

LUCKY DOG NEWS

August 2008

The newsletter of Luckiamute Dog Training Club

Officers and Board

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Schwartz

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Bob Parker ('08-'09)

Sherree Lewis ('07-'08)

Catherine Shields ('07-'08)

2008 MEETING SCHEDULE

Membership meetings are held the first Thursday of every Month at Almost Home Restaurant Market Street Salem EXCEPT for July and January. 7 pm

August 7 -NOTE:

LOCATION CHANGE!

La Hacienda Restaurant

Wallace Rd West Salem

September 4

October 2

November 6

December 4

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
25TH OF EVERY MONTH
SUBMIT MATERIAL TO:
Peggy Miller
berknbelg@netzero.net

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

The "Dog Days of Summer" those lazy hot days when you just want to sit on the front porch fanning yourself and sipping a mint julep as your hounds lie at your feet gently panting.



Shelly Brosnan's Gang o' Three

But some lucky dogs are able to cool off in a pool.



BREAKING NEWS

From Sherree Lewis: we have a new addition to our dog family. Scout is a rescue McNab from Northern California. She was living in a camper trailer in a park where there are no dogs allowed. The family had to evacuate due to forest fires, so they surrendered the puppy. She is about 5 months old, very sweet, energetic, and apparently very smart. She has the potential to be a great disc dog, and I will try her out this fall with some tracking training, even if the AKC does not recognize the breed.



REPORT FROM THE REDMOND SHOWS

By Laurie Kudna

At the Mt Bachelor Kennel Club, Cayenne earned her Championship. She is now CH Carousel's The Wild Wild West. Wow, I can't believe she is already finished!



Cayenne and Laurie

The Belgian Malinois Club held a supported entry at the recent Mt Bachelor Kennel Club

shows. We had a really good turn out. For Conformation alone, we had 17 entered on Saturday and 16 on Sunday (or was it the other way around?) I had both girls entered. Saturday I handled Star and someone else handled Cayenne. I messed up Star – I was a really bad handler. Cayenne got Reserve Winners Bitch. I had heat stroke on Saturday. It was way too hot. Sunday I showed Cayenne and she went Winners Bitch and Best of Winners for a 4 point major. She only needed 3 singles to finish. I handed Cayenne off to someone for the winner's class and handled Star. Star was Best Opposite. It was also another hot day in the middle 90's. This time I spent more time in the air conditioned building. Mild heat stroke. I had lots of fun, but it was way too hot. Hopefully next year it will be a lot cooler.

Now on to Nationals.

A TRAVELLER ARRIVES AT PEGGY'S HOUSE:

After a wait of nearly 3 ½ years, I got a new Belgian Sheepdog puppy. I first saw his mother Quiz tracking at the 2005 Belgian Sheepdog National Specialty show in Wisconsin. At only 11 months she had already earned her TD. I was so impressed by her enthusiastic tracking style and her beauty that I immediately told her owner I wanted a puppy if she was ever bred. Last year she not only earned her TDX, but she also was Best of Breed at the National Specialty.

Trouville's Traveller doing some puppy tracking.



Lament of a Lady Who's Gone to the Dogs

There was a time, there really was,
When I was sweet and tender;
When Show Dog meant a Disney Star
And bitch was not a gender.

I went to bed at half past ten;
I went to church on Sunday.
On Saturday I baked the beans
And did the wash on Monday.

But then I got a certain pup,
And an erstwhile friend said "SHOW"
And so I did and so I do,
OH! What I didn't know.

I used to dress with flair and style.
That was the life, don't knock it.
But now each dress from Bed to Ball
Must have a good bait pocket.

I used to have a certain air,
I wallowed in perfume,
I used to smell of Niut d'Amour
Now I smell like Mr Groom.

My furniture was haute décor.
My pets a tank of guppies
Now I've furniture unstuffed.
And well-adjusted puppies.

Once I spoke in pristine prose,
In dulcet tones and frail,
But now I'm using language,
That would turn a sailor pale.

I was taught to be well groomed
No matter where I went.
Now all the grooming that I do
Is in the handler's tent.

I used to long for furs and jewels
And a figure classed as super
Now the thing I yearn for most
Is a nice new pooper scooper.

I adored a man who murmured verse
Through intimate little dinners
But now the words I thrill to hear
Are just three – *Best of Winners*.

I rise at dawn and pack the car,
The road ahead's a long one.
The one I routed on the maps
Invariably's the wrong one.

I really love this doggy life,
I wouldn't care to change it.
But when I get that Best in Show
I plan to rearrange it.

When my time on earth is done,
I'll go without much nudging.
Just give me three weeks closing date,
And let me know who's judging.

By **Beryl Allen** (submitted by Larry Schwartz)



CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to Margie on the
loss of Sabrina – Blythmoor's
Undeniable, CDX, TDX, OA, OAJ,
RE, WC, VCD2 who crossed the
rainbow bridge August 1.



Tracking Advisory Council's Recommendations:

Below are some of the notable recommendations from the recent TAC. Comments may be sent to AKC electronically to trackadv@akc.org or by mail:

American Kennel Club
Companion Events Dept.
TAC Recommendations
8051 Arco Corporate Drive
Raleigh, NC 27617-3390

Closing dates for your comments is September 17, 2008.

- A club may set aside tracks for test workers in accordance with a complex formula
- Tracking lines – line must be visibly marked at a point 20 feet from the dog. (10 feet for VST)
- Multiple passes – TD2 or TD3 can be used if dog passes additional TD tests. Ditto for TDU/TDX/VST.
- TD Starts – elimination of the second start flag. Also eliminates restarts that have been allowed between the flags.
- NEW TEST! Tracking Dog Urban Test (TDU) "The fundamental features of a TDU test are the dog's ability to follow a track laid by a person under a variety of conditions in an urban environment and to find an article dropped by that person at the end of the track." Basically the TD of the VST world.
- TDX obstacles – Streams or other water features should not be used if it would be a safety issue for the dog or handler. This would include water that appears to be so deep that it might present a safety issue

because of lack of visibility for safe footing while crossing or may hide objects that might be harmful.

- VST tracklaying – A tracklayer may cross an adjacent track in order to exit the field on test day, provided the track being crossed was not laid by the tracklayer.
- TRACKING WILLINGNESS TEST: this will test the willingness and instinct of a dog to follow a track laid by its owner or any other person. It should be of difficulty approximately the same as the first day of tracking class. The tester can use any method to induce the dog to track including but not limited to food, toys, and runaways by the handler. Dogs that show willingness to follow the track will be awarded a Tracking Dog Willingness Certificate.
- TRACKING DOG STARTED: this test is intended to be a simple tracking test that is within the capabilities of all breeds of dogs and can be achieved with only a modest amount of training. As a parallel to the CGC, it is intended to provide a point of entry into the sport of Tracking.

Full text of the recommendations can be found online at www.akc.org.



FUN AT SOUTHERN OREGON DOG SPORTS CAMP

By Sherree Lewis

On June 20, 21 and 22, we attended a dog sports camp put on by Kirsten Salvito, CPDT, of Pawsitively Bully Dog Training near Medford. Salvito's facility was amazing. Large pastures, a barn open on both sides to catch the cross breezes, an Earth Dog enclosure, swimming pool, agility course and plenty of crating areas in the stalls.

Activities included lure coursing, weight pull, clicker training and puzzles, dock diving (or just swimming lessons for dogs that were less confident in the water), rally, agility and Earth Dog. There were craft periods late in the afternoon, so dogs could nap while owners made decorative collars and fleecy braided leashes. Salvito offered Canine Good Citizen testing as well as evaluation for potential therapy dogs.



There were just 10 people attending, though some brought several dogs, so everyone got plenty of turns at those activities in which they were interested, as well as a chance to try something new. A professional photographer was on hand to capture all the special moments, as well as some of the more comic adventures.

Abby tried just about everything, including testing her shoulder strength while pulling a 25-pound weight on a sled. The latest style, ergonomically-designed harnesses offered by the weight-pulling instructor were varied enough to fit Abby – the largest dog there – down to the tiny Papillion, who tucked right in and pulled despite his 8-pound stature. The instructor, who competes in the event with her pit bulls, got one of her dogs out and impressed us all by asking him to haul

100 pounds across the barn, which he did with a puppy grin on his face.



Abby and her sister, Gwen, enjoyed the lure coursing most of all. They had not had the opportunity to chase plastic grocery bags on a string for upwards of three or four years. But they both realized immediately what was going on in the upper pasture, where Salvito had a lovely course set up through the trees and all around the large field. Both dogs, usually well mannered, began pulling toward the field. Abby was so excited that she did her signature “double hop” to try to get closer, a maneuver she usually reserves for such things as deer. Most of the dogs enjoyed chasing the lures, except one Labrador/poodle cross who could not seem to grasp the concept. The photographer's toy fox terrier could be heard yipping every time his feet hit the ground, all the long way around the field.



In fact, that tiny terrier and Abby were the only camper's dogs to make the leap off the dock into the pool, though it took Abby 3 days before she tried it and that was with the help of a couple of tossed, floating treats. The water instructor was great. A ramp covered with traction mats made an easy entry into the water for those dogs who would not jump, and since she was in the

pool wearing a wetsuit, she could lift them in and coax them into swimming around. One dog, a Staffordshire bull terrier, had to wear a shocking pink life jacket, even though his owner, a boy who celebrated his tenth birthday at camp, was in the water with him. The combination of no body fat, a huge head and heavy bones just made that dog sink like a stone. Of course the instructor's dog, a Portuguese water dog, was only too happy to show us all how it was done, gladly leaping the length of the pool.

Salvito taught a clicker course that was different from others I had attended. Instead of using the clicker and treats to mark specific desired behaviors, she had us click and treat whenever our dogs "offered" any new behavior. It was obvious how conditioned the dogs are, as most first offered a sit as they tried for a treat. Her approach was to have the dog figure out how to solve the various challenges. Salvito had a basket of toys, most intended for the preschool set, which all made noise of some sort. The game was to use the clicker and treats to have your dog successfully cause the toy to make a noise. After a while, she had the dogs and handlers rotate to a different toy and start the game over.



Salvito also had ordered the entire set of Swedish wooden puzzles for the dogs. These used pegs, sliding parts and rotating wheels to conceal treats. The dogs had to figure out which pieces to move and how to move them in order to get at the cookies. I had read about the puzzles in "Whole Dog Journal" but decided not to order one, at \$40 a pop. Gwen used her paw successfully on about half the challenging puzzles. Abby did not have as much success, as her mostly oral approach to problem solving was to pick up

the delicate wooden games and shake them to see what would fall out. I have to say, as fun as the puzzles were, they are clearly a better choice for smaller dogs, for even when the big dogs were successful, their muzzles would not fit into the holes to retrieve the treat.

Although Gwen and Abby were far too big to squeeze through the Earth Dog tunnels we enjoyed watching the terriers excel. Their race through the tunnels to find the rats in wire cages gave us all a chance to see them use the skills for which they originally were bred.

On the last day of camp, Salvito made a real effort to set up games in which every dog could participate. Relay races through the rally course got all the dogs and owners involved. Timing similar-sized dogs as they raced through the lure course got everyone pumped up. For the Earth Dog Challenge, they used plastic jugs with mesh tops. Three bottles contained stinky shavings from the rats' cages. The fourth jug contained the actual rat. The jugs were hidden in a fenced area (which Salvito confessed usually contains her garden refuse/burn pile). The jugs were concealed in hay, under brush, behind a box and a pile of yard debris. On entering the enclosure, each dog was allowed to sniff a drop of commercially prepared scent, and then sent out to find the jugs. This game also was timed.

Since Abby knows the command "find" and is well versed in the need to catch and kill rats in the chicken coop at home this game was a cinch for her. A simple "find the mousie" and she was off to the races. In fact, her tracking-dog nose found all four jugs faster than any of the other campers' dogs. She was so excited at her success that I had a time pulling her off the jug that had the actual rat. Once again, her method of grab-around-shake was about to come into play.



There was also a team rally course game and a team agility game. Abby did not enter the agility game as she has played the activity in her youth, but not seriously enough to give it a go.

Abby also earned her CGC certificate, probably helped by being tired at the end of a long day.

After two and a half days of all that activity, I thought Gwen and Abby would have been exhausted. But the morning after we arrived home, they were up and ready to have more fun! We had such a good time and enjoyed the great instructors more than enough to seriously consider attending again next year.



Upcoming LDTC Events

SEPTEMBER 27-28
OBEDIENCE/RALLY TRIALS
 Benton County Fairgrounds
 Corvallis Oregon

Volunteers needed:
 Friday night ring set up
 Ring Stewards – Saturday and Sunday
 Sunday afternoon clean-up

NOVEMBER 15-16
TD/TDX TEST

Oak Grove School, West Salem

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1
 Corky Vroom Seminar
 Location TBA



CAPTION CONTEST!



Do you have a caption for this photo?
Submit it to the editor. Winners will be announced in the next
newsletter.