

Woofs and Waggers

(Newsletter of the Oakland Dog Training Club)
May/June 2014

Class and General Information – 510-339-3276

Website: <http://oaklanddogtraining.org>

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

Officers and Committee Chairs – 2012/2013

President	Jack McCredie	510-749-9957	mccredie@berkeley.edu
Vice-Pres	Jasen Duncan	510-886-6843	Jasen.duncan@mac.com
Treasurer	Debbi Hankins	925-335-9610	deborah_hankins@comcast.net
Secretary	Diane Aven	510-799-0171	dianeaven@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Sharon Vannucchi	925-356-5631	LilChuckiesMom@aol.com
Director	Ann Collins	510-523-3422	ahcollins5@aol.com
Director	Meigs Mathesen	510-333-5773	mooncats7@aol.com
Director	Mary Lemon	925-820-8620	yukonmary@comcast.net
Sr. Trustee	Leslie Halliday	510-536-2238	Lhalliday200@sbcglobal.net
Jr. Trustee	Lynn Kosmakos	925-297-9149	javagsd@yahoo.com
Committees			
Workshop '14 (March)	Sabbatical year		
Tracking Test '14 (April)	Jack McCredie		
Obedience Trial '14 (May)	Debbi Hankins		deborah_hankins@comcast.net
Agility Trial '14	Ann Collins		ahcollins5@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Hazel Olbrich		h_olbrich@sbcglobal.net
Training Committee	Hazel Olbrich		h_olbrich@sbcglobal.net
Hall Rent to Members	Amy Cook		amy@palisandra.net
Webmaster	Joyce Gross		joyceg@berkeley.edu
Class Registrar	Sue Harvey		510-339-3276
Legislative Rep	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>		
AOCNC Reps	Harriet Tucker Debra Dove Amy Kitay		hafpas@comcast.net albanyclan@comcast.net tavchon@earthlink.net

Club Calendar

June 8 (Sun) -	Members' match / Annual Meeting	9:00 AM, CSEB, Hayward/ McCredie home, Alameda (see inside)
July 12 (Sat)	Members' Match	CSEB, Hayward (8 AM Start time)
Aug 10 (Sun)	Members' Match	CSEB, Hayward (8 AM Start time)
Labor Day Weekend	Agility Trials (2)	Fairgrounds, Santa Rosa
Sep 13 (Sat)	Members' Match	CSEB, Hayward (8 AM Start time)
Nov 15/16	Lori Drouin Seminar	ODTC Training Hall

ODTC President's Message – Jack McCredie

The Oakland Dog Training Club's mission is to help individuals learn how to teach their dogs to become the best companions they can be. While accomplishing this mission we strive to provide venues where dog lovers can meet and become friends with people having similar interests, where the general public can learn more about canines, and where our members have fun. Hosting and participating in formal American Kennel Club events are not essential components of this mission because the bonds between people and dogs are not measured by ribbons and titles. But working with your dog to achieve a high level of performance is certainly one way to strengthen a relationship.

Summary of 2013 ODTC Titles: As an AKC member club, we recognize each year the achievements of our member teams that have worked together to earn AKC titles the previous year. Our members attend classes, train at home, work with others, and travel (sometimes great distances) to earn titles in several different categories of events. And the club hosts AKC trials in Agility, Obedience, Rally and Tracking.

In calendar 2013, 29 ODTC member/dog teams earned 54 AKC titles. 16 members will receive recognition plaques at our annual meeting on June 8 to celebrate the first title that their dog has earned. In addition, 13 other member teams will receive brass title plates to mount on plaques that they earned in prior years. Here is a summary of these 54 titles showing the broad range of interests and training levels of our members

AKC TITLE NAME	NUMBER OF TITLES EARNED BY ODTC TEAMS
OBEDIENCE TITLES	
Beginner Novice - BN	5
Canine good Citizen - CGC	7
Companion Dog - CD	1
Graduate Novice - GN	1
Companion Dog Excellent - CDX	5
Graduate Open - GO	2
Utility Dog - UD	6
Utility Dog Excellent -UDX	1
Obedience Master - OM	2
Obedience Trial Champion - OTCH	2
RALLY TITLES	
Rally Novice - RN	5
Rally Advanced - RA	1

Rally Excellent - RE	2
Rally Advanced Excellent - RAE	2
AGILITY TITLES	
Novice Agility - NA	1
Novice Agility Jumper - NAJ	1
Novice Agility Preferred - NAP	1
Novice Jumper with Weaves Preferred - NJP	1
Master Agility Excellent - MX	1
Master Agility Jumpers with Weaves - MXJ	1
Open FAST - OF	1
Other Titles	
Champion - CH	1
Herding Tested - HT	1
Tracking Dog Excellent - TDX	1
Therapy Dog Title - THD	1

If you, like me, are often confused by the alphabet soup of letters that AKC uses to represent the ever expanding plethora of titles, you may find the following URL reference to AKC titles and abbreviations useful - truly there is an AKC event for everyone.

<http://www.akc.org/events/titles.cfm>

Congratulations to the wonderful teams that earned these 54 titles. Everyone who has worked hard and loved the companionship that is built by striving to “get the green” understands what is behind these great team accomplishments.

Our Dog Community is a Family: About mid-morning on Sunday of our trials on May 18, word began to spread around the rings that Lora Cox’s two wonderful Aussies, Scout and Ranger, had escaped from her house Saturday and were still missing. Lora was judging at a trial in Washington state at the time. Students and friends responded immediately and formed search parties in Milpitas. Several ODTTC members traveled from our trial to Milpitas to join in the search. Just imagine Lora’s state of mind while judging knowing that Scout and Ranger were not at home. The story has a happy ending - the dedication of colleagues led to the recovery of the dogs unharmed and their safe return on Monday. The saga was documented in real time on Lora's Facebook page.

ODTC Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 8 2014
Noon - After Practice Match at CSU East Bay
(Bring your dog and walk the lagoons after the meeting)

Home of Yvonne and Jack McCredie
2 Evans CT
Alameda, CA
510-749-9957

Good Food
Election of officers
Recognition Awards
Committee Reports
Relaxing discussions

Editor's Notes – Hazel Olbrich

As reported elsewhere I have achieved my obedience goals for Sam (a UDX and an OM). At seven years old she is not young for a Saint Bernard and jumping, never easy for her with her cobby body, has gotten more difficult as she has aged. I think it is unlikely that we will show in the regular obedience classes again. The challenge, however, is that she is certainly healthy, energetic, and sound. I've decided to give VST tracking a try -- she loves to sniff and with her ability to focus and desire to please I'm hopeful we will have a fun with this new training challenge. In the meantime, she has caught onto the cookie trail game on asphalt and is ready for more -- much more -- ☺.

Now that I have formally retired from my day job (chemical engineering consultant) I have more time for training. Luckily, I have a perpetual motion machine (my Irish Terrier, Titania, who turns a year old on May 31) that I am training in agility, attempting to groom for conformation (IT grooming has become much more detailed since I last showed one in conformation close to 30 years ago), and in the interstices training for obedience (mostly Utility, the fun stuff!). I am enjoying earning the T-shirt that says "Real Women Train Terriers". Terriers are, when not infuriating, bundles of fun!

Separately I have included a flyer for Rattlesnake Avoidance training (pdf file) with the newsletter email.

Membership Report – Sharon Vannucchi

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new members. Risa Baumrind (Canaan Dog), Dan Wilcox (GSD), Annette Howell (Aussies), and most recent Ki Welch (Irish Setter).

Here's a tad-bit about our most recent member, Ki Welch:

“I live in Vacaville with my husband and 2 1/2 year old intact male Irish Setter, Connor aka GCH CH Shine-On Here's Looking At You Kid CGC. I am a retired first grade teacher and taught in Lafayette for 20 years before retiring and moving to Vacaville. We live on 6 acres in English Hills.

We have always had Irish Setters. My previous Setter, Connor's Great Aunt was Ch Shine-On Perfect Angel UD JH RE CGC AKC certified Therapy Dog and the first Nose Work 1 Titled Irish Setter ever. We lost her 4 days after bringing Connor home. He is my first BOY!

We are currently doing Therapy Dog Work at a hospital in Vacaville and one in Fairfield. Connor has some basics in obedience. We did half hour lessons weekly with Cessie Banfield in Vacaville for about 2 years. We recently began Agility and are finishing up a 6 week Rally class in Napa.

We look forward to working with some top trainers and being part of a club that encourages and champions it's members and from Debra's experience, this club sounds perfect! Very impressed with Connor's littermate, Kable, and how well he and Debra have become a great team in obedience.

Thank you,
Ki Welch”

I want to thank all of those for paying their dues. I believe all membership dues have been received except for one member.

Obedience Trial May 18th – Note to the chair, Debbi Hankins

(From an email sent to Debbi Hankin, trial chair, on May 22, 2014).

I just wanted to tell you what a pleasure it was to show at your trial. I had Linda Hause for Utility B and while Linda has always been a good judge, now I think she's an excellent one. She moves around the ring so that she can observe the dog/handler team from many angles, she is cheerful, well-organized, pleasant and she doesn't miss a thing. That's my kind of judge, for sure.

Also enjoyed Aimee Kincaid, especially because it's nice to have somebody different. I also appreciated the fact that she did some things not seen in this area, like doing a diagonal retrieve on flat and drop on recall. I like having things change from the usual format. After all, variety is the spice of life! She was also very pleasant, seemed to be having a good time and enjoyed judging.

I do have to comment on the ring stewards as well. There were so many of them they really kept things hopping. They were on top of their jobs and were extremely efficient, which, of course, makes the rings run smoothly. Your chief ring steward did a bang-up job preparing her “minions” for the day.

And Debi Best is simply The Best. She is always so well-organized, making sure people know where their rings are, having the exhibitors' names and classes on their armbands, etc. She makes life easier to navigate and prepare for.

Thanks so much for a great job well done.

Judie Howard

On the Road with Debra Dove

(Ed Note: As we all know, preparing for competition obedience includes taking one's show "on the road". Our sister obedience clubs offer road opportunities. Debra has volunteered to compile listings of these opportunities and as time permits will report back on her experiences in these locations. Locations covered in previous newsletters are Santa Clara, Mt Diablo, Oakland, County Wide, San Lorenzo, and San Mateo Dog Training Clubs).

Debra is taking the month off ☺

Training Tools: Foundation Skills for Obedience & Rally

Purpose: This series of classes is designed to teach a variety of dog training skills useful not only for an obedience and rally competition dog but also for any well-trained canine companion. Each four-week session will focus on a different set of skills such as sits and downs, attention, footwork, etc.

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. The classes are designed to build new skills as well as polish existing skills and will be of use to both novice and advanced handlers.

Monthly topics:

- **August: Building a Bridge to Obedience:** Foundation Skills for Rally (starting August 5)
- **October: Tools of the Trade:** Flexi- Lead, Long Line, Solid Lead, Chutes and Dowels as Training Aids (starting October 7)
- **December: Line Up:** Fronts, Finishes & Pivots (starting December 2)

To enroll, please call ODTC at 510-339-3276. Questions? E-mail either of the instructors-- BLGKatie@sbcglobal.net (Barbara Henry) or mrfiacra@yahoo.com (Lizanne Kaiser).

What the dogs have taught me – Meigs Matheson

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

Crossing Over to Open B - or We're not in Kansas Anymore

Beginner Novice, Novice, Grad Novice, Open A—all were in one world. In that reality, instant bonding was made with fellow competitors. We all were nervous, wanted to Q, dared to hope to Q. A good score would be great, but mostly I wanted to get in the ring without hyperventilating or freezing with fear, and with my teammate containing his enthusiasm and not visiting and gently gnawing on instant friends in the ring. And then the thrill of maybe actually getting a Q—any Q—wow! My first dog Reilly and I barely got our CDX, which took many trials, and for which I am most grateful. Mostly we bonded at the halts, because he was not in my sight the rest of the time—oh, the thrill of a fast turn towards the crowd, only to find myself running alone! Trainer in training—that was me, for sure.

In that Novice and Open A world then, and later with my younger Golden, River, my great concern was where the break-off for groups would be. I overcame my shyness to get in on the asking the others where it was. We would cluck and shake our heads, and then send one of us to go to the stewards and ask.

We surreptitiously studied who would be next to us in groups, hoping for a steady—read almost comatose—personality. When any news came we shared it. We hovered, watching each other's time in the ring. NQs were always a possibility. We were in the middle, daring to be in this world of competition with the OTCHs and local stars. A familiar face was so welcome, and we wished each other the best.

I thought River and I could continue to solidify our Open team after we got our title. After all, we had done pretty well in Open A, especially compared to my older dog. We were beginning Utility basics, and it would be good to keep up the good work. So last June at Mensona in Santa Rose trials was our first foray into Open B. Only it was also a venture into a dramatically different new culture, quite unlike what my world of obedience had been. I don't remember much of my first time in their ring, I was so nervous, but I do remember the high jump was not near the ring gates as it had been, but near the center of the ring instead. This was a harbinger of things to come, only I did not know it at the time. Drop On Recall was the first exercise. We got the signal just as River headed with speed for the high jump. I was disbelieving, but then thought go for it, and as soon as he landed I asked for the down. And he downed immediately. Wow! That first time in the ring our score was 13 points lower than any of our times in Novice or Open A, another hint of things to come.

The next day when I went to get my number I looked casually up at the board and saw that my number was already crossed off, with a jump height not mine listed. Whoa- what? My armband was also gone. Oh, no! This was major! The stewards knew nothing. I hurried towards the area where all the experienced teams were settled in, looking for someone wearing my armband. I asked around. No one had seen it. I went running around among the people, looking at their armbands. I was in a panic—had to get my own armband to prevent someone from competing under my number. I was beside myself. But no one would join me in my panic like they would have before the crossover to Open B. Back then

I could have instigated a posse. But now, I could have been asking a bunch of librarians if they were having a nice day.

I went back to the table. Stewards were few and very very busy and still not very concerned. So I took it upon myself to look through the armbands to see if mine had been returned. It was not there! However, upon looking through once more, I discovered there were two copies of the armband before me. Aha!!! I was still crazed, but triumphant, and I was tired—but wired.

Now came the question of where the break for groups was going to be. It looked like I was on the cusp, and could go either way. But ... what? I was glued to the board. The difference from A was huge. Some people moved their dogs to the end, which meant a bigger chance I would be in the first group. But then others signed in just before their time in the ring, which meant more chance I would end up in the second group. This hadn't happened so much before, in Open A—entries had never changed there so casually. There had usually been a knot of people discussing the situation. Now I went back into the pack of experienced people and asked what they thought. They had no opinion, and were not concerned. The stewards were still too few and too busy, and even though I asked them I got no answers. I was ramping up in craziness again. Now I was officially entered, but did not know if I should work on calming myself and bonding with River soon, or could hold off for that later.

I ended up first in the ring after the first group. I was proud to be ready with River near the gate as the judge worked on his book. No steward was in sight yet, so right there near the gate we worked "Ready!" small fronts, left mini-circles, mini call to heels. Still no steward was visible to come and call us in, take our leash like we practiced in class--that had happened every other time we had entered a ring. I looked back towards the judge. He was still near his books, but I looked closer and saw he was leaning his hip on the table, arm with clipboard on the other hip, and with a look of pained patience...oh-oh . . . I finally got it. No steward was going to come and call us into the ring and take our leash. Nor was the judge going to call us in, but his expression surely did.

Then groups came. I was ready. I stayed at the front when we were waiting outside. I had been warned to really go briskly back into the ring. So I headed back very quickly. I turned my head to see how much distance I had put between me and those behind me. I was shocked to see and feel the rumble of what felt like a gentle but determined stampede literally on my heels. It was clear that my fast pace incorporating some dignity and composure was not going to make it. With some fear I tried for an Olympic-style race walk the rest of the way. What had quite slipped by me in Open A was that *time starts in the ring*, which meant that we could leave with care, but time ends before we get back to the ring, so every millisecond saved could mean a Q or not.

Now that I have some distance from my first Open B experience, I see that I had received very important real-life trial experiences along with a real feel for what we ask of our dogs. Relying on just my own expectations did not work. This new land of Open B presented surprises—and I was often unprepared for them. I was stymied. I knew things and wanted to use what I knew, but was lost without being able to call on my trained tidy automatic responses. I can really feel for all the dogs in the ring who have experienced some surprise that we cannot fathom- and then, without a clue, they look to us.

What I will always need to work on is the first basic request we ask of our dogs: attention: the Zen of being alert and in the moment, responding to what is in front of me, not just repeating known behaviors. Then there can be a kind of freedom and unique opportunity to call out my own best-in-the-moment

plan—less a well practiced march, and more of an improv dance. Flexibility trumps rigidity.

I now have nine months and ten times in Open B, and I appreciate the calm and quiet laissez faire of the B gestalt. We can Q—that is the new normal, and a huge relief. No matter where we are in the line-up to go into the ring, we have less drama. I have not hyperventilated—even when the dumbbell went sailing high straight up past the fluorescent lights, and when River tried desperately to leave the ring with his new steward love. With less drama from rigid expectations, our work is now about what we can and need to do to improve.

Those possibilities are easier to see now, and even attainable with attention to detail in the moment. And, of course, practice, practice, practice. I am grateful that I was able to have such a steep learning curve right away in the oh-so-different land of B.

Meet the Members Suzanne Bria

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



My name is Suzanne Bria, and I am what my husband calls a "Born Again Dog Person!" Yes, I saw the light 15 years ago; up until that time I was a life-long cat lover and didn't even really like dogs. That all changed when I met my first Golden retriever. Around 1996, my veterinarian father-in-law and mother-in-law who had had various dogs, cats, and horses all their lives got their first golden pup. It was love at first sight for me. After researching the breed and breeders, we brought home Gemma. She was such a wonderful pup, so easy to train, and became best buddies with Clancy. I took her to puppy classes and a just-for-fun agility class, and she later earned her CGC and TDI. In addition to our beloved companion,

she was also wonderful with elderly people and brought them a lot of gentle joy in her frequent visits to the assisted living facilities.

But I had also become friends with Christine, owner of Gemma's littermate Cooper with whom she was enthusiastically exploring the wonderful world of dog sports and also conformation. I too caught the "bug" and was determined to get my next pup from a multi-purpose line. So again after a lot of research, I flew to PA to pick up Finnegan, Int'l-CH Hyegold Misdumr Knights Dream CDX RAE TDX JH WC OS CCA CGC ASCA-TD (AKC ptd.). Finn was my "Novice A everything" dog and has taught me so much— and forgiven so many mistakes!

In our very first activity, he proved early on to be an excellent tracking dog: under the expert guidance of Debi Best, he earned two TDs and a TDX all on first attempts by two years old. We then went on to rally and obedience as well as field work, earning his Versatility Excellent (VCX) title by the age of 4. In addition to all these activities, he was asked to be a stud dog for Canine Companions for Independence and then Guide Dogs for the Blind, and has made considerable contributions to their programs through his pups chosen as breeders and as service dogs. He has sired a total of 20 litters to date and was awarded the prestigious distinction of GRCA Outstanding Sire as a result of his talented pups and their terrific owner/handlers earning titles in all areas of performance and conformation. Our Finnegan at nearly 12 years old is still an active stud dog with several current breedings, and we are training for and pursuing his VST/CT title!

Along the way we kept one of Finn's pups, a female bred by Bergin University of Canine Studies, and named her Haiku, aka Int'l-CH Faraway's Seventeen Sillybles BN RA TD CGC CCA (AKC ptd.) a fun, independent-minded, high energy girl I am having a ball training in tracking, obedience, field, and even giving agility a try. I also plan to breed her in the fall, and my hope is to keep a pup and have three generations under one roof!

Golden retrievers have changed my life. They have given me a deep appreciation for all dogs, and I have made many very special friends over the past 17 years since my "conversion." Most of all our dogs are making my retirement from U.C. Berkeley (where I taught English literature and did some academic advising) full and rich with activities, constantly learning new things, and spending terrific training and fun times with our many "doggy" friends and "grandpups." I am also the newly-elected president of our local golden retriever club, NORCAL GRC as well as a proud member of the best dog training club around —ODTC! My husband and I cannot imagine our lives without them.

After all, God is spelled doG backwards, so my "born-again" status seems apt!

-Suzanne Bria

Oops!

No errors or corrections 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.)

With the support of my teacher, Lori Drouin, my veterinary sports medicine specialist, Wendy Wallace, my training buddy Wendy Lee, and a legion of supporters and friends, Sam earned her Obedience Master (OM) title at San Mateo KC on Friday, March 21, 2014. It took 25 shows, with 22 qualifying scores in Open and 12 qualifying scores in Utility. Sam is the first Saint Bernard to earn this title. Sam also earned her third leg for her VER title at our trial in May with a first place. Good Girl, Sam! -- Hazel Olbrich and WDCh Shadow Mtn Playit Again v Reema, UDX, OM, TDX, RAE, GN, VER, DD2