



TEETER TALES

The official newsletter of Kruisin' Kanines

Vol 21 • Issue 3 • March 2016

Masters Agility Championship at Westminster



Kruisers Carole Allen, Kris Bartell, Jeff Abel, Andy Miele, Jeanie Burton, Linda Goldman (left to right), and Kim Sector (not pictured) made the club proud!

Frigid temperatures. Massive crowds. Organized chaos. Fabulous agility.

For those of us competing at 2016's "The Masters Agility Championship at Westminster" on Pier 94 (West Side Hwy and 55st Street) in NYC, this was the order of the day. While this event is not for the faint of heart (shy, reactive, or claustrophobic teams would not fare well in this environment), the overwhelming sense of admiration from the crowds and Westminster staff for agility permeated the day.

In an atmosphere that was often overwhelming, Westminster Kennel Club made every effort to showcase competitors in a way that resulted in a top-notch spectating event. Given WKC's recently announced 10-year broadcasting partnership with FoxSports and it's sponsorship by Purina ProPlan, I imagine this sort of showmanship will continue. And that's a good thing considering that competitors often represent not much more than income to some hosting clubs.

Kruisin' Kanines had a great turn out, which included Jeff Abel and Snafu, Kristin Bartell and Honky Tonk, Jeanie Burton and River, Andy Miele and Arielle, Kim Sector and Piper, and me with Kelsey and Trudy. Linda Goldman, who was entered in the event but could not compete because her dog Boo is recovering from an injury, came as support and we were glad to have her!

As for me, while my dogs Kelsey and Trudy had a great day (Kelsey won both P16" JWW and STD classes, and Trudy was the highest cumulatively scoring Border Collie from the 16" classes, having qualified in both classes and thus advanced to Finals that same night where we incurred an off-course fault), I felt that my biggest accomplishment in addition to getting them around the courses was that I managed to stay awake for 22 hours—getting up at 3 am on Saturday and getting home at 1 am on Sunday.

Board/Membership Meetings

March 2

Board 6:30pm, Membership 8:15pm @ Point Pleasant Fire Company

Barn Work Days

March 4, 6-8pm

UKI Trial

March 5 @ the barn

Almost Spring Run Thrus

March 19, 10am-3pm

April 6, Board/Membership Mtgs @ the Point Pleasant Fire Com-

UKI Trial at Kruisin' Barn March 5, 2016

"Day of" entries allowed

Judge Oksana Syrkin
Crating starts @ 7:30am
Briefing starts @ 8:15am
Judging starts @ 8:30am

Questions? Contact Teresa Koziatek
teresakoziatek1@gmail.com

KK₉ Agility Club AKC Trial April 30 - May 1, 2016

**@ Total Turf Experience,
Pittman, NJ**

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details and Premium**

How We Got into Therapy Dog Work

Cindy & Luke

Sharing my dog with others has always been a dream of mine. My husband and I have had several dogs, including mixed breeds and German Shepherds, but working part-time and raising two children kept me pretty busy, so I put therapy work on the back burner. When our first Golden Retriever, Bella, came along in 2002, I believed I had the dog and the time required to train and commit to a volunteer schedule. Because I wanted to volunteer at Doylestown Hospital, I researched the requirements for both myself and Bella. I looked into the test she would need to pass, which at that time, and up until recently, was Delta (now Pet Partners) who require testing every 2 years. I worked hard to get Bella ready for the big day and was so proud when she passed easily at just 1 year of age. I attended an orientation at the hospital and provided necessary clearances to become a volunteer. At that time, another requirement was 10 supervised visits with an experienced team before we were cleared to visit on our own. Bella became a terrific therapy dog and volunteered at the hospital for many years. Even though Bella has gone to the bridge, people at the hospital still remember and ask about her.

Having seen the difference a dog can make in only a few moments, I became hooked on therapy work and knew it was something I wanted to do going forward. When Sophie came along she too became a therapy dog, although she did not enjoy it as much as Bella, so I retired her early on to do other things.

We welcomed Luke, our first boy, to the family in late 2007. Again, I hoped this dog could be a therapy dog and worked on socialization and obedience from the beginning. Luke passed his therapy dog test with Pet Partners just 1 year later. Since then he has been an active volunteer at Doylestown Hospital. In addition, this is our fifth year with Roxy Reading, making weekly visits to Jamison Elementary, and the Bucks County Courthouse Dependency Court and District Attorney's Office with abused children when needed. We also visit area nursing homes, including Wesley Enhanced Living, when time permits. At the hospital, our visits include the Pediatric Unit, Heart Institute, and patient rooms.

Luke and I are now members of Alliance of Therapy Dogs and he is very much a natural, making new friends easily and not fazed by medical equipment or noises. He has a way of connecting with people and knows when someone needs him to stay a little longer.



Over the years, Luke and I have truly become a team and I am very proud to be his partner. I look forward to relating more about "Luke the Leaner" and visits to the hospital in upcoming issues.

To learn more about therapy dog work, you are welcome to contact any of us about our experience.

Blake & Scooter

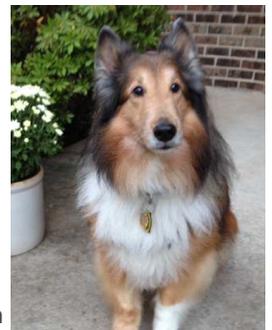
Scooter and I first became registered as a therapy dog team through the Delta Society (now Pet Partners) in 2009, and soon afterward began visiting at Doylestown Hospital weekly. Our experiences together at the hospital have been incredibly rewarding and many of the patients we've met have been truly inspirational people. Sometimes, patients don't particularly want to pet Scooter, but love having the opportunity to talk with me about something other than their disease/condition, giving them a much needed break from what may be a depressing reality and allowing them to forget whatever is troubling them, if only for a short while. By the same token, there are other people who don't want to talk to me at all, but really enjoy petting Scooter. Like any Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Scooter savors the attention and looks forward to every hospital visit with glee. With years of experience under her belt, she is frequently a demo dog for new therapy dog handlers and handles all situations with ease. I am often awed by Scooter's natural ability to gauge what type of interaction each patient is looking for—quiet petting or showing off her fun tricks—and how she is able to provide every patient, no matter their condition, with all the love she has to offer. I am certain that Scooter found her dream job in therapy work, and I relish every opportunity to do visits with her because of all the lives that she is able touch.



Alice & Laddie

Eight years ago I adopted Laddie, my sable and white Shetland Sheepdog, through a rescue group in the Wilkes Barre/Scranton area. His manners were not very good at first; but he had a great personality and was obviously very smart. I took him to several obedience classes and, during one of those, my trainer asked if I planned to pursue further activities with him, like agility or therapy visits. Coincidentally, at the time, when my aunt was in her nineties, I used to take my first dog to the nursing facility and she and others there loved seeing him. So I thought pursuing therapy certification could lead to a meaningful volunteer activity. My trainer suggested that Abington Hospital had a good therapy dog program. I contacted the person at the Hospital who was in charge of the program and learned that Laddie had to be registered through one of the therapy dog organizations. At the same time, I became a member of Kruisin' Kanines and took the beginning and intermediate classes. After a year or so of agility training, Kruisin' brought in an evaluator for the AKC Canine Good Citizen test. Laddie passed with flying colors. Later that year, Laddie was registered through Therapy Dogs International. He did so well in the test that we became "the friendly dog" used in the evaluation for other canines.

Laddie has now been a therapy dog for 6 years. We routinely visit Abington Hospital, Lansdale, and Dock Meadows Assisted Living. He has also participated in Tail Wagging Tutors, a program



at elementary schools for children to read to dogs in a non-threatening environment. Additionally, every year the University where I work has a day at the end of spring semester where dogs are brought in during a stress relieving week for students before their final exams. Laddie is one of the hits of the day.



Judy & Casey

About 20 years ago when I was visiting my mother up state, she handed me a flyer she'd found about a Dog Therapy Program saying that when she read it, she knew it was

something I would be interested in. When I got home I started looking for a program in this area...long before the Internet and googling. I didn't know how to go about finding one, but because the flyer was about a hospital program, I started contacting the local hospitals and came across a program through the volunteer office at Doylestown Hospital. Doylestown Hospital was very small then. I went to the volunteer office and started the process of becoming a volunteer in their Visiting Dog program. Back then, the training was a self-study program developed just for what Doylestown Hospital required. I spent several days in the volunteer office reading the various manuals that had been prepared and accumulating all the information I needed to start preparing my dog and myself for being volunteers at the hospital.

Maggie was a very sweet, lovable Border Collie mix who could do just about anything. At the time, there were 21 things the dog was expected to do, from carrying baskets, to picking things up, to just lying quietly, and Maggie loved to do them all. I worked with Maggie to learn everything she needed. I felt she was ready for testing. The day of testing she was super, except for the last challenge: when another dog entered the room she barked once, a friendly greeting bark, but none the less a bark, which was an automatic failure. Everyone was disappointed, even the evaluator, but rules are rules. So we waited until the next testing a few months later with the exact same results. A few months later we tried again...Maggie never barked at other dogs when we went for walks, and rarely barked at all, but I guess she thought she was supposed to greet others when she was in the conference room at the hospital. Unfortunately, this ended Maggie's volunteer work. She would have been a great therapy dog

We thought Maggie would be our last dog. When she left us at 17 years old, dog therapy work became a passing thought. But then we fell in love with Casey, a blind Border Collie in need of a home. Shortly after he became a member of our family, my mother-in-law had a stroke. So the first few months we had Casey he spent every day at the nursing home with me. When my mother-in-law would get upset and frustrated because she couldn't communicate Casey knew and ran to her side, always calming her down. Blind dogs see with their hearts, and Casey knew that all she needed was a little love from him. The nurses loved him and so did the other residents. So it was quite evident that Casey was a very special dog and had a special job to do, and I needed to help him do

it. I wasn't sure if he could officially be a therapy dog because he was blind, but I decided to find out. This is how Casey's and my journey began in dog therapy work.

Casey is registered by Alliance Therapy Dog Inc. and Nor'wester Readers Canine Assisted Learning Program. He visits nursing homes, works as an emotional support dog for children in a residential treatment center, helps children read at area schools, and is a regular volunteer at the Children's library at the Northampton Public Library. Casey and I will be sharing some of our experiences with you so that you can see what a great journey this has been!

Bob & Marshall

About 20 years ago, my wife Ann, a speech therapist for special needs children in the Central Bucks School district, had the idea that she could use dogs to help some of her students. This was long before the advent of the "Children Reading to Dogs" programs. Ann did quite a bit of research on exactly what types of organizations were available to warrant a therapy dog, what training was necessary, how to get insurance, and anything else she could think of to prepare to properly introduce a dog to therapy work. She learned that there were several organizations that registered therapy dogs and that the two primary requirements were to obtain a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) designation from the AKC, and have a special evaluation performed by the parent organization to verify that the dog was comfortable around special equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and canes.

At that time we had a Bichon frise mix and a Golden Retriever. We got them both registered and ready to go. Ann made a presentation to several people at Central Bucks and was told that the liability issues were too much, and that they doubted the utility of a dog in the classroom. Anyhow...20 years later, teachers are almost begging for therapy dogs because of the statistical success of children involved in canine reading programs.

This is how I got interested in doing therapy work with my dogs. Currently, Atticus, my Wheaten terrier whom most of you know, is registered for therapy work, but I have allowed his credentials to expire. My younger Wheaten, Marshall, a foster with health issues, has a perfect temperament for therapy work. He loves all animals and people. He is immune to noises and has the confidence to withstand novel, noisy experiences. His outlook is that any new adventure is going to be great fun. Marshall is registered by Alliance of Therapy Dogs and Roxy Readers. Marshall has done therapy work in the Abington Hospital's hospice in Warminster, Pedia Manor (with severely medically challenged children ages 2-11), Christ's Home, the Doylestown Courthouse Dependency Court, and more recently, in reading programs at Mill Creek Elementary. I will be relating some of Marshall's adventures in upcoming issues.



Membership Meeting Minutes

Kruisin' Kanines Minutes, February 6, 2016

The meeting was called to order after dinner at the Annual Banquet at the Bucks Club by the president Jeanie Burton.

Minutes: The January 2016 General Meeting minutes were approved.

President's Report (Jeanie Burton):

Jeanie thanked the following people for their contributions for the banquet:

- » Susie Diehl and her assistants for handling the banquet
- » Alan Stifelman for creating the banquet video
- » Dina Melendez for coordinating the award plaques
- » Sally Hunter for creating the PowerPoint presentation for the award presentation
- » Rosemary McQuate for coordinating the instructor and assistant gifts.

Treasurer's Report: Waived for the banquet

Committees: Waived for the banquet

Old Business: Waived for the banquet

New Business:

Awards were presented to members who had achieved titles during the 2015 year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

** The next meeting will be at Point Pleasant Firehouse, 6500 Point Pleasant Pike, New Hope, PA 18950, on Wednesday, March 2, at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Carney, Secretary



Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!



Upcoming Kruisin' Events

March 2016

No Open Agility Practice this month

March 2 – Board Meeting 6:30pm & Membership Meeting 8:15pm @ the Point Pleasant Fire Company

March 4 – Barn Work Night 6pm-8pm

March 5 – UKI Trial at the barn

March 8 – Kruisin' Kanines AKC trial 4/30-5/1/2016 Premium Opens

March 19 – Almost Spring Run Throughs 10am-3pm

March 19 – Deadline for Teeter Tales Submissions

April 2016

April 4 – Second session of 8-week classes begin this week

April 6 – Board Meeting 6:30pm & Membership Meeting 8:15pm @ the Point Pleasant Fire Company

April 8 – Barn Work Night 6pm-8pm

April 30/May 1 – AKC Trial in Pittman, NJ

May 2016

May 4 – Board Meeting 6:30pm & Membership Meeting 8:15pm @ the Barn

May 14 – Barn Work Day 10am-noon

WEEKLY CLUB EVENTS 2016

Every Sunday: Barn is open for Sunday Run Thrus all day, unless another club event is scheduled!

For a detailed look at all Kruisin' Classes and Events:

click: [Kruisin' Kanines Calendar](#)

For the Barn Use Schedule

click: [Barn Use Calendar](#)

Celebrating Cruiser Teams^o

2015 Titles

Jeff Abel & Fray, AKC and US-DAA titles: OAJ, AXJ, NA, SSA, AD

Jeff Abel & Snafu, USDAA titles: RM, GM, SAM

Kristin Bartell & Chica, AKC titles: NA, NAJ, OAJ

Jeanie Burton & River, AKC and USDAA titles: T2B2, MXG, MCJ, MACH4, MXC, TM-S

Cindy Everett & Luke, AKC titles: NA, OAP, NJP, OJP

Becky Forry & Sticky, AKC title: NF

Kathy Gerhart & Lottie, TDAA title: TIAD

Kathy Gerhart & KT, AKC title: OF

Linda Goldman & Boo, AKC title: MX

Linda Goldman & Wynne, AKC titles: AX, AXJ

Sally Hunter & Bryce, AKC and USDAA titles: OA, AX, AXJ, SG, SS, AJ, ASA

Teresa Koziatek & Everest, AKC and UKI titles: OJP, OAP, AJP, OFP, SSBs, INDs, SSNs

Tony Luzynski & Bodi, AKC, USDAA, ASCA titles: MXS, MACH, APS, APD, RSA-E

Konnie McCaffree & Iako, AKC titles: MACH8, MACH9, MXC4, MXB5, MJG4, MFS, MACH10

Rosemary McQuate & Joey, AKC title: AX

Rosemary McQuate & Dai, AKC titles: MXB2, MACH4

Dina Melendez & Boone, AKC titles: MXP, MXP2, MJP2

Bob Peck & Atticus, AKC titles: NAP, NJP, OAP, OJP

Blake Rivas & Trixie, AKC, US-DAA, CPE titles: MJG, MXG, MACH3, ASA, ChST

Alan Stifelman & Jake, AKC title: T2BP

Diane Dixon & Zeeva, AKC titles: OA, OAJ, AX, AXJ

Andy Meile & Arielle, AKC titles: MACH2, MXG, MJC, MACH3

Kim Sector & Piper, AKC titles: MACH2, MJG, MXG

Sherry Wilson & Hogan, AKC title: MACH5

Congratulations!!!

Key: AD (agility dog); AJ (advanced jumper); AJP (excellent agility jumpers with weaves preferred); APD (advanced performance dog); APS (advanced performance standard); ASA (advanced standard agility); AX (agility excellent); AXJ (excellent agility jumper); ChST (champion standard); GM (gamblers master); INDs (international novice dog of select); MACH (master agility champion); MCJ (master agility jumper); MFS (master silver fast); MJC (master century jumper); MJG (master gold jumpers with weaves); MJP (master excellent jumper preferred); MX (master standard); MXB (master bronze agility); MXC (master century agility); MXG (master gold agility); MXP (master agility excellent preferred); MXS (master silver agility); NA (novice agility); NAJ (novice agility jumper); NAP (novice agility preferred); NF (novice fast); NJP (novice jumpers with weaves preferred); OA (open agility); OAJ (open agility jumper); OAP (open agility preferred); OF (open fast); OFP (open fast preferred); OJP (open jumpers with weaves preferred); RM (relay master); RSA-E (regular ACE agility standard-elite); SAM (standard agility master); SG (starters gamblers); SS (starters snooker); SSA (starters standard agility); SSBs (speeds states beginner of select); SSNs (speed stakes novice of select); T2B2 (time 2 beat 2); T2BP (time 2 beat preferred); TIAD (Teacup Intermediate Agility Dog); TM-S (tournament master silver);

Masters Agility Championship at Westminster...

It was fun to see so many teams travel from far-away locations to compete in what is essentially an incredibly fancy local trial that then transforms itself through a calculation of scores and breeds, into a televised "Finals" event with separate admission for spectators. In addition to my own Trudy making it to the Finals round in 16", Kim Sexter and Piper represented the Labrador Retriever in the 20" Finals round.

This was the third year the event has been in existence and, because of the newness of the show, it's increased awareness, which resulted in throngs of spectators and the addition of the inaugural "Westminster Obedience Championship," evolution is likely. I look forward to seeing what Westminster Kennel Club has in store for performance dogs next year, and I hope you do, too!

—Carole Allen



Kim & Piper

Piper and I were so fortunate to be able to attend this year's Westminster Kennel Club Master Agility Championship. This was the second year for us to compete on the purple carpet in the heart of the Big Apple.

For anyone who has not attended this show, it is sort of like a regular agility trial but on "Bling Steroids!"

It is a very busy and stimulating environment because so many New Yorkers just love Westminster and come out in droves to see all the dogs. Saturday had the Agility trial along with the "Meet the Breeds" event. The general public purchases tickets to enter the building to see the dogs. On their way to the meet-the-breed booths, they walk through the general agility crating area. The dogs and their crates are set up on little benches. Everyone wants to meet your dog, get photos, etc. It is certainly a different atmosphere for handlers and dogs. Agility dogs and their handlers are allowed to leave the building, but with very strict security.

We had a wonderful time at the event. Piper ran really fast and happy in both her runs. After our two runs were done and I was getting ready to pack our stuff, I was totally shocked to learn that we had earned a place in the finals for Saturday night! Piper had one clean fast round in Standard, but earned a refusal in the JWW course. That gave her a 5-point fault on her score. Her times were fast enough, however, to be one of the final picks from the 20" class as they just added the 5 points to her combined time scores.

All I can say is that it was a totally amazing experience, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to show Piper. Being on TV



with a Live Feed was more than a little nerve wracking for me! It was thrilling to be on the stage with so many talented and deserving teams.

Since so many of us mark our lives by the dogs we share special moments with, this for me was a "moment" with Piper that I will treasure forever. Looking forward to next year's event and hope we can attend again.

Jeff & Snafu

Snafu and I had two nice runs at Westminster. We started with JWW. The course was really difficult with lots of turns. The footing there isn't very good for the dogs—very slippery. Snafu clicked about 4 bars with his toe nails during the run, but none came down. We were sitting in 11th place in the 20" group. The Standard run was a fun fast course. Unfortunately, Snafu and I decided to pull a *snafu* on the course with an off course into the wrong end of the tunnel. It was probably the easiest part of the course. Not quite sure what we were thinking, because all my movement, body position, and eyes were pointed toward the correct end of the tunnel. After analyzing the video, he came off the A-frame at a severe angle, and I should have called him into me so he was pointed to the correct end of the tunnel. Even so, it is a really fun trial with all the people there. Way so different from the trials we are used to.

Andy & Arielle

A difficult venue to show in. Not designed to help you and your dog perform well as Nationals or even an everyday trial. Your dog, even when in its crate, has people coming up, snapping photos and distracting it from its rest. Once in the ring, the crowd is right on top of you. The nice thing is that the New Yorkers cheer for every dog, all day long.

Logistically, for me at least, more issues. Last year the hotel room was lousy and my teammates and I did not get much rest. We are to be at the show at 0600, which is too early for a hotel breakfast, and the concession at the site does not open until 0800, just when the show starts. On top of that, just getting parking (\$35) and carrying yer gear into the site is very difficult as well. This year, I opted to drive up, so Ari and I hit the road at 0400. Needless to say we were both tired, and with only one clean run, did not make the finals. Would have been one long day. Next year if we get in to it, I plan to get a different hotel and take my own breakfast.

Westminster gave us some nice swag upon our arrival, and it was much appreciated. A polo shirt and ball cap, both embroidered, and generous samples of Cosequin.

All this said, I met some really nice people, and Ari got lots of attention. Hopefully, Ari is still strong and healthy enough to do it again next year, because it was still fun.

Clean runs to YA!

Continued on pg 7

Jeanie & River

River and I entered the Westminster Kennel Club Agility trial this year for the second time. It is a really fun and unique experience. The audience is large and most of the people are not agility people, so their reaction to things happening on course is pretty funny. They definitely cheer the teams on, but they also laugh at things that don't go quite right. The people were very curious about what was going on—when one team earned a MACH, I was in the stands, so I explained why the handler was running around with a bar.

I was very pleased with River's runs; she double Q'd for the second year in a row. She ended up in fifth place for the 24" dogs. Because there were two Border Collies in the top three, we watched the finals from the stands and cheered for all the finalists.

Spending the weekend in New York City with friends and running agility in front of a big crowd was great fun, so I plan to send in an entry again next year.

Congratulations Kruisin Dogs and Handlers!!!

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Training Schedule

Sunday: All-Day Run Thrus

Monday: Skills, 7-8pm

Foundations 2 & Beginners begin in April

Tuesday: Foundations 1, 7-8pm

Intermediate, 7-8pm

Wednesday: Advanced, 9:30-11am

Masters, 7-8pm

Thursday: Advanced, 7-8pm



Happy Easter!

At the Barn, please remember to keep your dog on leash or crated unless it's your turn at the obstacle, sequence, or course.

THE BOARD

President: **Jeanie Burton**

Vice President: **Teresa Koziatek**

Treasurer: **Tony Luzynski**

Secretary: **Diane Carney**

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Konnie McCaffree

Dina Melendez

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Judy Eckenrode

Linda Goldman

TRAINING DIRECTOR:

Carole Allen

Kruisin' Kanines holds its General Membership meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 8:15pm. The Board of Directors also meets the first Wednesday of each month. If you would like to attend either meeting, please call for more information.