

Happy Tails News

June 2007

Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 1611
Idaho Falls ID 83403

www.usrvdtdc.org

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Deadline:
24th Of Each Month

CONGRATULATIONS!
Carl and Libby on your TDX!



MACH Triangulo A Liberty Belle VCD3 TDX UDX MX MXJ OF RE
AWD (apprentice water dog)
GROM (Gold Register of Merit), CGC

CLUB PICNIC

Thursday, June 21, 2007

6:30 p.m.

Tautphaus Park

Come and join your friends for fun, food, and games at the park! Bring your dog, plates and utensils, your own drink, and whatever side dish you signed up for. The club furnishes the burgers and hotdogs.

Questions? Call Rosalyn McCandless 523-8706

USRVDTC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2007

The regular monthly meeting of the USRVDTTC was called to order by President, Suzanne Belger, at 7:30 p.m., on May 17th, 2007, at Godfather's Pizza in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Members present were: Rosha Adams, Suzanne Belger, Rosalyn McCandless, Kent McCandless, George Haller, Glenda Haller, Duane Loomis, Cheryl Loomis, Heike Vitacolonna, Steven Olson, Lois Olson, LeeAnn Chaffin, Kelly P'Pool, Juley Hankins, Bill Groff, Judy Groff, Arynne Belger, Margi Vanover, Diane Orr and Bill Orr.

Diane Orr motioned to dispense with the reading of the previous month's minutes due to the reason that they were included in the club's newsletter. Lois Olson seconded the motion. PASSED.

Cheryl Loomis motioned to dispense with the reading of the Board Meeting Minutes for the reason that all present for the regular meeting were also present at the Board Meeting. Lois Olson seconded the motion. PASSED.

Report of President: Suzanne Belger read a thank you note from Lisa of the AMBC expressing thanks from the AMBC for USRVDTTC allowing the AMBC to use our agility equipment and for all the help from various members.

Suzanne also reported that the club is looking for a new Hospitality Chairperson. Diana Robinson has found it necessary to resign from the position in order to help care for her mother.

Report of the Vice-President: The club picnic will be held on Thursday, June 21st at Shelter #3 in Tautphaus Park. The picnic will begin at 7:00 p.m., and members are asked to come earlier to help set up. Rosalyn McCandless passed around a sign-up list for club members to bring salads, chips, dips, desserts, etc. Club members not present at the meeting are asked to please contact Rosalyn concerning what she still needs to have brought.

Rosalyn also reported that the club meeting on July 19th will be held at the 5 & Diner on Channing Way. The board meeting will start at 7:00 p.m., with the regular club meeting to follow at 7:30 p.m.

Rosalyn McCandless asked for input from the club members concerning this year's Christmas Party. The club members present expressed their desire to have the party on December 8th.

Report of the Secretary: None

Report of the Treasurer: Suzanne Belger read the monthly report for Barbara Friedrich in her absence.

Report of Committees:

Obedience Training: Kelly P'Pool reported that she added another 7:30 class to this session due to a larger than expected sign-up. There are 6 classes running this time. She reported that classes are going well.

Membership Applications read:

Theresa Mathis – 1st reading (she will be voted on at the July 2007 meeting)

Membership Applications Voted On:

Heather & Kirk Vance were voted on and welcomed into the club as new members.

Unfinished Business: Glenda Haller reported on the Rabies Clinic that the club earned \$352.00. The clinic vaccinated 176 animals. She also reported that Dr. Aliah complemented the club on its assistance and how smoothly things ran during the clinic.

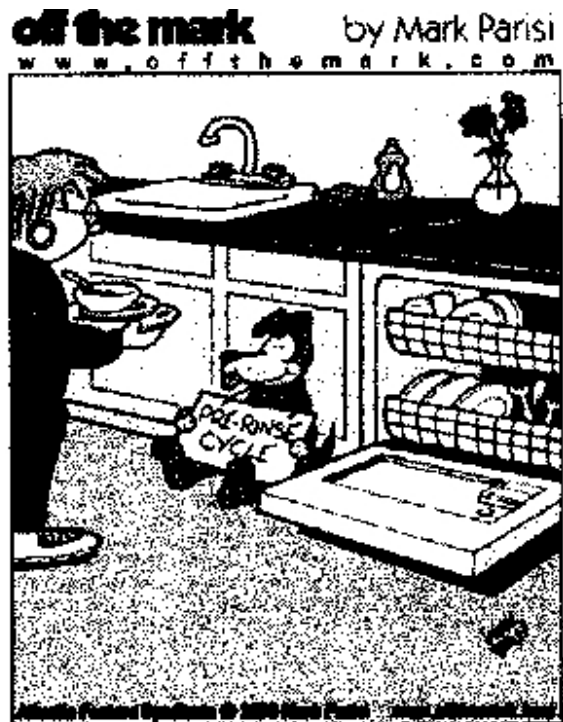
New Business: Suzanne Belger asked that the club members consider picking up the Agility Trial date in the spring that was held by the AMBC. She felt it would be good for the club to have another set of trials close to home considering the cost of gasoline, etc., to travel to out-of-town trials.

Lois Olson motioned for adjournment. Duane Loomis seconded the motion. PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Submitted by,

Rosha Adams
Secretary



USRVDC obedience classes are under way. We have a great turn out! Thank you to all of our instructors! Summer agility classes will be starting July 11. If you are interested please sign up now! If you need forms or more information go to the website usrvdc.org or call Linda Reimann.



Agility Practices

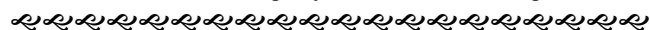
We are going to have a practice June 24, 2007 at 6:00 pm at Tautphaus Park.

For more information please contact:
Linda Reimann 529-3942 or
topdobe@onewest.net



Up-Coming Events

- 06-1/3-07---Bozeman Agility---Bozeman, MT
- 06-9/10-07---GSLDTC Shows---Farmington, UT
- 06-14/17-07---Blackfoot Cluster---Blackfoot, ID
- 06-21-07---Club Picnic-Tautphaus Park
- 06-24-07---Agility Practice---Tautphaus Park
- 07-13/15-07---Golden Spike Agility---Farmington, UT
- 07-19-07---Club Meeting at Five & Diner
- 07-20/22-07---YVKC Agility/Obed Trials-Billings, MT



"Braggs"

As most of you know "Libby" and Carl Friedrich earned their TDX on April 21, 2007 in Utah. They had a super track. Libby, as usual, makes everything look easy.

While at the South Jordan cluster, "Libby" and Barb earned their 7th and 8th RAE legs. Only two more to go! "Libby" and Carl picked up DQ number 21 and 13 more MACH points.

Over Memorial Day weekend while at Lynnleigh Farms "Libby" and Carl earned their 22nd and 23 DQ for their MACHII. They added 18 more MACH points their 22nd DQ and 12 MACH points their 23 DQ. They have a total of 414 points towards their 2nd MACH! Only 336 more MACH points to go!

"Wunder" and Linda Reimann had a good weekend at Lynnleigh farms too. They earned their first AX leg with a first place!

"Melody" and Rosha Adams finally got their last AXJP leg at the South Jordan, Utah trials for her title!

YAHOO! They had only been trying for that last leg for 1 ½ years!

"Bo" Haller took 1st place Puppy-dog 9-12 months both days he showed in South Jordan. "Ivy" Haller took 2nd place Puppy-bitch 9-12 months at the same shows. That was their first big show and they were impressed!

The American Belgian Malinois Club's National Specialty was a huge success! Thanks in large part to our Upper Snake River friends. We couldn't have done it without you! We owe (much more than she earned) LaDawn Moad so much for being the secretary for all except one venue at the nationals. She did a fabulous job!

"Tycho" and Nancy Lasky had a great time at the ABMC nationals. In herding they picked up a PT and and HSAs leg. They earned a bonus CD leg with a 3rd place. They finished their Novice Fast title and picked up another AXJ leg. They topped the week off by earning 1st place in Working Sweeps-Dogs and Best of Opposite Sex Working Sweeps.

"Dune" and Adrienne Belger had a super time at ABMC Nationals as well. "Dune" earned his PT herding title and one leg towards HSAs (Herding Started sheep) title. His HSAs leg earned him a Reserve High in Trial. He wasn't sure what was the most fun'winning RHIT or running his handler over with sheep! "Dune" and Adrienne earned their 2nd NJW leg while at the nationals. They had some great runs and had a ton of fun! They also earned their RN title. Coming home with two new titles made the long days worthwhile.

Despite spending way to much time in a crate, "Celeste" Belger had a great time at the Malinois nationals as well. "Celeste" and Suzanne started off the week by earning 2 HSAs legs and a PT herding title. They "gathered" a High Combined and a High in Trial for herding! Chasing woolies is great fun and we recommend it to anyone! "Celeste" had a very nice utility run but couldn't find the sheep on her last go out and forgot what to do! She earned another MX leg and 11 more MACH points. Despite Suzanne's fabulous handling, "Celeste" managed to pick up two NF legs her first try! They like not having wrong courses. They finished the nationals with a 3rd place in working sweeps! Not bad considering how exhausted everyone was!

We have a few late brags and we apologize to Cheryl, Diane and Juley for the delay in publishing their brags. The acting newsletter editor had a "blonde" moment!

At the March Eagle Rock Kennel Club Match, "Garcie" Orr CharBar's Gardenia went BOB and Herding Group 3rd. We were so proud of her.

Diane Orr reports: "At the Sheltie Nationals in April two dogs I bred, placed very well in their classes. The first

is "Danny" Moore Windabrae Wing's of Time. He took first place in the Open Blue Class. It was a very strong class of beautiful dogs. Mary Lee and Diane Orr were so proud and pleased with Danny's win. He was handled to perfection by Shannalee Michalsky. Next at Sheltie Nationals was "Puppet". Twincreaks Akadia Pull N Strings. She placed third in her class. She was handled expertly by Shannalee Michalsky. I am so proud of the owners and dogs I have bred."

At the ABMC agility trials held in Ririe in March, "Rider" and Cheryl Loomis earned his NAP and two legs towards "Rider's"NFP title.

At the same trials "Spodie" and Juley Hankins earned their NAP title and then one leg towards her OJP and OAP titles. Unfortunately, all of "Spodie's" NJP legs were under the same judge so her fabulous OJP run was just for the pleasure of the crowd!

Congratulations to ALL!!!

REMEMBER that brags and other newsletter information is due to the newsletter editor by the 24th of each month. You can email your info desertmtmalinois@msn.com.

Meet our Members

Hi, my name is Cheryl Loomis. In 1984, my brother Duane and I moved to Idaho from the Southern California area where we were born and raised.

I joined the Club in 1992 after I completed the summer class with my miniature poodle, Jack. We had been to the vet and had picked up a flyer about the club. My 9 month old Jack would not walk on a lead and after chasing him in the rain to get him into the house, I read the flyer and noted that classes were being held. I called the number, which happened to be Glenda Haller, who was training director that year. She told me to come down to the park 15 minutes early to sign up.

We started the third week of a ten-week session in Barbara Friedrich's class. Bill Orr was the assistant He and I worked by ourselves that first session just on getting Jack up and walking. By the next week he had caught up to class and by the end of the

tenth week, was ready to compete in AKC's Novice A class. He was entered in 6 trials and qualified all 6 times with placements. He went on to earn his UD by the age of 2 1/2. Jack was a once in a lifetime dog.

Shortly after I started showing, we got our first Border Collie, Ranger, for Duane. Duane joined the club in 1993.

To date we have earned a combine total of 67 titles of which 58 were earn in Obedience Tracking or Agility.

Since then we have served the club in many capacities. We started with co-chairing the Hospitality Committee. Duane has been Obedience Trail Chairman, Chief Steward and Raffle Chairman. I have been President, Vice President, Secretary, Publicity and Demonstration Chairman, Video Camera Chair, Obedience Trial Secretary. Tracking Chair and Secretary, and Obedience Training Director.



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As you all have noticed we have a new column in our newsletter, "Meet our Members". Please submit a short bio about yourself, your family, how you started in dogs, etc. We would like to profile all of our club members. Send info to [desertmtmalinois@msn.com](mailto:desertmtmalinois@msn.com).  
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Have you been wondering why some of us are so excited about herding? Perhaps this article will help explain why we do what we do (either that or just confirm what you all ready knew!)

THE TRUTH ABOUT DOG SPORTS....HERDING BY LAURIE LEACH

It is amazing but true that the sport of herding was popularized by a pig. Ask any tyke who's seen the movie "Babe" and they can describe an imaginary world in which dogs or a precocious piglet move livestock in an orderly fashion through pastures and gates.

As you might expect, the real world of herding is not so simple or tidy. Herding is, in fact, a very complex world with a long and rich history. For the neophyte, it is difficult to even learn about herding for reasons that I will explain. Despite the challenge, I have managed to permeate this world.

As a result of my foray into this arena, I am going to discourage those of you who have not yet started this sport. Toss some Frisbees to that pup. Dabble in the benign sport of agility. Get anal in obedience. Let me explain why these activities are better and safer choices.

HERDING IS NERVOUS MAKING. Dog sports are supposed to be fun. With herding, there is always an underlying tension. This tension is easily understood when one examines the origin of this activity.

Centuries ago, in the wild, dogs pursued herds of animals and singled them out to be killed and eaten. In some cases the dogs chased the herds until a weak member dropped out. In other cases, they turned the herd back into the jaws of their waiting pack members. Today's herding dogs still reflect one of these two approaches, preferring to either drive or gather stock.

Somehow early man convinced dogs to round up the stock, rather than eat them, and then wait for a bowl of leftovers. This is one of the great mysteries of canine history. Without benefit of clicker, tennis ball, or food stuffed toys, this early dog trainer worked miracles.

Despite this history, herding dogs are not supposed to grab a sheep thigh like a smoked turkey leg. Out on the ranch, they may nip heel or nose to move reluctant stock, but in public, biting is a serious no-no. However, one can never forget that herding is a partnership that stops the dog just one click short of bringing in his dinner.

HERDING REQUIRES INTERACTING WITH ANIMALS THAT WOULD MAKE A GOOD STEW. Herding is an activity that requires not only the finest dog training skills but also requires a group of other

animals known as "stock." Just that word should raise your red flag.

Stock are big, dirty, and live in muddy places. They have no qualms about running over you. They are much more interested in sticking together than avoiding what is in their path. They are the original gangs. They are very difficult to understand if you did not grow up with them. More on that later.

HERDING IS AS DIFFICULT AS PLAYING QUARTERBACK IN THE SUPER BOWL. In other dog sports, events happen in one direction. In agility, dog and handler run toward the A-frame. In flyball, the dogs run straight to the box and back to the handler. Herding, on the other hand, is multi-dimensional, and chaos is always imminent. It is most accurate to imagine herding is like being dropped into the middle of a professional football scrimmage. The sheep scramble one direction. The dog flies the other to bring them back. The handler, like the quarterback, tries to orchestrate the movement by yelling or whistling. Covering one's eyes is always tempting, but it's not a good option.

There is a real possibility of getting hurt while herding, if the dog gets a bit too wild, the sheep may charge toward the handler with considerable momentum. While they will not be screaming, "SACK," the effect is the same. One must have quick reactions to prevent a crash.

HERDING REQUIRES AN ENTIRE NEW LANGUAGE. If you identify with either of those novice handlers above, there is another hurdle to successfully entering the world of herding. In addition to being able to think like a sheep, you must learn to speak a different language. Here is typical quote: Once the dog is trained on the rake, we need to make sure the dog will move off your body pressure (Billy Bob, 2001)

My feeling is that if you can get the dogs to rake, you should get them going with the lawn mower too. However, if you insist on herding rather than getting that yard work done, you must be prepared to acquire an entire new language as you would French or Italian. Make sure to consider that learning *c'est la vie* and *Je suis heureuse* could take you to Paris. The language of herding will take you to slippery, muddy pastures. Think this through! If you are still determined to forge forward, you might as well get started on some key terms that you must internalize:

Bad Sheep: These are woolies that are not committed to the club. They tend to break away from the others. This makes a dog look bad. They may even turn and fight. This is smart in my mind, but shepherds want docile sheep that hang together. You might think of the rebellious sheep as "Sheep that are going to be lambchops."

Good Sheep: Officially these are the sheep that let themselves be herded and stick together. In my experience, these are sheep that keep trying to climb up on your shoulders to get away from the dog. This is not attractive because they have pointy hooves. However, they are highly prized in the herding world. I refer to this group as "Sheep that are not going to be lamb chops."

Outrun: This is the action when the dog runs out past the sheep to begin gathering them. For advanced dogs, this outrun is hundreds of yards long. Herding books say that the ideal outrun is shaped like a pear. Are these people kidding? Who cares about fruit when your dog is racing away from you at top speed and becomes a speck on the horizon? I have had several dogs do an outrun but they were hot on the heels of a bunny. In my mind, the outrun is synonymous with the unhappy phrase, "My dog has run off."

Lift: This term refers to time that the dog moves toward the sheep initially in order to get them moving. I refer to this as the "short moment before all hell breaks loose."

Way to Go Bye and me: These are the traditional Scottish commands for sending the dog around the sheep in either a counterclockwise or clockwise direction. There are musical sounding phrases that suggest they were lifted from Rodgers and Hammerstein. Using these lilting phrases is a nice idea if one could freeze the sheep and dog for a moment to figure out which way is counterclockwise. As I suggested in my article on Border Collies, these phrases are often replaced in real situations by "Quit biting that sheep, you little shit."

These terms are merely the tip of the iceberg. From here you need to learn to string words like grip and flank together without getting arrested. You will know you have arrived when you can lean against the fence in your Wranglers and drawl, "After you pick up the sheep with a short outrun, you wear the sheep around the perimeter of the fence." But really, who wants to say that when you could be learning to say, "Je beux le creme brulee."

HERDING DOGS MUST HAVE THE RIGHT STUFF.

Although you may want to participate in this dog sport, herding requires instinct on the part of your dog. The movement of sheep screams. "DO SOMETHING" to dogs with the right genes. Dogs without these genes just stand around and munch sheep doo. The reality is that the best herding dogs will herd alone for days at a time.

In addition to the instinctual ability to read stock, the dog must have the physical ability to react to the movements of stock and enough speed to affect those movements.

The bottom line is that your dog either has it or it doesn't. A dog that will only circle in one direction or whose interest in sheep lasts less than thirty seconds is a candidate for a different activity. Be relieved. Try something simple like teaching you dog to skydive.

ALL HERDING BREEDS ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL Reading about the characteristics of different herding breeds is much like reading real estate ads. For example, we all know that an ad that says, "Doll House" means the roof is six feet high and the rooms are the size of postage stamps. Similar interpretation is required when reading about the herding breeds. For example, experts might say something like, "Training this breed requires the handler to be extremely upbeat and enthusiastic." What this really means is that, unless you have professional cheerleading experience, these dogs may seriously try you patience.

In general, herding breeds can be grouped in four general categories. At one end of the spectrum, there are those breeds that are less than enthusiastic about herding. They have a lobby in Washington that is working to move them from the herding group to the couch potato group. At the opposite end of the spectrum are the high-drive, her-until-they-drop dogs. These dogs may even become so mesmerized by the stock that they may go into a trance. In between there are two groups. First, there are the dogs that try to bark the sheep to death. Lastly, there are the breeds that approach herding like bureaucrats. With briefcase in hand, these dogs move the sheep without much fuss. They may lack a little flash, but they rarely have a grievance filed by the sheep union.

IN CONCLUSION The point is if you don't have exactly the right kind of dog, you have your work cut out for you. Then again, if you do have exactly the right kind of dog, you have your work cut out for you..

If you have been thinking about trying herding, put it to bed with a simple "That'll do" and go on with a nice hike with your pup. If you have already gotten involve, consider spending the next herding trial in the bleachers with a cold beer. Wow the spectators sitting around you by saying something like, "He's using a 'banana' line. It looks good and straight and the entrance to the gates is lined up with the handler's post." Then take a nice hike with you pup.





JUNE 2007



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 "Yogi" Collins Bozeman trials
3 Bozeman trials	4	5 David P'Pool "Bob" P'Pool	6 Glenda Haller Class #5	7 "Lola" Keele	8	9 GSLDTC Trials Farmington
10 Brandon Nielson GSLDTC Trials Farmington	11	12	13 James Rath Class #6	14 Blackfoot Shows	15 "Baby" Loomis "Kaitie" Orr Blackfoot Shows	16 Blackfoot Shows
17 Heather Vance Blackfoot Shows	18 "Willow" McFadden Catherine Nielson	19 "Pewter" McKee	20 Class #7	21 club Picnic 6:30 pm Tautphaus Park	22	23
24 Sunny Grant	25	26	27 Class #8	28 Judy Grof	29	30 Kristie Rasmussen

