

Blues News

December 2014

BLUE RIDGE
DOG TRAINING
CLUB, INC.



Established 1967

BRDTC Agility Trial 2014

Pictures by Donna Germelman

Thank all of you for working so hard but having such a good time as well! Thanks also to all of the Club members who donated goodies, drinks, and fruit. You have no ideas the compliments we received daily.

Donna T.



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***“But Mom
I’m just going to the
Mall!”***





Dogs and owners test teamwork and agility at trials

By STEPHEN NIELSEN
The Winchester Star

WINCHESTER — Dogs and owners will come together this weekend to challenge both their teamwork and agility.

From 8 a.m. to approximately 5 p.m. today through Sunday, the Blue Ridge Dog Training Club will hold its American Kennel Club All-Breed Three-Day Agility Trial.

The Training Club, a not-for-profit organization, provides obedience training for dogs as well as helps train them for competitions in agility, rally and tracking.

Trials will be held at Body Renew Fitness at 221 Commonwealth Court.

"It's a speed sport," said club member Amy Grimm about the agility trials. Grimm will be running her 3-year-old pug, Mighty Mouse, in the trial.

In agility trials, owners run alongside their dogs, directing them through a series of obstacles in the correct order as quickly as possible.

Each course has 18 to 20 obstacles that are different for each competition.

"They're changed so the dog doesn't know where it's going."



Photos courtesy of Stewart Event Images

Xena Warrior Princess, an 11-year-old pug, does agility. Her owner is Amy Grimm.

Grimm said.

This makes it a real team effort between the dog's speed and the owner's decision-making and directions.

Owners get 8 minutes to walk the course in a group before they run with their pet so that they can try to remember the numbered pattern and plan where and how they will cue their dogs.

"That's what makes it challenging," Grimm said. "You have a split second to tell the dog where it's going. [The dogs] love it though."

There are two kinds of obstacle courses — Jumpers with Weaves and Standard — both of which will be on display this weekend.

Jumpers with Weaves includes jumps, weave poles — 12 poles the

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Photo courtesy of Blue Ridge Dog Training Club

Satchmo, whose owner is Joy Pitcher, soars through a hoop at a previous agility trials event.

Dogs

from Page C5

dog weaves in and out of — and tunnels the dog has to pass through.

Standard courses include jumps, weave poles and tunnels, as well as an A-frame ramp, a high and narrow dogwalk and a seesaw.

The courses are planned to accommodate different breeds. The jump heights change according to the dog's shoulder height, Grimm explained.

Her pug jumps at about 8 inches, while a larger dog could jump up to 26 inches.

The rest of the obstacles remain the same for all dog sizes because they present different challenges for different breeds.

For instance, tunnels are harder for large dogs, as is the dogwalk — it's only 12 inches wide and is like a balance beam for big, wide dogs. For little dogs, the A-frame is a big climb, Grimm said.

The weave poles are 24 inches apart for all sizes of dog.

This weekend, the more advanced dogs will go first, followed by the novice dogs.

Successful completion and improvement earns dogs points for titles, Grimm said.

As the dog improves, they move from novice, to excellent and eventually to master obstacle courses.

According to Grimm, these agility trials are sanctioned by the American Kennel Club and the ranks that the dogs earn will apply nationally — that is if the owner wants to work toward national competitions.

Mostly, though, it's about reaching the goal with your dog.

"It's bragging rights," Grimm said. "Everyone in the sport knows what you've done and how you got there."

Spectators are invited for the agility trials, but non-competing dogs are asked to stay at home.

For more information about the Blue Ridge Dog Training Club or the agility trials, visit blueridgedogtrainingclub.com.

— Contact Stephen Nielsen at snielsen@winchesterstar.com



Photo courtesy of Blue Ridge Dog Training Club

Beni, a Bernese Mountain dog owned by Jan Burgan, jumps over a bar at an agility trial.

Thank you to everyone who came out and helped with the trial this weekend.

A huge thank you to Janice (who pulled double duty) and Gretchen as our trial chairs. Donna Thompson and her merry band of bag ladies and the bag dude. John and Stacy for setting up (and breaking down) 6 courses per day (they are probably in need of a massage) and Donna Richardson our volunteer coordinator. Joy and the Fur bunch



"It truly is a team sport. It's you and the dog working together to be successful."

— John Defilippi, advanced agility class instructor, Blue Ridge Dog Training Club



JEFF TAYLOR/The Winchester Star

Brooke Ellsworth of Delaplane runs with her dog Pooka as he sails up a ramp during the Blue Ridge Dog Training Club's American Kennel Club Dog Agility Trials, which were held Friday to Sunday at Body Renew Fitness in Kernstown. About 350 dogs competed.

For agility dogs, no obstacle is too great



For agility dogs, no obstacle is too great

By AMY ALONZO

The Winchester Star

KERNSTOWN

Sitting on her haunches, Bindi, an 11½-year-old Jack Russell terrier, kept her eyes focused on her owner, Lisa Decker of Manassas.

Bindi was about to compete in the Blue Ridge Dog Training Club's American Kennel Club (AKC) agility trials, which was held from Friday to Sunday in Kernstown.

"Are you ready baby girl?" Decker asked Bindi before the two took off to run an agility obstacle course, which they completed in just over 47 seconds.

Decker said it was the last run in Bindi's 10-year career.

"We've been teammates and partners for years and years," said a tearful Decker before the run. "She's been such a great, great little partner."

As Bindi sprinted through the last tunnel on the course, applause and cheers filled the indoor soccer arena at Body Renew Sports and Fitness, where the trials were held.

"The day they're gonna retire everyone knows you're gonna have that last run," said John DeFilippi of Stephens City, who along with his wife, Stacy, was competing with two of the couple's four Labrador retrievers. "You know that day's gonna come."

The couple are advanced agility class instructors for the Blue Ridge Dog Training Club, and he is also an AKC judge.

He said the popularity of AKC dog trials has skyrocketed in the past decade.

"A lot of people like the idea of having fun with their dogs," DeFilippi said. "It's exciting. It truly is a team sport. It's you and the dog working together to be successful."



Donna Brown of Mount Airy, Md., warms up with Lark the Corgi before competing in the Blue Ridge Dog Training Club's Dog Agility Trials.



Hunter, a mixed breed, smiles for the camera after being named top dog at the agility trials. He's posing here with his Master Agility Champion ribbon.

His wife added: "You can basically go to a trial any weekend."

Beth Mathews-Bradshaw of Haymarket competes two to three times per month. She owns

five dogs, including Pixel, a 3-year-old standard Manchester terrier, who has been competing for two years.

"It's a lot if you want to be really good at it," she said. "The dogs love it. They think it's so much fun, and that's the whole thing, to do something with them that they love."

About 350 dogs competed in the local trials, according to Blue Ridge Dog Training Club board of directors member Bob Tatara. The trial was the third and final of the year for the club, which also hosts one in the spring and one in the summer.

The trial featured two courses. A jumper and weaver course had raised, horizontal poles for the dogs to jump over, as well as vertically mounted poles for the dogs to weave between. The standard course added contact equipment, such as a raised platform and a teeter-totter the dogs had to run across.

An electronic motion-detecting timer triggered at the start and finish tracked each dog's time, and a judge monitored the dogs from the center of the course for accuracy.

Mathews-Bradshaw said the dogs are not allowed on the course before running it, but the owners are allowed eight minutes to walk the course before the competition.

"It's great running with the dogs," said Tatara, who was competing with his 7-year-old border collie Molly. "It's a team effort. Most mistakes the dogs make out on that course are handling errors."

Tatara said he works training sessions into his daily walks with Molly.

"It's an ongoing process," he said. "It never stops."

— Contact Amy Alonzo at aalonzo@winchesterstar.com



Picture by Robert Tataara



Pictures by Donna Germelman

Well, we've put another great trial in the books! Thanks so much to everyone who came out to help - too many people to name, I know I'll forget someone, I'm so tired! We are like a well oiled machine now and we are getting many compliments on Facebook! The judges were very complimentary on how smoothly everything went.

I didn't get to run my own dogs, Kindle was doing USDAA this weekend, and Dicey may or may not be retired, time will tell. I saw some wonderful runs by members, some official Qs and some awesome personal Qs. Let's hear some brags!!

Janice

"THANK YOU!"

I would like to thank everyone who came out to help last night with the CGC/TDI test. So many of you volunteered that I actually had to tell a few to stay home. Thank you to Donna Thompson and Diana Lieber for being our evaluators & evaluating dogs for 2 1/2 hours straight! I would also like to thank:

Laura & Howdy, Kathy & Timer, Diana's dog Becky, Colleen Neff, Laura Kniffen, Dorothy Lowe, Alice Seabright, Megan Moore, Carol Free, Annette Talbot, Janet Moore

For all their help & filling in where ever they were needed. We had 100% pass rate with the TDI & all but one dog pass the CGC. The teams were well prepared & did beautifully. We had quite a few members take & pass one or both tests with their dogs & are looking forward to seeing many of you become a part of our therapy visits.

Happy Holidays!

Joy & the Fur Bunch



Success at the Winston-Salem Dog Training Club's VST

A saga must have certain elements to become a great quest and they are all here. The heroines of this story are a field type Labrador retriever named Minsk and her handler Mary Ann with a dream of earning the elusive Champion Tracker (CT) title. It started a dream that began several years ago while attending a 'Beginning Tracking Clinic' taught by Bernie and Donna Thompson. Although, I dearly loved the dog I had at that time, regrettable Gretta did not have the abilities for upper level tracking but the dream continued.

A few years passed and Minsk was located with my mother, Margaret and Mr. Woody Thurman (her breeder) picking her out. I now had the dog with the power, drive, heart, and tractability for the higher levels of tracking. Bernie was the first person to watch her track and his observation was, "If, she does not die from a heart attack, she can do it." Donna certified her and raw power was her main ally.

A TD title at Oriole and her TDX at Blue Ridge ended the power element seeing us to victory. Ed Presnall helped me to refine my handling skills, to better read my dog, to standstill while she solved a tracking problem, to focus her power, and to highlight Minsk's other strengths that were critical for the demands of the Variable Surface Tracking Test. Then it was practice, practice, failures, followed by more practice. This is a title that requires both time and money with the time component requiring the lion share. I want to thank my track layers during this saga Bernie, Jennie Johnson, Evette Braenovich, and Debby Kay. Without their help I would still be practicing.

On a partly, cloudy Sunday with dry conditions at 12:10 PM (61degrees) our three hour track was ready and telling Minsk, "Let's go and have fun!" we started. Her sit/stay start was perfect; this is used to allow the dog to collect the maximum amount of scent from the track layer. With the command of "Go Find," we were on our way. On the first leg, Minsk did a short and quick right hand double check of the track, then it was back to the original line and powered over the short grass and dirt to an open right hand turn out into a very large blacktopped parking lot. There was our MoT - Moment of Truth Turn - a required VST element that



must be placed on a non-vegetative surface. She lead me thru the left handed turn and straight out of the parking lot onto mulch and grass to our first article (a blue plastic electrical cover) then across driveways with a left hand turn and continued to the front left corner of Reagan High School. A heart stopping quick check of the front of the school's main doors and grass then Minsk indicated 'Okay, it checks out.' then it was down a long 235 yard leg beside the brick school building wall and concrete sidewalk passing a large outdoor eating alcove with the prize of the second article (a five inch round metal disc). We continued along the sidewalk to a steep slope which Minsk elected to use the stairs. Smart dog, remembering she has a mature handler, but Minsk was tracking all the way in the event the track layer made a turn on the slope. At the bottom of the stairs another heart stopping moment with two left-handed sweeps for scent direction then a right-handed turn with a long, hard, driving pull to the final leather article.

The quest was completed the Champion Tracker (CT) title achieved in a quick twenty minutes, 645 yards, and a lifetime. Yes, others have accomplished this goal in fewer attempts but this was our saga.

As a curious side note this was the club and Reagan High School, Winston-Salem, NC where we failed our first VST.

Mary Ann Dean





"To Tell the Weather"

Go to your back door & look for the dog.

If the dog is at the door & he is wet, it's **probably raining**.

But if the dog is standing there really soaking wet, it's **probably raining really hard**.

If the dog's fur looks like it's been rubbed the wrong way, it's **probably windy**.

If the dog has snow on his back, it's **probably snowing**.

Of course, to be able to tell the weather like this, you have to leave the dog outside all the time, especially if you expect bad weather.

Sincerely, The Cat



Picture Of the Month

"Merry Christmas Everyone"



Candy Cane Dog Treats

- 1 Cup of Rice flour
- 1 Cup of Tapioca Flour
- 1 Egg

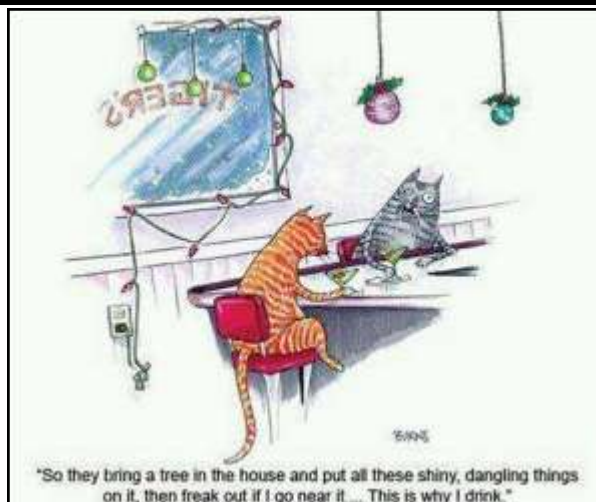
- 2 small Jars of Chicken & Chicken Gravy Only Baby Food
- 4 Tblsp of Tomato Paste

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Combine all ingredients except the tomato paste. Separate the dough into a 2/3rd and 1/3rd piece. Set aside the 2/3rd piece and cover to keep from drying out. Add the tomato paste to the 1/3rd piece. Add additional rice flour 1 tablespoonful at a time until the dough is workable. Starting with a small piece of each colored dough, roll between both hands and transfer to a hard surface. Continue rolling on hard surface until you form equal widths of dough ropes. Set the two color ropes side by side and cut to length. Transfer to cookie sheet lined with parchment paper and twist dough to form candy canes or sticks. If dough dries out while working just add a small amount of water. Bake for 20-30 minutes until desired crunchiness.



Rainbow Bridge
If you have a special someone you want to be on the Rainbow Bridge page please send me a picture and a brief write up.

4sarah@shentel.net





“BRDTC Christmas Party & Auction 2014”



The Christmas Party last night was a blast and the food was incredible. Thanks to all who came and to those who came early and set up (I don't know who was on that committee). Also thanks to Ed, Bob, Theresa, Amy, Millie and Dave who came in early and cleaned and disinfected the whole place.

Now for the drumroll.....

The auction took in \$1245 which will be donated to the Ester Boyd Shelter.

Donna

Wow, that's a lot of money for stuff going mostly for under \$10. We really did have some cool stuff in the auction.

Thank you to the main planners & all the folks who helped get the room ready & then dismantled. I really had a great time as I'm sure everyone else did too.

Bobbie Lutz

Thanks to my set up team: me, Diane K. and her wonderful hubby, Annette and Robin B.!

It was a really fun party and the food was SO good!

-Lynn













"WAGS & BRAGS"



My Whippet Ashley really worked hard this weekend. I had her in 3 different events because I couldn't decide where I really wanted to be the most. She got legs 4 & 5 of her RAE2 at the Catoctin KC rally trial on Friday. Then on Sat. she earned an Open Standard leg with a 3rd place at our agility trial. Then I took her to lure coursing in Hanover, PA on Sunday where she earned a 2nd place in the muck & mire up there. Fortunately, their snow had melted by the time I got there on Sunday, even though it created a lot of mud. My Travis was suppose to compete in the agility & lure coursing too, but he tore off a toenail jumping down from an upper crate earlier that week. He's been doing that jump for 9 years or more & he had to do this now???

Bobbie Lutz

Molly and I had another good weekend at the BRDTC Agility Trial. She had 5 of 6 clean runs with double Q's on Fri and Sat. and 54 Mach pts. I thought we could get a clean sweep, but it was not to be, because I wasn't fast enough coming around the A-frame she was already thru the tunnel and looking for me doing a 360 before the jump.

Bob T & Molly

Well my four legged fur friend and I had a great time this passed week end., on Friday we did not Q but had a good time. On Sat. we did Q in open stander and finally got our title. On Sunday did not because of handler error, but he had good runs and we had a good time. My dogs name was Travis.

Annette

Today, Issie and I competed in Beginners Novice obedience and she got a score of 191, got 2nd place and we got our first ever obedience title! She was sniffy and stressed at first but part way through the figure eight started to heel better and then did all the other exercises beautifully. I'm so proud of my little hound dog!

Joy

Thank you Issie. I had had a great day with you at the Dulles Gateway CPE agility trial up at Periland Agility today. Two Q's in level 3! You rock my little agility dog. And Thank you to Dulles Gateway for another great trial.

Joy



Joey Nansal
With his
winnings
At BRDTC
Agility
Trial.

I am writing this email to brag for Donna Thompson, Annette Talbot & myself & our furry friends. During this session my mom has the pleasure of training Donnas' dog Choice in the tricks class. We are all proud to announce that Choice earned his Beginner tricks title. It doesn't stop there: Annette handled Choice through the CGC & TDI testing that BRDTC held on Wednesday & we are all pleased to say that Choice passed both of those tests. In just a few months Choice earned three titles beginning tricks, CGC & TDI. I had the utmost pleasure of training Thriller in the tricks class this past session & Thriller earned his advanced tricks title.

I also took two of my shelties to the CGC test held by BRDTC and I am please to say that Shelaaz Desert Rose "Sierra" earned her CGC title & her brother Shelaaz Storm Chaser "Stormy" earned his CGC. I am really pleased with these two 14 month old puppies. I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas, Hapy Holidays & a HAPPY NEW YEAR! See you in 2015!

Cindy Gaines



"Winners Circle"



Today at West Friendship, Frosty was a star! We only needed ONE more OTCH point after last weekend at the BRDTC trials. He had a really nice go in utility and

was SO pleased with himself afterwards! I was really pleased with him too. Frosty was the second dog in the ring and after that, I couldn't watch what happened with everyone else. When we finally went back in for ribbons, Frosty placed second in the class earning THREE OTCH points and finished his OTCH title! Frosty is the 14th OTCH keeshond. Of those 14, he is only the third male Keeshond to earn the title. He is the first intact male Keeshond to earn an OTCH. He is my third generation of Kees to earn an OTCH. I am ever so proud of my boy! He is now: GCH OTCH Keepsake Ice on Fire UDX4 OM5 MX MXJ OF Margaret Bissell



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



Rescue Explained....

"The neglect changes you.

The abuse hardens you.

The suffering breaks you.

The ignorance angers you.

The indifference disturbs you.

The injustice destroys you.

On a daily basis...your faith will be tested.

Your heart will be wounded....

Your soul will be altered.

On a weekly basis...you'll question yourself.

You'll question your strength.

You'll question the world.

On a monthly basis...you'll fall down.

You'll get up.

You'll go on...

On a yearly basis...you'll look back...

You'll see faces...

You couldn't save them.

You'll learn to mourn.

To grieve.

To sob.

You'll learn to trust a little less.

To do a little more.

To fight a little harder.

You'll learn to try.

To hope.

To pray.

You'll learn to fail.

To succeed.

To accept.

You'll learn when to hold on.

When to give up.

When to let go.

You'll learn who you are.

What you stand for.

Why that matters.

Then... at times... you'll forget why you matter.

You'll question what you're doing.

You'll wonder if it's worth it.

But...here's the good news...

When you forget...

When you question...

When you wonder...

All you have to do...

Is take a look around...

And you'll see them.

You'll see their faces.

You'll see their smiles.

You'll feel their love.

In their eyes, you'll see their journeys...

You'll remember their beginnings...You'll know how far they've come...

You'll remember when they didn't know you...

When they didn't trust you...When they'd given up.

You'll remember how you healed them...

How you loved them...How they loved you, too.

And as you look back...

You'll want to move forward...

For them... and because of them.

In your darkest hours, you'll look around...To

find the differences made...the hope given...and the lives saved...

Because you existed.

In those moments, when you look into their eyes...every doubt will be erased.

Every question will be answered.

Every worry will subside.

Because in that instant...in each of your hearts...

You both share the very same thought:

"Every bit of pain was worth it...for this moment here with you."

And honestly...no matter what else happens...

Those moments hold all the strength you need...

To keep going.

Rescue is pain.

Rescue is joy.

Rescue is worth it...because they are worth it.

And that's the honest truth."

~ Author unknown





**Blue Ridge
Dog Training Club**

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VISIT US ON THE WEB
WWW.BLUERIDGEDOGTRAININGCLUB.COM



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Jan. - tba

Feb - TBA

March 6-8 - Agility Trial

April - tba

May - TBA

June - tba

July 2-5 - Agility Trial

month a visit to the
nursing homes

Envoy 2nd & 4th Monday 11am

Spring Arbor 2nd & 4th Tuesday
1 pm

Hill Top 2nd & 4th Friday 10:45 am