



WAVIES & CURLIES

Newsletter of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of Northern California

FALL 2014

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Golden Gate Kennel Club**
Benched All Breed Show
January 24-25, 2015
Member meeting before PWD's
ring time at bench area
- **Grooming Workshop**
with Denise Gilbert
January 31 (see page 7)
- **Annual Meeting**
Election of Directors and
Officers, Star Award
February 22 – watch for updates

Check the PWDNC website for more information: www.pwdcnc.org



Ramblings from George

It's been busy times since I last wrote anything to the membership. We worked our way through a rough, dry water work season, held three agility trials and submitted a bid to the national club to host the 2016 National Specialty in Monterey. How could they say no? Results will follow the

December national board meeting. We are already doing our early planning and recruiting. Stay tuned.

Our water trial was a success as always. Kathy Souza and I managed to chair the trial. While water was low and an e-coli bacteria scare made things iffy until the last minute, our two-ring trial worked out well. Our local trial is just as big as the National Specialty's water trials that use two rings.

We jumped back into the ring this year with three agility trials! They were held on one day in August at Shingle Springs; three days in November at Leone Equestrian Center in Sacramento; and finally, a three-day trial before Thanksgiving at Rancho Murietta Equestrian Center. The agility folks had a ball and we raised some money for the club through our efforts. Thanks to all the members who helped and to Leslie Holt who managed it all. (See below for volunteer photo.)

My time as president is coming to an end and I'm pleased with the changes we've made. Our water program is better served with an equipment trailer; our new agility trials enhance a fun venue for our dogs and make the club some money. Plus, we have a strong core of experience to help new folks succeed with nationally ranked agility folks like the Avilas. We've achieved quality automation in our website with paperless entry and payment systems. We are well on our way to hosting a national specialty in September of 2016. I believe we will have a strong board in 2015 to carry on the mission of our club. The numbers of our wonderful dogs and people are increasing in Northern California and, I believe, are healthier and having more fun. Plus, as I write this, it's raining. What could be better? ■ **George Ziemba**

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Top left to right: Diane and John Parks, Barb Avila, Tim Ortman (High in Trial winner), Carl Craig, Jimmy and Leslie Holt. Bottom left to right: Carl Friedrich (from Idaho), Lisa Gallow, Ron Avila, Jenna Bullis, Leslie Hill, and, behind the camera, George Ziemba.



...and Bingo was his name!

There are many paths leading toward a well-trained PWD...

Why is obedience training so important for our wonderful furry, and sometimes crazy, companions?

by Jack McCredie

Obedience and Rally Co-Chair

As I thought about this question, I decided that it was a little like explaining why grooming and good diet are important – these are fundamental elements of basic pet stewardship.

Without obedience training your PWD WILL NOT BE SAFE, your relationship with your PWD will not be as strong as it should be, and your friends and neighbors may not be friendly very long. So I'm taking it as a given that we all agree that having an obedient PWD is an important goal although the features of each of our personal obedience ambitions may be very different.

The crucial question is how can you reach the brass ring of your individual obedience target. Are you aiming for a well behaved pet in the home; at the office; at the coffee shop; an agility, conformation, coursing, obedience, rally, tracking, water, competitor, etc.? Are you looking for titles, championships, or good solid citizenship?

There are many paths leading toward a well trained PWD and it is important to explore several options to determine which one or two fit well with your pocket book, the temperaments of you, your family, and most importantly, YOUR DOG. You need to choose among several

different training philosophies, dozens of books on the subject and literally hundreds of professional trainers extolling the virtues of their methods. One size definitely does not fit all dogs, nor all handlers. Here are some recommendations about how to chart a personalized path through an environment jam-packed with different options.

(1) **Observe the behavior of different teams of dogs and handlers** in the environments in which you have aspirations and ask for advice from those who impress you. Most folks love to talk about their dogs and their training regimes. You will get almost as many recommendations as the number of people with whom you talk, but getting advice from good role models should be very helpful.

(2) **Contact one or more of the many volunteer obedience clubs** in our geographic area. Members will be glad to explain the club's curriculum and its training philosophy. These organizations have individuals who can serve as mentors as you explore the most appropriate training regimen for you and your PWD.

(3) Many of these clubs have programs that begin with puppy training and continue through advanced obedience skills in a variety of disciplines. The Affiliated Obedience Clubs of Northern California (AOCNC) is an informal

(continued on page 3)



Jack and Yvonne McCredie with their obedience star, Bingo, CH Alto Mare Fun and Games - Bingo CGC RE CDX GO NA OAJ THD.

*Best Advice:
Regular and
repeated 5 to 10
minute sessions
are probably more
valuable for
your PWD than
extended sessions.*

(continued from page 2)

alliance of 18 of these clubs. It has a catalog of member clubs and services on its Web site

<http://aocnc.org/associationclubs.htm> and sponsors training workshops and seminars throughout the year.

(4) **Attend training seminars and workshops** sponsored by our PWDCNC to learn about different theories and approaches to obedience and to discuss them with other PWD owners. Our breed has some traits (consider, for example, “counter surfing”) that make certain techniques more applicable than others.

(5) **Sign up for novice rally, obedience, water, agility, etc. informal matches** early in your training so that both you and your PWD are able to experience how these events are conducted without worrying about the “pressure” of more formal trials. At matches no one minds a good case of the “zoomies!”

(6) **Practice for short amounts of time** every day and while on regular walks. A dog’s (and my) attention span is limited, so get in the habit of working on heeling, sit, stay, come, etc. for a short time at least once every day. A 90-

minute lesson or workshop is valuable for teaching us as handlers what to do, but regular and repeated 5 or 10-minute sessions are probably more valuable for your PWD.

The more time I spend with Bingo, our PWD, the more amazed I am with his ability to learn and understand. Dogs clearly have abilities that we do not have nor understand fully – for example their enhanced sense of smell, sight and hearing. A recent “60 Minutes” segment about canine learning features Chaser, the border collie who has become famous for her ability to understand more than 1,000 words.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-smartest-dog-in-the-world/>

Obedience training enables us to form closer bonds with our dog companions, but it also teaches us how much we do not understand about their untapped abilities. When Chaser’s breeder was asked if he was surprised about her accomplishments, he responded that “he was not surprised about the dog’s ability, just that her owner had the patience to teach her.”

■

Jack and Yvonne have been members of the PWDCNC since 1998 when they fell in love with their first PWD, Comet. They are both also members of the Oakland Dog Training Club where Jack has been president the last six years. Jack and Bingo are active participants in rally, obedience, agility and therapy activities, but the favorite activity for all three is visiting with other four footed friends at the local coffee shop.

K9 Nose Work® Is An Increasingly Popular Sport and PWDs Are Catching the Scent

Read an excellent overview of K9 Nose Work® at www.pwdcnc.org/activities/nose-work

It's a family affair...Pin Pin Wong and her sister travel far and wide to enter trials.

What got you interested in Nose Work?

Although I have a young PWD, Louie, my sister has a 10-year-old non-PWD (Australian cattle dog). We wanted to find an activity we could do together with our two dogs. Nose Work was perfect for us because it is a no impact sport - it is an activity that dogs, young and old take to very naturally and can become quite successful with absolutely no prior training other than general household pet rules. It is such pleasure to watch your dogs doing something they really love.

How much time does this sport/activity take?

We spend 4-6 hours a week attending two different nose work classes and practice perhaps, 20 minutes or so twice a week.

Take some classes and try it; it is so much fun for both the dog and the handler.

What has been the biggest benefit of doing Nose Work with your dog?

As with all dog sports, nose work builds a strong bond between dog and handler. It is unusual in that the sport is completely dog driven. Once the dog learns which scent he is seeking, the biggest job a handler has is to stay out of the way.

What has been the biggest challenge and how did you work through it?

Currently one of the biggest challenges is the lack of local competitions. Unlike Agility trials where there are hundreds of runs per trial, each Nose Work, trial can



Pin Pin and Louie practice container searches.

only accommodate 30 dogs. A different site must be used for each trial, which further exacerbates the difficulty of obtaining locations for the trials. I believe they cannot use the same location within 4 weeks to ensure there is no lingering odor, which would contaminate the site.

Although the organization makes it easy to enter trials - every trial in the country can be entered through a single national site, it is an entirely different story to actually get into a trial. In the Bay Area, it is not uncommon to be #50 on the waitlist. The national organization has tried to increase the number of trials by creating another tier of nose work competitions that are specialized half-day events. This doubles the number of participants and shortens the day for them.

Luckily we don't mind driving quite far for competitions. Oregon holds many more competitions than California. This could be due to the lower costs to rent location sites and the general availability of trial sites. So, we've competed in Oregon twice in the last couple of months.

Where do you train?

We train with an instructor at the Marin Humane Society. We meet at a different location in Marin County every week to vary the search sites. We began nose work at a local dog club. We recently joined a group that sniffs on Treasure Island. When we practice at home we go to different locations in our area.

Have you entered any trials, achieved any titles?

Louis has his NW1 and NW2 titles. He also has a Level 1 Exterior Element title. Louie is three years old and we have been doing Nose Work for about 14 months.



Any advice on how to get started?

Take some classes and try it, it is so much fun for both the dog and the handler.

Kathy Souza says: Nose Work has been a tremendous confidence builder for Dory who was not comfortable in other activities he had tried.

What got you interested in doing Nose Work?

It was suggested as a fun, confidence building sport for my 6-year-old Dory (Sealsle El Pescador) who was not comfortable in other activities we had tried with him.

How much time does this sport /activity take?

We take class an hour every week with 2 different instructors, and do short practices at home or on the road during the week.

What has been the biggest benefit of doing Nose Work with your dog?

For Dory in particular this has been a tremendous confidence builder. When we started he was unsure about even going into the building where the class is held. He now all but drags me in to take his turn. We've finally become a true team.

What has been the biggest challenge and how did you work through it?

The biggest challenge was learning to read the dog. Dory's indications can be very subtle and have taken me hours of observation and watching videos of practices to be able to confidently call alerts.

Where do you train?

Both trainers I work with are private trainers. In the greater Sacramento area, that seems to be the norm.

Have you entered any trials, achieved any titles?

We've participated in 3 NW1 trials and 2 element trials. Dory now has his NW1 title and his L1C (Level 1 Container) element title.

Any advice for people on how to get started?

Visit the www.nacsw.net site and click on the Certified Instructors link at the top of the page. You can search and find local instructors. If, like a few of our members, you live too far from an instructor, Denise Fenzi Academy offers online training that works well.



Dory works at a Container search.



Dory does a Vehicle search, one of the four elements of Nose Work. The others are: Interior, Exterior and Container.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE SCENT WORK

<http://www.nacsw.net/>

“The first official NACSW trial was held in January of 2009, in Southern California, and since then there have been over 135 trials in 17 states. NACSW K9 Nose Work trials have earned a reputation for being an exciting, supportive venue to compete with your dog.”

There are multiple levels of trialing and titles. Dogs must first qualify in an Odor Recognition Test before entering any trial. Titles include: NW1, NW2 and NW3; Element Specialty Titles – Levels 1, 2, and 3; NW3 Element Titles – must pass all four elements tests – Container, Interior, Exterior and Vehicle – in one day in order to title; and NW3 Elite Title, which requires passing the NW3 title level three times.

Dory's indications can be very subtle and have taken me hours of observation and watching videos...

Sandy Gould and Tippet advanced from Tracking to Nose Work, and now are adding Truffle hunting to the mix!

What got you interested in doing Nose Work?

Tippet (Cutwater Dreams of White Top Tip Tail) and I were taking a series of tracking classes through Fenzi Canine Sports Academy online, and read about a Nose Work class that was beginning. We took it and Tippet really seemed to be enjoying it, so we added Nose Work to our tracking. Now, we have had added Truffle hunting, a specific form of Nose Work.

How much time does this sport/activity take?

Perhaps 10-30 minutes a day. You can be ready for first level competition in eight weeks.

What has been the biggest benefit of doing Nose Work with your dog?

He is confident and happy and loves the job. I am learning to be canine observant and thoughtful. We are a good team and can communicate well at significant distances.

What has been the biggest challenge and how did you work through it?

Biggest challenge is to get into a trial (entry is by lottery).

Where do you train?

No one in our area does Nose Work. All of our training has been online through Fenzi Dog Training. For example, there are 15-50 trucks parked where we go for our morning run. I pop a hide onto a hubcap and Tippet has a wonderful time finding it.

We are also a therapy dog team, and we can use a hallway of a nursing facility to place a hide. At home, we use the kitchen, the bedroom, or the bathroom. We have also gone to a local hardware store... anywhere works. We do some work with children and they love to watch a dog find a hide.

Have you entered any trials, achieved any titles?

NW1, NW2

Any advice for people on how to get started?

I have learned to like looking at lesson plans over morning coffee. Most areas of California now have Nose Work programs; however, there are no programs in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, yet.



Above: *Tippet practices odor obedience (staying on correct odor until I release him) and odor selection. He must choose the correct one out of eight identical containers. Each contains something different: the target odor, a tennis ball, bread, bully sticks, kibble, hot dogs, and bison treats. He must isolate the target odor among all those things he really likes. The target odor has not been refreshed for several months, so it is really faint.*

Tippet-toe through the Truffles!

Advancing to Truffle Work!

Because he has done well in Nose Work, taking the sport to the next (and practical) level was fairly easy. Instead of Nose Work odors, he is training for truffle odors.



Tippet shows off his dirt-covered nose (above) after digging in search of truffles!

If you want a truffle dog, you have to love dirt! Tippet is under contract as a harvester for The Truffle Dog Company, Mount Vernon, Washington. He will be earning income for his finds, starting in mid-January. Until then, he keeps his amateur status so that he can compete in The Joriad, the first international truffle hunting dog trial, to be held as part of the Oregon Truffle Festival. This first year, it is for amateurs only.

This is about one ounce of Oregon winter white truffles.





Janis Welsh and Poppy with Tracking Judges.

Roseknoll's California Poppy is just the fourth PWD Champion Tracker. Congratulations!

Janis Welsh and her dog Poppy (Roseknoll's California Poppy) became only the fourth PWD to attain the title of Champion Tracker. Janis and Poppy achieved their Champion Tracker title at the Santa Clara DTC VST test in San Jose, CA. To earn the Champion Tracker title a dog must have earned the Tracking Dog, Tracking Dog

Excellent and the Variable Surface Tracking titles.

Another PWDCNC club member, Barb Niemann, and her dog Carmen (Dreamstar Femme Fatale) are one of the other three PWDs to have achieved CT titles. (3/27/2011). Regala's a Tailwind Buccaneer (5/29/2000) Redwoods Sea Fox (10/15/2006)

TAIL ENDS...

To submit story ideas or articles, contact Lisa Gallow at:

jaramillo.lisa@gmail.com

To submit photos, graphics, Brags or Memorial notices, contact alivorhies@comcast.net

Visit the club's website for more information about events:

www.pwdcnc.org

The *Wavies & Curlies* is published for the members of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of Northern California

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PWDCNC Denise Gilbert Grooming Workshop

Want to learn how to explain to your groomer the proper way a PWD should look in a retriever cut? Would you like to learn to groom your PWD yourself? Already groom your dog yourself and you can't get the head to look right? On Saturday, January 31, Denise Gilbert will hold her always-popular Grooming Workshop. Denise's Grooming Workshop will be held at



Happiness Country Kennels in Sunol. More details will follow. For questions now or to volunteer your dog for the demo, please contact Denise at denisegilb@att.net

Have you Heard?

The PWDCNC board has updated the Membership Fee Structure!

We now have a new fee structure which aligns more closely with the one used by the PWDC and that will be fairer and far easier for members at renewal time.

Both **Associate** and **Regular members** will pay the same amount: **\$25** for the primary member and \$15 to add an additional member of the same household.

Junior members will have their own membership type and will pay a fee of \$15. When a Junior member turns 18, he/she may immediately apply for Associate membership. Or, if the Junior member has been a PWDCNC member for at least one year, he/she may immediately apply for Regular membership.

Renewal notices will be emailed by January 1 and members will be able to renew easily directly from the PWDCNC website.

Questions? Email Barb Avila, Membership Chair, at bavila@me.com.