



The Wag

Paws 2 Dance Newsletter

Volume 1 July, 2007

About the Newsletter

The Wag will hopefully be sent out once in the summer and once in the winter with the intention of acquainting members with each other and of keeping all of us up-to-date on what's going on in this weird world of musical freestyle and canine dressage.

Please send any reports and photos on demos, competitions, and socials as well as anything else you'd like to share. We especially would like to hear from the Island and US members.

New Facility

Ray has moved his business to a new facility - a barn - off Highway 15. While a little rough now, it has the potential to be a super site and leasers, Brian and Julia, are working fast and furious to make the necessary improvements.

The training floor is a full 30' by 60' with no posts. Outside that there is plenty of space for sitting or crating.

During the heat wave members were sure glad to be in the barn with breezes running through rather than in the former training hall which heated up pretty quickly.

Once the changes are made, this would be the perfect spot for fun matches and even the spring competition.

Bulletin Board

Once the barn walls are refinished and painted, we will be putting up the Paws 2 Dance bulletin board. We invite everyone who has attained a title to send us photos to put up. If you don't want to send a real photo, send a photo-copy (8 x 10 is the average size).

Through a misunderstanding, we were remiss in the past about including all competitors in the "brag" board. Apologies.

"Flash" update

All Paws 2 Dance freestyle competitors are eligible to win the "Flash" award for highest technical mark. There has been some confusion about this. We'll iron out details at the next meeting.

Billeting

To help out-of-towners offset expenses when competing in the spring competition, the exec thought it would be a good idea to make a list of locals willing to billet guests. So far we have five spots.

If you are able to host someone (or even provide driveway space for a camper or trailer) let Annette know and we will publish a list in the next newsletter.

Round and About

Arlington: Several members recently competed in Arlington. Kathie from the island is happy to report that she and her dog Helen picked up their beginner's title. Annette and Odie picked up a first and a second in the Novice division en route to attaining their Novice title. Judy and her sheltie picked up their first leg in Beginners Freestyle. Carolyn and Promise picked up their second leg in Novice Heelwork (Carolyn was awarded the Spirit of Freestyle Award). Kris and Ginger attained their Novice Freestyle title. Shelley titled in MF Intermediate heelwork to Music Beginner. Joan and Yukon titled in Heelwork to Music B. Corinne and Genevieve achieved a leg in MF Intermediate, a title in Beginners MF, and an award for most enthusiastic team. Corinne and Toby (12 1/2) picked up a leg in Advanced Handy Dandy, and the Griz Award in memory of Lori McKenna's Griz who left us last year. Corinne, Toby, and Genevieve got a leg in Novice Brace.

New Dogs

Congratulations to Joan on her new dog, Bandit, a Pomeranian Cross who is giving Sultan something new to think about; and to Marilyn on her new Portuguese Water Dog, Chaps, who is giving Blitzen a headache.



Dates

Friday, August 10th: Video night at Gail's, featuring Sandra Davis training videos. Bring an appetizer. Start: 7 pm. Gail's address is 7325 146th. Telephone: 604-501-1807.

Sunday, August 26, noon: Demo in Redmond. Let Carolyn know if you can perform.

Saturday, September 9, 9:30 am: Surrey SPCA walk Demo. Let Vickie know if you can make it.

Saturday, September 15: Paws 2 Dance meeting. Start: 2:30. Location TBA. Let Gail know any items you wish to see on agenda. pepsi@bcfirst.com

October 21: Boot Scootin' Boogie, Arlington. More info on web site: "Future Competitions."

October 27: Lower Mainland Dog Fancier's Demo at the TradeX.

Saturday, March 29: Fun Match, Cloverdale.

Saturday, April 26: Prancing Paws, Cloverdale.

BBQ

Annette opened up her property for a club barbeque early in July. Seventeen dogs showed up and enjoyed the pond, the llamas, and for some, flirting with the other dogs.

Reportedly, the dogs all slept well that night.



Note the llamas in the background checking out the new herd.

So, what could possibly go wrong?

Earlier this year I asked for people to send me anecdotes about things that have gone wrong during performances. Thanks for the replies. I used most of them in my babble during the Prancing Paws competition. You know what I mean . . . forgetting key props for routines, bringing the wrong music, costume malfunctions, the change tent blowing over while someone is changing, the outdoor carpet in Whistler zapping the dogs every time they rolled.

Since then, we have had a few more things go wrong: in Linden, a CD player ate one CD. A couple guys armed with screwdrivers and pliers tried to find it but to no avail. Fortunately, Vickie had a back-up player. Lesson: *always have back-up CDs and players.*

However, the best story comes from Gail. Although it has nothing to do with freestyle or dressage, we can all learn lessons from this "foul up." Gail writes:

One of my most devastating experiences happened when I handled Jazz in confirmation for the first time. I took great care in picking out what I was going to wear. I had been told that the handler's appearance was very important. I bought a blouse, suit jacket, skirt, black leotards and flat shoes. I was all set.

The day of the confirmation trial arrived and I was ready. I put on all my new clothes and looked into the mirror. I thought I looked fairly smart.

Our turn in the ring finally arrived and I was feeling quite nervous even if I did look spiffy. The judge told us to run around the ring and come back to him. Off we went. It didn't take too many steps for me to realize that my flat shoes were not meant for running. I felt as though I was going to run right out of them. In order for them to stay on I had to curl my toes up with each step. I was pleased when I made it back to the judge with my shoes still attached to my feet.

The judge then said, "Around again." So with toes curled, off we went again. We barely started running the second time when I realized I had another problem. I was starting to lose my leotards. With each step they crept down my



legs. Finally I made it back to the judge with the crotch half way down my thighs. This did not matter too much since no one could see that because my skirt covered the problem.

I thought I had made it through the hardest part when the judge said, "Down and back."

"Oh my! Can I do it?????" I thought. So I curled my toes, held the leash in the left hand and clenched the bottom of my jacket with my right and off we went. This was working fairly well. Since the top of the leotards was at the top of my thighs, I was able to keep them from falling down any further by clenching through all the layers of clothing right to the waist band.

We were going to make it. I got to the far corner and started back only to feel a jolt at the end of the leash. I stopped running and turned to see Jazz squatting in the middle of the ring. There was nothing I could do but wait until he had finished pooping. The judge then told me to run back to him. When we got back to him he leaned down to do his inspection. Jazz then jumped up and licked him in the face. The judge did not look too pleased.

It is funny, I don't remember how Jazz did in this trial or any of the judge's remarks. I did learn a valuable lesson though: *always have a dress rehearsal.*

HELP!!!

Denise Palmer set up a *Word* data-base title-tracking system for our members that is – apparently – straight-forward. Well, being the techno phobe that I am, I took one look at it and had a panic attack. So, I figure what we need is someone with a little computer savvy. Twice a year (after our two main events) the data needs to be inputted (sp?) and sent to Nick who will put it on our website. Any takers?

WHO'S WHO?

The WAG will feature two or three members each edition. We're going to start with three members who have made huge contributions to the sport.

Marilyn Knipp

Marilyn, Treasurer of Paws 2 Dance, and holder of an Advanced Musical Freestyle title, lives on a house that floats in the Fraser River and enjoys being around dogs and kids.



Marilyn was born in Kansas. One of her worst memories was being terrified of dogs. She didn't want to go to school if she saw a dog in the school yard. Her parents, in all of their wisdom, acquired a puppy (brown, crossed with every breed known) whom they named "Twinkie." She became the love of Marilyn's life. From Kansas Marilyn lived in Oklahoma, Illinois, and Washington then settled in Seattle with a Golden Retriever for lots of years. Her career was Medical Technology, working in hospital labs and finally selling lab services over the 7 north-western states.

It was a great leap from that to being a minister for the last 25 years. Marilyn was with churches in Los Angeles, Michigan, Seattle and Vancouver. She is now thoroughly Canadian and does weddings, memorial services and christenings to support her dog habit.

After sharing life for 13 years with a cocker spaniel, Marilyn remembered a Portuguese

Water Dog belonging to a friend. He was wonderful. It took a while, but she found Blitzen 8 1/2 yrs ago....the first registered dog she'd had. He was so energetic she knew she had to do something and happened on Julia Byrne's Mom, Jackie, for agility. Jackie recommended some obedience and sent them to Ray. At Ray's Marilyn found a flyer for a Freestyle competition and had to check it out because she thought it was so funny. Marilyn writes: "Well, what can I say....that was 5 or 6 years ago and we're still at it. And now I have Chaps (4 months old) in the wings. He doesn't know what he's in for."

Marilyn's goal with freestyle is to keep herself fit and do something wonderful with Blitzen. "I love to tell people that I dance with my dog and watch their reaction. I'm really proud and grateful for what Blitzen and I have accomplished. Every routine we've done has taught me something new and I usually listen to Ray's advice about what he thinks will be good for our next step when choosing music. There's so much more I want to learn about dog training and dancing."

Carolyn Money

How does she do it? Besides training her dogs, Carolyn manages to cohost (with Pat Moore) a superb Boot Scootin' Boogie event each year as well as numerous WCFO events and seminars. She also maintains the Emerald City web page, does dog therapy work, and spoils her two grandsons, Nicholas and Tyler.

Born in a little farming community in Mississippi, Carolyn travelled extensively with her family in the US and Europe as her father was in the army. After graduating from highschool in Colorado, she moved back to Mississippi and then to Nashville where she studied drama at Lipscomb University.

Wanting to be an actress, she set out for California. When an acting career eluded her, she taught school for three years while participating in every little theater production she could find.

In 1966 she met her future husband, Jim, and is now celebrating 40 years of marriage. With her pilot husband, Carolyn lived in several places including Hong Kong, Germany, Mexico and L.A. before moving to Washington. Not only did Carolyn coach her two sons in soccer as they were growing up, but she played soccer for twenty years, and still manages a tournament team in San Diego.

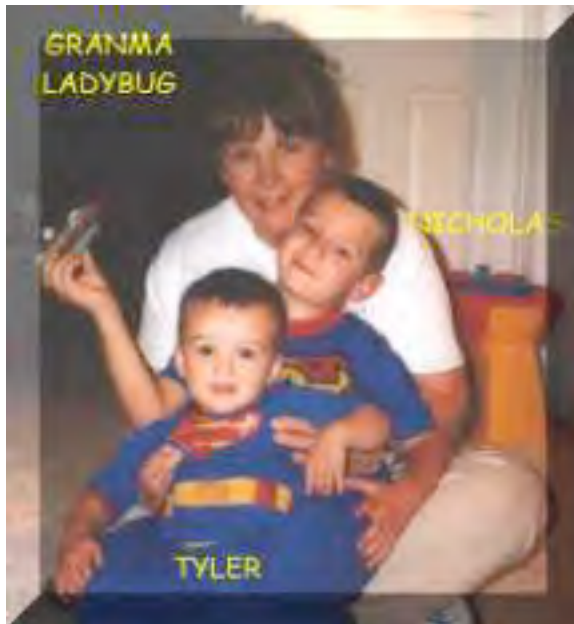
Once settled in Sequim, Carolyn and Jim raised a Golden Retriever puppy, Lady Bug, and have adopted two grown goldens – Promise and Sunny.

In 2000, she discovered freestyle. Carolyn writes:

When I first heard about Freestyle (dancing with your dog) I was fascinated and tried to find out all I could about it. I saw a demo at the Pupperoni Western Obedience Championship and joined MCSI that day as they had a booth there. I bought their tape and saw Ray and Shannon for the first time, never dreaming I would eventually meet them.

Freestyle has been a little hard for me because I am more of a Pet Owner and not a Dog Trainer. Dropping the lure has been my hardest thing to learn. I loved learning with Lady Bug and having Promise join our household already trained in Obedience was a joy. Sunny is a challenge because she would rather be out chasing her ball. I do love the sport though and find it the hardest of all the performance ones. Keeping focus on what you are doing, what the dog is doing and time it all to music is definitely not easy for me to do. I will keep trying, though, until we get it or die trying.

It has been great being a member of P2D for the past seven years and meeting all the wonderful members and seeing a part of the world I would never have seen otherwise. I hope the sport only continues to grow over the years."



Glenda Gentleman

I'm a typical Alberta 'prairie chicken' -born in Edmonton, raised in Calgary and Lethbridge. Got an early start in the Recreation world, being trained as a teenage leader for community recreation in Centers and Playgrounds. This led to my becoming a Group Social Worker (acquired my degrees at UBC) which allowed me to gain employment in a wide variety of BC settings: YWCA, GF Strong Rehab Center, UBC faculty, and finally as North Island's Administrator for the government -developing services for the Elderly and Handicapped (both at home and in the community) Though many of the positions quickly became administrative, I always maintained a few opportunities to enjoy 'line' positions which offered me use of my Social Work skills with a wide range of age groups as individuals or in groups.

Retired in 1994 to accommodate increasing Arthritic limitations (related to my spine). Had a hip replacement 13 yrs ago and alas, am working on getting another one (or two) within the next few years. Currently seem busier than ever, enjoying life and the company of both two and four legged companions.

Days melt away with my involvement in multiple Celtic Club interest groups, the Hard of Hearing public relation activities and numerous dog oriented programs. When mobility limitations call for quiet times, I enjoy a wide variety of creative handicrafts and my life long love of reading. (Favourites currently are cross stitch, historic novels, and detective stories). Increasingly odd hours in the day (and night!) are being devoted to Genealogical pursuits

My family at this time consists of my 4 companions: Kaitlyn (a 13yr old Sheltie)-happily aging in the company of the three Yorkies : Joni (now 7) and her sons Dylan (age 4) and Jakie (will be 2 in November). We live Royston, part of the Comox Valley, half way up Vancouver Island, enjoying our own home with 1/3 of an acre in which we play and garden.

My love of dog companions has existed for my 'seven decades plus a year or two'. Initially I had to 'make do' with 'borrowing dogs from neighbouring families. At last old enough to afford my first -a Chihuahua- I soon decided that this 'easy care', city oriented breed was for me the best choice. This remained so for the next 22

years.

My move to Vancouver Island and a more rural lifestyle, allowed me to develop my long standing passion for Shelties. They totally fulfilled my expectations (and remain my 'preferred breed'). We 'lived' together in every sense of the word as we went everywhere and did everything together. I think that the Laddie, Jordie, Becky and Kaitlyn became as well known in Upper Island as the government program I was introducing to remote communities.

My shift to the dear little Yorkies relates primarily to recognition of my own decreasing mobility and increasing

physical limitations. Former enjoyment of long walks in wilderness settings may now be out of the picture but no way am I allowed to become a couch potatoe. A range of Dog Sport opportunities are now an option, so we happily anticipate continuing in Obedience, Freestyle/maybe Dressage and Agility as long as I remain physically able. We probably will never achieve high level competency, my limitations more than the dogs, but are having great fun acquiring what we can, and meeting wonderful people along the way.

I'm fortunate to be part of "Wee Paws for Applause" - a group of four ladies with small dogs, all of whom enjoy sharing the pleasure small dogs can offer, to people of all ages. We offer demos in a range of community settings to schools, care facilities, service clubs or

other small interest groups plus performing at community events like fairs, market days or special days put on by the Recreation programs, the SPCA or Vet clinics. Together we offer each other companionship and support in developing new skills and expanding interests in what our dogs can do. Freestyle provides a marvelous outlet for each dog to develop and show off individuality. We consistently are challenged to find the right music, and develop new routines to meet the changing needs of ourselves and our dogs. Obviously a lifelong pursuit.

