

CBDTC JUNE 2007

www.columbiabasindogtc.org

Officers:

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NEXT MEETING will be on Monday June 11, 2007 at 7 PM at the Bellerive Springs Clubhouse. This is off Gage and Bellerive in the Bellerive Springs subdivision. Turn left on Bellerive if coming from the direction of Leslie, turn right on Bellerive if coming from the direction of the mall. The subdivision will be the first left turn and the parking lot will be in front of you.

CORRECTION TO MAY LIST OF APPLICANTS

Bill Levinger and Loki the poodle were voted in April. I goofed.....

MINUTES OF THE MAY GENERAL MEETING

CBDTC General Meeting Minutes taken by Brooke Lanigan on May 14, 2007

Attendance: Tiffani Garner, Brooke Lanigan, Margo Place, Ernie Place, Jann Ibsen, Tom Ibsen, Jane Cooper, Bill Levinger, Linda Kennedy, Carly Kennelly, Dan Couch, Lezlie Couch, Brenda Trowbridge, Debbie Brower.

April meeting minutes were approved.

Agility classes are full and running.

Sept. 15 & 16, 2007; Barb Davis agility seminar in Finley. More to come.

Garage group is meeting in Columbia Park near the old tennis courts, now a skate park at 8am on Saturday mornings.

May 4th ... Browers welcomed 11 Ridgeback puppies

Trial: still need chief ring steward, no member e-mail addresses will be listed in the trial catalog.

Dan Couch gave building committee report.

Motion from Dan Couch, seconded by Debbie Brower. “That the fundraising motion be sent by email to all members to review”. Motion will be voted on at the next general meeting.

I (Kathy) was absent from the meeting as I had just driven back from Boise. Thanks to Brooke for taking the minutes.

NEW APPLICANTS

None this month.

Voted – Margo and Ernie Plce

Second Reading – Brenda Trowbridge

BRAGS

Heard from the Lang’s that Kaylee has been tearing up the agility field! Thunder has gotten his first qualifying runs in Excellent Standard and Excellent JWW with a first and second place, only 2 more and they can start earning double Q’s for the MACH!

Lightning, her youngster, has earned 2 legs toward her Novice JWW, not qualifying runs in standard yet but she is just a green dog. Kaylee will be running her dogs at Moscow in June, if anyone is going be sure to watch and congratulate her.

The Couch’s had a successful outing in Klamath Falls with the little Papillons. Freckles earned her RE and Joy earned her first two Rally Novice legs with a first and second place.

Debbie Brower reports a new litter of pups! She has been trying to have a litter for a few years and between lost litters and breedings that did not take, has been unsuccessful. So glad to hear there are 11 pups on the ground for her this year.

Lots of Spokane brags! A new CD for Eileen Michals and Shreq, Another RA leg for Eileen and Nonni too.

Dan Couch and Joy earned their RN at Spokane and Lezlie Couch and Freckles added an insurance leg in Rally Excellent.

Brooke Lanigan’s Papillon Jack got his first CD leg and his first Rally Advanced B leg.

It was a good weekend for Kayos and I too, Kayos passed her tracking test earning a TDX at Emerald Dog Obedience Club in Eugene.

SAD NEWS.....

Please keep Jane and Jim Cooper in your thoughts. Jane lost her beloved Dannie recently. Dannie was one of Jane’s older Beardies and had been part of her family for many years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Legacy Canines in Sequim –Bailey Survey Operant Conditioning Workshops June 16 and 17, 2007 or June 20 and 21, 2007. This is a hands on introduction to changing behavior using clicker training. Bob Bailey is considered the father of clicker training and is a behaviorist with 50 plus years of work in the animal training field. Contact Jenni Dix (888) 683-1522 www.legacycanine.com

Enthusiastic Tracking Seminar by Sil Sanders - June 29 through 31, Chehalis, WA
This 3 day seminar will work you through beginning tracking to the TDX and will include a copy of Sil's book "Enthusiastic Tracking". www.gryphonranch.com

Barb Davis Agility Seminar – July 5 and 6 Novice/Intermediate; July 7 and 8
Advanced/Masters www.gryphonranch.com

Susan Perry Agility Seminar – August 4- Novice/Intermediate; August 5-
Advanced/Masters. www.gryphonranch.com

Sept. 15 & 16, 2007; Barb Davis agility seminar in Finley. More to come.

APDT Conference and Trade Show (Association of Pet Dog Trainers) will be held in Portland, OR this year. This conference is held once a year in a different city each year. This year's conference will be Oct 24th through the 28th. **Suzanne Clothier** is scheduled to speak. I'll post further details as they come available.

TRAINING

Don't forget!! Garage Group meets at Columbia Park at 8AM on Saturday's. Group is meeting near the old tennis courts which are now a skate park. Tracking is meeting at the playground of dreams to lay tracks just before garage group and will run tracks after garage group

THE TRACK TO THE TDX

I as not going to post this but was encouraged to by Kayos' fan club!

Kayos and I made the number 5 draw at Eugene and pulled track number 4 out of the hat, known as the "Turkey Track" for all the nesting turkeys. And yes they caused all sorts of fits but she pulled it out.

It was cool, cloudy, slightly breezy and POURED rain!! Nice tracking conditions but for a desert dog it was actually too wet! I told the judges she was a slow, methodical tracker and I don't think they believed me - it took her 40 minutes to run her 820 yard track.

We had some serious problems right from the start and I did not think we would pull it out but we did. The first leg ran downhill to a left turn at the bottom of the hill and then

under a barbed wire fence and continued downhill into a swampy ravine, then we made a right turn in the ravine with water over my ankles, track ran 70 yards in the ravine through brambles and rushes and along a tree line and turned right again and ran back up hill under the fence again. She had to jump the fence.

The first turn was okay but 2 and 3 gave us fits as they were under water (it just poured after the track was laid and that was low marsh anyway) and full of bird's nests. She ended up overshooting, unbeknownst to me, and I backed up and backed up and backed up and really thought I we had blown it. She made a turn - behind me- and I said "I trust you" and I went with her - she was right. Did it again on turn 3 and I ended up backing up almost to turn 2 working forward again and we overshot again, she again turned behind me!

By now I was certain we had blown it but I did not hear the whistle so we worked on. We ran uphill under the fence again and I thought for sure we had missed an article in the marsh. When I found an article I was sure it was the second one as we had been on track so long already. Truth was we were on track a long time but not a whole lot of yards; we worked long and hard in the marsh. I think the pressure came off as I felt we had failed. She overshot turn 4 also which was an open turn on a hilltop with the wind at our back. So backed up again and she again nailed the turn behind me even though I had backed up at least 10 paces! Made the next turn, number 5, easily and then she indicated another article early on the very long leg and it was not the glove so I knew we were in good shape and we tracked on. She picked up speed and tracked quickly uphill on the downward slope of the hill with the cross wind. Made the last turn, number 6; working straight uphill and the breeze was in our face. It was nice as it brought the track to us and I had to trot to stay with her along the 180 yard uphill leg. What a feeling as she looked back at me with the "I have it!" look on her face and then settled into her sit with one paw on the glove!

We had a huge party, she was jumping, I was jumping, the judges were jumping and the spectator gallery sitting in the nice dry vans were honking horns! The tracklayer told me later that they all had windows down getting soaked so they could hear her call off the yardage as we closed on the glove.

This is a dog that hardly ever overshoots a turn. I think I can count on one hand how many times I have had to back up to a turn because she overshot. She overshot more in breezy, wet, rainy conditions than she ever had before. But when the conditions are so different than you are accustomed to, it happens. I worked hard "reading" her body language and was able to encourage her to drive on when she had trouble and back off and just go with her when she was working confidently. She never even acknowledged the cross tracks, she was interested in the deer bed area and the turkey nests! Good thing the turkey was not on it, I expect we would have entertained everyone as I would have been drug at the end of the 40 ft tracking line!

She never quit! I thought she had at turn 3 but I realized she was taking a break from the very overwhelming scent in the very wet conditions, she is used to dry and it was hard for

her to work in all that moisture. I think had we hit the marsh at the end of the track she would have been very tired and we would not have passed. But it was our day! 6 dogs tested - 1 passed--mine!

The judges' critique at the end was very complimentary. They liked my handling and Kayos' work ethic. They said we were a very impressive TEAM!! The one judge just said "WOW does that dog work hard - she really is bonded to you"!

Doin' the happy dance and on to the VST!!

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE DESTINATION.....BUT ABOUT THE JOURNEY

I was reminded of this recently by both a friend and a judge I respect. As many of you know, Kayos, my GSD, has hip dysplasia. This disease plagues the German Shepherd breed as well as many other breeds. It is difficult to isolate and eliminate as it is a complex genetic combination that produces it. It is diagnosed by x-ray and what is seen is shallow or poorly formed hip sockets that do not hold the head of the femur in place correctly. Some dogs have mild cases and some have very severe cases. Some dogs never have pain and some do.

I knew Kayos had this when she was 16 months old and I had her hips x-rayed before I began training agility with her. I was devastated at the results, there would never be any agility for her as her joints would never hold up to the rigorous jumping, climbing, twisting and turning required to train and compete in agility. I could do obedience and tracking, however, and my vet encouraged me to do as much as I could with her until she told me she was sore.

Kayos told me she was sore last fall. I knew the clock was ticking from the initial diagnosis in May 2004. She refused the broad jump in Open and left the ring twice last fall. I decided that we would no longer jump indoors as the concrete was too hard for her to take off and land on. I would show in the spring outside and put a limit of mid June on the CDX. There will be no CDX.

In mid March I entered her in our first TDX test. The week before the test she began acting very tired and did not want to run in the yard or even take a long walk. The morning of the test she was clearly not herself, I could see her fatigue when I took her to the start flag, harnessed her and asked her to track. She started well and worked steadily for me but did not want to re-start after locating the second article about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way on the track, she finally did work on. We made the last of 7 turns on the very long and arduous track and were heading for the final glove when she simply stopped and refused to go on. We were 40 yards from the end and did not pass or earn the TDX title. It was a quiet drive home. That evening she had difficulty getting up. Monday I called the vet and on Wednesday her hips were x-rayed again. The dysplasia was worse as was the arthritis in the joints. Her bones were grinding against each other. She was in a lot of pain. She is 4 years old.

It took about 30 seconds for me to decide it was time to retire her. Her CDX would never come, even though we were so close. There would be no RAE either. Maybe there might be another tracking title, but it will be okay if there isn't. Kayos takes Rimadyl every day now and may face total hip replacement surgery this winter. We will have her assessed by WSU in August.

The title isn't everything. The destination does not matter. The journey does matter. Each of our dogs takes a journey with us. We teach them and they teach us much more. Kayos is a dog with so much promise and such nice work ethic. She never quits. She always gives everything she has. For her to not work is a very clear indication that it is time for the journey to take another turn. She will not journey to the obedience ring with me any more. She will continue to journey with me to nursing homes, children's programs, training classes and on long walks with her big brother, Max. She will continue to journey with me as my friend and companion, teaching me patience and giving unconditional love. When the journey comes full circle I will be with her as she continues to other side of the bridge to wait for me.

How do we define our journey with our dogs? Do we place too much importance in the titles or accolades they earn for us that mean nothing to them? Or do we define it by what they teach us along the way? I hope that I define our journey by what I learn from them along the route. I recall a conversation I had a year or so ago where I was asked why I showed my dog in obedience. Was it for the title? The recognition? The feeling of satisfaction that I had trained a dog successfully? It is all of those and none of those. I like the titles; I like the feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction that come with the success at the titles. Mostly I show my dog because I love to train, I love the bond of trust we have and I love that my dog willingly partners with me in this relationship. It personifies the journey.

The destination is pointless without the journey.

This past weekend (May 20th) Kayos passed that TDX in Eugene. She worked hard and steady in poor conditions that she was not accustomed to tracking in. The feeling as I watched her indicate the final article and settle into her sit to wait for me to pick it up and present it to the judges was indescribable. I hugged her and cried. But it was nothing compared to the judges critique after the track. Both judges applauded my handling and the dog's willingness to work through fatigue and very sloppy conditions. The highest praise was for the judges to say "what a team effort, you clearly have a special bond with your dog!"

Would you like to share your journey?

SPOTLIGHT ON

Carly Kennelly

I started working with my Pomeranian Chance when I was finishing up college in Dallas, Texas. A friend of mine said she taught agility classes and we should give them a try. I thought it was a great idea because I had just bought Chance and wanted to do something more with him outside of home. The dog I had before him while I was growing up was a Maltese and we had never done anything like agility. Chance ended up taking the agility class and was great at it. However, he stopped training when I moved to south Texas for a job. Chance went almost two years without running an agility course.

In March of 2005 I moved to Kennewick and took a reporting job with KVEW. My long-time boyfriend, Erik moved with me since his parents live in Bend, OR. Chance gained two brothers, a Husky and a Shiba Inu that both belong to Erik. Six months into my time here, my TV station covered a story about the Columbia Basin Dog Training Club. The organization caught my eye and I made sure to call Lezlie Couch that night. Chance and I jumped right into agility and rally classes. I joined this club originally for fun, without any idea of one day competing in dog shows. But, Chance was so good at rally that we decided to try a show and so far he has two legs in rally novice. We hope to compete in agility as soon as I'm confident that he won't take off running in the middle of the course.

BREED OF THE MONTH

The Pomeranian

The Pomeranian is a member of the Spitz family of dogs and is named for Pomerania, a region of what is now Eastern Germany and Northern Poland. The Pom is a toy breed due to its' very diminutive size. At 3 to 7 pounds it is one of the smallest of the northern breeds.

The Pomeranian as we know it today did not fully exist until the 19th century. The Pom originated from the sled dogs of Iceland and Lapland which were eventually brought into Europe to Pomerania. The name Pomore actually means "on the sea". Breeders in Pomerania improved the coat and bred the dogs down for city living. The breed was introduced to England by Queen Charlotte but popularized by her granddaughter Victoria. These Pomeranians were actually much bigger than the breed today and were technically a European Spitz.

The Pomeranian's head is wedge shaped, giving it a foxy appearance. The ears are set high and small. It has a characteristic tail that is carried flat over the back. The Pom's coat is its glory. It is double coated with a dense undercoat and a straight, coarse outer coat. There are 13 recognized colors and 5 alternative colors. The Pom's expression is one of alertness and intelligence. He is a superb watchdog and a great companion but can

be feisty and stubborn. They require a lot of attention. Unless trained when to bark, Pom's can become very vocal, giving them the reputation as constant barkers.

The Pom is generally healthy and can live as 12 to 16 years. However they do have some inherited conditions, most commonly luxating patella. They can also have Patent ductus arteriosus which is congenital heart defect. They can also have skin allergies, collapsing trachea, cataracts, epilepsy, hypothyroidism and hypoglycemia.

The Pomeranian may be small but is very active and an extrovert. He needs daily exercise. The Pom's coat may be thick and warm but they are too small and family oriented to live outside. Pomeranians are wonderful at agility and obedience and with their vivacious spirit, thrive on the attention.

BE PROUD-----YOU TRAIN OBEDIENCE!!!!!!