

**JANUARY
2012**

**A HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

VHOC Newsette

Volume 58 Issue 1



Official Newsletter of Valley Hills Obedience Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 10132, Canoga Park, CA 91309
VHOC Website: www.vhoc.org

Submission deadline is the 8th of each month

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Plan to join fellow VHOC members as we celebrate events and accomplishments of 2010!

The Annual Banquet will be held Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012, 6:30--10:00 pm
at the University Club at the California State University, Northridge.

In accordance with the VHOC Constitution and By-Laws, the Nominating Committee has nominated the following individuals to serve on the 2012 Board, to be voted on at the Annual Awards Banquet in February:

NOMINATIONS FOR 2012 VHOC OFFICERS

President	Jennifer Voogt
Vice President	Sarah Sykes
Corresponding Secretary	Melody Myers
Recording Secretary	Shirley Frumkin
Treasurer	Tink Ten Eyck
Membership	Carole Hills
Publicity	Gwen Lucoff
Agility Trial	Nancy Giltner & Kim Simons
Obedience Trial	Laurie Burnam
Training	Laurie Burnam, Moira Cornell & Kim Simons

VHOC STANDING COMMITTEES

Agility Trial	Nancy Giltner, Sue Montague
Volunteer Workers	& Kim Simons

VHOC STANDING COMMITTEES (continued)

Banquet	Terri Brink, Lindia Brown, & Leslie Chudnoff
Catalog	Carole Raschella
Food & Hospitality	Gwen Lucoff
General Meetings	Stephanie Colman
Newsette	Carole Raschella
Raffle	Cindi Malchose, Allison Pobirs, Jan Racey & Christy Tattersall
Seminar Coordinator	Dawn Esposito & Allison Pobirs
Show 'n Go	Shiro Torquato & Sandy Walton
Top Dog Captains	Patti Rovtar & Sarah Sykes
Trophies	Dawn Esposito, Leslie St. Pierre & Sarah Sykes
Website Administrator	Jennifer Voogt
Yahoo Group	Allison Pobirs

Additional nominations may be made before **January 15** by written petition to the Recording Secretary, signed by five members and endorsed by each such additional nominee, signifying his/her willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one office, unless special circumstances warrant it and it is so authorized by a majority of votes of the general membership. The additional nominations provided for herein may be made only from those members who are not nominated by the nominating committee or who declined such nomination as above provided. However, no person who has declined the Committee's nomination may be nominated by petition for the same position.

If you would like to serve on a standing committee in a capacity other than that of the chair, please let us know of your interest. Committee positions can have more than one person. **Your assistance would be greatly appreciated!**



Please send brags, photos, announcements, articles, and other information to Carole Hills at: cahills@verizon.net
on or before the 8th of each month.

Inside this issue

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BRAGS & SCORES

AGILITY

Laurie Burnam & Scout: *December 31, 2011, January 1-2, 2012,*
High Desert Agility Club, Van Nuys, CA:
Open Fast 3rd Pl, 2nd leg, Open Fast 1st Pl, 3rd leg--**OF Title!**
Ex JWW, 100, 6 MACH points, Ex Std, 100, 13 MACH points
Ex JWW, 100, 4 MACH points—**20th QQ— MACH Title**
with 816 Points!!

Laurie writes: We finally did it! Miss MACH Scoutie was a perfect angel, earning title #56. Current titles: 24 in agility, obedience and rally, not bad for this 11½ year old gal. Still more are planned for the future, if she is still willing so am I. And they say you can't compete in more than one venue and do well, BAH!



She now is called MACH Mockingbird's Lil Scout AKC UD, VER, RAE, OF, CGC, ASCA UD, RNX, RAX, RS-E, RS-E-OP, JS-O-OP, JS-E, JS-E-OP, GS-E, NADAC EAC, O-OJC, EJC, O-EJC, NCC, TN-E, WV-O, HP-O, TG-N.

Thanks to all of you who kept cheering for us along the way and a BIG special thank you to Terry and Kim Simons for teaching Scout and me all the agility tricks for the past 10 1/2 years. Every time I run a course I can hear the "Terryisms": plant yourself like a tree, let her find the weave entry, get into the pocket, keep your eye on your dog, trust your dog, keep her head...and it all paid off. It was a fun and wild ride! Happy New Year!!

Debbie Lang & Quila: *Dec 10-11, 2011, VHOC, Van Nuys, CA:*
Double Q and 17 MACH points for the weekend.

Debbie Lang & Quila: *Dec 16-17, SCVC/CSPC, City of Industry:*
Double Q and 18 MACH points for the weekend.

Debbie Lang & Quila: *Dec 29-30, Keeshond Club of So Cal., City of Industry & Jan 1-2, HDAC, Van Nuys:*
27 MACH points—only 151 more to go!
Ex-A Fast, 66 points, 2nd Place, 1st Exc Fast leg; T2B—13 points, **Finished T2B Title!!**

OBEDIENCE & RALLY

Lindia Brown & Tillie: *December 10-11, 2011, Valley Hills*
Obedience Club, Van Nuys, CA:

Lindia writes:

1 --- 2 --- 3
SHE DID IT!

Tillie received her first AKC title in three straight trials. She finished at our December trials and is now an RN (Rally Novice). Not only did she get her title, Sunday she scored 94 out of 100 points! That was wonderful. The best part was exiting the ring to find so many friends there to congratulate us.

Next year? Maybe two titles!



BRAGS & SCORES

OBEDIENCE & RALLY (continued)

Yvonne Garst & Captain: *December 9, 2011, Shoreline Dog Fanciers Assoc. of Orange County:*
Novice A, 1st Place, 1st Leg

Yvonne Garst & Captain: *December 10-11, 2011, Valley Hills Obedience Club, Van Nuys, CA:*
Novice A, 2nd Place, 2nd Leg; Novice A, 1st Place, 3rd Leg—**CD Title!**

Yvonne writes: **“I can’t believe we got our CD Title all in one weekend!!”**

Yvonne Garst & Captain: *December 9, 2011, Shoreline Dog Fanciers Assoc. of Orange Co:*
Rally Advanced A, 2nd Place, 2nd Leg.

Debbie Lang & Fable: *December 10-11, 2011, Valley Hills Obedience Club, Van Nuys, CA:*
Rally Nov B, 1st Q—92 out of 100; Nov B, 2nd Q—2nd Place, 96 out of 100.

Debbie writes: **“This was Fables’ first time out competing in Rally, not bad for a Norwegian Elkhound!”**

Shiro Torquato & Cody: *December 10-11, 2011, Valley Hills Obedience Club, Van Nuys, CA:*
Grad Novice, 192.5, 1st Place; Grad Novice, 193, 1st Place—**GN Title!!**

Shiro writes: We had been away from obedience for a while, working on the RAE title. So, when we finished the Graduate Novice title within four trials, taking 1st place with each qualifying leg, I felt more confident back in the obedience ring. **Next stop is Open A!**

Flo Walberg & Tailor: *December 10-11, 2011, Valley Hills Obedience Club, Van Nuys, CA:*
Utility B, 1st Place, 198, Open B, 2nd Place, 197.5+ **Tailor finished his OTCH!!!**

Flo Walberg & Tailor: *December 17, 2011, Los Encinos, CA:*
Utility B, 1st Place, 197.5+, Open B, 2nd Place, 198+

Flo Walberg & Tailor: *December 18, 2011, Long Beach, CA:*
Open B, 1st Place, 199.5 — **High in Trial!**

Flo Walberg & Tailor: *January 6, 2012, Palm Springs, CA:*
Open B, 197, **1st Place out of 24 dogs!**

Flo Walberg & Danny: *January 6, 2012, Palm Springs, CA:*
Open B, 199, 1st Place (**out of 27 dogs**)—**High in Trial!!**



Flo writes: Tailor is now 3 years old and just finished his OTCH at the Valley Hills trial several weeks ago. I was really proud of him. After finishing his UD in the spring, I pulled him from competition to re-adjust his head a little bit. Seemed to go out of whack so I had to get him back on track. I brought him back at the end of August at the Santa Barbara show and he kept winning and winning in September and October and was off in November due to my personal reasons and came back at Valley Hills. So, in 3 months, he had over a 100 points to finish his OTCH. We showed last weekend at Long Beach and he picked up 23 more points to ensure some backup points. Now he can be a man of leisure and show when he feels like it. Hope to see you all at the shows soon.



Member News

Sarah Sykes shares this photo of Brio's grandmother (Nikita)'s 13th birthday party!

How did they get them all to stay with that yummy cake right in front of them?

Well, Nikita, and at least some of the others are OTCHs, so that helps!!



JUDGE'S SEMINAR

Linda Brooks sends information on an upcoming AKC Hunt Test Judge's Seminar with speaker Jerry Mann on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at the Orange Empire Dog Club Clubhouse in Bloomington, CA. The seminar begins at 8:30 a.m.; the \$60 fee includes lunch. You must register by January 18, 2012. Linda will be going if anyone wants to carpool.

*** See flyer on Page 5 ***

VHOC VESTS FOR SALE

The club has a limited supply of Fleece Hunter Green vests, embroidered with the VHOC logo, and is offering them for sale to members at \$28 each.

The 100% polyester vests are available in ladies' and men's sizes from XS to 3XL. They have an adjustable hem with barrel locks and shock cord, front zip pockets and feminine cut on the ladies' sizes. The men's style is tapered with side seam pockets.

If you are interested, please contact Carole at cahills1@verizon.net

LADIES'



MEN'S



AKC Hunt Test Judge's Seminar
Speaker: Jerry Mann

Saturday, January 21, 2012
8:30am

Location:

Orange Empire Dog Club Clubhouse
18225 Santa Ana Ave.
Bloomington, CA 92316

Fee: \$60.00 (includes lunch)

Sponsored by:

*Labrador Retriever Club of Southern California
Great Western Flat-Coated Retriever Club
Inland Valley Retriever Club*

Detach here

Please RSVP to Wendy Pennington, sealionlabs@aol.com, by 1/18/12

Please complete and return this form to
Wendy Pennington, 5735 E. Hunt Dale Street, Long Beach, CA
90808

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone # _____ Home Cell

(Circle one)

JUMPING SERIES: "I Think I Can!"

by Suzanne Clothier

NOTE: This article is the third in a 4 part series on jumping that first appeared in Off Lead magazine.

In the first article in this series, we looked at the complexity of jumping process, and how much we take for granted each time we ask our dogs to "go hup!" Jumping difficulties can limit or end a dog's competitive career, and can spring from physical, mental, and mechanical causes. In the second article, we looked at physical causes - structural (created by the dog's skeletal design) and functional (a result of how the dog's body is used, regardless of design). In this article, we're going to consider the mental aspects of jumping.

Mental aspects of jumping (or any training) can be broken down into intellectual ("knowing") and emotional ("feeling"). Though intellectual is a word rarely applied to dogs, the definition "relating to or performed by the mind" certainly fits when discussing what our dogs learn and know. I'm well aware that science has yet to "prove" that dogs have emotions. But after a lifetime with animals, I'll happily go out on a limb and say I believe they do have emotions. (Of course, science has yet to "prove" that love exists but even scientists persist in falling in love! The most wonderful things in life are usually ones that cannot be proven, but we're glad to have them anyway.)

When we talk about the intellectual aspects of training or what a dog "knows," what we usually mean is what the dog understands about a specific skill in a specific context. When a handler moans, "But he knows this!" as a dog looks blankly at them, the truth is probably that the dog knows the skill but not in that context. Good trainers know that teaching a skill does not end with the dog comprehending that "jump" means hurl yourself over this bar. Training needs to continue so that the dog learns that "jump" means the same thing under many conditions and despite distractions.

As with any physical skill, it takes a progressive approach, meaningful practice and considerable experience to learn to jump well under any and all conditions. Many dogs jump differently under the

pressures of competition. A deeply experienced dog has learned how to use his body under varied conditions, and has also learned to moderate and handle his emotional responses to the situation. The easiest parallel in most humans' experience is driving a car. While we all quickly learn (and thus "know") how to drive a car, driving in snow or fog, while upset, or over muddy fields, or with a yelping puppy is quite different. If our training and experience as drivers systematically includes these conditions, we will develop our skill accordingly. Though not smarter than teenagers in Texas, Vermont teens are better at driving in snow, assuming they've been taught. A middle-aged Vermonter, however, will have more experience and thus know more about driving in snow.

Jumping practice needs to be meaningful - with each session, the trainer should have a specific goal in mind, and should be aimed at developing or refining particular jumping skills - lengthening, shortening, take-offs, odd distances, diagonal approaches, etc. A dog who has never seen a jump flanked by brightly striped frogs holding petunias may very well hesitate or refuse to jump. Jumping indoors on various footings and under sometimes odd lighting may need to become part of the dog's knowledge base. Jumping outside on dry grass is different from muddy footing which differs from light dewed grass which is not the same as sand. It is up to the handler to creatively and systematically expand the dog's understanding so that when you say he "knows" how to jump, that covers a lot of ground!

Emotional states are just that - emotions at work in the dog's body and mind. Anyone who's ever stood outside the ring feeling the butterflies in their stomach multiply and organize into the 200th Anxiety Squadron knows that emotions can have powerful effects on our bodies and our minds. Generally speaking, the stronger the emotion, the less we are able to think clearly and use our bodies in precise ways. As a quick experiment, stand up, suck in your breath and hold it, clench your jaw, tighten your buttocks and widen your eyes. Hold that for just ten or fifteen seconds. Now, try to jump in place. Most people simulating fear in this way are unable to even get off the floor!

If a dog already has physical limitations, a non-productive emotional state can make things even worse. In a relaxed, comfortable setting, a dog may be capable of compensating for any physical limitations, yet present jumping problems in more stressful situations. Dogs that are anxious or afraid or confused (and this may be caused by the situation or by the handler or both) are not going to be able to use their jumping knowledge or their bodies to the fullest degree. At the other end of the emotional spectrum, a dog who is wildly stimulated will also have a great deal of trouble using his body precisely or carefully.

The dog who is not relaxed and confident runs a higher risk of being injured. Tense muscles (whether due to irritation, injury or an emotional state) are more prone to tearing, and cannot function well. Try simply walking around your yard with tight fists, and you'll get a quick sense of how much even one seemingly unimportant group of muscles can affect your overall movement. That's just walking - it gets a lot more difficult for a dog who is afraid of strangely dressed judge or an impending thunderstorm or a handler who has become The Adrenaline Beast, complete with sweaty palms and tight muscles of her own!

Once you've identified or ruled out possible physical causes, the next step is to consider the mental

aspects - a lack of knowledge or an emotional state or a combination of both might be affecting the dog's jumping. Problems that arise due to a lack of knowledge (the dog simply doesn't know how to jump, or how to jump under those conditions) are handled by broadening the dog's understanding of jumping under many conditions, and through experience. Emotionally based jumping problems are revealed in shifts in the dog's emotional state; compare what you see when the dog is jumping without problems to what you observe when problems arise. As with any training situation, jumping difficulties need to be evaluated in the context in which they occur, since the situation itself usually offers some helpful clues as to the source of the problem.

When a dog tells you he doesn't think he can do something, believe him! Even if his body is capable, if his mind perceives this to be beyond his abilities, it IS. Back up as many steps as necessary to where the dog feels sure about what he can do; slowly work towards the point where the dog is a bit unsure but is still able to say, "I think I can." Success at that magical point results in a happy dog dance. "I knew I could! I knew I could!"

In the next article, we will look at a third possible cause for jumping problems - mechanical ones such as footing, lighting, and distances before, between and after jumps.

Obedience & Rally Matches

2nd Saturday of each month

Monthly obedience/rally matches held at Louise Park, Van Nuys, S/E corner of Louise Ave./ Sherman Way, west of Balboa. Nested courses: novice, advanced, excellent. \$5.00 per run or 3 runs for \$12.00. Entries at 9:00 a.m. Judging at 10 a.m.

Dog Training Equipment for Sale

Laurie offers a variety of training equipment: Handmade leashes, armband holders, PVC training boxes, ring posts, canine T-shirts and more!

Call Laurie at (818) 784-8440 or

email bellaluna@pacbell.net

www.poochabilitydogtraining.com





AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

American Kennel Club Celebrates Owner/Handlers in the Sport with New Series

More than 80% of the dogs being exhibited in the show ring today are family dogs shown by their owners. To celebrate the dedication and enthusiasm of these exhibitors, the American Kennel Club has created a new AKC Owner/Handler Series, a non-titling competition that will showcase owner handled dogs at shows across the country.

“We’re pleased to offer this special competition to celebrate AKC’s owner/handlers, who are the core of our dog sport,” said Robin Stansell, AKC’s Vice President of Event Operations. “We look forward to great competition in 2012 as the AKC Owner/Handler Series visits dog shows all over the country.”

The top-ranked dogs from the AKC Owner/Handler Series will be posted on www.akc.org and the top 10 owner-handled dogs of each breed and variety will be invited to compete at an “end of year” competition show. Rankings of the dogs competing in the series will be compiled based on the Best of Breed, Group and Best in Show placements in this specific series competition.

The first shows offering the AKC Owner/Handler Series are these January/February events:

Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon – Saturday, January 21, 2012

Oakland County Kennel Club – Saturday, January 21, 2012

Sahuaro State Kennel Club – Saturday, February 4, 2012

Colorado Kennel Club – Sunday, February 19, 2012

International Kennel Club of Chicago – Sunday, February 26, 2012

The AKC Owner/Handler competition will be conducted following Best of Breed judging in each breed ring. All dogs in the BOB competition (including WD & WB) will stay in the ring after the judge makes their placements in BOB competition. The ring steward will ask all professional handlers to leave the ring and then the judge will then select the Best Owner Handler (BOH). The dog and its owner will continue to accrue points for any group placements or Bests in Show.

Dogs owned or exhibited by professional handlers are not eligible for this competition. Professional handlers are defined as any person who belongs or has belonged to a professional handlers’ organization, distributed rate cards, or otherwise advertised or represented themselves as handling dogs for pay.

For more information about the series or to find upcoming shows where the AKC Owner/Handler Series will be offered, visit www.akc.org.

If you have questions about hosting these events, please contact the AKC Events department at (919) 816-3514 or glt@akc.org.

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Wicked-Weather Workouts

By Kathy Santos

Severe weather doesn't have to dampen your dog training!



Having lived in Florida and New Jersey, I've experienced training-hindering weather ranging from snowstorms to hurricanes to blistering heat to rain deluges that would thwart the plans of even the most diehard dog trainers. That's why I've come up with "Wicked Weather Workouts": training exercises that you can do indoors in small spaces. Whether you have a house or an apartment, and if the weather outside is frightful, you can still get your training done.

You might be thinking: I can't do this because I don't allow my dog in certain rooms of my house! The purpose of this is to utilize indoor space to accomplish your dog-training goals. Even if your dog isn't "allowed" in certain rooms, when you have practice sessions in them, your dog will begin to see those rooms as places that aren't for partying but for training. Think of how kids walk into their classrooms versus how they walk onto the playground.

Come!

Who needs a fenced-in yard or a field to train the come command? Not you. I'm not asking you to work the command from a sit-stay, which is probably the method you've used in the past. But when you practice come that way, you're teaching the dog: "First you sit, then you stay, then I'll call you to "come." That's good, but I imagine that if you're living anywhere outside of an obedience ring, you need your dog to come to you when he's doing anything but a sit-stay! This exercise will ensure that he's ready to show up when you call, no matter what he's doing.

Start with your dog on a leash and walk around your house. When he gets distracted, call him to come. After a time or two, your dog may get the hang of this exercise and stay close to you in anticipation of the fun of running to you. At that point, you must create your own distractions. How about tossing a treat or a toy ahead of you, and when your dog is moving toward it, call him? Ask a friend to ring the doorbell, and then call your dog. Take it one step further by calling him after the doorbell rings and someone walks in. You're holding the leash, so you can guarantee your dog's success. These are great exercises that not only work on your dog's response to the come command, but also teach your dog that even when an exciting event occurs—doorbell, door opening, food falling—you still expect your dog to respond to you.

Out-of-the-Blue Stays

In obedience class, dogs line up, they sit, their owners formally tell their dog to stay, and everyone walks away. But when was the last time your dog was already sitting when you had an unexpected need for a stay? Was it the time you broke a glass? How about when you opened the refrigerator and the orange juice fell on the floor? That's where out-of-the-blue stays come in handy. You're going to teach your dog that stays can occur at any time. Because we start this exercise on leash, you'll have all of the training benefits without any of the drama.

Start by making a list of all the distractions you need to train for, and the rooms you'd like to train in. A short list for a kitchen might look like this:

- Dog diving into the dishwasher when it's opened
- Dog rushing toward a dropped object
- Dog staying while you set or clear the table

Once you have a list, set up a plan. If I were working on "rushing toward a dropped object," I would probably come up with a few things to drop. One of my favorites is to use an empty vitamin bottle with a few pieces of dog food inside (to mimic the sound of pills). With the dog on leash, drop the bottle and immediately ask for a sit-stay. Don't be discouraged if your dog's initial reaction is huh? or he rushes at the bottle. Calmly help your dog through the initial surprise of having to perform off the cuff. Remember, this is a completely different exercise than the choreographed sit-stay he's used to doing in dog class. After a few successful rounds of that distraction in one place, move somewhere else in your kitchen. (You might want to practice this exercise in a bathroom, too, if you have a cabinet with medicine in it.)

Soon you'll start to notice that your dog is able to perform sit-stay and recall immediately, no matter what the distractions are, which is exactly the reason you should do some of your training indoors. Even if the weather outside is not frightful.

Kathy Santos trains dogs for home and competition. She is the author of *Kathy Santos's Dog Sense*.





Fun Stuff



off the mark by Mark Parisi
www.offthemark.com



We welcome and encourage members to submit articles, brags, scores and photos to publish in the VHOC Newsette. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity.

Send to Carole Hills, Editor, at cahills1@verizon.net

If you know of a member who would appreciate receiving correspondence, such as a get-well card, sympathy card, etc., please email Ann Hills, VHOC Corresponding Secretary, at tonkanuki@aol.com.

Submitted by Christy Tattersall



Tired of training outside? Preparing for that big, noisy, indoor show? Need to do some fine tuning in front of a big mirror? Come enjoy climate controlled comfort at the J9'sK9s Training Facility! Located in the west San Fernando Valley, at 21720 Sherman Way in Canoga Park, California. It's 1/2 block west of Owensmouth Street, upstairs from "C & C Pet Food". Our immaculate, carpeted facility with over 1600 square feet and a 35 feet of mirror is available for rent to individuals and their canine partners for \$10 an hour. We have competitive obedience equipment, baby gates, crates and some agility equipment too, just waiting for you and your dog to come and play with! Also available for pre-approved events and small groups at an additional cost. Call (818) 832-9906 for more information.



VHOC Newsette

Valley Hills Obedience Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 10132
Canoga Park, CA 91309



FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO:



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Publicity.....Christy Tattersall
Agility TrialKim Simons
Obedience TrialLaurie Burnam & Gwen Lucoff
TrainingL. Burnam, M. Cornell, K. Simons

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