

# LUCKY DOG NEWS

Newsletter of the Luckiamute Dog Training Club  
March 2008

## **2008 Board of Directors & Committee Chairs**

President Laurie Kudna  
Vice Pres Margie Dykstra  
Secretary Betty Schwartz  
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## **Board**

Catherine Shields (07/08)  
Sherree Lewis (07/08)  
Bob Parker (08/09)  
Larry Schwartz (08/09)

**Public Education Chair**  
Bob Parker

**Membership Chair**  
Sherree Lewis

**Newsletter Editor**  
Peggy Miller  
[berknbelg@yahoo.com](mailto:berknbelg@yahoo.com)

## **2008 Meeting Schedule**

**Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at the Almost Home Restaurant in Salem.  
Dinner @ 630  
Meeting @ 700**

**March 6**

**April 3**

**May 1**

**June 5**

**JULY NO MEETING**

**August 7 - Picnic**

Meeting location TBA

**September 4**

**October 2**

**November 6**

**December 4**

## **UPCOMING LDTC EVENTS**

March 22-23 AKC Tracking Seminar  
8 am - 5 pm Chemeketa Community College  
There is still room for attendees. \$50 for both days

May 4 Variable Surface Tracking Test  
Chemeketa Community College  
Come watch talented trackers at work and support your club.

September 28-29 Obedience/Rally Trials  
Benton County Fairgrounds  
Mark your calendars NOW so that you will be free to help YOUR club

November Tracking Dog Test  
Oak Grove School West Salem  
Make your plans now to act as a Tracklayer!

February 28 - March 1, 2009 CHRIS ZINK  
COACHING THE CANINE ATHLETE  
SEMINAR Location TBA



New arrival at Peggy's house: Scottish Deerhound pup Tannochbrae's Illusionist from Glencrag born the night of the big storm in December.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### *BLEEDING TO DEATH*

At the last club meeting twice, different people used that phrase when we were discussing our club's finances.

Apparently awhile ago, we discontinued putting on one of our best money [makers, the annual agility event, and since then we have gradually but steadily been going down financially.

While I don't know the background of exactly why we discontinued that event (it certainly was a lot of work, but we also saw some former members helping out on that event that we don't see at any other events), I wonder if we need to revisit that decision, particularly as we are now talking about adding still another money-losing tracking event each year...

If we really are "bleeding to death", was it a self inflicted wound?

~Bob Parker

#### *From the editor: A response*

I would like to take this opportunity to address Bob's concerns. I am sure more discussion can be held at the upcoming meeting.

We suspended our annual 2 day Agility Trials a few years ago (2005?) when those of us involved in putting it on suffered "burn out". It is a VERY labor intensive event, with the work starting well in advance of the trial itself. While many club members pitched in to help with parts of the trial weekend, a few members ended up spending Friday evening

plus early morning to early evening on Saturday and Sunday at the fairgrounds. Additionally, there were no volunteers to take on the arduous task of Trial Secretary – a burden that had been shouldered by Margie for several years, when she stepped down.

As to the addition of another "money-losing" tracking event, it has always been Luckiamute's intention to provide tracking tests even though they lose money. Our very first club event was a tracking test and we have always been committed to tracking. A few years ago, we added the VST knowing it would lose money. Adding TDX is a service to the tracking community, and we have been urged by our local judges for years to do just that. It looks now like we will be able to have a **combined TD/TDX** test which wouldn't add another test...just more higher priced entries. If we can, why not?

While our banking account is a bit smaller than it has been in the agility heyday, is it really hemorrhaging? The club has nearly every year put on seminars which both meet our stated goal of education and make money – more than enough to fund the tracking test losses. There are other events, including fun matches that we could have to raise funds – fairly easy events to put on. There seems to be a shortage of fun matches and they could really be a good event for us.

I believe that the only thing stopping Luckiamute from once again holding an Agility trial is a lack of volunteers especially for the Chair and Secretary positions. If there are people willing to take on those positions I can't imagine the club not agreeing to sponsor a trial.

I don't personally think we are "bleeding to death". Yes, our losses are self-inflicted wounds, but that's what non-profit is all about – spending the money we make, and making the money we need to spend. Perhaps we could get an annual financial report that would tell us just how much money we are making or losing annually so that we know what steps to take to protect our Tracking tests. ~Peggy

## SEARCHING FOR TDX LAND

By Margie Dykstra

I have been searching for land where we can hold a TDX test. This has been such an adventure and not an easy task. The Belton's land in Turner is great, but they really don't want another event at their place. Sue Pias told me about the land they use for Lure Coursing, but it really isn't situated well for multiple TDX tracks. It is too long and narrow to get tracklayers and cross-track layers in and out.

I have found land in our Oak Grove School tracking area. I will get maps together and talk to Roy Fair, who has agreed to judge for us. He has already said he'd be glad to come up and take a look at the land. Tentatively, it looks like we could fairly easily do 2 TDX and 8 TD. Since we rarely fill our test with TD entries anymore (since we moved to the weekend after PDOC), we would not be taking anything away from our TD people. And the use of a few pieces of land for TDX would barely make a dent in our available TD land, even with the spray issue.

The rules on TDX land: tracks must be between 800 and 1000 yards. At least 2 obstacles are required on each TDX track. Obstacles are defined as: "Various types of terrain and cover, including gullies, plowed land, wood, and vegetation may be used. Natural obstacles such as streams or man-made obstacles such as fences, bridges, or lightly traveled roads may be used."

Here is a summary of what we can potentially use for TDX, figuring we need a couple of options in case one area isn't available.

1. I found out that the school district owns 10 acres behind the Oak Grove building. It's sparse grass cover, but no obstacles. So I talked to both the owner of the small orchard and the owner of the grass field below that (border Oak Grove where it turns left from the school). They did not hesitate for a moment to give us permission to use their land. So that's at least one TDX

track with three types of terrain and a drive way crossing!

2. Some of the land we've already been using can be expanded to use for TDX. The most obvious choice is the land we approach from Hwy 99. We were able to drive there from the other direction (usually closed in November). If we halt driving at the very entrance to those fields, we have road crossings, light woods and a few other possible obstacles. Easily one TDX there, and possibly a second further down the field.
3. Questionable is the land at the far end of the field where we watch from under the trees (near the trailer house with the dogs). There is transition between two fields at the end where a culvert has been put in over the deep ditch. Along the tree line, we can possibly transition into the next field – and the terrain does change near the end of the trees where it is very muddy. It is a hike back there, but I believe Stephanie Gonyeau did go that far out one year. You can't really get into the woods as it is very wet and there are a lot of blackberry brambles.
4. I need to phone Merle Marx and ask him about the land at the corner of Farmer and Greenwood. We have use of the land and if we can also use the orchard and/or treed area in back of the house, we could make that work.
5. While I did not go look, the land that we used on Greenwood Road, behind the house, could be used as I seem to remember there are field transitions there, along with some road crossings if we hold the gallery further back.

I had hoped we could use Janet's field behind her house. It's nice steep land in places, lots of clumps of blackberry, but no real obstacles unless we can cross the driveway into the orchard. Will check ownership on that also.

So, we can do it. I will confirm these bits of land and have Roy take a look. I will also find out ownership of some other bits of land that, if available, would give us road crossings and field transitions – off Frizzell Road. Our Tracking Seminar should also really help clarify what we can use.

## MEET OUR MEMBERS

*A new feature I am hoping you all will contribute to this month we profile SHERREE LEWIS membership chair and board member.*



Sherree and her pal Abby, TD

I was born in Philadelphia, PA in 1961. I grew up in the suburbs in Levittown. I was raised an only child, wishing for a brother or sister at times, but happy I was not tormented by siblings as I saw my best friend was by her sisters.

I was not allowed to have pets, other than various fish and hamsters. My mother was just too compulsively clean to be able to tolerate pet hair and muddy paw prints and "that doggy smell". So I did the next best thing: I "adopted" my neighbor's dog, a male Dalmatian named Lincoln. We had a good time hiking in the local woods. He was a fun dog and fulfilled my need for animal companionship. He and his family moved a few years later, leaving me once again without a dog companion. So I "adopted" another neighbor's dog, a rescue beagle/sheltie mix that had grown portly after their daughter moved away. She was a friendly girl who needed exercise, so off to the woods we went. After months of regular walks, she slimmed down and was happy and healthy. She would wait for me to come home from school every day, sitting at the front window as I walked home. We brought joy

to each other and I knew then that I would have a dog when I was able to and was on my own. I went off to school to attend Penn State University and while I was there she passed away, leaving me heartbroken. But I did manage to graduate with a degree in forestry. I did not have a furry companion for several years.

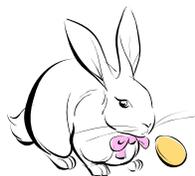
I moved to Oregon with a girlfriend who was attending the U of O for a PhD. I eventually hooked up with the Oregon Department of Agriculture in Eugene, worked as a bio-technician for several years, then accepted a job as a nursery inspector here in Salem. I've been working for the department for 22 years - 13 as a nursery inspector.

While living in Eugene, I became partners with a girlfriend who owned a rescue lab/rot mix. I lived with her and her dog, Harper, for 10 years. In that time, I came to love Harper as my own. We played at the beach, hiked in the woods, swam together in lakes and rivers, canoed several times, and camped every summer. She was active and athletic, but we never tried a structured dog activity. She loved people, but could be reactive to other dogs. We worked on her, but she never really got over that behavior. She eventually succumbed to hip degeneration. I'll never forget the day we had her put to sleep. She is buried out in the rose bed.

I did not think I would want a dog again after losing Harper, but I eventually found myself yearning for another companion. Along came Abby, a stray we found at the Eugene shelter. I couldn't pass up a beautiful 1.5 year old friendly yellow Lab. It was the best decision I've ever made, as Abby is my ultimate dog. I learned a lot about dog training with her, as she was good, but not well-trained. We love to hike and swim and play ball and

Frisbee. I discovered dog activities after meeting my current domestic partner, Martha, and her dog at the dog park, not long after separating from my previous partner. She and her dog, Gwen, were into flyball at the time, so Abby and I checked it out. We had a good time, but it wasn't the activity for us. We also took agility lessons for fun, and tried lure coursing for fun and exercise. Who knew dogs would go so nuts over bags tied to a quickly moving ring? I knew I wanted to do something serious with Abby, especially after watching Gwen excel at agility. But we didn't find out about AKC tracking until Abby was 4 years old. We've been hooked ever since. We're currently training for her TDX, and hope to someday get another tracking title. But we're having so much fun practicing together; we don't care if and when that happens. I'm also enjoying giving back to the sport by laying track at a test now and then. Martha has been instrumental in training Abby to be an obedient companion, and an excellent tracking partner, along with her dog, Gwen. We couldn't have gotten that TD without them.

Martha and I sometimes foster for the local humane society. We've had several kittens and a few dogs in foster care, and we've enjoyed every one, especially when we see the joy we bring to those of our furry friends who have been less fortunate. It's a challenge to train the dogs, but also satisfying. Abby has been a great ambassador and role model for them. It's been a happy and rewarding time in my life.



This Luckiamute's newest member Sally Grimes a few years ago!

### FIRST COMPETITION DOGS

I thought it would be fun to hear about our members first AKC competition dogs. Here is what you sent me.

From Larry and Betty Schwartz:



CH Gay Beauties Vanity Fair, CD "Mandy" was our first show dog and our foundation bitch. We purchased her in 1960 and she finished easily with our dear friend and handler, Bob Walgate of Clarence, NY. We were training another bitch for obedience but she was rather dense and while training, Betty commanded her to finish, which she did not do, and Mandy, who was loose and watching, presented herself with a perfect front and finish. We then decided that we were training the wrong dog and Mandy went on for her CD.



Betty and Vanity Fair's Peach Sherbet,  
UD

Bert was Mandy's grandson and our second obedience dog, 10 years later. At his very first show, the Chicago International in 1972, Bert was HIGH IN TRIAL from Novice B, defeating the Utility winner in a runoff, with a score of 199+. He was our greatest obedience dog and it has been downhill since!

### Gosh O' Molly!

By Margie Dykstra

That was my first AKC registered dog – a Labrador Retriever. Must have been about 1980 something. We impulse bought from the newspaper from someone who turned out to be a very reputable breeder – Renee Ivy. Her dam's name was Good Golly Miss Molly and her sire was called Josh (I think). Molly was part field trial breeding and wild as a March hare. She was once caught running around the yard with a rosebush in her mouth (had been newly planted). Molly did some obedience finally. But she provided our first DOG SHOW experience.

We entered and trundled her off to the Benched show in Portland. We didn't have, nor knew about, fancy crates so Molly had a cobbled together wire deal that we made ourselves. I'm not sure at that point if we had our horribly hard to handle homemade "wheels". The benched show did give us a chance to meet some show breeders. Molly really wasn't going to be show quality, but she wasn't awful either. The poor dog had to

be inside ALL day, and she didn't quite get the concept of those little potty areas. As far as Molly was concerned, it was indoors and she wasn't pottying. Finally, late in the day, she just squatted and pooped in the aisle way. She was SO embarrassed. Poor thing!

Camille showed Molly for a few years; she proved to be mildly dysplastic which abruptly put an end to our plans to try breeding. We retired her to a nice home next door to Janet Rhodes where she aggravated the cows (at one point getting a leg broken for hassling a cow with a calf), but got to go hunting every year.

Sorry, no pictures!



### Shelly Brosnan and her Groovy Belgian



Sandcastle's Oh So Groovy, CD, PT  
"Bodhi"

My first AKC competition dog wasn't really all that long ago. In fact, he is only five years old now! As an adult, I adopted a Collie-mix, Coda, that required a bit more than your "average dog" in terms of training. He was HIGH ENERGY and needed to be kept both mentally and physically busy in order to

keep out of trouble. Truly a case of “a tired dog is a good dog” applies where Coda is concerned! So, we went to obedience classes, we learned about agility, we went herding, he certified for a pet therapy program, and we dabbled in tracking. As a newcomer, and having a mixed breed, it was difficult to find places to showcase some of our training however. We had an aging German Shepherd dog, and I knew Coda would need a friend once she was no longer with us. Then, when Coda was diagnosed with hip dysplasia, we retired from most activities (except visiting an Alzheimer’s care facility, which he LOVED).

I knew that I wanted a purebred dog that I could do AKC events with, so after considerable research, I decided upon the Belgian Sheepdog. About 2 years later, Bodhi finally arrived. A Belgian Sheepdog really isn’t the type of dog that you can just go out and find anywhere. They are not overly common, either in number of breeder’s or in rescue situations, so occasionally you have to have patience when getting one.

Bodhi arrived, cuter than I could have ever imagined! The biggest piece of advice I received with my new pup was “socialize, socialize, socialize!” I took it to heart, and Bodhi accompanied me everywhere. We went to classes right away: obedience, herding and agility. He was always an eager companion, and always ready for whatever new activity I introduced. We jumped in head-first! Then, I learned that the Belgian Sheepdog Club of America would be holding its National Specialty nearby. I wanted to go! This was 2004 and it was in Washington, so we began training even more, since Bodhi was still a youngster - he was about 18 months old at the time of the Nationals. We participated in Novice A (for the very first time ever) and earned a 1<sup>st</sup> place in our class. He also earned his first PT (herding pre-trial) leg as well. After this, I was HOOKED! Hooked both on the breed and on performance events. After this, I became heavily involved in our local and National

club, and have made numerous friends. All because of my happy, smiling Belgian!

Bodhi and I have had our ups and downs. He is a very easy dog to live with, and very undemanding. He is a beautiful dog, loyal and silly, easily getting along with anyone and nearly any dog he meets. He is a great ambassador for good temperament of the breed. Unfortunately for him, he was my first competition dog. I had no idea what I was doing most of the time, and his potential was never realized. He also has elbow dysplasia, so after heartbreak and a lot of feeling sorry for myself and for my dog, I retired him from most events. But, he is a good boy, and is content to lie about and just watch TV with me. I have no doubt he’s taught me as much, and probably more, than I have ever taught him.

A friend once said to me, “He’s not the dog you necessarily *wanted*, but he is certainly the dog you *needed*.” And she was so right! We learn a little more with each dog, even within the same breed. Because of my first Belgian Sheepdog, I can easily say that I feel pretty certain I will always have a Belgian in my house.



Bodhi and Shelly working sheep at the 2004 Belgian Sheepdog Club of America National Specialty show.

## A Rocky Start to AKC Competition

~Peggy Miller



It wasn't AKC competition, but Mighty Manfred was an AKC registered Siberian Husky - no show dog, but a running fool. But that's another story.



This is Estemeré's Kira von Mueller, CDX my first AKC competition dog.

After graduating from South Dakota State University with a BS in Animal Science, I was back home in Salem working at a veterinary clinic. I decided it was time to fulfill my lifelong dream of owning a German Shepherd dog. The vet I worked for told me that one of our clients was the best breeder in the area. She showed and taught obedience classes and guaranteed her pups. I ended up with a young black and tan dog, Jasper. A really sweet dog, Jasper unfortunately had

severe hip dysplasia and had to be euthanized at 9 months old. He was guaranteed meaning she would replace him, but after knowing what I now did about the health issues in this breeder's dogs I would never have accepted another dog from her.

With a broken heart, I proceeded to get another GSD puppy. Less than a week after bringing this little puppy home I lost her to parvo on Christmas Eve. A few weeks later (after disinfecting EVERYTHING!) I got Kira a beautiful black and tan bitch from German import breeding. Although I knew that she would never be a conformation dog, I decided to take her in the breed ring in the puppy classes so that she would learn that a show ring was a happy place where you get liver treats. She actually won a few of her classes and even got a reserve!

Our first foray into the Novice A ring was at the Salem shows. The obedience rings were adjacent to the grooming area...loud and noisy. My judge was Kent Delaney - very scary!

Because of my financial situation - pretty poor! - I couldn't afford training classes and did most of my training by myself from books. *Play Training Your Dog* by Patricia Burnham was a life changer! By the time we were working on Open I was living in Klamath Falls and attending Oregon Institute of Technology. While working at the local humane society, I met Ella Brown of Von Braun kennels (who had donated land for the Klamath humane society and was instrumental in setting it up) and her business partner Bridget Honan. Bridget had a GSD bitch that had its CD and an Irish Wolfhound. We had our own little obedience classes and started training using FOOD! Yes we were food spitters! Something serious obedience people frowned upon in those days.

Kira finished her CDX and was trained through Utility. She was dependable in all the exercises except the directed jumping. It took a while to figure out that she had some instability in one of her knees - not noticeable while gaiting but enough to make her unsure when having to jump. Back then most breeds had to jump  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times their height - so Kira had to jump 36 inches. It was really frustrating to give up on my dream of a UD especially since I knew she could do it if she could just jump 24 inches.

I got a tracking harness for Kira and even went to a seminar but was scared off by the need to work in pristine fields and "don't even bother to start if you can't go out at least five days a week for the first few weeks." By that time I had my first rescue Border Collie, Jem and was working him in obedience and herding. Jem got his CDX and was ready to start trialing for his UD when a bone tumor was discovered in his right knee and his leg was amputated. He lived a long life post amputation and never let his tripod status interfere with his herding.

I got my first Belgian Sheepdog because I loved the herding dogs but wanted a breed that I could handle myself in the conformation ring and was still capable of doing performance events.

Kira, aka the Queen Bitch, ruled the roost until she was 12 when succumbed to Degenerative Spinal Myelopathy one of the many health curses in the breed.

(My Utility curse continued - Brio my first Belgian was ready to start his UD quest when he died unexpectedly from Hemangiosarcoma. Maybe someday I'll have the nerve to start doing obedience again!)



**Bodhi demonstrating his tunnlers form.**

Annual Dues were payable on or before the first of February. If you haven't sent yours in yet, you can print a renewal form or pay with PayPal at

<http://www.luckiamute.org>



**Happy Spring!**