



# Western States Police Canine Association

*Committed to promoting strong police K9 programs and training to enhance law enforcement services.*

## **Past Presidents Message**

**By Andy Herrera**

First, before anything; I hope everybody had a wonderful holiday season and that all of you are looking forward to the 2009 trial season. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the WSPCA for their support and guidance during my terms as Vice President and President. The members of this association have always stepped up to the plate when called upon and I plan to continue doing the same by staying involved with the WSPCA. I look forward to offering my assistance to the new board members if needed. Change is always good for any association as it brings in new energy and fresh ideas. I'm very confident in the new board and ask that you support and guide them as you did during my board terms. With the tough economic environment hitting many

depts. right now and into the future, we all are feeling the effects of budgets being cut. Unfortunately one of the first things to get cut is TRAINING. Because of this, it will make it more difficult for many Handlers to get the day off or find coverage in order to attend a K-9 trial. The majority of Supervisors or Administrators simply do not realize the amount of training that takes place throughout the day at a K-9 trial. It is an opportunity to expose new and veteran K-9 teams to various scenarios in a controlled environment which in turn allows those handlers to return back to their depts. with newfound knowledge and confidence. Handlers also are given the opportunity to network with various departments and share training ideas and/or trends in the police dog world. For this reason, I

would like to call upon all hosting agencies for the 2009 trial season to take a lesson from the Petaluma trial and provide training certificates for all those handlers who participate and complete your trial. I believe this will benefit the handlers with their agencies in getting time off to attend K-9 trials. I have always believed that a trial should be approached more like a training day and less like a competition. If money is tight for agencies hosting a trial in 2009 just remember that sometimes simple is better; being on time with minimal down time, providing good food, and getting your handlers out early is what makes a good trial.

I look forward to seeing old friends in the upcoming season as a judge or just a WSPCA supporter. I would also encourage the members

to continue to bring up any problems or concerns to the new board members. Also, if you are a new member or have not had the opportunity to meet your board members, take the time to introduce yourself at the next trial. Once again it has been an honor to serve the members of this great association. In closing, I would like to thank the WSPCA and its members for giving more to me than I could ever give back. "Train hard and Stay Safe"

### **Presidents Message**

#### **By Ron Cloward**

The 2008 trial year has drawn to a close and along with that a new beginning with a new board of directors. I believe many of you know who I am, but probably do not know much about me. I will not bore you with intimate details, but I can tell you I am all about police canines and the Western States Police Canine Association. I bring a vision, but better than that I bring a board with a vision to move this association into a new future of promoting not just canine trials, but training which will enhance canine programs. We are facing some very serious economic times and we need to remember that as the season

progresses with cost for attendance of trials. We could see a drop in competitors unless we do our part and keep the cost down.

The board recently had its first meeting and we accomplished a lot in planning. We have the easy part done and now it is time to roll up our sleeves and get to work. We are going to be looking for agencies to host training days. We also are going to set dates up for certifications at different locations to assist all with annual certification. If you or your agency would be interested in hosting a training day or certification day please get a hold of the board so we can plan the New Year.

The new board is also taking a stand on the rules for canine trials. There are standards for judges that will be adhered to. The agility equipment will be approved by the board prior to a trial to determine its safety for the dogs. The protection scenarios will be approved by the board prior to insure the safety to dogs, handlers, judges, and spectators. We are here to not only to promote police canines, but to promote safety as well.

We are also about to enter a new phase for WSPCA in the creation of our own certification for narcotic canines. We will be putting together a committee to establish guidelines and standards for certification. We will also be trying to establish some dialogue with POST to look at standards for certification.

The K9 memorial at U.C. Davis is currently being updated and WSPCA is the primary association responsible for its maintenance. The memorial will be held on the last Tuesday of March 2009 during the noon hour. This date is tentative pending availability of key note speakers, but we will need sponsors to help with cost for name plates and reception that will follow. This is another way we become more active as an association.

As a board and as your president, we are excited about the New Year for WSPCA. It is about the association, and not about any individual on the board. We are committed to promoting strong police K9 teams and training to enhance law enforcement services. We are also committed to the rules of the association and they will be strictly enforced.

I hope you and your family had a great holiday season and I for one look forward to the 2009 trial season.

### **New Board of Directors**

Elections for a new WSPCA Board of Directors were held at the end of the year trial in Sacramento. Here is your board for the 2009/2010 year.

President: Ron Cloward,  
Modesto PD

Vice President: Steve  
LeCouve, Sacramento SO

Secretary: Andrea  
Contreras, Manteca PD

Treasurer: Rob Semillo,  
San Joaquin Co SO

All board members can be contacted through the website email address:  
[wspca@yahoo.com](mailto:wspca@yahoo.com)

### **Faithful Partner Memorial**

As was mentioned earlier there will be a ceremony to honor our K9 partners which were killed in the line of duty. The date has been set for Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, at UC Davis. This is where the memorial has been placed. UCD and UCD police have been working extremely hard to make this come about and all keynote speakers have

agreed to participate. UCD 2<sup>nd</sup> year vet students have agreed to maintain the statue at no cost. In fact they were thrilled to be asked and consider it an honor. The memorial, a bronze statue of a German Shepherd, was commissioned and purchased by an anonymous citizen who believed these wonderful dogs were deserving of this honor (and rightfully so). As of this date ten (10) K9's have been identified as fitting the eligible criteria to be placed on the memorial. So what we are asking is for all our members to mark the date on their calendars so you can attend this ceremony. We are also requesting financial assistance from any and all K9 associations and/or K9 handlers, to donate whatever they can afford, toward this ceremony. The donated monies will pay for the plaques, reception, supplies to maintain the memorial at its best etc. Any monies left over will be placed in a separate account designated specifically for the memorial, including future ceremonies. WSPCA will also be making a contribution to the memorial. If you are interested in donating please contact me, Andrea Contreras via email:

[wspca@yahoo.com](mailto:wspca@yahoo.com) or send a check to WSPCA, 1525 Sheldon Drive, Modesto, CA 95350. Please make sure you put K9 Memorial on the check memo line so it goes in the correct account.

Ceremony time and uniform of the day will be sent out at a later date.

### **2008 Overall Results**

The end of year trial was hosted by Sacramento PD. I'd like to thank them for stepping up and working hard to make sure everyone had a good time. Here are this year's top ten in both Narcotics and Patrol:

#### **Narcotics:**

1. Bill Jones, Modesto PD
2. Mike Waller, Solano Co
3. Marty Mahon, SSF PD
4. Gregg Tawney, EGPD
5. Shane O'Neill, SFSO
6. Dave Dorn, SF SO
7. Frank Reyes, Sac PD
8. Tom Harper, Stkn PD
9. Terry White, Sonoma Co
10. Kevin McCarthy, VPD

#### **Patrol:**

1. John Azevedo, Sac PD
2. Lori Alva, Madera PD
3. Barry Ballance, Stan Co
4. Rick Kemp, Sac SO
5. Steve LeCouve, Sac SO
6. Roger Kinney, WSac PD
7. Rob Semillo, SJSO
8. Brett Smith, Chico PD
9. Dave Stallions, WSac PD
10. Geoff Albert, WSac PD

Top Competitor Narcotics:

Top Competitor Narcotics:  
Bill Jones, Modesto PD

Top Competitor Patrol:  
John Azevedo, Sac PD

Top Team – Overall  
Rick Kemp & Steve  
LeCouve, Sacramento SO

Congratulations to all the handlers and their K9's who competed in the trials. Your support throughout the year was very much appreciated by all the hosting agencies!

### **2009 Trial Dates**

Here is a list of the upcoming K9 trials and the dates for this year. We have ten (10) trials scheduled. Due to the budget constraints of some agencies changes may be made as the year progresses. We do have a waiting list of agencies that wish to host a trial so we will confirm as soon as possible.

Stockton PD – April 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>  
Manteca PD- April 24/25  
Modesto PD – May 15/16  
Sonoma Co – June 26/27  
So Lake Tahoe-July 10/11  
SJSO – August 7/8  
Lodi PD – Sept 4/5  
Stan Co SO – Sept 25/26  
Folsom PD – TBA  
WSPCA Trial hosted by  
Alameda SO – Oct 23/24  
There will be a mandatory meeting for all hosting agencies prior to the start of the season. The WSPCA

board would like at least two representatives from each agency to attend. We will be sending out the information to the individual agencies but it will be on a Saturday in February.

### **WSPCA Membership**

All memberships for the 2008 year have expired as of Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. Memberships go from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec 31<sup>st</sup> regardless of when you paid your dues. Applications are attached to the newsletter, so please fill them out and send them in with your annual dues. You must be a member of the WSPCA prior to the start of the trial season if you want your points to count towards the Overalls. Also, and this is really important, please provide a valid email address, as we are going to start sending out all news, info and trial flyers via email. This is starting with this newsletter. Any email returns will get a mailed newsletter. Those of you who are WSPCA agitators please fill out the application and include your email addresses also. We have apps that are 5 and 6 years old for some of you.

As always if you have any questions, concerns, something for the newsletter, the board can be contacted at

[wspca@yahoo.com](mailto:wspca@yahoo.com). The website is updated as we receive information so check it out periodically, [www.wspca.net](http://www.wspca.net).

### **Upcoming Events:**

Jan. 28 – Open training day & certification for patrol K9's. Hosted by Modesto PD, contact Ron Cloward for more info: [clowardr@modestopd.co](mailto:clowardr@modestopd.co)

Feb. 14 – Mandatory WSPCA meeting for all agencies hosting a K9 trial. Notices will be sent out shortly.

Feb. 28 – Stockton PD K9 Crab feed fundraiser.

Mar. 22-24 – CATS school hosted by Stockton PD K9 unit. \$450 per K9 team, POST plan II. For more info contact Jon Scofield at (916) 541-9945

Mar and/or April (dates to be announced ) – K9 ER First Aid class. Hosted by Stanislaus Co K9 Unit and WSPCA.

This is all for now. We are looking forward to the new year and hope you are too. Be well and stay safe on the streets!