

The WAG

January 2014 Volume 16

Remembering George
Dec. 1, 2001 - July 21, 2013

Calendar of Events

Competitions:
- **Prancing Paws - April 5 Cloverdale**
- **WCFO - April 26th, 27th, Arlington**
- **Island Fling - June 22nd, Nanaimo**
- **BSB - September 6th, 2014**

Fun Matches:
- **Island, March 29th, Nanoose Bay**

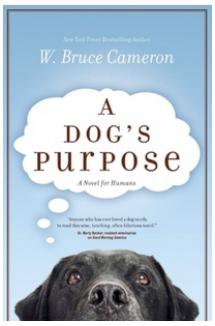
Workshops:
- **Debbie Decker - March 1st and 2nd**

Show Case:
- **May 17th, Fort Langley**

Demos:
- **Poochapalooza: July 12, Marysville**
- **Bark in the Park: June, TBA**
- **Seattle Kennel Club: March 8 & 9**
- **Hurricane Ridge: July 26th, 27th**
- **Critter Care: July 13, Langley**

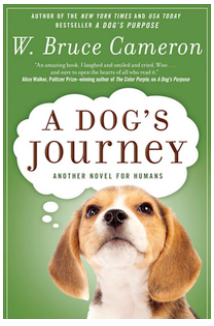
Movie Screening: Feb. 9, Hollywood 3, Surrey

Bookmarks



Heather Somers recommends *A Dog's Purpose* and *A Dog's Journey* both by W. Bruce Cameron. They can be read separately but *Journey* is a sequel to *Purpose*.

The novels are written from a dog's point of view, yet are surprisingly realistic. The premise of the first novel is that the dog is continually reborn, learning from each life – you'll recognize your own dogs and their behaviors. The second novel picks up where the first ends, with Buddy, an aging dog, pondering his life with his beloved Clarity.



Welcome Aboard New Members

Mitzi Jorgensen
Carole Thornton
Susan Sweeney
Mike Sweeney



From the Judges' Handbook

Use of props – Musical Freestyle:
Props must relate somehow to the routine's theme and/or be used as part of the routine, say in some of the tricks or movements. Props provide a good opportunity for innovation.

Use of props – Dressage:
There is no rule *against* props in dressage but the judges will give no credit for props. As the focus is on the dog and dog movement, be careful that the props do not overshadow the dog or camouflage the dog's movement.

P2D will follow the WCFO lead in allowing the handler only one minute to set up props and one minute to take down props.

The Straight on Straight lines
In dressage, when the element calls for four steps *in a straight line*, that refers to the handler's movement. If the handler is moving in an arch, the judges will assume that the handler is making the adjustments to hide the poor position of the dog and will have no choice but to award an incomplete for that element. Keep in mind that the dog can be as much as 45° out of parallel.

For side passes, be careful not to do a "stairway" or "half-pass" – one step to the side, one forward, one to the side, etc. This is much easier than a true side pass. Judges will look for the handler moving sideways *in a straight line*.

Leashes in Dressage
- Leashes must be used in all three Novice divisions.
- For any novice "brace" routines, each dog must have a separate leash.
- Leashes need not be 6 feet long. There is no rule on the length of leash.

Any other questions? If you can't find an answer in the *Competition Guide*, send me your query and I'll come up with an answer.

How to . . . build distance moves

(with mats, platforms, targets, gates, chaining) - tips from Ray, Julie, Gail



Some basic principles for training:

- whether with a clicker or with your voice, mark the desired behavior the instant the behavior is given (say a roll over)
- reward dog at the distance (run up to dog, throw treat to dog, throw treat beyond dog)
- to reduce anxiety, when first starting distance work, be sure to use a move that the dog is already very comfortable with, not a new one
- when you use backward chaining, start very close to the end behavior or target and move away in small increments. Ensure success at each step.
- Even when you have attained the desired distance behavior, practice and reward the desired behavior up close

- Ping pong between farthest distance and closer positions: i.e. 7 steps back; 2 steps back; eight steps back; 3 steps back
- Fade the targets gradually (know that you will likely have to go back a few steps - even before you feel you ned to go back)
- If the dog experiences failure, reduce criteria and/or increase aids
- use apparatus that makes the dog happy and makes the dog successful but keep in mind that you will have to remove the apparatus. Walls, for example, are not easy to fade. Cones are easier to remove than a gate. Touch sticks are easier to remove than hands.



Using a mat

- For backing onto a mat, use a very thin mat or towel.
- start with the desired position (say, four feet on the mat) Mark/Reward
- Leaving the mat in the same spot, gradually move away from the mat to start movement



-Use gates or cones if necessary to keep the dog in line

Using a platform

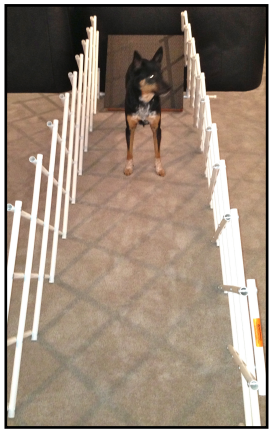
-work on desired behavior (say a lifted paw) on the platform

-gradually move away from platform with the dog on it and cue the move. Eventually, send the dog to the platform and cue the move from a distance.

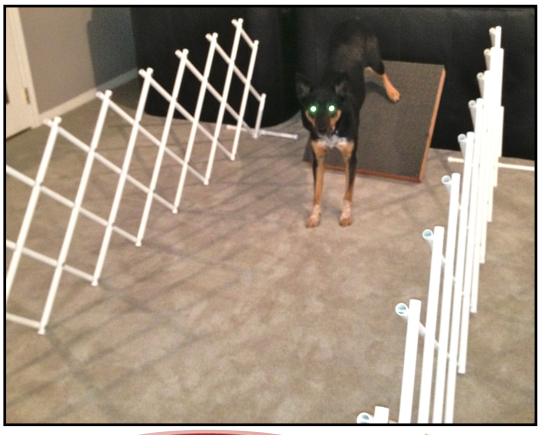
-once the behavior is solid, fade the platform (decrease height if possible, use thin mat, then line)

Using gates/cones

-For sending dogs back in a straight line, start with gates close, gradually moving them apart before fading them completely. Use the same process if you want the dog to perform a move at the end of the back up (say backing up an incline).







Using a small target

- if you play "touch" with your hand, put target (lid, circle of rubber, fabric, or post-it) on the hand and have dog touch the target and mark/reward as usual.
- put the target on the floor (or wall or desired spot), and mark/reward
- gradually increase distance
- add desired behavior (turn and sit, roll-over, spin, etc.) before m/r or c/t



Considerations for some specific distance moves



- Rolling toward a stationary handler
  - start with a single roll, gradually increasing to desired number. Start close to the dog, gradually moving away.
  - handler must align herself where it is best for dog to maintain straight movement. That may mean that the handler stands slightly to the side of where the dog is heading. Experiment with your dog as each is different
  - Since the dog is used to the handler being beside them facing the same direction, getting the dog solid with the handler in a T-shape position is essential before trying any distance work.
  - Reward *in position* (dog perfectly aligned horizontally to handler)
- Big circle
  - use gating or cones to mark the desired circle.
  - walk with the dog – inside the marked circle – gradually decreasing your movement to the point of standing stationary.
  - Throw reward treats ahead of the dog. Vary spot of reward, length of time of movement
  - Maintain a balance of enthusiasm and precision. If the dog starts to lose enthusiasm, lower the criteria, increase rewards, or assist by moving with dog.

- Back away - Trick - Back away (helpful to train dog to maintain the distance while doing a move)
  - Cue dog to back away. Cue stop or wait – *before* dog stops. Move to dog to reward. Cue trick (spin, down, etc.). Reward. Repeat back away from this spot, reward.
  - Cue back away, stop, and trick. Quickly move in to reward. Repeat back away. Reward.
  - Cue back away, trick, back away. Reward.
  - Keep the trick really simple at first. Vary the middle trick. Gradually ask for more. Always finish with another back away.
  - Avoid clicking or saying "yes" if your dog stops before you cue it to stop otherwise the dog will become hesitant. Instead, vary the number of steps your dog gives before you reward. 4 steps, 1 step, 6 steps, 3 steps, 2 steps, etc.

When Distance Training Goes Awry









In Memoriam:
Loriben Sail with the Wind (Corabel)
We still miss you every day.
Lin, Rupert & Casey

Freestyle Fun Day on Vancouver Island – Nov. 24, 2013

Heather Somers

Sixteen Freestylers from Victoria to Campbell River came out. Luckily the weather was good to us and the roads were fine.

Unfortunately I don't have any pictures, but everyone, be they new to Freestyle, long time freestylers, or anything in between seemed to have a great time.

We held it at Nanoose Place which is a really nice hall more or less half-way no matter which direction you came from. Through the time and effort of Lenore, Carol, and her husband Michael, we had the use of Lenore's puzzle mats . . . thanks again.

After getting everything set up everyone ran through one routine each during which time Magi took notes on each one, which were discussed later in the day. Everyone was very appreciative of this and felt the time was well spent.

After a short lunch break everyone had a chance to either repeat their routine or do a second one if they had multiple dogs.

All agreed that we should have another one and Carol has booked it for us at the same hall on March 29th. Maybe this time we can get some pictures that we can share.

Tips from Julie Flanery Workshop in Lynnwood this past August. With permission from Julie.

Framing a lesson

It's important to let your dog know when it's time to work and when it's time to stop working so that the dog knows it has responsibility within that time frame.

- Before you set up your training space and charge your pockets with food, **put the dog in a crate.**
- When you're ready to start, open the crate and say something such as: "*Ready to train?!!*" in an enthusiastic voice.
- Click/Treat eye-contact right away, and start with an energizing high-reward game of touch or another high-reward attention game. Proceed to training.
- **Return dog to crate** when you need to reorganize environment
- use "Ready to work?" cue for each release
- **End the session with five minutes of crate time**, while you put all the training aids away.
- Release the dog with an "*All done*" with no play

If you asked the dog the following questions at the end of a training session, it should say "*Yes!*"

- Did you have fun?
- Did you learn something?

Clean Training

Clean training is essential to create a belief system in dog that food is always available and that a game is always possible

- have no visible treats or toys: load pockets out of sight of dog – hide more than one toy on you.
- click as behavior occurs
- don't reach for treat until after click
- use praise and/or play as part of treat (post click)

RALLY FREESTYLE ELEMENTS plus

NEW MUSICAL FREESTYLE ORGANIZATION

Gail Walsh

As some of you already know, there is a new sport for dog lovers. **Rally Freestyle Elements** uses the same course format as Rally Obedience, but instead of doing obedience behaviors at the various stations, you do freestyle behaviors. This is a fun sport that is a huge aid in helping teams strengthen their precision in heeling, attention, teamwork and behaviors used in musical freestyle.

Many freestylers wish this sport was around when they were beginning freestyle. They feel their level of performance would be far better if they had done so. Many are now noticing a big improvement in their routines since they started doing Rally Freestyle Elements (RallyFrEe).

Rally Freestyle is also great for people that are presently doing obedience or Rally O and want another challenge.

Now the **same organization – Rally Freestyle Elements –** is very excited to be offering musical freestyle competitions. You may earn titles in freestyle just as you do with **P2D** and **WFCO**. Up until March 25, 2015, teams may start at the equivalent levels they are competing in through other organizations. Until that time, you do not have to start at the beginner level if you do not wish to do so. This is another opportunity to be able to perform freestyle. You may want to perform in all the freestyle organizations available if you choose to. That is totally up to you.

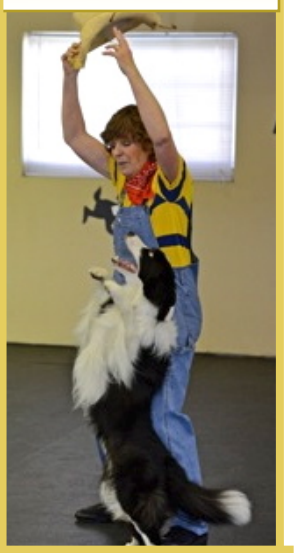
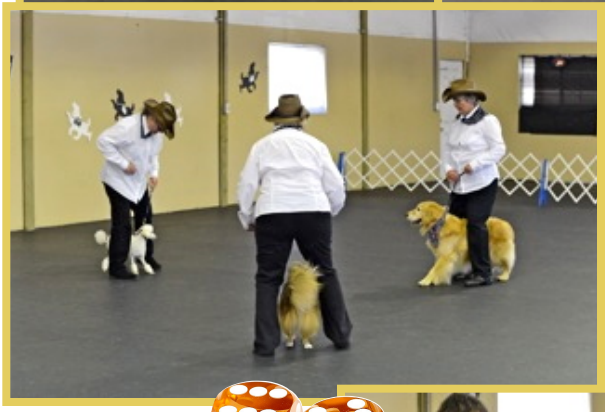
Video and live competitions are offered in Rally Freestyle and Rally Freestyle Elements. For more details visit, http://www.rallyfree.com/

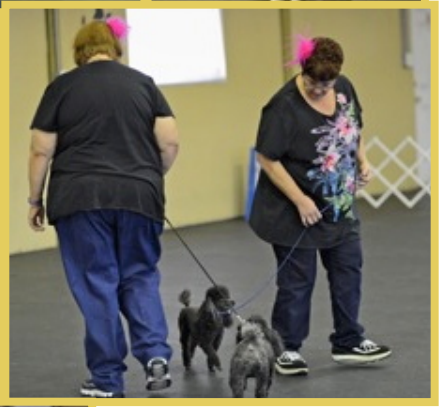
Lessons in the Vancouver area of BC – Langley, on Tuesday nights, with Gail Walsh, www.mydancingdog.com

Lessons in the Seattle area – with Kathy Weaver kathy@goodtimecanines.com

Boot Scootin' Boogie Lucky 13
With Carolyn Money managing the Casino, Emerald City dealt out another successful competition – this time in Arlington. Many members pitched in with special touches to make the event friendly and fun. Photographs by Kathy Kolatski. View more of her work at 2dogsandaflounder.zenfolio.com.





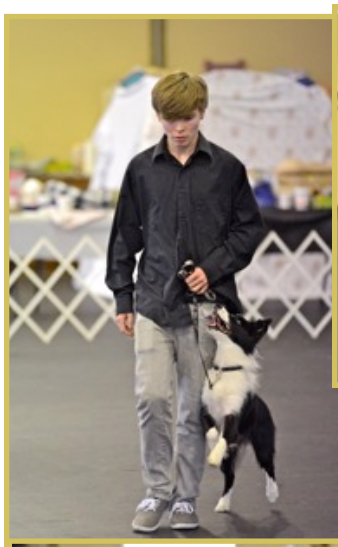
BSB Lucky 13




Musical Freestyle





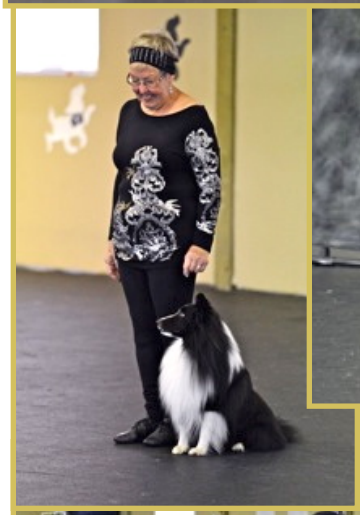



LUCKY
'13
LUCKY
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Dressage






Introducing the next generation of performers



Carolyn's Keeper w/ Hunter



Marilyn's Phaser



Annette's Bobby



Michele's Saké



Gail's Panda



Jean's Lightning
Debra's TJ



Lavonne's Blossom



Lin's Casey



Joyce's Skye

Paws 2 Dance Spring Showcase – May 17, 2014
Chief Sepass Theatre, Fort Langley

The Spring Showcase is open to *all P2D members* – not limited to Lower Mainland members.
It is not a competition, therefore there are no rules regarding ring size, length of routine, etc.
It is not limited to advance routines. The only requirement is that the performance be entertaining to the general public.
If you have any questions about whether your idea will be suitable, please contact Ray as soon as possible. skywalker1@shaw.ca
The performances will be selected by Ray, so you are required to submit a video by March 30th. Your routine does not have to be performance ready by then, but some lead time is needed to put together a schedule for the Showcase. That will also give Ray some time to organize the lighting specific to your routine, which could greatly enhance the performance.
This is going to be very exciting, fun event for all – both performers and audience.
Hope to see many of you there. — *Annette Granbois*

Goodbye Mr. Truffles
a natural clown and much-loved member of the family

