

**Special points of interest:**

- Annual Obedience, Rally and Agility Trials
- The Annual Training Report
- Meet the Trainer
- What is a Title?

## From the President

By Aimee Busse

WOW! Yes...WOW! How else can one describe the enthusiasm of the LTDTC club members who came together to put on one of the country's largest AKC agility, obedience and rally trials back-to-back May 9 and May 10? Let alone a club that offered a stellar agility fun match, obedience correction clinic and rally fun match prior to the trials which immediately followed a successful AKC TD and TDX tracking test. Amazing! Truly Amazing!

On behalf of all the LTDTC members and Board of Directors, I want to thank all of the trial chairs and their volunteers who worked tirelessly and came together in unison to produce the trials. Putting on the AKC trials sometimes looks like a well orchestrated rock concert; with roadies... and even groupies!

The excitement of the club

spirit will continue to be celebrated as LTDTC hosts its annual picnic Sunday, June 28, noon at Berkeley Park. The annual picnic is a nice opportunity to slow down



and catch up on life with everyone as well as a time to make new friends – all sharing one common bond – love of our dogs.

Tell everyone you know and mark your calendars for Saturday, August 1, 10A-12n. LTDTC has been asked by

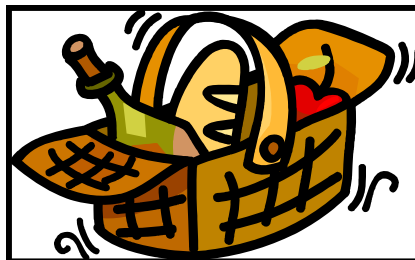
the Village of Villa Park, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Villa Park Public Library to host a special free community event for the public. As part of the *AKC Responsible Dog Ownership* program, LTDTC will demonstrate agility, obedience, rally and other performance events as well as host a special Read to the Dogs program for children. More information regarding this event will be available at [www.ltdtc.org](http://www.ltdtc.org) and the registrar's table on training nights.

Happy Dog Days of Summer! Be safe! Get out there and smell the flowers! Dogs are so unique and have so much to teach us. They help us humans to forget about the past and keep us from worrying about the future. Take advantage of it!

## Summer Picnic

By Gail Meyers

June 28 is the date of our Summer Picnic. It is again being held at the Berkeley Park on Electric Avenue in Berkeley, and again I will be asking for side dishes for you all to bring to help make this another memorable event. Watch your mailbox for further infor-



mation. And remember, you

can always reach me at home by phone 708 449 5066, email [dal-dog2@comcast.net](mailto:dal-dog2@comcast.net) or at class on Tuesday evenings, if you have any questions. See you on the 28th!!!

# Director of Training 2009 Annual Report

By Bill Casey

Our club has had another successful year in all three training venues. While obedience competition results has had a bit of an upswing and the quality of the degrees is impressive with the addition of a number of new CDX's and UD's. Agility competition has continued to have another stable year with it's own share of success. Rally competition has continued to shine with its numbers almost double compared to those of the previous years success.

A very important element of our organization will always be that of helping owners build a positive bond through various basic training control technique. Most of these techniques are employed throughout our Puppy, Beginner and Advanced Beginner course offerings. I am extremely happy with our results in this area and continued effort through my own experiences, staff input and various seminar experiences to build on our current success. I have always felt that this is our most valuable asset to the community, as we know too well the outcome for many of these poor animals that are mishandled and misunderstood by their human companions. While I have never promoted us as a purely positive reinforcement organization we have continued to further our strong lean in that direction and will continue to do so, when possible over the coming year.

We have had two staff meeting over the past year each extremely productive in their own way. The one held at the home of Sally Davis focused on competition technique as well as Rally and basic control which based upon staff feedback where enlightening to all. It also gave

us one last opportunity to learn from the master of training Sally Davis, which was a staff high



Photo by Jessica Pritz

point. The second meeting lead to some major changes in our advanced obedience training levels much of this prompted by specific AKC changes.

One development from our staff meeting was that of Dallas In-gold taking on the duty of organizing mini training seminars throughout the year open to all student and staff. Topics will be varied, educational and brief offering our students another avenue to expand their training knowledge and to take advantage of the higher learning, training and competing of some of our staff.

While our staff has been very successful on the competition floor to be perfectly blunt our students have not. Take a look at the list of awards recipients for this year's annual banquet as in years past it is mostly members of our instructing staff. While this fact has definite positives. Our staff is there each with many years of experience in all venue of training to encourage and prepare our students. I need feedback from some of the

membership as to why you are not actively showing in spite of the hours spent on our training floors for that very reason.

I have also subscribed to a new service in this vein called Survey Monkey. Please make sure that all student/member email addresses are current, as I will be sending spot surveys to help us understand what we can do to be of benefit to all students.

I have continued to add staff over the past year. No disrespect to Kevin but, 2 new and one old. Let me clarify, as we are extremely happy to have Kevin Wyderka back to our basic training floors. While Kevin has been away from our floors he has continued to hone his skills by running my own basic training classes throughout the past several years and I couldn't be happier to have him back on our floors. I have also added Christen Long who has taken courses on basic training instruction, works in an animal related field for a living and has spent an extended period of time in primarily our Rally program. I have also added Erin Rezmer to specifically our Rally staff based upon rave reviews by current staff and her own success we are lucky to add her skills to our organization. We are lucky to add the youth and diverse experiences of these three to our current staff. With the advanced and advancing ages of the majority of our staff my plans are to add a few new members in the coming year.

Our most exciting developments

*(Continued on page 3)*

**"helping owners  
build a positive  
bond..."**

*(Continued from page 2)*

have just recently gotten underway with the merging of our Novice 2 and 3 levels into one new Competition Novice class. The bottom line is that once you have been admitted to this level as the title says you are going to compete! Open has now divided to Beginners Open which will focus on introducing advanced competition exercises while Competition Open means that you are good to show and/or are showing for an even higher degree such as UD, UDX or maybe an OTCH. We are attempting to give those folks taking their competition to the highest levels a place where they might be able to keep all their dogs skills in show shape.

In an attempt to increase the success of our students you will now be encouraged up to the next level as soon as you have achieved, one leg towards a degree. All staff and successful competitors know that the sooner and younger these skills are introduced the more successful and enjoyable the competition experience is to dog and owner.

Agility has continued to thrive with its own very dedicated group of instructors lead by Assistant Director Betty Smith. Betty has stepped up very ably to fill the void left by Sally Davis's departure. While Agility numbers were somewhat down over the last half of last year they

have begun to rise again throughout the past few months and based upon comments of Betty and staff I continue to be excited by the prospects for the future. In fact my only real concern is based on the limits of our facility and staff.

Rally has been steady and getting stronger with each passing year with the direction of Roxanne Dwyer and her very dedicated, motivated and passionate staff and I don't



really see that changing. I know that the staff and ring will typically be set in advance and more advanced students will be doing show prep with their dogs outside of the actual 8:30 structured class. The direction that this venue has taken is somewhat unique to our organization and until the point that Roxanne begins to express concerns or issues I have no plans to make

changes to our Rally operation at this time. In other words if it ain't broke don't fix it.

I am always in discussion with certain valued members of our staff in an ongoing effort to increase our students' success and experience. In this vein we have other competition training ideas that we are contemplating in the coming year and beyond. Many of our students would be impressed by the lengths that some members of our staff go to in an attempt to grow their skills just within the past year most of which is at great expense and sacrifice which ultimately all our students will benefit from.

I continue to be grateful to the assistance and support of Jeff Vidt who has been by my side for many of the almost 3 decades that I have been Director and am very appreciative of all of Dallas Ingold's input and assistance over the past few years. I am excited by the prospects of another year's assistance from Betty Smith and the return of new Registrar Sherry Gignac whom I had the pleasure of working with in her first go around in that position two decades ago.

I am extremely excited by the feedback and prospects of success in the coming year based upon comments made by students, staff and their continued enthusiasm, which sparks me in my duties.

Lyons Township Dog Training Club wishes to extend  
our deepest sympathies to the family of  
Dallas and Meb Ingold  
on the loss of your grandson.  
Our thoughts are with you during this  
very difficult time.



## Volunteer Opportunity in August—Villa Park

By Roxanne Dwyer

Saturday, August 1 • 10:00 am – 12 noon • Rain or Shine • Iowa Community Center • Villa Park

LTDTC has been offered a unique opportunity by the Villa Park Recreation Department. They have invited us to present a demonstration of dog activities. Promoting it to their residents as a fun and interactive event, this exciting morning will showcase agility, rally and

obedience.

This is a great opportunity for LTDTC. In addition to showing off our own super dogs we will attract new members to the club. However, we need lots of volunteers to make this as successful as possible. There is a role for everyone. In addition to demonstration Teams we would like to include a Meet the Breeds booth and dog safety information.

If you're more of a behind the scenes person we also need helpers for set up and tear down. This will be a rain or shine event. Contact Roxanne at [roxanedwyer@yahoo.com](mailto:roxanedwyer@yahoo.com) or 708.288.8259 and let me know how you would like to participate.

## Rally Class News

By Roxanne Dwyer

### Rally Class News

The Rally coaching team is constantly re-evaluating students' needs as well as the best way to assist members overall. So now we are announcing *two changes* to our class format. The **first** change is that on the eighth week (last night) of every session, we will offer Rally run-throughs open to any LTDTC member. It will include scoring and timing. Or not, your choice. The Rally run-throughs will start at 8:00 pm with the understanding that we may need to adjust the timing as things progress. We are excited about

using LTDTC's expertise and equipment resources to enable more members' success.

The **second** change is that we have developed a "Fast Track" Rally curriculum to offer experienced members. It assumes that teams have a CDX or better, leveraging the obedience skills that translate and highlighting the exercises that are performed differently in Rally. It also includes a segment on course strategy. The curriculum will be offered in 7 fixed modules so that par-

ticipants can put it all together on run-through night. We are making it even more accessible by offering it during the "tweener" time between classes. Initially it will be held from 8:15 to 8:30 with other times possible on a case by case basis. The module schedule will be posted by the Rally ring each week.

We welcome feedback and if you think of any ways that the Rally team can help you succeed we are certainly open to it. (No, Pam will not handle your dog for you.)

## Rover Reporter

By Anonymous

So what is a trial??? I've watched Judge Judy with my person, and frankly, she scares me. So if she's at these trials, count me OUT! But I'm told that people and my canine friends actually LIKE these trials that our club has every year. The dogs tell me it's fun! You get to show off all of the stuff your person has been trying to teach you for a l-o-n-g time, like



heal, sit/stay, jump over stuff, walk backwards in a little circle, go thru tunnels, run over "A-frames", and some dogs just not doing it the way the person wants just to "play" with them. We know how to do all of this stuff, we just like to niggle at you people a bit, to show you just how smart we are! I saw that some dogs did a real great

job, because they got a ribbon, and their person got an envelope. I heard my person say that there was money in the envelope. Go figure, we do the work and they get the money. Where's Judge Judy when you need her? But to be fair, I did see some of my friends walking around with new toys in their mouths that they won for doing really good in Rally and Agility. The people only get money in Obedience. Oh well, I guess I'll do good in Rally and Agility, and only try at Obedience, one can never have too many toys.

## What is a Title?

By Sandy Mowery (Wisconsin)

Not just a brag, not just a stepping stone to a higher title, not just an adjunct to competitive scores. A Title is a tribute to the dog that bears it, a way to honor that dog, an ultimate memorial. It will remain in the record and in the memory for about as long as anything in this world can remain. Few humans will do as well or better in that regard, and though the dog himself doesn't know or care that his achievements have been noted, a Title says many things in the world of humans, where such things count.

A Title says your dog was intelligent, and adaptable, and good natured. It says that your dog loved you enough to do the things that please you, however crazy they may have sometimes seemed. And a Title says that you loved your dog, that you loved to spend time with him because he was a good dog, and that you believed in him enough to give him yet another chance when he failed, and that in the end your

faith was justified.

A Title proves that your dog inspired you to have the special relationship enjoyed by so few, that in the world of disposable creatures, this dog with a Title was greatly loved, and loved greatly in return. And when that dear short life is over, the Title remains as a memorial of the finest kind, the best you can give to a deserving friend, volumes of praise in one small set of initials before or after the name.

A Title is nothing less than love and respect, given and received, permanently recorded



## Pawsitively in the News

By Aimee Bussee

In the *Volunteers Spotlight* ~ We salute long-time club members *Meb and Dallas Ingold* for their faithful dedication and individual contributions to LTDTTC. Not only does this couple co-chair two LTDTTC AKC Tracking Tests (spring and fall) per year, they both also serve the club as obedience instructors. In addition to many volunteer activities and duties, Dallas has held the Treasurer position for the last four years. Meb has served on many committees, most recently the LTDTTC Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

In *consolation*, we offer our deepest

sympathies to Marilyn and Jacquelyn Pikowski (*Pearl* – Standard Poodle) on the recent loss of their mother Louise. Many of you will remember Louise's kind smile as she attended many LTDTTC functions.

We also extend our sympathies to Anne Baker for the loss of her rescued Chinese Shar-Pei *Sweetie*, CD, NA, NAJ, NJP, VSPX, CGC, TDI (retired). Our condolences go out to Debbie Sazma for the loss of her Cocker Spaniel *Becky*, RN, NF, NAJ, NAJP, OAJ, CGC, TDI. Our sympathies are extended to Lyn Stallsmith and her family for the loss of their Borzoi *Neddie*, CGC.

*Warm thoughts and well wishes* go out to Deb-

bie Sibrava, Laurel Ahlenius and Frank Puncocar. LTDTTC members say "heel!"

*New Puppy Breath*: Welcome Sue Folkerts' new Golden Retriever puppy *Moses*, and Debbie and Samantha Sibrava's latest rescue addition Miniature Pincher *Ruby*. Also welcome Carol Ely's newest addition *Gypsy*, a 2yr old Standard Poodle.

*The Doggy Lama says: Grasshopper...* Summer is a time to dance barefoot in the tall grasses with your best fur-friend while the world stands still. "Never lose an opportunity to see anything that is beautiful. The earth laughs in flowers." *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## Correction Clinic & Match Recap

By Roxanne Dwyer, Debbie Sazma, & Dave Crawford

On Run-Through night the Rally Ring efficiently evaluated 29 teams using our two judge system and fully nested course. Attendees were a good mix of regulars and newcomers. The best part, however, was seeing how many of our Run-Through participants earned Rally legs at LTDTC's trial.

LTDTC hosted an agility fun match on April 27, 09. Due to the upcoming trial the fun match was a huge success. Everyone had a fun time and we heard a lot of praise and positive feedback from people. The main comment was to thank the club for having the fun match before the trial. Agility fun matches are greatly appreciated because people are always looking to train a little extra and get the dogs

on different equipment, new surroundings, distractions.

I encourage handlers to come out for the fun match and use it as a chance to train, you do not have to run the course as it is laid out, you can take advantage and work the dog on the things they need work on. You can use treats, toys or any training aid at a fun match.

I would like to take this time to thank all the people who came out to help with the match. I also encourage new handlers to come out and work at a fun match because you can see what a trial is going to be like and you also get to see different handling techniques. I know time in your day is precious and

we all can use extra hours in a day, we do appreciate the time you give.

Looking forward to planning the next fun match and I hope to see you all there again.

Hi All, Once again we had a fine correction clinic. On the night of April 27<sup>th</sup> we were able to run 77 dogs thru obedience and 29 dogs thru the rally gates. I would like to thank everyone who worked that night. Running 106 dogs thru a match is a lot of work and it takes a team effort.

**THANK YOU!**

In case you were wondering, correction clinics are mock trials so that people can practice their handling and the dogs won't know that they're not in the real thing. Dogs become "ring wise" and know that they can behave differently in

## Trial Recap

By Gail Meyers, Tom Rezmer & Erin Rezmer

Our third Rally Trial is now just a memory, albeit a happy one. From the Novice class all the way to the Excellent class, we had 70 entries on Saturday and 60 on Sunday. Every team that entered that ring looked like they were having fun. So much so, that I've decided to try Henry at it. (Wish me luck!!!) I would like to give the Rally stewards a heartfelt "thank you" for without you, this part of the trial would have been a mess. You kept the entrants moving, the times correct and the books straight. For this I again thank each and every one of you. I hope you remember that I'll be needing you again next year.

Thanks,  
Gail Meyers  
Rally Chairperson

As ring coordinator I can say with certainty that the Agility portion of the LTDTC Trial was a success. We had 489 scheduled runs on Saturday and 454 on Sunday. We had a lot of volunteers from club members as well as many outside our club. All 10 steward positions were filled in both rings on both days for the entire day. The volunteers are the ones who made it a success.

Thanks All!  
Tom Rezmer  
Agility Ring and Volunteer Coordinator

The number of our obedience trial rings had to be reduced due to the late cancellation of one of our judges. This extended the length of our obedience

trial into the late afternoon, but the handler/dog teams didn't seem to mind. We had 102 obedience entries on Saturday and 78 on Sunday. Again, the ring stewards kept the trial moving and the success of the trial was due to your efforts. Since there are so many to thank I won't list them here. You know who you are and you know how much the club appreciates your time.

Thanks!  
Erin Rezmer  
LTDTC Member

# Puppy Socialization

From the very start, a puppy learns important lessons through his experience of the world around him. Even in the first few weeks as he snuggles with his dam, wrestles with his littermates, and is handled by his breeder each day, the personality traits and social skills that he will have all his life are beginning to form. As the weeks go by, exposure to a variety of experiences is crucial to his becoming a well-rounded adult. Studies have shown that a puppy's experiences in the first three months of life strongly influence what kind of companion he will grow to be and how he will react to the world. Will he shy away from children? Will he be afraid of people in hats? Will he be aggressive toward other dogs? Or will he be easygoing and adaptable in a variety of situations? Perhaps surprisingly, failure to properly expose a young puppy to certain situations or types of people during this brief early period can result in his being forever fearful of them as an adult. Early socialization—or the lack of it—is a vital determinant of a dog's lifelong behaviors. Without proper socialization, it is unlikely that a pup will become the adult dog he could have been, whether as a competitor in canine events or as a happy, well-adjusted pet.

## Windows of Opportunity

But what exactly is “proper socialization”? Socialization is the process of exposing a puppy from early on to as wide a variety of environments, situations, animals, and types of people as can be done safely and without causing trauma to the pup. Canine-behavior researchers have found that there are several crucial “socialization windows” in the first year—limited periods during which the pup is receptive to the lifelong benefits of exposure to new things. Of these periods, the earliest—the first 12 weeks of life—is the most critical. According to the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB), sociability outweighs fear during this period, making it “the primary window of opportunity for puppies to adapt to new people, animals, and experiences.” This period is when the pup first learns

to accept and enjoy the company of people, to behave appropriately around other dogs, and to experience the differing aspects of the world around him without fear. Soon after 12 weeks, most pups will enter a fear-prone period in their development. After this point, if the pup has not been well socialized it may be at best permanently difficult for him to adapt to certain unfamiliar experiences.

“Basically, an adult dog's temperament and behavior habits, both good and bad, are shaped during puppyhood—very early puppyhood,” says veterinarian and leading animal behaviorist Dr. Ian Dunbar, author of *Before & After Getting Your Puppy*. Further, Dunbar notes that behavior issues are the number-one cause of relinquishment to shelters. Thus it is essential that as a breeder you understand the importance of socialization. Although its benefits continue throughout (and beyond) the first 18 months of the dog's life, remember that the most critical socialization period ends at 12 weeks, so the bulk if not all of this most-vital groundwork is up to you.

## Strategies

What can a breeder do to properly socialize each pup? The starting point is for the litter to be raised within a home environment with frequent human contact, rather than secluded in the yard or a kennel. This is the first step in ensuring that the pups will be prepared for life in a household, with all the sounds, smells, and hustle-and-bustle that this entails. Some breeders will move a litter from room to room on progressive weeks, to change the scene and familiarize the pups with such varied sounds as those of the dishwasher, television, and washer-dryer. Others like to situate the puppy pen near the home's center of activity, so the pups are exposed to comings and goings and hear a variety of human voices.

The litter should be accustomed to human touch from the start. Most breeders pick up each puppy at least daily, usually to weigh or otherwise inspect them and assess their condition. Puppies can be gently held in different positions and get used to having different parts of their

body handled. “My puppies are handled every day from birth,” says longtime English Cocker Spaniel breeder Betty Ganung. “I start trimming their nails at 2 weeks, and by 5 weeks they are introduced to clippers and have toys to play with and some individual playtime.”

As puppies mobilize themselves and begin exploring, it's important that they experience a wide variety of textures, stimuli, and challenges. Experienced breeders recommend providing a variety of surfaces for the pups to walk on, such as carpeting, slippery floors, and bumpy terrain. Have the pups learn about stairs. Set up “obstacle courses” for them to figure out and climb up and down or through, and include unstable elements that (safely) tip or wobble underfoot. Provide toys in a range of sizes, shapes, and materials.

## “100 People by 12 Weeks”

Most important of all is to expose the pups to as wide a variety of people as possible—people of differing ages, sizes, skin color, and dress. Many dogs can be particularly apprehensive of men and very small children if they were not exposed to them during the early socialization period. “I invite neighborhood kids over to play with all my pups,” says Ganung. “I let them pick them up, always while I'm there to supervise.” Dunbar recommends that a puppy meet at least 100 different people by age 12 weeks. “Not only is this easier to do than it might sound,” he explains, “it's also lots of fun.” Breeders can arrange to have small groups of friends and family visit the pups, and take pups to public areas such as pet-supply stores and school grounds.

## A Standard of Care

Because of the evidence that early socialization can prevent serious canine behavior problems such as fear, avoidance, and aggression, in 2008 the AVSAB issued the position statement that it should be the standard of care for puppies to be socialized in the first 12 weeks. An excellent means of early so-

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Braggs

By Amy Hanrahan

Two Big Paws up for the following teams who earned Titles or legs towards Titles over the past three months.

### Obedience

- Andrew Ansenberger and his Cocker Spaniel “Oliver” have earned their Companion Dog Excellent Title (CDX).
- Sharon Detro and her Coton de Tulear “Leila Mea” have earned their first leg toward a Companion Dog (CD) Title
- Pat Mauney and her Shetland Sheepdog “Toby” have earned two legs toward their CDX Title.
- Judy Morganti and her Labrador Retriever “Jersey” have earned their CDX Title.
- Nancy Pritz and her Belgian Malinois “Kimo” who have earned their United Kennel Club (UKC) Novice Title and one leg toward the UKC Open B Title.
- Erin Rezmer and her Boxer “Kahlua” have earned two legs toward their CD Title.
- Tom Rezmer and his Boxer “Killian” have earned their second leg toward their CDX Title. In addition to working toward regular class Titles, Tom and his two Boxers “Killian” and “Kahlua” earned a score of 184 in the Brace Class.



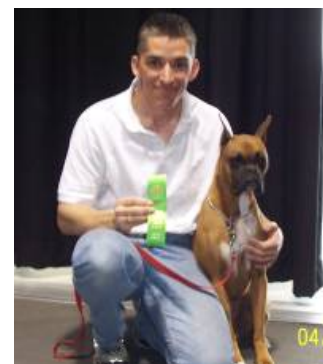
- Pam Crawford and her Bassett Hound “Holly” have earned the AKC Rally Advanced Excellent Title (RAE).
- Paul Garrett and his Dalmatian “Ivy” have earned two legs toward their AKC Rally Advanced Title (RA).
- Amy Hanrahan and her Shar-pei “Peanut” have earned two legs toward a AKC Rally Excellent (RE) Title.
- Marilyn Lada and her Golden Retriever “Belle” have earned their AKC RA Title and Marilyn and her Golden Retriever “Wood E” have earned their AKC RN Title
- Karen Wierdak and her Golden Retrievers “Glory” and “Marley” have both earned their AKC RN Titles.
- Loretta Marchese and her Shetland Sheepdogs “Maggie” and “Brandy” have both earned their UKC Rally Novice Titles (UR01) and their APDT Rally Level 1 (RL1) Titles. Loretta and “Maggie” have also earned two legs toward an APDT Rally Level 2 (RL2) Title.

- Kevin Grudem & Golden Retriever Kimi earned a Rally Novice leg.

### Agility

- Kevin Blair and his Austrian Sheppard “Toby” have earned their Novice Agility Standard (NA) Title, their Novice Jumpers with Weaves (NAJ) Title, and their first leg toward an Open Jumpers with Weaves (OAJ) Title.
- Jackie Ceres and her Brittany Spaniel “Tucker” have earned their second leg toward a AKC Excellent Jumpers with Weaves Preferred Title.
- Jackie Ceres and her Brittany Spaniel “Jack” have earned their NAJ Title.

- Chris Kowalkowski and his Austrian Sheppard “Foster” have earned their first leg toward a NAJ Title.
- Judy Morganti and her Labrador Retriever “Jersey” have earned their NAJ and Novice Standard (NA) Titles and a first leg toward a Novice Fast Title.
- Tom Rezmer and his Boxer “Killian” have earned their NA Title and their first leg toward a NAJ Title.
- Debbie Sazma and her Cocker Spaniel “Brandy” have earned their Novice Standard Preferred (NAP) and their Novice Jumpers with



Weaves Preferred (NJP) Titles

- Betty Smith and her Golden Retriever “Mattie” have earned their Open Fast (OF) Title and Excellent Standard (AX) Title.



### Rally

- Diane Breininger and her Brittany Spaniel “Tucker” have earned their AKC Rally Novice Title (RN).

# LTDTTC Spring Tracking Test Recap

By Dallas & Meb Ingold, co-chairs

The LTDTTC 2009 Spring Tracking Trial was held on Sunday April 26th.

Thanks to all the wonderful support we had from many folks!

Track Layers: Nancy Pritz, Dave Crawford, Jason Sheldon and Andrew Ansenberger, cross Trackers: Jim McClaren,



Lisa Datzman and Ron Gignac.

Saturday when we plotted the tracks was a wonderful warm day! The came the test on Sunday and we can say the weather turned to "normal Tracking Trial soup". Off and on rain followed with lightning and thunder and then some more rain!

Our Judges were Ted Hoesel and Terri Everwine.

Terri posted a very good write-up of our trial on a Tracking Listserve that follows:

## The Lyons Township DTC TD/TDX results

Posted by: "Terri Everwine"  
[everte@comcast.net](mailto:everte@comcast.net) calypso5671  
 Date: Sun Apr 26, 2009 3:31 pm  
 ((PDT))

Lines of scattered showers and thunderstorms moving through Illinois didn't deter the intrepid trackers today. The test did not fill. Open to

2 TD and 5 TDX tracks, the club drew 1 TD and 3 TDX entrants.

Our 1 TD entrant was also entered in Pecatonica's TD, another test that did

not fill. We arranged our schedule to run her dog at 7 am so that she could make the trip up

to Rockford in time for their draw. 6 minutes later, a new TD title was added to the name of Labrador retriever Rush Lakes Yahtzee RE, NA, NAJ, NF, owned by Cynthia Nauer of Marengo, IL and handled by Penny



Kurz. Cynthia was successful in handling her own dog to a second title today. Penny stuck around to handle one of the TDX entrants.

Our first two TDX dogs were unsuccessful, the first turning right about 30 feet from the flag and following a deer trail,

the second making a right instead of a left at the second turn. Both dogs reportedly finished well, despite intermittent downpours and occasional rumbles of thunder.

Our third entrant approached the flag just as it began to storm again, this time with lightening, so we postponed the start for 30 minutes waiting for it to blow over. The second time the team approached the start flag we were off behind our passing dog!

Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Westside Mings Dynasty, TDX, RA, is now only the third staffie bull to have earned a TDX, and the first male to do so.

"Charlie" was also ably handled by Penny Kurz for owner Jean Richardson of Palatine, IL. Charlie ran his track in 13 minutes, covering 850 yards with hardly any deviation from the track and happily pouncing on and tossing his articles. It was a great way to end our

day!! Terri

Again, thanks to all for your help!

## Ben's Friends

By Gail Meyers, Ben's Friends' Chairperson

Ben's Friends

Recently, on May 20, 5 teams of Ben's Friends visited 4 classrooms of children at the Stone School in Addison. I can not tell you what a very wonderful visit it was. The children were just delightful, and to watch the intermingling of dogs and children was heartwarming. The visit was so well received that we've been invited back this fall after school resumes. Keep watch of your emails for further news of this visit, or you can just ask me, and I'll let you know when it will be.

On **July 28** we will be holding another Delta Test. If you need to retest your dog, or want to take the test to become a Ben's Friend, let me know so I can put you on the list. Usually, these fill up pretty fast, and we only test a maximum of 12 teams, so get your reservation in early. The next three month's visits are as follows:

**June 11** at Lexington Square in



Lombard at 2:00 PM

**June 13 and 27** at British Home in Brookfield at 1:00 PM

**July 9** at Concorde Place in Northlake at 2:00 PM

**July 11 and 25** at British Home in Brookfield, at 1:00 PM.

**August 13** at Lexington Square in Lombard at 2:00 PM

**August 8 and 22** at British Home in

Brookfield at 1:00 PM

Please let me know if you attend any of these visits.

We are also doing some "Read to the Dog" programs at two local libraries.

The first is a 6 week program at the La Grange library starting on **Monday June 15** at 10:00 AM for one hour, and continuing every **Monday** after that thru **July 20**. We need 3 teams for each Monday. If this is something that might fit into your schedule, let me know. Please understand that even one week is great. You do not have to commit to the whole 6 weeks. Please check your schedule and let me know.

The second is a one time only at the Berkeley library. It is on **July 23** at 6:30 PM for one hour. We have been asked to bring 5 teams, and we already have 3, so let me know ASAP if you'd like to join us.

Looking forward to seeing you at these visits.

## Trial Hospitality

By Gail Meyers, Hospitality Chairperson

Thank you to all who brought baked goods, and other goodies, to the kitchen to help our breakfast and lunch be a great success. And to my "Morning Ladies" who were at the Odeum by 7:00 each of the morning, I thank you.

I know the judges and some of the stewards looked upon you as Angels from above, bring the much needed "wake-up" coffee. I appreciate your help more than I can say. And those of you that helped put the lunch out and

helped feed our volunteers, I thank you for your time.

I can't tell you what it means to me and the club, that you gave up your Saturday afternoon, and Mother's Day afternoon to help feed these hungry folks.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

### *Puppy Socialization (Continued from page 7)*

cialization is for puppies to attend puppy-kindergarten classes. Although many vets have held that puppies should not be exposed to strange dogs before 12 to 16 weeks because of disease risk, the AVSAB supports participation in puppy kindergarten classes before the full series of puppy vaccines has been completed as long as all puppies in the class are vet-checked to be healthy and parasite-free upon entering the class and are kept current on vaccinations.

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Arliss Paddock breeds and shows English Cocker Spaniels and is former managing editor of the AKC Gazette. This article appeared in the Winter 2008 issue of AKC Breeder, the AKC's newsletter for breeders

# Meet the Trainer—Roxanne Dwyer

By Erin Rezmer

If you have ever wondered by the Rally Obedience ring, you may have seen or spoken to Roxanne Dwyer, Rally Instructor. Roxanne has been an instructor at LTDTC since 2001.

She began her involvement with dog training and LTDTC when her son got his sheltie way back in 1981. They saw an LTDTC brochure in the vet's office so they called to sign up. They were looking for basic, family dog training. They had no intention of showing but like most members, they got hooked. I think we have all said that very same thing.

In looking back at her years of training, Roxanne recalls, "The first dog I trained in the Novice Obedience exercises was our family dachshund when I was 12. I got a Blanche Saunders book from the library and carefully followed the book's instructions. Although I could recite any fact from the AKC Book of Dogs, the way some kids know sports stats. In those days before the Internet, I had no idea how to find a dog show. But ever since then books and dogs have been fused together in my brain."

Although her collie, Onchu, is the first dog she has owned, all the previous dogs she has worked with were owned by family members. "I guess I'm partial to pointy-nosed dogs: a dachshund, a sheltie and a long line of collies. Of the 20 collies I fostered for Collie Rescue, I worked with each one to help them be more adoptable. Depending on the individual dog's needs it ranged from developing confidence to basic obedience cues to cute party tricks," said Roxanne.

In Roxanne's household animal assisted therapy (AAT) is Job One. She has been practicing it since 1995 and Onchu and Cluny are her third and fourth canine

partners. Because of her experience in AAT, she is intensely aware of her responsibility as a role model for humane attitudes towards other species. If she goes into a session speaking sternly to her dogs or yanking on leashes she won't be perceived as a safe person by the program participants.

Roxanne had earned a CDX with the



sheltie and also trained in Utility but never got to compete when her travel schedule at work intensified. Her smooth collie, Tag, had a lot of anxiety in the ring. Once APDT Rally was introduced in the Midwest she found it the perfect venue for him and he earned an RL1 and Onchu earned his RN in 2008. Roxanne says the hardest title to earn has been Onchu's RA as it has been elusive! She says, "Actually earning the title shouldn't be hard if you've prepared by laying a solid foundation of skills, then practicing. So the hard part should come before you start the title quest."

Roxanne's love of training dogs comes from the satisfaction of the communication and problem-solving aspects. Back in the old days the approach to dog training was like following a recipe in a cookbook. Now she says we understand a lot more about different motivators and triggers for different dogs. We also recognize the importance of play in brain

development for all species. This means we can be really creative in coming up with solutions.

For those that have had the pleasure of having Roxanne as an instructor, you know that her training style is constantly evolving. Roxanne says, "Our scientific understanding of dog behavior and learning has been dramatically updated with new research in the last decade. I am always excited when I can leverage that new knowledge into the way I work with my students and my own dogs. As an instructor, I love witnessing the Aha moment when it all comes together for a team. And I get a little thrill when I see people from my class in trial placements!"

As dog trainers and students we are always looking for that key piece of advice or words of wisdom. When

asked what was the best advice she ever received regarding dog training Roxanne replied, "When Sally Davis told all of us in her class to read *Don't Shoot the Dog*" it was an awakening experience." Roxanne's advice to her students is to accept that everyone has different goals but the one underlying theme is to become successful in whatever relationship you choose to have with your dog.

And in closing my interview with Roxanne (and my salute to the 1981 Barbara Walters' interview with Katharine Hepburn) I asked Roxanne if she could be any animal what would it be and why. She replied, "Actually, I would like to be a tree because they're tall and enduring. But if it must be something sentient, then I think I would have a good life as one of Andy Ansenberger's dogs." Apparently, Roxanne has something in common with Ms. Hepburn as she too wanted to be a tree.

## Calendar of Events

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>June 2</b>    | <b>Last Night of Class, CGC Testing, Open, Utility and Rally Run Throughs</b> |
| <b>June 3</b>    | <b>Board meeting</b>  |
| <b>June 9</b>    | <b>New Classes Start, &amp; Training Night</b>                                |
| <b>June 16</b>   | <b>Training Night</b>   |
| <b>June 19</b>   | <b>Instructor's Meeting</b>   |
| <b>June 23</b>   | <b>Training Night</b>   |
| <b>June 28</b>   | <b>LTDTTC Annual Picnic</b>   |
| <b>July 1</b>    | <b>Board Meeting</b>  |
| <b>July 7</b>    | <b>Training Night</b>   |
| <b>July 14</b>   | <b>Training Night</b>   |
| <b>July 21</b>   | <b>Training Night</b>   |
| <b>July 28</b>   | <b>Training Night</b>   |
| <b>August 1</b>  | <b>Villa Park Dog Days</b>  |
| <b>August 4</b>  | <b>Last Night of Class, Novice &amp; Rally Run Throughs, Delta testing</b>    |
| <b>August 5</b>  | <b>Board Meeting</b>  |
| <b>August 11</b> | <b>First night of new class</b>   |
| <b>August 18</b> | <b>Training Night</b>   |
| <b>August 25</b> | <b>Training Night</b>   |

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*An AKC Training Club  
training at the Odeum  
in Villa Park.*