



Newsette



WWW.VHOC.ORG

P.O. BOX 10132 CANOGA PARK, CALIFORNIA 91309

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Happy Valentine's Day



VHOC Training Classes

Obedience - Beginning Competitive - Thursday 6:30, Simi Valley

Obedience - Open / Utility Obedience—Thursday 7:45, Simi Valley

Instructor: Patti Rovtar, For more information, please contact Patti Rovtar at pattirovtar@gmail.com

PLEASE CHECK WITH OUR INSTUCTORS FOR NEW CLASS START DATES

VHOC Website— <https://www.vhoc.org/copy-of-group-classes>

Agility - Skills & Drills - Mondays 6:30 and 7:30, Reseda

Instructor: Olga Chaiko, For more information, please contact Ann at tonkanuki@aol.com

REMINDER

Remember to check the website <http://www.vhoc.org> for announcements, cancelled classes, upcoming events and other important club information.

If you know of a member who would appreciate receiving correspondence, such as a get-well card, sympathy card, etc., please email our Corresponding Secretary, Carole Hills, at chills37@aol.com

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Deborah Lang
Ann Hills

Newsette
Deborah Lang

Website Administrator
Jennifer Voogt

Got News?

*Do you have a brag? Did you get a new puppy? Is your dog celebrating a birthday?
Do you have other dog-related news, photos, articles, humor or upcoming events you'd like to share?*

*Do you have a canine product or service you'd like to promote?
Ads are only \$10.00 a month, or \$50.00 for an entire year.*

Email me for more information, or just send your stuff to:

Debbie Lang at
djang@sbcglobal.net

Submission deadline is the 8th of each month

This is YOUR Newsette...make it great!

Maintaining Dog Joint Health in Winter

By [Stacey Oke, DVM, MSc](#)

Updated: Feb 13, 2023 | 3 Minutes

Being a savvy pet owner, you spent your dog's entire life so far trying to be the best. Right from the start, you've worked with your veterinarian to ensure your [puppy's diet](#) was appropriate, [vaccines](#) were up-to-date, your dog was parasite-free, and more. Many owners have even offered nutritional supplements for maximum health, such as [multivitamins](#), [oral joint health products](#) (often containing glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate), and even [fish oil](#) containing omega-3 fatty acids for optimal skin/coat health and brain development.

Now years have passed, and your pup is no longer a spring chicken. Perhaps their vision and hearing aren't as sharp as they once were, coat quality isn't quite as lustrous, they sleep a bit more, or a few extra pounds have somehow crept up on them. As they age, do they still bound to the door, excited for a walk [whenever you get out the leash](#)? Or do they amble nimbly once the cold weather hits?

What can we do to help our dogs fight the cold and maintain mobility? Lots. Peruse this list and attempt to incorporate one, two, or all six ways to best the winter and keep your pet moving comfortably.

1. Have a veterinarian examine your dog at least once annually. Some dogs will need more [vet visits](#) than others. Twice a year might be necessary for older dogs, or dogs diagnosed with a specific condition such as [osteoarthritis](#), [hypothyroidism](#), or [Cushing's disease](#). A lot can change in your dog's health in a single year. These appointments provide the perfect opportunity to discuss diet, activity levels, medications, nutritional supplements, and more.

2. Manage weight to ensure appropriate body condition. Rather than worrying about exactly how much food your dog consumes daily or what the scale says, take a different approach. Can you [easily feel your dog's ribs](#)? When standing over your dog, looking down at them, can you observe the end of the rib cage and see a nice, tucked-in waistline? Considering the [obesity epidemic](#) facing domesticated dogs in America, the answer is likely "no" to both these questions. Either decrease the number of treats and amount of food offered or ask your veterinarian for diet options to facilitate weight loss. Every extra pound places unnecessary strain on joints.

Work with your veterinarian to make certain that your dog is at the appropriate weight and determine what diet is best for the dog. A dog's weight and diet should be determined by its age, breed, lifestyle, and health. It can sometimes be challenging for owners to accurately assess their own dog's proper weight, as they might not realize how much weight their dog has lost or gained because they see them every day.

3. Keep moving! Not only does [exercise](#) maintain musculing over joints to help stabilize the bones and associated soft tissues of the hips, shoulders, elbows, etc., but even low-level exercise can facilitate weight loss.

Try creating a [canine fitness plan](#). Be certain to introduce new activities slowly, and avoid being a "weekend warrior." Slow and steady wins the race. Always monitor your dog's response to exercise and be aware of the weather—use [sweaters](#) and [boots](#) to [protect them from the cold when necessary](#).



Maintaining Dog Joint Health in Winter—continued

4. **Consider massage or physical therapy to keep your dog comfortable.** [Swimming](#) is a great non-weight-bearing activity, especially on cold, windy winter days that are uninviting for [outdoor exercise](#). Look for a facility that has an indoor pool for canines, or ask your veterinary practitioner to recommend a [reliable massage therapist](#).
5. **If needed, use towels, ramps, and other aids.** Consider employing [aids to help your pet](#). [Pet ramps](#) or [dog stairs](#) can help your dog get up or enter/exit vehicles. Place carpets on slippery floors to avoid injury.
6. **Offer a quality oral joint health supplement.** These [supplements](#) can provide key ingredients required for maintaining joint health and exerting anti-inflammatory effects. Examples include glucosamine, chondroitin sulfate, and avocado-soybean unsaponifiables (ASU), among others.

Supplements should be given under the guidance of a veterinarian who is familiar with the product. The addition of any supplement, even “natural” or “herbal” products can be potentially harmful, especially if your pet is receiving other medications (e.g., to treat heart disease, seizures, gastrointestinal disorders, etc.). Choose supplements manufactured by reputable companies that follow pharmaceutical-grade quality assurance/control procedures and that rely on science to support their products rather than testimonials.

[Maintaining Dog Joint Health in Winter – American Kennel Club \(akc.org\)](#)

For Sale

For Sale

For Sale: Variocage Double (Small)

Dimensions: Telescoping Length: 28.74” to 38.97”, Width: 36.61”, Height 23.22”.

Gently used for about 5 years for two small dogs. Need to downsize for only one dog. Excellent condition with removable divider and 2 keys. Platform also available if needed. Original cost \$1,044, selling for \$750.



Variocage for Sale by Carole Hills.

Please contact Carole at chills37@aol.com for more information

Mixed or Purebred Puppy: Which is Better?

By PetMD Editorial on Apr. 13, 2011



There has been a longstanding argument amongst dog lovers and experts alike on the merits of a mixed-breed versus a purebred puppy. Some believe that there are many advantages to getting a mixed-breed for a pet, saying that a mixed-breed has a better disposition and can more easily adapt to its new home. And without a doubt, mixed-breeds are sold at lower prices compared to purebred dogs.

Of course, in some instances, the price of a mixed breed may be higher, depending on whether particular breeds were intentionally bred to produce a new breed (such as Puggles – Pug+Beagle), but in general, mixed breed dogs are sold for very reasonable costs. The best place to get a mixed-breed puppy is often an animal shelter, where the cost is mostly limited to the adoption, spay/neuter and vaccination fees, with the added benefit of knowing you have actually saved the life of a puppy.

A mixed-breed puppy often has the advantage of having a much lower chance of being born with inherited congenital diseases, since the mating process naturally leaves out the defective genes. This is a general truism.

However, there are many dog enthusiasts who disagree with mixed breeds being the best choice for a pet. Some believe that getting a mixed-breed puppy is a big risk because you cannot be entirely sure about the exact mix of breeds that have come before that puppy. For instance, it can be difficult to tell if the puppy will grow to be a small or large dog. The tiny puppy you adopted in the hopes that it would stay small or only grow to a medium build may grow into a huge dog that you are not capable of housing. There is a possibility that you will end up with a dog that is entirely unsuitable for you, but by the time you have found that out for yourself it is already too late.

For breeders of purebred puppies, they have the advantage of being able to tell prospective owners what they can expect in regards to size, behavior and health. Responsible breeders carefully match prospective breeding pairs based on temperament and physical conformity.

In some cases, a breeder will even go so far as to match their dogs according to their genetic test results, so that the pairing does not result in puppies getting potential disease causing genes from both parents. This increases the chances of your puppy growing into a healthy, intelligent and well-behaved dog. Some breeders will also include a guarantee of their puppies' long term health and temperament, in case an unknown genetic variable expresses itself later. (Not all breeders guarantee their puppies. It is important to inquire first and to get it in writing if this is important to you.)

Mixed or Purebred Puppy: Which is Better? - continued

On the flip side, there are many dog lovers who are devoted to mixed breed dogs. They feel that mixed breeds are much less likely to exhibit the results of interbreeding, such as temperament, intelligence and health issues. This is generally true, but being a mixed breed is not a guarantee of superior health. There are occasionally cases where a mixed breed puppy is born with the negative genetic traits of the breeds it is descended from.

Matching Personalities

With today's technology, you can easily do research on the behavior and physical traits of a specific breed you are interested in. By doing this, you will have a good idea of what to expect as your puppy grows up and better determine if it will be a good match for you. If your goal is to become a breeder, then selecting a purebred, and being very diligent in choosing the breeder you buy from will be the right choice for you. The same is true if you are looking for a dog that you can compete with or take part in certain activities, such as running or hiking. Whether you want a calm, laid back dog or a high energy dog, the decision can be made easier by looking for a particular breed with those qualities.

Finally, if you are simply looking for a companion, a pet that will be devoted to you, it will not matter whether you choose a purebred or a mixed breed dog. Breed alone does not determine the final outcome. In addition, if you want a dog for training and competition, these activities are not limited to purebred associations alone. There are various mixed breed organizations that specifically register dogs of mixed lineage for obedience and agility competitions.

Both mixed breeds and purebreds have their own advantages, but at the end of the day, how your puppy turns out will depend entirely on how you raise your puppy. The puppy will still need to be disciplined and trained in order to grow into an intelligent and well-trained dog. Immediate obedience training and proper health care are essential for a well balanced dog. With the firm and loving guidance of a committed owner, almost any kind of dog will grow into a reliable and loving companion.

https://www.petmd.com/dog/puppycenter/adoption/evr_dg_mixed_or_purebred_puppy_which_is_better

Tired of training outside?

*Preparing for that
big, noisy indoor show?*



*Need to do some fine-tuning
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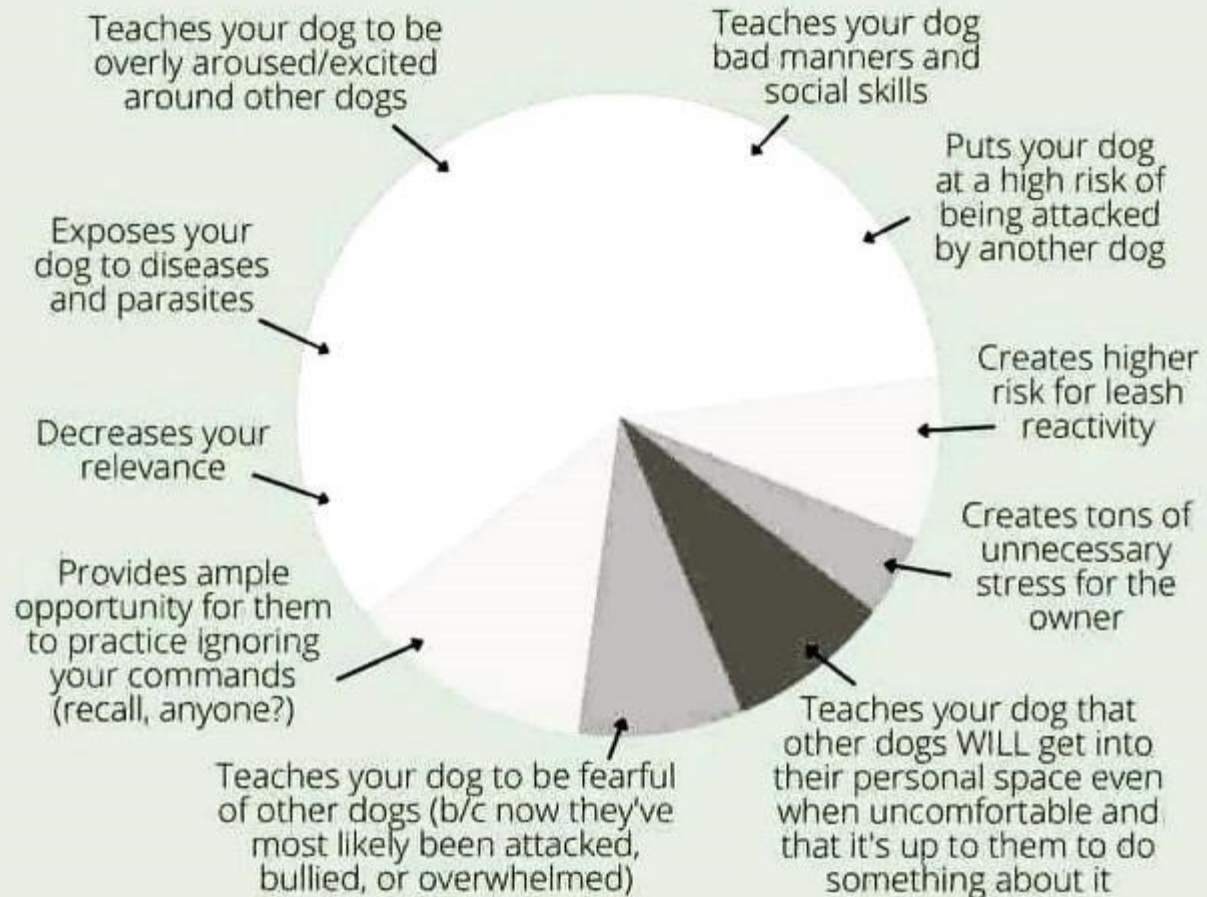
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WHAT TAKING YOUR DOG TO THE DOG PARK ACTUALLY DOES



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Veterinarians warn of hidden Valentine's Day dangers for pets

While the dangers chocolate and flowers can pose are well known, there are other risks pet owners should know about.

by [Justin Boggs](#) Posted: 11:16 a.m. EST Feb 13, 2024

With Valentine's Day coming up, there is a good chance you have items in your home that are dangerous for pets.

[The American Animal Hospital Association is warning](#) pet owners about the risk popular Valentine's Day gifts such as flowers and chocolate have on pets, especially dogs. The group says there is a rise in call volume to the Pet Poison Hotline around Valentine's Day each year.

The AAHA says chocolate and cocoa contain theobromine, which is dangerous for cats and dogs. Darker and more bitter chocolates tend to contain more of this chemical.

Pet owners also need to be extra wary of items dipped in chocolate, including raisins, espresso beans and macadamia nuts.

The group also warned about lilies that are often contained in Valentine Day's flower bouquets. While lilies generally aren't toxic to dogs, the petals, leaves and pollen contain a toxin that can cause acute kidney failure in cats. The group says the danger lilies pose depends on the type of lilies, as some may just cause an upset stomach.

The AAHA said potentially dangerous lilies include the Stargazer lily, Tiger lily, other Asiatic lilies, and some species of daylilies.

While the dangers of chocolate and flowers are widely known among pet owners, the AAHA says there are other household risks you might forget about. Items such as essential oils, massage oils and scented candles can be dangerous for dogs.

"In concentrated forms, depending on the type of essential oil, they can cause ulcerations and burns to the mouth and the esophagus," veterinarian Renee Schmid told the AAHA's publication Newstat.

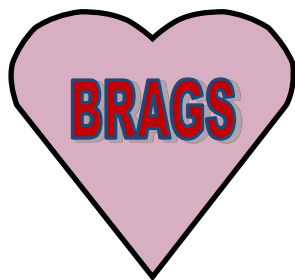
Another potential hazard comes from home-cooked meals. Items such as garlic and onion can pose a danger to pets. This is especially true for garlic and onion powders, which are more concentrated than fresh products.

"Both (garlic and onion) can cause hemolytic anemia, and lead to the destruction of red blood cells," Schmid said.

The AAHA also warned that Viagra is toxic for dogs and cats. The group says users of the drug should keep track of pills to ensure a pet doesn't swallow one.

"It can cause some significant changes in blood pressure and heart rate, as well as heart rhythm issues," Schmid said.

While Valentine's Day marks a busy time for pet poison hotlines, the busiest time of year is around Christmas, the AAHA said. [Veterinarians warn of hidden Valentine's Day dangers for pets \(scrippsnews.com\)](#)

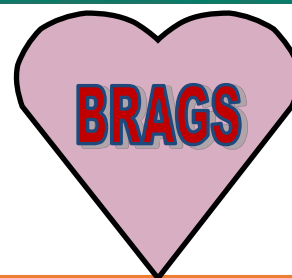


Congratulations to Tracy England and Flea

Tracy England and Flea

Devongem Chili Pepper, aka Flea, my black 4yr English Cocker Spaniel. and I have been chosen to represent the U.S. at the International Federation of Cynological Sports **(IFCS) World Agility Championship** in Bourgbarre, France April 30-May 5. There are 22 team members and Flea is one of 3 dogs that will jump 400mm (16”).





Jane Nye with Greyson and Henry

Huge Success at Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of Southern California Specialty

Very, very proud of my good boys at the CWCCSC Specialty obedience and rally trials in Ventura!

- Greyson (4 yrs old) won **High Combined Rally** and **High Triple Rally** with scores of 100, 96, and 96
- Henry (2 yrs old) won **Highest Scoring Dog in the Regular Obedience Classes** (Open A) with a score of 186.5
- Henry got **QQQ #8** in Rally and RACH points
- I won 6 raffle baskets!

Judge Gina Grissom ran a superb trial, under very difficult conditions (indoors, 1 ring steward, 3 surrounding breed rings with lots of cheering and hundreds of dogs).

I am overwhelmed with gratitude to my training partners, who endlessly encourage me, set up the practice rings, and push me to do better!

A special thanks to Shiro Torquato who coaches me (and even sent a reminder text the night before the show to remind me to connect with my dogs before going in the ring!).

CWCs owned and loved by Jane Nye





New Tracking TDX (Tracking Dog Excellent)

Cynthia Casby and Potter

Potter earned her **Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) title** at the Hollywood Dog Obedience Club (HDOC) tracking trial at Prado Regional Park in Chino Feb 4.

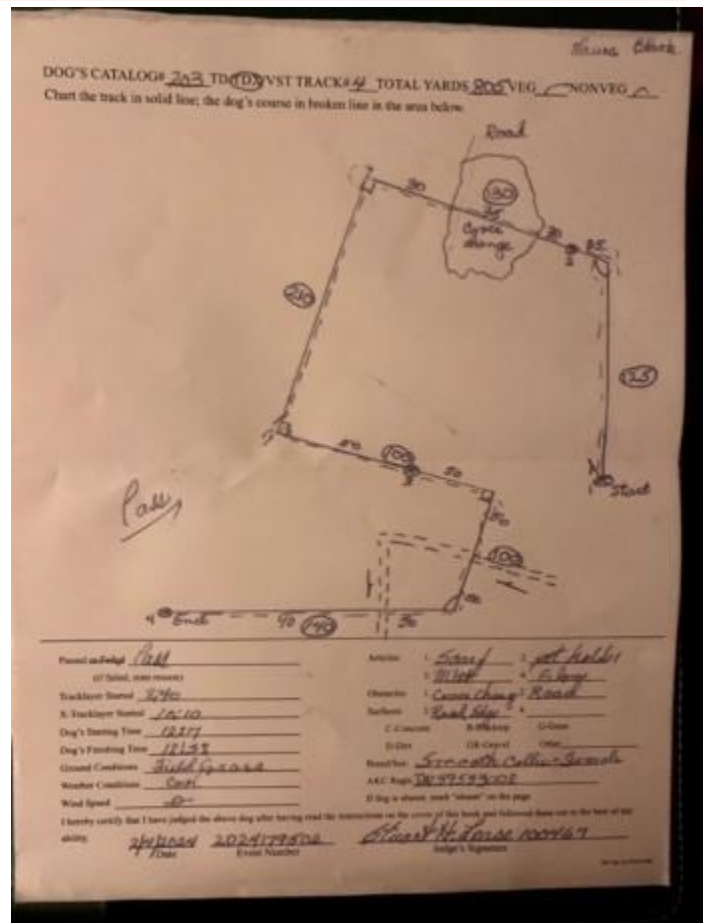
Our track, on the map below, was 805 yards completed in 21 minutes with 4 articles and two obstacles and two cross tracks. The dashed line shows how she was right on track the whole time, only circling on the corners to check directions. She was pretty much perfect and the judges were impressed.

This makes 2/3 of our goal. We still need to pass a VST (Variable Surface Tracking test) to earn her Champion Tracker (CT) title.

Potter is now:

CH Wild Wind's Magic Mischief Maker at Fireside VCD (CD TD NA NAJ) TDX BN RE HT FDC OA AXP OJP OFP CA BCAT RATO CGCU TKI CCA-VX CCA-MVC-Q 2017, 2021.

Here is our PASS picture with Potter and I, and our judges Pia Paulsen and Stuart Lease and our track layer





Robyn Zeldon and Lyric

Lyric **titled in Advanced Containers and Exteriors** at the SWCSGF Scentwork Trial on January 14, 2024.



Sharon Clarke and Dash

Dash and I attended the Vegas Valley Dog Obedience Club trial held February 9-11, 2024.

On Sunday Dash earned his **UDX 10!** (Yes, he qualified in both **Open and Utility 100 times!**)



Sharon Shilkoff and Summer

At 10 mos. of age, Woodland Hot Stuff "Summer" had quite a January and February. At the Southern California Sporting Dog Fanciers Specialty, Summer was **Best in Sweepstakes** and then went on to a **Sweepstakes Group 3**. She was off to Arizona the beginning of February, going RWB followed by going **WB/BOW for a 5 pt major** at the Lost Dutchman Kennel Club Shows. Many thanks to her handlers Megan Honari and Christian Rutten.

Summer is owned/bred by Sharon Shilkoff

<http://www.woodlandgr.com>



Wishing everyone a Happy Valentine's Day!

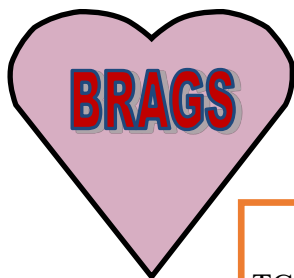
Monica Nolan and Augie

Augie January Agility Qs:

1/14 AKC - **Double Q!** (2nd & 3rd) in Masters JWW & Masters Standard

1/24 AKC - FAST (3rd) Only class to run that day!

1/27 ASCA - Elite Regulars 1&2 (3rd) and Elite Jumpers (2nd)



Laurie Burnam and Tesla

TCASWA ASCA Agility, Diamond Dogs, Chino, Ca

Feb 10/11 2024

Elite Regular 5Q 1st place

Elite Regular 5Q 2nd place

Elite Regular 5Q 2nd place



Debbie Lang with Morgan and Panda

Santa Clarita Valley Australian Shepherd Club—ASCA Agility Trial, Agua Dulce, CA:

Friday—1-26-24

Panda—Elite Vet—Qualifying in Jumpers Rounds 1 and 2, both 3rd place and a 5 pt Regular Q (2nd place)

Morgan—Qualifying in ACE Open Jumpers, 1st place and his **JSA-O Title**

Saturday— 1-27-24

Panda—Elite Vet—Qualifying in Jumpers Round 1 (1st place) and Round 2 (3rd place), Gamblers Round 2 (5th place), Regular Round 1 (10 pt Q 4th place) Regular Round 2 (5 point Q 4th place)

Morgan—Qualifying in ACE Novice Gamblers Round 2, 1st place—1st leg

Sunday—1-28-24

Panda—Elite Vet—Qualifying in Gamblers Round 1, 5th place

Morgan—Qualifying in ACE Novice Gamblers Rounds 1 and 2, both 1st place—**GSA-N Title**



Morgan photo by [Olga Maderych](#)

Debbie Lang with Morgan and Panda

Tri-County Australian Shepherd Working Association—ASCA Agility Trial, Chino, CA:

Saturday 2-10-23

Panda—Elite Vet—Qualifying in Gamblers, Jumpers Round 2 and a 5 pt Regular q

Morgan—ACE Std—Qualify for a 10 pt Q in Novice Regular

Sunday 2-11-24

Panda—Elite Vet—Qualifying in both rounds of Jumpers, a 5pt Q in Regular Rd 1 and a 10 pt Q in Regular Rd 2

Morgan—ACE Std—Qualifying for a 10 pt Q in Novice Regular—just 10 more points for the title.



Newsette



Happy Valentine's Day

