TIDBITS, by Dalene

According to Carmen Battaglia’s figures from AKC, 60% of the German Shepherd dog puppies that are registered in litters are not registered as individuals...that’s quite a few.

If you plan to attend the reception on Friday evening at the national, go to the GSDCA website (GSD.org) and request your free tickets. They are free, but you do have to order them.

WOW! I’ve added another “first” to my life. As far as I know, I’m the only person the GDCA board has ever declared unfit to run on the obedience judging slate (for 2014). Not because of my judging ability, mind you, but because of our disagreement last year at the national. Aren’t we getting picky? We have people on the board now that were involved in the costly lawsuit lasting several years who resigned or didn’t run again...now they’re all back on the board.

Once more the GSDCA board has shown their disdain for obedience as, after eliminating me from the slate there are now only TWO candidates for the 2014 trial in St. Louis when they will need at least THREE judges. Yet, they are submitting seven conformation candidates…does that tell you anything?

Took my daughter back to work after lunch one day and this Fed Ex truck came into the parking lot behind me with a little beep-beep of its horn. I thought it was because I had just pulled in sideways to drop her off and didn’t park in the lines. I’m looking at Melanie to say goodbye, the driver is pointing to my car, and Melanie is pointing to me to look at the truck. It was got Scott Hackbarth saying “hi”. Whew! I thought the driver was going to yell at me for taking up so many spaces.

They had a 10 x 10 kennel set up in Costco when I was there last, which included a tarp type cover. Not bad looking and could sure help some people who need to have an inexpensive set-up to use once in a while for their dog…Or even full time for small dogs when set up on concrete. The price was $399. I believe I bought the makings for my four 6’ x 20’ runs way back when for $300, and that including shipping! Of course, it didn’t come with a cover. Inflation...

The obedience “team” was working out a week before the specialty and we coerced Scott Hackbarth into calling the commands for us. What a surprise when soft-spoken Scott belted out the first command – he is a Marine after all – we all stop walking in shock, and then started laughing -- it was so unexpected. He must have been a drill sergeant at one time with a voice like that!

Did you watch the Kentucky Derby? They sure don’t give it much advance publicity out here, the night before there was no mention of it on KIRO’s newscast. The winner, Orb, came from Claiborne Farm which is where I came up with my kennel name Claiburne. I changed the “o” to “u” so people would pronounce it correctly out here. We used to live across Stoner Creek from Claiborne Farm, my husband worked with Bull Hancock, and my oldest daughter is named after his wife.

The specialties are behind us now and I’m sure all the workers are breathing a sigh of relief. Besides all the members who pitched in, there were some non-members such as stewards and, of course, the superintendent. What would we do without BaRay? They get to do all the complicated paperwork necessary nowadays.

We had a beautiful day on Saturday -– maybe a tad warm for those who were handling or doing other physical work – and Sunday it was just right temperature wise. The rain held off until late that night (only had a few short sprinkles during the day).

Check out the club’s Facebook to see some of the nice pictures Amanda took at the show both days. Look on pages four and six in this issue to see some of them.

Cindy Stratton took care of the lunch on Saturday with help from Ed. People must be getting used to our lunches, as we sold quite a few more this year...we actually ran out of hamburgers and hotdogs according to Ron Southern who manned the barbecue on the hottest day of the week end. Many of the obedience people bring their own lunches so we can’t count on many of them to buy lunch, but we still do pretty good, and made a couple hundred dollars. Every little bit helps.

And all those little bits go into a fairly sizeable amount which keeps the specialty show in the black or at least not far in the red.

Alvin Eng, one of our obedience judges, turned in his bill for judging in a thank-you note to the club for the assignment...a nice touch, not many judges do that.

Speaking of judges, Helen Franklin, just a few days after the show, sent me a judge’s critique of the judging she did without being asked. That was a surprise, not many judges do this...thank you, Helen. You can read it on page

12.

After registering Wrangler with AKC, I have received at least three emails from them like it was my very first dog. With the world of computers the way they are now days, you’d think they could automatically kick out names of people registering dogs who have been doing so for many years, and not insult them by treating them like a first-time owner. Think how many trees they are using with all this unnecessary paperwork.

Betty Winthers recently returned from a trip to China where she accompanied Elaine Young there for a judging assignment...what a fun trip that would be.

MAX sent me an email with a picture of a train made out of chocolate...now that’s my kind of chocolate. Lots of it!

The schedule for events at this year’s GSDCA Centennial begins on page 19 and concludes on page 30 of the May review. They have “pending” for the obedience judges on the Thursday trial, but don’t say anything about who the judges are for the Friday trial, even though those judges were elected last October.

In the May review, you can easily see how conformation has fallen behind performance. Under the new titles page, there are 14 champions and/or grand champions listed, and almost 2 pages of performance titles.

Are you aware of the various grades OFA gives to dog’s hips? Excellent, of course, is the best you can have, Good is second-best, Fair is next down the line. From there it goes to “Borderline”, “Mild Hip Dysplasia”, “Moderate”, and “Severe”.

You might notice the lack of conformation photos in this month’s issue. That’s because no one sent me any except a few Amanda had taken and sent...where were they people?

This month there are eight pages of show results from page 20 through 27. Six of those are for conformation and two are for obedience. I am not going to put that many pages in for the other specialty coming up in June...just too many pages and I’m not sure anyone even looks at them. For the June specialty, I’ll only put in the class and top winners in conformation, they don’t have obedience.

Jim and Juanita Williamson – a big thank you for bringing the trailer to the show site and then taking it home on Sunday when it was all over...they were literally the last to leave the park.

Two scams last month... a phone call from my grandson in Mexico who needed money to return home, an email from Vicky Roye in the Philippines who needed money to pay off her hotel bill and return home. This one had her correct email at the top but the “reply to” address was different. I had read about the phone call scam, so I just let the kid wander on about how he was in Mexico for a friend’s funeral and needed money to return. At the end I told him I knew he wasn’t my grandson (he had an east coast accent). He laughed and hung up.

A few days later I received a letter from my alarm company about people who might be contacting me during the summer and make it sound like they worked for them and talk me into upgrading my system. It must make it difficult for honest people to make a living selling over the phone when there are so many cheats out there. I remember when telemarketing first started when I worked for a company back in the early 80’s. Whenever someone comes up with a good idea, there’s someone else just waiting to “get you” by taking advantage of and in some cases downright cheating people.

Speaking of my alarm company...one day before I had dressed for the day, my alarm went off yelling “Panic, Panic” or something like that. I called the alarm company and asked what it meant and how did I turn it off? She said someone must have pushed the panic button on my remote key fob. I turned around to look at my keys and found them on the floor. I guess Wrangler was bored! A few minutes later there’s a policeman knocking on my door. When I answered it Aggie is standing beside me barking and Wrangler is in the kitchen behind the baby gate barking. I apologized to him, told him I had called the alarm company, but he said they always check up on a “panic” alarm. He then smiled, pointed at Aggie, and said, “But I guess we don’t have to worry about anyone bothering you.”

I see where State Senator Mike Carrell from the 28th District died the end of May. He was in my obedience class a few years back. Seemed like a nice guy. He had a huge male German Shepherd Dog.

The club’s annual Temperament Test will be held again at Carco Park in Renton on Sunday, July 21. See page 14 for an entry form.

 ....and the rat’s tail fell off.