

# Blues News

July 2012

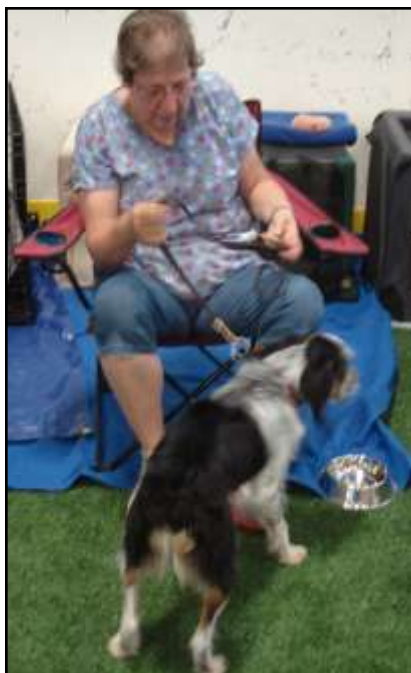
BLUE RIDGE  
DOG TRAINING  
CLUB, INC.



Established 1967

## BRDTC Agility Trial 2012

*Pictures by Alice Seabright*



Will never be able to thank the "bag ladies" and the incredible Club members who donated food to make our lunches so very special.

We received so many compliments, and I know that the exhibitors loved the TLC they received when we waited on them!

Thanks again and again,

**Donna T.**



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"Outside of a dog, a book is probably man's best friend, and inside of a dog, it's too dark to read."  
--Groucho Marx.









What a weekend!

This is the second time I have been 'behind the scenes' at an event like this. Working at the food table was fun... and as an added bonus I got a 'sauna treatment' for my hands... they are nice and soft! Those of you who worked at the table know how hot those gloves can be! ( They were especially hot on Friday!) What fun it was to be able to talk with so many different 'dog people'. I got to see a young Papillion puppy... how quickly the three years have gone since Teddy was that size!



Sunday afternoon I finally got to see some of our club members in action. I missed many of their 'best runs' of the weekend, but seeing the connection between the dogs and their handlers... and knowing some of them and their dogs... made the performances so much more meaningful. Thank you to all who were there, giving your best with your canine partners, and providing inspiration to those of us who have not yet begun the journey 'into the ring'. There were some entertaining moments and some heart stopping moments. Underneath it all there was the obvious #1 goal of having fun with your dogs, and reaching out for the next challenge... together.

A HUGE congratulations to all who took part! Those with ribbons and legs and Q's and.... Your hard work and dedication shows. For those of you whose dogs took a more creative route than the judges may have designed.... You, too, are to be congratulated for 'staying the course'. The time and energy you spend with your dogs waves in the 'banners' of wagging tails and happy dog smiles as they look to you for encouragement and approval. You are all awesome!

**Martha Inglis**

I wanted to thank all the volunteers you came out and helped by filling the workers spots at our trial. The people there who were entered and running dogs filled out their forms and turned them into the trial secretary and took over the more experienced worker positions. However a SPECIAL BIG THANKS goes to those who filled out a worker form at the last meeting who were not entered and running a dog and showed up on time and stayed as long as necessary to complete their jobs- and even came back on Sunday afternoon to help for the end of the trial when we needed help the most! Thanks to Lynn Oliver, Holly Rich, Victoria and Carole Vincent, Cindy O'Bannon, Boo Donoho, Marty Matheson, Danielle Brooks, Joy Pitcher, Jeremy Parks, and Megan Moore!

**Donna Richardson**

Congrats to all! I am so proud to be apart of this club! There are so many to congratulate!! I saw a lot of new members come out and help out as well. That is awesome! I had several people come up to me wanting to know about the club and wanting registrations for our classes! It was really neat to see us on channel 3. Thank you Holly, Sue, and Lynn for starting to get our name out there.

**Stacy, John, 3 labs and 1 MT!!!!**

Thanks to everyone who came out and supported the agility trial in whatever your role was. It takes all of us to make it the success it always is. I heard lots of compliments on everything from the bag lunches to the new training room. Even though it is long days, we always have more people wanting to come than openings. We have a very efficient crew to keep things moving as fast as possible - we have a very good reputation on the AKC judges' email list, as evidenced by the 40-50 emails I had from judges willing to come help us out when one of our judges had a medical emergency and had to cancel at the last minute. I hope everyone had as much fun as I did and I'm sure everyone is as fried by the heat this weekend as I am! I know there are more brags - let's see 'em!! Janice

**Janice Morton**

You'd think that Griff and Indy had both gotten their PACH with the amount of applause they received after their runs. That's one reason I love the Blue Ridge Agility Club so much...very supportive of everyone that runs (tons of encouragement and applause!) and so many club members stick around until the very end to lend a helping hand. It's a bit of a trek to get to Winchester and the days are very long, but the people there make it worth it.

**Mary Jo Rasmussen**

Falls Church, VA 22042

Abby and Cowboy want to thank their teachers—John, Stacy, Ed, Danielle, Vicki, and Janice—for all their patience and work to help their mom be a better handler. An extra thanks to John and Stacy for all the run thrus as well. They also thank their cheerleaders and friends, who made last weekend's trial so much fun. Both earned their novice standard agility titles and had a nice string of good runs. We also thank everyone who made the trial run so smoothly and the lunch ladies for their excellent bag lunches. Special thanks to our friends Janet and Donna S for saving us a nice spot to land each day and providing moral support all weekend and their friends Joy and Colleen for the extra hugs and treats. We know this message is a little late, but we have been taking our new title acronym seriously and NAPPING for the past few days.

**Theresa and the All-American cow dogs**

Thank you for a great trial this past weekend. Please be sure and thank all the ladies that sat in that hot room and fixed the box/bag lunches. They were very much appreciated. You all did an outstanding job!!!

**BARBARA MOFFITT**



## “A Happy Sunday Story”

WINCHESTER, VA. (AP) — To see the dogs running around, tails wagging, performing on an agility course, you would never know that they were once homeless and their futures in question.

About a third of the canine members of the Blue Ridge Dog Training Club come from local animal shelters and or breed rescue organizations.

Instructors and members of the club — which offers a variety of training classes, including agility, obedience and tracking — say it’s a great way to bond with your dog, especially an animal that has been through the shelter system.



“I couldn’t even get close to Cooper,” Winchester resident Holly Rich said of her rescued golden retriever. “He was so terrified. Now he’s so much better, more socialized and he really enjoys the agility training.”

When Rich got Cooper from the Almost Heaven shelter in Capon Bridge, W.Va., he was in poor condition.

“Cooper was a seizure case,” Rich said, “He looked awful, was underweight, had mange, ear mites, diarrhea, a fungal infection and kennel cough. He didn’t even know how to climb stairs or eat out of a bowl.”

Almost a year later, Cooper has a full glossy coat and is one of four shelter dogs that Rich has let into her home.

“You just never know what these dogs have been through,” said Frederick County Public Works Director Harvey “Ed” Strawsnyder, who also has several shelter dogs. “They all have been through something.”

Rich says the classes are great for the humans, too.

“You don’t really need to go to a gym,” she said. “Like your dog, you’re keeping fit physically.”

Blue Ridge Dog Training Club Inc., a nonprofit organization, was founded in 1967 by a few dog enthusiasts in Berryville.

Since then, the club has grown to about 60 members — many with multiple dogs — and now operates out of a rented space that formerly had batting cages at the Sportsplex in Kernstown.

“We make just enough money to keep the lights on and pay the rent,” Strawsnyder said.

Although the indoor arena is not quite competition size, it is perfect for large obedience and agility classes.

There are numerous training courses offered at Blue Ridge, with the average fee being about \$100 for seven weeks.

Each dog must pass two separate obedience courses — allowing a dog to be trained off-leash — before it can take an agility class.

There are several levels of agility courses available for owners to choose from. Once a dog is proficient at the higher levels, it can enter an agility event.

Since 1993, the North American Dog Agility Council (NADAC) has sanctioned the agility events sponsored by affiliated clubs.

All dogs must be registered to compete in NADAC-sanctioned events. It does not matter if the dog is a purebred or mixed breed, as long as it is healthy and over 18 months of age.



**Piper the Australian cattle dog awaits a turn on the agility course.**



“We have big dogs, little dogs and ones in between,” said Janice Morton, one of the agility instructors at Blue Ridge. “It’s a great way to keep the dogs mentally and physically fit. A busy dog will be a tired dog and a well-behaved dog.”

But, Morton warns, agility is not for every canine companion.

“Not all dogs want to play,” Morton said. “Most dogs like it because they get to be with and play with their people.”

Vicki Bruce adopted an Australian cattle dog she named Dixie from the Frederick County Esther L. Boyd Animal Shelter.

Recognized by the American Kennel Club as a purebred, Dixie was adopted out unsuccessfully several times before Bruce took her in.

“Some people just had trouble with some of her issues, but they all corrected themselves out eventually,”

Bruce said. “Now she listens to me and loves the training.”

“I actually called her off a herd of deer the other day and she came right to me. Someone really missed out on a great dog.”

Agility courses have many different obstacles, including standard jumps, tunnels, chutes, weave bars and tee-totters.

Owners all have their own style to get their dogs to run and jump for them. Some use verbal commands, others use hand signals or a combination of the two.

“If one of my dogs makes a mistake,” Strawsnyder said, “it’s because I did something wrong like stop or turn. They are always watching you even when they are jumping.”

Strawsnyder has a precocious big, black, golden retriever-border collie mix named Bentley.

“If I as much as twitch or make a wrong move, Bentley will see me and he will try to turn in midair,” Strawsnyder said. “He’s so quick, I have to be careful to stay out of his way.”

Strawsnyder has another agility dog named Spud. A rescue from a trash bin, Spud was all of three pounds when he saved him.

Now, at almost 10 years old and 67 pounds, Spud has many agility titles to his name.

“Where Bentley is fast, Spud is very accurate,” he said. “He never brings down a pole.”

Treats are involved with most of the training, with cheese being the all-around favorite. Many of the handlers will keep string cheese and even cheese in a can for their dogs at the ready.

For those who don’t use food, there are the reassuring worn-out toys like a ball or a stuffed animal that’s rewarded after a good round on course.

Strawsnyder says agility training is really the ideal playtime event for dog owners.

“It’s a team sport for the two of you and if you and your dog aren’t having a lot of fun, then you shouldn’t enter into it,” Strawsnyder said.

## **LIVER & OATES COOKIES**

- 1 1/4 Cups quick oats
- 1/4 cup non-fat dry milk
- 1/4 cup wheat germ
- 1/2 pound beef or chicken liver
- 1/4 cup safflower oil
- 1 large egg

Preheat oven to 350. Combine dry ingredients in a large bowl. Puree liver in a food processor. Scoop liver out of food processor into the bowl of dry ingredients. Add oil and egg. Mix with a spoon to cookie-dough consistency. Drop batter by the teaspoonful onto well-greased baking sheet, 1 inch apart. Bake for 15-20 minutes, until cookies are firm to the touch. Turn off oven and let cookies harden inside for 1-2 hours or overnight.





**“Congratulations!!”**

Congratulation to all the 50/50 winners at the trial this weekend:

- Friday's** winner was Linda Hammond \$ 53.00
- Saturday's** winner was Cindy Gaines \$ 70.00
- Sunday's** winner was Alvin Doehring \$ 50.00

**Note:** Alvin gave back to the CLUB \$ 30.00  
**THE BIG WINNER WAS B.R.D.T.CLUB RESULTING IN \$ 203.00 going back in our treasury.**  
**Bob & Pat Tatara**

Picture Of the Month



**“No Autographs Please”**

*Buddy Rich*



**“OOOPS!”**

Sorry I Misspelled Sprit Gilberts Name last month

Did you hear about the cowboy who got himself a dachshund? Everyone kept telling him to get a long, little doggie.



**“Doggie Horoscope”**

Cancer  
June 22 to July 22

Cancer dogs are sensitive, caring home dogs.

Leo  
July 23 to August 22

Leo dogs are excellent working dogs. They need a job and appropriate exercise.

*Birthdays & Anniversary's August*

*Birthdays*

*Joyce Riggs 8/5*

*Neil Leipham 8/15*

*John Defilippi 8/30*

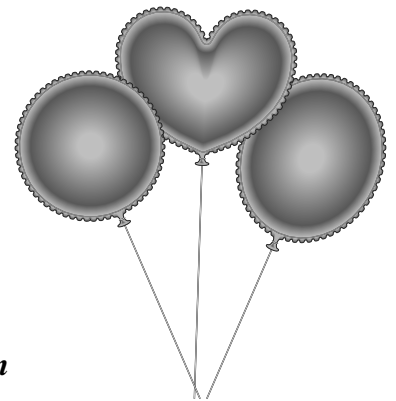
*Anniversary's*

*Bernie & Donna Thompson 8/19/61*

*Jan & David Burgan 8/25/07*

*Donna & Carle Germelman 8/29/59*

*Kitty & Jim Bowman 8/31/68*





# Mark Your Calendar



Shawnee Kennel Club

Presents

**Connie Cleveland**

**A Two Day Competition Obedience Seminar**

**August 18&19, 2012**

**Location: UAW Hall**

**2625 PAPERMILL ROAD**

**, WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA 22601**



This is a two-day theory and problem solving workshop. Connie will spend some time on day 1 discussing how dogs learn, and the remainder of the 2 days will be spent addressing participant questions and training problems. We have room for 24 working teams, and for unlimited auditors. *Preference for working spots will be given to current members of SKC until May 1, 2012, at which time non-member registrations will be accepted.*

Connie Cleveland was born in Lansing, Michigan and received her B.S. in Engineering from Michigan State University. She spent 10 years as the Training Director for Dogs for the Disabled. Currently, she lives in Fountain Inn, South Carolina, where she owns and operates Dog Trainers Workshop, a training and boarding facility. Connie teaches obedience to over 120 students each week. Connie's obedience experiences include 7 Obedience Trial Champions, a UDT Maltese and a CDX Shih-tzu. Currently, she shares her home with 2 Golden Retrievers, 2 Labrador Retrievers, and a Shih-tzu, the most well-known being her Lab, FC-AFC-OTCH "Ezra." (For more information, please visit Dog Trainers Workshop homepage at [www.dogtrainersworkshop.com](http://www.dogtrainersworkshop.com))

**A Rare Opportunity to Participate in a**

## **GEORGE ALSTON SUPER ADVANCED HANDLING CLINIC**

**SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2012**

**UAW HALL, 2625 PAPERMILL ROAD**

**WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA 22601**

**9 A.M. – 5 P.M. EACH DAY**

**sponsored By Shawnee Kennel Club**

For people wanting to compete in Best of Breed, Group, and Best in Show competition. This seminar is held only once a year! Attendees come from all over the world to learn how to...  
***Be part of the Winner's Circle!!!***

Preparation: **George begins with the psychology and philosophy of showing dogs, preparing both the dog and the handler for the BOB, Group, and BIS rings. He also expands on the fine points of training, feeding, and veterinary care for the dog. In addition, George discusses the physical and mental conditioning aspects of showing.**

Demonstration: You will learn the process of evaluating a dog. By the end of this clinic, each participant will be able to evaluate any dog and determine what adjustments should be made to present proper breed type.

Prerequisite: You must have attended a previous Alston Handling Seminar as an advanced or beginner handler, or observer. The Super Advanced Clinic starts where the previous seminar ended.

Demonstration Dogs: Twenty dogs will be used for demonstration (Sunday only). Eligible dogs must be Champions that are being shown in the Specials Ring by the handler attending the clinic. A variety of breeds will be chosen one month prior to the clinic. If your dog is selected, confirmation will be sent by e-mail.

Cost: \$125.00 per participant (with or without a dog). Fee includes continental breakfast, sandwich lunch, and snacks each day. Clinic fees are not refundable.

For more information, contact Anne Legge, 540-327-4260, [annelegge@comcast.net](mailto:annelegge@comcast.net)





## "WAGS & BRAGS"



Congrats to everyone for your Q's and personal Q's!!! OREO and John had a clean weekend with all 6 Q's! OreO got her OJP and her OAP!!! OREO IS liking the preferred classes!! DIXIE and John was so close in Qs all weekend. For the first time Dixie got all her contacts and actually stooped and waited until John released her!!!! She does this at home and at class for years, however at the trials it disappears. But this weekend she brought her 2 on 2 off contacts with her to the trial!!!! For those of you that remember crazy Dixie when she was young, she finally grew up and looks great!!!

**Stacy, John, 3 labs and 1 MT!!!!**

Poor Dicey! She had an incident Memorial Day weekend where she was going too fast for her silly self on the dog-walk and had to bail off when she lost her footing. Since then, she has been a little tentative on the up ramp but Saturday she must have hit it a little crooked and scared herself - she froze. I was able to get her across yesterday but today she got on, stopped, and then hopped off the up ramp. We will have to work on her confidence. But before that, on Friday, she got her 87th QQ and Saturday Qd in JWW. Miss Kindle is such a little rock star and I am having so much fun running her! We bombed in all 3 Standard runs - my fault all 3 runs! Amazingly, after having such a hard time getting through JWW courses due to her speed and me learning how to handle her, she Qd all 3 days in JWW for MXJ legs #3, 4, & 5. Maybe she's trying to get even with Standard? She has 6 MX legs already, 2 QQs, and 199 MACH points at the tender age of 2-1/2 years. I am so proud of my baby girl!

**Janice Morton**

Molly's Brags:

Friday she got her 2nd leg of Open Std. with a 1st place. Saturday she got her 3rd leg with a clean run 1st place. I moved her up on Sunday to Ex-A Std but she NQ because of missed contact on the dog walk. Otherwise, she had a good run going. Friday Ex-A JWW she had a Refusal and NQ. Saturday she came back with a clean run 1st place earning her 2nd leg. Sunday when the thunder storm hit she did not cope very well and NQ. Overall we did well and had a great time.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this another successful Agility Trial.

**Bob & Molly**



On Fri and Sat., Brave Boy Timer (AKA Winmar Jolly Time Dan RA) and I went to the Blue Ridge agility trials, and he did very well. On Friday, he earned a second leg in Novice Preferred Jumpers with Weaves, finishing in first place. On Saturday, he finished his Novice Preferred Jumpers with Weaves title with a second place. Both days he ran cleanly, but lost a few points due to time faults. But the highlight of the weekend was his novice standard run when he did the chute ALL ON HIS OWN!!!!!! The chute has been an issue ever since he started training in agility three years ago, so even though he didn't qualify in standard, we were ecstatic over the chute performance. Thank you to all our instructors with BRDTC who stuck with us and saw that he could do it some day.

**Kathy**

Kona became an AKC show champion yesterday by finally getting her 2nd major. We stayed in the classes today to not break the major and she took winners bitch again.

**Ann Grugel**

Frosty has a brag! Its been quite some time since I've shown him in breed, but since I've been home tending puppies, and its been too hot to do much training outside, I entered him at the Shawnee Kennel Club show this weekend. Today he won the breed, earning his first major towards his Grand Champion title!

**Margaret Bissell**

Saturday-Torrem got hit 3rd leg in Novice JWW Preferred for his title. Sunday-He Qd in Novice Standard Preferred for his 3rd leg and Title and yes my daughter Cindy had to fill in and run him for me as I had to work. He was also moved up to Open JWW Preferred where he Qd for his first leg. Overall it was a very good weekend. I want to congratulate all the winners in the 50/50 raffle. Also everyone who ran in the trial and did well. I think the club had another successful and fun agility trial.

**Annette Talbot**

Today in Westminster for the agility trial, it was a adventurous day! We had just went to sleep last night and John's work phone rings. Figures...he was out all night. Got home and we rushed out the door to try to make it for our runs. Well... we were about 20 minutes to late for our morning JWW runs. Oh well we tried. For the afternoon standard runs, Mocha did awesome! She didn't even look at the judge or ring crew!!! She had 2 on 2 off contacts with a wait at the bottom! She got 1st place with a clean run!!!! OreO I think found a rocket to ride because she beat her sister Dixie's time by 3 seconds!! What is up with that??? A 10 year old beat Dixie's time??? I thought John was joking. OreO got 1 st place. Dixie had perfect 2 on 2 off contacts as well!! She almost had a perfect run. Her Daddy and her kind of had a little bobble with each other so Dixie didn't see the tire. Oh well. It was a very nice run anyways!! Just the contacts alone were just amazing! Duke went along for moral support. He had fun too. John also got to practice. Wheeling the courses with Howard. He is a good teacher. Lots of good practice for John.

**John, Stacy, 3 crazy labs and 1 MT!!**



## “Got My Vote”



Is it just me! My dog sleeps about 20 hours a day.

He has his food prepared for him.

His meals are provided at no cost to him.

He visits the Dr. once a year for his check up &, again during the year, if any medical needs arise.

For this he pays nothing & nothing is required of him.

He lives in a nice neighborhood in a house that is much larger than he needs but he is not required to do any upkeep.

If he makes a mess, someone else cleans it up.

He has his choice of luxurious places to sleep.

He receives these accommodations absolutely free.

He is living like a king & has absolutely no expenses whatsoever.

All of his costs are picked up by others who earn a living. I was thinking about all this & suddenly it hit me like a ton of bricks....

**My dog is a CONGRESSMANN!!!!**

## Frederick County Animal Shelter

They are in need of the  
Following items:

Brooms & Dust Pans  
 Plain non-clumping cat litter  
 Window cleaner  
 Liquid dish soap  
 Liquid hand soap  
 Paper towels  
 Ink Pens  
 Multipurpose copy paper  
 Latex gloves  
 Canned dog & cat food  
 Dry puppy & kitten food  
 Cheap disposable cat toys  
 Kong dog toys  
 Clorox bleach  
 Post it notes  
 General office supplies  
 (staples, paper clips)  
 Large industrial trash bags





# Cool Summers for Pets

## Protect Dogs from the Heat



### Rules for Pools

Getting together at your backyard pool to swim, have fun and cool off is a great summertime tradition. But the pool can be dangerous for adults, children *and* pets unless safety is observed at all times.

You should always be cautious when your pets are in or around the pool, especially if they're older and can't get in and out of the pool as easily as they used to. Some manufacturers produce [ramps](#) to allow pets an easy escape from an accidental fall into the water.

### Block That Sun

It may be surprising to learn that pets with light-colored skin and hair can get sunburned. In fact, extensive time in the sun can even result in skin cancer. If you are going to be in a situation where your pet will be spending a long time outside on a hot, sunny day, talk to your veterinarian about using specially developed sun block for pets on unprotected areas like the nose and ears.

### Make Some Shade

If you keep your pet outside, be mindful of the fact that a cool spot in the morning can turn scorching hot by mid-afternoon. Be sure to always have a comfortable, sheltered area available that they can retreat to for their rest. A kiddie pool in the shade can provide relief on those scorching summer days.

Summer can be a particularly difficult time because overweight dogs and cats can overheat faster as extra layers of fat act as insulation, trapping heat and restricting breathing.

### Grooming is Cool

Common sense would lead you to believe that animals with longer hair would be cooler in the summer if you gave them a "haircut". However, just as a pet's coat insulates against cold, it also insulates against heat. Be sure to brush your pet's hair regularly to get rid of mats and tangles and remove loose undercoat. The more you brush, the more the hair "breathes".

### It's a Breed Thing

Yes, it's true. All breeds are not alike and some, because of their nature, can have a more difficult time in the summer than others. Flat-nosed breeds such as Pekingese, Pugs and Bulldogs, for example, have a harder time staying cool than long-nosed dogs because their shortened nose and oral cavities don't allow them to breathe as efficiently. Learn more about your pet's particular needs by talking to your veterinarian.

### A Weighty Problem

Studies show that between 25 and 40 percent of all household pets in the U.S. are overweight or obese. In fact, according to VPI Pet Insurance's actuarial data, this trend is leading to a steady rise in obesity-related pet illnesses such as [diabetes mellitus](#). [Obesity](#) is also known to be associated with, or can exacerbate, a variety of medical conditions such as high blood pressure and [osteoarthritis](#).

Now, what does this mean with regard to the summer season? Well, summer can be a particularly difficult time of year because, as with humans, overweight dogs and cats can overheat faster because the extra layers of fat act as insulation, trapping heat and restricting breathing. If your pet is overweight, it's important that you talk to your veterinarian before taking your pet on any outdoor activities you may be planning.

### High Noon is No Time for Exercising

If you're used to taking your dog for a walk during mid-day, it would be wise to change your schedule during summer to early morning or late afternoon walks with fresh water always at hand. Hot pavement can burn a dog's pads, and walking outdoors during the hottest time of the day can lead to heat stress. After the summer is over, feel free to return to your usual schedule.



**Blue Ridge  
Dog Training Club**

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VISIT US ON THE WEB  
[WWW.BLUERIDGEDOGTRAININGCLUB.COM](http://WWW.BLUERIDGEDOGTRAININGCLUB.COM)



### **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

Sept 5 - Meeting  
Sept 8 - Patriotic paws  
Sept 23 - Tracking Trial  
Oct 31 - Meeting  
Nov 30 - Dec 2 - Agility Trial  
Dec - Christmas auction

month a visit to the  
nursing homes  
Envoy 1st & 3rd Monday 11am  
Spring Arbor 2nd & 4th Tuesday  
1 pm  
Hill Top 2nd & 4th Friday 6:00 pm



August 4th

Obedience Trial

8 am to 8 pm

Clarke County Recreation Center  
Berryville, VA

