

# **THE AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY THE BEGINNING**

**BY RICHARD W. PITTMAN**

The first Australian Shepherd Club meeting was held in April of 1972 at the home of Joanne Ferguson in Lakeside, California. Present were Dave and Jean Martin (Santee), Bill and Betty Jo Suttles (Lakeside), Joanne Ferguson (Lakeside), Rusty Lynch (Jamul), and Richard W. Pittman (El Cajon).

It was agreed that enough interest existed and a club was formed and named the Australian Shepherd Association of San Diego County (ASASDC). Soon after the ASASDC was formed we learned there was another Aussie group meeting in San Diego's North County area. The two groups started a mutual obedience class held at Santee's old fire station on Mission Gorge Rd in Santee. Approximately 15 persons with their dogs attended- all Australian Shepherds. This group attended an Australian Shepherd show hosted by the United Australian Shepherd Association (this is prior to West coast ASA and ASC of So. Cal) held in Fontana California placing first through fourth in obedience.

Eventually the two groups merged and renamed the club the Australian Shepherd Club of San Diego County (ASCSDC). In 1975, ASCSDC became the Australian Shepherd Club of America Affiliate Club and held our first sanctioned conformation and obedience show in Escondido, California.

In 1981, a merit program was started to recognize and honor the achievements of our members, both adult and juniors, and their dogs in all areas of competition. Our annual year-end banquet was held in December, now in January to award the previous years of merit program winners.

The ASCSDC distributes a bi-monthly newsletter called the Aussie Admirer to keep our membership informed of club business, coming events, brags, show results, health tips, and other information pertinent to the club. Membership in the ASCSDC entitles a member to one year's subscription of the Aussie Admirer (six issues.)

The ASCSDC has offered dog related educational talks, conformation handling classes, eye clinics and has participated in community awareness activities. The club summer potluck meetings are a real treat for everyone.

Since 1975 the ASCSDC has continued to offer Australian Shepherd conformation shows along with obedience and working trials to the community of San Diego County.