



March Newsletter

MARCH 2005

WEST COUNTY CHAPTER--DOGPARKS OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

VOL. 1, NO. 3

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Chairman's report



Online store now open

The website continues to improve with the addition of a new feature. A [Dogparks of Greater St. Louis Online Store](#) has been established at Cafe Press to allow supporters and friends to buy T-shirts for both people and dogs.

The T-shirts display logos and slogans of the various community groups that collectively make up Dogparks of Greater St. Louis.

West County Chapter is the first to make our shirts available. The revenue from T-shirt sales supports our communication program and other administrative costs, such as printing and meeting room fees.

So support West County Chapter of Dogparks of Greater St. Louis by wearing our fun-loving frisbee player in a St. Louis T-shirt tossing a disc to his leaping dog. And get one for your dog, too!



Max, official taste tester for [Treats Unleashed](#) in Chesterfield and West County D.O.G.S. member, models our new dog T-shirt.

New members

The contents of the new member packet and process is confirmed. Now, when new members in West County join Dogparks of Greater St. Louis this is what will happen:

- As soon as we receive a [new member application](#), we will send that person an animated email greeting card that says welcome, confirms his/her membership, and let's him/her know to expect a more complete email packet in the next couple of days.
- Shortly after the first response, the new member will receive a message containing a welcome, an invitation to the next meeting, a link to our West County page, a report on the status of dog parks in West County, a request for permission to call and chat, and a PDF file with history and contact information.

Training time

The first training presentation on "Recognizing Opposition" began with a module called "Identifying Opponents." This presentation offered a process for analyzing individuals and groups to determine their power, what they have to lose from approval of a given initiative, tactics commonly used to block an initiative, and general methods for dealing with opposition, focusing on non-confrontational approaches.

The next meeting of the West County Chapter is Wednesday, March 2, at the Thornhill Branch of the St. Louis County Public Library, from 7-9 P.M.

[Agenda](#)



This little guy will be saying Hi to our new members.

The members present found the presentation informative and agreed that next month we would continue with a module on "Responding to Opposition" which gives more specific ways to deal with opposition tactics, again focusing on non-confrontational methods. If time allows we will start a module on "Identifying Allies." If you plan to attend the next meeting, you can familiarize yourself with the topics by going to the Community Toolbox, Chapter 35, "[Responding to Counterattacks](#)," and Chapter 30, "[Recognizing Allies](#)."

Community notes



Chesterfield, Ellisville, Manchester

The cities of Manchester and Chesterfield hosted dog swim events in 2004, sharing the profits with D.O.G.S.; these cities have already agreed to host them again for 2005!



Click the image above for a gallery of photos from the 2004 Chesterfield K-9 Splash.

Chesterfield's K-9 Splash 2005 will be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2005 from 4:30-8 P. M. Manchester's Dog Paddle 2005 will be held on Sunday, September 11, 2005 from 1-4 P. M. These times may change slightly as we approach the event dates.

In addition to those pools, the city of Ellisville has inquired whether we would co-host a dog swim at their pool, too. However, before [Carol Panter, D.O.G.S. Events Coordinator](#), can speak with the city, **she needs to know whether we can get enough volunteers to work all three events.** Based on past events, the swim would probably be scheduled somewhere between the Saturday of Labor Day weekend (09/03/05) and the following Sunday (09/11/05).



Click the image above for a gallery of photos from the 2004 Manchester Dog Paddle.

Carol Panter will act as director for these events, but we need volunteers to sign people in and keep an eye on the participants (safety and "Number 2" alerts!). It's really quite easy, and a lot of laughs. Volunteers do not have to be members of D.O.G.S., but it's absolutely necessary to show up for one's shift(s). **Please email [Carol Panter](#) at your earliest convenience so she can notify the city of Ellisville.** Planning this far in advance allows us to adequately promote and acquire sponsors for events. Get on board now so D.O.G.S. can earn some funds for our future dog parks.

Town and Country

At the Town and Country Parks and Trails Commission, Diane Thomas once again voiced her goal for 2005 of establishing an off-leash area in Drace Park. On a positive note another commission member also expressed an interest in seeing Town and Country include this amenity in their plan.

So, a dialogue has been started. The next hurdle to get over is getting it on the Parks and Trails Commission agenda for some genuine consideration.

Fun events



March 12, 2005--Trivia Night to benefit Stray Rescue of St. Louis

Stray Rescue and Metro Animal are hosting a Trivia Night Fundraiser.

DOGS is supporting their efforts by reserving a table, enough to seat 8-10 people. The cost is \$20 per person, which includes beer, wine, and soft drinks. Bring your own snacks. The fun includes a 50/50 raffle and door prizes.

Day/Date	Saturday, March 12, 2005
Time	Registration 6 P.M. Games begin promptly at 7 P.M.
Where	American Legion Post 300 4760 Heege Road Affton, MO 63123
More info	Contact Cheryl Fields to sign up for our table.

April 13, 2005--Beginning Canine Freestyle

Starting on Wednesday, April 13 through June 1, Niki Henzl, head trainer at Happy Tails Pet Hotel and Playland, will offer a class in Beginning Canine Freestyle, or dancing with dogs. This is a unique and fun class rarely offered in the St. Louis area. The cost of the eight week class is \$100. No experience necessary. Just come and enjoy a different way to play, train, and bond with your dog while you dance to the music.

Day/Date	Starting on Wed., April 13 through Wed., June 1
Time	6-7 P.M.
Where	Happy Tails Pet Hotel and Playland 2920 North Lindbergh St. Ann, MO 63074 314-291-DOGS (3647) www.happytailsinc.net
More info	Contact Niki Henzl to register.



Click the picture above for a gallery of photos from the AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day event



Niki Henzl and Shawnee demonstrating Canine Freestyle at the AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day

Meetings



March 2, 2005--West County D.O.G.S. regular monthly meeting from 7-9 P. M. at the Thornhill Branch of the St. Louis County Public Library.

Agenda highlights include more strategic planning, focusing on tactics for fundraising, our communication program, and a plan for increasing membership and involvement.

Minutes

of the February meeting (PDF).

The Training Time topic is "Responding to Opposition." Also, the new member packet will be on display for members to review. [Click here for the agenda.](#)

All West County D.O.G.S. meetings are open to the public.

For dates and times of other D.O.G.S. meetings and events check out our [complete calendar](#) of meetings and events.

Help and have fun



While there are no direct volunteer opportunities with D.O.G.S. this month, on March 12, you can help Stray Rescue of St. Louis by joining your fellow Dogparks of Greater St. Louis members for Trivia Night at the American Legion Post in Affton. [Click here for details.](#)

Final thoughts



At this time of year, it seems that the cold weather will never end. I think about how nice it would be to take my dogs to an off-leash area near my home, where I can visit with my friends while our dogs play together. And it sometimes seems that the effort to make an off-leash area a reality will never end.

It **IS**, undeniably, a lot of effort and a S-L-O-W process. But with help and input from you, it **WILL** happen. We get closer every day.

A year ago, there was no West County D.O.G.S. Six months ago, Chesterfield expressed interest in off-leash recreation. Today, the concept of off-leash recreation has been reintroduced in Town and Country. Chesterfield, Ellisville, and Manchester are already planning to host dog swims, validating their residents' desire for the company of other dog people and to play with their dogs in the company of other dogs.

So, we are making progress. Looking down the road, my mind's eye can see all of us visiting with each other while our dogs play together in our West County dog parks. Keep YOUR eyes on the prize!

Diane Thomas, Chair
West County D.O.G.S.

Email: lesser_oread@yahoo.com

Dogparks of Greater St. Louis Home Page: www.stldogparks.org

West County D.O.G.S. page: http://www.stldogparks.org/pages/works_west_county_chp.html

We encourage you to forward this newsletter to interested parties.

To **subscribe**, join Dogparks of Greater St. Louis by completing the [online membership form](#). It's free! If you are in Ballwin, Chesterfield, Creve Coeur, Manchester, or Town and Country, you will automatically receive it. If you live outside of these municipalities, but would like to receive this newsletter, add a comment in the comment field (after telling us about your dogs) stating that you would like to receive the West County D.O.G.S. email newsletter.

To **unsubscribe**, reply to this email and put "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.

