

Sunshine State Jack Russell Terrier Club

JRTCA Affiliate Club News January 2012

New Year Greetings from SSJRTC--

2011 was a busy year for the club! Our board held three meetings, the club had three Fun Days (Jan, Jun, Oct) at the home of repeat gracious hosts Todd & Debbie Smith, successful Sunshine Showdown and Russell Mania trials in April and November. Club members even found the time to promote the club to the public through a Rescue event in Nokomis, FL and with a racing and thunder tunnel exhibition at a popular restaurant in Tavares, FL (Apr – May). We also held our annual Membership Appreciation Day at the home of club members Glen & Shelley Holland in September. We had a good turn-out of 70 dogs and signed up several new members.

New board members were elected during the Russell Mania trials. Heartfelt thanks go out to those board members retiring from service this year: Jose' Esteves and Darryl Stephens. Sincere appreciation goes to Justin Caynor, Lisa McKinney and Karen Muth for accepting another term on the board. And finally, a big welcome to new board members Kathy Cullifer and Carole Baskette! The SSJRTC is also pleased to welcome member Zoe Blair as our new Florida JRTCA Representative!

And once again, several SSJRTC club members competed in the Eastern Regional Purina Incredible Dog Challenge in Atlanta last April. Congratulations to club members Justin Caynor (owner) and Hugo Noa (handler) for placing third, and congrats also to SSJRTC friend Wayne May for winning the JRT racing event! The club is also proud of Lesa and Michael Phillips and their dog Chloe' for her recent induction into the Paws of Friends International Therapy Dogs organization—good work, Chloe'! Social Media Alert!-- the SSJRTC has gone Social!-- you can now find SSJRTC on Facebook! Thanks to club member Rick Witham for creating this page.

2012 already looks to be another eventful year for the SSJRTC—Kicked off by our inaugural Thaw Your Paws I & II January trial, at which 200 dogs competed. We also CERF tested 51 dogs thanks to Dr. E. Dan Wolf and club members Daphne and Roy Duvall. While we have held other events at this location, this was our first trial at the Florida Horse Park in Ocala and the venue was great. A few minor tweaks are planned for any future trials held there. The club held a contest for naming the new trial and we had a number of very creative and fun trial name suggestions—too bad we had to choose only one! Congrats go out to Donna Tucker for submitting the winning name: “Thaw Your Paws”!

Our first board meeting this year will be held January 28th at the home of our treasurer Jason Jones. High on the agenda is setting dates for all events the rest of this year. Most immediately, the SSJRTC is once again doing a fund-raising event by exhibiting JRTC racing at the Florida State Fair in Tampa FL on February 12th. Our annual spring trial, Sunshine Showdown I & II, takes place March 31 – April 1st at the Horsemen's Park in Williston FL. Make your travel plans now!

Submitted by Melanie Heckler