

# Woofs and Waggers

(Newsletter of the Oakland Dog Training Club)  
January/February 2016

Class and General Information – 510-339-3276

Website: <http://oaklanddogtraining.org>

**Mailing Address: 6114 LaSalle #415, Oakland, CA 94611**

## Officers and Committee Chairs – 2015/2016

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<b>Committees</b>			
Tracking Test '16	NO TEST THIS YEAR		
Obedience Trial '16 (May 22)	Debbi Hankins		<a href="mailto:deborah_hankins@comcast.net">deborah_hankins@comcast.net</a>
Agility Trial '16			
Newsletter Editor	Hazel Olbrich		<a href="mailto:h_olbrich@sbcglobal.net">h_olbrich@sbcglobal.net</a>
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AOCNC Reps	Harriet Tucker Debra Dove Amy Kitay		<a href="mailto:hafpas@comcast.net">hafpas@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:albanyclan@comcast.net">albanyclan@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:tavchon@earthlink.net">tavchon@earthlink.net</a>

## Club Calendar

Jan 31(Sunday)	Members' Match	Cal State EB, 9 AM
Feb 27 (Saturday)	Members' Match	Cal State EB, 9 AM
Mar 20(Sunday)	Members' Match and General Meeting	Cal State EB, 9 AM
May 22 (Sunday)	Obedience Trial	Cal State EB

# President's Message – Jack McCredie

## Closing the Club's Fiscal Year 2015

On December 11, Sue Harvey once again hosted a wonderful holiday party for Oakland Dog Training Club members and friends. This traditional event signaled the end of the 2015 fiscal year for ODTC and the start of another exciting, educational, and productive year for our approximately 120 members. The trustees presented their semi-annual audit report showing that once again our financial results are positive and right on target. Treasurer Debbi Hankins distributed operating statements for the year documenting that the club's income of \$76,46 was \$8,380 more than FY15 expenses and that the club's reserve funds now stand at a very healthy \$81,272. Membership continues to remain stable, and in fact is growing slowly.

Please remember to pay your 2016 dues!!

[http://oaklanddogtraining.org/Annual\\_ODTC\\_Membership\\_renewal\\_form.pdf](http://oaklanddogtraining.org/Annual_ODTC_Membership_renewal_form.pdf)

Many dog training clubs are not as fortunate as we are to have such a strong, sustainable financial base, and most importantly, a membership of committed volunteers dedicated to providing an excellent environment where members can learn, have fun, build friendships, and develop strong bonds with their dogs.

## Resolution to move forward with improvements to the Training Hall

At the conclusion of a great dinner at the party, club members remained for a short business meeting. After the discussion of financial results reported above, they were asked to consider the following formal resolution. Constituting a quorum, they voted by acclamation to give the board the authority to continue moving forward with the recommended plans to improve the facilities at the Training Hall. We are evaluating the soundness of the roof, the doors, the drainpipes, etc. in the face of El Nino before moving ahead. We will keep you informed as we learn more about scheduling this project.

Whereas the Board of the Oakland Dog Training Club has considered and approved several proposals to improve the Training Hall at Jacuzzi Street, and

Whereas the unrestricted cash balances of the ODTC are currently \$81,272, and

Whereas the members of the ODTC have discussed various proposals to improve the floor matting at the Training Hall

It is resolved that the members of the ODTC give its board of directors the authority to spend approximately \$20,000 of its reserve funds during 2016 on the following projects

- (1) purchase and install new floor mats (~\$16,000)
- (2) purchase and install new lights (~\$3,700)
- (3) purchase and install new floor heaters with timers (~\$300)

## **ODTC Tracking Test 2016 Cancelled**

Unfortunately, I was not able to find enough volunteers to staff our traditional April Tracking Tests in the Morgan Territory Reserve. We have released the event reservation with the East Bay Regional Park System and cancelled the entry with the American Kennel Club. We all hope that schedules in 2017 will enable us to return once again to this wonderful location to sponsor our spring Tracking Tests.

## **Remembering Bingo**

As many of you know, Bingo died early in January after a short battle with cancer. We, and he, did not know he was ill until a few short weeks ago. So his passing was a great shock to Yvonne and me, as well as to his many friends throughout our extended community. Dogs are wonderful companions; Portuguese Water Dogs are special; and Bingo was exceptional. Where is he when it is time to fetch the newspaper first thing in the morning, or play Frisbee late in the afternoon, or walk the lagoon, or, or, or?

Yvonne and I have enjoyed the companionship of several wonderful dogs from the first months we were married. It never gets easy to say goodbye when they pass, even when we know with certainty that it is time. Yvonne reminds me that Bingo came into our lives a few months after I retired from full time employment at UC Berkeley. That is one reason why we became so close; the other reason is simply that he was Bingo, the most fun loving and devoted friend one could ever want to have.

In this crazy world, there are certainly more tragic events than losing a dog to an illness. However, you all know how much these wonderful companions mean in our daily lives and we thank you for helping to make his times at ODTC so educational and enjoyable. Yvonne and I sincerely thank all who have shared notes and calls with us to let us know that you understand and share our loss. Your friendship means a great deal!

## **Editor's Notes – Hazel Olbrich**

Is it possible that I don't have anything to say? No news from our house. Do note that we do have a general meeting at our Members' Match in March! See you there.

## **Membership Report – Sharon Vannucchi**

Oakland dog training club gladly welcomes all of the new members. We appreciate your membership, and participating in our club functions.

We have had quite a few new members this past year; more so than usual.

Thank you all...we appreciate your time and effort.

## **Highlights from the Web – Lori Drouin**

*(Ed Note: Lori has agreed to share her finds on the web.. Thank you, Lori!)*

Once again, talented trainer and instructor Matthew Twitty has come up with an excellent view of how to think about heeling as a multi-layered exercise. I don't know if everyone will consider this good news or bad news, but if heeling isn't your dog's best exercise, it's worth reading and seeing if you can find the missing layer!

<https://www.facebook.com/lakelandcanineacademy/posts/1094776150534812>

*(Ed note: You have to be on Facebook to see this article, but you don't have to be a friend of Matthew Twitty.)* This article about balance in training deserves a thoughtful read, especially for trainers who are trying really hard to only ever be nice to their dogs, and are nicely still dealing with the same problems for the third or fourth year in a row.

### [When Did Balance Become A Dirty Word - Karma Performance](#)

One must draw one's own conclusions, but in an area where we are inundated with training programs that focus almost wholly on "force free" and pure use of positive reinforcement, it's good to step back from what we have been TOLD is science, and appreciate just how different our dogs and their lives are from pigeons, rats and mice or dolphins trained in carefully structured enclosures that they don't ever leave.

For folks looking for better retrieves for obedience and field work, or perhaps for drills to improve your current training, check out this book:

<http://www.amazon.com/Training-Retrievers-Marshes-Meadows-Spencer/dp/1577790073> .

Regardless of method one chooses, the process of teaching and developing and proofing a reliable retrieve will change your whole training relationship and reveal aspects of your dog's personality you didn't know were there. And it often reveals some layers of your own personality that you maybe don't tap into very often.

This video has some ideas on teaching rear end awareness, and I figure for winter time training where we'd rather be indoors, it could be some entertainment for dog and trainer alike.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5O7mS4bICF8> .

*(Ed Note: This may take a long time to pull up – or maybe my internet connection is just being balky today.)* Just remember that it actually is possible to teach dogs to do too much tweaking of their rear ends, resulting in pulled in halts. So be sure to work motion in both directions. You don't actually need to work pivot work with sits at all.

## **Business Plan Update – Lizanne Kaiser**

*This report is prepared twice a year in June and December. This is a placeholder in my newsletter template.*

## Report from the 2015 Classic – Lisa Fullam



On a rainy night last December, my boxer Sally and I hopped a red-eye for Orlando, Florida, to take part in the 2015 AKC Obedience Classic. More than 6100 dogs were entered in several simultaneous events: we shared the Orange County Convention Center with the National Owner Handler Series Finals, the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, the AKC Agility Invitational, and the NADD/AKC National Championship for dock diving. Obedience included a teams event, and a Juniors obedience and Rally division. All in all, it was a wonderfully busy, noisy, chaotic and altogether delightful place to be.

In the obedience competition, each dog ran three times over two days; teams in the Masters class ran three times each

in Open and Utility. The Classic isn't a championship: while many of the "best of the best" were there, plenty of, um, "not the best of the best" teams were there as well, competing for fun, to enjoy the company of the other competitors, to check out the other events, and, for many of us, to vie for the medallions awarded by breed clubs for high score of dozens of breeds. A semi-brag: while Sally and I weren't even in the neighborhood of the top 10 in our class, (won by Constance Cleveland and her Labrador retriever Goldstar Steadfast Nathan with a stunning 597.5/600,) we came in second of the 3 boxers there. Okay, we were second by a LONG way, but still second! (For complete results, go to <http://akccompanioneventresults.com/default.aspx?aid=26>. Videos of several of the events can be seen at <http://live.eukanuba.com/videos>).



# Training Tools – Topics/Schedule 2016

**Instructors:** Barbara Henry & Lizanne Kaiser

**Description/Schedule:** In 2016, Oakland Dog Training Club will continue to offer our **Training Tools** classes—a series of monthly classes addressing various dog training skills. The four-week sessions are held in the even months (February, April, June, August, October, December) on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. (occasional conflicts may require slight schedule adjustments). The 2016 topics and start dates are:

1. **February 2 – Broad Jump: The River is Wide.** This session will explore various methods of conditioning a high energy, motivated, centered broad jump followed by a straight run out after the jump and a tight, focused turn to handler.
2. **April 5 – Halt! Cure the ‘No Sit’ Blues.** This session will help the handler teach a dog to sit promptly and accurately and show handlers how to develop and deliver consistent cues and footwork so the dog knows when to sit.
3. **June 7 – Retrieves: Here, There, Everywhere.** This session will work on *proofing* the dog’s dumbbell retrieve skill progressions—hold, pickup, carry—using distractions of many kinds, in order to strengthen the dog’s understanding and performance of the retrieve task. The class requires enrollees’ dogs to have a solid retrieve off the floor. **The class is not designed to teach a dog how to retrieve.**
4. **August 2 – Heeling: Anything But Straight.** This session will use heeling in giant Figure 8’s, circles of all sizes, serpentines and pivots to refine the dog’s ability to perform left/right/about turns and Figure 8’s by making appropriate adjustments to its drive, body curvature and balance in response to the handler’s changes of speed and direction.
5. **October 4 – Attention: Surprise! You Better Watch Me.** This session offers ways to improve the dog’s ability to actively focus on the handler both when the handler is walking away from the dog (e.g., recall, drop on recall, signals) and when the handler is standing stationary at a distance from the dog (e.g., signal and directed jumping exercises). This session will focus on attention at a distance; it will not cover close-up attention (in Heel or Front position).
6. **December 6 – Signals: Why Are You Waving at Me?** This session will show the handler how to install quick, reliable responses to the hand signals used in Utility Signals (stand, down, sit, come) and avoid some of the pitfalls encountered as distance is added to this exercise.

**Cost:** \$80 pre-paid for 4-week session; **class size limited**

**Requirements:** Dogs must have completed a beginning pet or novice obedience class and must be able to work in a group setting without disrupting other dogs. For the Heeling classes, the work will be done on-leash, but it would be useful for the dog to have a meaningful knowledge of heel position and attention; the classes will not teach a dog how to heel. For the Retrieve class, dogs must have a solid retrieve off the floor—the class is not intended to teach a dog how to retrieve. The classes are designed to build new skills as well as polish existing ones and will be of use to both novice and advanced handlers.

**Class size is limited—enroll early.** To enroll, please call ODTTC at 510-339-3276 to confirm that there is an opening in the class; if there is, send a check to ODTTC to hold the space. Questions about the classes? E-mail either of the instructors--[BLGKatie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:BLGKatie@sbcglobal.net) (Barbara Henry) or [mrfiacra@yahoo.com](mailto:mrfiacra@yahoo.com) (Lizanne Kaiser).

## **GUIDELINES FOR TRAINING HALL USE**

ODTTC's training hall is a wonderful resource available for use by all Club members. Keeping the hall tidy is a responsibility that should be shared by every person who uses it. When using the hall for practice sessions, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

1. **Put things back in the same place you found them.** If you take ring tape out of the tape box, put it back. If you use plastic targets, put them back in the target box. If you use the ring rope holders, put them back against the wall. You get the idea.
2. **Be sure the feet are on the plastic baby gates** when you store them.
3. **Place all unused food/drink/training treats in the garbage.** The hall had a serious mouse problem several years ago because of food/treats being left around the hall. A mouse has been spotted recently—please, seal and dispose of leftover food in the garbage can outside the hall's front door.
4. **If you empty a water jug on top of the refrigerator, fill it up.**
5. **If you remove a garbage bag, please place a fresh bag in the garbage can.** Bags can be found on a shelf in the storage room.
6. **If liquid is spilled on the mats, clean it up thoroughly.** Don't just dab with a paper towel. If you empty the spray bottle of Nature's Miracle, refill the bottle from the supply in the storage room. Same goes for the water spray bottle—you empty it, you fill it up.
7. **Don't "donate" stuff to the training hall** without prior approval. If you have extra obedience equipment or a training tool that you believe would be useful to other people in training their dogs, please email Hazel Olbrich (head of Training Committee) or Barbara Henry (Hall Custodian) and run it by them. Don't simply leave items at the hall. While we appreciate that certain items would be useful, unfortunately the hall has a finite amount of space and it simply cannot accommodate everyone's extras and castoffs.
8. **If you notice that something is broken or not working at the hall, contact Barbara Henry or Hazel Olbrich.** If there is an emergency at Jacuzzi Center or the training hall, contact phone numbers for the property managers are posted on the bulletin board by the refrigerator.

Your assistance in keeping the training hall tidy and clean will make everyone's hall experience better. Thank you so much.

## What the dogs have taught us – Kathy Miller

*(Ed. Note: This is a regular series about training topics and our dogs. Contributions are always welcome! Contact me if you are interested in contributing. )*

### Memorable Moments

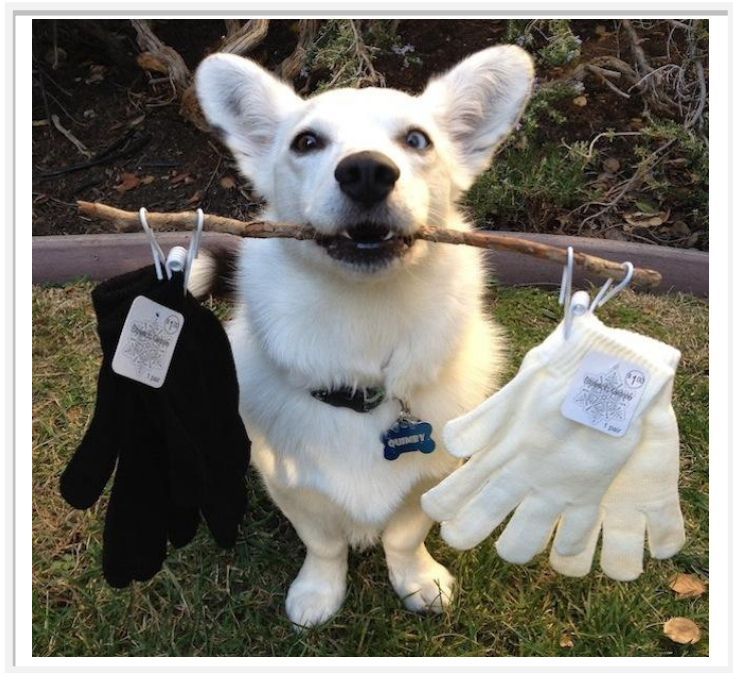
December 14, 2015

It's time for the holidays. My house is a disaster. I have too many to do lists, and am feeling frazzled in general. Sound familiar?

But this evening, I had a momentary break from the chaos. I walked by a ceramic vase in my family room and saw the stick. Just the one, poking out of the top of the vase. Just a regular, bit of a tree branch that blew to the ground in the wind. Or maybe it just got too heavy and the tree dropped it, just because.

But this isn't an ordinary stick. It's the key to a special memory. In October Quimby and I went to the Del Valle obedience trials. During a break we were playing outside and Quimby found this stick. In an instant she'd made a toy out of it. We played with it for awhile. She was so happy with that stick and I can still see the smile on her face when she found it.

When it was time to go back inside, Quimby insisted on bringing the stick. I thought, "Well, if you're going to carry it all the way around this big building, you can have it." I figured she'd drop it along the way, but she didn't.



As we made our way numerous people spied Quimby with her stick. They smiled, they snickered, they gave me knowing looks. And everyone who saw her laughed. She carried her new prize proudly, head up, ears perked. The joy that emanated from one small dog with a stick created a number of perfect little moments.

I enjoyed that little walk. It was the best part of the day. My dog has a gift for creating those moments. It's my job to stop long enough to see them! I don't always remember to do that, but now I have a reminder!

(And you never know when you may need a handy stick for some practical use!)



## **Finding Training Tools in Unexpected Places**

*December 15, 2015*

As a comparatively new obedience handler, 2015 was a year in which I learned just how creative one can be by inventing tools to help with the training process. Seriously, where would we all be without PVC pipe? It has become clear just how many options the local hardware store has to offer!

That said, I certainly wasn't expecting to find training tools when I walked into *Jo-Ann Fabrics & Crafts* recently! As I approached the checkout line, there was a bin with the week's featured items – gloves! That's right, nice little knitted gloves that were perfect for my small-medium sized dog! They were just the right size, weight and color! And at \$1.00/pair, the price was certainly right!

But wait...there's more! In the same bin were the cutest itty-bitty mittens (meant for little kids). Not only were they *really* adorable, but they were black – the perfect item for blind retrieve practice. And a bargain at \$.50/pair! (Yes, I bought some as gifts!)

Quimby loved her new “toys” and, as a training nerd, I loved finding a great solution and a good bargain. You never know where the next great tool might be hiding!

## **Meet the Members**

*N contributions this month ☺*

## **Oops!**

No goofs to apologize for this month!

## **Congratulations!**

*(Brag and stories 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.)*

December 5th 2015 Fame finished his AKC Championship at the Shoreline Dog Fanciers Show in Costa Mesa Ca. Fame is officially now;CH Nat'Int CH ROCKVILLE'S SF GIANTS HALL OF FAME CGCA, CGCU 100% owner Handled by his completely noob mom.Friday Fame earned his first leg in Beginner Novice B with a 195 and 3rd place , if his dopy mom hadn't given him two commands he would have had 1st place, but hey, that's what I'm here for. Sunday and Monday we competed as Specials for BOB with the rest of the Champions. More to come as a dog grows into that puppy body. -- Taria Sarkisian

Ladybug was invited to compete in Obedience at the Westminster Kennel Club trial in New York City in February. She qualified because she ranked in the top 150 dogs based on OTCH points earned at AKC Obedience Trials in 2015.I don't plan to go, but it was a great honor to be invited.—Laurie Raz-Astrakhan