested that a policy be established that all checks received on behalf of the club and/or Rescue be sent directly to the Treasurer. This was moved by Maureen and seconded by John. The motion passed unopposed.

Rescue Report

* Barbara Bowes gave the Rescue report. In 2004 Rescue took in 37 dogs. Thirty-two were placed and three were euthanized for aggression. We now have a website, www.PennDutchRescue.org, and a presence on Petfinder at PA364.

Membership Report

* Barbara Bowes reported that the total membership is currently 123 households.

New Business

* The National Specialty Committee in Michigan has asked for a club basket for the silent auction.

* Steph showed a basic Andy Warhol type design of a Pyr logo to be used on tee shirts and bags sold at the Michigan Specialty show to kick off the 2006 Lancaster National.

* Judy is investigating Fort Washington State Park for July Fun Day and a tentative scheduling for either July 16th (rain date 7/17) or July 23rd (rain date 7/24). Steph and Roz will co-chair Fun Day.

* Saturday, May 21st- parade for Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council to observe Armed Forces Day. All our Pyrs are welcome to participate in the parade.

* May 21st is also the date of the Pet Expo in the Scranton area. Barb Bowes is in charge of our Club participation at this Expo.

Old Business

* Maureen volunteered to do an informational newsletter but we are still looking for someone to do our regular newsletter.

Judy made a motion to adjourn at 1:03 pm., seconded by Maureen. The motion passed unopposed.

Annual Meeting Minutes, 3/19/05

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club was called to order at 3:45 pm. by President Stephanie Unger, following a luncheon and discussion sponsored by James Belser, Key Accounts Manager with the Nutro dog food company. Roslynd Wenrich moved to accept the minutes of the July 31st meeting as presented, seconded by Judy Skorup. The motion carried unopposed.

President's Report

* Stephanie presented a year in review. Canine Learning Experience in January, 2005 at Allentown Fairgrounds was successful thanks to Karl Edinger. We won an Honorable Mention Award at the event for our booth design. Thanks to Karl for his efforts in organizing this activity. There was a good turnout and we disseminated a large quantity of educational materials.

* Fort Washington Pet Expo, March, 2005 was also a success due to the hard work of Judy Skorup. We have decided to book the same corner space next year. Cookie sales were brisk and covered the entire cost of the booth. Judy thanked all those who participated and baked cookies. Kudos to Judy for her wonderful job organizing this educational event. We were fortunate to have a sizable donation of dog bones and other dog items provided by Greyhound Rescue.

Treasurer's Report

* The Report was distributed. It was reported that Club funds were essentially depleted but we do have dues coming soon.

* A current newsletter was not sent out/received by members. Maureen has offered to create an informational newsletter for the time being. Jackie Frisch is considering the possibility of taking over the newsletter responsibilities.

Membership Report

* Barbara Bowes reported that the total membership is currently 123 households.

Rescue Report

* Barbara Bowes gave the Rescue report. In 2004 Rescue took in 37 dogs. Thirty-two were placed and three were euthanized for aggression. We now have a website, www.PennDutchRescue.org and a presence on Petfinder at PA364.

* Discussion followed concerning ways to revamp Rescue for increased efficiency. Stephanie suggested a sign-up sheet at public events for those spectators interested in more Pyr information, including adoption. It was suggested that Barb might want to confer with Greta, former Rescue Chairperson.

Judy Skorup asked if we could hold a separate Rescue meeting. Roz Wenrich made a motion to hold a separate meeting and it was seconded by Maureen Simon. This meeting was scheduled for June 18, 2005.

Educational Committee

* We need to make sure our inventory of educational pamphlets is well stocked.

Fund Raising

* Fred Unger reported that we are gathering items to sell at the National.

* Members previewed the tee shirt design we will be selling at the 2005 National to kick off the Lancaster 2006 National.

Election of Officers

* The following slate of candidates was presented by Roslynd Wenrich, Chair of the Nominating Committee: Annette Manwiller for Vice President, Roslynd Wenrich for Secretary, Karl Edinger for Director, and Gail Hillard for Director. The nomination of Gail Hillard was withdrawn because she was not present at the meeting and she had not indicated in writing that she would accept the nomination, as is required by our by-laws.

* Judy Skorup made a motion to vote on the slate with one vacancy. Maureen Simon seconded the motion and

the motion passed.

* John Wenrich made a motion on behalf of the Board to offer the vacant Director position to Gail Hillard, if she is willing to accept it. Maureen Simon seconded the motion and the motion passed.

New Business

* The link to Versatility Dog information can now be accessed through the GPCA website.

Planned Activities:

* May 14, 2005- Walk in the Woods

* Saturday, May 21st- parade for Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council to observe Armed Forces Day. All our Pyrs are welcome to participate in the parade.

* May 21st- Pet Expo in the Scranton area. Barb Bowes is in charge of our Club participation at this Expo.

* Stephanie is investigating Fort Washington State Park for the July Fun Day and a tentative scheduling for either July 16th (rain date 7/17) or July 23rd (rain date 7/24). Steph and Roz will co-chair Fun Day.

Annette Manwiller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m., seconded by Pat Perdue. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Roslynd Wenrich.

Board Meeting Minutes, 2/5/06

The special Board meeting relating to Rescue was called to order at 1:55 pm. Maureen moved that the Board accept written motion #1. Annette seconded. Maureen gave financial report from 3-1-03 to 3-1-06 and she agreed that Rescue go nonprofit because they can solicit funds from places. Maureen wrote to GPCA Rescue and they sent back a letter describing how many clubs are splitting and the GPCA is behind the idea.

Steph said we are a 501, not for profit, not a 501C3, which can be deducted from taxes as a non-profit group. Insurance companies will only insure a 501C3 status group because that assures good financial records for both the status and the record keeping. Maureen said that the 501C3 means also that you can't turn down any members.

We will still support Rescue by raising funds.

Steph wants to hear from all Board members as to what they feel about Rescue.

Steph presented the issue of liability to the Board members if someone has a Rescue Pyr from Penn-Dutch Rescue and has a problem and sues. The membership is not financially and legally liable, only the Board.

Points to remember: Board members can get personal liability insurance, but will new Board members want to run if they have to purchase their own?

Maureen said Rescue costs have tripled in the last 2 years.

Judy is against the motion as written, including the date to begin. What about the dogs already in Rescue? She would like to see this discussed AFTER the National, maybe in May. Has ideas on how to cover expenses. She said we never came up with ideas to cover Rescue monies. Judy has a personal liability policy. Suggested we make an amendment that we take care of the dogs currently in Rescue, but no more. Give Rescue Chairperson guidelines in writing. Judy is afraid that we will potentially alienate Penn-Dutch people who have Rescue dogs and they won't support our National. What will the Club purpose be if we left Rescue?

Steph said according to the Constitution we are NOT a Rescue club and it never was as it began. She said also that we do not abandon the 14 current Rescue dogs we have but that we don't support new dogs in Rescue.

Jay said we are a Pyrenees OWNERS club, not a Rescue club.

Steph wants to include a copy of our Constitution with the next newsletter.

Maureen said that to save money, members can send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a request for a Constitution or get it off the website.

Judy said that one of the new members (with the pup with the patella surgery) had an issue at the Christmas Party where people said they would never have spent that money on a Rescue puppy. Since we are low on funds, Judy suggests that we send an email to the membership and ask for emergency donations to Rescue because of the need for money. (Our Pyrs are in Rescue longer than usual because of the issue of Katrina dogs being rescued before a breed club dog is rescued). We need money for food and healthcare. Send checks directly to Maureen. Cut off date of March 31? Rescue can give basic vaccines. We set an amount of money (\$300?) on a Rescue dog and that's it.

Maureen wants Rescue to check with Treasurer before Rescue spends any more money on a dog.

Maureen wants to amend the motion that as of 2005/06 Penn-Dutch will no longer support any new dogs in Rescue but we will support the 14 Rescue dogs currently. We will support these until March 31, 2006.

Jay said (1) we will continue to support Rescue dogs (2) we will encourage Pyr Rescue owners to join our Club (3)

we will assist people in acquiring a Rescue Pyr if that's the way they want to go.

Maureen moved that the amendment be changed to substitute the word adoption for placement.

After a lengthy discussion the motion proposed by Maureen and seconded by Annette passed unanimously.

Motion #1: Following the example of clubs such as National Capital Great Pyrenees, Heart of Ohio Great Pyrenees and Garden State Great Pyrenees, the Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club will no longer pick up, transport, house and/or adopt unwanted Great Pyrenees as part of its normal club activities. Since the Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club has no interest in obtaining this specific 501C (3) status, the cessation of the above mentioned activities by the Club will allow those members interested in continuing Rescue endeavors to form their own organization or join with an existing organization.

The Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club will continue to raise funds to financially assist whatever organization(s) will be continuing regional Rescue efforts. The Club will continue to solicit Rescue donations from Club members on their yearly dues renewal form. The Club will also help Rescue by advertising the contacts in the Club newsletter and by publicizing Rescue at Club events such as the Canine Learning Experience and the Fort Washington Pet Expo. If the Rescue organization has items to sell, they will be advertised in the Penn-Dutch newsletter and on the website.

Finally, because of this change, no organization or individual may call their efforts "Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Rescue" or imply that they are acting on behalf of the Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club.

Effective Feb. 5, 2006 the Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club will no longer be involved in the pickup, transport, housing and adoption of any Great Pyrenees.

As of Feb. 5, 2006 we will no longer accept any new dogs in Rescue; however, we will support the 12 dogs currently in the Rescue Network until March 31, 2006.

Motion #2:

To put Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club operations in line with Club By-Laws Article 3, Section 2d which states "The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due and belonging to the Club," the Membership Chairman function shall be transferred to the Club-elected Treasurer. This is to be effective Feb. 5, 2006.

We discussed that dues should be sent directly to the Treasurer's office. Membership forms will be changed to reflect this new policy.

Discussed revision of the Club By-laws and Constitution. Proposed to accept motion as is by Maureen, seconded by Annette.

We will set up a constitutional and by-law review at Annual Meeting and solicit a new Membership Chair whose role will exclusively be membership. Duties to be specific and to include maintaining a current membership list and membership directory.

The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Maureen to adjourn at 4:40 pm, seconded by Annette.

Board Meeting Minutes, 3/18/06

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Unger at 12:30 pm.

In attendance were President Stephanie Unger, Vice President Annette Manwiller, Secretary Roz Wenrich, Treasurer Maureen Simon, Board Members John Wenrich and Karl Edinger. Absent was Judy Skorup.

President's Report

- * Work continues to go well on the National.
- * The year has been good, but frustrating due to difficulties from dissent from certain Club members.

Secretary's Report

None at this time.

Membership Report

No Club membership records have been forwarded to the Treasurer as of yet.

Treasurer's Report

The Report was distributed to the Board. The treasury balance at the end of 2005 was \$917.84. To date—2006 \$649.13. A motion was made by Karl Edinger and seconded by Annette Manwiller to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed unopposed.

Fundraising

Fred Unger reported that we have pants, afghans, shirts, tote bags, mugs and cards for sale and we have also received some donations.

Educational Committee

Karl Edinger reported nothing new at this time.

Nominating Committee

Annette Manwiller has received by mail the acceptance of the nomination for a Board position by Gail Hillard.

A motion was made by John Wenrich and seconded by Roz Wenrich to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Annual Meeting Minutes, 3/18/06

The meeting was called to order at 1:50 p.m. by President Stephanie Unger. Minutes of the last meeting of March 19, 2005 were read. A motion was made by David Kintsfather and seconded by Jane Gill to accept the minutes as read. The motion carried. A motion to publish minutes in the newsletter was made by David Kintsfather, seconded by Barbara Bowes. The motion carried.

Minutes of the special Board Meeting of February 5, 2006 were read. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Barbara Bowes, seconded by Marci Port.

President's Report

- * Work continues to go well on the National.
- * The year has been good, but frustrating due to difficulties from unnecessary battles within the Club and between some members.
- * We had many successful, well-attended Club events this year.
- * We made money at Rescue events.
- * The National is in 36 days and involves full-time work for Maureen Simon.

* Schedule of events has the details of times and events.

Secretary's Report

None at this time.

Treasurer's Report:

Written report distributed. There was a heated discussion between the Treasurer and several members in attendance concerning the Treasurer's books.

David Kintsfather made a motion to amend the agenda to bypass the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Karl Edinger. The motion passed unopposed.

Fundraising

Fred Unger reported that items available for the National include: pants, afghans, shirts, tote bags, mugs and cards and we have also received some donations.

We will need people to staff the booth and sell items at the National.

Educational Committee

Karl Edinger reported that the Canine Learning Experience at Allentown was successful but due to the National

on our schedule nothing else has been planned at this time.

Show Committee

Jay Manwiller discussed when to have the 2007 Regional show. Dates to be finalized at the summer membership meeting.

Rescue

This past year 23 dogs placed in 2005, 15 spayed/neutered by Rescue, 16 placed, 4 euthanized. Barbara Bowes has established East Penn Pyr Rescue, Inc. which is separate from Penn Dutch.

Membership

The Club has lost 54 members since 2004.

Elections

The slate presented by the Nominating Committee was as follows:

President- Fred Unger

Treasurer- Maureen Simon

Director- Gail Hillard

Director- John Wenrich

In addition from the floor David Kintsfather nominated Barbara Bowes for President and Lorraine Garaguso seconded. Judy Skorup nominated Charlotte Powell for Treasurer, seconded by David Kintsfather. David Simon moved that the 2 uncontested Director positions be accepted as presented, seconded by David Kintsfather. Motion passed unopposed.

Elections were held for President by secret ballot. Of the 19 voting members Barbara Bowes garnered 10 votes, Fred Unger 9 votes. Maureen Simon withdrew her nomination for Treasurer and David Kintsfather made the motion to accept Charlotte Powell as Treasurer, seconded by Barbara Bowes. The motion passed.

Calendar

An agenda for events for the year ahead was set. The National Specialty will be held April 26-29th, with the Regional Specialty April 30th. The Spring Walk-in-the-Woods was set tentatively for May 20th, rain date May 21st at Lake Nockamixon. Fun Day was scheduled for Fort Washington Park on July 22nd. The Fall Walk-in-the-Woods was scheduled Oct. 14th in Ware's Dam Park, Allentown. We will participate in the October 21st Doylestown Halloween event and the November 12th Dog Lover's Holiday Bazaar. The Holiday Party was scheduled for Dec. 2nd at the Kiwanis Lodge, Lancaster. We will have a booth at the January 27th Canine Learning Experience in Allentown.

New Business

Judy Skorup asked to place an ad in the Draft Dog Catalog at the National. David Kintsfather donated the fee. David Kintsfather moved that we place the ad, seconded by Marci Port. The motion passed unopposed.

David Kintsfather made a motion that all future Penn-Dutch dues renewal forms include the following item: "If you wish to make a donation to Rescue at this time, please enclose a separate check made out to East Penn Pyr Rescue, and we will forward it to the EPPR Treasurer." Charlotte Powell seconded, and the motion carried unopposed.

Dave Simon moved that Board resolution #2 of February 5, 2006, decreeing that the Membership Chair and the Treasurer be the same person, be rescinded. Judy Skorup seconded and the motion passed unopposed.

By presidential edict Barbara Bowes appointed David Kintsfather Database Manager and authorized him to create one paper issue of the newsletter which he offered to do at his own expense.

Karl Edinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 pm. seconded by Jane Gill. The motion passed unopposed.

New Board Meeting Minutes, 3/18/06

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. In attendance were President Barbara Bowes, Vice President Annette Manwiller, Secretary Roz Wenrich, Treasurer Charlotte Powell, Board Members John Wenrich, Karl Edinger, non-Board member David Kintsfather. Absent was Gail Hillard.

Barbara Bowes discussed her ideas for changes within the Club. She suggested that the option of receiving an electronic newsletter be investigated and that in the future dues be restructured to reflect this. In addition we should attempt to renew membership of lapsed members.

There was discussion concerning the raising of membership dues by the previous Board.

The current Board made the motion that dues are to remain as per last year's dues rate. The motion was made by Annette Manwiller and seconded by Barbara Bowes. The motion passed unopposed.

A motion was made by John Wenrich to adjourn and seconded by Roz Wenrich. The meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Board Meeting Minutes, 8/20/06

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Bowes at 12:17 p.m. Board Members in attendance: Barbara Bowes, Charlotte Powell, Annette Manwiller, Karl Edinger. Absent: Fred Unger, Gail Hillard, Roslyn Wenrich, John Wenrich.

Minutes of the last meeting were not yet printed or available for reading.

President's Report

* Charlotte and Barb are working on figuring out the Club books and accounting of the National and Regional Specialties.

* Things seem to be going well within the Club, but we will continue to be very careful of any monies spent until we hear from the GPCA that we are not liable for any more expenses pertaining to the National Specialty held in April of 2006.

* Dorene Choffel is taking minutes, as the Secretary, Roz Wenrich, is not present.

* No National Specialty financial information will be printed in official form until problems with the accounting are rectified. Regional and National accounting must be separated with full accountings of each for printing.

* Kudos to those working on the National for raising so much money.

Secretary's Report

* None.

Treasurer's Report

* Written copies of the report were handed out to Board members present. Copies will be mailed to Board members not present.

* There are problems with the National Specialty accounting.

Trophy donations were listed as \$1,895.00. Actual Trophy donations reported in detail sent are \$1,370.00, \$895.00 from GPCA Members and \$525.00 from Penn-Dutch Members. It seems that the \$525.00 for Penn-Dutch Members was added in twice.

National DVDs income is listed as \$809.00. Since the DVDs were sold at \$110.00 apiece, this does not add up. There was an expense in the National Accounting of \$1,590.00 for purchase of National DVDs. Maureen had previously stated that Penn-Dutch would not incur any cost from the DVDs, as the person doing the recording was doing so on his own. We need to clarify this expense.

According to the detail sent on the National, there were problems with denied credit cards and bounced checks. To date an update has not been given as to whether these were rectified.

Maureen sent a check for \$5,000.00 to Charlotte from the National Specialty account. Since we as of yet do not have bank statements from the previous years, it appears that no money has actually left the Club that is unaccounted for, it was just put into the National.

Bank balance right now is \$7,527.00.

Educational Committee

* Karl reported that we are waiting for info on the Canine Learning Experience and that we will be participating.

Regional Specialty Committee

* Jay Manwiller and Dianne Migas will co-chair. The 2007 Regional will be held in conjunction with the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club show in Macungie, PA in September. We will use leftover blanket throws from the National for BOB and BOS Trophies. Will try to keep costs down as low as possible. We will see what else is available in Fundraising to use as Trophies.

* Valerie Seeley has agreed to judge Sweepstakes. We will use judge already slated by LVKC to judge regular classes. We are not sure who the Judge is at this point in time.

* We will have another Hospitality Party after the Regional and a lunch at the show as has been done in years past.

Fun Events Committee

* No Chair for this Committee. No report.

Newsletter Committee

* David Kintsfather has purchased a new printer at his own expense. Since we have gone to electronic distribution of the newsletter, costs for production have decreased significantly, as has the workload.

Membership

* Membership has dropped from 122 members to 121 members.

Show and Match Committee

* Chair not present. No report.

Fundraising Committee

* Chair not present. No report.

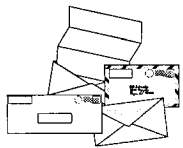
Nominating and Audit Committee

* This Committee will be selected at this event.

Other Business

* The Board decided that due to the separation of Rescue there needs to be a rewrite of the Constitution and By-Laws. There is also a need to clarify gray areas and bring By-Laws into the 21st century. Judy Skorup will Chair this Committee. Anyone interested should contact Judy to serve on the committee.

Charlotte Powell moved to adjourn the meeting. Annette Manwiller seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 pm.



Dear Penny

Dear Penny,

Hi! I had the best time on a 6-mile hike late in December, 2006. My big brother Merlin and I hiked a section of the 19-mile long Perkiomen Trail in Montgomery County. A little bit of the trail is paved, but most of the trail is packed gravel. Merlin and I climbed up and down a steep hill, cut across fields, crossed the Perkiomen Creek on a bridge and hiked through several parks. There was lots to see and sniff and I met some enormous brown and white "shaggy dogs" who had people on their backs. I barked a lengthy greeting at them, but they did not reply. Mommy said they were horses and would not bark back at me. Merlin just gave me one of his disgusted big brother looks. How is a girl to know that horses don't bark?

On our hike we passed houses, stores, restaurants, fields, trees, parking lots, picnic tables and benches. We also met cyclists, runners, hikers, kids and some other handsome canines. I saw a few Golden Retrievers, a Doberman, an English Setter, a couple of Labrador Retrievers, a Border Collie and a feisty, overweight Chihuahua in a sweater—who was being carried along the trail.

We stopped for drinks and snacks twice. A short time later we were back on the trail. It was then I started having trouble with my right hind paw. It hurt and I started to limp. Mommy and Aunt Dianne inspected my paw, but found nothing but some irritated skin. I walked on for another ½ mile, but my foot hurt so much, I just stopped and sat down. Mommy and Aunt Dianne looked at my foot and suspected I had some gravel in between my paw pads and rinsed my foot with water. Ooh, that

Photo by Dianne Skorup



Merlin, Judy and Bonnie Skorup set out on adventure.

felt really good and helped a lot. We walked on, but twice more my paw hurt so badly that I had to sit down. Twice more my paw was rinsed and my pain level decreased. I walked a little more but my paw was just too sore and I sat down with my hurting paw off the ground. I then heard Aunt Dianne say, "We're going to have to carry her!"

Carry me? Well, Penny, they did. Mommy and Aunt Dianne got me up on some rocks, then lifted me onto Aunt Dianne's shoulders. I slid a little to one side, so I ended up on Mommy's one shoulder too. Oooh, it felt so good not to have my paw hurt, and the view wasn't bad either. No wonder that Chihuahua was smiling! I was only carried a short distance downhill near Spring Mountain to the paved portion of the trail, but it was oh so very nice. My paw was rinsed one last time, then Merlin and I sprinted to the car. Mommy says I'll be wearing boots on our next hike. Happy Valentine's Day!

Love, Bonnie Skorup

Note from Mommy: The Perkiomen Trail is nice in that it goes past areas that have trash cans, poop bags, restrooms and soda machines. The Skorups would love to hike on the trail again in the future. Anyone interested in hiking with us should contact us.



Bonnie dreams of her big adventure at the end of a long day.



by Penny Pyrbred

After a disappointingly warm January, winter has finally arrived in Dutchland and Penny is sure many Pyrs are enjoying the snowy landscape and refreshing wind. Humans, however, may not be as thrilled with the below zero wind chills we Pyrs sometimes force them to tolerate as we patrol our neighborhoods.

Unfortunately Penny missed the mid-winter social event, the Canine Learning Experience. She understands, however, that Penn-Dutch Pyrs strutted their stuff and educated the public about the wonders of our breed. Kudos to Fred Unger for organizing this event at the last minute. Karl Edinger, who has presided at this event for a number of years, passed away in December, but the Pyrs said he was there in spirit.

Photo by Judy Skrup



Vinny, Ben and Pam O'Connor work the crowd at the 2007 Canine Learning Experience.



Karl and Lillie Edinger at a long ago Canine Learning Experience.

Roz and John Wenrich were featured in the *Reading Eagle* with their canine pack, honoring Roz' essay for National Marriage Week. Way to go, Roz, and thanks for including us dogs in this Valentine's Day love story.

On a sadder note, we say goodbye to two noble Penn-Dutch Pyrs. The Manwillers lost Woody and the Huggards lost Barney. Woody has been a fixture at many Penn-Dutch events, known for his technique of leaning against unsuspecting humans, looking up with an invitation to pet.

Barney lived in Florida, but won the heart of Clondike Kintsfather at the 1997 National Specialty, and made several trips to PA to visit her. Though she had many beaux, Barney Babe was always Clondike's special love!



Barney Babe dreaming of Clondike in happier times.

Penny understands that Nancy Coombs is under the weather and wishes her a speedy recovery.

While it is a human-only event, Penny hopes all the Penn-Dutch Pyrs will encourage their humans to attend the Annual Meeting and help plan lots of fun activities for us Pyrs in the coming year.

See you soon!

Visit Penny on the Web at <http://www.pyrbred.org>



Applicants for Membership

Key to abbreviations: A=Associate Member, F=Full Member, H=Honorary Member, J=Junior Associate Member. G=GPCA Member. B=Breeder. (After Pyr's call name: D=Dog and B=Bitch)

ADAMCZYK, Charissa (A) E-Mail: charissa_adamczyk@merck.com	48 S. Lea St., Macungie, PA 18062 Pyr: Bruno-D	610-390-0861
MARLOW, Jeffrey (F) E-Mail: pony_wheels@yahoo.com	348 Bridge St., Collegetown, PA 19426 Pyr: Toby-D	484-552-8348
STABINSKI-HECKMAN, Mary Jo (F) E-Mail: redbrickbulldogs@comcast.com	4050 Eagleville Rd., Eagleville, PA 19403 Pyr: Cecily-B	610-539-2928

Membership List Additions & Updates

DALTON, Rhonda (F, G, B) E-Mail: rhonda.dalton@comcast.net	147 Deans Ln., Monmouth Junction, NJ 08752 Pyr: Angel-B, Carol Ann-B, Bentley-D	732-297-8937
GILL, Jane (F, G) E-Mail: jgill@bapl.org	1121 Spring St., Bethlehem, PA 18018 Pyr: Weezie-B, Billie-D	610-691-3395
KNIGHT, M. J. (F) E-Mail: mjulc@localnet.com	455 South St., Ulysses, PA 16948 Pyr: Buddy-D, Cheyenne-B, Crystal-B	814-848-3890
POLICHETTI, Jeanne-Anne (F) E-Mail: jaypollyhome@yahoo.com	821 Horsham Rd., Horsham, PA 19044 Pyr: Blitz-D	215-672-5928

Updated information is printed in blue.



Upcoming Events

***March 16-18, 2007**– Pet Expo, Reading (PA) Expo Center. FMI contact Dorene Choffel at dmchoff@ptd.net or 570-648-1863.

***March 24, 2007**– Penn-Dutch GPC Annual Meeting at the home of Bill and Marci Port, 31 Vernasa Dr., Langhorne, PA. **Snow Date:** March 31st. FMI contact Barb Bowes at greatpyr@enter.net or 570-386-3017.

***April 4-7, 2007**– GPCA National Specialty, Phoenix, AZ. FMI visit www.2007gpcanational.org or e-mail Info@2007gpcnational.org.

***Red denotes Penn-Dutch events.**

***Blue denotes other Pyr-related events.**



GPCA Health Committee



Cancer in the Great Pyrenees

Overview:

Results from the Health Committee database reveal that cancer is the most prevalent health problem occurring in our breed. The volume of information available on this topic is daunting, and our intent here is to provide an overview of the most common types. This overview will address primary symptoms, diagnosis & treatment recommendations, and current Study & Grant information. We encourage additional investigation on your own.

The most common types of cancer affecting our breed are: Osteosarcoma (bone cancer), which affects the leg bones in larger breeds in 75%-80% of the cases; mammary (breast) cancer, which is most common in unspayed middle-aged bitches but can occur in dogs also; Lymphoma (lymph nodes enlarged and firm); Melanoma (muscle, mouth, toes, behind the eye, or on the skin); Hemangiosarcoma (malignant tumor of blood vessel cells); Meningioma (brain); Lung cancer (usually not a primary site).

The causes are unknown, but research is leaning toward a genetic component, viral causes (e.g., as in Human Papilloma Virus), and environmental links (exposure to chemicals).

Symptoms:

Osteosarcoma: develops deep within the bone and becomes progressively more painful as it grows outward; the bone is destroyed from the inside out. Lameness is usually the first visible sign, and progresses from intermittent to constant over 1-3 months; eventually obvious swelling becomes evident as the tumor grows and normal bone is replaced by tumorous bone.

Mammary cancer: presents as a solid mass or as multiple swellings. Initially these feel like small pieces of pea gravel just under the skin. They are very hard to the touch and difficult to move around under the skin; they grow rapidly, sometimes doubling their size every month or so.

Lymphoma: Typically occurs in middle-aged dogs and bitches that are brought to the vet because one or more lumps have been found. The veterinarian determines that all of the peripheral lymph nodes (those near the skin surface) are enlarged & firm. Usually, the dog has not been showing any signs of illness and the lumps were discovered during grooming, petting, or playing.

Melanoma: can occur in a dog's mouth, toes, behind the eye, or on the skin. Symptoms are variable, depending upon the location, and can include odd color and odd shaped skin lesions, bad breath, loss of appetite, drooling, coughing, weight loss, trouble swallowing, and visible tumors.

Meningioma: a tumor of the membranes which surround the central nervous system, which consists of the brain and spinal cord. The symptoms noted depend upon the brain area involved, but can include seizures (the most common sign), walking in circles, blindness, dragging toes, and ataxia (drunken gait).

Hemangiosarcoma: a malignant tumor of blood vessel cells, this tumor is associated with serious internal bleeding and rapid internal spread. Theoretically, this form of cancer can arise from any tissue where there are blood vessels (anywhere in the body), but the most common are skin & subcutaneous forms, spleen, and heart based. Clinical signs will vary greatly depending on the site of the primary tumor. These can be vague symptoms such as weight loss, episodic weakness, shortness of breath, abdominal distension, ataxia, lameness, blood in the urine, nose bleeds, and rapid heart rate. Occasionally, sudden death will occur with no prior symptoms.

Diagnosis:

Osteosarcoma, by far the most prevalent reported cancer in the Great Pyrenees, can be diagnosed by x-ray as a first step in evaluating lameness. The osteosarcoma is visible in the x-ray as area of bone that has been eaten away (a lytic lesion) and a "sunburst" pattern shows as a corona effect as the tumor grows outward and pushes the more normal bone up and away.

Mammary tumors almost always require a biopsy for analysis and to identify the type. A chest x-ray and physical inspection of the surrounding lymph nodes should also be performed to rule out metastases.

Lymphoma and Melanoma diagnosis usually requires a blood panel and urinalysis, with one or more lymph nodes aspirated and biopsied for confirmation.

Meningioma diagnosis commonly requires imaging of the brain via a CAT scan or MRI. The MRI is preferred over the CT as it is better able to identify fluid build up, swelling or other subtle soft tissue changes inside the brain.

Hemangiosarcoma diagnosis is dependent upon which form is suspected. The skin form requires a biopsy of the tumor (just like Lymphoma and Melanoma); splenic masses are commonly diagnosed upon physical examination and abdominal x-rays or ultrasound exam; heart base forms of Hemangiosarcoma require echocardiography.

Treatment:

Note - Treatment of animals should only be performed by licensed veterinarians after consulting the current literature and treatment protocols.

Osteosarcoma treatment involves two aspects, treating the pain caused by the bone tumor and fighting the spread of the cancer. Osteosarcoma is unfortunately a fast spreading tumor, and metastasis to the lung is common. Although several treatment regimens are currently being used, amputation followed by radiation or chemotherapy appear to be the most often recommended treatment. Median survival times for dogs who do not receive chemotherapy for osteosarcoma is 4-5 months from the time of diagnosis regardless of whether or not they have amputation.

Mammary tumors require surgical removal of the mass unless the patient is very old. If the surgery is performed early in the course of this disease, the cancer can be eliminated in over 50% of the cases. Chemotherapy has not been a very successful nor widely used treatment for mammary tumors in dogs. However, with the constantly changing and improving drugs available, a veterinarian oncologist should be consulted. The effectiveness of radiation therapy to treat mammary cancer has not been thoroughly researched.

Lymphoma treatment is chemotherapy. The stage (I through V) of the disease does not impact upon the response to chemotherapy (i.e., it is not true that a stage II will have a better response than a stage IV). The exception is Stage V, the most advanced stage. Patients with stage V Lymphoma tend to have a poor response to chemotherapy.

Melanoma treatment includes surgical removal of the tumor, radiation to promote shrinking of the tumor, and chemotherapy. The prognosis for Canine Melanoma is poor at best when found in the dog's skin and even poorer when located in the mouth, toes, or behind the eyes. Tumors spread quickly when they are not treated and they may spread even with treatment. The treatment, requiring surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy is expensive and may prolong the dog's life for a short time.

Meningioma treatment involves surgical removal of the tumor and/or radiation therapy. Surgery alone has produced median survival times of 7 months. Radiation can be done instead of surgery or in combination, but what protocols yield the longest survival times is not clear.

Hemangiosarcoma seems to respond best to surgical intervention via removal of the bleeding mass. This intervention seems to provide relief from clinical signs for a period of time, although it does little to improve overall survival, as many times it has already spread by the time it is diagnosed. Chemotherapy has become a principal component in treatment and alternative routes of administration, including inhalation and intra-abdominal administration are being investigated. Immunomodulator therapy (a mixed bacterial vaccine and L-MTP) have also been associated with increased median survival times. Radiation therapy is rarely used; it may help to control clinical signs but has not been shown to significantly improve survival times.

Studies / Grants

Osteosarcoma : Broad Institute - Grant # 373A Mapping Genes Associated with Osteosarcoma in Large Breeds. Funded and supported by the GPCA.

Focus upon genetic risk factors for Osteosarcoma which could be used for the development of genetic tests that could be used to eliminate carriers from breeding populations, eventually reducing the frequency of this disease. Currently a total of 33 samples have been received by the Broad Institute for Great Pyrenees.

FMI: contact Dianne Migas at bluepyrs@comcast.net

AMC Cancer Research Center & University of Colorado Health Science Center: Not funded or supported by the GPCA. This research is requesting blood samples. Financial incentive is available for owners whose dogs provide tumor samples www.modianolab.org

Mammary tumors: supported but not funded by the GPCA. www.dog-info@broad.mit.edu

Lymphoma: supported but not funded by the GPCA. www.dog-info@broad.mit.edu
www.modianolab.org

Melanoma: supported but not funded by the GPCA. www.dog-info@broad.mit.edu

Hemangiosarcoma: supported but not funded by the GPCA. dog-info@broad.mit.edu
www.modianolab.org

All Cancers: Dog Genome Project: supported but not funded by the GPCA.
dog-info@broad.mit.edu

GPCA Health Committee:

Breed occurrence rates are based upon data received from the GPCA Health Survey. It is obvious that this problem, based upon the following data, is vastly under-reported. Justification for funding research programs is based upon reliable data reflecting the occurrence of cancer in our breed. Please complete and return the confidential health survey.

The following data consists of raw numbers obtained from surveys reported upon in 1999 & 2004:

Osteosarcoma – 75; Mammary – 18; Lymphoma – 14; Melanoma – 12; Hemangiosarcoma – 3; Meningioma – 2; Lung, Bladder, & Stomach – 1 each.

Information sources:

GPCA Bulletin (pg. 20): April/ May/ June 2006

PetEducation.com

www.dogcancer.net

College of Veterinarian Medicine, University of Georgia

GPCA Health Committee 2006

GPCA Health Committee Fundraising Raffle



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of art by purchasing several sets of note cards!*

**The Drawing will be held at the closing of
the Annual Health Committee Meeting
during the week of the 2007 GPCA National
in Arizona!**

(Need not be present to win)

Donations and On-Line Store

Donations and proceeds from our store help us to continually provide you with Health related Information, Programs, Projects, and Funding for Grants and Research.

For your convenience you can now make **On-Line Donations** in addition to "shop securely" through our website, via **Pay Pal**. We also offer "Donate and/or Order" **by Mail** if you wish to pay buy Personal Check or Money Order. Both options are on our site.

Please help us in safeguarding the health of our magnificent breed and consider making a Donation or purchase one of our lovely items from our on-line store. We offer exclusive and one of a kind items that would make a beautiful gift or an addition to your Great Pyre-nees Collection. All donations are "tax deductible"!

If you have any questions regarding "ordering" or "product info"
please contact **Jean Pero** at
Email: reymaree@comcast.net or Telephone (303) 347-0106

Visit us on the Web at WWW.GPCAHEALTH.ORG

Annual Meeting Info.

by David Kintsfather

The 2007 Annual Membership Meeting of the Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club will be held on Saturday, March 24th at the home of Bill and Marci Port, 31 Vernasa Dr., Langhorne, PA. The snow date is March 31st.

At the Annual Meeting we elect officers, plan activities for the entire Club year and generally get to know one another. This is **your** Club and we need you to participate to make sure the Board and the calendar reflect **your** interests.

The agenda will include:

10:30 am – Noon: Board Meeting

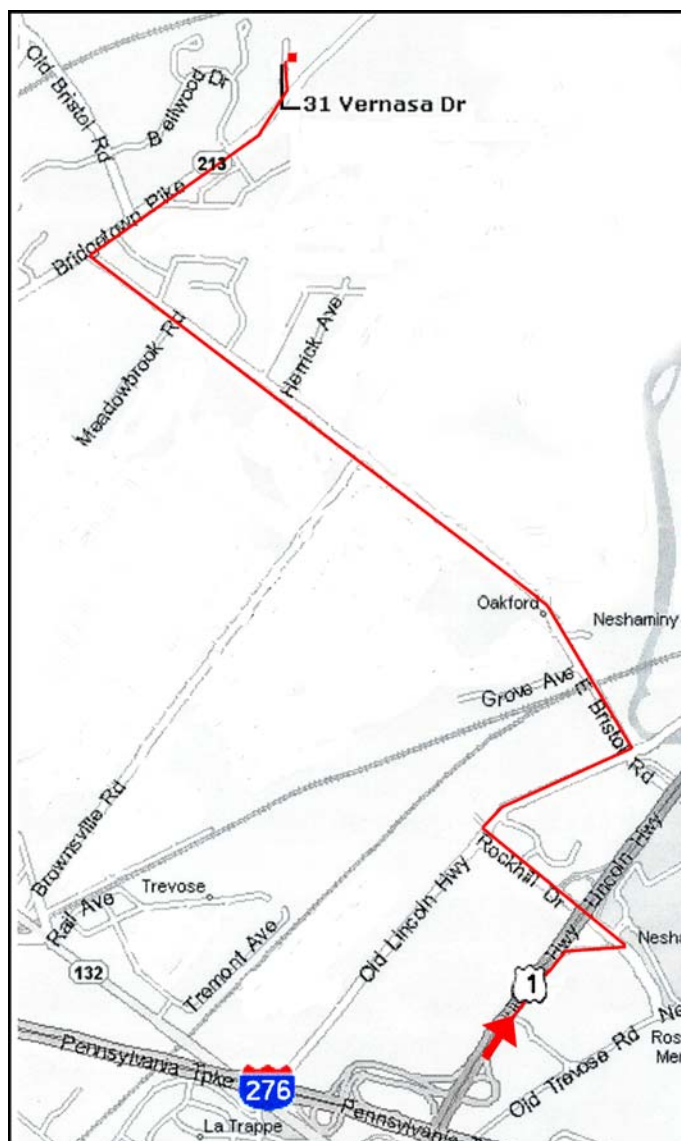
Noon – 1:30 pm: Pot-luck and socializing

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm: Annual Meeting

Please bring a covered dish to share and note that this is a **PEOPLE-ONLY** event.

Directions:

- 1 Take your favorite route to the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-276).
- 2 Take the Route 1 North exit.
- 3 Take the first exit on the right.
- 4 Go down the ramp and make a left at the light onto Rockhill Dr.
- 5 At dead end of Rockhill turn right on Old Lincoln Hwy.
- 6 Go 2 miles to a light. Turn left on East Bristol Rd.
- 7 Go 5 miles to dead end of Bristol and turn right on Bridgetown Pike.
- 8 Turn left onto Vernasa Dr. (3rd left from Bristol).
- 9 End at the 2nd house on the right.



Thank You

by Nancy Coombs

Dear Penn-Dutch Friends,

Thank you for the many good wishes during my surgery recovery. The gardenia plant is lovely and thriving on our breakfast room shelf.

Minutes

by David Kintsfather

This issue contains a large number of Board and Annual Meeting minutes. Some of them were scheduled to go in an earlier issue, but were “eaten” by my computer. They are all presented here so that members attending the Annual Meeting can be well-informed.

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GPCA Longevity Award

The Great Pyrenees Club of America is presenting Longevity Award Certificates to the owners of Great Pyrenees who have reached the age of ten (10) or older. Membership in the GPCA is not required to receive an Award. Any Great Pyrenees whose age can be verified and who has lived to age 10 or greater is eligible for the certificate, if that Pyr is registered with a recognized breed registry of its country. This includes, in part, the American Kennel Club (AKC), the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC), the Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI) and any other foreign registries that are recognized by the American Kennel Club.

The Longevity Certificate will also be available posthumously. A longevity certificate (LC) number will be assigned to each Great Pyrenees attaining the certification and they will be entered into a database.

Applicants are encouraged to enter any Pyrenees that they have verifiable information for, including those who lived long ago. Verification of the date of birth will consist of a copy of the registration papers from one of the above-mentioned registries. Verification of the date of death or current living status of a Great Pyrenees can be made by getting a written statement from a veterinarian or an active GPCA member in good standing (other than the owner(s) and/or breeder(s) of record). In some circumstances, memorial ads or information from the GPCA archives will be acceptable documentation.

The application may be downloaded from the GPCA Health Committee's web site at www.gpcahealth.org. Members receiving paper copies of this newsletter will find a form enclosed. For more information, please contact Flo Laicher at pyrshire@bestweb.net or 845-225-2754.