



“How Long Does it Take to Train A Dog?”

By Amy Grimm

"Just got back from the AKC Agility Invitational...I guess by now you've all heard they put us out in the parking lot in a tent...and it turns out it DOES rain in California!" Then I said, wait, you need the full effect " and I threw a glass of ice water over myself. Yup, that's what it was like. Then I said I'd like to see them try and do a front cross wearing the swim fins!

So I was talking to some one at work about dog classes, and she asked how long the classes were—I said—an hour. Then she asked how many weeks and I said ,”seven”. And she says to me—“Well, are they all done, then? They know everything?”

...YES. ABSOLUTELY.

So I started thinking about time—about how long it takes to train a dog, about time in general.

Training, like all relationships, takes time, commitment and effort. It struck me that so often these days people are used to instant results and quick fixes: take out food from drive-through, directions at your fingertips., the Internet (unless you have dial-up!), texting and tweeting, pills for everything, liposuction and plastic surgery. The cell phone has caused a lot of people to not plan ahead, and to function in a very distracted manner.

Embarking on a journey of training your dog seems a brave quest compared to all this. Some things seem to take forever to teach, other times our dogs delight us by learning quickly, almost magically.

Here’s something weird: ever have a dog seem to “know” something you taught a dog in the past? Do they somehow have their memories? What would that tell us about eternity? Or is it because we have been through the process before and give more subtle cues we are not aware of?

Training requires our complete attention while we are interacting with our dog—not multi-tasking in today’s distracting world. How can we ask for our dogs to give us their attention when we can’t give them ours? It’s all about being in the moment—right now—which Buddhists call “mindfulness”. And though it can be intense, it can also be very restful to be so focused. I don’t know about you, but one of the things I love about classes with my dogs is that workday issues and other concerns fall away as you spend time with your dog.

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"I've seen a look in dogs' eyes, a quickly vanishing look of amazed contempt, and I am convinced that basically dogs think humans are nuts."

- John Steinbeck





Time plays an important part in training—there is the timing of rewards—especially if you are trying to shape a behavior. And there is the 5-minute out-of-sight stays—forever!! There is the length of training sessions—when I first started classes I thought, my gosh, this will take hours every day! But I soon discovered that you can do lots of short training sessions and sneak in small lessons here and there, like at dinnertime—in a way, you are training all the time, you are with your dog.

So how long does it take to train a dog? 7 weeks? 7 days? 7 years? A split second? It takes the time it takes—it takes all the time we have - it takes no time at all - it takes forever.

Dogs share our lives for a much shorter time than we would wish. We never know how much time we will have with them: 7 weeks? 7 years? 17 years? We can hope for this much! It is all the time we have - it is no time at all—it is forever.

Let's not waste time. Remember to be with your dogs, in real time, in the moment.

When they finish a set of weave poles perfectly, or come in for a snappy recall & front, or execute a pivot or their favorite trick, please, please notice—and let them know you are paying attention and you are thrilled! Right then! Not two obstacles later, or rushing out of the gate, or after you've discussed it with three other people. Right Then! Right now! Don't miss the moment!

Goals and awards are wonderful markers and ways to preserve memories, as are photos - but don't forget to enjoy the road you travel with them.

To quote one of my favorite science fiction authors, Ursula K. LeGuin,

"It is good to have an end to journey toward—but it is the journey that matters in the end."

This year with your dogs, use your time wisely.



March 7, 2010

Dear Blue Ridge members,

Thank you for the beautiful orchid plant you sent me at the time of my dad's passing. It brought me cheer, and continues to do so, with the beautiful flowers.

Rory and I have also appreciated the cards, messages and words of encouragement from club members.

Sincerely,

Carol and Rory
Nansel

Murphy, Joey and Kenzie



"STAR" Puppy Graduation Class of 2010

"BRDTC 2010 GRADUATION"



One little girl in my Beginning Obedience class went above and beyond with her graduation night trick. Jaclyn is 6 years old and did an excellent job handling her Yorkie/Pug mix Juel. For their class ending trick she taught the dog to ride on her tricycle. **Carly Keane**

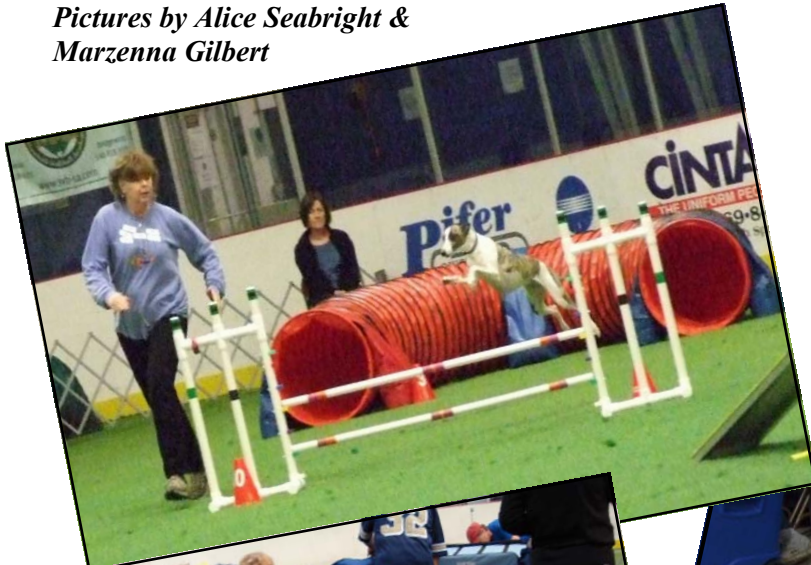


I have just finished my 7 weeks training with the club foster training program. The dog I got from the shelter was a female black and tan coonhound named Jessie. This is the what I sent with Jessie when I took her back to the shelter on Thursday.

Linda Hammond



Pictures by Alice Seabright & Marzenna Gilbert



BRDTC 2010 AGILITY







Thank You!

Wow! We survived another agility trial! Thank you so much to everyone who came out to help make it a success. I saw a lot of new faces coming out to watch and help. Special thanks to my committee who do such a great job -

Ed -the master grounds technician and equipment manager,

Anne - the very best volunteer coordinator ever,

Vicki - the day can't start until she arrives with the coffee and donuts,

John - keeping the course building fast and smooth,

Donna T. and her merry band of ribbon/toy ladies - who have the happy job of giving out the awards, you all are awesome.

The judges were very happy with and appreciative of the gift baskets provided by Donna R.

We always get compliments from the judges and exhibitors on what a great trial we put on. It is so much fun! And I am so glad when it's over...until next time!

OK, now where are the brags? I know I saw quite a few Blue Ridge members having some great runs!

Janice Morton

Janice:

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to judge your trial this past weekend. I had a blast! I hope we can do it again sometime soon.

The singing of Happy Birthday and the cake was a really nice touch and much appreciated.

Great bunch of folks to work with.

Thanks again. See ya soon.

Clyde

I want to add to this e-mail. I never saw so many people come together, to work so hard to make a trial work. It is very impressive. I just had a little job, but it amazes me, how it all comes together...**Ginger**



AKC 1st Place 43.00
Sarah Keefauver and Co-coa won first place in Nov A STD on Saturday at the BRDTC agility





Hi Everybody,

Here is newsletter #2 Hope it isn't too big to download.

Please let me know if you are having trouble. I am still looking for stories to print so if you have a good story about an activity or funny story about your dog please let me know.

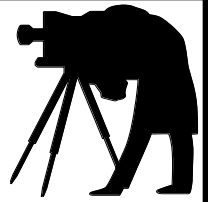
E-mail me at
4sarah@shentel.net.

Thanks,

Martha



"YEAH! NO SCHOOL!"



**PHOEBE,
CHARITY,
ZANDER
GREGORY**

**PICTURE
OF
THE
MONTH**

Minty Dog Bones

Ingredients:

- 1 Tbl. Veg. Oil
- 1 C. Water
- 2 ½ C. Whole Wheat Flour
- ½ C. Oatmeal
- 2 Tbl. Dried Mint
- 1/3 C. Chopped Parsely

Directions: Mix Oil and Water, slowly add flour and other ingredients, roll dough out on a flat surface. Cut with bone-shaped cookie cutters. Bake 35 minutes in a 350 degree oven. Makes about 2 dozen cookies.



"Doggie Horoscope"

Pisces

February 20 to March 20

Pisces dogs are excellent swimmers. They love water and will jump in every puddle. Their favorite living place would be near a lake, or near the beach.

Aries

March 21 to April 20

Obedience and behavior are not his favor game.
Be benevolent; do not spoil him too much.

Birthdays & Anniversary's April

Birthdays

Arlin Riggs 4/7

Jan Borgan 4/7

Beth Anderson

4/11

Jim Bowman

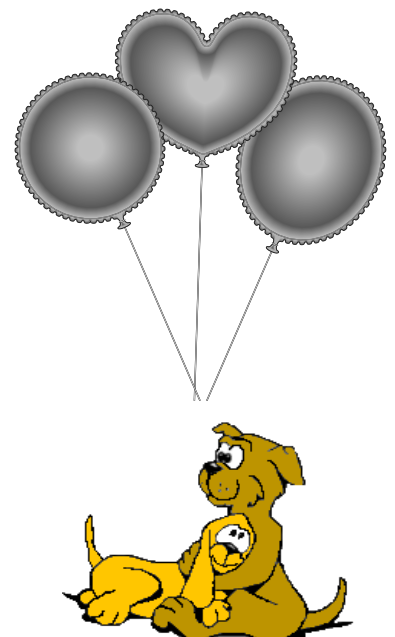
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Anniversary's

Bobby & Fred

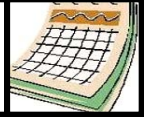
Lutz

4/21/79





Mark Your Calendar



"Tracking Trial"



Dear Club Members:

On Sunday, April 25, we are holding our spring tracking test. At the meeting next week, we are going to pass a list around to hopefully get some of you to volunteer to make or bring one of the following:

Salads-**STILL NEEDED**
Side Dishes-**STILL NEEDED**
Desserts
Munchies
Drinks
Breakfast items
Fruit

Joyce Riggs will be in charge of the luncheon on Saturday, and Janet Moore and Anita Belt will be in charge of the breakfast and lunch on Sunday.

Your contributions will help greatly to defray the cost of the trial. Be thinking of what you would be willing to donate. We can arrange to get it from you in some fashion. **If you want to make a monetary donation please contact Janet Moore.**

Thanks so much,
Donna T.

PS: 1st draw is at 7:30 at School House-Track starts at 8 am across from Timber Ridge School. TDX draw is at 9:30 at School House.

"Canine Carnival"

Hello All,

It was just pointed out to me that there is a conflicting date in the info I sent out yesterday. For clarification the Canine Carnival date is MAY 8!

Apologize for the mixed signal... Look forward to seeing you all,

Thanks...

Jon Turkel

Program Supervisor
Frederick County Parks and Recreation
107 N. Kent St.
Winchester, VA 22601
ph: (540) 722-8300
fax: (540) 665-9687



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**CGC & TDI TEST
APRIL 28
PLEASE CONTACT DONNA T.
FOR AN APPOINTMENT
TESTS WILL BE HELD AT
THE FIRE
HALL AT
CROSS
JUNCTION.**





"WAGS & BRAGS"



Hi guys,

All three of the pugs went to Pup'n Iron's APDT rally trials in Fredericksburg this Saturday, and we had a great time.

We brought a cake to celebrate Dutch's 14th birthday (it was Sunday). Dutch showed in the Veterans classes, and he earned his RLVX championship! I am very proud of him, and he was very excited to be there.

Zorro got a triple Q (he is working on a long-range title!) but he also earned his RL1X2 and RL2X3 championships.

Xena got her final two double Q's she needed for her ARCHX championship as well!

They all had good scores and some placements, despite their directionally-challenged mother (I turned the wrong direction on one sign in Xena's course, and also the same one in Zorro's! At least I am consistent--duh) and they still managed to get the scores they needed for these titles in spite of me! Zorro had a good day and did well even with his wobbly back legs. He really seemed happy and the modifications of exercises worked out well.

Dutch, also, looked happy despite all his challenges and his ripe old age. Xena had enough energy left after four runs that when we got home and were watching a movie that night, she did "Pug rug runs" basically this is running as fast as possible in a tight circle in the small space of an area rug, performed suddenly and without warning for about 10-15 seconds. It's hilarious! Anyway, we all had a great time.

Amy

Leia got her first double Q on Friday--Great courses.

Joyce Riggs

Dory was a good girl too, earning her first MJP leg, with a first place finish. I am especially proud of her, since we have done very little training in recent months, and she still managed to pull out a qualifying score.

Kathy



I have to definitely BRAG on Willow. Unfortunately due to financial woes she and I have been unable to attend any classes for over a year, or at least since last summer. I haven't even been playing with her at home on any of the stuff we should be. I didn't get an e-mail telling me I was in, so I didn't think I would be in the trial. On Friday morning I got up late from having food poisoning and being sick all night, took my time getting ready and at the last minute decided to bring Willow with me. When someone asked me if I was competing I said no. Someone else heard me and said You are the list. I went to look and SURE enough I was on the list. I didn't have treats, water, cage or anything. So I made the decision to go ahead and run and treat it like a practice. With NO idea of qualifying. Well Willow went out in that ring and did everything PERFECT! So she finally got her very first qualifying run. I was SO happy, it didn't matter that I didn't get any sleep.!

Then when I went to pick up my little green qualifying ribbon, I couldn't find it. Then I looked at the names on the ribbons and there it was with a BLUE ribbon attached!! I was in shock, Willow also got first place in her category.

NOW I was REALLY in shock and ecstatic. So later when we were running in jumpers I was high, willow was in a good mood and SHE did it AGAIN! Did everything perfect and qualified and took first place AGAIN!! Well I have been riding that high all weekend!

Sorry it was so long, but had to tell you the circumstances and why it was such a shock for me. I also wanted to THANK everyone that supported us with loaned treats, hugs, water dishes and holding Willow while I walked the course. I absolutely LOVE this club and it's members

Janice McCown

First off, thank you fellow club members for making this one of the smoothest run trials around!

Nikki earned an MX Jumper's leg & 3 MACH pts!

Tyler earned an Open Pref. Jumper's leg & a 2nd place

Travis earned an Open Jumper's leg, a 2nd place, and finished his OAJ title!

And Ashley earned a Novice Preferred Jumper's leg & 2nd place

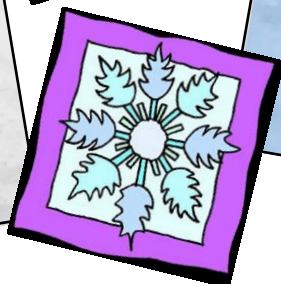
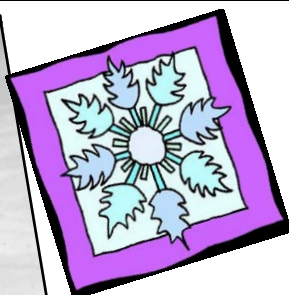
Bobbie Lutz



"SNOW DOGS"



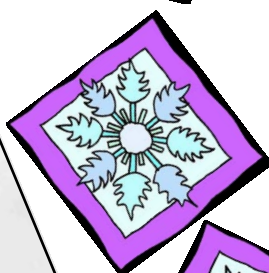
**ZANDER
GREGORY**



TEDDY RIGGS



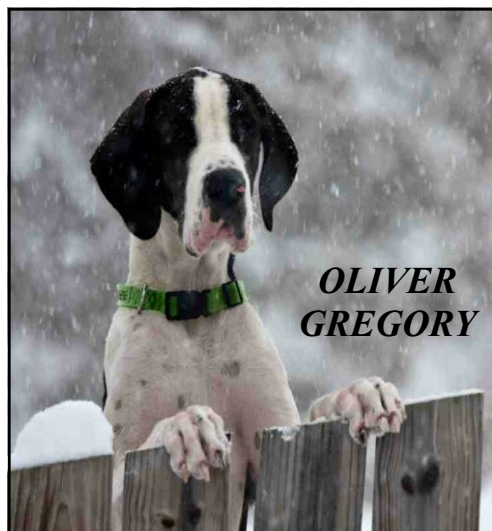
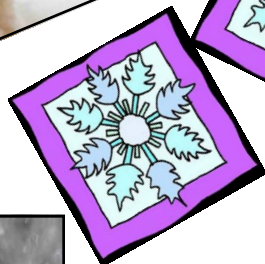
**KISSES
GREGORY**



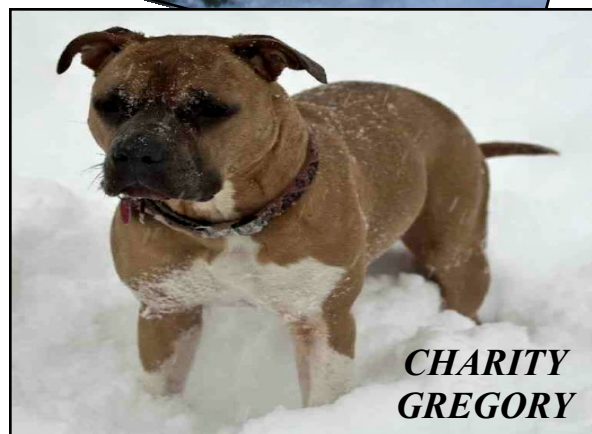
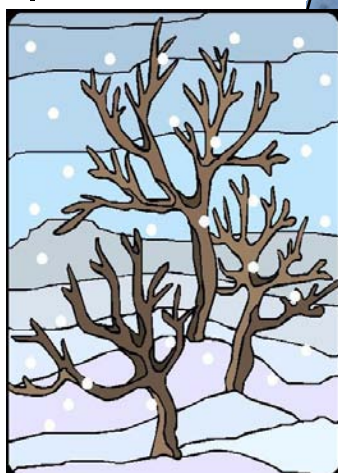
**PHOEBE
GREGORY**



**LEIA
RIGGS**



**OLIVER
GREGORY**



**CHARITY
GREGORY**



“Roll Over”

I am sending this to you not because I'm excited to share this news with you, but because I have learned some very important lessons from it that I want to you know!

On a Wednesday my friend asked me to take some stuff to the agility trial that weekend. She mentioned the roads could be bad (freezing rain and ice) and since she wasn't entered she didn't want to drive. So the seed was planted in my head that weather could be bad.

Friday, while at work I watched the noon news for the weather forecast for Saturday. It didn't sound terrible, but worth concern. So Saturday I got up the earliest I ever have for a Camp Bandy trial! For those of you who know me, I sleep late, jump out of bed and am out the door in 20 min. and at the trial 30 min. before the first dog on the line. But this time I got up at 5 a.m., left the house by 5:45 a.m. I even checked the Doppler radar before leaving the house to see what I was up against. The radar showed some green, rain, over Oshkosh, but nothing over where I was traveling to, so I thought good, no precipitation there. So I leave the gas station about 6 a.m. The drive in good weather is just shy of an hour. My vehicle showed a temperature of 34 deg., above freezing.

So off I go taking it easy. The hwy I traveled on was in good condition the entire way. I had no concerns while driving. I actually drove slower than I usually do because; did I mention I left early? There was no need to rush so I was driving slower than normal.

So I get to the off ramp, three minutes away from my destination. I'm listening to the radio excited to be going to the trial, as it was the first one in a month that I had been to and the drive wasn't so bad; the next thing I know I start to fishtail on the off ramp. I counter steered slowly and it's not doing anything and I'm heading for the ditch, so I counter steer even more. "Oh no", ever get the feeling that your past the point of no return? Can you say "Oh Shit." I knew I was going in the ditch.

When my vehicle hit the side of the road it rolled my Jeep Grand Cherokee. I can actually remember rolling to my right side thinking, "I'm rolling over into the ditch." "Hold on, it's got to stop sometime." The vehicle landed upside down. I honestly can't say that I remember the sensation of being upside down but since I was still strapped in my seatbelt I had to have been.

I didn't have any feeling of pain so I proceeded to unlatch my seatbelt. What followed next are all the things that were important to me and dogs walking away from that rollover!

I was disoriented, even though I was right side up everything in the vehicle wasn't. I was looking for my dogs in the wrong area of the vehicle. Image that your dog is crated right behind your driver's seat, always has been for years. Now you are in an upside down vehicle but you are upright on the left side of the vehicle, you would naturally think you are on the driver's side and look directly behind you. Not the case, everything is flipped. So although I was upright and on the left side of the vehicle my dog was in an upside down crate, on the other side of the vehicle. Make sense? I called out to my dogs like I actually expected them to answer me.

Here's where it gets important, and some of these things may not apply as much in a front, rear or side collision vs. a rollover but still very important.

The first thing I did was I had to find my cell phone. I knew I put it in a bag. So I had to find the bag. Also it was still dark outside and being upside down in a snow bank offered no light at all. If the dashboard lights had not been on I would have had a really hard time finding anything! The back window busted out and lots of snow managed to get into the vehicle all the way to the front which made finding anything even more difficult. Image everything in your vehicle with a wheelbarrow of snow added being on the tumble cycle of your dryer! I found stuff that was in the back of the vehicle in the front seat with me. I managed to find the bag and my cell phone and called 911.

HAVE YOUR CELL PHONE ON YOU, clipped to your pants or zipped in a pocket.

I usually leave my cell phone on the console, it could have easily ended up in the back seat where I would not have been able to get to it, or it could have flown out a busted window!



A Good Samaritan stopped and tried opening my vehicle door. She was unsuccessful, but I was coherent enough to think of trying the automatic window, which worked and I was able to crawl out the window. I told everyone that I crawled out the driver's side window as I truly believed I did, but remember how I said when your right side up and the vehicle is upside down nothing makes sense. I actually crawled out the passengers' side, but since it was to my left my brain kept insisting it was the driver's side. And ironically enough it was the only window in the front of the vehicle that did not shatter.

Number two, remember how I said imagine all the stuff in your vehicle in a dryer. Well image that any of that stuff can hit you in the head!

HAVE ITEMS IN YOUR VEHICLE SECURE, unless you are okay with them potential hitting you in the head.

Most of the stuff was small, but I do recall when looking for my cell phone that my Pack N Roll was in the front seat. I had that stored behind the passenger's seat between the seat and the crate! It seriously could have hit me in the head and maybe it did! Later that day I discovered a tender spot on my head to the right side toward the back. So I probably did not hit the driver's side window or the windshield, possibly a flying object hit me. Of course when I unbuckled myself I could have bumped my head when I fell to the roof. Also once I was out of the vehicle I saw that things had ejected from the back window (could have been a cell phone.)

Most importantly – **SECURE YOUR CRATES!**

When I bought my Jeep I had the dealer take the back seat completely out of the vehicle. I placed a board on the floor and put two small crates on it directly behind the front seats. Then I had one larger crate in the back facing out the rear. I then used a rope ratchet tie down to secure all the crates together and to the frame of the vehicle. If I had not secured those crates the dogs or I could have been injured. A small crate like April's could easily be ejected out of a window or have hit me in the back of the head. Again image your dog in a crate, in a dryer on tumble, with the dryer itself rolling over! The crates did sustain some damage but both of my dogs were able to walk away from the roll over.

Immediately after I got the dogs out of the Jeep the Good Samaritan drove us to Camp Bandy and I had one of the vets take a look at them. Since we all appeared to be fine and I had no vehicle and no place else to go we decided to stay and try to compete. Nosi Double Q'd with two 1st places in the 16" class and April got one 1st place in 12" Standard. My first run was 1-1/2 hrs. after the accident with April in Jumpers and since I was still a little shaken I didn't handle as well as I could have and she was all about

letting me know about it. The next day we were all a little stiff.

So Please, I am begging you to consider doing these things if you don't already do them.

- 1. Wear your seatbelt – of course!**
- 2. Have your cell phone on you**
- 3. Secure items in your vehicle**
- 4. Secure your dogs crates**

Oh, and bungee cords don't count! They deteriorate and can stretch out or the hooks can straighten out. Your seatbelt doesn't give, neither should your dogs! I don't have any suggestions on types of crates to use, but obviously cloth crates would not be a good choice. If you wanted to go a few steps further you could have some kind of thin covering secured to the outside of the crate to prevent flying glass from hitting your dog. Also if you were knocked unconscious it might be a good idea for your dog's crates to have emergency information on it. The other thing I am going to do is either take the pan out of the crates or secure them to the bottom of the crate. As you can see Nosi's pan was not secured and it moved around in the crate with him.

Again, I wish I didn't even have to send this email, but if it can help one person, one time that's all that really matters!

The pictures of my vehicle and the crates are attached. The two small crates were cable tied together and then secured through the bottom and along the sides to include the large crate to the frame of the vehicle with rope ratchet straps. The large crate in back had a flat tie down that ran through the bottom of the crate and I had a super heavy duty rubber bungee that held it to the side. So I am extremely confident that the crates did not move at all.

Please give your dog's extra hugs and kisses!



**Blue Ridge
Dog Training Club**

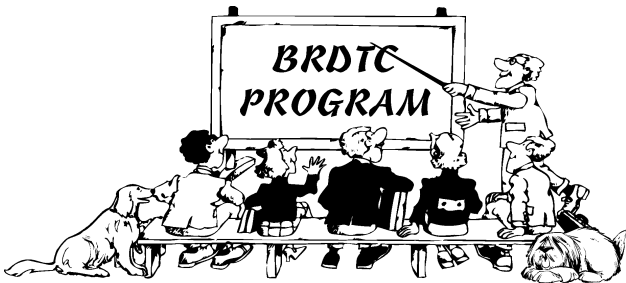
Martha Butler, Editor
680 Newlin Hill Road
Winchester, VA.



**Club Message Phone:
540/662-1664**

VISIT US ON THE WEB

WWW.BLUERIDGEDOGTRAININGCLUB.COM



WHAT'S HAPPENING

**APRIL 25 - TRACKING TRIAL
APRIL 28- CGC & TDI TEST
APRIL 29 - PIZZA PARTY
MAY 8 - CANINE CARNIVAL
MAY 14 — ACUPUNCTURE
MAY 27— WESTMINSTER CANTERBURY
JUNE 24 TBA
JULY 9-11 AGILITY TRIAL**

**1ST & 3RD MONDAY OF EACH
MONTH A VISIT TO ENVOY
NURSING HOME**

**Sunday April 25
Tracking Trial at
Cross Junction
starting at 8 am.**



**April 28-CGC &
TDI TEST**



**Pizza Party
April 29
at the Public
Safety Building
Starts at 7:30 to
say Thank You to
all the hard
working members
of the club.**