

DIXIE RECALL

NDTC

February 2002

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, February 25 – February Member Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, March 2 and 3 – NDTC Show ‘n Go – 8 a.m.
Sunday, March 3 – NDTC TDX Test – The Hermitage
Monday, March 11 - Board Meeting
Monday, March 25 – March Member Meeting
Saturday and Sunday, March 30-31 – NDTC Obedience Trial – McGavock High School

AGILITY TRIAL A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

NDTC's first agility trial was a resounding success! Denise McClure reports that Terry Brown, the judge, had nothing but compliments for the facility and the smoothness with which the trial was run, even commenting that if he hadn't been told that this was our first trial, he never would have believe it! He shared his glowing observations with the AKC rep at the site. One reason a rep attended the trial was to look at the possibility of the grounds being an AKC National Agility Finals site at some time in the future. Apparently the rep loved the site, and the judge commented that we would be perfectly capable of hosting the nationals.

Not bad for a first attempt! Way to go agility committee, volunteers and participants! For more brags on individual stars, see the brags and an article written by Kip Kirby, the human half of NDTC's first MACH team!

NDTC OBEDIENCE TRIALS MARCH 30 AND 31!!!!

Our spring trial is rapidly approaching, and by now you should have contacted Ken Bell to let him know which rings you can steward in. You should also have contacted Laura Cass to provide information for your trophy donations. Lastly, you should have searched your closets and attics for unwanted baskets for donation to Rover Retail, our premier fund-raising event. Last year, Rover Retail netted \$800 and our goal this year is to hit the \$1000 mark. Your help will be needed for us to achieve this goal, both in donating and collecting items and by providing your help the weekend of the trial. Contact the owners of the establishments you frequent and ask them to donate items, gift certificates or services. Donate items yourself – magazine subscriptions, gift certificates, what would you like to be able to bid on? Help us make this the best year ever! OH, and you should have mailed your entry in to Deanna Levenhagen.

FEBRUARY MEETING MONDAY 2/25 7:00 PM:

Don't miss the February meeting! Debbi Martin has scheduled Sally McCanner to present our program at the meeting. Sally has been a puppy walker with the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc. since 1990 and serves as the Tennessee Area Coordinator. Sally enjoys working and training these dogs. She is presently training her 11th guide dog, Leon, who will also be at the February meeting. Sally is a member of the Nashville Dog Training Club and has assisted with Level I. The program promises to be of interest to anyone who works with dogs.

All instructors and assistants are asked to stay after the meeting for 15-20 minutes to meet with Pat Thorne and Bev Watson.

SHOW 'N GO SUCCESS! Our Feb. 10 Show "n Go netted over \$400, thanks to the hard work of all our volunteers. Please plan to volunteer at the **next Show "n Go on March 2 and 3** (plus get in a little training in the process!).

UPCOMING TRACKING EVENT!!!

The Spring TDX Test will be held on Sunday, March 3 at The Hermitage, The Home of Andrew Jackson. We had a total entry of 12 for only 6 available slots, so we're very pleased with the response from the tracking community. We will need help with hospitality for the Judges and tracklayers on Saturday, March 2, and for the Judges, participants, tracklayers and gallery on Sunday. This location is an excellent site to watch tracking dogs – if you'd like to learn more about tracking, please join us on either Saturday or Sunday.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We certainly started the year off with a big bang – namely, our debut agility trial held on February 2 and 3. The event was a complete success, and special thanks go to Jenny Cobb and her Agility Trial Committee for their outstanding planning, organization and flawless execution. Nothing but praise was heard from entrants and visitors, of which there were many, and AKC personnel. Quite a few of our members obtained qualifying legs and achieved titles, including one member who completed her MACH title (Master Agility Champion). Making this accomplishment even more impressive is the fact that this member obtained this title with her very first, Novice A dog. We've featured this story elsewhere in the Recall. We have reserved the AgCenter site for the corresponding weekend in 2003, but will be offering a 4 day trial.

We have ordered padding to go under the matting in the training building. The reason for this is so we can offer full height jumping for agility and obedience dogs. Thanks to the efforts of Don Lehr, we were able to collect enough donations that the padding is fully paid for. The names of all the donors will be listed on a plaque to be posted at the building, with a big "THANK YOU" at the top. Now, about the matting . . .!

Big thanks go to Paula Harris for taking over the Editorship of the Dixie Recall, as well as serving as the recipient for emails from the information link on the NDTC website. Please forward your news items directly to Paula by email at GRACEMOOR@aol.com, or leave them in her box at the training building by the 9th of each month. Denise McClure will be collecting our brags, so be sure to send them to her by the 5th of each month.

Don't forget to put all the exciting upcoming events on your calendar. You don't want to miss out on any of the fun!

PRESIDENT'S AWARD – 2001

By Claudia Dickerson, 2001 President

It was my honor and pleasure to award two President's Awards for 2001 at our January Club meeting. The first recipient was 2002 Club President, **Bev Watson**, who put forth Herculean efforts during 2001 on behalf of NDTC. She served on the Board as Vice President and in that role was responsible for the very successful and lucrative Judi Howard Seminar and for the excellent programs she produced earlier in the year at our Club meetings. As a member of the Board, she co-chaired the Yard Sale, wrote monthly articles for the Recall, and assisted in production of the Recall for much of the year. She also created the Club's marketing program, designed color brochures and coupons, developed a list of marketing targets, and distributed the marketing materials to these targets. The success of her marketing program is evident in the excellent class enrollment for January.

More important than any specific accomplishment as a Board member was the quality of her advice and her resourcefulness. I found Bev to be a critical source of ideas and counsel, helping me to discharge my duties as President.

In addition to all of these significant duties as a member of the Board, Bev made important contributions to each and every dog sport in which the Club participates. She is the life and breath of our tracking program. She has been responsible for organizing our TD and TDX tests, and she devotes approximately seven hours on-site PER LESSON to teaching ongoing tracking classes! Each student gets her individual attention.

Bev was one of the Board liaisons for the Club's new agility program throughout 2001. She was actively involved in researching locations for the trial, and she oversaw budget approval and was the general trouble-shooter for the myriad of issues involved in running the gauntlet for AKC approval, holding a sanctioned match, and preparing for our debut trials. In addition, she has been a strong proponent of expanding our agility class offerings and has devoted much attention to working out the logistics.

Bev is also a regular obedience class instructor. She has also earned quite a reputation for being an innovative and successful Rover Retail manager for our annual obedience trials.

In addition to her selfless devotion of time and effort during the past year, Bev has been a long-time member of the Club and made major contributions each year, including having served on the board in the past. She also found enough energy and inspiration to take on the 2002 presidency.

On behalf of NDTC, I would like to thank Bev for her ongoing devotion of exceptional effort and creativity to the Club. We have all benefited in so many ways.

The other recipient of the 2001 President's Award personifies the volunteer spirit to which every Club member can aspire. She never says "no", and she always brings grace and goodwill to whatever responsibility she accepts on behalf of the Club. She teaches classes regularly, stewards at matches, and has developed a reputation for delectable contributions to our obedience trial concessions. **Nola Simmons** serves as a role model for us all.

Thank you, Nola and Bev, for everything you have done for all of us and for the many students and dogs that have come to us this year

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING CLASSES

NOTE: To avoid confusion, we have reverted to the old class names Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4. Also, please note that puppy class is the most appropriate starting point for any young dog whose attention span has not yet matured. Even a nine-month-old of a large breed may do better in puppy kindergarten than in Level 1.

Puppy Kindergarten

Tuesday, March 12, 8pm
Wednesday, March 13, 8 pm
Thursday, March 14, 7 pm

Level 1

Tuesday, March 12, 7 pm
Wednesday, March 13, 10 am
Thursday, March 14, 7 pm

Level 2 (CGC)

Tuesday, March 12, 8 pm

Level 3

Tuesday, March 12, 8 pm

Level 4

Thursday, March 14, 8 pm

Heeling

Wednesdays, 7 pm, ongoing

Open

Tuesdays, 7 pm, ongoing
Call 565-7099 within two hours before class starts to confirm.

Utility

Thursdays, 7 pm, ongoing

Recreational Agility

Monday, April 8, 8 pm

Therapy Dog Training

Wednesday, April 10, 7 pm

Conformation

Mondays, 7 pm, ongoing

Tracking

Contact Bev Watson

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EARN FREE CLASSES!

Those who teach at least 16 weeks per year get free classes the entire calendar year plus free use of the NDTC building for that year. Assistants get 8 free weeks of class for every 8-week class they assist.

Sign up now to teach class and get your free year of benefits. As long as you make a firm commitment, you can start enjoying your benefits now. To volunteer to teach or assist, contact the following:

- Puppy Kindergarten – Beth Clark 370-3472
- Level 1 – Claudia Dickerson 790-9179
- Level 2 – Lee Kasten 370-3937 (We particularly need Level 2 volunteers!)
- Level 3 – Connie Womack 794-7752
- Level 4 – Jean Ervin 867-9047
- Therapy Dog – Ken Bell 876-1344
- Conformation – Cheryl Brown 646-3176
- Agility – Lynn James 371-8839

Voting members who meet the volunteer service and meeting attendance requirements will be eligible for half-price classes. Teachers and assistants are eligible for free classes, and teachers also get free use of the building. Teaching is heavily rewarded and appreciated because of its importance in public service and revenue generation for the Club.



Bev Watson's 10-year-old Australian Shepherd, Fair Wind's Blue Smudge, CD, TD, CGC, HIC (AHBA) can now add the TDX title (Tracking Dog Excellent) to his list of accomplishments. Bev and Smudge passed their TDX at the Classic City Kennel Club's test in Athens, GA on Sunday, February 10. Their track was 835 yards long, 3 hours and 10 minutes old, went through 2 big wooded areas and featured LOTS of cow patties along the way. Smudge found all four of the articles and completed the track in 15 minutes.

There was lots of good news from NDTC's Trial on February 2-3:

Janiece Harrison and Annie (Whiskey Creek's Annie Oakley) earned two AXJ legs (1st Place and 4th Place) and finished her AXJ. She also earned her second OA leg with a 2nd place finish.

Linda Hargett reports and she and Bonzai (Topiary Project Bonzai Dot Com CD OA OAJ) earned their first AX leg with a clean run and 1st place in Excellent A 24”!

Faye Head and her Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Good Golly Miss Molly XI, CDX, NA, NAJ, CGC, known as Molly, earned her NA and NAJ on Saturday, February 2nd at the NDTC Agility Trial. Molly took first place in novice standard and second place in novice jumpers with weaves on Saturday. On Sunday, 2/3/02, Molly placed third in novice standard.

Kip Kirby's sheltie **Soundbites of Sable Sunshine (Soundbite)**, **MX, MXJ**, became the first dog in NDTC history to earn the title of **MACH** (Master Agility Champion) on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2002 when she got her 20th double Q at the Club's first-ever AKC agility trial. (Good timing, Soundbite!) Showing under Judge Terry Brown at the Williamson County AgExpo Center, Kip and Soundbite ran three for four over the weekend, qualifying twice in Excellent Standard and once in Excellent JWW – which was all it took for MACH! See Kip's story in her own words on Page 5!

The same weekend, Kip's two newest shelties, **Legends High Velocity (Orbit)** and **Rain Dancer Jazzee Z (Gypsy)**, made their agility debuts. They each ran four for four, placing in every class and scoring two legs apiece in Novice B Standard and JWW. Orbit took three firsts and a second in his 12-inch division, while Gypsy got a first, a second, a third, and a fourth in her 16-inch class.

Janiece Harrison and Annie (Whiskey Creek's Annie Oakley) showed their teamwork and versatility by passing their tracking certification on Sunday, February 17, under the observation of AKC TDX judge Jane Kline. The tracking certification is required for entry into an AKC tracking test. The track was 440 yards long, and they breezed through in 5 minutes! Way to go, girls! BEAGLE POWER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



NDTC member Kip Kirby completed her MACH title at the NDTC trial held February 2-3 at the new AgExpo Center in Franklin. Kip reveals here how she took her Novice A dog to this title:

SOUNDBITE'S STORY From Novice A To MACH

By Kip Kirby

I first met Soundbite through a newspaper ad. "Miniature Lassies...adorable sable pups," the ad read. On the drive to Manchester, TN, I couldn't contain my excitement. I had never owned a dog before, let alone trained one, but I'd always wanted a Sheltie, and in a moment of weakness, Todd (my songwriter husband) had agreed to buy one as a birthday present for me. When we arrived, we found that Soundbite's "breeder" was an 18-wheeler truck driver who had decided to join her husband on the road full-time. Talk about "backyard beginnings".....

At 10 weeks of age, Soundbite was stepped on by a neighbor's Great Dane, who broke her back leg. I was devastated. Dr. Dave Edwards at Belle Meade Animal Hospital set the leg and told me if it healed correctly, it would actually be stronger than before. That sounded very odd to me at the time. Looking back now, of course, it's obvious he was right.

Having never had another dog before, I had no training experience to draw from. So I turned to NDTC. Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 – we enjoyed each new stage of our training together, though I sensed early on that Bite probably wasn't a candidate for ring glory in obedience. Then one day, we heard about a "Fun Day in the Park" sponsored by the Sheltie Club. They had agility equipment set up for people to take their dogs over. Soundbite was thrilled. The dogwalk, the A-frame, even the seesaw presented no problems whatsoever for her. Someone commented, "Your dog sure does seem to like this. Have you considered agility training?"

That's how it all began. We took beginning agility classes at Sandra Edson's, as well as private and group lessons from Jane Mohr. I bought every book, read every article I could find. We signed up for agility seminars. Weave poles and hurdles cropped up in our back yard. There were jumps and tunnels everywhere. Before I knew it, agility became a passion, not a hobby, and the next step was competition.

Soundbite and I stepped into the ring to compete for the first time in April 1998 at Perry GA. Bite took second in her debut run and finished her Novice Standard and JWW titles in that four-day weekend. From there, it's been one amazing accomplishment after another. Even last summer, when Soundbite became noticeably ill and we were running extensive tests on her, she still managed to qualify and do her very best for me. It wasn't until last November when she finally got a clean bill of health that I found out from the AKC how close she was to MACH.

Today, as a certified agility instructor, it's my job to help others discover their dogs' talents. I hope that our experience might serve as inspiration for anyone who dreams of success in the agility ring. This dog has taken me on a journey that I might never otherwise have discovered, to places I would never otherwise have seen, and introduced me to people I would never otherwise have known. I doubt that I'll ever have a more devoted or loving teammate than Soundbites of Sable Sunshine, my joyful partner, a dog whose eagerness to please will always characterize her performance in agility and in life. I'm very proud and honored that Soundbite is NDTC's first MACH!

Note from Your Editor and Membership Chair

A heartfelt “thank you” to everyone for submitting your brags, announcements, and articles to me in such a timely manner. Please bear with me while I get the hang of working with yet another version of Word and as we work through the bugs while emailing. Any comments, suggestions and, better yet, materials for submission are always welcome! We’ll have a more exciting format next month, I promise – and one that will hopefully open on everyone’s machine!

Also – please keep your addresses (email or snail mail) current with Denise McClure. She asked me to announce that as of the end of February, anyone with an email address that ended in “home.com” will have that address changed to “comcast.net.” She will forward any other changes to keep the list current. Many thanks to Denise!

Pat Lacroix is selling her “In the Picture” electronic device for a video camera. This “electronic eye” attaches to a moving object so that the camera can follow it around. A tripod is needed on the camera. The price Pat is asking is \$100. Contact Pat at 889-4163 if you’re interested.

Mary Stevenson is currently “hosting” a litter of healthy, well-socialized, sweet puppies that “appeared” on her farm last weekend. They have been introduced to agility equipment and, according to Mary, are “very food motivated.” If you know of anyone that could give one of these guys a good home, contact Mary at 746-9881!

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS!

Feeling down? Got the mid-winter blahs? NDTC has unlimited opportunities for you to volunteer your time, talents and expertise and generally start feeling better!

Obedience Trial Chair for 2003 — Get a head start on your volunteering for next year and receive “on the job training” working with Connie this year! We have a reputation in the obedience community for putting on a fabulous trial – help the tradition continue!

Teachers — These classes are a main source of revenue for our club and are a chance to really make a difference in a dog/owner relationship.

Obedience Trial Helpers — Not ready to show yet? Come steward and learn the ring routine! Donate or solicit items for Rover Retail! Sponsor a trophy for your breed or in honor or memory of a special dog! Help with concessions! Help with set up and tear down the rings!

Let’s face it – the opportunities are endless! Come and join in!

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Published monthly by the Nashville Dog Training Club, 413 Allied Drive, Nashville, TN 37209

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Contributions and suggestions welcome. All articles and information, and updates must be received by the Editor no later than the 9th day of each month to be published in that month's newsletter. All Brags must be received by the Historian no later than the 5th day of each month to be published in that month's newsletter.

NDTC Board of Directors

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Nashville Dog Training Club is an American Kennel Club-licensed dog club dedicated to encouraging responsible dog ownership and the conscientious training of dogs. Training classes for puppies through adult dogs are offered Monday through Thursday evenings. The Club sponsors AKC-sanctioned events such as obedience and tracking trials, and a range of activities, including Canine Good Citizenship tests, recreational agility, Show'N'Go's, and workshops. Visit <http://www.nashvilledog.com> for updates, photos, and class registration forms.

THE DIXIE RECALL

Newsletter for the Nashville Dog Training Club (NDTC)

c/o Paula Harris
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Franklin, TN 37069-7074

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

THE FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25!