

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB NEWSLETTER June, 2018

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 21, 2018, 7:00 pm

TBD

Blackfoot Shows—Obedience, Rally, Agility, Scent Work
and Barn Hunt

June 14—17

Obedience and Rally Classes starting

June 20

USRVDTC Obedience and Rally Trial

August 17—19

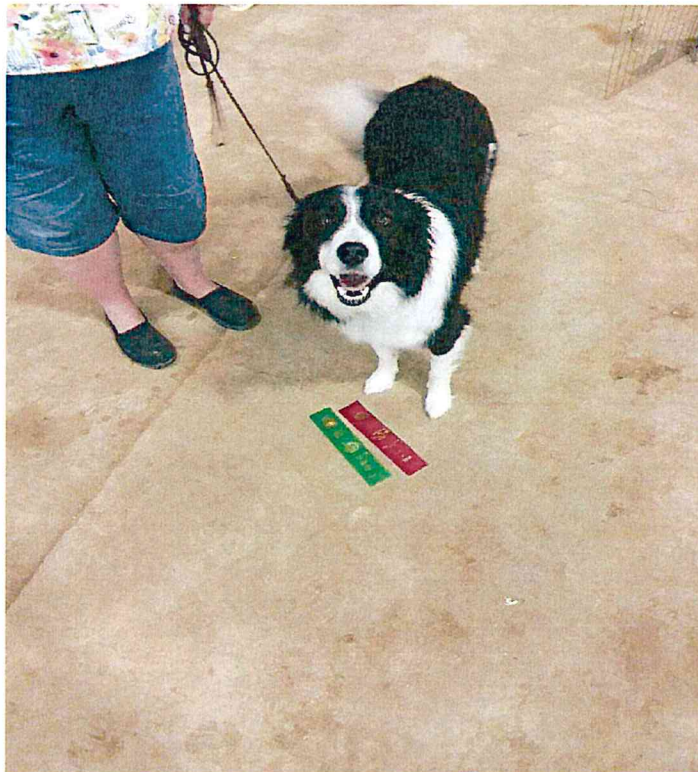
BRAGS

Congratulations to Shel Williams and Cailean

At the recent South Jordan Trials they earned...



1st Place in Obedience Novice B with a score of 186.5



Their first leg in Intermediate Rally with a score of 82

Meet the very good dogs who hunt down invasive species

They can sniff out troublesome weeds and other pests.

By Ellen Airhart November 10, 2017



Seamus spots a weed in Missoula, Montana.

Pete Coppelillo

Lily is a golden retriever from Georgia. Seamus is a border collie from Montana. Together, they are leading a Working Dogs for Conservation team to eradicate an invasive weed from Mount Sentinel in Missoula, Montana.

Before the team of dogs took over, humans were doing a mediocre job of controlling dyer's woad, a knee-high, light green weed native to southeastern Russia. The problem lay with how people usually identify the plant—by its distinctive yellow flower, which lights up roadsides across the southwestern U.S. The golden blossoms might be pleasant on the side of the highway, but dyer's woad crowds out native plants from Arizona to Wyoming. "They displace multiple species within the native plant community," says Jane Mangold, a professor of land resources and environmental science at Montana State University, via email. "A general loss in biodiversity ensues."

But by the time the bloom is easily visible, it's already too late; the dyer's woad has reproduced.

That's where the dogs come in. In 2011, Seamus and Lily made their first forays into the Montana brush, sniffing out the offending weeds. They were able to point out hundreds of plants that humans missed. The dogs kept coming back, since dyer's woad can last up for years in the soil. This season, they found only four plants,

according to Pete Coppolillo, executive director of Working Dogs for Conservation. They've nearly eradicated the tricky weed.

Dogs can definitely locate substances with their noses that humans can't. We train them to sniff out cancer, bombs, drugs and even the flu. The conservation dogs can find kit foxes in the San Joaquin Valley, gunpowder in Zambia, invasive brook trout and mussels in Montana and a cattle-killing bacteria in Yellowstone.

But none of this is surprising, because *of course* dogs have the advantage when it comes to sniffing out invaders. In a side by side comparison, dogs would beat their weak primate best friends at a smelling contest every time—right?

Wrong. “From a scientific point of view, there's not a lot of evidence of how sensitive the dog's nose is,” says Matthias Laska, a professor of zoology at Linköping University. Scientists have tested only 15 scents on both dogs and humans, depositing tinier and tinier amounts of each until they found exactly how much each species could detect. Humans were actually better at smelling five of them. “This statement that dogs are the undisputed super noses of the universe is simply not true,” says Laska.

Dogs perceive the world differently than we do, and rely on their olfactory sense more. They use their noses to identify each other and navigate through the world—humans do not usually go around sniffing each other. Dogs devote more of their mental resources to their sense of smell, according to Alexandra Horowitz, a psychology professor at Barnard College, in her book *Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know*. Their olfactory bulb takes up about an eighth of their brains, a larger percentage than our visual cortex takes up in ours.

However, in a *Nature Neuroscience* study both species did an equally accurate job of following the trail of a desirable scent through a field, though the dog tracked a dead pheasant and humans followed chocolate essential oils. Both the pups and undergraduates became better trackers with practice.

And the working canines *do* practice. The Working Dogs for Conservation screens 1,000 shelter animals for every one dog they put into training. Then half of them fail out of pup smell school. The best dogs are energetic and highly motivated by their toys, says Coppolillo.

Scientists have never made dogs sniff the air for illegal bushmeat or marijuana while standing on their hind legs, human-style. But perhaps they would be able to detect these scents, and many more, under human behavioral restraints.

“If we consider that every item has an odor, then, given dogs' olfactory acuity, we can expect that dogs could be trained to tell us when they detect pretty much anything,” says Horowitz via email. But researchers have also never forced humans to track hundreds of smells through airports, highways and the Serengeti. Until they do, we don't know the full extent of the Lily and Seamus's smelling super powers. . . or that of *Homo sapiens*.

USRVDTTC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2018

The regular monthly board meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Marilynne Manguba, at 7:04 p.m., on Thursday, May 17, 2018, at Papa Tom's Pizza, in Idaho Falls ID.

Lucien Frederick moved to approve the previous Board meeting minutes as published in the newsletter. Suzanne Belger seconded. Passed.

Board Members Present:

Marilynne Manguba LaDawn Moad Suzanne Belger

Lucien Frederick

Report of President: None

Report of Vice President: Absent

Report of Secretary: AKC Event Approved the Tracking Tests for September 23, 2018.

Report of Treasurer: Report held for regular meeting

Report of Committees: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Lucien Frederick moved to adjournment. Suzanne Belger seconded. Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm

USRVDTC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Marilynne Manguba, at 7:04 p.m., on Thursday, May 17, 2018, at Papa Tom's Pizza, in Idaho Falls ID.

Introduction of Guests/Visitors: Rose Mary Durfee, Mckelle Brown, and Desiree Chase.

Members Present:

Stephanie Nielsen	Mary Ann Igoe	Sheila Webb
Savannah Webb	Nik Johnson	Elise Desantel
Shel Williams	Charlie Urbanski	Rosha Adams
Lucien Frederick	Carl Friedrich	Duane Loomis
Cheryl Loomis	Suzanne Belger	LeeAnn Chaffin
Amanda Williams	Taylor Williams	Brian Meyers
Melissa Meyers	Ed Vitacolonne	Heike Vitacolonne
Marilynne Manguba	Angelica Petrovic	Jennifer Evans
LaDawn Moad	Aubrey Parry	Nicki Bowen

Suzanne Belger moved to approve the minutes as published in the newsletter. Lucien Frederick seconded. Passed.

Suzanne Belger dispense with the reading of the board meeting minutes because everyone was present and no business was done. Lucien Frederick seconded. Passed

Report of the President: None

Report of the Vice President: Absent

Report of the Secretary: None

Report of the Treasurer: Suzanne Belger read the monthly and year-to-date financial reports.

Report of Committees:

Agility Training Director: Suzanne Belger reported agility classes are going good. The new structure is working better.

Thank you Charlie Urbanski for the new format.

Advanced practices have not worked as well as hoped, weather hasn't helped but we will keep trying.

For the summer session we will be holding mini agility classes. They will start at 7:30 pm and be ½ hour classes for two week sessions. Two classes per week will be offered. Price per session will be \$20.00.

Obedience Training Director: Heike Vitacolonne reported the 6 o'clock summer classes are almost full, we may add another 6 o'clock class. We are also offering a 7 o'clock basic obedience and an 8 o'clock intermediate.

Discussion was held regarding Open obedience exercise mini classes.

Obedience/Rally Trial Chairman: Suzanne Belger reported for Lucien Frederick obedience and rally trophy donations are due.

Premium for the obedience and rally trial are available on the club website and Desert Mountain Promotions Website.

Scent Work Trial Secretary: Suzanne Belger reported the Blackfoot Trial closes May 31, 2018 and is almost full.

Ribbons are ordered, we have the boxes, and we will purchase sand. We need photos of the inside of the building for the Judge to send to AKC. Suzanne Belger and Lucien Frederick are working on this.

Looking into having a scent work practice before the trial.

Tracking Test: Marilynne Manguba reported the Judges are set for 9 TD tracks and 3 TDU tracks, so get tracking. Volunteers are needed as track layers September 22 & 23, 2018.

Scent Work Training: Marilynne Manguba reported the scent work classes are October 1, 2018 for basic and October 2, for intermediate.

Publicity and Demonstrations: Marilynne Manguba reported May 31, 2018 at Longfellow Elementary book fair we will be doing some demonstrations. It will be from 5 to 6 pm. Please let Marilynne know if you are going to attend.

Unfinished Business:

Agility Seminar: Suzanne Belger reported the seminar is set for June 1 and June 2, 4 Sections, 4 hour each 1: jumping exercises, 2: weave pole and contacts exercises to proof, 3: put it all together and how to walk the dog's path, 4: teach how to instruct the foundation skills.

The cost will be \$35.00 for one 4 hour session for active club member \$45 inactive and \$50 for non-member and \$25.00 to audit.

Lucien Frederick moved the club provide the Instructor session for agility instructors. Shel Williams seconded. Passed.

Marilynne Manguba reported the rabies clinic was very slow.

New business:

Marilynne Manguba reported there has been a request to have a CGC A and CGC U test. Discussion held.

Marilynne Manguba reported some weird emails have been sent using her email address. Do not open these. The email addresses have been removed from website.

Suzanne Belger moved to have the club's logo setup at Classy Thread so club members can have it embroidered on any item. Elise Desantel seconded. Passed.

Membership applications approved for Angelica Petrovic.

Membership applications read Mckelle Brown, RoseMary Durfee, Desiree Chase, and Sue Preussner.

Lucien Frederick moved to adjourn. Carl Friedrich seconded. Passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Location of Next Club Meeting: to be announced