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**Sent:** Fri 2:54 PM

**Subject:** Open Leter to Officers/Judges of USCA

Henry Co Report\_Hex.pdf (2007.2 Kb) attached

As a member of USCA since 1994, I am sending you this email. I am not a competitor but I do support my wife, who competes, and clubs we have belonged to and I have always supported the United Schutzhund Clubs of America.

I have known Al Govednik since before I moved to the Quad Cities of Iowa and Illinois in 2002. My wife, for a short period of time, was a member of Machtig Strom Schutzhund Verein (MSSV). I have always had friends in MSSV and that continues today. I am currently not a member of MSSV. I live in Henry County, Illinois and through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) I have obtained, from the Henry County Sheriff's Office, the Incident Report and related information regarding the death of Al Govednik's German Shepherd dog, Hex.

The reason I am sending you this email and report (as a PDF attachment) is that I do not feel that the facts of what happened to Hex are honestly being presented. The media and internet have promulgated accusations and innuendos directed toward members of MSSV. My friends at MSSV are honest hardworking Schutzhund competitors that love and respect their dogs. They have, from the day Hex went missing, wished for the safe return of Hex. Members of MSSV had nothing to do with Hex's disappearance and death.

MSSV has been constantly and viciously maligned throughout the search for Hex and there continues to be misinformation and accusations disseminated through the media and internet even after the Henry County Sheriff's Office closed the investigation and concluded that this event was an accident.

Hex was hit by a truck on Illinois Route 17, which runs in front of Al Govednik's house, on the rainy and foggy morning of September 26, 2011.

USCA seems to support the idea that there is more to this than the Henry County Sheriff's Office found by continuing to display, front and center on the USCA Web Site, a solicitation of funds for "*the continued investigation into his disappearance and death*" (of Hex).

I am asking you to remember that the members of Machtig Strom Schutzhund Verein, although none are a high profile judge or an official of USCA, are still members of United Schutzhund Clubs of America who love the sport of Schutzhund, love their dogs, and love to compete. They need to be treated honestly, fairly, and with respect by USCA since they have done nothing wrong. I believe that as officials of USCA you have the ability and responsibility to rectify the misinformation and injustice directed at members of Machtig Strom Schutzhund Verein by telling the other side of this story.

This email is not being sent to Al Govednik since he should be privy to all of the attached information.

Respectfully,

Mike Novak