

# Woofs and Waggers

(Newsletter of the Oakland Dog Training Club)  
July/August 2015

Class and General Information – 510-339-3276

Website: <http://oaklanddogtraining.org>

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

## Officers and Committee Chairs – 2013/2014

President	Jack McCredie	510-749-9957	<a href="mailto:mccredie@berkeley.edu">mccredie@berkeley.edu</a>
Vice-Pres	Lora Cox	408-387-4093	<a href="mailto:lora@rosscox.com">lora@rosscox.com</a>
Treasurer	Debbi Hankins	925-335-9610	<a href="mailto:deborah_hankins@comcast.net">deborah_hankins@comcast.net</a>
Secretary	Diane Aven	510-799-0171	<a href="mailto:dianeaven@sbcglobal.net">dianeaven@sbcglobal.net</a>
Membership	Sharon Vannucchi	925-356-5631	<a href="mailto:lilchuckiesmom@aol.com">lilchuckiesmom@aol.com</a>
Director	Ann Collins	510-523-3422	<a href="mailto:ahcollins5@aol.com">ahcollins5@aol.com</a>
Director	Meigs Mathesen	510-333-5773	<a href="mailto:mooncats7@aol.com">mooncats7@aol.com</a>
Director	Mary Lemon	925-820-8620	<a href="mailto:yukonmary@comcast.net">yukonmary@comcast.net</a>
Sr. Trustee	Joyce Brown	510-653-0696	<a href="mailto:joyce_brown@yahoo.com">joyce_brown@yahoo.com</a>
Jr. Trustee	Elaine Gray	650-960-0655	<a href="mailto:elainecagray@gmail.com">elainecagray@gmail.com</a>
<b>Committees</b>			
Workshop '15 (March)	Sabbatical year		
Tracking Test '15 (April)	Jack McCredie		<a href="mailto:mccredie@berkeley.edu">mccredie@berkeley.edu</a>
Obedience Trial '15 (May 17)	Debbi Hankins		<a href="mailto:deborah_hankins@comcast.net">deborah_hankins@comcast.net</a>
Agility Trial '15	Bye year		
Newsletter Editor	Hazel Olbrich		<a href="mailto:h_olbrich@sbcglobal.net">h_olbrich@sbcglobal.net</a>
Training Committee	Hazel Olbrich		<a href="mailto:h_olbrich@sbcglobal.net">h_olbrich@sbcglobal.net</a>
Hall Rent to Members	Amy Cook		<a href="mailto:amy@palisandra.com">amy@palisandra.com</a>
Webmaster	Joyce Gross		<a href="mailto:joyceg@berkeley.edu">joyceg@berkeley.edu</a>
Class Registrar	Sue Harvey		510-339-3276
Legislative Rep	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>		
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

Aug 9 ( Sun)	Members' Match	CSEB, Hayward ( 8 AM start time – summer)
Aug 14 (Friday)	Monthly Friday Class	Training Hall, 11 AM and 12:30 PM
Sept 18 (Friday)	Monthly Friday Class	Training Hall, 11 AM and 12:30 PM
Sept 19(Sat)	Members' Match	CSEB, Hayward ( 8 AM start time – summer)

## President's Message – Jack McCredie

At our annual meeting on June 7, club members celebrated the 54 AKC titles earned by 27 ODTc teams throughout 2014. Since many individuals were unable to attend the meeting in person, I thought that you would enjoy recognizing the wonderful achievements presented in the table on the next page. Your support, mentoring, and coaching helped to make many of these accomplishments possible.

In addition, the selection committee announced that Lynn Kosmakos would receive the 2015 AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award for the Oakland Dog Training Club:

<http://www.akc.org/clubs/promote/akc-outstanding-sportsmanship-award/>

The AKC describes this reward as follows.

"The American Kennel Club sponsors the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award and lists the recipients of the award in the "Awards and Honors" section of the AKC web site. In the AKC's ongoing effort to recognize and celebrate its volunteer club members, the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award program was established to provide each member club with an AKC Medallion to award to one of its own on a yearly basis.

This award honors those individuals who have made a significant difference in the sport of purebred dogs, embodied the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, and have been an active and valued member of an AKC member club. Medallions are awarded solely at the club's discretion."

Congratulation to all!

At our member meeting on March 14, Patti Hartney volunteered to explore various local dog support organizations that would benefit from philanthropic assistance from our club. Lisa Fullam joined with Patti and they have named this project "***Paws for Community.***" Recently they developed a preliminary report suggesting several areas for consideration that will be reviewed by the board and presented to the membership for consideration at future meetings. We are also asking ODTc members to send additional suggestions to Patti and Lisa to expand the number of potential organizations that should be considered.

Patti's contact information is: [lunak9s@yahoo.com](mailto:lunak9s@yahoo.com) and Lisa's is: [lfullam@jstb.edu](mailto:lfullam@jstb.edu)

<b>HANDLER</b>	<b>TEAM STAR</b>	<b>2014 TITLES</b>
Berger, Nancy	Champy	CDX
Callahan, Micki	Aretha	RE
Capps, Helen Marie	Striker	RAE VD
Corrigan, Fran	Katsu	RN
Dove, Debra	Gauge	PT UD
Dove, Debra	Kable	BN RN
Duncan, Jasen	Shasta	HT PT
Eeles, Sarah	Rosie	BN RN
Fullam, Lisa	Sally	CD
Gaponoff, Sharma	Indi	RAE2
Gaponoff, Sharma	Izzi	RA RE BN CD
Hankins, Debbi	Banshee	CD
Harvey, Sue	Sabrina	BN RN
Kaiser, Lizanne	Dante	UDX6 OM9 VER TD
Lemon, Mary	Spirit	CGC
Li, Paula	Magic	RN
McCredie, Jack	Bingo	OAJ THD
McGrail, Joanne	Spirit	BN RA RE
Miller, Kathy	Quimby	RAE2 RAE3 UD
Olbrich, Hazel	Sam	UDX OM VER
Raz-Astrakhan, Laurie	Ladybug	MACH OM1 MXB MJB
Tucker, Harriet	Banjo	CDX
Vannucchi, Sharon	Journey	RN BN
Wallace, Wendy	Tristan	NA NAJ HSAs
Wallace, Wendy	Bryce	RN MXF
Ward, Patty	Annie	VER
Welch, Ki	Connor	THD CA

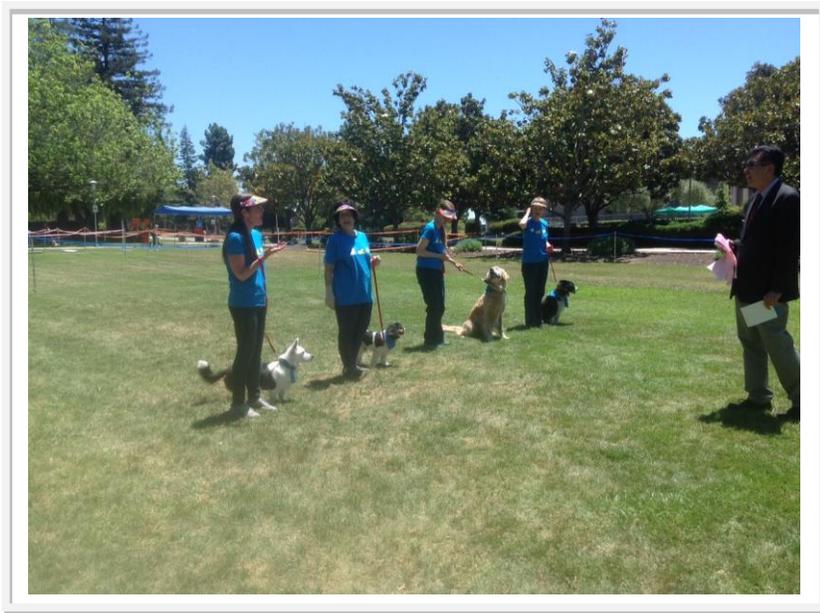
## Editor's Notes – Hazel Olbrich

We've had some upheaval at our house these last two months because, at last, we bit the bullet and had both our front and backyards re-hardscaped. This means we have not had, for all practical purposes, a backyard for the dogs. So our daily lives now include two trips to the park, morning and evening. The work is just about done and we are looking forward to getting back to a normal schedule.

Training tip: Make it easy for yourself. For me this means that I keep my training gear in the car and that I use treats that I can keep in the car (I buy commercial treats – right now we are in our Charlie Bear and Tricky Trainer phase). So all I have to do is put the dogs in the car and head off to the park (our house is on a hillside, so we have very little training space at home).

Sent as a separate PDF (called Random Little Tidbits #5) with the permission of the author, John Cox, is a summary of the significant revisions of the regulations that are in effect as of December 1, 2015. Please don't ask me about them – I have judging assignments before that date and prefer to keep my mind clear on the current regulations.

Team Oakland represented the club very well at Deep Peninsula Dog training club. Here's a photo from the awards ceremony.



Left to right

Kathy Miller and Quimby  
Zanna Knight and Spenser  
Meigs Matheson and River  
Laurie Raz-Astrakhan and Lady Bug

Judges were Alvin Eng (shown in the photo) and Bea Moore

*(Note shown: Hazel Olbrich and Sam, the alternate)*

*Changing my hat from editor to training director:* Our evening pet dog classes that started this week (July 23) had just 3 dogs for beginning and no puppies. We usually have a lull in the summer, but this is more than usual. We really do need someone to spend a few hours developing and implementing a marketing plan for our pet dog classes. Lynn Kosmakos has made an Excel spreadsheet that contains the contact information for everyone that has signed a waiver in the last two and one-half years, which is a great start. Please consider stepping up to the plate to implement some marketing activities and making Jack McCredie very happy with your call to volunteer.

## **Summertime Policy re open windows at the Hall – Hazel Olbrich**

See newsletter or Jack McCredie for details.

## **RIP – Melba Scheid**

Submitted by Helen Marie Capps

Shirley, Kim and I just returned from the memorial services for Melba Scheid. I thought I should pass along the information since Melba (and Earl) had been such a BIG part of the dog obedience world for so many years.

She had lost Earl in 2007 and until she fell and injured her back a couple of times she still had her Wire Fox Terriers. Melba celebrated her 93 birthday in April among dog friends at a board and care home.

Many of her Wire Fox, conformation, obedience and Elks Lodge friends were at the memorial for a final 'farewell'. There were many beautiful photos of Melba throughout her life on the tables with ceramic statues of Wire Fox Terriers. Donations to the North Bay Animal Shelter or local ASPCA if desired.

We are going to miss this wonderful 'dog' person. Shirley, Kim and I visited her monthly for coffee and 'sweets' during the past years.

## **Membership Report – Sharon Vannucchi**

*No news this month*

## **New Monday Evening Drop-In Classes for Pet Dog Training! --Hazel Olbrich**

Looking for a way to make our training more available to the pet dog owner, we are trying out a drop-in format for people looking for more training but unable to commit to a prepaid class. Pre-requisite is the completion of the ODTTC beginning class, or permission of the instructor, Lynn Kosmakos. The class is held on Mondays at 7:30: cost is \$15. This class can also have a place in the training of a competition obedience dog; I take Titania there for exposure to new dogs in a training situation. Please get the word out.

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

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

## **CGC Program Report – Lynn Kosmakos**

The AKC has greatly expanded the Canine Good Citizen program. What was formerly 1 certificate is now 3 titles and 1 certificate:

S.T.A.R. Puppy (certificate) - earned by puppies who attend 6 classes and can demonstrate the skills required.

CGC - the former Canine Good Citizen certificate, now a title.

CGCA - Community Canine, an Advanced Canine Good Citizen title with increased skills such as walking past food on the ground.

CGCU - Urban Canine Good Citizen, demonstrating skills specific to urban environments such as working around traffic, in building lobbies and elevators.

ODTC is now able to offer the full spectrum. In the past year our members and students have earned 11 S.T.A.R. Puppy certificates, 1 CGCA and 14 CGC titles through the club. Finding an appropriate location for the Urban CGC test was a challenge. The El Cerrito BART station meets all of the criteria and is the site for our 1st CGCU test on July 28. On July 13 new CGC titles were earned by Paula Li and Magic (PWD), Judy Quan and Sunny (Sheltie), and Mitchell Goodstein and Estee. On July 28 two new CGC titles were earned by Lora Cox and Scout, (Aussie) and Marian Pott with Hud( GSD). An additional title CGCU (Urban) was earned by Taria Sarkisian and Fame (Weim).

Flyers for each of the 3 titles will be available in the publications rack in the training hall and full descriptions are on the AKC website. Skills practice has been added to the Monday evening drop in class. Our goal is to offer a minimum of 3 CGC tests a year and 1 each of the more advanced versions.

The CGC is a prerequisite for either CGCA or CGCU. The AKC has a major public outreach campaign each September called Responsible Dog Ownership Days. ODTC will be taking part in that by offering a CGC test on September 21.

- Lynn Kosmakos (CGC Evaluator # 7364)

## **Training Tools Classes in 2015 – Foundation Skills for Obedience and Rally**

Barbara Henry and Lizanne Kaiser will continue teaching the Training Tools classes every-other month on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm. Each month focuses on a different topic. Sessions are pre-enrolled and limited to 8 students. To reserve a slot, please contact the registrar, Sue Harvey, at 510-339-3276 and mail your check into the club (\$80 for 4 weeks).

Here is a list of topics for the remainder of the year (subject to change). If there is a particular topic you're interested in that you would like to see added, please send your suggestions to the instructors, Barbara ([blgkatie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:blgkatie@sbcglobal.net)) and Lizanne ([mrfiacra@yahoo.com](mailto:mrfiacra@yahoo.com)).

## Monthly Sessions

October -- Marking: Targets, Gloves & Go-outs

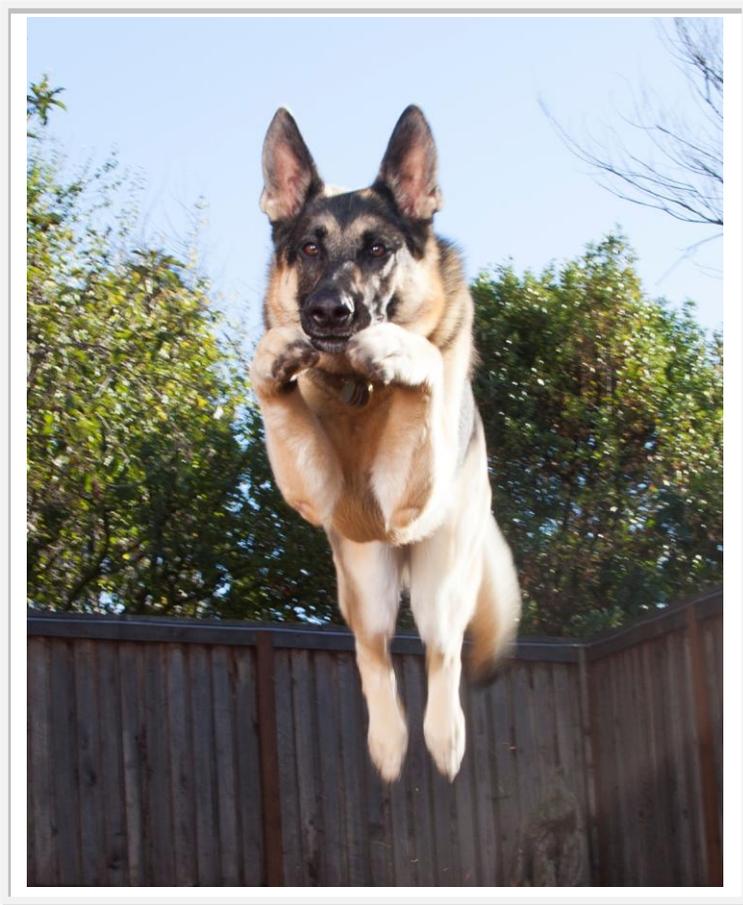
December -- Jumping Skills (High, Bar, Broad)

Thank you for supporting Oakland Dog Training Club!

## **What the dogs have taught me – Lizanne Kaiser**

*(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. )*

## **What the OGM has taught us...**



### **Dante in jumping form!**

Photo Courtesy of J.  
Michael Tucker

I am pleased to report that on June 6, 2015, Dante (OTCH Dante's Vita Nuova UDX7 OGM GN GO VER TDX CGC) finished his Obedience Grand Master (OGM) title. Dante is the 3<sup>rd</sup> German Shepherd Dog in history to earn this title.

Obedience Master (OM) points can be earned out of the Utility and Open B classes, after the dog has finished their UD title. To earn OM points, you don't necessarily need to beat other competitors, as is the case with OTCH points. OM points are awarded based on the individual team's performance for scores 190 or higher (6-to-15 points can be earned per class, depending on your score). There are 10 levels of OM titles (e.g., OM, OM2, OM3,... all the way up to OGM, which is equivalent to 'OM10'). For each OM title, 200 OM points must be earned, with at least 1/3 of the points coming from Utility and 1/3 from Open. So completing the OGM requires a total of 2000 OM points. By the time a dog finishes their OGM, they already have several levels of UDX titles, and typically have already gotten their OTCH along the way too.

Dante earned his UD in 2011, so we've been working toward our OGM for the past 4 years. Now that we've completed this title, I've promised Dante he can retire from active Obedience duty, and focus solely on his true love—Tracking! You'll still see us occasionally at Obedience classes and matches keeping up our skills, since Dante loves the activity and Obedience is so good for his manners and socialization.

Our journey toward the OGM has taught us many lessons and pearls of wisdom.

### **What the OGM Requires**

When the Obedience Master titles were first introduced, a number of online Obedience discussion groups described the OM and OGM as titles for those who are not interested in going for the OTCH or being competitive. My own perspective (after having completed both the OTCH and OGM) is that this isn't a fair characterization. The OGM should not be regarded as an alternative or 'consolation prize' for the OTCH, since every dog I know who's earned an OGM has already finished their OTCH well beforehand. Both titles require excellence and are competitive, each in their own way. The OTCH is based on *external competition* (no matter how fine your performance is, you and your dog still have to beat the other teams that day to earn OTCH points). Since Obedience placements are often decided by just a mere fraction of a point, earning an OTCH requires an extremely high degree of accuracy and precision. The OGM title, on the other hand, emphasizes *internal competition* (you and your dog are competing against yourselves by demonstrating your ability to deliver a 190-or-better performance). It also demands a great deal of stamina, reliability, and long-term motivation. A team that NQs frequently, is unable to perform both Utility and Open exercises reliably, or burns out and no longer finds Obedience fun will struggle to complete their OGM. The OGM teaches you how to campaign a dog and maintain your training skills for the long-haul. As I heard Hazel very aptly describe it: "The OTCH is a sprint; the OGM is a marathon!"

### **Judging and Trial Conditions**

Along the way toward our OGM, we competed in over 100 trials and showed under more than 50 different judges. That gave me a good sense of what most judges are looking for and how they tend to score. It also exposed us to a wide variety of trial conditions, including some very unusual experiences, such as:

- Getting shot at by random gun fire outside the ring.
- A dog getting up during Group Downs and jumping over the backs of the other dogs lying down.
- Small children sitting ring-side and popping balloons.

- Having it rain so hard the canopy blew over and previous exhibitors wore a deep, muddy trench along the heeling pattern.
- A bird flying into the ring and landing on the go-out stanchion during Directed Jumping.
- A dog peeing on the article pile location; etc.

If you don't think it'll ever happen, my experience tells me you'd better train and proof for it just in case!

### **Personal Training Goals**

The OGM (and the OTCH) taught me a lot about who I am as a trainer, who my dog is and what motivates him, and what's important to us in terms of our performance and relationship. I love Obedience because it gives me and my dog an activity we enjoy together. And because it teaches my dog to be obedient and attentive to me, and to be well mannered and socialized around other people and dogs. The OGM taught me that I'm a control freak, but not a perfectionist. I HATE to NQ; but I don't necessarily mind losing. NQs happen, and you of course have to be willing to accept them with grace if you're going to survive in our sport. But when you're working with a trained dog pursuing an OGM (no longer a 'green dog' just learning the exercises), then almost every NQ is because the dog for some reason was not attending or being obedient. And I just hate that. So, I work really hard to have my dog understand the principal part of the exercise, and that they have to do it 'first time right' (i.e., no second chances in the ring). At the same time, if there's a better team who beats us that day, I'm very happy for them. And their winning doesn't diminish the joy I feel if me and my dog did our best, based on our personal goals and what we've been working on in our training.

During our OTCH quest, I had to strive for perfection, because I had to beat other teams to win OTCH points. But the OGM quest allowed us more freedom to experiment with our training, try new things, and decide what we wanted to maintain versus where we were willing to let some points go. Our training goals during the OGM campaign focused on NQ-able errors and lack-of-effort, but not on sweating the small stuff – particularly if it was the result of "effort errors" (e.g., dog over-rotating to get his rear in on a Finish, or slight bumps while heeling with attention). I experimented with ways to engage my dog more between exercises, and how to mentally prepare myself and calm my ring nerves. Some training tools yielded good results – others not as much – but the OGM gave us the freedom and longevity to experiment.

### **Post-Injury Recovery**

Between earning his OM9 and OGM titles, Dante suffered two serious injuries. First, at the end of November 2014 he bloated with full stomach torsion. Dante had to have emergency surgery, followed by a 4-week period of crate rest with no physical activity. Then, just a week post-recovery, he injured his mouth on a crate door, and had to have another surgery and another 2-week recovery where he couldn't pick up anything in his mouth. After healing from both surgeries, Dante then needed to recondition his muscles to get back up to his full 28-inch jumping. By slowly increasing his jump height 2 inches per week, it took us 3 months to rebuild his jumping. This was a very scary period, because I started to realize that my young, invincible dog was not so young any more, and I was very, very lucky to still have him with me. This gave us renewed determination to get back to those Obedience trials and finish up our last OM points before too long.

## Our OGM Odyssey

For our final trial, we headed to southern CA to compete at a German Shepherd Dog club specialty (Obedience was open to all breeds). Two trials on the same day, which didn't finish up until late afternoon in the hot summer sun. As always, Dante gave it his all and gave me everything I asked of him. He earned placements in all 4 classes, won High Combined, and finished his Obedience Grand Master title. Atta boy, Dante! Thank you to the entire ODTC community – especially our instructor and training buddy Barbara – for preparing us so well for this multi-year OGM journey!

## Meet the Members Marti Nikoli and Bill Wallace

*(Ed Note: This section of the newsletter is devoted to dog life bios of club members. Contributions are always very welcome (particularly our newest members). Members appear to really like to learn about each other – so extra thanks to those who are willing to share some of their dog life story with the rest of us.)*



It's been a while since we moved to Salem, Oregon. We miss our many friends in ODTC, but the move has been a good one. The thing I like best is that every morning I hang out on the deck and watch the sun come up over the Cascade Range while the dogs run in the backyard. Ditto usually gaits across the yard looking like he is in the breed ring, and Bella trots along with her nose to the ground looking for any falling fruit.

We only have two acres, but living here is like living in a park. We live on a dead-end road that is in an exceptionally nice neighborhood with large yards (1-2 acres) that look manicured. The property is located about five miles east of Salem near the Santiam Pass (Hwy 22) that heads to Central Oregon. We have discovered that since we are on the way up the pass the temperatures at the house tend to run five degrees lower than the Salem temperatures.

The backyard is large enough that I could set up four obedience rings and still have room for seating. Bella was particularly happy that the yard included three fruit trees and one walnut tree. Since plums can be toxic for dogs, the plum tree is now gone, though she is not happy that we removed it. She is now focused on the crab apple tree in hopes the apples will be dropping soon. In the meantime she is having an ongoing argument with the crows that fly in to guard the blackberries, walnuts and apples. Strangely enough, Ditto likes to help pick the raspberries.

The pasture is connected to the backyard – I use it to let the dogs run – and once the rain starts, I can add small training tracks for the Ditto dog.

I've been super busy with the remodel. The entire center section of the house has been gutted so living here is like camping out. The bedrooms look like storage lockers and Bill's office is doubling as a kitchen/family room. We are hopeful that by the end of August we will have a kitchen, laundry, dining, and living/family room, and we can finally finish moving in.

The property includes a large shop, so once the remodel is complete I hope to set the shop up in a manner that will allow me to use it for dog training. In the meantime, Ditto's training is on hold but Bella has started taking lessons with Ellie Wykoff. One of my longtime Springer friends has been training with Ellie for years so we are sharing a private lesson once a week. Ellie lives in Newberg, which is about 40 miles from here – I'm used to driving long distances to train or go to dog shows/matches, but the wonderful part about driving here is that I'm not driving on freeways; instead, I'm driving through farm country. Slow traffic in this part of the world has a new meaning – here it means that farm equipment is moving down the road to a new field. That sure beats a California traffic jam!

I'm planning to get involved with tracking again. Ditto is entered in a tracking seminar at the end of July and Bella will be headed to a VST seminar the first of August. Barbara and Lizanne are going to the same seminar so we are looking forward to seeing them. I hope to connect soon with others who do tracking, so that as soon as the remodel is complete I can start regular tracking again.

If you are planning to go to Oregon for dog events, or want to consider moving here, please do not hesitate to contact us. We'd love to get together and/or share info on Oregon with you. The best way to reach us is on Bill's cell phone, 510-316-3912, or at my e-mail address: sprngr3@aol.com

Marti, Bill, Ditto and Bella

## **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.)*

Ladybug finished her UDX at the Napa Valley DTC morning trial on June 20, as well as getting High Combined Open B & Utility B. (The less said about the afternoon trial, the better!)

She also placed 1st in Utility B in a class of 21 dogs at the Deep Peninsula DTC trial on June 21 with a score of 198. Lori Raz-Aztrakhan