

# Blues News

BLUE RIDGE  
DOG TRAINING  
CLUB, INC.



Established 1967

April 2016

## 2016 Awards Banquet



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## LESSONS I LEARNED FROM MY DOG

NEVER stop playing  
WAG more BARK less  
Be LOYAL and FAITHFUL  
Be QUICK to FORGIVE  
and LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY









# “PERFECTLY NORMAL”

By Amy Grimm



I think we all realize that many of our neighbors, co-workers and family members think we are a little nuts. Just mention that your dog gets massage and acupuncture, or does strength-training exercises, nor that you plan your weekends around their activities, and you’ll get “the look” or even comments.

My favorite is when they ask, “What do you win? Do you win money?”

....Umm, usually no. You get a certificate in the mail...some letters after their names...maybe a bit of colored ribbon...maybe a dog toy.

If you compete for years, spend a lot, and are very lucky, one day you might even get a five-foot piece of PVC pipe that all your friends sign. And a cake!

That’s usually when their eyes glaze over and they start to back away. So you probably don’t want to tell them that you sing little songs to your dog in the car.

We know that in the eyes of most people, we are kind of crazy. It’s one reason we all like hanging out together—we understand one another’s crazy behavior, it’s perfectly acceptable.

*Perfectly normal.*

We can relax around one another.

But—after you’ve been around dog people for some years—don’t you sort of...start to categorize some people as being...a little MORE crazy? As in, THEY are a little “out there” but WE are normal. A couple years ago I remember discussing with a few friends a dog owner someone had run into who seemed to be treating their dogs just a little too much like human children—and privately we thought this was a *little* over the top...a little “cra-cra”. Perhaps we were a little relieved—and thought, hey, we are not THAT far out!

Then, we all put hats on our pugs and took them to the Kentucky Derby hat party at the pug national. *Perfectly normal!*

Hey! It was a competition! People put a lot of work into those outfits!

...Xena won the best pug hat category.

So, it seems there are LEVELS of crazy amongst dog people. I’d like to stress here that Kevin & I are *perfectly normal*, on this scale.

Ok, we tend to anthropomorphize the pugs shamelessly, but who could resist, with those faces? Over the years, this has developed into characters for the various pugs, with stories to fit their personalities. We include these “larger than life” characters and their conversation when we talk about the dogs—to each other, of course—others might not understand.

Back when we had Dutch, Zorro and had just added our rescue Xena—somehow the three of them seemed to fit perfectly into the Freudian model of superego, ego and id. Dutch, the oldest, and an old soul, was the superego—the authority figure (we always pictured him smoking



a cigar, drinking beer, a kind of man's man). Zorro was the ego, the middle ground (he was our teenaged character, who loved video games, rock music & science)—and Xena at the time was the “id” character, fueled by instinct, food, toys, a little more primitive behavior—as well as being the “girlie girl”.

As I said, *perfectly normal*.

But I'll get back to that....

I remember reading an article soon after the tragedy of 9/11, in which a father was trying to find words to explain to his daughter what happened. He couldn't even make a start, until she told him her teddy bear was worried—so he started to talk to the bear, and together they talked *through* the bear, making it possible for them to deal with feelings that were otherwise almost impossible to express.

I think our animals, through their presence, their love, their joy in life, and even the magical qualities we invest them with, help us to deal with the highs and lows of life, and our deepest emotions.

Some of you are MATURE enough to remember the Jimmy Stewart movie “Harvey” in which Jimmy Stewart's character has a friend, a “spirit guide” only he can see (at first), a magical being called a “Pooka”, who is a six-foot-three white rabbit. The Stewart character seems a little crazy, very charming, and ultimately more sane than those around him, with a deep wisdom. Getting back to our pug characters and the stories we told...when the day came that we lost Dutch at 16-1/2, the stories stopped for a while, the voices stilled. But after a while...Dutch began to appear again. I don't mean in a spiritual or ghostly way, or channeled through other dogs (although I know others who have had those experiences and I'm open to that).

I mean his character began to reappear for us in our stories. I think we needed him—he was too much a part of our story to let go. So Dutch began to show up again—betting at the track, running errands in town, at the liquor store, involving himself in local politics. He gets around. (Some of you RIGHT NOW are feeling SO RELIEVED! Whew! You are not the craziest one, right?)

*Perfectly normal.*

Years ago there was a story in my pug magazine about a man whose two pugs were lost for several MONTHS, and his desperate search for them. He had all but given up—it was cold weather, and all seemed hopeless, when he got a tip about a possible sighting, and went to a woody area where they might still be. He searched the woods with no luck, and was about to give up again, when he tried one more thing in desperation. You see, he always used to sing the Micky Mouse theme song to his pugs at home. So he started singing in the woods—and two little heads popped out from behind a tree. And the traumatized pugs, knew him then, and came to him.

He had written about the reunion in a local paper, and he got a call from a man who said, “You really sang to your dogs in the woods?” and started crying.

Because REAL dog people understand that level of craziness. Crazy love. Crazy faith. May we all be that kind of crazy with our animals.

In closing, I'd like to stress again that *I am perfectly normal*.

(Looking down)—“C'mon, Dutch, I'll buy you a drink!”







# 2015 AWARDS

Anderson Beth	Xtra	2015 AKC Open Agility Jumper
Andrews Linda	Racer	2014 AKC GCH JH BN CD CDX WCR L2 L3
Defilippi Stacy & John	Little Miss Oreo of VA	2015 AKC MXP6, MXP7, MJP6
Dodson Suzi	Spring Cove's Just Believe "Magic"	2015 AKC NAJ
OAJ OA AX AJX UKC UACH		
Fisher Constance & Gary	Zod	2015 AKC OAP
Fisher Constance & Gary	Skye	2015 AKC CA
Fisher Constance & Gary	Joey	2015 AKC FC
Fisher Constance & Gary	Vinnie	2015 AKC CH
Gaines Cindy	Carmylie Bi Bi Birdie	2015 AKC AX 2015 ASSA - VCX
Gaines Cindy	Shelaaz Storm Chaser	2014 AKC STAR PUPPY 2014 AKC - CGC
Gaines Cindy	SHELAAZ DESERT ROSE	2014 AKC STAR PUPPY 2014 AKC CGC
Gaines Cindy	SHELAAZ CARMYLIE RADIANCE	2014 AKC RE
Golden Sandy	Lacey	2015 AKC MXP, MJP, T2B UKC UAGI, UAGII
Golden Sandy	Willie	2015 AKC NAJ, OA, OAJ UKC UAGI, UAGII
Golden Sandy	Gibbs	2015 AKC Star Puppy, CGC
Grimm Amy	Zorro	PDCA Versatility III
Grimm Amy	Mighty	2015 AKC AXP, MJP PDCA Versatility III
Grimm Amy	Xena	2015 PDCA Versatility III
Gugel Ann	Maya	2015 AKC EJP, OAP
Riggs Joyce	Trudy	2015 AKC NAJ
Manchey Theresa	Cowboy	2015 AKC MJP2 MXP2 MXPB CPE CT-ATCH DMWYD
ITD		
Manchey Theresa	Abby	2015 ITD
Marino Lisa	Gelato	2015 AKC RN DMWYD ITD, ATD HOPE AACR - Crisis
Response Dog		
Marino Lisa	Zamboni	2015 AKC HIT DMWYD ITD, ATD, ETD
Marino Lisa	Spumoni	2015 AKC THD IDPA PKD-N DMWYD-TDCH PKD-N DMWYD -TDCH Trick Dog Champion KPA K9 Training Partner
Marino Lisa	Biscotti	2015 DMWYD ETD
Matheson Marty	Banjo	2015 AKC NAP OAP
Moore Janet	Finkkila's Zodiak	2015 DMWYD-NTD DMWYD-ITD
Moore Janet	DeChant's Jasper	2015 AKC CGC DMWYD-NTD
Nansel Carol	Kenzie	2015 AKC MXS, MJB
Nansel Rory	Joey	GRCA Agility Dog Hall of Fame (1st GRREAT dog -
ADHF)		
Nansel Carol	Hideaway's Finally Finn of Woodstock	2015 AKC Star Puppy
Nansel Carol	Aspen	6/7/96 - 4/1/07 "In My Heart Forever"
Pitcher Joy	Satchmo	2015 AKC RE, CGC, EAP NADD DS NADD Eukanuba



Nationals Qualifier NADD Eukanuba Nationals 3rd  
 place Air Retrieve  
 Pitcher Joy Issie 2015 CPE CTL2-F, CTL2-S, CTL2, CTL3-H  
 Richardson Donna Sonnett 2015 AKC RAE MJP2  
 Smith Donna & Jerry Hobbes 2015 UKC AGI, AGII CPE CL1H  
 Smith Donna & Jerry Bodie 2015 AKC OA  
 Smith Donna & Jerry Dave 2015 UKC AGI  
 Smith Donna & Jerry Galen **'Til we meet again. November 27, 2001**-January 26,  
 2015  
 Tatara Bob Molly 2015 AKC MX MXJ CGC  
 Thompson Donna Choice 2015 AKC TDI  
 Vance Morgan Shadow 2013 AKC STAR PUPPY 2015 AKC OA AXJ CGC TDI  
 Vance Debbie Duke 2015 AKC NA NAJ OJP CGC TDI

Bobbie Lutz

ASHLEY- AKC OA, OAJ, AJP, RAE2, & RAE3  
 Brz-GCH, UGRCH, UR03, UAGII, UCD, Timbreblue Windrydr Biker Girl,  
 CD, MC, FCH, RAE3, AJP, OAP, OA, OAJ, CGC, TT, CAVX

TRAVIS - AKC AJP  
 BIF, UGRCH, UR03, UACH, UCD, **Windryder's Americade Cruiser**,  
 CD, MC, FCH, RE, BN, AX, AJP, OAP, OAJ, CGC, TT, AV

Tyler – AKC CD & RE  
 GCH, UGRCH, UAGII, RO1, UCD, **Windryder's Full Throttle**, CD, BN, RE, SC, FCH,  
 OA, OAJ, AXP, AJP, CGC, TT, CAVX

ROXIE – AKC RN & JC (JC is Junior Courser)  
 UCH, **Windryder's Woman on Wheels**, RN, JC

Becky & Tim Gregory

Bosley - UAGII, URO1, URO2, ITD, ATD, ETD

Mason- URO1, NTD, ITD, ATD



## "In Honor of Bernie"

We have one more very special presentation to make this evening. Late last year, the idea of finding a way to honor Bernie Thompson was on many of our minds. When the Board was presented with an idea from Theresa Manchey to dedicate our training center to Bernie, the vote was of course unanimous.

Bernie was a friend to all of us and mentor too many at Blue Ridge over the years. He was supportive and generous and kind and a natural teacher.

This banner is the first step toward the official dedication of our training center as the Bernie Thompson Training Center. The banner will be hung permanently in the training center in memory of Bernie. The new name also will be added to the door.

Special thanks for this beautiful banner goes to club members Becky & Tim Gregory for their contribution of the amazing shot of Thrill, Lynn Oliver for her graphic design skills, and Sue Rich for creation of the banner.







## ***"Thanks and More"***

A big thank you goes out to Becky Gregory for sharing with us and letting us use the awesome picture she captured of Thriller and of course Lynn for designing the banner.

Joy

Joy and the Fur bunch

Just finished the accounting for the agility trial last weekend and the club made a profit of \$3936 on the trials and the bag ladies and dudes made a profit of \$442. Thanks to all the club members who came out and volunteered and brought food and worked at the lunch table. You keep this club going and make us all look good.

Donna Richardson  
treasurer

Dear God: Why are there cars named after the jaguar, the cougar, the mustang, the colt, the stingray, and the rabbit, but not ONE named for a Dog? How often do you see a cougar riding around? We love a nice car ride! Would it be so hard to rename the 'Chrysler Eagle' the 'Chrysler Beagle'?

Dear God: If a Dog barks his head off in the forest and no human hears him, is he still a bad Dog?

Dear God: We Dogs can understand human verbal instructions, hand signals, whistles, horns, clickers, beepers, scent IDs, electromagnetic energy fields, and Frisbee flight paths. What do humans understand?





## "THANK YOU"

For those of you who missed the dinner last night, a new poster was displayed honoring Bernie and will be displayed this week. It was so thoughtful of the Club members to do this, and I know that it took a village to pull it off. It, of course, made me cry; but seeing that crazy Thrill on the poster made me smile, too.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Love,  
Donna



**A dog's love can make even the worst days so much better.**

## Picture Of the Month



**"AHH!  
Spring at  
LAST"**

Gal a  
Thompson

### Kidney friendly Apple Treats

- 1 3.9 oz container of pure Apple Sauce (no salt, sugar or seasonings)
- 1 Cup of Rice Flour
- 1/4 tsp of Cinnamon
- 1 Cup of Rice
- 1/4 tsp of Ginger
- 1/2 Cup of Tapioca Flour
- 1/8 tsp of Turmeric
- 1 Egg White
- 1/4 Cup of Bacon Fat

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients. Roll dough out to 1/4 in and cut into shapes. Bake for 20-25 minutes depending on desired crunchiness. Store in a cool place or freeze. Makes about 4 dozen treats. Cinnamon is known for anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, anti-diabetic, bad breath, anti-septic, and anti-gas properties. Ginger is known for its antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, and digestion properties. Turmeric is known for its anti-cancer, anti-inflammatory, and anti-microbial properties.



# Mark Your Calendar



## BRDTC CGC TEST

We will be doing the Canine Good Citizenship (CGC) and Therapy Dog International tests Wednesday May 4 in our training room. Lynn had already uploaded the preregistration form to our website. I will be taking the preregistration forms and scheduling testing appointments. Preregistration is required to be tested that night. Email me privately at joyfulpitcher@aol.com if anyone has questions, don't just reply to this email.

On a related note, we need kids for this test as our Jr member who hasn't resembled kid for a while officially aged out of the position. Without kids, we cannot give the test. Testing usually begins at 6 and may go till 9 though we could have the kids' job completed by 8:30. Please email me if anyone can help with this.

Thanks, Joy

## Hyattsville Dog Training Club Tracking Judges Seminar

Hyattsville Dog Training Club is sponsoring a AKC Tracking Judges Seminar presented by AKC Executive Field Representatives Diane Schultz & Carol Ruthenberg.

Location: Canine Training Association, 6826 Distribution Drive, Beltsville

MD. 20705 which is just north of Washington DC

Date: June 25, 2016

This seminar meets the ongoing education requirements for prospective and approved judges. The information presented will be useful at all levels of participation in tracking from student to instructor, to judge. All tracking enthusiasts are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Early registration is \$50.

The advertisement flyer and registration form is attached.

Inquires should be sent to [TrackingSeminar2016E@gmail.com](mailto:TrackingSeminar2016E@gmail.com)

(<mailto:TrackingSeminar2016E@gmail.com>)

Nancy Skinner  
Tracking Coordinator  
Hyattsville

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# "New Kid on the Block"



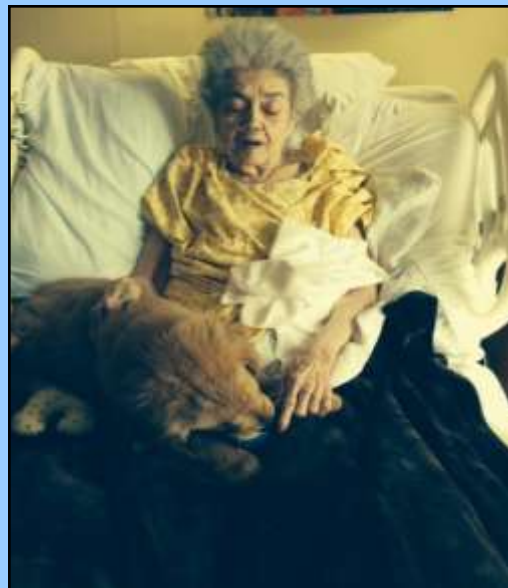
**Meet Gala Thompson**



**Gala with her friend Buddy**



**Long day at the Beach**



**First Visit to Envoy**



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



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

July 8-10 AKC Agility Trial  
Aug 5-7 akc Obedience & Rally trial  
Nov 18-20 obedience trial  
Dec. 2-4 akc 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

Meeting at  
**BRDTC Training Room**

**May 17th**

**Meeting starts at**

**7:00**

