



WAVIES & CURLIES

Newsletter of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of Northern California

MARCH 2024



Winter showers bring spring fun!



In this issue:

- Interviews with PWDCNC members
- Titles won in 2023
- Scent Work Trial results
- and more

Come, sit, and stay awhile to catch up on club news



President's Message

Welcome to the latest issue of *Wavies & Curlies*. Spring is fast approaching, with longer days, less rain and more sunshine: time to get out and start practicing basic obedience skills while getting ready for trialing season. We are offering three water trials this year plus a workshop. We also have the new Fetch dog program and other fun events scheduled for spring and summer.

We started the year off with an introductory training course which included several teams earning Trick titles and CGC's. We also had our annual meeting where members enjoyed delicious food and wonderful company. We welcomed in the new board and thanked prior board members for their service to the club. Our next gathering is the annual picnic, and water practice will begin in June.

As an active club holding many events throughout the year, we are in need of volunteer support. Please reach out to any of the board members or committee chairs and come on out: we would love to see you and have you join in the fun.

We are looking into adding additional events to the calendar including trick dog, rally, and scent work workshops. We are also working on some fun walks. Please, if you are interested in any of these events or would like to add something else to the calendar reach out and offer to volunteer.

Obrigada,
Becky Morin



PWDCNC President Rebecca Morin with Viriatos



Table of Contents

PWDCNC Club Calendar 2024	3
December 2023 Scentwork Trial	5
Trick Dog and Canine Good Citizen Workshop	7
FETCH!	8
Club Annual Meeting	9
Titles Earned in 2023	10
Agility Champions: Marcus and Leslie Holt	14
Nosework Champions: Rivah and Kathy Souza	16
Member Spotlight: Eli Lantis	19
Officers, Board of Directors, Committees	21

2024 PWDCNC Calendar

Check the Club's [web calendar](#) for most current information, as dates, times, locations, events, and contacts might change. Our website is always current. For calendar questions, contact Ann Gaskell at Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com.

May

May 18: Annual Picnic, Lagoon Valley Park
1 Pena Adobe Road, Vacaville , 11AM-3PM.

- Two Novice Fetch tests, contact Elaine Rasmussen at pwds4life@gmail.com for premium list and entry form
- Fun walk/Group Fit Dog walk

Contact Ann Gaskell at Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com.

June

June 1: Water Work practice starts, Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, 2500 Stanley Blvd, Pleasanton. Contact Kathy Souza at pwdlover@pacbell.net.

June 6-9: Woofstock Dog Show, Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo **June 8:** PWDCNC Supported Entry for Conformation. Contact Becky Morin at Detoraq@hotmail.com.

June 22: Junior/Apprentice Water Work workshop, Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area. Instructor Karen Pratt. All day workshop limited to 16 working teams, unlimited auditors. Contact Kathy Souza at pwdlover@pacbell.net or Elaine Rasmussen at pwds4life@gmail.com.

June 23: PWDCNC Water Trial, Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area. Open to all levels, preference to Junior/Apprentice entries. Judge Karen Pratt. Contact Kathy Souza at pwdlover@pacbell.net or Elaine Rasmussen at pwds4life@gmail.com.

July

July 6-7: PWDCNC All Breed FCAT Trials, Manzanita Sports Complex, 17100 Castroville Blvd, Prunedale. CGC, CGCA, Trick Dog testing offered both days. Fetch Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Retriever offered. Enter at Abbadogs.com. Contact Janis Welsh at janis@ahpmlc.com

July 12-14: Del Monte Kennel Club Dog Show, 4380 Carmel Valley Rd, Carmel-By-The-Sea. **July 13:** Supported Entry for Conformation, Obedience, and Rally. Contact Ann Gaskell at Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com or Becky Morin at Detoraq@hotmail.com.

August

August 3-4: PWDCNC Water Trial, Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, 2500 Stanley Blvd, Pleasanton. All levels offered both days. Judge Karen Pratt. Contact Kathy Souza at pwdlover@pacbell.net.

August 9-11: PWDCNC All Breed Agility Trial, Manzanita Sports Complex, 17100 Castroville Blvd, Prunedale. Fetch Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Retriever offered. Enter at Abbadogs.com. Contact Leslie Holt at lesliesholt@gmail.com or Debbie Price at debbie@ptownprices.com.

September

August 6-12: PWDCA 30th National Specialty, Meadowview Marriott Convention Center and Golf Resort, Kingsport, TN. Contact info@pwcans.org. Website: pwcans.org.

October

October 4-5: PWDCNC Water Trial, Lake Camanche, North Shore, Lone, San Joaquin County. Website: golakecamanche.com. All levels offered both days. Contact Kathy Souza at pwdlover@pacbell.net.

October 17-20: Harvest Moon Classic, Del Valle Kennel Club Dog Show, Sonoma County Event Center & Fairground, 1350 Bennett Valley Rd, Santa Rosa. **October 19:** Supported Entry for Conformation, Obedience, and Rally. Contact Becky Morin at Detoraq@hotmail.com.

November

November 8: PWDCNC Regional Specialty, Napa Valley Exposition, 3rd St & Silverado Trail, Napa. Contact Ann Gaskell at Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com or Becky Morin at Detoraq@hotmail.com.

November 22-24: PWDCNC All Breed Agility Trial, Rancho Murieta. Enter at Abbadogs.com. Contact Leslie Holt at lesliesholt@gmail.com or Debbie Price at debbie@ptownprices.com.

December

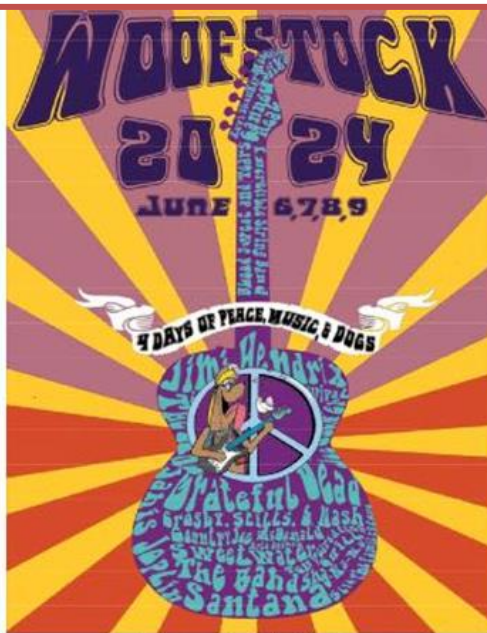
December 14: AKC Scent Work trial, hosted by PWDCNC, Dream Big Training Facility, 19681 Brandt Rd, Lodi. Opening date and time: 9/25/24, noon. Contact Ann Gaskell at Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are currently signing up volunteers to work the Regional Specialty in 2024. We are also in need of volunteers to organize FCAT events, coordinate workshops, and help with the picnic. Please reach out and offer to help with these club events. We are a large and active club, and we always need volunteers to help out at events, chair programs, or foster a dog in need.

If you're interested in volunteering for any positions or activities, or would like to learn more, contact the appropriate committee or activity/performance chair, or any board member (see [page 21](#) for contacts).



June 6, 7, 8, 9
Solano Co. Fairgrounds, Vallejo CA

Portuguese Water Dog Club
of Northern California

Judges:

Thur: Richard Paquette

Fri: Michael Woods

Sat: Joe Walton Supported
 Jim Beach Sweeps

Sun: Cheryl Paterson

EARLY CLOSING DATE: May 15, 2024
Superintendent: MBF www.infodog.com



Saturday Thank You Party For Exhibitors!
To celebrate our final 4-day cluster, please join us Saturday during Groups for a special Thank You Party for the clubs and exhibitors who have supported us!



11 Independent Specialties on Wed.
31 Specialties - 81 Supported Entries
NOHS Thursday & Friday
Rosettes for new champions!
Come have some fun at WOOFSTOCK!



December 2023 Scent Work Trial

Report by Ann Gaskell, Trial Chair

The PWDCNC annual December Scent Work Trial took place on Sunday, December 17, 2023, at Dream Big Training Center in Lodi. This year the weather was nice though chilly. Nine club members—Stacy Roth, Ann Benninger, Elaine and Chris Rasmussen, Becky Morin, Lisa MacKenzie, Pam Wong, Sherry Hanen and Ann Gaskell—entered 11 different dogs and qualified 30 times, with ten placements.

Each member became an automatic volunteer upon arrival. Special thanks go to Becky Morin, Elaine and Chris Rasmussen, and Ann Benninger, who all arrived before 8 AM (the trial started at 9 AM) and stayed until the very end. Volunteer help is vital to enable the trial to run smoothly and speedily. The help of these four members, plus the rest of the club members/volunteers, enabled our trial to run efficiently and seamlessly.

Trial Results: qualifiers and placements are listed below.

Container Novice A

<u>Place</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Handler</u>
2	Ziva	Stacy Roth
3	Rolex	Ann Benninger

Container Novice B

<u>Place</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Handler</u>
6	Briza	Elaine Rasmussen

Container Advanced

<u>Place</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Handler</u>
6	Mercedes	Elaine Rasmussen

Container Excellent

<u>Place</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Handler</u>
5	Rose	Ann Benninger
13	Gyro	Sherry Hanen

Interior Novice

<u>Place</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Handler</u>
1	Sayyida	Becky Morin
3	Rolex	Ann Benninger

Interior Novice B

<u>Place</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Handler</u>
1	Teddy	Ann Gaskell
12	Briza	Elaine Rasmussen



Scent Work Trial Results (cont'd)

Interior Advanced

<u>Place</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Handler</u>
4	Mika	Pamela Wong
5	Fig	Chris Rasmussen
6	Teddy	Ann Gaskell

Exterior Novice A

<u>Place</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Handler</u>
3	Rolex	Ann Benninger
6	Ziva	Stacy Roth
8	Sayyida	Becky Morin

Exterior Novice B

<u>Place</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Handler</u>
2	Teddy	Ann Gaskell
12	Briza	Elaine Rasmussen

Exterior Advanced

<u>Place</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Handler</u>
2	Mika	Pamela Wong
5	Teddy	Ann Gaskell
7	Oliver	Lisa MacKenzie

Exterior Excellent

<u>Place</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Handler</u>
3	Rose	Ann Benninger

Buried Novice A

<u>Place</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Handler</u>
7	Sayyida	Becky Morin
12	Rolex	Ann Benninger
13	Briza	Elaine Rasmussen

Buried Novice B

<u>Place</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Handler</u>
5	Teddy	Ann Gaskell

Buried Advanced

<u>Place</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Handler</u>
10	Gyro	Sherry Hanen
11	Mika	Pamela Wong
12	Mercedes	Elaine Rasmussen



Brrrr: Elaine Rasmussen with Mercedes; Chris Rasmussen with Fig

Trick Dog and Canine Good Citizen Workshop

Kathy Souza

February 18 was the Trick Dog & CGC workshop held at Tailored Dog Training, Concord, by Ally Lantis, assisted by Eli Lantis. This was a half-day workshop that started with the Trick Dog Novice exercises and assisted each team in discovering and training exercises that led to them receiving their titles. The same format was followed for Trick Intermediate and Trick Advanced. Attending the Trick portion of the workshop were Cheri Ross with Pepper, SierraLynne White with 12 year old Biba, Tom (the Dietrich's son-in-law) with Bear, Marj Hein with Standard Schnauzer Gracie, and me with 5 month old Winnie. During the roughly 2-hour session Pepper, Biba, and Gracie all earned their Trick Dog Novice and Intermediate titles. Winnie earned her Trick Dog Intermediate and Bear his Trick Dog Advanced title.



From left: Cheri Ross and Pepper; SierraLynne White and Biba; Ally Lantis; Kathy Souza with Winnie; and Marj Hein with Gracie Photo by Eli Lantis

After a short break Pepper, Biba, Gracie, and Winnie remained to work on the Canine Good Citizen tests. Pepper, Gracie, and Winnie all earned their CGC titles. Biba successfully completed her CGC Advanced title.

Each team departed with at least one new title and some lovely ribbons and rosettes to commemorate the enjoyable time with human and canine friends.

Following the workshop, I oversaw the evaluations for Ally and her Pirah who earned both the TKA and CGCA titles in lovely fashion.

We'd like to thank Ally and Eli for delivering such an enjoyable day learning new ways to teach and new exercises to teach our dogs! Ally was wonderful in identifying each student's strengths and working with those to make each team successful. Eli was an able assistant, helping Ally to run things smoothly. We all came away with fun experiences to build on for more Trick Dog titles and for general desirable companion dog behaviors.

AKC FETCH TEST

Exciting news! We will be offering two AKC Novice Fetch Tests at the upcoming Annual Picnic. This brand-new addition to the AKC Family Dog titling track is right up the alley for PWDs. Earning Fetch titles provides opportunities for both physical and mental exercise—for your PWD and for you. If you play ball with your pup or have done some formal retrieve training, come to the picnic, bring out your dog's favorite ball or bumper, and have some fun!

From the [AKC Website](#):

AKC Fetch is a pass-fail noncompetitive test. The four levels of titles (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Retriever) assess the ability of the dog to retrieve.

NOVICE

In Novice, dogs earn the FTN (Fetch Novice) title. Novice dogs must retrieve a tennis ball (or equivalent), retrieving bumper (also called a dummy) or a toy that has been thrown 30 feet.

The Novice course has four distractions. The dog goes between these to retrieve the ball. In Novice, the dog can see where the ball has been thrown. The distractions are boxes, and the course may include one “fun” distraction such as a lawn chair or lawn ornament.

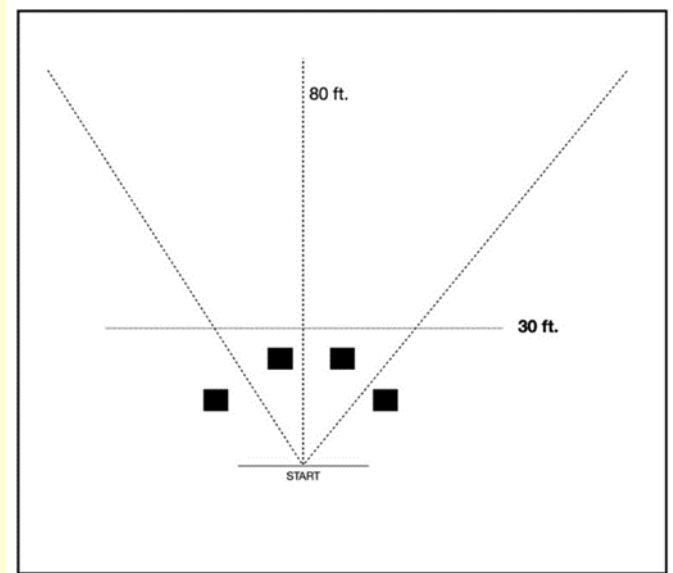
In Novice, the dog must do three single retrieves. In a single retrieve or “Single,” one ball is thrown, the dog is given the cue by the handler (e.g., “Fetch it!”); then the dog retrieves and brings the ball to the handler.

The three singles will be thrown in any order chosen by the handler. There must be one ball thrown to the left, one to the center, and one to the right.

The dog does not have to retrieve to hand but must bring the article within two steps of the handler. During the throw, the handler may hold the dog's collar until sending the dog.

The dog must pass the test twice under two different approved AKC Fetch judges. Two AKC Fetch Test judges, Janis Welsh and Kathy Souza, will administer two tests. If your team passes both tests, you have earned the title and can apply for the formal title and certificate via the AKC Title Application Portal <https://www.apps.akc.org/title-application-portal/> for a fee of \$30.00. Qualifier ribbons will be awarded for each qualifying performance and those teams passing both tests will receive a new title rosette.

There will be a premium list provided with entry blank. Entries will be \$10 for each test, and will be mailed to Elaine Rasmussen, 7900 Pineville Circle, Castro Valley, CA 94552.



2024 Annual Meeting

Report by Ann Gaskell

Sunday, February 25, 2024, the PWDCNC held its Annual Meeting at the World of Beer in Dublin. Eighteen club members came together to see their friends, view the slide show, vote in the new board, and celebrate the activities and achievements of 2023. A private room was arranged for the meeting, where members enjoyed lunch followed by a delicious cake decorated with the club logo.

President Becky Morin led the meeting, thanking 2023 outgoing board members Dominick Amadeo, Gail Browne-McDonald, Susan Craig, and Casey Ingram and welcoming new 2024 board members Judy Knorr, Ally Lantis, Debbie Price, and Elaine Rasmussen. Four past presidents—Sherry Hanen, Linda Kelly, Elaine Rasmussen and Ann Gaskell—were present and recognized for their service. Also recognized were Charter Members Linda Kelly, Sherry Hanen, and Becky Morin.

Guests viewed a memorial slide show tribute to dogs who crossed the Rainbow Bridge in 2023. Passing since the previous Annual Meeting were Reggie Simmons, JoJo Widdowson, Dara Verissimo, Abby Gilbert, Dulcie Corbett, Sailor O’Hair, Ariel Ross-Lenoir, Polly Stark, Cabela Wong, and Andy Baker.

Members whose dogs received titles in 2023 were presented with a certificate honoring those titles. (Listing starts on next page.)

Junior Member Eli Lantis was recognized for all his efforts for the club. A Junior Handler in Conformation, Rally, Obedience and Scent Work, Eli also was one of four volunteer stewards, for Judge Alvin Eng, in Obedience and Rally at the 2023 Regional Specialty. (Read an interview with Eli [here](#).)

To close out the meeting, the winning tickets for the 50-50 ticket raffle were announced and several members received cash prizes.

A fun time was had by all. There was lots of laughter, reminiscing, seeing old and new friends, and happily enjoying the relaxed atmosphere.



PWDCNC Titles Earned in 2023

Dog Name	Call Name	Owner	Titles
CH C-ATCH Asia My Radiant Spirit Asia Blue BN RX FDC CGCA CGCU TKE ATT	Asia	Sue Bloom	RE
Esquire's Ripple Effect in Baypoint RN, MX, MXJ, MXF, MWD	Beau	Carl and Susan Craig	MX, MXF, MWD, RN
GCH CH Pirate's Cove I Look Real Good Today	Benjamin	Cheri Ross, Tim Lenoir, Jolene Simons	CH, GCH
CH Avida's Fine Breeze And Following Seas BN RI SCN SIN SEN CGC	Briza	Elaine and Chris Rasmussen	SCN, SIN, SEN, WWD, BN, RN, RI
CH Toraq's Half a Chance RI	Cabela	Diane and Lance Wong	RI
Rustyco You Put A Spell On Me Dorothy BN CDX	Dottie	Vickie Carr	CDX
GCH CH Toraq N'Legado's Art Of Racing The Rain CGC TKN	Enzo	Jeannie Stark, Rebecca Morin	CH, GCH, CGC



Enzo struts his stuff



Is Greta prouder of her rosette or her mom?

CH Aviators Figaro D'Avida BN RI SWN SIA CGCA TKN	Fig	Elaine and Chris Rasmussen	SWN, SIN, SBNE, SIA, SEA, RI
CH Surfari's My Cherie Amor	Gidget	Corie Estes	CH
CH Sealsle The Divine Garbo SWNE SWA SCE CGCA TKI VHMA VSWI NW3 Elite L2V L2C L1E L2I	Greta	Kathy Souza	SIA, SBA, SCA, SEA, SWA, SI- NE, SCNE, SBNE, SENE, SWNE, SCE, NACSW NW3, NW3-V, NW3-E, NW3, NW3-I, L1-V, L2-V, L1-E, NW3, NW3-C, NW3-Elite, CGCA

PWDCNC Titles Earned in 2023 (cont'd)

Dog Name	Call Name	Owner	Titles
CH Toraq N'Legado's Gyro De Pirate's Cove BN RN SWA SCNE SCE CGC TKN	Gyro	Sherry Hanen	BN, RN SCNE, SWA, SCA, SEA, SBA, SEN, SIA
Roseknoll's Jack Of All Trades VCD1 BN RA TDX OA OAJ OF DCAT SWN SCA AWD	Jack	Janis Welsh	SCA, RA, DCAT
CH Seashell's Every Body's Talkin' About Me	Jackie	Charles McCallum	CH
CH Surfari's Jagged Edge CGC TKN RA AWD	Jags	Lew and Casey Ingram	RA
Baywood WaterWave You're Breathtaking! RN SWN, WWD	Keanu	Pamela Marcus	RN
La Familia's The Skipper Kissed Me SWD SWME SHDME CGCA	Kissy	Wendy Spradlin	SHDME
MACH Shootin' The Curl In Baypoint RE MXB MJS MXF WWDX CGC	Marcus	Leslie Holt	MJS, MXF, MACH, RE, WWDX
Claircreek Princesa Marina De Tobias CGC TKI	Marina	Margaret and Frank Dietrich	TKN, TKI, CGC
GCH CH Mercedes do Lusiadas BN RN SWN SIA CGC AWD	Mercedes	Elaine and Chris Rasmussen	SWN, SIA, SBN, SCN, SEN, AWD, RN
GCG Remis' When They Go Low, We Go High RN CGC	Michelle	Judy Knorr	RN, CGC



MACH Marcus!

PWDCNC Titles Earned in 2023 (cont'd)

Dog Name	Call Name	Owner	Titles
CH Sealsle Midnight SWN CGC TKN	Mika	Pam Wong, Jonathan Wong, Kathy Souza	SCN, SIN, SEN, SWN, CGC
CH Toraq's Tribute To The Midnight Sun CGC	Moondancer	Rebecca Morin	CH, CGC
GCHB CH Seaisle Doctor Who Dat Pepper	Pepper	Cheri Ross, Tim Lenoir, Kathy Souza	GCHB, 2023 National Specialty Top 20
GCH CH MARITIMO RAFAGA BRIL-LANTE VCD2 UD RE AX AXJ OF SWM SHDE THD MWD GROM	Rafa	Barbara and Don Niemann	SHDE, SWM
Cortereal Just One of the Girls VCD2 UD RE TDX AXJ MJP OF SWA SHDN RATN MWD GROM	Ramona	Barbara and Don Niemann	SWA
CH Toraq's Oarsmen of the Laguna	Remy	Caroline Everett, Mary Klays, Rebecca Morin	CH
IABCA Int'l CH AKC CH Boardwalk River Song To Sealsle RI SWNE SWE SCM SEM DJ CGCA TKA VHMA JWD ELT-CH L3I L2V L2E L2C	Rivah	Kathy Souza	SEM, NACSW ELT-CH
Surfari's American River Sweetheart TKN RI SWN SEA SIA	River	Lew and Casey Ingram	SIA, SEA, SWN
GCH CH Toraq's Sayyida Al Hurra De Pirate's Cove BN SIN SEN ORT CGC TKN JWD	Sayyida	Rebecca Morin	SIN, SEN, BN, NACSW ORT



Pam and Mika enjoy their achievements



Sayyida models her rosettes

PWDCNC Titles Earned in 2023 (cont'd)

Dog Name	Call Name	Owner	Titles
GCHS Odysea It's Always Sonny at Surfari	Sonny	Charles McCallum	GCH, GCHB, GCHS
CH Agua Dulce's Tusind Tak CD BN RE TD SWA SIAE SEAE SCNE SHDAE SHDM CGCA TKN	Teddy	Ann Gaskell	SCA, SBN, SIA, SWN, SHDAE, SEA, SBA, SWA, SHDEE, SCNE, SINE, SENE, SHDM, SIAE, SEAE, CD, RA, RE, CGCA
CH Toraq's Queen Of The Deep Blue CGC JWD	Tess	Rebecca Morin	CH, CGC, JWD
CH Avida's Sebastiano Del Mare WWD, RI, CGC, TKI	Tiano	Carol and Dominick Amadeo	WWD, TKI, RI



Sonny wins again!



Carol celebrates Tiano

CH Toraq N' Legado's Tulipa Preta de Pirates Cove WWD	Tuli	John and Laura Wilson	CH, WWD
Chien D'Eau No Shrinking Violet CD BN RN RA RE NA NAJ NF DCAT SWN SEA BCAT DCAT	Violet	Janis Welsh	NA, NAJ, SCN, SIN, SEN, SBN, SEA, WWDX, CD, BN, RE, DCAT, BCAT
GCHB CH Rough Seas' Viriatos De Toraq CD RA SWN NW1 SWA NW2 CGCA TKN	Viriatos	Rebecca Morin	SEN, SWN, SCA, SIA, SEA, SBA, SWA NACSW NW1, NW2
Toraq's Elemental Magic at Sealsle TKN	Winnie	Kathy Souza and Rebecca Morin	TKN
Saltwater One In A Zillion Of Roseknoll RA NAP NFP CGC TKN MAC 1	Zilli	Christa Diamant	NAP, MAC-1

In this section, *Wavies & Curlies* is pleased to highlight the accomplishments of PWDCNC members, and of course their dogs, who have attained very high levels in their chosen fields of performance. We hope you enjoy reading about Leslie Holt and Marcus, who earned their AKC MACH title in agility; and Kathy Souza and Rivah, who earned their NACSW Elite-CH title in nosework .

Interview with Leslie Holt

Susan Craig

Agility is a fun, fast-paced sport where you direct your dog through a series of obstacles (jumps, tunnels, A-frame, teeter-totter, etc.) on a timed run. Beginning level Novice thru Master trials are held locally in and around the Bay Area almost every weekend. Leslie and Marcus earned their MACH in October 2023.

Susan: *Leslie, congratulations on achieving your AKC MACH with Marcus. I know Marcus is the second PWD you've achieved a MACH title with. Tell us how you got interested in agility and why it continues to hold your interest.*

Leslie: One day a friend showed me an agility video of her and her German Wire-Haired Pointer. I thought it was interesting and didn't really think about it again. Then I got our first Portuguese Water Dog, Joey, and I learned that they like (i.e., **need**) to have a job. So I started an agility class with him. It was challenging and different than anything I had ever done, and I said those famous last words, "I'm just doing this for fun—I'm not going to compete." Well, seventeen years later, I am still going to trials with our third PWD, Marcus, and we are having so much fun! The allure of agility for me is that it is such a wonderful way to bond with your dog, and you can compete against others or just yourself. You can strive to be the best team that you can be, and that is so addicting.

Marcus masters his weave technique



Susan: *How was Marcus different from your first MACH Dog, Joey?*

Leslie: Joey was very serious and totally focused during agility. Because I was a novice handler at the beginning, I think I slowed him down, but he would follow me anywhere, and he earned three MACHs. From the beginning, Marcus had a much more playful approach, and he has had some wild moments in the ring. Now that he knows his job, though, he is very reliable.

Susan: *What advice would you give to someone who is interested in trying agility?*

Leslie: If you want a sport where you will build a strong bond with your dog, try agility! There are mental challenges, like learning new courses all the time and perfecting your handling cues so that your dog knows exactly what you want and when. It is mentally stimulating for the dog, too, as they have to respond quickly to those cues. It's also physical, almost like a dance where you strive to be in sync with your partner. When it all comes together, it's such a thrill.

Susan: *What are some of your 'lessons learned' in the agility ring over the years?*

Leslie; One important lesson I learned was patience. As the dogs are learning the sport and the skills and cues, they just keep getting better and better. Also, I learned that if something goes awry on a course, 99% of the time it's handler error. So at the end of a run, no matter what, let your dog know that you appreciate the effort and that you love them.



Marcus and Leslie bound through an agility course

Photos courtesy of Leslie Holt



Journey to Elite-CH in Nosework

Kathy Souza

It's hard to know where the journey really began. I'd already trained and trialed with three dogs. They laid the foundation and love of the sport for me. Rivah came home with me in August 2016.

We were already working on basic stuff in the hotel room in St. Louis: sit, her name, board the boat (bed). And she loved the work. The day after we got home we started searching for "primary" (food) in containers. Yes, she was just eight weeks old. We continued searching for food hides for several months. It can



Puppy Rivah ready for action!

be very difficult to find an opening in a beginning Nosework class, so we had to wait and continue to practice by ourselves. Once she did get into a class she progressed quickly.

In the National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW), the trials require teams to search in four elements, Containers, Exterior, Vehicles, and Interiors. The number of hides is different at each level and each search has a time limit.

We were given the go-ahead to enter our first trial for September 2018. We traveled to Grants Pass Oregon for our NW1 where we enjoyed trialing with fellow NorCal members Ali Vorhies and Magic and Sue Nelson and Otis. All 3 PWDs passed with placements.

So on to NW2. California is a tough area to actually get into NACSW trials so we continued training.

NACSW requires the dog to have passed an Odor Recognition Test. At the time you could take the test one odor at a time. We learned the Anise and Clove odors and in January 2019 were certified on the next two odors. We entered but didn't get into several trials so got more trial experience with Element trials where Rivah earned her Level 1 Containers and Interior titles. In April we traveled to Wheatland where she earned her NW2 title in a surprisingly successful fashion. She took 2nd in Containers, 3rd in Interiors, 4th in Exterior and 1st in Vehicles, all of which earned her 2nd place overall. I was starting to realize that we were going to have a really fun time at this game!

We went to a couple more Element trials picking up her Level 1 Vehicle and Level 2 Interior titles while we trained for NW3. Back then NW3 consisted of six searches, one each in vehicles, containers and exterior plus three separate interior searches. To earn the NW3 Elite the team had to title in NW3 three times plus earn 3 NW3 element titles in each of the 4 elements. To earn each NW3 title you could not miss any hides and have no more than 3 faults at each trial. Since that time the organization changed the rules to allow teams to earn "legs" if they only miss 1 hide at a given trial then earn a second leg to title. So we were drawn into a local NW3 up in Meadow Vista in October after being waitlisted for several

others. Oh and another little twist to the trialing is that starting at NW3 the team does not know how many hides are in each search. All elements could have 1 to 3 hides and in Interiors you had the extra challenge that there could be one room that was blank, i.e. no hides at all. I was astonished to find at the end of the day that we had actually found all the hides and earned our first NW3!

Since the odds were not favorable to actually get into NW3 trials in California, when a friend and I learned that Colorado and Wyoming trials frequently do not fill, we entered our next trial in Laramie, Wyoming. Mind you, I had just made the trip to the 2019 National in September, so here we went on another trip across I-80 to Laramie in October. The trial site was the Wyoming Historical Prison Museum, a fantastic site. We arrived to mild temperatures the afternoon before the trial. By trial morning the wind was picking up and snow beginning to fall, temperature about 15 degrees. We ran our Exterior, Vehicle and Containers in the morning as the temperature continued to drop and the wind picked up. By lunch time half of the competitors and a few volunteers left as they had to head over the mountains to get home and didn't want to be stranded. The afternoon was Interiors. These were conducted in a reconstructed 1800s general store. There were gaps between the siding planks that allowed the wind to come right on in so while the wind was blowing snow horizontally outside, inside it simply swirled the air and odor around. We searched the storeroom, the main store area, and a small meeting room off to one side. Then we all tramped back to a warm auditorium for results and awards where we found that Rivah had taken 2nd in Containers, Interiors, 3rd in Exterior to give her the 1st place overall. Exciting to say the least!



The next trial was November 11, 2019, back in California in beautiful Guerneville, one of my favorite trial locations. We earned the NW3-C, NW3-E and NW3-V titles, but I called a false alert in one room costing her the overall title.

So we entered the lotteries for upcoming trials...and then COVID shut down everything.

We kept looking to see if anything might open up and discovered that Colorado was hosting trials in the summer of 2020 and we got into one in Meeker, CO in July 2020. So off on another road trip with a Pat-terdale Terrier and 2 PWDs. The elevation had been a concern but turned out to be no problem for the search dogs. Rivah placed 4th in Vehicles, earned her NW3-Interior, and was 3rd overall to earn her 3rd NW3 and achieve NW3 Elite status.

These successes under our belts, we returned to Colorado in September as there were still no California trials allowed. This was Rivah's first Elite Division trial—and this was where it became really fun.

Elite has four searches per day. Searches may have an unknown or known number of hides for the area. The information is given to the handler prior to starting the search. For an unknown number, they may give a range—for example, 0 to 5 hides. If no range is given and it is an unknown number, then there may be any number of hides (or zero hides) in the area. In Elite, searches are no longer limited to specific elements. One of our first searches was a huge storage building with vehicles both inside and outside the building. Hides could be anywhere in the search area.

The team accrues points for each hide found (or call made in the case of an area with no hides). The total possible points are 100. For the Elite journey, teams accumulate points from each trial. Along the way there is Elite 1 after earning 150 points, Elite 2 with 400 points, Elite 3 with 650 points and Elite Champion with 1000 points.

Our second Elite trial in Turlock CA we earned the Elite 1 with a 2nd place in one of the searches. We continued the journey accumulating those coveted points in Riverside, Huntington Beach, Paso Robles, Piru, McMinnville OR, Gunnison and Craig CO, Novato, Bonsall, and Simi Valley. We traveled near and far, sometimes earning placements, sometimes simply earning points—and always having a good time.

Our final trip was back to Paso Robles at the beautiful equestrian center where we earned 76.78 points to bring our total to 1023.4 points to achieve the Elite Champion title. Rivah became the eighth PWD to earn that title. It was a very special trial for me in so many ways. Becky Morin and I traveled together to trial Viriatos and Rivah, so she was there to watch and celebrate with us. The host was the Central Coast Nosework Club of California where we've made so many friends over the years. Our Trial Certifying Official was Laura Busch and her husband Chris was a judge. Both Laura and Chris have supported me and my dogs in so many ways over the years, making the award ceremony extra special to receive the Elite-CH rosette from Laura.

So, all told, the journey to Elite-CH involved five years (seven if you count early training), about 17,700 miles traveled, 15 hotel/Airbnb stays, and I refuse to total up how much in entry fees. The result: a priceless journey with a fantastic dog.



Kathy and Rivah

Photos courtesy of Kathy Souza

Spotlight on Eli Lantis

We wrap up this issue of *Wavies & Curlies* by shining a spotlight on one of our most promising young club members. **Eli Lantis**, son of PWDCNC Junior Showmanship Chair Ally Lantis (and owner of Tailored Dog Training in Concord CA), has successfully handled dogs in conformation, rally, obedience and scent work. Currently he is solo titling his dog Nori (CH Afortunado California Rollin' RE SCN SIN SEN CGCA TKP VHMA DS AWD) in scent work, dock diving, and obedience. Eli is twelve years old.

Do you know a young person who wants to get involved in junior handling? Would you like to sponsor a Junior Handler trophy? Contact the Club's Junior Showmanship Chair Ally Lantis at ally.tailoreddogtraining@gmail.com.

W&C: *Hi Eli, and thanks for granting Wavies & Curlies this interview. How did you get into showing and training dogs?*

Eli: My Mom. She took me to my first show when I was five, and I did PeeWees with Nimbus when he was a puppy. I like working with dogs because it's what my mom has always done and then I got to do it too and enjoyed it.

W&C: *Tell us about your PWD Nori. What skills are you working on with her right now? What are your goals for Nori?*

Eli: Nori is almost five. She likes to play with me the most, and she's a big cuddler. Her favorite toy is her bumper. She doesn't really have a favorite treat—she likes most food.



Nori's secret weapon: the lick-attack

Right now, we are working on obedience to get our last leg in Beginner Novice and start Novice. My goal is to get the highest scentwork titles and be a scentwork legend and get to Open Obedience to do the jumps and drop on recall.

W&C: *What do you enjoy most about working with Nori? What are some of the challenges of working with her?*

Eli: She likes to lick-attack me. It's her secret weapon. She pretty much does what I tell her to do, but my mom did train her a lot when she was younger.

W&C: *Have you worked with other breeds? How do they compare to your PWDs?*

Eli: Yes, our Border Collies that have now passed and a Borzoi that belongs to a friend of ours. I think PWDs are a lot more playful and like to have fun. They also really like water!

W&C: What is your proudest moment in training and handling your dogs?

Eli: Winning High in Trial with our Border Collie, Lex, in Barn Hunt. Also placing multiple times in scent work with Nori at the Oregon PWD National.

W&C: Besides showing and training dogs, what do you like to do in your spare time? (Do you have any spare time???)

Eli: I like to horseback ride and play on the computer with friends.

W&C: Do you plan to keep working with dogs when you get older?

Eli: Maybe I will take a break at some point, but yes.

W&C: Is there something you'd like to add that we didn't ask about?

Eli: When can I become club president??



Eli and Nori won 1st place and a Q in Beginner Novice Obedience under Judge Alvin Eng at the PWDCNC Regional in Napa 2023

Photos courtesy of Ally Lantis



Eli with Nimbus, Nori, and Maki

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