

# Woofs and Waggers

(Newsletter of the Oakland Dog Training Club)  
Jan/Feb 2013

Class and General Information – 510-339-3276

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Tracking Test '13 (April)	Lora Cox		<a href="mailto:lora@rosscox.com">lora@rosscox.com</a>
Obedience Trial '13 (May)	Debbi Hankins		<a href="mailto:deborah_hankins@comcast.net">deborah_hankins@comcast.net</a>
Agility Trial '13 (Sept)	Jann Hayes		<a href="mailto:saintmom@sonic.net">saintmom@sonic.net</a>
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## Club Calendar

February 24	Members' Match	Cal State East Bay
March 9	Members' Match	Cal State East Bay
March 17	Obed & Rally Workshop	Cal State East Bay
April 13&14	Tracking Test	Morgan Territory, Livermore
May 19	Obedience Trial	Cal State East Bay
Sept 1 and 2	Agility Trial	TBD

## ODTC President's Message – Jack McCredie

Our club finished 2012 in a very strong position - financially, programmatically, and with an enthusiastic and stable membership base. This is not the position of many dog clubs in the Bay Area and nationally. For example, about 40 breed specialty clubs in northern California received a letter in December from the leaders of the venerable Harvest Moon Cluster stating that for financial reasons, the five day cluster would be reduced to three days in October 2013 and the Cluster would no longer host the regional specialties on that Saturday. The letter also noted that: "Some of the specialty clubs no longer have enough working members to put on a show. Others are essentially bankrupt..."

Entries in many trials are down significantly from historical averages. The good news is that the training, education programs and competition events of the Oakland Dog Training Club cover all our costs and continue to contribute to a healthy reserve fund. Please join me in making a resolution for 2013 to continue working to make our club successful in a national environment of shrinking resources and an aging membership base.

Our plans for 2013 are to continue with our standard activities and to expand in a few select areas. The events and general class calendars are available on our Website and I call attention to a new two day workshop we are co-hosting with the Napa Valley Dog Training Club on April 6 and 7 - "Dogs are Problem Solvers," presented by nationally recognized trainer and author Connie Cleveland. Working registrations are limited and are almost full, but there are plenty of available positions for one or two day auditors. If you have misplaced your flyer for this event you may download one from the "Events" section of our Website or contact me by email.

[http://oaklanddogtraining.org/2013\\_Connie\\_Cleveland\\_Flyer.pdf](http://oaklanddogtraining.org/2013_Connie_Cleveland_Flyer.pdf)

As in past years, ODTC will present trophy plaques at the annual meeting in June to members whose dog earns its first AKC title in the calendar year just completed. In addition, engraved brass plates for mounting on existing plaques will be presented to teams that earned an additional title during 2012. An email with award details will be sent to the membership in the near future. Board member Ann Collins ([ahcollins5@aol.com](mailto:ahcollins5@aol.com)) will coordinate this program that was managed by Julie Rose for many years. We thank Ann for continuing this wonderful club tradition.

January is membership renewal month, and approximately one third of the membership has already paid dues to Debbi Hankins. Invoices for 2013 to those who have not yet paid will be mailed this week. Thanks to those who responded to the December 3rd email request or paid at the holiday party - you saved us some mailing expense and time stuffing envelopes.

ODTC by-laws state that officers and trustees are to be nominated at the March meeting, which will be held immediately after the member practice match at CSUEB on Saturday, March 9. The by-laws also state that in January of each year a nominating committee should be appointed that will present a slate at the March meeting. The nominating committee for 2013 will be board member Mary Lemon and Debra Dove and a third member not yet appointed. Please contact this committee with your nominations for new board members or to express interest in serving the club as a trustee, officer, or at large board member. These positions are vital to the club's success and I encourage everyone to participate.

Speaking of PARTICIPATION - the biggest volunteer effort of the year for ODTC is right around the corner - the spring match and workshop at CSUEB on Sunday, March 17. We need volunteers for

stewards and judges for 11 rings. We are in good shape for members of the grounds crew and the food committee (however additional help is always appreciated). But we NEED ADDITIONAL RING STEWARDS AND JUDGES! Please contact chief ring steward Sharon Vannucchi to work for a few hours during the match - we need your help. No previous experience is necessary - the veterans will teach you everything you need to know. As stewards, you receive one free entry and complimentary lunch and parking. More information is available at:

[http://oaklanddogtraining.org/2013\\_ODTC\\_March\\_workshop.pdf](http://oaklanddogtraining.org/2013_ODTC_March_workshop.pdf)

Sharon Vannucchi: [lilchuckiesmom@aol.com](mailto:lilchuckiesmom@aol.com)

**Thank you all for a great 2012!**

## **Membership – Dues are due by February 20th! – Susan Dickerson**

We added one new provisional member in Q4 of 2012 – Aaron Jordan who lives in Cordelia. In 2012, we added 8 other new members (names below) which brings our total roster to 116.

Helen Marie Capps (Fairfield)  
Leslie Graham (Alameda)  
Kate Gilpin (Richmond)  
Sarah Wharton (Oakland)  
Mike Reardon (San Francisco)  
Carolyn Yale (Oakland)  
Janet Christman (Oakland)  
Cookie Murphy/Pettee (Oakland)

Don't forget to renew your membership – annual membership fees are due by February 20, 2013. An updated roster as of January 2013 will be emailed to all members soon.

## **AOCNC Workshop Feb 4 (Superbowl Sunday – Go Niners!)**

We need one more steward for the 12-2 slot in our Utility ring, but **most importantly**, we need someone who can bring the **Utility Jumps** and **2 chairs**. Harriet will bring her tables. Please contact Harriet Tucker if you can help ([hafpas@comcast.net](mailto:hafpas@comcast.net)).



## Editor's Notes – Hazel Olbrich

*Newsletter Deadline: The 20<sup>th</sup> of odd-numbered months*

Club Member Jann Hayes took her St. Bernard Snitch to the Agility NOI last month. There was some great coverage of Snitch (and the sport) on the front page of many of the local newsletters. Here's a link to one of them that includes many other pictures. Hope you enjoy!

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/bay-area-news/ci\\_22185131/half-moon-bay-saint-bernard-will-show-off?IADID=Search-www.insidebayarea.com-www.insidebayarea.com](http://www.insidebayarea.com/bay-area-news/ci_22185131/half-moon-bay-saint-bernard-will-show-off?IADID=Search-www.insidebayarea.com-www.insidebayarea.com)

Braggs are a little thin this issue, relative to others, most likely because of the light show schedule in the SF Bay Area this time of year. Good luck to everyone in their upcoming training and showing endeavors!

## Other Training topics – Hazel Olbrich

### Elizabeth Soares retires

Our pet dog class instructor, Elizabeth Soares, retired at the end of 2012 after many years of service to ODTA. I know I speak for all the club members when I express my gratitude for her work. She was assisted by Sharon Lyn for many years as well. I was hoping Elizabeth would be able to attend the Christmas party so that the club members could communicate to her in person, but she wasn't able to attend. I know the club prepared an engraved gift for her, and I sent her and Sharon personal tokens of my thanks as well. If you haven't had a chance to express your thanks to Elizabeth and Sharon, please do so before too much time passes.

Last fall the training committee did a search for a new instructor. We were lucky to have many interested and qualified candidates. We hired Lynn Kosmakos to teach our Thursday evening Puppy, Beginner, and Intermediate classes. Her first sessions started on Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. Please welcome her to the ranks of instructors.

You can learn more about Lynn in her bio in the "Meet the Members" section of the newsletter.

### Tuesday Evening Rally Classes – now at two times a month

For several years now we had held rally classes on a drop in basis, taught by volunteer club instructors, every Tuesday evening. Last year the attendance had dropped to such a low level that last July we reduced our frequency from every Tuesday to once a month.

There have been a number of requests for more frequent instruction and so we have decided to offer classes twice a month, the first and third Tuesdays of the month, starting in February. This requires, of course, the support of club members to volunteer their services. To teach this class you are required to have put an RE title on a dog. I ask people to commit for one month (in this case, two classes). Some members have found team teaching this class with another club member to be the best format for them as an instructor.

If you are interested in teaching, please contact me to discuss your month of choice. I can be reached at 510-531-2476 or h\_olbrich@sbcglobal.net.

*As of 12/31/12. Published in ODTC Newsletter Jan. 2013.*

## ODTC 2012 Training Business Plan & Attendance Stats – Lizanne Kaiser

### Summary:

- This summary provides comparative data and 2012 targets for revenue, net, attendance, class types, and number of sessions. Revenue targets are ‘break-even’ minimums needed to cover training-related expenses (trainer fees, rent, utilities, etc.; not major hall improvements or general club expenses). Previous year actuals are higher than current year targets, since we regularly exceed the break-even minimums. Attendance targets are based on 3-year historical averages.
- As of Dec 31, 2012, 120% of revenue, 121% of net, and 115% of attendance targets for 2012 have been achieved. Although both financials and attendance are marginally lower than where they were EOY 2011, we have met our business plan by exceeding our 2012 break-even targets.
- The attendance table below shows which classes are exceeding their attendance targets (green), and those that have had lower attendance than typical based on historical averages (red). Please continue to spread the word about both our pet and competition classes to friends and neighbors.
- The Training Committee will make adjustments to classes and plan as needed for 2013.

### Business Plan:

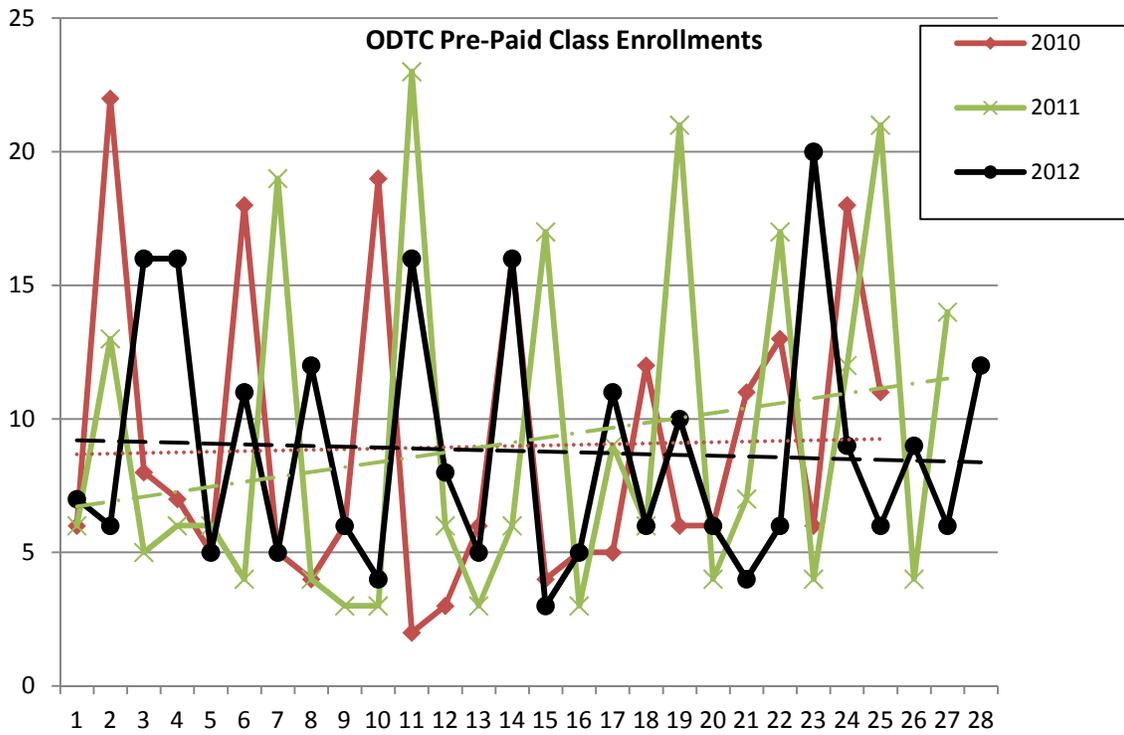
Class	Revenue				Net (less est. trainer costs only)			
	2011 Actual	2012 YTD	2012 Target	% to Target	2011 Actual	2012 YTD	2012 Target	% to Target
Pre-Paid	\$30,910	\$29,420	\$24,555	120%	\$20,246	\$18,861	\$16,103	117%
Drop-In	\$25,980	\$25,425	\$21,333	119%	\$16,464	\$16,582	\$13,188	126%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$56,890</b>	<b>\$54,854</b>	<b>\$45,888</b>	<b>120%</b>	<b>\$36,710</b>	<b>\$35,443</b>	<b>\$29,391</b>	<b>121%</b>

### Annual Attendance:

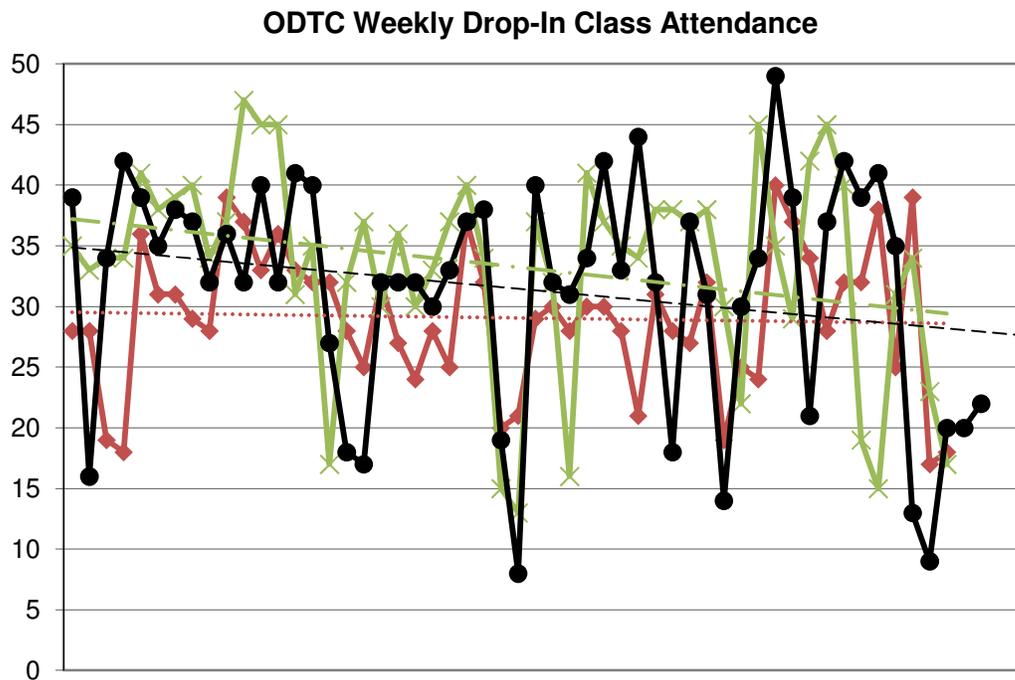
Class	Attendance (EOY Actual)			Attendance 2012		
	2009	2010	2011	Actual YTD	Target EOY	% to Target
Pre-Paid	1,178	1,506	1,593	1,540	1,326	116%
Drop-In	1,260	1,511	1,732	1,695	1,489	114%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,438</b>	<b>3,017</b>	<b>3,325</b>	<b>3,235</b>	<b>2,815</b>	<b>115%</b>

**Average Attendance per Class and Sessions per Year:**

Class	Attendance Averages / Class			Sessions Offered / Year		
	2011 Actual	2012 YTD	2012 Target (per 3 yr avg)	2011 Actual	2012 YTD	2012 Target
<b>Pre-Paid</b>						
M pm OLC (6 wk)	3.0	5.0	5.0	2	4	4
Tu am Beg (7 wk)	5.9	5.7	5.3	7	6	6
Tu am Interm (7 wk)	4.3	5.7	4.7	4	7	3
Tu am Rally, etc. (6 wk)	3.8	n/a	3.8	4	n/a	3
W pm Proof/Skill (4 wk)	5.1	5.4	5.3	7	10	6
Th pm Puppy (7 wk)	5.1	4.2	4.7	7	5	6
Th pm Beg (7 wk)	8.6	7.0	6.8	7	7	6
Th pm Interm (7 wk)	5.0	4.7	4.9	7	6	6
<b>Drop-In</b>						
M am + pm Obed	16.7	19.7	13.2	45	45	50
Tu am Nov/Open	4.7	5.9	5.6	50	51	50
Tu am Util	4.4	4.5	3.1	50	51	50
Tu pm Rally	2.8	2.4	2.8	50	30	50
W pm Nov/Open	4.7	4.2	5.1	50	49	50



(Data from Jan. – Present. Each data point represents the start of any new pre-paid multi-week session.)



(Data from Jan. – Present. Each data point represents the weekly attendance in drop-in classes.)

## Meet the Members\* – Lynn Kosmakos \*and new instructor for the club

*(Ed Note: This section of the newsletter is devoted to dog life bios of club members)*

My first dog was a Great Dane/St. Bernard cross. I named him Fido because I was four years old and thought that was the name for all dogs.

That was in 1950, and I've lived with dogs ever since. There was a black Cocker Spaniel descended from My Own Brucie (given away by Dave Garroway on the original Today Show), an assortment of Great Danes and Toy Poodles, and everything from Toy Fox Terriers and Collies to a special Rottie/Norwegian Elkhound cross.

Early retirement from the software industry coincided with the dog that changed my life, my first German Shepherd Dog. My plan for Java was a long career in Search and Rescue for the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department. Java had other plans. He was retired after three years, but not to lying on the couch eating bonbons. I continued SAR work with Bloodhounds, and Java and I did obedience, rally, herding, agility, and tracking and protection sports.

I got involved with German Shepherd Rescue because of Java. That led to a stint as Executive Director of Contra Costa Humane Society and my first training experience, classes to prepare foster dogs for permanent homes.

I got hooked on training, joined training and breed clubs, and learned much from the many wonderful trainers in our area. I owe a lot to Loretta Delinger and John O'Connor, who both let me assist in their beginning classes and then take over classes from them.

I now live with my third GSD, Lili (Debrut's Dream a Little Dream CD, PT, RN). In addition to ODTC's Thursday night classes, I teach for the City of Orinda's Recreation Department and have a drop-in drill and practice in Pleasant Hill for foster and newly placed dogs of Contra Costa County SPCA — and anyone who wants to work around the distraction they provide! *(Ed note: This has been a useful training format for me and at least two other ODTC members who do competition obedience.)*

Dogs have been a continual source of joy for me, and training is a never-ending challenge and learning opportunity. I feel like the luckiest woman in the world, spending my time with dogs instead of my first career, which required business suits, pantyhose, and airports.

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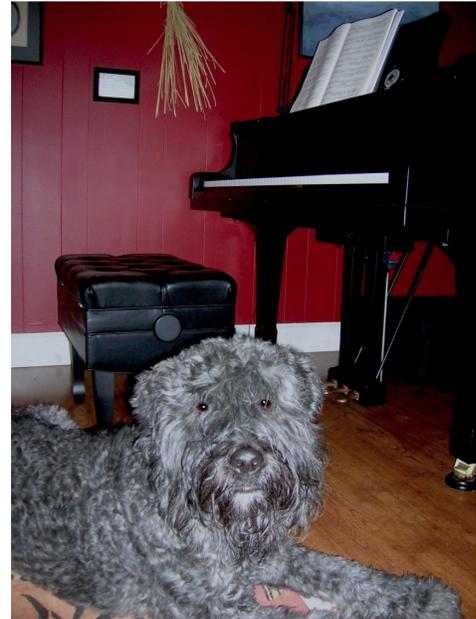
## THE DIVA – Kate Gilpin

I wouldn't tell this to just anybody, but—my four-year-old Bouvier girl Poppy sings when I play the piano. I sit down and start on a piece—I play mostly classical—and she comes trotting into the room from wherever she was, lies down right next to the piano or even under it, stretched on her side as if to sleep, and, within a half-minute, she starts to produce a very faint high-pitched hum. It is at first tentative. But as I continue to play, she develops a gradual *crescendo sostenuto*, until after a minute or so she is producing long, forte howls. It's sort of a cross between Callas doing *Tosca* and White Fang

under the midnight moon. Anyone walking by on the street outside would have no trouble at all hearing both of us. She hasn't moved an inch—she's still lying with her head on the floor as if she were asleep or hypnotized. But she's really throwing herself into it. Her ribs are distended with the effort.

I originally thought it was a serious complaint. My dog, the critic! I also considered the possibility that the music hurt her ears, or that she wanted Mom to get up and pay attention to her. But over time I've concluded—she wants to stay where she is, she's completely relaxed, gives no indication of pain or distress, and it's been going on for almost a year, now—the only likely explanation is that she thinks we are a duet.

She didn't always sing along. The first time Poppy came through my front door I was carrying her—she was eight weeks old and fast asleep. For the first couple of years or so, she was taken up with more immediate issues, like food, and her great-uncle Steinway who was teaching her how to be a well-behaved little girl, and food, and her big brother Buki, the orange Persian cat who made it his chief business to demonstrate to her that she was in the bottom position on the totem pole, and exploring, and food, and considering the distant possibility of peeing outdoors instead of in, and toys, and Mom, and food. What's more, Steinway had never been particularly interested in the piano, so he wasn't going to be the one to teach her music appreciation. Now, Buki the cat had always wanted to get up on the bench while I played, but not Poppy. About halfway through her third year, though, she started noticing the music. Little by little, she developed the habit of settling in nearby and letting the chords wash over her. Apparently It Was Good.



Still, it was many months before it occurred to her that she could join in herself. For quite a while she just lay there soaking up the sounds. Then, one day, apparently the muses moved her: first there was only the hum, tentative and close-mouthed; but little by little, she realized more was possible, she opened up her considerable mouth and, lo, she was a beginning mezzo-soprano! Granted, a mezzo with a beard, but with definite theatrical potential.

Now it happens every time I play. Once I get myself settled in at the keyboard, she's guaranteed to arrive, looking happy and expectant. Then she lies down, and we're off. It took me some time to start laughing at this, and then later it took me some time to stop. But, after all, who are we to mock a dog's love of music? Her favorite seems to be Chopin, with Ravel and Bach coming in second and third. But her tastes are broad. To test her, I played a little dance from the 20<sup>th</sup> century and she immediately took her position in the dog section of the orchestra, singing along happily, and adding a one-note bark in the louder parts.

She's so dedicated I'm beginning to wonder if I should start learning the piano parts to some Schubert lieder. Just think! Poppy singing, "Gretchen at the Spinning Wheel," or "The Trout!" But we'll have to find her some Flemish translations. It's probably too much to expect her to produce the original German. In the meantime, she seems to be content to fling herself into whatever piano music comes along. Attagirl, Pops! Hit that high C!

## **NOI 2012 Experience – Barbara Henry & Lizanne Kaiser**

Hi Everyone,

Many of you will already know the results of the National Obedience Invitational which was held in Orland, Florida, on December 15 and 16. However we would like to share a quick description of how Lizanne Kaiser and her German Shepherd, Dante, and Barbara Henry, and her Irish Terrier, BonnieB, went forth and, while we didn't conquer, we sure did have a wonderful time.

Traveling with dogs is vastly most complicated these days. We started in the backwaters of the San Francisco Airport on Tuesday, December 11, at 12:00 noon filling out endless paperwork which merely resulted in entrusting our dogs to United Airlines and hoping they would be delivered to the plane we were going to board some distance away. We breathed again when a co-pilot assured us that dogs named "Dante" and "Bon" were on board. We were late taking off and landed in Orlando before midnight, which is when all of Lizanne's planning paid off—we were met by a private shuttle van which was just barely big enough to hold our crates and endless luggage (GSD articles and food for a week take up A LOT of space) and our driver delivered us to our hotel by 1:00 a.m. After a walk in the rain and unpacking, Lizanne and I hit our beds at 3:00 a.m

We were up and at 'em by 6:00 a.m. and off to the show venue. Wow, what a walk! From our hotel to the obedience rings was just short of a mile. This made for a great walk for the dogs both morning and night, but it did require time management. The show site was lovely—eight rings, great mats, good benching, even a tiny warm-up ring. Pottying one's dog required foresight since any decent grass was a good 5 minutes' walk

Our plan was to do two days of pre-shows (which are regular obedience trials held in the NOI rings—it gives dogs a chance to feel the mats, get used to the lighting, etc.), take Friday off, and then show the two days of the NOI. Only BonnieB was entered on Wednesday at the first pre-show. She did Versatility since it had go outs--which BonnieB did very well--and Utility which she NQd on, of course, go outs. Lizanne and I did the Thursday show--Dante Qd in both Open/Utility, Bonnie Qd in Open but a no sit put her out of the ribbons. Friday Lizanne and I caught up on sleep and then watched the show and visited and checked out the vendors.

We had several people from the Bay Area who showed--Carol Davis was there with her Schipperke, Misty, Phyllis Dobbs showed her GSD, Rex. Laurie Sasaki came out to cheer everyone on. Stephanie Gomez judged—she was dynamite on Saturday, but she was flattened with flu on Sunday and had to stay in her bed, much to her chagrin. AKC didn't miss a beat though. They rounded up a replacement and judging started on time. I sure am glad I was not the "trial secretary" who received that call on Sunday morning.

Winner of the NOI was Ward Falkner and his Golden, Zoom, who also won last year. He eked out that honor by beating Dave Mauer and his Golden, Buster by 1/2 point in the very last ring judged by Alice Peterson (you may remember Alice who judged recently in our area). Ward and Dave were tied, Alice had no idea, and Ward came out of the ring 1/2 point ahead of Dave. Very thrilling. The detailed results can be found on the AKC website.

The format for the NOI is two days of competition, and two sets of both Open and Utility divided among 8 rings each day. One set of sits/downs is performed on Saturday only. The order of exercises in each ring is changed each day. One change made this year is that your point loss was shown on a paddle immediately after you performed (like the old Gaines events) so you could easily track how you were doing--and if you had time, how others were doing. All the scores were posted on boards as soon as they were tallied. This proved to be much more exciting for exhibitors and spectators. And AKC had two knowledgeable judges, Ken and Amy Kincaid, describing exercises and doing a bio of each of the competitors as they entered two of the rings. It was very well done.

At the end of two very long days, Lizanne and I thought our dogs did a superb job. Lizanne and Dante performed beautifully--they were a wonderful representative of the GSD breed and good, clean handling. They received many compliments, all of them well deserved. They had clean runs both days with the pesky exception of 1 NQ both days--missing the Retrieve Over High Jump each day. Guess what Lizanne has been working on. Since GSDs are, unfortunately, in the Herding Group (oh oh, think border collies), Lizanne did not manage a placement this time. However, she came in 3rd in her breed, just behind the two top GSDs in the country. Dante was breathing heavily down their necks and as he gains more experience he will, I believe, surpass them. He is one reliable guy! And he and Lizanne are such a lovely picture in the ring.

BonnieB performed beyond my expectations--which, as you might guess, were set low because of her distractability and generally goofy personality. We all know her nemesis is sitting on the go outs. On the first day of competition she was unable to sit on my first command in both rings with directed jumping and we lost 40 points each ring. That is a killer. She also lost her focus in the ring which had a Retrieve on Flat followed by Scent Articles. The ROF was done diagonally across the ring. The handler then turned 45 degrees and did the articles. Although I indicated the article pile to her, when I sent her for the first article she ran to the corner where the retrieve had been, then returned toward me, puzzled because there was no dumbbell. I chose to point and repeat the "find it" command which oriented her toward the pile and she completed the articles nicely after that. However, it was another NQ for 30 points. The remainder of her work was excellent, including heeling. Her other deductions were for crooked fronts. The second day Bonnie did not NQ a single exercise, including her go outs (she walked in on the first two and was docked 6 points on each; the final two she did very well). She was a bit more tired, but she worked well--again her deducts were for fronts/finishes. At the end, we earned 3rd place in the Terrier Group. In the "would have" category--had she managed her go outs she would have easily won the Terrier Group. It made no difference to me--she was a princess in my eyes and surpassed my expectations.

Lizanne and I had absolutely the best time at the NOI. We met so many nice people and dogs, traded stories, talked obedience, talked obedience, talked .....And let me tell you, traveling with a German Shepherd is the only way to go. Everyone notices you because apparently everyone has had a GSD in their life and wants to talk about it. On the other hand, absolutely no one knows what an Irish Terrier is, so Bonnie is like the Stealth plane flying under the radar. And because our dogs are so well behaved and sociable, all the people at the airport, hotel, etc. who helped us were especially kind and caring. I am here to tell you that obedience training really does pay off. Although traveling with the dogs was a bit of worry and hassle (and not cheap), with the help of many kind hands along the way, they made it to Orlando and back in excellent shape. Whew!

If you ever have the chance to go to this event--do it! The Invitational is changing its name and will become the National Obedience Championship and is changing its venue to Tulsa, OK, and its date to March. Lizanne is warming up the engines and I am promising BonnieB steak and eggs for a year if she will join me just one more time. There will be a new type of competition in Orlando in December featuring a format similar to the old Gaines events—separate competitions for Novice, Open, Utility and Masters (think Superdog) with score-based entrance requirements. Come on guys—work hard and think about it. AKC really is reaching out to the obedience community.

Thanks to all of you for your well wishes and support. It was much appreciated.

Barbara and Lizanne

## **What the dogs have taught me – Woujie Mailer**

*(Ed. Note: This a regular series about training topics and our dogs.)*

What my dog Gader (Int'l Ch Hotwires Gitalong U Renegade CD AKC, CDX ASCA), taught me-

For every day of his life, since he was 2 years old, Gader suffered. He suffered with open wounds that would not heal and bled continuously. He suffered from the effects of medication that he took to control his numerous auto-immune issues. He suffered at not being allowed to play and run freely with the other dogs. He suffered because his skin was so tender that if he wrestled with one of the other dogs he would bleed. And he suffered tremendously this past 18 months, as he saw 10 different doctors and underwent multiple surgeries/medications/biopsies to determine, what if anything could be done to heal him. And while suffering, he also showed an inquisitive and loyal spirit and a desire to keep training/showing and being with his mom.

Now, that he has undergone a miraculous transformation and is apparently healed, I reflect daily on what he has taught me.

He taught me to never give up; to accept adversity and not lash out at those close to you; to maintain dignity in the most trying of circumstances; and to wake up every day with desire and enjoyment at being alive.

## **Oops!**

*Ed. Note: No errors to report. Good girl!*

## **Congratulations!**

*(Brag must be submitted in writing. I don't dare try to be responsible for remembering ones relayed to me orally. Email is preferred (h\_olbrich@sbcglobal.net), because it is easy and accurate to transfer the brag directly from the message to the next issue, but any written format is just fine.)*

Ladybug finished her MXJ in September and her MX in November of 2012, placing in almost all her qualifying runs. She finished her CDX this weekend (Mission Bell), with a 4th place in Open B yesterday and 3rd place in Open B today. She actually finished the title with 2 legs yesterday...today was just for fun! – Laurie Raz-Astrakhan

Int'l Ch Hotwire's Gitalong U Renegade, CDX ASCA/CD AKC qualified to compete in the Australian Shepherd Finals in the Open Class and placed 5th after 4 rounds of competition. He has that title for the year. Woujie Mailer

Granada's Renegade CottonCandy, BN, CD AKC finished her CD in 3 consecutive trials with 1 first, and 2 second placements. – Woujie Mailer

Spencer earned his 3rd and 4th legs in Rally Advanced with very nice scores. Most wonderful was that he was happy while working. -- Zanna knight

Just got the Australian Shepherd Journal (AKC) Vista is #2 Excellent Sheep and Ranger is #4 Excellent Sheep. YAhooooo Yippeeeee. Way to go Jill for all your training and friendship. OMG flying high. Ranger has been invited to the NOI in March. I may never come down from the clouds. – Lora Cox