

Woofs and Waggers

(Newsletter of the Oakland Dog Training Club)
November/December 2015



Class and General Information – 510-339-3276

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Tracking Test '16 (Apr 17)	Jack McCredie		mccredie@berkeley.edu
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Agility Trial '16			
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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

Dec 5 (Saturday)	Members' Match	Cal State EB, 9 AM
Dec 11 (Friday)	Holiday Party	Sue Harvey's home (see inside for more)
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	Cal State EB, 9 AM

President's Message – Jack McCredie

New Obedience Regulations Effective December 1, 2015

In March, the AKC Board of Directors approved 75 changes and/or additions to the AKC Obedience Regulations, which will become effective on December 1, 2015. The Board took this action after more than a year of Advisory Committee and general membership meetings to explore the pros and cons of more than 1,200 suggestions from the fancy to improve the sport. After these meetings, a poll was released to judges, member clubs, etc. and after a thorough review, staff presented recommendations to the AKC Board for its review and final approval.

According to Pamela Manaton, AKC Director of obedience, Rally & Tracking: “In general, these regulation changes are meant to clarify and bring greater consistency to current judging practices and event requirements, modify administrative procedures to make events more enjoyable for participants and represent a balanced attempt to positively impact the sport.”

Debbi Hankins purchased several copies of the new regulations and has placed them at our Training Hall for purchase at \$5.00. The complete publication is also available on-line from the AKC at the following URL:

<http://www.akc.org/pdfs/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf>

A very nice summary slide presentation, dated 11/14/15, is available at:

<http://images.akc.org/pdf/ObPPWhatsNew12-2015.pdf>

And a short written summary of all 75 changes may be retrieved from:

<http://tinyurl.com/New-AKC-Regs>

A Few Personal Observations About the Changes

I am certainly not an AKC regulations expert or connoisseur, but I have read these changes and have engaged in a few discussions about them with individuals who have much more experience than I. My feeling is that most of the changes are reasonable tweaks to what we have been working under for years and should not cause major problems as we learn these new procedures. Here are a few examples of changes that caught my eye:

- Exhibitors are allowed to steward, other than table stewarding, in the same ring under the same judge they will be showing under.
- The judge will call the qualifying handlers back into the ring without requiring the dogs to be brought back in for awards.
- Exhibitors may leave the ring at any time by politely informing the judge they are doing so. Judges book to be marked “Handler left ring” and carry down an “NQ.”
- Shorten briefing/walkthrough time to “up to 10 minutes” (instead of 15 minutes).

- In Utility Scent Discrimination - state that it is the handler's decision if they have the dog watch the articles being put out; it is not required.
- Change the name for all "Pre" classes to "Preferred" classes.
- Etc.

A phone call to AKC headquarters answered a question of mine regarding trial management - a rumor that clubs must now provide "Preferred" class events at their trials. This rumor is NOT TRUE - clubs MAY provide these events, but are not required to do so.

In summary, we should all become familiar with the new rules, but it is easy to do so by reading the two summaries referenced above. The changes are grouped by class (novice, open, utility, etc.) and in each class they are limited to a very manageable number. Now is an excellent time to do what we should do regularly - take some time to review the rules before heading off to the next trial. For example, last spring I entered the Utility ring with Bingo wearing his regular collar with the tags dangling in violation of the well known Chapter 2, Section 17 rule - "nothing may be hanging from the dog's collar."

We often forget the obvious!

Kudos for Lora Cox

On November 6th, I served as the obedience chair for the Portuguese Water Dog Regional Specialty where we had 36 obedience entries, a 70% increase over the 21 entries in 2014. Combined with 24 rally entries Lora Cox, our judge for both events, had a very full day. A mistake by the scheduling committee, the significant increase in entries, and the change from daylight savings to standard time combined to make the last couple of hours of the trial VERY CHALLENGING. Lora did an outstanding job with both events making everyone feel welcome and handling the scheduling issues with grace and experience. She is an excellent judge and a real credit to our club and the sport!!

ODTC HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday December 11

Holiday Party & Short Member Meeting

Social Hour 7 PM and Dinner 7:45 PM

Spouses, significant others, and prospective members welcome!

Sue Harvey's Home

6676 Estates Drive

Oakland, CA 94611

\$12 per person (Benefits Trophy Fund)

Make checks payable to Sue Harvey and send to address above Reservations - call Sue at 510-339-3276 Reservation deadline - Monday, December 7 (earlier is better)



Editor's Notes – Hazel Olbrich

Here's a note I received from Mike Reardon in late September:

Lucas is now almost 5 and I'm happy to announce that we completed our Graduate Open Title in Las Vegas at the Gamblers Agility Club trial. It's an indoor show (4 trials in 3 days) that's extremely well run. It was nice to get an email at the end of the weekend with a recap of all my scores! An added bonus was the \$6,400 Jackpot I won in the casino!! On the last day we finished our title with a First place and took 2nd in Open B!

On to Utility - We will be on the lookout for indoor shows -- hopefully this spring. If anyone is visiting the LA area, drop me a line: MikeReardonDC@gmail.com

Hazel - miss you guys!!!

This coming summer the City of Oakland's Feather River Camp will have a session in which people can bring their dogs

Here's the website and some information sent to me by the camp director. Here's the website.

<http://www.featherrivercamp.com/>

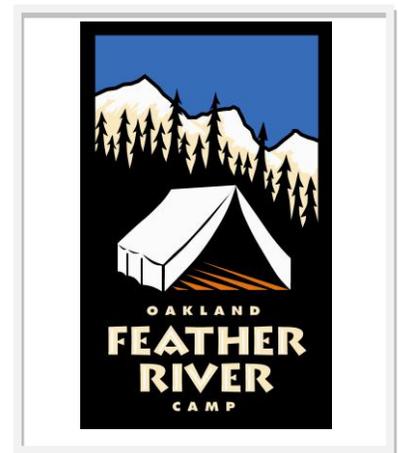
Discover Oakland Feather River Camp – a vacation destination for families, children and adults seeking relaxation, recreation, fun and friendship since 1924!

Mornings offer activities led by recreation staff and guest Artists-in-Residence. Start with a morning yoga/stretch class or a quiet nature walk. After breakfast try arts & crafts, group games, archery, horseback riding, tie-dye, a hike, or other special programs. Each morning we also offer an **Acorns** program in the Tot-Lot for 2 – 5 year olds while 6 – 9 year olds meet up with our energetic and caring **Sprouts** staff, and the **Seedlings**, aged 10 – 11 have their own fun program.

Afternoons are family time. Swim, read, nap, finish your art project, take a field trip or go tubing down Spanish Creek.

Other activities include campfires (with *s'mores*, of course!), nature hikes, ping-pong tournaments, lawn games, ice-cream socials, disco bingo, scavenger hunts, talent shows, line dances, and so much more!!

Dog Lover's Family Camp! (Saturday, July 2 - Sunday, July 10) You've asked for it; now it's here! Bring your best friend to camp with you! Over the 4th of July holiday, leave the city and enjoy camp with your dog. This is a trial period, so the number of dogs will be limited. A separate information packet will be provided for those registered. There will be an additional fee of \$20 per dog, per night.



Membership Report – Sharon Vannucchi

No news this month

Highlights from the Web – Lori Drouin

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

This link from Baltimore Dogworks , “**10 Rules For Training Your Dog**”, deserves a lot of thought, review, and maybe a tattoo on the back of your hand. Regardless of your chosen method of teaching, the principles herein still apply. It’s hard for me to choose which one is my personal favorite, although some of you will think I wrote number 11. I didn’t, but I’ve thought it often enough!

<http://www.balimoredogworks.com/blog/2015/9/7/10-rules-for-training-your-dog>

Brenda Aloff is well respected for her work with behavior problems in dogs;but she knows a lot about how dogs think that is pertinent to any sort of dogtraining. In this article, **Is Your Dog Bored?**, she very adroitly addresses the trainer errors that might make one think a dog is bored, when really the dog needs more information. (I don’t think dogs are that easy to bore, for the most part, but there are exceptions!)

<http://brendaaloff.com/training/reading-room/8-general/reading-room-articles/20-is-your-dog-bored>

One of my favorite writers about real-life dog things is Melinda Wichmann. Her blog spot is here:

<http://exercisefinished.blogspot.com>.

Check out the entry from February 26, 2015 for some thoughts on the attitude of trainers when training “exercises” as opposed to “tricks”. It could open some doors for you!

Many folks are very concerned about safer crates for car travel. While still a bit pricey, this site might be of interest:

<http://www.transk9usa.com/index.html>

Some of the models are double boxes for the price of one of other brands.

This blog post from Denise Fenzi resonates for me. Regardless of HOW you choose to train your dog, it is time for ALL dog owners to re-think their places in the world. **IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO HAVE A DOG WHO IS FRIENDLY WITH THE DOGS HE MET IN HIS PUPPY CLASS!** If you are going to take your dog off leash at a park or on a trail, it should **ONLY** be if you have a 100% reliable recall because out there, your success or failure at getting that reliability affects other people, with risk of injury or simply scaring the pants off of them.

<http://denisefenzipetdogs.com/2015/09/21/recall-training/>

Read the blog. Send it to your friends. Send it to your puppy class trainers. Print it out and post it at your favorite dog parks. And for goodness sake, remove the phrase “Don’t worry, my is friendly!” from your vocabulary. Really people, most of the time other people and other dogs don’t actually want to be approached so directly, no matter how good the intentions. Let’s learn to show some respect for the people we wish to see tolerate our love for dogs, and find ways to compromise so we can be out there with our dogs, but not with our dogs making the lives of other people or more introverted dogs miserable.

More wisdom from Connie Cleveland comes from this webinar segment about structured practice, and how to work on run-through choreography and then do in-depth problem solving as needed.

<https://vimeo.com/145296555>

Business Plan Update – Lizanne Kaiser

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

Training Tools Classes in 2016 – Foundation Skills for Obedience and Rally

Barbara Henry and Lizanne Kaiser will continue teaching the Training Tools classes every- even-numbered 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).

(Ed Note: Good news! Barbara and Lizanne have agreed to teach another set of Training Tools classes in 2016. The format and times are expected to be similar to those in place now. Stay tuned for the listing of classes for 2016.)

GUIDELINES FOR TRAINING HALL USE

ODTC’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 –

(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.)

Meet the Members Holly McArthur

(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.)

I’m Holly McArthur. I live in West Marin with my husband, twin daughters, two dogs, a barn cat, chickens, pygmy goats and sheep. Space for my horses is what brought us out from Oakland to our four acres in rural West Marin 17 years ago. Sadly, my last horse died in July and for the first time in more than 20 years I am horseless. That’s ok for now though because my own dogs, raising teenagers, being a 4H leader and helping other people with their pet dogs is keeping me pretty busy! We have Diesel, a two year old border collie from herding lines and Tilly a 4 month old field-bred golden. Both dogs teach me lessons everyday about working with the two ends of the temperament spectrum.

Diesel was the dog that led me to the Oakland Dog Training Club because in addition to herding I wanted to learn to compete in obedience and rally. Diesel got the memo that border collies are “supposed to be quirky” but apparently did not get the memo about being “driven” to work at any task. If it doesn’t involve sheep he doesn’t get the point!

Despite that Diesel is a worrier when away from the comforts of a farm, and has challenges with sound sensitivity, he and I have learned a lot thanks to input from Barbara Henry, Lizanne Kaiser, Lynn Kosmakos and Lora Cox. A slow maturing dog, he has taught me patience and creativity in training. He is coming along at last in a way that didn't seem possible when he first belly crawled into the training hall at 7 months old for Barbara and Lizanne's attention class. Through weekly visits to the hall he finally became confident enough there to earn his CGC when he was 13 months. Lynn K. was so supportive and encouraging in those early days that I owe her a big thank you.

I am new to the world of competitive obedience training, or actually competitive anything dog training. My focus until now has been on pet dog manners and shelter work. Watching the exactness with which the experts at ODTC train has been quite an eye opener. I'm not sure I'll ever get rid of all of my sloppy training habits, but I am trying! While most of my clients would roll their eyes if I started focusing them on the "straightness" of heel position, that's something that I love about the world of dogs: we each get to define our own goals with our own dogs.

I started my part-time pet training business in 2007 when I retired from my life in high tech so that I could have more flexibility while my kids were young and to focus on something I could be more passionate about. I'm certified as a CPDT-KA and over the years I've taught lots of group pet dog classes and private lessons. I was the Director of the Canine Program for Pets Lifeline, the shelter in Sonoma, from 2009-12 where I did evaluations, taught classes and supervised volunteers.

I regularly employ trick training because it helps people bond with their dog while also teaching the mechanics of basic training. My favorite group class of all time was the year my 4H dog project focused entirely on teaching tricks.

Tricks helped Diesel learn to focus and enjoy training. Since he took to tricks readily we pursued the Trick Dog titles offered through Kyra Sundance's "Do More With Your Dog" organization. It's a fun program I encourage members of the club to explore. The lower level titles can be obtained by demonstrating the required tricks to any witness who will then verify that they were done. (And they do check!) Ultimately, to get a Trick Dog Champion title (TDCH) you must prepare a video that demonstrates trick foundation skills plus your choice of some advanced tricks. Here is a link (<https://vimeo.com/139766099>)

to the video Diesel and I put together to meet these requirements to get his TDCH.

In July, Diesel and I took Laurie Rubin's Freestyle/Rally FrEe class at ODTC. Given our love for tricks, Diesel and I found a new outlet for fun! We are working on a novice freestyle routine and just earned our first qualifying score towards the Rally FrEe Novice title placing 4th out of 10 competitors. We received a 9 out of 10 for "teamwork," which makes me super proud.

Tilly would be sad to see that she got so little attention in print so I'll just add that this spunky little Topbrass Golden girl is exactly what our family needed. She is the cuddly pet my kids and husband wanted and a super fun training partner for me – up for anything and smart as a whip!

I am thoroughly enjoying this new chapter in my life with my dogs and learning about dog sports and competition. My dogs and I are grateful to be part of the club where people are happy to share their experience with newbies like us.

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.)

At the end of September Quimby and trekked up to Washington state for the annual Cardigan Welsh Corgi Northwestern Regional Specialty. This annual event, in Washington state, draws Cardigans from all over the western states. Two local obedience clubs sponsor All-Breed Obedience and Rally trials over a 3-day period. There were supported entries for Cardigans galore, and Quimby cleaned up. She earned UDX leg 12, 13 and 14, taking the High Scoring/High Combined Cardigan in all three trials, plus two All Breed High Combined placements! As it happened the President of the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America was in attendance. When he saw all of the prizes we won, he joked that we'd need a bigger car to carry them home. I told him that if the CWCCA wants to sponsor a car at next year's trial, we'll be there! I couldn't have been more proud of this wonderful girl!-- Kathy Miller

To all our friends at ODTC,

I just want to share with everyone that today (October 29) is Blue's 17th birthday!!! He's alive, and if not kicking, exactly, he's still walking around. And he still climbs 26 steps (with a little help) to get home from his daily walk or outing to the park.

Blue was my first obedience and agility dog. When we brought him home from the Berkeley Humane Society, we had no idea of the journey we would embark upon. He was such a capable dog and deserved better than a novice trainer/handler. Even so, he earned 25 UDX legs, 44 OTCH points, five 1st places in Open and Utility B classes, two HIT's and two HC's. He also distinguished himself in agility (even though he really didn't like the weave poles).

In addition, I don't think there was ever a dog with more "ball drive" than Blue.

He's been such a great guy that even Ladybug loves him...and that's saying a lot!

At this point he's a bit fragile; but he's still healthy and we look forward to the time we have left with him.

Thanks for letting me share this.

Laurie Raz-Astrakhan

Grace got her CDX in July with two first places and a third at all breed shows. In September, she went HIT at the Basset Hound Regionals, and, even better, at the Basset Nationals out of the Open B class!-- Sharon Hall

Racy and I went to Tennessee for the Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) National Specialty where we competed in the Novice Obedience Finals, October 13. Based on three scores from the qualifying year, the top ten Australian Shepherds are invited to compete in each level of Finals. Racy had finished the year in 6th place. I am delighted to report that we won the Novice Finals, losing only 1.5 points in our first ring and 0 points in the second ring. I was shocked and thrilled. Racy is now ASCA 2015 Novice Obedience Champion CH Woodstock's Catch Me If You Can! CD. --Laurie Rubin

Connor aka GCH CH Shine-On Here's Looking At You Kid CGC THD CAA has had a busy spring and summer! My redhead earned his Novice Agility and Novice Jumpers titles in April. He proceeded to earn his Open Agility title in May and his Open Jumpers title in June! We threw in some obedience training in there and he earned his CD at Gold Country KC in August. His first love is Agility so he kept powering through and earned his Excellent Jumpers title in August as well and finished off with his Excellent Agility title in September! We are currently working towards the Master titles and he is well on his way there! Who would have ever thought this gentle, easy going Irish would have been such a great athlete? So proud of him! Thanks for allowing me to brag!-- Ki Welch

(Ed note: Lora Cox will be astonished to see this brag from July 2014 – yes “14” – it surfaced while I was trolling for other information in the files. What a terrific accomplishment!). Ranger earned his Herding Championship July 6th. He is now a dual champion with a HC and CT. July 13th he earned his ASCA Started Ducks, Open Sheep and first leg on started Cattle. He has qualified for the AKC Obedience Classic in Utility being held in Florida in Dec. – Lora Cox

River and I have been kind of even having fun in Grad Open. I am so glad we got in the ring and tried it- as regular utility requires attentive sure decision making -as a team especially with the articles- which we do mostly have - just not with the leather.- We started and got our title at Del Valle with great scores for us- -lowest was 192. Then we entered grad open twice at Stockton- got a 194 and an nq- (good ole obedience reminder that anything can and does happen) : I kind of softly garbled the very last instruction to the directed jumping- (you know-just when one is thinking that this is great- a maybe even fun time has been had and we got this...then I say "riverover" in a garbled but kindly church like manner instead of my usual try for loud and this is gonna be fun for you tone. So he did the very proper quizzical "I beg your pardon, can you please repeat that ?" inquisitive stare. A new lesson to be learned is always just around the corner. But for sure being in the ring and doing the easier utility while we bolster up for the real thing has been a confidence booster for both of us. With very few entries we are all are in the same boat- trying to make it toward the land of utility and nary an OTCH dog in the line-up. I recommend it. – Meigs Matheson

My very sweet red and white Siberian Husky, Scout (Talocon's Mountain Explorer, age 10) was HIT from the Novice B class at the Siberian Husky Club of Greater Chicago Specialties on October 10 and again on October 11, 2015. I am very proud of Scout's efforts and while he had a few bobbles and lost points on his halts, he had perfect recalls with no point deductions for fronts or finishes. Scout is now retired from Obedience and will concentrate on Rally, Variable Surface Tracking and his OnTheCouchHusky title. – Kathy Henderson