

**Special points of interest:**

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# Doggie Doings

## From the President

by Elaine McDowell

Happy Spring! Time to enjoy being outdoors with your dog.

Our annual Spring 2-day trial took place May 14-15<sup>th</sup>. It takes a lot of members who volunteer to keep it running smoothly and successfully. Thank you to all the members who gave of their time and efforts to the trial.

A special thank you to those that stay till the end to help clean up. If you haven't assisted with the trial, be sure to sign up to help with other functions LTDTC offers. You don't need to be experienced – we give you on the job training! Congratulations to those of you whose dogs earned another leg or perhaps even a title. Hang in there if it wasn't your dog's weekend to shine. Just like people, they have their days. Keep working at it though!

Coming up, before you know it, is our LTDTC picnic! It is June 26<sup>th</sup> at Berkeley Park. The picnic is always a lot of fun. The facilities have a covered shelter – tables and benches provided and playground equipment for both children and adults. Be sure

to sign up for the picnic and list what you will bring for a dish to pass. Please do not bring your dogs. It's great just to have time to talk to your friends without having to go to a class.



We are already getting some hot days – more like August than May! Give your dogs extra attention in this weather – be sure they don't get overheated. Have them up on their shots and flea and tick preventative. Keep fresh water available for them at all times. Don't leave them in a car – even one with open windows can be deadly in this heat! If they are panting, wipe them down with a cool wet cloth.

Thank you, Frank and Thal, for 30 years of chairing some of the most successful trials in the country. You are

an amazing couple. You have and still continue to work for the club with your minds and your hearts. We know you will continue to share your knowledge with those of us that are working on the trials and guide our continued success. We are lucky to have you in LTDTC. A great big hug of appreciation from all the club members and from all the folks that come to our trial and have come to know you over the years. God Bless You.

Happy Tails!

*Elaine McDowell*

LTDTC President

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## Thirty Years as Trial Chairs by Frank & Thalia Puncochar

Another weekend of trials is over and they were very successful. Lyons sure does know how to put on shows. You all should be so proud of yourselves. There's a "core" group of members and friends that work the trials each year and some have been doing so for 30 some years. What would we have done without all of you! It takes a special and dedicated group to pull this all off. Through the years, there have been some bumps in the road, but we always weathered them. The trials were always outstanding.

This being our last year as trial chairmen, we want to say thanks for all your hard work. Though there were sometimes "glitches" before the trial, Thal and I worked through them with the support of our "club family."

Our years as trial chairmen were very rewarding and we have no regrets. Thal and I hope you will give Gail Meyers and Sherry Gignac the same love and support as they embark on a new venture of their lives.

The "send off" cake and card were wonderful.

We'll be around to help where, and if, we're needed. We love you all and wish the club many more years of training and trials.

Thanks for the memories!

*Frank & Thalia Puncochar*  
Obedience Trial Chairmen



*"Thank you Frank and Thal for being the trial chairs for Lyon's for all these years. Lyon's wouldn't be the club it is today without all the heart and soul that you two have poured into it. The trials won't be the same without you running them."* —Dave Crawford

## The Spring Tracking Trial by Meb Ingold

The LTDTC Spring Tracking tests were held on Sunday, May 1. Two TD tests and 3 TDX tests were offered, but, unfortunately, no one qualified. Thanks go to the 4 club members with “stinky feet” who laid the tracks. Dave Crawford, Andrew Ansenberger, John McDowell, and Jason Sheldon laid the tracks.

Jason Sheldon gets special thanks for plotting one of the TD tracks. This was part of his requirements to become a provisional tracking judge. Paul Garrett, Kevin Grudem, Marie Starsiak and Debbie Sibrava were the cross-trackers. No one received their title, but everyone had a good time tracking with their dogs.



*Meb & Dallas Ingold*  
Tracking Trial Co-Chairs



## LTDTTC Membership Renewals - Due June 15th

LTDTTC Members,

In March you should have received your club membership letter, fee information and renewal form. If you've already turned in your renewal, thank you. If you haven't yet renewed your club membership but plan on doing so, **I need to receive your completed form and payment by June 15th.** Any delay in receipt will mean your membership has not been renewed.

Please contact me, Meb Ingold, with any questions you may have regarding your membership renewal. I can be reached at my home number of 708-246-8975 or via my work email at [meb@lplibrary.org](mailto:meb@lplibrary.org).

I look forward to receiving your renewal.

Sincerely,

*Meb Ingold*

LTDTTC Membership Chairperson

## Pawsitively in the News



### Rainbow Bridge

A dog comes into your life for a reason. It all becomes clear after they have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge.

LTDTTC mourns the passing of our canine members who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge:

- Flyer loved by Marilyn Manning and Ted Zydyk

### LTDTTC Member Passing

LTDTTC extends our deepest sympathies to the family of long-time club member Marilyn Pinkowski. In the past, Marilyn had served as club registrar. She will be missed.



### Thank You!

Dear Friends,

All your love and friendship helped me so much in the loss of my beloved special boy "Twisty." You cared so very much. Your cards, notes, poems and calls showed me so much that LYONS is a caring family.

It's been quite a journey, but with all your love and support, we'll make it. You have all been there for me and know how I feel.

Much love,

Thalia Puncuchar



# LTDTC Membership Renewal Form



## LYONS TOWNSHIP DOG TRAINING CLUB, INC.

Please complete the following information including the Total Amount of Payment to be mailed with a check payable to Lyons Township Dog Training Club to:

Meb Ingold, Membership Chairperson  
4454 Harvey Avenue  
Western Springs IL 60558

**Annual membership Fee:** These fees are due by all members, except Lifetime members, if you are training a dog or not:

Single Member \$25.00      Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member \$35.00      Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Additional mailed copy of Doggy Doings \$10.00      Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Equipment Replacement fund      Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Please enter the following to update the Club's records: - PLEASE PRINT

First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_      Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email addresses \_\_\_\_\_

Earned Titles to include: Agility, Obedience, Rally & Tracking:

Call Name      Breed      Titles

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## Fundraising Corner by Sharon Detro

### Trial Banners!!

The banner fundraising program GREW in size from three banners last year to 14 banners! They were hung on the wall at the main Odeum entrance during our trial last month. There are many people I wish to thank in helping me in this program. I'd first like to thank Ron McGrath. He not only had the idea for the banner program, but he formatted, printed and helped hang the banners. Special thanks go to Dave Crawford for scanning photos of several dogs and creating print ready artwork for the banner layouts. Thank you also to my son Wayne Detro for formatting the banner layout for the two hotels.

This program would not be possible without the following participants:

**Corporate banners:** (renewed for second year) Tria Architecture, Inc., Lorenzini & Associates, Chopper Trading, (new this year) Baker Electric, Clarion Inn-Elmhurst, Staybridge Suites.

**Personal banners:** (new this year) Debbie Sazmas's Brittany and Becky, Marie Starsiak's Rocky, Kevin Wyderka's Josephine and Napoleon, Elaine and John McDowell's Patton, Gail Meyer's Ben, Frank and Thal Puncocar's Twisty, and my Nikki (the fourteenth banner for those of you who are counting was the L.T.D.T.C. banner).



Not only did this fund raiser bring in \$670 in revenue, we were fortunate that Staybridge Suites accommodated our agility judge and her border collies in a complimentary suite for two nights as well as the Clarion Inn-Elmhurst who provided a complimentary king- suite for our obedience judge and his wife! One can only imagine the savings in cost to our club there. The feedback from the judges as to how they rated their accommodations were: Five Stars and Two Thumbs Up for each location!

### Our next major fund raiser will be our first garage sale!!

It will be held outdoors at the Odeum this fall on a Saturday (September or October). The exact date will be determined closer to the event when the Odeum is certain they will not have a conflict with another event. They have been very gracious to let us hold our garage sale at their location.

Since this will be a one day sale, drop off of items will be from 7am to 8:30am. The hours of the sale will be from 9am-3pm. Please furnish a table to display the items you donate and have them pre-priced. The items that are not sold by 3pm should be picked up by owner or if they are on the "acceptable" list, will be donated to the Goodwill Store on the corner of North Ave. and Rt. 83. If you have experience with tips on having a successful garage sale or can assist with the sale and its advertising please contact me, Sharon Detro at: [shardetro@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shardetro@sbcglobal.net) or call: (630) 985-8670.

Thank you,  
*Sharon Detro*  
 Fundraising Coordinator

## Ben's Friends/Delta Test by Gail Meyers

We ended up our “school” year at Stone School with a bang. We set up Agility and Rally courses, and did some Novice Obedience work with a thrown dumbbell in there for good measure and the kids just loved it. We then let the kids take a dog and do the courses. What fun it was to see them interact with each other. We won't be at Stone School now until September, and I'll be letting everyone know that schedule as soon as I get it.

Sharon Detro and I were invited to a volunteer appreciation dinner at Lexington Square in April. It was a wonderful event and I hope that next year more of “Ben's Friends” will be able to join us. I am also working on another Delta test date with the Berkeley Library. We had our first test there in March and it worked out just great. Our evaluators were pleased with the facility as were the testing teams. As soon as I get a date I'll pass that along. If you are interested in becoming a Ben's Friend, watch for the sign-up sheet at class, or just see me.

The summer visit places, times and dates are as follows:

- Lexington Square – June 9<sup>th</sup> and August 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm
- Concorde Place – July 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm
- British Home – the second and fourth Saturday at 1:00pm

When you visit these residences please let me know.

If we have additional requests for visits, I'll let you know via email.

Hope to see you at Lexington Square in June, and enjoy your summer.

*Gail Meyers*

Ben's Friends Coordinator

708 449 5066

[daldog2@att.net](mailto:daldog2@att.net)



## LTDTTC Summer Picnic by Gail Meyers

This year's picnic is almost upon us, so mark your calendar for June 26th. We'll meet at the Berkeley Park on Electric Avenue in Berkeley at noon. Please find the sign-up sheet at class to let me know what dish you are bringing to share and how many people you are bringing so I get enough chicken. This is a people only park, so no dogs please. Also, you may want to bring a chair or two for your seating comfort. See you there!

**What: LTDTTC Summer Picnic (humans only)**

**Date: Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 12:00pm-4:00pm**

**Location: Berkeley Park (on Electric Avenue)**

*Gail Meyers*

Picnic coordinator

708 449 5066

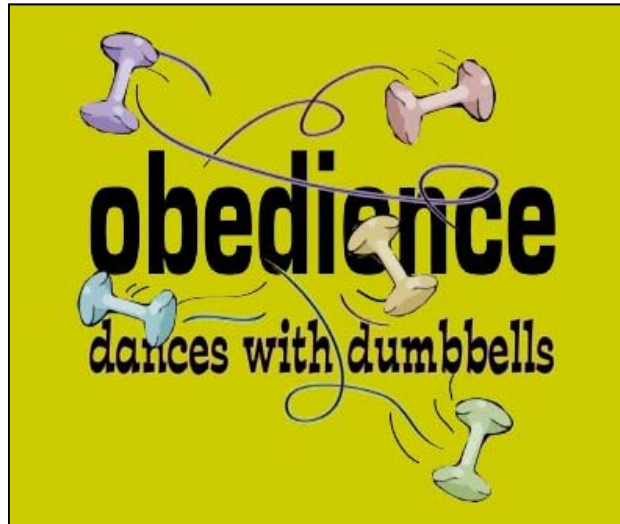


## Obedience/Rally Fun Match by Dave Crawford

We had a very smooth running correction clinic on the night before our two day trial. Thanks to everyone that donated their time to the club. I would also like to thank Rick Cox and Dr. Sandy Gould for helping the club by judging our rally and utility classes. Thank you one and all.

*Dave Crawford*

Obedience/Rally Fun Match Coordinator



## Thank You Agility Trial Volunteers! by Tom Rezmer, Jr.

We had a successful agility trial at LTDTC on May 14<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup> thanks to the efforts of everybody who volunteered. We had approximately 1074 runs and we were only short 246 runs from reaching our maximum of 1320 for the two-day 2-ring trial.

We had approximately 100 volunteers for the two-day trial. I tried to thank everybody who volunteered at the trial but if I missed you I'm sorry. I spent a lot of time trying to accommodate everybody who volunteered to help. I understand that you may have been there to run your dog(s) and I didn't want to interfere with that goal. I had most of the positions covered and when I made requests for help I always received an overwhelming response for help.

Mentioning individuals is difficult because I would need to mention every single one of you. Without everybody, the trial would not have been as successful as it was. I do want to mention two people Chris Zielinski and Sue Sobyra. Chris, Agility Trial Chairperson, did a great job and worked hard on Friday, Saturday and Sunday in addition to the many hours getting the trial details in order. There are a lot of things he does to make the trial a success that go unnoticed. Sue worked as ring steward, sometimes filled in for people, and made my job much easier.

This has been my 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year as LTDTC Agility Volunteer Coordinator. I will be removing myself from this position because my Boxer Nationals are always the week before the LTDTC Trial. This has always caused an excessive amount of stress to get everything in order for LTDTC which has prevented me from enjoying my Boxer Nationals to the fullest. Please give the next agility volunteer coordinator the same support you have given me.

Thanks everybody!!!

*Tom Rezmer Jr.*



## Agility Trial Report by Chris Zielinski

This year marks another successful Agility Trial for Lyons Township Dog Training Club. With many people's contributions, we were able to maintain high numbers even at a time when other clubs are seeing drastically reduced entries. With the poor economy hitting the agility trial circuit, we were only short a mere 246 entries out of a total 1320. At the same time, the trial added a new class to its repertoire, the FAST class. Going beyond the basic standard and jumper classes, FAST provided more opportunities for exhibitors, leading to a greater number of entries for the trial.

The trial could not have gone so smoothly if it was not for the help of the agility committee; Tom Rezmer, Betty Smith, Ron McGrath and Dave Nelson who all did a great job this year. Each of them provided valuable help. Betty diligently searched for the best judges for the trial and helped in a variety of roles each day of the show. Ron, months out, ensured the trial had the proper placement ribbons and willingly scribed for the judges all day, both days. Good old Dave took time out from his dental practice to setup the equipment before the show and was there to the very end to pack it all up. Tom took on the monstrous job of organizing volunteers for the days of the show. Even on his vacation and at the Boxer Nationals, he took out time to ensure that this lifeline of the show ran smoothly.

Looking forward to the 2012 trial, we hope to be able to maintain the years of success that have blessed the agility trial and the club. Though bumps and bruises occur each year, we continue to learn from our mistakes to only make future trials even better. At the same time, if we continue to remind ourselves why we do the trial, the fun and enthusiasm that comes from us will only lead to a more enjoyable show.

Thanks and see you all at the 2012 trial,  
*Christopher Zielinski*



## LTDTTC Rally Trial by Gail Meyers

Another Rally Trial is under our belts, and this one was terrific. We had quite a few Lyons members earn titles, boy was that exciting. Congratulations to all of you. Now don't forget, you now can compete for that next title.

I want to thank my stewards, who without them the trial wouldn't have happened. Thank you Kevin Wyderka, Sherry Gignac, Dave Crawford, Pam Crawford, Lisa Smith, Karrylynn Stachowicz and I know I'm missing one or two of you. . . I apologize and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.



Until next year,  
*Gail Meyers*  
Rally Trial Chairperson

The editors of the Doggie Doings asked you to tell us the following:

If you could choose one song that would describe your dog, what would it be? We asked you to email us **your dog's call name**, along with the **song title and artist's name**.

Here are your responses:



**Vogue by Madonna**  
—Delta Starsiak



**Wild One by Faith Hill**  
—Kimi Grudem

**Daddy's Little Nightmare by The Hounds from Hell**  
—Red Rose Crawford



**Tiny Dancer by Elton John**  
—Lyric Plasketes



**I'm Here for the Party by Gretchen Wilson**  
—Jersey Morganti

**Hakuna Matata by Nathan Lane and Ernie Sabella**  
—Jasper Cygan



**The Lion Sleeps Tonight by The Beach Boys**  
—Spirit Cygan



**Smile by Uncle Kracker**  
—Kahlua Rezmer

**Rock My World (Little Country Girl) by Brooks & Dunn**  
—Chessie Sazma

**Wild Thing by The Troggs**  
—Kali Kurt

**Time for Me to Fly by REO Speedwagon**  
—Killian Rezmer

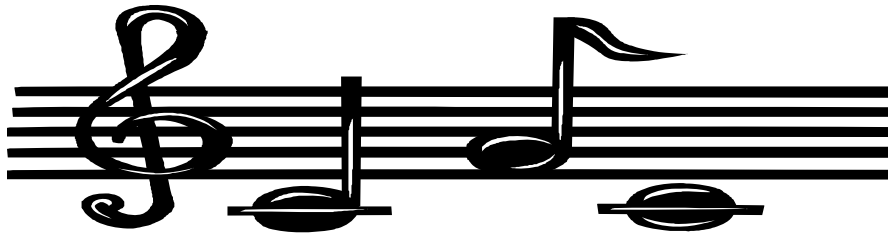


**Saturday in the Park by Chicago**  
—Cluny Dwyer



**Three Times a Lady by The Commodores**  
—Willow Meyers

**Brandy (You're a Fine Girl) by Looking Glass**  
—Brandy Sazma



**You Don't Mess Around With Jim by Jim Croce**  
—Henry Meyers

**Don't Stop Believin' by Journey**  
—Casey Cygan

**Tigger Song from Disney**  
—Jazi Grudem

**59th Street Bridge Song (aka Feelin' Groovy) by Paul Simon & Art Garfunkel**  
—Onchu Dwyer

**Only the Strong Survive by REO Speedwagon**  
—Bridgette Sazma

**Bad to the Bone by George Thorogood**  
—Missy Sobyra

**I was born this way by Lady Ga Ga**  
—Levi Meyers

**Kung Fu Fighting by Carl Douglas**  
—Peanut & Murphy Hanrahan

**You've Got a Friend in Me by Randy Newman**  
—Leila Mae Detro

**Three Times a Lady by The Commodores**  
—Candi Cygan

**Happy Girl by Martina McBride**  
—Brittany Sazma

**Wild Thing by The Troggs**  
—Penny Sobyra

**Jumpin Jack Flash by The Rolling Stones**  
—Jack Ceres

**Valentine by Martina McBride**  
—Becky Sazma



## Braggs

Please enter your legs and titles in the Brag Book on the Registrar's table. It is very important they are entered for tracking awards for the club's annual award banquet.

### OBEDIENCE BRAGS

- Erin Rezmer and Boxer Kahlua earned their 1st CDX leg
- Jim Wierdak and Golden Retriever Marley earned their CD title
- Janice Hemauer and Vizsla Gemma earned their CD title
- Phil Nuger and Golden Retriever Simba earned their CD title
- Elaine McDowell and Basset Hound Nike earned their 2nd CDX leg
- Kevin Grudem and Golden Retriever Kimi earned their 1st CDX leg
- Marie Starsiak and Brittany Delta earned their first CDX leg
- David Malowick and Standard Poodle Kave II earned their 1st UD leg

### RALLY BRAGS

- Donna Angeleri and Pug Lily earned their RE title
- Donna Angeleri and Rottweiler Beary earned their RA title
- Loretta Marchese and Shetland Sheepdog Maggie earned their 2nd, 3rd & 4th RAE legs
- Marilyn Lada and Golden Retriever Wood-E earned their 2nd, 3rd & 4th RAE legs

### **(Rally cont.)**

- Dave Crawford and Basset Hound Red Rose earned an RAE leg
- Donna Nuger and Golden Retriever Simba earned their 1st & 2nd RN legs
- Karrilyn Stachowicz and her Greyhound Yaz earned their RN title
- Loretta Marchese and Shetland Sheepdog Brandy earned their 1st RE leg
- Synoma Hays and Dachshund Tarragon earned their RE title
- Lisa Hyzny and All American Tinsel earned their RN title

### AGILITY BRAGS

- Erin Rezmer and Boxer Kahlua earned their OA title
- Erin Rezmer and Boxer Kahlua earned their 2nd OAJ leg
- Jim Wierdak and Golden Retriever Marley earned their OA title
- Jim Wierdak and Golden Retriever Marley earned their 1st AX leg
- Jim Wierdak and Golden Retriever Marley earned their 1st AXJ leg
- Debbie Sazma and Cocker Spaniel Brandy earned a GXB JWW leg
- Marie Starsiak and Brittany Delta earned their AX title
- Sue Sobyra and Parson Russell Penny earned their 1st & 2nd NAJ legs
- Phil Nuger and Golden Retriever Simba earned their 1st NA leg

### **(Agility cont.)**

- Phil Nuger and Golden Retriever Simba earned their 1st and 2nd NAJ legs
- Phil Nuger and Beagle Daisy earned their OA title
- Marilyn Lada and Golden Retriever Wood-E earned their 1st NAJ leg
- Betty Smith and Golden Retriever Mattie earned their 1st XF leg
- Marilyn Lada and Golden Retriever Wood-E earned their 1st NA leg
- Marie Starsiak and Brittany Delta earned their 2nd OF leg
- Sue Sobyra and Parson Russell Penny earned their 1st NA leg
- Synoma Hays and Dachshund Tarragon earned their 1st NF leg
- Synoma Hays and Dachshund Asti earned their 1st NF leg



## Braggs (continued)

### TRACKING

- Synoma Hays and Dachs-hund Tarragon earned their TD title

### VCDI TITLE

- Synoma Hays and Dachs-hund Tarragon have earned the Versatile Companion Dog level 1(VCD1 title). Dogs earn this title by having achieved the following titles: CD, NA, NAJ, TD or CD,NAP,NJP,TD

### OTHER BRAGGS

- Tom Rezmer and Boxers Killian & Kahlua received 1st place in non-regular Obedience Brace at their Boxer Nationals for the 3rd year in a row..can you say three-peat
- Virginia Sensenbrenner and Cocker Spaniel Giotto earned CPE Standard level 1, and CPE Full House level 1
- Virginia Sensenbrenner and Cocker Spaniel Basil earned CPE Standard level 4 and CPE Full House level 4

Judge Ed Haas, Kevin Grudem & Kimi



Judge Dan Faulkner, Erin Rezmer & Kahlua

Tom Rezmer, Killian & Kahlua



## Fun Stuff!!

Barnaby was my first Wheaten. He was the class clown and the following is a poem I wrote for him when it looked like he might never get out of Novice class.

### LIMERICKS FOR BARNABY

by JoAnn Neville

My Wheaten is just a delight  
Always trying to do what is right  
At the start of the day  
He is eager to play  
And happy from morning to night.

He sleeps upside down on the stairs  
Or sometimes on one of the chairs  
Where somebody sat  
Who gave him a pat  
He has no concerns and no cares.

He's sturdy, he has a broad chest  
He's the perfect companion or guest  
He's friendly, he's sweet  
He just can't be beat  
To have him we're certainly blessed.

His grooming is always a breeze  
He's handled by Ronnie with ease  
He listens, obeys  
Sits, stands, and stays  
And truly is willing to please.

He has his own fan club at school  
He knows this, he's nobody's fool  
Meeting friends, old and new  
Is his best thing to do  
This is his passion, his fuel.

Yes, my Wheaten is really a joy  
He's always a wonderful boy  
Except in the ring  
Where he does his own thing  
And purposely tries to annoy.

First, with his leash, he must heel  
He's thinking of eating a meal  
My lead is too tight  
While he pulls left and right  
In search of a treat he might steal.

When doing a scored figure eight  
He hopes he'll be aided by fate  
What he wishes for most  
Is a friend for a post  
Maybe two, that would really be great!

Next, for exam, he must stand  
He can't comprehend this command  
A new pal to meet  
To welcome, to greet  
His tail says he thinks this is grand.

I don't know what off leash might bring  
I cannot predict ANYTHING  
The last time he stayed  
And watched, quite dismayed  
As I walked by myself 'round the ring.

The recall is always a blast  
He can't wait to run real fast  
He might anticipate  
Or charge straight for the gate  
Repeating mistakes of his past.

He once was an expert at "sits"  
But lately he thinks they're the pits  
He might even break  
With the first step I take  
He's making me lose all my wits!

He usually stays on the "down"  
He gracelessly PLOPS to the ground  
Still hoping to find  
A treat of some kind  
He continually sniffs all around.

OBEDIENCE, I think I'll scream  
They say we should work as a team  
He forges, he bumps  
And on "fast" he jumps  
I think this is all a bad dream.

Although he loves going to class  
I wonder if he'll ever pass  
Will he ever know  
What to do in a show  
Or just make me look like an ass!

## Spending Time with Our Dogs by Dave Crawford

I had been managing a job in Minooka. Minooka is 7 minutes east of Morris on I 80. To get there by 7am I had been getting up at 4:30am, a quick wash and take out the girls (Red Rose & Holly) and head to the shop to pick up a truck and start heading south. As the lead man, my job is to allocate the work to my crew depending on their skill set. We were finishing up at 3:30pm and then head back north unload the truck or prepare for the next day. Home by 6pm.

Since John and Elaine McDowell sold us Holly 6 plus years ago we have been doing training every Tuesday night with LTDTC. I have also been training at the DuPage County fairgrounds every Monday for the past 3 years and on a Thursday night I volunteered at Fox Valley training club at the Kane County fairgrounds. Don't get me wrong, if I didn't like doing all these things that I volunteer for I won't do them. God knows I do enough preaching about volunteering! Before we got the girls I can't even remember what we used to spend our time doing. I know that I used to spend A LOT of time playing video games and quite a bit of television watching as well. Life slipped by.

In getting involved in things and life in general, our time gets allocated too much and we don't do the things that are why we got involved with our dogs in the first place. This past Saturday I spent another day allocating my time as efficiently as I could. That night, I spent 3 hours with the la-z-boy reclined, the girls on my lap and at peace!

You don't schedule the time to smell the roses but you have to be ready for it when it comes.

## What Kind of Handler Do You Want to Be? by Erin Rezmer

At this time of year, there are many dog trials taking place. I think it's a good time to ask yourself, "What kind of handler do I want to be?" Our Boxers, Killian and Kahlua, are mine and my husband Tom's first dogs as a married couple. While we both grew up with dogs, showing them is still relatively new to us.

We started showing Killian in 2007 when she was 1 1/2 years old. She is now 5 1/2 years old. Kahlua made her debut in the Rally ring at the tender age of 6 months at our Boxer nationals. She is now 3 1/2 years old. We enjoy showing them in obedience, rally and agility.

My husband and I have realized that showing our dogs is a responsibility. We have a responsibility to teach or train our dogs, ensure they are having fun, help other handlers along the way, set a good example for people attending a trial who don't show dogs, but most importantly to always be a good sport. Being a good sport is required while we experience the thrill of victory and when we have tasted the agony of defeat.

Recently, I have been watching other handlers in obedience, rally and agility. I'm not only watching how they handle their dogs in the ring, but I am watching how they handle themselves both in and out of the ring. The handlers that impress me the most aren't the ones that are always successful in the ring, although I enjoy watching a great handler/dog team in any sport. I'm most impressed by the handlers that accept those non-qualifying times in the ring and still manage to keep a positive attitude. They still leave the ring smiling. I've started going out of my way to compliment a handler when they have shown a positive attitude in the ring, regardless of the outcome. I tell them that they are the kind of handler I want to be. Handlers that are good sports take the time to offer advice to others. Why, because they care and they want others to succeed.

It hasn't always been easy for me to be a good sport in the face of defeat. I don't get upset with my dog but rather with myself. I don't mind not qualifying in the ring, as it is not life or death. The best thing I heard a handler say after a non-qualifying time in the ring, "What a great day. I got to have fun with my dog." You know what? She meant it. That's the kind of handler I want to be, don't you?

## Calendar of Events:

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

**May 31 - Training night (8 week session begins)**  
**June 7 - Training night**  
**June 14 - Training night**  
**June 21 - Training night**  
**June 26 - Summer Picnic (Berkeley Park)**  
**June 28 - Training night**  
**July 5 - Training night**  
**July 12 - Training night**  
**July 19 - Training night (8 week session ends - run thrus)**

*“He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worth of such devotion.” —Unknown*

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Lyons Township Dog  
Training Club  
doggiedoings@ltdtc.org

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.*