

# Woofs and Waggers

(Newsletter of the Oakland Dog Training Club)  
March/April 2015

Class and General Information – 510-339-3276

Website: <http://oaklanddogtraining.org>

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## Officers and Committee Chairs – 2013/2014

President	Jack McCredie	510-749-9957	<a href="mailto:mccredie@berkeley.edu">mccredie@berkeley.edu</a>
Vice-Pres	Jasen Duncan	510-886-6843	<a href="mailto:Jasen.duncan@mac.com">Jasen.duncan@mac.com</a>
Treasurer	Debbi Hankins	925-335-9610	<a href="mailto:deborah_hankins@comcast.net">deborah_hankins@comcast.net</a>
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Membership	Sharon Vannucchi	925-356-5631	<a href="mailto:springerfan2@gmail.com">springerfan2@gmail.com</a>
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Director	Meigs Mathesen	510-333-5773	<a href="mailto:mooncats7@aol.com">mooncats7@aol.com</a>
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Jr. Trustee	Joyce Brown		<a href="mailto:joyce_brown@yahoo.com">joyce_brown@yahoo.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

April 12 (Sun)	Tracking Test	Morgan Territory, Livermore
April 25 (Saturday)	Members' Match	Cal State EB, Hayward (9 AM start time)
May 10 (Sunday)	Members' Match	Cal State EB, Hayward (9 AM start time)
May 17 (Sun)	Obedience and Rally Trial	Cal State EB, Hayward
June 7 (Sun)	Members' Match	Cal State EB, Hayward (9 AM start time)

## ODTC President's Message – Jack McCredie

**Highlights from the March 14 Member Meeting:** Immediately after the March Members Match at Cal State East Bay, we gathered in shade at the Music Peristyle lawn for the regular spring member meeting. Congratulations to Vern and Carol Miller on their March 11 marriage, three days before the member meeting. When have we had a member couple spend part of their honeymoon celebrating with us at a match and member meeting :-)

Member renewals and club finances are in good shape at the conclusion of the first quarter of the club's fiscal year. Plans are well underway for the upcoming Tracking Test (April 12) and the Obedience and Rally trials (May 17). The two spring workshops (Sylvia Bishop and Andrew Ramsey) also have excellent registrations. An anomaly of the 2015 calendar means that the assigned AKC dates for our normal August agility trials do not fall on Labor Day weekend this year. As a result, members voted to accept a modification to the schedule and approved having the Golden Retriever club be the sole sponsor of the agility events in 2015; we will consider hosting the agility trials once again in 2016.

Vern Miller volunteered to coordinate the project to investigate the installation of new mats in the training hall. This project has been delayed while we made modifications to the west wall and its windows to stop water incursion and to increase air flow. We have the resources to install better flooring and this project is a high priority. Kathy Miller has joined with Vern to move the project forward.

As part of our non-profit mission, Pattie Hartney volunteered to explore the feasibility of our club using some of its reserve resources to sponsor or contribute to a philanthropic project that would support and improve the environment for dogs in our community. If you have any suggestions, please contact Pattie. ([lunak9s@yahoo.com](mailto:lunak9s@yahoo.com))

The most important item on the agenda was to receive the report of the Nominating Committee for its slate of officers for 2015-2016. The election will occur during the annual meeting, which will be held on **Sunday June 7** at our Alameda home after the Members Match at Cal State East Bay.

### ODTC officer nominations for 2015-2016

President	Jack McCredie
Vice President	Lora Cox
Secretary	Diane Aven
Treasurer	Debbi Hankins
Membership	Sharon Vannucchi
Directors	Lynn Kosmakos, Meigs Matheson, Mary Lemon
Senior Trustee	Joyce Brown
Junior Trustee	Elaine Gray

Please join me in thanking retiring board members Ann Collins and Jasen Duncan for their service the last several years and Mary Lemon (chair), Lora Cox, and Kathy Miller for serving as this year's nominating committee. We will welcome new board members Lora Cox and Lynn Kosmakos and new trustee Elaine Gray in June.

**Volunteers Still Needed!** Marti Nickoli will soon be moving to Oregon and will no longer be able to chair our very successful raffle that takes place at the obedience/rally trials on May 17. Caryl Hodges, who has worked on the activity for several years, is coordinating the project this year. However, she needs volunteers to help, and most importantly **she needs space in someone's garage or basement** to store the donated items until May 17. In addition, we need everyone to consider donating to the raffle and/or contacting their favorite pet store to consider supporting the raffle. Please contact Caryl with any help or donations you can give. ([chodges@ndnu.edu](mailto:chodges@ndnu.edu))

**Track layers are needed** for the upcoming tracking test on April 12. Please contact Lora Cox if you would be able to help with this event!!

**Recognition Awards for Titles Earned in 2014:** As in years past, the ODTC will recognize AKC titles earned in the previous year at the annual meeting on **Sunday June 7**. If this title is the first to be recognized by ODTC, your team will receive a plaque and an attached brass plate. If you have already received a plaque, the club will recognize your new title(s) with an additional brass plate engraved with the year and the title(s). Orders will be accepted until April 15th by email only to: ([mccredie@brkeley.edu](mailto:mccredie@brkeley.edu)). I receive a lot of email - so to be assured that I handle it properly the subject must be:

**Subject: ODTC 2014 Title Recognition Awards**

For plates, include the AKC approved abbreviation(s) (CD, RN, OAJ, etc.)

**BN RN RA CGC**  
**2014**

For plaques, include the dog's call name, and below that the formal name including any AKC title

**ARETHA**  
**TEKO QUEEN OF SOUL BN RN RA CGC**

earned previously, but not yet recognized by ODTC

## Editor's Notes – Hazel Olbrich

We wish Marti Nikoli and Bill Wallace a very fond farewell as they move to Oregon to enjoy retirement and Bill's family. We will miss them.



*Thanks to Joyce Gross for taking the above photo and to the club members who participated in the photo shoot!*

As some of you may realize I am busy cleaning out the detritus of living in our home for over 20 years (no particular reason other than I do want some elbow room for living – it's great to have more space!). One of the treasures I found was a copy of the membership list from when I first joined ODTTC in 1993. I enjoyed reading the names and remembering former members, some of whom are deceased and others who have moved out of the area. I also enjoyed noting how many people are still members. I thought there may be other members who would also enjoy this trip down memory lane. After 10 minutes of trying to include it in the text of this newsletter I have conceded defeat and am including it as a separate PDF attachment in the distribution email.

I wanted to share with you that I have been approved to Judge Utility ("provisional" status, as are all newly approved judges, of course). Thanks to everyone for their well wishes and support on this journey! My first Utility assignment will be at Redwood Empire KC in September, 2015.

## Membership Report – Sharon Vannucchi

*No news this month*

## Monthly Friday Drop-In Classes – Hazel Olbrich

As many of you know, Lori Drouin has been diagnosed with multiple myeloma (I have her permission to report this in the club newsletter). She will be taking a sabbatical that started in October from teaching her Friday drop-in group classes. Starting in January, I will be teaching classes once a month on Fridays to help support Lori's students in the interim until she returns.

Details are as follows:

- Classes are drop-in and available to all
- Fee will be \$20 per class (payable to Oakland DTC)
- Class content and times will be different from Lori's schedule (so pay attention!)
  - Combined Novice/Open from 11:00 – 12:15
  - Sits and Downs for all at about 12:30
  - Utility (after sits and downs) from ~12:30 – 2:00
- Once Lori is ready to teach on Fridays again, the instruction will revert back to her. It is anticipated that she will keep to the same dates as announced.

Dates for the year are as follows

April 17	July 24	Oct 23
May 8	Aug 14	Nov 13
June 12	Sept 18	Dec 11

## New Monday 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 plan to take Titania there for exposure to new dogs in a training situation. Please get the word out.

## Business Plan Update – Lizanne Kaiser

*No news for this issue.*

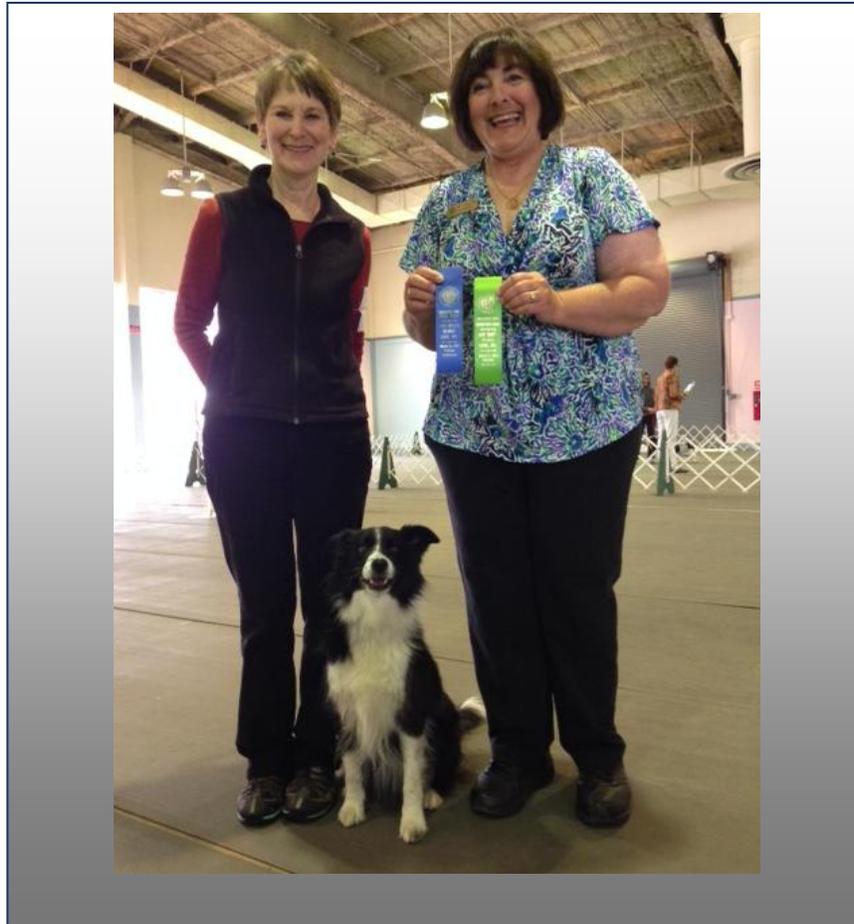
## **New OTCh in the Club –Laurie Raz-Astakhan and Ladybug**

I'm very proud to announce that Ladybug finished her OTCH today with a 1st place in Utility B, under our very own Lora Cox! She earned 14 points, giving her a cushion of 8 points more than she needed.

She also earned her OM2.

My thanks and gratitude go to Barbara Henry, who always had faith that we could do it, and who never lost patience with having to tell me the same things week after week. She never let us get away with anything less than almost perfect (we are rarely perfect), but always in the kindest way.

Ladybug is now one of what must be a small number of dogs with a double championship in both obedience and agility.



## Canine Circus School - Trying Something Different with Your Dog --- Jasen Duncan



Canine Circus School started about four years ago in the backyard of Francis Metcalf, a professional dog trainer with an extraordinary sense of humor. His idea was that each handler should be willing to be silly, dress up, have fun while learning, and enjoy working with his dog. No formal training would be needed and the dog doesn't need any special skills.

Circus School isn't just about tricks. It is about performance around other dogs and being in weird situations, as well as physical and mental conditioning. Teams can find themselves using all kinds of props,

including the wheel of death, cones, hoops, moving puppets, balls, playing cards, and ropes with little baskets.

The school has no formal organization behind it, but currently Francis has organized it into three levels: Circus 1, Circus 1.5, and Circus 2

Circus 1 is for dogs of all ages (including puppies). At this level human and dog learn basic obedience and socialization techniques, as well as tricks.

Circus 1.5 is for students who have successfully completed Circus 1. At this level, dogs show an ability to work away from the handler in a distracting situation. Dogs in this class also practice syncopated group drills at a faster speed and with more precision than in the beginning class, the trick repertoire is expanded, and handlers are expected to start cueing the dog from a distance.

Circus 2 is the advanced trick class, and includes stunts and gags. More advanced teams work on agility, stunts, synchronized behaviors with other dogs, and useful service dog behaviors. There is also work with improvisation techniques, and music. Also included are dog costumes and fun photo shoots.

The beginning of the training is about getting the dogs used to working around other teams. The dogs start the class on boxes spaced at a distance from each other. Over six weeks the dogs get closer and closer until they can maintain focus on their handlers while working close to other teams.

Dogs are all different: some are serious, some are goofy, some are clowns. The experience is all about the fun of trying and making the dogs more confident.

All the classes start with a warm-up. An example of some tricks worked on in the advanced classes is a shaped retrieve, where the dog goes out and picks up a playing card (money) and puts it in a hat. Learning a trick like this can take many classes as each little part is acquired and then put together. First the dog learns to take something from its handler. Playing cards are good for this, and at first the dog is rewarded for touching the card. Then he must learn to hold it. Finally, the dog learns to take the card and hold it while moving from one place to another.

Dogs also learn to do tricks with other teams. Some of the tricks are useful with obedience, rally, herding, and agility. The "take it" helps with obedience dumbbell work. Sending the dogs around cones and going to place is helpful for utility send outs, agility, and herding. For my own dog Shasta I have to keep things novel, as she quickly gets bored doing the same thing. As with everything I do with her, I try to keep it fun and exciting for both of us.

It is true that not every dog can do every trick because of size, body build, or stubbornness, but classes focus on what they *can* do, and sometimes new tricks are created based on what the dogs present in class.

Anyone who would like more information can call 415-779-6550 or visit <https://bayareadogtrainer.wordpress.com/>, and videos can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/user/masterofhounds>

## **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. The first session will begin in February. 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 preliminary list of monthly topics (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 (tentative content):

April -- Heeling - Turns (Left, Right, About) (*Ed Note: Class is full with a waiting list*)  
June -- Proofing (How to proof a particular exercise/skill you're working on with your dog -- including types of proofing, what's "fair," how to read dog's reaction, and what to do next)  
August -- Retrieve Skills (mostly dumbbell, but also possibly some work with gloves and/or articles)  
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 – Pat Steed

*(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. )*

### The Utility of the “find mine” command

One of the many things my dogs have taught me:

Scent discrimination is useful for all sorts of everyday events. I’m ancient and need glasses for reading. One day I put them on to read the daily paper and oops! I couldn’t see properly. One lens had fallen out. I couldn’t find it, so I flippantly said to Chips (my MinPin) “you’d better ‘find mine’”, and blow me down, a few moments later he was under the table, as proud of punch, with the lens in his mouth!

Here’s another story about my lab Tristan (UDX, TDX, JH, NA, UKC-CDX, Can-CDX).

I’d locked the car and pottered about the front garden for a while. I wanted something from the car and horrors! The key was no longer clipped to my belt. I trailed around the garden and could find no sign of them. So, thinking “what do you have a retriever for?”, I brought out Tristan to help me. We trailed through the garden – no good. We went to the bushy plants along the curb – they must have fallen amongst them. Tristan pulled me away from the plants and pushed his nose UP among the huge leaves of the fig tree that make our front fence. There, caught up on the branch, were the keys. He had an extra special dinner that night.

My MinPin Chips also did a “find mine” for keys hidden in piles of dry leaves where they had fallen when I was collecting you-know-what on our walk. ....He’s got a clumsy owner hasn’t he? But I AM glad they knew “find mine”.

## Meet the Members Mary Lemon

*(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.)*



My name is Mary Lemon. I was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

I have loved dogs (and horses) all of my life. As a little kid we had two Wire Haired Terriers; one when I was 2 years old and the other one when I was 5. Both of their names were Tippy Tin, Tippy for short

After the second one died I kept pestering my parents for another dog. I remember playing out on the yard with my brother when my parents called me in. They sat me down and asked what they could do to make me a better child? Of course with no hesitation I said, "Please get me a dog!"

As it turned out we had friends (the Pattersons), who raised Collies, and they had a litter of puppies. We came home with Flash, a sable Collie. That was in the day of no vaccinations and at a young age of about one, he got distemper and died. I was devastated.

When I was in grade four the same friends had a litter of puppies they were helping to give away for another friend. We got Jock who was  $\frac{1}{4}$  Border Collie and  $\frac{3}{4}$  Scottish Collie. He was a GREAT dog. There are lots of good stories about Jock. Sometime I will write an article just about him.

As a young adult I did my nurses training in Winnipeg, Manitoba. After completion of my training I went back to Calgary for a few months before coming to Oakland to marry my high school boyfriend who was in the navy at Oak Knoll. He and I were married for 6 years, and then divorced. Cal and I were married in 1982, after a 10 year courtship.

I worked at Merritt Hospital for almost 25 years before coming out to San Ramon Regional Medical Center. After working many years there as the supervisor of the GI Lab, I retired in October of 2013. I was lucky in my career of nursing to have worked in very good departments with excellent staff. My husband is still working. He loves his patients and the work he does.

When I moved to California, of course I wanted a dog. In 1968 I got a male sable Collie puppy from the Pattersons in Calgary. My parents picked him out and flew him down here at about 10 weeks of age. His name was Bonner after his dad, who was picked up in Scotland. He was a great dog, and I did a bit of obedience with him.

He lived to be 13+. When he died I flew back to Calgary and got my first female Collie, again from Mrs. Patterson. Her name was Shauna.

We have friends who always had Shepherds. When I told them Bonner had died, they said they were going to give us a German Shepherd puppy. I said I didn't want a Shepherd; I wanted 2 Collies. My friend said too bad, the puppy had been ordered and he was coming for Cal, my husband. The puppy was the same age as Shauna, and came from Langold Kennel on Long Island. The breeder was Ernst Lobe, an international Judge and breeder. That puppy was Maximillian; we picked him up from our friends when we were over at their house for dinner.

Cal knew nothing about this, so to say the least he was shocked!! We had two puppies; one puppy 9 weeks old and the other one 12 weeks old. When they were 2 I did get my second Collie, a beautiful blue merle named Mcduff.

They all got along well. Maximillian was 11  $\frac{1}{2}$  when he died, and we started looking for another Shepherd. I had met Ruby and Gerry Hertz at the Cow Palace, and contacted them for a puppy. Our first R Beth dog was Remington (R. Beth's Chances are). We still had Shauna and Mcduff when he came home. Shauna was almost 15 when she died and Mcduff almost 13.

Then we were down to one dog. When Remington was 3, we got our second dog from Ruby. That was Shasta (R. Beth's Hot Toddy 11, CGC, TC, UD, RAE2.) She was my first UD dog and a great one also. She never looked her age.

We got Pilot (R. Beth's Rolls Royce, CD.RA) from Ruby, another great dog. He got his Novice Obedience title with a high in Trial. He was beautiful and sweet but couldn't go any further in showing.

In 2007 we got Sky (R. Beth's King of Hearts, CGC, TC, RAE), who is currently being shown in Utility. (*Ed note: That's Sky in the photo with Mary.*) He earned 2 legs at our specialty the end of February. That was very exciting! He is a very fun dog and loves to goof off in the ring. We are looking for that elusive 3<sup>rd</sup> leg.

Spirit is my 2 year old novice dog who is still very green. She and Sky are buddies and get along well. Most of the time we have had 3 dogs, but are down to 2 right now.

I have found our dogs have added so much to our lives, and can't imagine not having them. People ask me which dog was or is my favorite. I always say that each of them is my favorite, and I mean it. They bring us so much joy, but because of them we have also made such great friendships through them.

I thought once I retired I would have so much time, but it seems it is all filled up with many fun activities with the dogs. What could be better?

## **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.)*

Saco earned his CGC at the SCDTC test on March 3, 2015. He is now Tennescott White Mtns. Saco, CGC! --Peg Hickox

Quimby took the blue ribbon in Open-B on March 1 at the Diablo Valley GSD Club Trial, earning her first OTCH points! Thank you to all of the members of the trial committee, the great judges, and fabulous stewards - it was a wonderful weekend event!

Quimby got her first UDX leg at San Mateo KC on March 21! Our hard work on directed jumping paid off and she sailed through that exercise like a pro. – Kathy Miller

Debra Dove and her Welch Pembroke Corgi, "Gauge", earned their first UDX leg and High Combined at the Diablo Valley GSD Club trial March 1, 2015 placing second in both classes. Gauge earned his second UDX leg Friday, March 20, at the San Mateo KC OT in Vallejo where we placed 4th in Open with a 195 1/2.

Debra's Irish Setter, "Kable" earned his 3rd and 4th Senior Hunt test passes March 21-22 at Hastings Island at the GSPC of Northern Sacramento Valley and Vizsla Club of Northern California hunt tests. Kable needs one more Senior Hunt pass to earn his SH title. We hope to get that done the weekend of April 18-19 at Penn Valley. Kable also earned his RA title with a three-peat at the Mission Cluster OT/RLY shows Jan 17-18 placing 4th with scores of 98 (twice) and finishing 1st with a 99. – Debra Dove

On Feb 28th, Diva finished her UD title at the Diablo Valley GSDC Herding Group Specialty Obedience Trial with a first place. The next day she added her second Graduate Open leg and another blue ribbon. Next we will try Versatility! -- Debbi Hankins

On March 22 Sam earned her draft dog excellent (DDX) title under judges (and club members) Wendy Lee and Linda Hunter at the local Saint Club draft test at Cline Cellars in Sonoma, California. Not only was the site a great place for a draft test, we also got to do some wine tasting. I brought home four bottles myself. All three dogs that were entered passed – it was a great day for all! -- Hazel Olbrich