

Movers & Shakers

Portuguese Water Dog Club of the Carolinas

May 2010



President's Message

Well.....as hard as it is to believe, we made it through a very difficult – rain, snow, cold – winter for our region. Of course our four-legged friends did not seem to mind...many romping in the snow for the first time in their lives!

But now, once again, the sun shines and it is time to turn our thoughts to fun activities for our dogs and ourselves!

Tracking started in the Spring along with more outdoor walks, biking, shows and practices for obedience, agility and of course, water work (land training). Soon we will be lamenting the heat and heading to the water!

How fortunate we are to have dogs who do not allow us to be “couch potatoes”. It’s time to get off of our butts and try to keep up with “the kids”.

YES Spring has sprung....Let’s get out and enjoy it!



Tracking Workshop Held in March

The following Movers & Shakers: Linda Fowler w/Cosmo, Jill Flebotte w/Diva, Maggie Martin w/Oscar, Julie Asbed w/Corrie, Crystie Wetherholt w/Jack, and Patricia Tirrell w/Abby met on Sunday, March 28, 2010 for an intermediate tracking workshop.

The dogs really seem to enjoy the tracking game as food treats are dropped along the way to motivate them to stay on the human scent. The handlers are beginning to catch on to this different type of training as only the dog will eventually know where the human tracklayer has walked.

One team, Crystie w/ Jack is very close to being ready to be certified. (In order to enter a Tracking Dog test, a dog must be certified by an AKC judge that it is able to do a TD track.)

Louise Mowbray

Upcoming Events

- **May 11** - Board Meeting
- **June 12 & 13th** and **June 26th & 27th** - Water Training 2010 at Flebotte Pond
- **July 6** -Board Meeting
- **July 15-19** - **Southern Splash- Lake Montague**
- **July 16** - 3rd Qtr M&S General Membership meeting
- **Sept 11** – PWD Picnic & Special Events – Creedmoor NC

M&S 2010 Board

- **President** – Linda Fowler
- **Vice-President** – Connie Rego
- **Secretary** – Sandy Christie
- **Treasurer** – Jean Isaacson

Board Members

- **Lou Guthrie**
- **Pam Cuda**
- **Clint Eastham**
- **Marlene Nicewander**
- **Jill Flebotte**

AKC defines tracking as "a vigorous, noncompetitive, outdoor sport" and that is what I love about it. Working with my dog in fields, woods, and now even urban settings; teaching him/her to solve different scent problems, and learning how to work as a team is the kind of challenge I enjoy and think most PWD owners would as well.

AKC offers three different levels of tracking. The Tracking dog title (TD), the tracking Dog Excellent title (TDX) and the Variable Surface Tracking Dog title (VST). At this time the TD title is the first step and after that title has been earned the dog/handler team can chose to work on the TDX or VST.



To earn a TD title the dog must follow a track that is from 440 to 500 yards long, include three to five turns, and be from 30 minutes to two hours old. At the end of the track the dog must find a glove dropped by the track layer. To enter a Tracking Dog test a dog must be certified by an AKC judge; this means that the judge has observed the dog successfully complete a TD track and certifies that the dog is ready to enter. The reason for this certification is there are limited "spots" in Tracking tests. At this time there are only four TD tracking tests in North Carolina each year and none in South Carolina. Because there are so few "spots", clubs must have a random draw to determine which entered dogs get into a test. So for example we had 4 TD tracks in our Fall test, there were 10 entries. The trial secretary randomly selected the 4 dogs plus one alternate that got to run tracks in that test. On the day of the test those four dogs have another random draw to determine which track they will get that day. That is why we say there is a lot of luck to getting a tracking title on your dog.

Once your dog has its TD you can now work towards the TDX or VST. I actually start my young dogs both in fields and in urban environments so they are ready to go either way but I suspect most people chose to work on their TDX first. TDX tracks can go over much more

varied terrain including fields and woods, they can cross streams, roads, fences and must have at least two such obstacles on the track. A TDX track must be from 800 to 1000 yards long and be from three to five hours old. On two legs of the track, two other people walk across the track; these are called "cross tracks". There are a total of four articles on the track including one at the start and one at the end.. These "articles" will belong to the track layer and are made of fabric or leather and should be the size of a glove or wallet. My dogs have found assorted articles along their tracks including hats, socks, panty hose, belts, sunglass cases and even slippers or shoes. These are very challenging tracks, only a few the entries pass, and it is very difficult to get a spot in one of these tests. It took my Tripp two years to get into a TDX test.

Variable Surface Tracking has become popular as farm fields are being lost and there are fewer tracking fields. A VST test can be set up on a college campus or a business park where there is enough grass and hard surfaces to meet the criteria. Our club puts on a VST test by moving from one public school to another. These tracks are from 600 to 800 yards must have a minimum of three different surfaces including grass, concrete, asphalt, gravel, mulch, sand, etc. One third of the track must be devoid of vegetation. They are aged from 3-5 hours and there are 4 articles along the track. These articles can be no smaller than 2" x 4" or larger than 5" x 5" and there must be one metal, one fabric, one plastic, and one leather article. This gives dogs a new tracking challenge to find these different types of articles.

Once a dog has its TD, TDX, and VST they become a Tracking Champion (CT) and are eligible for the AKC Invitational Tracking Test. This is a 2 day event with from 5-6 dogs tracking each day. That means once again "luck" is important as there is a random draw to see who gets in this event. As you can see "luck" is an important part of getting a tracking title. Not only do you have to get into a test but the field you draw the day of the test plays an important role; the weather that day and the preceding days determine the tracking conditions, the experience and patience of the judges make a big difference.



**The MOVERS & SHAKERS PWDC
of the Carolinas would like to take
this opportunity to acknowledge the
generosity of our 2010 trophy
donation fund contributors:**

Minna Aronoff
Marcia Bingham
Kim Bockstege & Kathryn Robinson
Benita Bottom-Svitchan
Marietta & Andrew Castellano
Sandra Foster & Vincent Chianese
Sandy Christy
Pam Cuda
David & Gail Diehl
Clint, Judith & Ali Eastham
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Marlene & Ron Nicewander
Connie & David Rego
Lorna Robinson- & Daniel (Skip) Roush
Martha & Gary Stern
Ken Taft
Catherine Tinaglia
Vanessa Ward
Cristi & Bruce Wetherholt
Margaret White
Jerry Wolcoveick
Mary Ann Wyatt



Welcome Aboard to New Members:

Christine Bach of Cutler Bay FL with Magill
Fred and Margaret Burton of Sanford, NC, with Pesci
Karen Ewart of Hope Mills, NC, with Lucy
Judy Percival of Kiawah Island, SC, with DJ
Elizabeth and Patricia Volz, Colin Rogers of Darien, CT

We look forward to seeing you at activities and on the water.

– Jan Mosher

Deadline for Ordering Southern Splash T-Shirts is June 21.

This year there will be two T-shirt styles to choose from –one with dates and one without. Only style #2, without dates, will be available if you wait to buy your shirts at the trials. All shirts will be unisex sizing and are 100% cotton. A big thanks to Diane Browning for providing this year's artwork. The order form is attached to this newsletter.



Shirt # 1



Shirt # 2

Movers & Shakers at Work



We Have Brags!

Cathy Tinaglia's little black curly girl "Rory" won the major at our supported entry in Greenville, S.C. in February and went best of winners. That win finished her breed championship so she is now **CH Cutwater Apple Aurora, TD, NA, WWD, CGC** plus she is Delta Therapy dog, certified for the most complex environments. "She is an amazing little girl and I am very fortunate to be able to share my life with her."

From Lorna & Skip Roush: "It's official, our girl Tequi is now **CH Rough Seas' Tempestade Quieta**, a new Champion. It was her win on Sunday, February 21, at the Hendersonville Kennel Club show in Greenville, South Carolina that got her the final points that she needed. A big 'Thank You' to so many of our Movers & Shakers friends, for all of your help and encouragement. To be honest, we had so much to learn (and will continue to need to learn so much more) and you all make this fun."

From Marlene & Ron Nicewander: "**COVE'S END JUST ADD WATER** (Addy) won her Sweeps class and went Best of Opposite in Greenville. **COVES END BRISA DO MAR** (Brisa) traveled up from GA for the Raleigh show where she won her class on Sunday, followed by winning her class and Best of Opposite both days at the Newnan, GA show. Our Addy (**COVE'S END JUST ADD WATER**) went Reserve.

We also want to congratulate Dan and Jill Flebotte on **CH COVE'S END ST. ELMO'S FIRE** (Raz) for

finishing his Championship at 11 months."

Lou Guthrie learned that due to a water title omitted from the PWDCA 2009 water title report, the calculations for the 2009 Outstanding Breeder Achievement Award had to be redone, moving her from #4 to #3 overall. It is a testimony to Lou's quality breeding to be in the top 5. Way to go Lou!

We Got Puppies! (Big BRAG!)

Cove's End is pleased to announce that on Sunday, March 28th our Lucy (**CH EBB TIDE'S LOVE OF COVE'S END, RN,AWD,WWD,NA, NAJ**) whelped 12 wonderful black puppies. She has 7 girls and 5 boys. Additional pictures and more information are available at www.covesendpwds.com. **Diesel (PWD TIDEWATER HIGH WAVE RIDER, CH)** is the father. Many of you may have seen Diesel at the Greenville Supported Entry where he went Best of Breed in January. All pups and mom are doing well.



Send newsletter brags to jmwenk@jenniferwenk.com

The Events Coordinator Needs Your Help!

In order to plan events that would be of interest to the general membership, Connie Rego (connierego@earthlink.net) requests that members send her suggestions regarding the following:

1. What event would you like to see the M&S sponsor?
2. What audience to you anticipate capturing?
3. What geographic area do you think would reply to this?

Movers & Shakers Resource Guide

Lorna Roush reports that the Resource Guide needs more contributions. If you no longer have your Sunday, March 7 email, sent by Linda (which had the form for making a submission and other items included as attachments) you can find these sheets attached to this newsletter. Included are copies of the Information Sheet, instructions for filling it in and how to return it to Lorna.

You can also just email Lorna at: lulurob@bellsouth.net and she can email you the form as well. If email is not an option for you a phone call will work too. Lorna stated that most evenings she can be reached at home. Her number is: 843-851-2061

Waiting at the Bridge

BIS, CH. Ferncliff Waterbound Sprite,
CD, RN, CGC (Polly)
Margaret White

Deerpark Nicholas Schram (Schram)
Best friend ever
Pete Wenk

The Water Trial premium list is available on the website
<http://www.moversandshakers.org>

Letter to the Editor

Dear Movers and Shakers -

If you are considering water work this summer, it is time now to make plans to join the seminars and workshops offered in various locations this summer. The Flebotte pond located in Creedmoor, NC north of Raleigh will be open for practice two weekends in June. Julie Asbed with Hat Trick Chaos is holding seminars in May near Washington, NC. Judy Leather works in two venues, one just inside the Georgia border from SC and another just west of Athens, Ga. Judy is holding workshops and seminars throughout the summer leading up to the Southern Splash water trial (July) and the United Sunshine State Portuguese Water Dog Club water trial at Callaway Gardens in August.

Of all the performance venues, water work is my favorite. I believe water training has the hearts of my three dogs and it challenges them to be good dogs and competent dogs in an area where their genes guide them and the water is just downright fun. Besides, after water work, my dogs sleep like babies. The training for each of my dogs has been and will continue to be different. Each dog responds differently to the environment and my particularly training style. Therefore, the challenge for me for each dog has been very different. But, it has been so rewarding that even though I do have a Versatility dog, I am willing, although reluctantly, to make that 2 minute swim once again for my youngest. All of that training helps to develop the most important part of living with my dogs ---- relationship----. It gives me a head start for whatever other performance area I might want to do with them.

Standing on shore the other day watching someone exercise/train her dog, I was reminded by someone standing with me that "it takes a village". Those of us within earshot smiled knowing just how true that is. If you are considering water work with your PWD, then please accept our invitation to come and join us for workouts and training sessions. Please remember the trial which is July 17th and 18th at Lake Montague in Raleigh, NC.

Join us for all the work in preparing for the trial by getting your water team ready. Buy a t-shirt and be part of the 7th annual Southern Splash.

Jill Flebotte

CONTACT: call or email instructors to set up individual appointments in your area

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Judy Leather tjleather@windstream.net, 706-788-9734

(editor's note: Some of the activities recommended by Jill are not sponsored by the Movers & Shakers and may incur a registration fee)