Spring 2012

Letter from the President

I hope all is well with my fellow NAPCH members and their families!

The Executive Board has just adjourned from the spring meeting. Important By-Law and Accreditation proposals will be forwarded to the membership at the fall meeting. Planning for the 2012 Nationals are well under way and registration is now open on the website. Please note the date changes and observe the Seminar will end one day earlier. The website has been revised with the placement of the Newsletter section and an area for the Master Trainers and Trainers to keep updated accreditation requirements. Now is the time to go to the Award icon and submit that NAPCH member/Team for an award and recognition at the 2012 Nationals. Also, all Master Trainer and Trainer applications must be submitted on the Trainers icon. It was agreed by the Executive Board that all packets must be completed accurately or will not be accepted. I am asking all of you to please update your email addresses with the Membership Chairman and check your dues renewal date. At the 2012 Nationals the President, Secretary and two Trustee positions will be available for nominations. If you feel you can continue to strengthen this organization get involved.

On May 23rd a terrible auto accident involving NAPCH member Officer Annette Miller, Waterford Twp Michigan, occurred. Since the accident the out pouring of support from the NAPCH K9 membership has been tremendous. On May 31st Master Trainer Bob Loken and Chaplain Gordon Morse put together a prayer vigil and show of support in front of the Beaumont Hospital where Ann was being attended. As I was standing in front of this group of over 100 K9 NAPCH members I could not have been more proud to be the President. All I could think about was this is why NAPCH was formed. When I talked to Ann that day, after the ceremony, she wanted me to relay her thanks and pride for being a NAPCH member. Ann has a long recovery for her injuries but that small moment that my fellow NAPCH members gave meant the world to her. I am also happy to say Ann's canine partner had a minor injury and is looking forward to returning to duty.

Please have a safe summer and stay involved in **YOUR** organization!

Terry Foley



NAPCH European Membership Grows with Amsterdam Addition

By Tom Stevenson, Master Trainer

N.A.P.C.H. European membership continued to grow this March with the membership and certification of new member Arez Gurdji.

Canine handler Arez Gurdji, his canine partner Reza, and his supervisor

Fred Guid, traveled to Lelystad, Holland on March 30th where they met with master trainers Godlewski, Schellekens, and Stevenson. They discussed the N.A.P.C.H. organization, with the many benefits of its support staff, trainers, and newsletter.

After deciding to join N.A.P.C.H. Gurdii and his part-

ner canine Reza successfully completed the narcotics certification test under the supervision of master trainer Gary Godlewski and trainer Eric Ridout.

Handler Gurdji is the first Amsterdam Airport team to join and certify through N.A.P.C.H. Gurdji predicts a growing interest in N.A.P.C.H. among the other 25 canine detector teams as information

about the N.A.P.C.H. organization spreads.

Gurdji's canine supervisor Fred Guid was on hand during the certification test and stated that he was excited about the N.A.P.C.H. organization and also thought other teams would be joining and attempting to certify.



New NAPCH member Arez Gurdj with Narcotics Certification

Amsterdam Airport handles approximately 136,000 passengers

on over 1,108 flights a day with over 95 gates. In 2011 the airport handled ap-

(Continued on page 3)

SEVENTH ANNUAL NAPCH WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 29TH—
OCTOBER 4TH, 2012

www.napch.org

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Airport Narcotics Team

Continued from page 1

proximately 49.8 million passengers earning it the continued reputation of one of the most modern efficient travel hubs in the world. How many other airports have their own library, museum, mortuary, and yes "McDonald's"?

Welcome aboard Arez Gurdji and canine Reza!



[From left to right] Handler Marty Munger, M.T. Tom Stevenson, M.T. Gary Godlewski, new member Arez Gurdji, canine Reza, M.T.Koen Schellekens and trainer Eric Rideout





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*Five (5) Nights Lodging,
*Three (3) Meals per Day
and All Training Aids

Registration for the Seventh Annual National Workshop will begin June 1, 2012.

This year all registrations must be completed on line. Deadline for registration is September 3, 2012.

The registration fee is not needed to register for the workshop, however all registration fees must be received by September 3.

Any fee received after the deadline will be returned.

Register at: www.napch.org

Mail registration fee to: N.A.P.C.H.

National Workshop

3441 Filbert, Wayne, MI 48184

Checks must be made payable to:

N.A.P.C.H.

For additional information call: (734) 506-8690

2011 NAPCH K9 TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARDS

By Mike Raby

It's that time of the year again to send in your nominations for the outstanding work done in 2011. NAPCH is fortunate to have such a large and talented membership. Many stories of exceptional K9 work during 2011 have filtered throughout the membership. This K9 work needs to be recognized and shared with our entire membership. The awards committee is awaiting your nominations for 2011. Below is the nomination and selection process for the NAPCH awards.

Nomination Process

The K9 team nominated must be a member in good standing with the organization.

A K9 team may be nominated by any member or non-member of NAPCH.

Nominations should be in simple letter form and may be sent via email to cmraby@att.net, or mailed to Michael Raby at 6939 Goldwin Dr Brighton, MI 48116.

Nomination requests must include a copy or copies of incident reports detailing the K9 team's activities. Contact information shall also be provided including the name and telephone number of the K9 team's immediate supervisor, as well as the name and telephone number of the person nominating the team.

All nominations must be received by August 1, 2012.

Selection Process

All nominations received by August 1, 2012 will be distributed to the awards committee for consideration of award.

The awards committee must vote on nominees based on the information provided in the nomination request and incident report/reports provided.

The recipients will be selected by a majority vote of the committee.

The awards will be presented annually at the organization's National Workshop. If the recipient is not present, the award will be mailed to them.

As always, keep up the good work and remember safety first.



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NEWSLETTER UPDATES

By Angela Carlson

In Alpena a handful of members requested they receive a hard copy of the newsletter. This issue of the newsletter will only be found on the NAPCH website. If you are interested in receiving a hard copy of the newsletter, please e-mail me at al368@wowway.com to request one.

Also, after speaking with the President, the organization would like to encourage not just Master Trainers, but Trainers to write articles. We are constantly looking for articles and Trainers have excellent ideas to offer. If a Trainer would like to add an article, please have it reviewed by a Master Trainer, and e-mail it to me.

I would also like to encourage anyone who is not a Trainer to offer ideas for articles to their Master Trainers and Trainers.

INJURED N.A.P.C.H. MEMBER

By Angela Carlson

On May 23, 2012 Waterford Police Officer Annette Miller was critically injured while trying to catch up to a speeding motorcyclist. A car turned in front of Officer Miller, who attempted to avoid hitting the car. Officer Miller clipped the car, spun, and hit a tree.

Officer Miller was initially taken to McLaren Hospital in Pontiac, Michigan. They believed her injuries to be minor. However, as medical personnel began to look over Officer Miller they began finding more serious injuries.

Officer Miller was transferred to Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan after being stabilized by surgery. She underwent numerous surgeries at Beaumont. Her injuries and complications included internal bleeding due to a severely broken pelvis, a ruptured diaphragm and bladder, a lacerated spleen, ligament and soft tissue damage in her legs and ankles, collapsed lungs, at least one torn ACL, as well as low blood pressure.

Officer Miller's partner, Kato, was safely taken to the vet by Waterford Sergeant Bracali, where he was found to have a





Photo taken from Officer Miller's room

minor injury to a toe, which had to be removed. Waterford K9 Officer Brian Illingworth took Kato home with him after the surgery. Kato is currently being cared for by Mary Jo Patel and is doing well.

NAPCH members began visiting Officer Miller as soon as they were allowed in the I.C.U. Officer Miller was awake and able to communicate via letters, due to being on a ventilator.

On May 31, 2012 NAPCH members, medical personnel, family, and friends gathered outside Beaumont Hospital to pray for Officer Miller's recovery. After the prayer vigil the K9 officers gathered with their partners just below Officer Miller's window. She was able to see all of this through Skype.

I spoke with Officer Miller after the vigil. She stated, "Everybody has been really great to me and my family. The support has been huge and overwhelming and wonderful. The prayer vigil was very special. I will always remember it."

At the time of this article, Officer Miller was expected to have her last surgery on June 4^{th} to finish repairing her pelvis. However, she has more MRI's scheduled to ensure all injuries have been caught. She is expected to begin physical therapy around June 15^{th} .

Please keep Officer Miller, her family, friends, and co-workers in your thoughts and prayers.

HONOR PAGE

Michigan State University Police - Michigan

On April 7, 2012 at approximately 9:00 pm, Officer Gary Heckman and K-9 Clyde were sent to assist Lansing Township.

Police with a track for a home invasion and assault suspect. Upon arrival Officer Heckman was advised the suspect had broken into his girlfriend's house and assaulted her with a hammer.

Officer Heckman began a track from the window the suspect had fled from. Clyde tracked approximately 100 yards and located the suspect hiding under a S-10 pick-up truck. The suspect was safely taken into custody. The suspect was later charged with Home Invasion and Attempted Murder.

Southfield Police Department - Michigan

On January 22, 2012 at approximately 11:22 pm, Southfield Police Officer Ashley Smith was dispatched to assist Ferndale Police with a track for a B&E suspect. Officer Smith and K9 Gauge began their track at footprints that were located leading from the business. K9 Gauge picked up the scent, went over a fence, and between houses. K9 Gauge located a black bag in one yard, which contained a bottle of liquor and approximately thirty packs of cigarettes.

K9 Gauge continued tracking through yards for about a half mile and located a black knit hat in the City of Oak Park. K9 Gauge tracked another half mile through the yards and over fences. K9 Gauge ended up losing the track when they came out on one street. An assisting officer located a footprint at the front of one house where K9 Gauge was trying to pick up the scent. Officers knocked on the door of that residence. The homeowner answered the door and advised officers a stranger was in the house. The stranger's shoes matched the prints found along the track and he was taken into custody.

Officer Smith and K9 Gauge have been a team since November of 2011.

Southgate Police - Michigan

NAPCH trainer, Tim Demers, and his partner of eight years, K9 Apollo, had one heck of a week.

On February 28, 2012, Demers and Apollo were called to assist the DEA with the execution of a search warrant. While searching the house K9 Apollo indicated in a closet. \$110,000 and a pistol were located in a safe on the top shelf of the closet. K9 Apollo then indicated high on a wall in the basement. \$770,250 was recovered from a cold air vent in the ceiling directly above where Apollo indicated.

Two days later Officer Demers and Apollo were again called to assist with the execution of a search warrant. K9 Apollo indicated on a plastic wardrobe unit in the garage of the home. A search of the wardrobe revealed \$459,140.

A total of \$1,339,390 in U.S. currency and a fire arm were seized in less than 72 hours. Great job Apollo and Officer Demers!

Willoughby Hills Police - Ohio

Mike Gerardi of the Willoughby Hills Police Department seized \$66,000. His dog, Arrow, poses with the money.



MARIJUANA PER SE LAW AFFIRMED

By John Peters

On April 17, 2012, the Michigan Court of Appeals issued a published opinion which upheld the prohibition on operating a motor vehicle with any level of THC in the driver's system.

People v Koon, Docket No. 30144 (CA 2012), was an appeal from a ruling of the Grand Traverse Circuit Court, which affirmed the acquittal of Rodney Koon in the district court on charges of violating MCL 257.625(8).

MCL 257.625(8) - also known as the per se law - prohibits anyone from operating a motor vehicle in the State of Michigan with any level of a Schedule 1 substance in their body. The district court acquitted Mr. Koon because it held that Michigan's Medical Marijuana Act (MMMA) protected Mr. Koon and other holders of valid medical marijuana patient cards from prosecution unless it could be shown that their ability to operate their motor vehicle was impaired by the presence of marijuana in their system at the time of the traffic stop and investigation by police.

The MMMA specifically prohibits licensed patients from operating a motor vehicle while "under the influence of marijuana." The argument arose from the MMMA's failure to define what the phrase "under the influence of marijuana" meant. According to Mr. Koon, the phrase "under the influence" had to equate to the standard utilized with alcohol or prescription medications. Mr. Koon argued, and the lower courts agreed, that police must demonstrate some level of impairment before an individual could be arrested or charged for operating a motor vehicle with THC in their system.

The Court of Appeals disagreed and held that nothing in the MMMA eliminated the classification of THC as a Schedule 1 substance. The Court of Appeals held that the prohibition upon operating a motor vehicle with any amount of THC in one's system was not inconsistent with the MMMA's prohibition upon operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana. The Court of Appeals noted that the MMMA could have removed marijuana from the definition of Schedule 1 substances or could have defined "under the influence of marijuana" to require the level of proof urged by Mr. Koon and the lower courts, but it did neither.

As of the date of this article, Mr. Koon's time to seek leave to appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court remains open. It is unclear whether he will seek review by the State Supreme Court or not. It is also possible that the Michigan Legislature will seek to amend these statutes in the manner which the Court of Appeals suggested they could to support Mr. Koon's and the lower courts' arguments.

Other decisions:

An individual using marijuana may not assert the affirmative defense of the MMMA unless he/she received a physician's approval prior to their arrest.

An individual licensed as a "caregiver; under the MMMA may not grow marijuana for any "registered qualifying patients" unless those patients are connected to the grower through the Michigan Department of Community Health's registration system.

Although the MMMA permits the sale of marijuana under specific conditions, patient-to-patient sales of marijuana remain illegal.



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Dogs Making Decisions

By Master Trainer Terry Foley

This article is a continuation of the control and importance of obedience in our line of work.

Once you have established your obedience techniques you must go to the other areas of training and apply the obedience. In all of the articles, and court cases, you have read about aggression and deployment of your partner one case keeps arising, Graham v Connor. In all bite and deployment cases if Graham v Connor was not met there would be issues. Your partner has no idea what these court cases are and only can relate to what he/she was trained to do. I train my Handlers to have total control of their partner and the situation. Their partner is not allowed to make any decisions. The dog is only allowed to react to a command of the Handler. I do not train the dog to go after anyone just because he grabs, bumps, pushes or screams at the Handler. There are too many situations where the Handler had everything under control and the canine partner is not needed. I do not allow the dogs to

automatically apprehend a person on a track. The reason for this is what if Graham v Connor was not met? What if you are looking for a lost child or Alzheimer patient? I do not allow a dog to exit his/her patrol vehicle unless told to do so. With automatic door openers an accidental opening could occur. When training your partner for the real world your foundation of obedience is in all of your commands. As in all training there are the "what ifs". I base training on the higher percentage of everyday use of your partner. If 98% of your dogs use is as a locating tool then focus the training appropriately. If your canine partner makes the wrong decision it could cost you, your Department, the K9 program, an expensive lawsuit, safety issues for you, safety issues for your human partners and the possibility of criminal charges.

The bottom line is that the responsibility lies with you, the Handler. Train to maintain that control, don't let your canine partner make the decisions.









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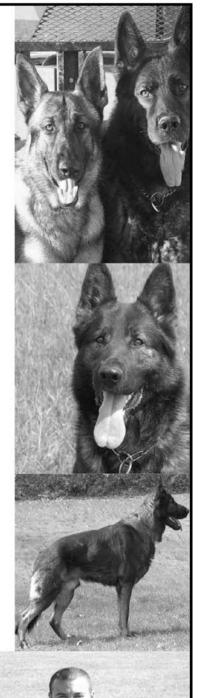
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