

Special points of interest:

- Holiday Party — Page 3
- Meet the Trainers — Page 6
- H1N1 in Dogs — Page 7
- Cookies for your Canine — Page 11

From the President — By Aimee Busse**From the President**

By Aimee Busse

One of my favorite all time memorable movie quotes is from the 1989 movie “Parenthood” with Steve Martin. Toward the end of the movie, during a very chaotic moment in the Buckman house, Gil Buckman (*Steve Martin*) is complaining about his complicated life. Grandma wanders into the room and very calmly says: “You know when I was 19; Grandpa took me on a roller coaster. Up, down, up, down. Oh, what a ride! I always wanted to go again. You know, it was just so interesting to me that a ride could make me so frightened, so scared, so sick,

so excited, and so thrilled all together! Some didn’t like it. They went on the merry-go-round. That just goes around. Nothing. I like the roller coaster. You get more out of



it.”

What a brilliant line and so apropos...whether it’s every-

day life, showing your dog in a trial, or even being actively involved in a large non-profit dog club.

I was elected to the board of directors six years ago. It was then that I discovered, and couldn’t believe that LTDTC loses a lot of money at its annual trials. The club works hard all year to regain and recoup that loss. Then fast forward to Tuesday, September 8, 2009. After reviewing and discussing the club’s financial status and looking to the future, the board was faced with the most difficult decision I have ever witnessed and probably in club history. The decision to have a club and cancel the 2010 trials, or

(Continued on page 11)

Annual Meeting & Elections — by Andy Ansenberger

It’s that time of year for all LTDTC club members to participate in the election of officers and members of the board of directors for 2010. A nominating committee consisting of your fellow members Marilyn Manning, Betty Smith, Kevin Wyderka, and Elaine McDowell with alternates of Jeff Vidt and Debbie Sibrava presented to the board the following candidates for next year’s slate.

The proposed 2010 LTDTC officers are: Elaine McDow-

ell, President; Gail Meyers, Vice President; Mel Tomeczko, Secretary; and Dallas Ingold, Treasurer. Outgoing officers include Aimee Busse, President and Chris Zielinski, Vice President. The three proposed board members are Donna Nuger, Frank Puncochar, and Kevin Wyderka. The outgoing board members include Marilyn Manning, Dave Crawford and Tom Rezmer. LTDTC thanks Aimee, Chris, Marilyn, Dave and Tom for their dedication to the club

and ongoing involvement in club activities.

The slate of candidates will again be announced at the holiday party on Tuesday, December 15th and also posted to the club’s Website www.ltdtc.com in the “Members” area. The actual election will take place on Tuesday, January 19th. The new slate will be introduced at the annual meeting which will be held on Tuesday, January 26th at the Odeum.

Director of Training Report — by Bill Casey

I sent a notice via email to a number of classes a couple of months back which had a link to a Website called Survey Monkey. I asked for a few moments of your time to take a brief survey to help us serve our current and future students better. I even gave them the opportunity to offer suggestions. I was very disappointed in the results to say the least. Less than a quarter of those invited responded and only one person took the time to offer a suggestion. Folks this is your chance to make a difference! My plans were to bring these to a future staff meeting in the hope of learning something from our students. I will send out another round of survey notices later this month and thought that I would make a point of the previous experience to encourage participants to respond. I realize that many folks are inundated by email junk so I thought that I would try a different approach and give everyone a heads up to expect future emails from the directoroftraining@ltdtc.com address. Please check with the registrar to insure that your email is up to date as I got several back with invalid addresses.

I'd like to invite our members/students to connect with me at the address above to offer suggestions or address your concerns which I can

often do on the spot. I may bring some of your concerns or comments to staff meetings that we might all learn from your experiences. This address can also be linked from the homepage of our club Website www.ltdtc.com.

I would like to offer my congratulations to those of you who have been actively competing throughout the fall show season. I have received many good reports of competition successes, especially in Rally and Obedience. Continued success throughout the remainder of this season and I will address these in a report early next year.

This is my last opportunity to connect with many of you this year so I'd like to offer best wishes for a happy holiday season and a healthy new year.

Bill Casey
Director of Training

LTDC Fall Correction Clinic/Fun Match by Dave Crawford, Roxanne Dwyer, Debbie Sazma

The Rally correction clinic was a success. Roxanne Dwyer reported 24 teams ran the course and that several people came up to her and specifically complimented on how well the Rally ring operated. One compliment came from a long time member who always attends Lyons' run through events but made a point of noting that this clinic was really good.

Another compliment came from a first-timer who has attended matches and run-

throughs at other places but went on to say that ours was the "nicest and most efficient".

People appreciated the feedback from the evaluators, the multi-judge system that allowed time for feedback without holding things up, the easy check-in and attentive gate management. Especially helpful was that we offered free video of the Rally run thru which was then emailed to each participant. It gave the handlers insight to

how they were doing in the ring. Roxanne stated, "We were able to accommodate every participant's goals for the night."

Thank you to all the stewards, judges and the videographer for your hard work.

Roxanne Dwyer

(Continued on page 7)

LTDTC Holiday Party — by Sue Sobyra and Debbie Sazma

Come and take a stroll down Candy Cane Lane on Tuesday, December 15th and join us for another one of LTDTC's spectacular holiday parties. Once again Debbie Sazma and Gus Pusateri will be providing us with a delicious main dish consisting of mostaccioli & beef sandwiches and the rest of the dishes will again be a tasty assortment supplied by ---- guess who--- that's right ---once more it is you!!!! The sign up sheet will be available every Tuesday from now until the week before the party, so you will have plenty of time to decide what superb dish you would like to share with us. This year please choose from great categories such as an appetizer, side dish, or a desert. Please look for the sign up sheets at the registrar's table and at the agility table. We hope you can come and join in the fun; it is a great time to

socialize and relax.

This year's Santa surprise will consist of a grab bag game. So if you would like to participate bring a gift and leave with a gift. We all know that this is a tough year for most of us to spend a lot of money but the gift does not need to be expensive, just a little something (no more than \$10) to celebrate the season). Drop your gift off at the gift table, drop your name into the candy cane bowl, during the evening listen for your name and you can come and pick a surprise gift. The more people who participate the more exciting it will be, so please consider joining in.

Once again we will have our exciting raffle. Laura Plasketes will be organizing this for us and Ron Gignac will be our experienced raffle-master. If

you have any items to donate please bring them on Tuesday, December 15th and give them to Laura. Of course bring a few dollars also to participate as there are always some wonderful prizes to win. Don't forget, all proceeds from the raffle go directly to our not-for-profit club.

So come on down to our Candy Cane Lane this year, no matter what the weather, we will have an awesome time!!!



Pawsitively in the News — by Aimee Busse

In the *Volunteers Spotlight* ~ We salute Vice President Chris Zielinski for his years of volunteerism and dedication to LTDTC. Most recently noted for serving as vice president the last two years, and as a board member two years prior. Chris has also served as the agility trial chairperson for the last three trials and the 2010 agility trials. Chris originally joined the club when he was twelve years old!

We also salute all of the members of the 2009 board of directors for their passion and loyalty to the club, representing all the members equally. The members of the board of directors have also gone above and beyond the normal volunteer call of duty the past few months with difficult decisions with positive results.

New Baby Announcement: Welcome LTDTC's newest "little" human member Cian (*pronounced Key-In*) Joseph Zielinski. Born October 7, weighing in at 9lbs 11oz, 21.5" to proud parents Chris and Colleen Zielinski, canine brother *Ramsey* and canine sister *Remy*.



Warm Welcome Back to Instructor and past club registrar Debbie Sabrava after fully recovering from two brain aneurism surgeries this year.

The Doggy Lama says: Grasshopper... With the year almost behind us it is time to appreciate and to be grateful for all the good of 2009, and look to 2010 with

optimism. Dogs teach us optimism, to live in the moment and to appreciate the present. Dogs don't worry about the past nor the future. While we can choose to look at the world any way we want, remember that optimism helps you take needed risks, improves those around you, and inspires people and dogs to great heights. Positive attitudes are building blocks and steppingstones to future successes.

WHAT I DID ON MY VA-CA-TION — by JEM Holly-Go-Litely

My name is JEM Holly-Go-Litely. The JEM comes from Grandpa & Gramma Basset, John & Elaine McDowell, who are owned by my late and dearly beloved dad, Am/Can CH JEM General Patton CD, half-sister Nike and my brother, JEM General Eisenhower or Ike for short. I get to see them every week at Lyons Township Dog Training. Gramma Basset always has treats for me & I get pats from Grandpa. I'm always very happy to see them.

I'm a dog & a Basset Hound at that. We have this rep - most upright two-leggers seem to have this idea that all we like to do is sleep, be lazy & stubborn and that's ok by me. I like my two-leggers, Dave & Pam, and live with this long-eared red & white half-sister, Red Rose. She's got the ears & I got the brains. We all get along just fine.

Always, at this time of year when the weather cools off and the leaves start to fall off the trees, Dave & Pam pack up the Explorer and we head off on a road trip to something called the Basset Hound Club of America Na-Tion-Als. Me & Red Rose don't care much for scenery so we both sleep in the back of the car together in a big, big crate with our blankie (we MUST be comfortable) until Dave & Pam stop to feed us and give us walkies at the rest stops. I love rest stops - LOTS of good smells at those places. At nighttime we stop and rent a big, big, big, big crate and we all sleep together on the two-legger bed after Pam puts our favorite quilt on it. It's always nice to have a little bit of home on the road, you know.

Finally, we get to the Na-Tion-Als. This year it was at a place called Shelton, Washington. It was a long, long drive and I certainly caught up on my beauty sleep. Once we get there, I get to see all my kind & they are everywhere!!!! We hoot and howl and sniff each other and it's Basset Hound heaven!!!! Plus, those other people JEMs (Gramma & Grandpa Basset) are there too. This year, I also got to see my friend, Sally Davis, from Lyons also. I hear she now lives nearby in Washington and came to the Na-Tion-Als especially to see me do my thing. Dave & Pam are there all the time and don't have to go to work and leave us alone. We all have fun together until it's time to get to busi-



ness and work.

I always know when to work because Dave puts on my chain collar and we head to the Obedience ring. Remember, we've got this sleepy, stubborn, lazy reputation thing to smash so I make sure to be extra snappy in the ring to impress the judge. I've got this Open obedience stuff down pat and like to throw in a few two-legged crowd pleasers as well for entertainment. After me and the other bassetts were done, me & Dave went back in the ring and I got a silver plate, a silver tray, a blue ribbon, a green ribbon, a great-big blue and yellow ribbon, a gold medallion with a picture of a basset on it and a brass basset hound that looks like me jumping over that silly broad jump. I get that because I hold two degrees in the CDX and RAE fields and got the highest trial score. I'm getting to be quite the celebrity because I've gotten the highest trial scores at the Na-Tion-Als three times in a row and they tell me I'm the first dog to do that in 40 years. I'm happy if Dave and Pam are happy and besides, it gets me lots of cookies afterwards.

Next up, I go with Pam to the Rally ring. It's time for Ex-Cel-Lent Rally. I like Rally and Pam likes Rally and it's fun, fun, fun. Pam always talks to me inside there and tells me I'm doing just fine. I like that. We walk to the signs and she tells me what to do. Then I take a breather and lay down or sit while the next basset does it, then we're done. We go back in for Ad-Van-Ced Rally and do it again. I've got a good work ethic and always try to do my best. I get two more

big plates, two more blue ribbons and two more green ribbons. A piece of cake and really no big deal, but everyone claps and tells me I'm a winner and a superstar and gives me more cookies. I just love those cookies.

After that, it's time to walk up the ramp and get my picture taken. This year, I got two pictures taken - one with Dave and one with Pam. The lady photographer throws toys in the air and calls my name. I put on my happy face and feign interest but I'm pretty tired by this time and really just want to take a nap. Geez, the things we do for our humans!!!! Dave and Pam show me those plates and ribbons and the brass basset and the rest of the stuff and let me sniff them - they're ok but I can't eat them so I let Dave and Pam have them. Just give me the food please!!!!

I FINALLY take my nap then get to spend the rest of week watching those show dogs do their thing & I can't figure out what exactly they do. Prance around with their two-leggers, stand around and walk up that ramp so the judge can look at them. Big deal - who couldn't do that? Can I say B-O-R-I-N-G? They don't even smell like the rest of us anymore!!!! They get plates and stuff just for that, but who said life was fair?

Then it's all over and time for the long trip back home. Lot's of the white stuff all over the ground, but once we get to Illinois it's all gone and it's time to get back to life at home until all this stuff starts again next year. Dave and Pam say Na-Tion-Als will be in Wisconsin next year and there won't be so much car crate time. That's good because sometimes that half-sister of mine gets on my nerves and we all need our down time, besides quite often she's a real PEST.

So thanks for listening and I'll be ready to give my report next year after Na-Tion-Als are done. Now time for my nap!!!!

Yours truly,

JEM Holly-Go-Litely CDX RAE

Rover Reporter — by Anonymous

Whoa! It's getting a bit cold outside. This is my cue to find a warmer spot for the winter. How does Australia sound? Maybe I'll go and visit my Dingo dog cousins. But, since it's getting colder out here, I have a few thoughts that I've heard barked about around the fire hydrant.

First, please don't let us out and forget about us for an hour or so, like you did during the nice, warm, sunny days of these past few months. We do have a fur coat, true, but we are used to living in your warm house, and after a while of just standing around, we do get a bit chilly. And our feet have calluses, not fur, and they get cold.

And if there is snow on the ground, before the shovel fairy comes, and if you have one of us that has fur between our toes, snow gets stuck there, melts a bit,

and then freezes into ice. Ice between the toes is not a nice thing. It hurts and it is cold. Try standing on snow and ice for a while, you'll see.

Also, let me tell what my people do when it's yucky out and I don't get the exercise I'm used to. They cut back a little on my food. Why? Because we don't need as much, we're not burning it off running after birds, rabbits, and my favorite, black cats with the white stripes down their backs. We'll start to put on some weight, which isn't a good thing. We want to stay thin and healthy and the only way we can do that is if you help. However, if you keep your friend busy all winter tracking, hunting, and even long walks on nice days, then I guess it's OK if you continue what you're doing. Just keep an eye on our figures. If we start to chunk up, cut back on the food, just a little.

Oh yeah, and our beds....if we don't sleep with you, please make sure we have a warm soft bed to sleep on, especially if we are up in age a bit. We do get muscle ached and stiff from sleeping on the hard floor. If there is a bit of a draft, wow, we can really get ourselves in trouble. And you know what I really like? If you have an old blanket to give along with my bed, I can curl up under it and sleep as if I'm in a cocoon. I, myself, find that most comforting.

Well, I'm off, maybe to Tahiti, Bora Bora, or someplace like that. Sure wish all of you could come with me. But, I'll write and let you know how I'm doing. Until then....

I am,
Rover Reporter

Sniff....Sniff...Something Stinks! — by Erin Rezmer

Late one night before Killian and Kahlua were going to sleep,

I took them out for their last nightly pee.

Down the stairs they ran just as something caught their eyes,

Once I realized what it was I screamed, "Oh s#@t, oh my!"

I shouted to them both to come,

Killian ignored me and walked off to pee in the dog run.

Kahlua stared at the skunk waiting for it to play,

The smell erupted like a volcano....crap, my dog had just been sprayed.

The crazy skunk then followed Killian to the dog run,

By then it didn't matter because it had already sprayed the other one.

Poor little Kahlua her head now full of the stink,

I knew I needed to treat her, but first I had to think.

There are so many remedies they don't all work that well,

I didn't want to diminish the stink, I wanted to kill the smell.

I went on the Internet searching for a short while,

I found the magic recipe created by a chemist from Lisle*.

In a clean plastic bucket, mix the following ingredients well:

32 oz. 3% hydrogen peroxide
1/4 cup baking soda
1 to 2 teaspoons liquid soap

NOTE: For very large dogs 32 oz. luke-warm water may be added.

DO NOT SOAK DOG WITH WA-



Avoid this little guy.

Photo © jeffler27 on flickr

TER PRIOR TO BATHING WITH SOLUTION

Use the above solution to cleanse the dog, massaging deep into the dog's coat. Avoid getting it in the eyes, ears, or mouth. Allow it to remain on the dog for a minimum of 5 minutes (longer if smell is strong).

Keep repeating until there is no more smell.

So, if your dog is curious and should meet up with a skunk,

Don't worry, you don't have to get into a funk.

Getting rid of the stink can be done quite easily,

Because now you have read the Doggie Doings and have the magic recipe.

*More information about the recipe and its creator can be found at: <http://dogs.about.com/od/caringfordogsandpuppies/ht/deskunking.htm>

Meet Trainers Frank and Thalia Puncochar — by Erin Rezmer

When I informed LTDTC Lifetime Members Frank and Thalia Puncochar that the editors of the Doggie Doings had chosen them for our Meet the Trainers article for this issue, they were thrilled. I told them we couldn't just pick one of them, to which Frank responded, "Of course not. We do everything together." Thalia stated, "I'm so honored. I've never been interviewed before."

When I sat down to conduct the interview one Tuesday night at training, I knew I was going to have fun. Talking with Frank and Thalia was like having a history lesson on LTDTC as well as dog training techniques. Frank and Thalia have been with LTDTC since the beginning. Those were the days when the annual trial was one day only. They would run 496 dogs through the obedience rings. There was no Agility or Rally back then. Then the club would celebrate with a picnic afterward.

In 1966, Frank began training his first dog, a German Shepherd named Czar, with the German Shepherd Dog Training Club of Chicago (GSDTCC). Thalia would tag along to the training. One day Frank said to her, "Why don't you get a dog of your own to train?" So in 1967, Thalia did. But, it was not a German Shepherd. Thalia chose a Miniature Schnauzer she named Brutus. Back in the day, the GSDTCC did not allow non-Shepherds to train at their facility. Thalia and Brutus were kindly asked to leave.

They heard of LTDTC by word of mouth and both began to train with the club. Training back then had a different approach than it does now. Frank stated, "The training method back then was what we call pop and jerk. You have to remember that I was training a German Shepherd and the breed back then was more aggressive in nature. You had to be firm with the dog. The pop and jerk method was a very aggressive approach." As the years passed, training philosophies evolved and Frank and Thalia changed along with them. Thalia stated, "When I started using positive reinforcement and treats with my dog, I saw a difference in



my dog's response. I noticed this worked for my dog's temperament." Frank agreed. They both knew they were done using the pop and jerk method.

Frank and Thalia have been instructors for more than 30 years at LTDTC. They began with Walter Stahl. They have trained dogs/handlers from puppy class through Utility. Training for Frank and Thalia is more than a hobby. Doing something nice while building companionship with their dogs, meeting nice people and guiding them to camaraderie with their animals, and the kinship and closeness with the people they have met and trained over the years is what keeps them training. As instructors, they both enjoy helping their students by sharing their knowledge. They love to see the progress their students make with their dogs because of their instruction. If they could get their students to learn just one thing it would be how to have your dog heel in the correct position. Both agreed, "Heeling is so important and it is the foundation for all training." For Thalia, the best training advice she received was how to use treats to train her dog. For Frank, it was all the little tips he has received about heeling and the little things to polish up his performance that came from Bernie Brown and Lynn Heidinger.

These two practice what they teach. Frank has handled his German Shepherd Czar to a CDX, retiring him due to hip problems. His German Shepherd Cindy achieved a UDT. Cindy, a Golden Retriever, earned her UDT. Rebel earned a UD but had to quit showing when he developed Lyme disease. Striker, a Golden Retriever, earned an OTCH. This was a huge achievement as the rules then required him to earn 100 points and

to do that required him to beat the top dogs 100 times as you only received 1 point per 1 dog. He finished with 124 points. Frank said, "I didn't really know at the time how good he was." Currently, Frank is training Deacon, a Golden Retriever, who currently has a CDX and they are working toward Utility. Frank stated the hardest title to earn for him was the OTCH. "You are competing with the highest scoring dogs and you have to beat the best. You have to receive 1st place."

In her lifetime, Thalia has trained 3 Miniature Schnauzers. Brutus earned a UTD and Sally earned a UD. Twister, her current Schnauzer, retired this year as a UDX2 +1. This means Twister has qualified in Open B and Utility B on the same day 21 different times. Thalia pointed out, "Utility is difficult. But getting a UDX is not easy either. The double qualification requirement is tough. Getting Twister's 21st UDX leg was the toughest. Be sure to let everyone know that Twister is a UDX2 +1."

I asked what hobbies this dynamic duo has besides dog training. Thalia stated, "I like to bake and cook." Frank had to think for a minute. He then said, "Repairing watches. I enjoy that." Thalia added, "He likes spending time with me, his wife of almost 61 years." Frank responded, "Yes, that too."

If this couple had their way, and they could be any animal Thalia said, "I want to be Twister. He has the life of a prince. He is retired and is now a couch potato." Frank would like to be Deacon. "He is such a nice dog and has a good life. He is very attentive to me. He has a drive that some people don't have."

As I ended the interview and thanked them for their time, Thalia and Frank left me with one last quote, "We love the club and all the people." Thank you Frank and Thalia, LTDTC loves you too.

H1N1 in Dogs — by Dr. Jeff Vidt, DVM

There have been some questions concerning swine flu in humans and potential transmission to dogs. Before we address this subject we need to discuss the influenza Type A orthomyxoviruses in general. These viruses are enveloped RNA viruses (for those of you with a molecular biology background) and have been responsible for respiratory disease in humans, horses, birds, swine and, most recently dogs. Influenza viruses are divided into subgroups on the basis of two surface glycoproteins: hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA). There are 16 known HA subtypes and 9 known NA subtypes. As a result of genetic recombination new viral subtypes can emerge and result in occasional transmission between species. This seems to occur most often in birds and swine.

Avian Influenza (H5N1) primarily infects birds (most notably poultry) but has been transmitted to humans.

The actual Swine Influenza (H3N2) primarily infects swine but also has been transmitted to a person.

H1N1 is mis-named “swine flu” and infects humans but has been transmitted to a cat, several ferrets and maybe swine in Canada.

Canine Influenza (H3N8) primarily infects dogs but is very similar to Equine Influenza (H3N8) which infects horses – neither has been transmitted to humans yet. There is 96% similarity between the canine and equine influenza virus.



So the answer to the questions is there has not been transmission of H1N1 from humans to dogs yet. However cases will probably occur. There like-

wise is no evidence of transmission of H1N1 from dog to people yet.

I should also discuss canine influenza here for the record. We did have an outbreak in the summer of 2008 in the western suburbs. The clinical signs may vary but typically occur in younger dogs. The most consistent sign is a cough that persists for up to 3 weeks regardless of therapy. It is easily confused with “kennel cough” (infectious tracheobronchitis) in the early stages. Often there is a purulent (pus) nasal discharge. Severely affected dogs run a fever over 104° F with signs of pneumonia. The mortality rate can be around 5%. It is highly contagious in kennel, boarding settings with an incubation period of 2-5 days. It is transmitted by aerosol. 10% dilute bleach solution can be used as a disinfectant. Therapy is broad-spectrum antibiotics, IV fluids and possibly Tamiflu® (oseltamivir). Blood testing for the virus can be done at Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine and the University of Florida College Of Veterinary Medicine. There is a new canine influenza vaccine available but I am not currently recommending its use routinely. It certainly should be used in the face of an outbreak.

(Continued from page 2)

Obedience

Hi all,

I'd like to thank everyone that showed up to our correction clinic. Whether it was to show their dogs, to root on their favorite competitor or to work. No people no trial. We were able to run 73 dogs through in the obedience rings. As Roxanne wrote, we ran 24 dogs through in the Rally ring. That's the most dogs that we've ever run through the rally rings. YEAH! We also heard from SEVERAL people that said what a nice job that everyone did and that it was the best correction clinic that they have been to.

Our next clinic will be run in the spring so look in the next Doggie Doings for the date.

Dave Crawford

Agility

On September 27th Lyons hosted yet another successful agility fun match with 37 entries. I am happy to say this time we saw a lot of novice handlers and four-legged friends as well as plenty of advanced teams. It was nice to see the Novice teams come out to play. Agility fun matches are hard to find in our area, and the teams should take advantage of this as it gives them the opportunity to play on equipment they have not yet seen. I am looking forward to planning more Agility fun matches in

2010. When those dates become available I will let everyone know, as we have the Lyons May trial quickly approaching.

I want to thank the people who came out to help run this fun match so smoothly, I know we have busy lives with work and family but just know it could not happen without you.

Deborah Sazma

Agility Fun Match Coordinator

Braggs — by Amy Hanrahan & Andrew Ansenberger

Obedience

Carolyn Kurt and her German Shepard "Goshcha" earned a CD



Marilyn Lada and her Golden Retriever "Wood E" earned their RA title and one leg toward their RE title and her Golden Retriever "Belle" earned their RE title



Paul Garrett and his Dalmatian "Ivy" earned their RA title

Gail Meyers and her Dalmatian "Levi" earned their first leg toward an RN title

Virginia Sensenbrenner and her Cocker Spaniel "Basil" earned their first leg toward a CD

Andrew Ansenberger and his Cocker Spaniel "Oliver" earned an additional leg above their CDX title



Marie Starsiak and her Brittany Spaniel "Delta" earned their 8th and 9th legs toward

Synoma Hays and her Dachshund "Tarragon" earned their first leg toward a CD

their RAE title

Kevin Grundem and his Golden Retriever "Kimi" earned their first leg toward a CD



Pam Crawford and her Basset Hound earned their 15th Leg toward an RAE2 title

Donna Angeleri and her Pug "Lily" earned two legs toward their RN title

Rally

Erin Rezmer and her Boxer "Kahlua" earned their second RAE leg and a first place in Rally Pairs with the help of her other Boxer "Killian"



Kevin Grundem and his Golden Retriever "Kimi" earned their RN title and one leg toward the RA title

Marie Starsiak and Delta will be competing in Rally in the Long Beach Kennel Club trial and then she will be attending the Eukanuba National Dog Show. She'll be helping out some of her Brittany friends with their dogs when they show them. There will be over 2,000 dogs representing over 52 countries for two days of confirmation, agility and obedience. The national champions will be determined on the Sunday of the trial. She'll be sure to let everyone know how much fun she & Delta had in the next issue of Doggie Doings.

Carol Ely was happy to share that Magique finally got his 10th leg for his Master's in Jumpers on 10/25/09 in Paducah, KY. He now has his MXJ title. Abby got her TACH (Teacup Agile Champion) title in TDAA (Teacup Dogs Agility Assoc) on 8/16/09. Abby also qualified in TDAA National finals up in Wisconsin but ended up with 9th place because she took a tunnel twice instead of an A-frame. Abby also won the distance challenge. She went 72 ft 2" from where Carol stood, to a jump that was way out across a field. Carol wrote, "It was fun and since we will never make Nationals for AKC at least we made Nationals with TDAA." To view Abby's runs, go to Abby's Web page <http://www.canineteamtraining.com/Abby.htm> and go to the bottom of the page where Carol has all of her runs from the TDAA trial

Annual Fall Tracking Test — by Dallas & Meb Ingold

The 2009 Fall LTDTC Tracking trial was a great success. We had an unusual entry of 1 - TDX and 6 - TDs, but 3 dogs earned their TD Titles!! We had a very unusual breed, a Portuguese Podengo Pequeno, that received a TD. Another handler is a native of Finland living in Hinsdale while her husband works for a couple of years in the US, she received a TD in her first tracking trial in the United States!

Many thanks to the hard working track layers Jason Sheldon, Nancy Pritz, Andy Ansenberger, John McDowell and Roger and David Fonorow who gave freely of their time on October 17th and 18th. Without their "stinky feet" the trial could not be a success. Our judges Ted Hoesel and Ule James plotted very good tracks and gave the dogs a good test!

Again, thanks to all for your help.

Dallas and Meb Ingold
Tracking Trial Co-Chairs



Get Involved! — by Tom Rezmer

LTDTC Members,

You will soon be receiving your membership packet. Enclosed you will find an updated volunteer interest form as well as a letter explaining its importance. As Aimee Busse, our president, indicated in her 'From the President' article in the

September issue of the Doggie Doings, the club relies on everyone to make it function as smoothly as it currently does. Your completion of the form allows the club to identify member volunteer interests. Remember that all of us benefit from volunteering. So when it arrives please take the time to identify all of your areas of interest.

Thanks,
Tom Rezmer Jr.
(Board Member)

Brag — by Amy Hanrahan & Andrew Ansenberger (Continued)

Rally (Continued)

Synoma Hays and her Dachshund “Tarragon earned their first leg toward an RN title

Amy Hanrahan and her Shar-pei “Peanut” earned their RE title

Agility

Virginia Sensenbrenner and her Cocker Spaniel “Basil” have been having fun earning game legs in CPE agility and also earned their Level 3 title

Other Sports & Titles

Marie Starsiak and her Brittany “Delta” earned their Junior Hunting title

Jackie Ceres and her Brittany “Jack” took two Best of Breeds

“Why Title A Dog” - By Sandra Mowery, submitted by Amy Hanrahan

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 the dog, an ultimate memorial. It will remain in record and in memory for as long as anything in this world can remain. Few humans will do as well or better in that regard.

And though the dog itself doesn't know or care that its 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 it because it was a good dog, that you believed in it enough to give it yet another chance when it failed, and that, in the end, your faith was justified.

A title proves that your dog inspired you to that special relationship enjoyed by so few; that in a 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 pride in one small set of initials after the name.

A title earned is nothing less than love and respect, given and received, and permanently recorded.



Ben's Friends/Delta Test Results — by Gail Meyers

As 2009 winds to a close, so do our visits. The last "scheduled" visit is November 28, at the British Home at 1:00 PM. I would like to take this time to thank all of the volunteer teams that gave of themselves to bring smiles and tail wags to the folks at Lexington Square, Concorde Place and British Home. And I know that the children that read to the dogs at the various libraries really appreciated the unbiased ears that listened to them read. We did such a grand job at Stone School, that we have been invited back for monthly visits in 2010.

We'll start off the year with Lexington Square on January 14 and Concorde Place on February 11. British Home is the second and fourth Saturdays, January 9 and 23 and February 13 and 27. These British Home visits start at 1:00 PM and the Thursday visits start at 2:00 PM. Watch your email for further notice of Stone School dates and time. We have a special visit in February to Fairview Manor in Downers Grove, with more details to follow, and a local library is hoping for a one day read to the dog during Christmas break, but that's in the planning stage, and again, watch your email for updates.

Again, I thank all of you for participating in the worthwhile program, and I hope to visit with you again in 2010.

Happy Holidays and a healthy, safe 2010 to you all.

Gail Meyers

Ben's Friends Coordinator

(Continued from page 1)

have the trials and risk not having a club after May. In order to preserve the solvency of the club, the board unanimously voted to cancel the 2010 AKC agility, obedience and rally trials. This decision was solely based on logic, not emotion. (Please read on.)

You could have heard a pin drop in the room. The mood was horribly somber. I have to say that this has been one of the best boards of directors in club history. A team assembled of great talents, optimism and intelligence that collaborate very well together always keeping the club's best interest in mind. It's not that everyone is always in agreement, but that there is a great unspoken respect among members who listen to all sides of issues. Most importantly, this is a group that was elected by you to represent every member in the club and to set their personal agendas aside.

Word of the trial being cancelled spread like wild fire. My voice mail and email boxes were flooded. Bill Casey was instructed by the board to alert the Odeum of the board's decision to cancel the trial. When Phil and Sis Greco, owners of the Odeum, learned of the cancellation they were devastated for the club. LTDTC has had a long-term strong relationship with the Greco family. Behind the scenes, Bill Casey was in constant communication with me and Phil Greco. With new developments of a very generous and extremely unexpected offer made by the Greco family, LTDTC was asked to reconsider its

vote to cancel the 2010 trials. I called a special board meeting on Friday, September 11 and based on the new offer, the board voted unanimously to overturn its previous decision and to host the 2010 AKC trials in May!

With the spirit and optimism high, the board also voted in favor of a special low-priced entry fee for all participants. In addition, the board formed a special committee spearheaded by board member Ron McGrath to brainstorm, create and most importantly – implement plans for a truly successful 2010 AKC trial. In addition, this committee will develop and implement new ideas for the future stability of the club.

Up, down, up down. Frightening, and yet exciting all at the same time. But truly optimistic...that's the roller coaster. I happen to like the roller coaster. The merry-go-round is dizziness and represents pessimism. Those who choose it are stagnant.

I have never been more proud as I am today; to serve as LTDTC's elected President the past two years. I hope you all have experienced the tranquility and sheer enthusiasm at the club over the last two years. And, I hope you will expect the same from your elected representatives going forward into the new year.

On behalf of LTDTC, I would also like to express sincere and deep gratitude for the Greco family.

With the holidays upon us and 2009 at its end, it is important to reflect on all

the good LTDTC has accomplished this year. Let's celebrate the good times and move forward and upward together. Please enjoy the holidays safely and hug your dog! I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the annual LTDTC holiday party December 15 at the Odeum.

Cookies for Your Canine — by Pat Mauney

If pet food recalls have you worried about feeding your favorite canine mass-produced treats, try this recipe from *The Good Food Cookbook for Dogs* by Donna Twichell Roberts.

Oatmeal-Apple Cookies

4 cups whole-wheat flour
2 cups old-fashioned oatmeal
1 ¼ cups water
¼ cup minced apple

3 Tbsp ground cinnamon
2 Tbsp vegetable oil
2 Tbsp honey
1 Tbsp ground cloves

Heat oven to 325°F. Place all ingredients in a large bowl. Mix thoroughly until combined to form dough.

Roll out dough on floured surface to about ¼ inch thick. Using a cookie cutter, cut into bone shapes. Combine

dough scraps; continue to roll out and cut into shapes until all dough has been used.

Place cookies on ungreased foil-lined baking sheets. Bake 30 to 35 minutes.

Makes 5 to 6 dozen cookies.

Calendar of Events

- Dec 1** — **New session starts**
- Dec 15** — **Club Holiday Party (no advanced classes)**
- Dec 22, 29** — **NO training classes**
- Jan 26** — **Novice & CGC evaluations**
- Feb 2** — **New session starts**
- Ap 2010** — **Spring Tracking Test**
- May 15, 16** — **LTDTc Agility Trial**
- May 15, 16** — **LTDTc Obedience & Rally Trial**

**Lyons Township Dog
Training Club**
doggiedoings@ltdtc.com

LTDTc Doggie Doings
C/O Erin Rezmer
419 S. Highland Avenue
Lombard, IL 60148



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