

Lucky Dog News

October 2008

Officers and Board

President Laurie Kudna
Vice Pres Margie Dykstra
Secretary Betty Schwartz
Treasurer Ellen Parr

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Catherine Shields (07/08)
Sherree Lewis (07/08)
Bob Parker (08/09)
Larry Schwartz (08/09)

Public Education Chair
Bob Parker

Membership Chair
Sherree Lewis

Newsletter Editor
Peggy Miller
berknbelg@netzero.net

2008 Meeting Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at the Almost Home Restaurant in Salem. Dinner @ 630 Meeting @ 700
October 2
November 6
December 4

Minutes from September 2008 Meeting

The September meeting of the Luckiamute Dog Training Club was held September 4, 2008 at Almost Home Restaurant. The meeting was called to order by President Laurie Kudna. In attendance were Laurie, Margie Dykstra, Ellen Parr, Jean Kane, Bob Parker, Sherree Lewis, Peggy Miller and guests Carol Murphy and Susanne Branch.

Moved, seconded, and passed to approve the August minutes as published.

No President's report, no Secretary's report and no Treasurer's report as nothing has changed in the account from last month.

Committee Reports:

Obedience: The arena is reserved. Waiting for more entries. Rooms are rented. One of the judges wants to stay in Portland to be near the airport. Need to contact Dino's Diner Set up Saturday morning around 7:00 am. Margie, Bob, Ellen, Laurie, and Catherine will be there to set up. First class at 9:00 am. Margie is working on trophies. Laurie will take care of judge's gifts, and Diane can order needed ribbons.

Tracking: TD – Ellen will work on premium after obedience trial.

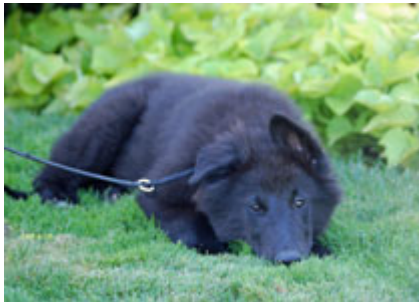
Closes on the November meeting date, will be able to determine by entries how many TD and TDX tracks will be needed at that time. VST judges are Roy Fair and Stephanie Gonyeau.

Membership: Second reading on Nancy Osterbauer and membership approved.

Seminar: Corky Vroom. Laurie will post notice to NW Dog Activities list. Flyer is almost ready. Discussion about 4-H kids discount followed. It was determined that junior price, observer would be \$40 for both days and \$25 for one day.

New Business: Peggy proposed that we should consider just being a tracking club. Discussion followed. Many thought it was a good idea and worthy of more discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherree Lewis, substitute secretary



"Hmmm, what kind of trouble can I get into now?"
photo by Shelly Brosnan

Future? Focus? Fun?

By Catherine Shields

LDTC – what should our future hold? After a recent LDTC meeting it seemed the group was pulling teeth to get people to help with the upcoming (now past) obedience trial. Early entry numbers suggest our trial will lose money; it is too soon to know as I write this.

On my way home from the meeting, I thought about how to energize the club. Maybe how to get refocused. I was thinking about what most people, at least most of the regulars at meetings, have as a passion? And that was Tracking.

What if we refocused our Energy?

Since many in our club share the passion of Tracking, what if we went back to our "roots" so to speak, what if we specialized our efforts into a dedicated tracking group? This would mean securing more places to track and given some of the TAC recommendations there may be more interest in tracking in the future.

Anyway, just food for thought. Given the economy, cost of gas and travel, people showing dogs do seem to be scaling back or focusing their efforts. The down turn in entries for our trial could be an indicator of this trend. It has been 9 years since I put a tracking title on a dog, but I would love to get back out there in some sort of structured way this fall/winter.

2008 Obedience Trial Wrap-Up

by Trail Chair and Secretary Ellen Parr

Another successful trial is in the box. I'd like to start by giving a hearty thanks to Margie Dykstra who really was my assistant Show Chair, without her I never would have made it. Her expert guidance and availability for advice was a life-saver for this novice Trial Secretary/Show Chair! I'd also like to thank Laurie Kudna who took care of the judges for me, booking them hotel rooms and making sure we had everything they needed at the trial. Thanks to Sheila Cordray for taking care of the ribbons and running the awards table both days. Thanks again to Margie who purchased all the awards. And a third thank you to Margie for being Chief Ring Steward! I also could not have gotten through the two days without Catherine Shields helping me man the Secretary table and being willing to do whatever I needed done.

Thanks also need to go to Betty and Larry Schwartz, Bob Parker, Jean Kane, and Sherree Lewis who volunteered as ring stewards. We also had the 4-H kids again this year and once again, they proved wonderful with a strong work ethic and happy, polite manners.

This year we had a wonderful addition to the show; Shelly Brosnan came down and took photos! Exhibitors were thrilled, especially those that won big awards. Shelly plans to come back next year as well.

Although our numbers were down this year, we had rave reviews from exhibitors. Exhibitors at our show won a UDX, an RAE5 and multiple other titles over the weekend. There was a run off for HIT on Saturday between a Novice B and Open B dog and the Open B dog won. We passed out a survey on Sunday and they seem to be almost overwhelming in their support of our show. There were a few great ideas that we will need to discuss if the show is to continue next year. I will bring a summary and the surveys to the meeting.

The show is a big job and we have to have a discussion to see if we are going to offer the show next year. Despite the stress of my job of Trial Secretary and Show Chair, I very much enjoyed the show and I would like to see it continue. However, without more support from more club members, I can't see it continuing. It is too much work for just a few people to do, but if lots of people do little jobs, it will be easy.

Thanks again to everyone who did pitch in. I am so very grateful and you helped put on a wonderful trial!



2008 Obedience/Rally Trial – and the Future!

By Margie Dykstra

There has been some talk lately of changing the direction of LDTC to a Tracking only club – not having an obedience trial. Our trial went well and we have (as Ellen said) the overwhelming support of our exhibitors. The fact that our entries were down is pretty much the economics of the times and not a reflection on our trial. *The question of whether or not to continue to put on a trial is based solely on whether or not we have the support we need **from the membership**.*

The day of trial help is a relatively minor part of putting on a trial. It is the planning that takes hours and days of work. The thing is – hardly any of the jobs are overwhelming. What becomes overwhelming is when one or two people are doing ALL the jobs.

SO, we need volunteers for the following jobs, at the next meeting, or we will have to seriously consider dropping the trial. I have tried to break these jobs down into manageable bite-sized pieces. NONE of them are rocket science, so “I don’t know how” is not an acceptable excuse. There is guidance available if a person is not quite sure of how to get the job done. If we have volunteers for these jobs, no one person will have too much to do.

VOLUNTEER SHEET: email Margie (goats@blythmoor.com) or come to the next meeting prepared to put your name down.

CHAIR- This job probably requires a bit of knowledge about all the things that go into a trial. It should consist of making sure all the rest of the people (listed below) are getting their jobs done. This job should not mean DOING all the other jobs.

Secretary: I (Margie) will volunteer to do this as it is another job that helps to have some trial experience. This is the ONLY job where the volunteer cannot show a dog at the trial.

Secretary's Assistant: Someone to sit at the table on the day of the trials and be the secretary's go-fer. Amazing what a stress-reducer this is.

Judges: (calling and contacting) Margie will do this.

Publicity: Ellen has volunteered to do this. Getting the trial information out to various trainers and clubs. Making sure everyone knows about us.

Hospitality – Judges: This entails getting motels for the judge's, contacting them regarding their food/snack preferences and transportation details. Most judges make their own airline reservations and will rent a car from the airport, so there is not a lot to do. This is mostly pre-trial work that needs to be done late summer. Food preferences can be communicated to the general Hospitality person if you think you might not be able to make it to the trial.

Hospitality – Exhibitors/Workers: Deciding on what to do for food. Setting up coffee/donuts at the trial, arranging a vendor or other lunch option for the day of the trials for both exhibitors and workers (and judges). Lots of options here and guidance available from our members.

Awards: Planning theme for awards, shopping, getting sponsors (we have quite a few that signed up at the trial and they would need to be reminded and contacted). Labeling the awards and making sure they get to the trial.

Ribbons: Sheila has volunteered to continue this job. This involves making sure we have the ribbons and the date tags. Also helps to have this person at the trial making sure ribbons and awards are nicely displayed and get to the rings as needed.

Equipment: (Maybe one old wooden jump needs a little repair.) Rally signs need to be updated. They are all listed in the AKC Manual and need to be compared to what we have. Can be downloaded from the AKC site and copied/laminated. Make sure we have a set up and tear down crew. The 4-H kids were great at this! This person could show up on Saturday morning and get set up done, and then leave and show up again to pack up on Sunday afternoon. This person should ensure that the trailer is going to arrive on time (usually that is not a problem).

Grounds: make sure the arena is ready and fairgrounds is reserved. Make sure we have poop scoops and/or buckets and bags.

Chief Ring Steward: Schedule volunteers and call the 4-Hers to beg for their help. Make sure each ring is appropriately staffed and supervise the ring stewards on the day of the trials. Frankly, I think we should get Sarah to join the club and do this for us each year. Her 4-Hers were EXCELLENT and she helped a huge amount.

Photographer: Hooray! Shelly will do pictures. This was a big hit this year and I am sure it will enhance our trial next year. We have often had exhibitors ask if we had a photographer. Now we do!

RV Parking: Someone to work with the fairgrounds and set up reservations for exhibitors. A last minute job, but not a big one.

Disaster Plan: Required by AKC. The basic plan is in place. Need someone to make sure

we've got signs up, a map to the VET on call, and to check out First Aid kits (one is in pretty poor shape)

Match Coordinator: NOTE – based on the probable large loss of money on the trials this year, we may need to consider holding a match net year, at the trial, possibly on Saturday after the main trial. We would also need someone to coordinate this and volunteers.

A very happy Shelly and Dharma celebrate their 2 new titles – a CD and an RA!



Braggs and News

From our trial: Shelly Brosnan and Belgian Sheepdog Dharma earned a CD and an RA with a second place. Dharma is now Select CH Mika's Pye-chedelic, CD, RA, HCTs, CGC. "I made a few handler errors, but since we've been out of practice for about 4 months now, I was just happy to be back out and trialing again. Thanks to LDTC for having me take "win photos", I had a blast and met several really nice people. Now I know that I'm not the only one who likes to have those fun memories in digital proof!"

Margie and Schooner (aka Asgard's Prairie Schooner, CD, TD, RE) finished her Rally Excellent title. Margie says, "Not bad considering I hadn't done any obedience work with her for at least 6 months! She got a respectable 91 on Sunday and her owner lost her an extra 10 points on Saturday so she only had a 78. The dog worked an 88, but was handler handicapped. I needed the training more than she did - obviously. Fun was had by all!"

At the recent Chintimini KC match: Sally Grimes and her Great Pyrenees Riley captured a working group one. Riley is Sally's first show dog.

In his very first outing as a show dog, Peggy's Belgian puppy Visa won the puppy herding group.



photo by Shelly Brosnan

Catherine Shields writes: On the 20th of September I had a first for my little "black dog" she is a Mudi- a Hungarian sheep dog, a rare breed in the world, let alone in this country. We had a Mudi Picnic in Sisters, Oregon where 6 Mudi owners and 12 Mudi gathered. It was the first time since my girl left Hungary last fall that she has had a chance to play with her own kind. Most of the dogs were young and our time involved the dogs playing and visiting with each other. One gal from Eastern Oregon did a clicker demo and a Rally demo. It was a great fun day to see dogs from both Oregon and California. All and all it was a great day!

Emerald Cluster:

Peggy's Deerhound Louie won the 9-12 class both days and went RWD on Saturday.



Louie aka Tannochnabrae's Illusionist from Glencrag

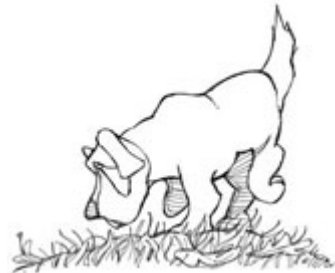


Birthdays!

On September 1st, Peggy's Scottish Deerhound Druid celebrated his 10th birthday.



LDTC



(add a harness to this and tweak dog and initials)

From Catherine Shields: my old girl Tessa celebrated her 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ birthday on the 22nd. I think it is only appropriate that once a pup is in their midteens they should get to celebrate their $\frac{1}{2}$ birthdays!

LOGO CONTEST ENTRANTS

Update from Sherree:

The new addition to our dog family, Scout, has settled in to the household. She has been playing rambunctiously with her sisters and learning the routines. Other than the usual trial and errors of having a puppy, Scout has been a lot of fun. She has proven to be a quick learner and appears to be quite athletic. She is learning to catch a Frisbee and retrieve a ball. But what has surprised me the most is how she has taken to the water. We found out quickly how much she loves the garden hose and sprinklers. Scout would be entertained for many minutes of the day by chasing the water pouring from the hose while we directed it around the back yard. She also loves to play in moving sprinklers and to splash around in the wading pool. The first week or two, she would only put her paws in the river and go no further. But after watching Abby swim, she followed her in, and has taken to the water so much that she often refuses to get out. We have to walk away! Much to my delight, Scout has actually jumped off the dock at Willamette Mission State Park without much hesitation. She could be the dock diving dog I never had! I look forward to starting her on tracking!

Photos from the Obedience Trial
Courtesy of Shelly Brosnan



REMINDERS!

Next meeting is this coming Thursday the second. Important items will be discussed so please plan to attend if at all possible.

Our TD/TDX test is fast approaching. Consider helping by being a tracklayer, crosstrack layer or by bring food for the potlucks on Saturday and/or Sunday. Remember the success of our events depends on YOU! Plus there is the added incentive of Lucky Bucks – dollars off the Luckiamute sponsored event or seminar of you choice simply by volunteering for YOUR club.