

GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS



NOVEMBER, 2016

**Training Schedule:
Class Sessions Can Be
Found on the GNDOC
Website**

INTERMEDIATE & ADVANCED Classes are still held on Saturday mornings. Space is limited, so make sure to sign up for the classes you want!

NOVEMBER – So Many Activities! So Many ‘Qs’!!

CLUB BUSINESS & MORE

A FEW THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...

Membership: Membership will be due soon. Cost is still \$65/year.

Cleaning Schedule: We'd like to set up a schedule for cleaning the club. The whole floor can be done in ½ an hour if two people vacuum. Mirrors need to be wiped down, bathrooms cleaned, etc. It's not much, but we'd like to see some new volunteers.

Annual Brunch: Our Annual Club Brunch is approaching after the New Year. We are looking for a new location. If you have any ideas, please let Andrea know.

BRAGS

On 10/16/16, Andrea and her Chesapeake, Rio showed in West Friendship, MD in Rally Excellent. In Andy's words: "Rio got leg 9 with a 95 in Excellent and a 100 plus for 1st place in Advanced. She was really working well. Ben was being Ben and I had plenty of time and walked him around a lot. I almost thought of not showing him but, we were here so... There were 4 dogs that showed and 4 dogs placed. Yes, Ben for a 94 and 4th place. There was another 94 but their time was faster."

Carley and her Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Gwyn and Jack, have been busy! In Carlie's words: "Jack, proudly owned by Carley Bates, had a grand time herding ducks in 3 trials to earn his AKC Started

Herding title. He had scores of 82, 89 and 95½, out of a possible 100, with two 2nd Places and one 5th Place! Jack has been herding a little over a year. Herding instinct can't be taught – it's either in the dog or it's not. The object is to develop that instinct to perform a variety of courses in trials. It was fun watching Jack progress doing something he was bred for. He is now known as "Winbucks Shakin It Up At Lwynogyn, HSAd"! *This is a wonderful accomplishment for this young dog, and shows how he has learned to use his instinct, tempered with patience, discipline and self-control.....Ed.*

In addition, both Jack and Gwyn, both passed the Odor Recognition Test, or ORT, in October, 2016. This is a test to see if the dogs can find the target of birch oil in a series of 12 boxes. Plain, white boxes are arranged in either 1 long row, 2 rows of 6, 3 rows of 4 or 4 rows of 3. The handler does not know where the scent is and has to trust the dog's sense of smell. Passing this test allows them to enter a Nose Work 1 trial. Gwyn has taken Nose Work classes for over 2 years and Jack for about 1 year. *(Note to Members: GNDOC will be offering Nose Work classes at some point in the future. Stay tuned!) Great job with your Corgi crew, Carley!*

At the Hatboro Dog Club trial in Macungie, PA on 10/7/16, Camille and Maya earned their first Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) leg! On 10/9/16, at the Delaware Valley German Shepherd Dog Club trial, Maya passed her Temperament Test. On 10/21/16, they earned their 2nd UDX Leg, with 4th Place in Utility and 2nd Place in Open with a score of 198! *Only the beginning for this team!! Go Team Maya!!*

Not to be outdone by his 'sister', Sheltie, Duncan, got his 2nd Leg in Versatility with a 1st Place. Then on 10/23/16, Duncan finished his Versatility title with a 1st Place, and was the only dog that qualified!
Handsome and talented, too - he's still got it!!

In November, 2016, Doris and Nyssa earned their CAAT title (advanced lure Coursing) in New Jersey (while on a mini-vacation!) by qualifying in their 10th AKC lure coursing trial!

GREAT WORK, ALL!!

(and I am sure I am missing some brags, so PLEASE email them to me!!)

KEEP TRAINING, AND DON'T FORGET TO SEND ME YOUR BRAGS!!

MINI-BRAGS?

There is a new 'white board' in the school for all Club Members to write their training accomplishments, as these 'mini brags' are what you build on to improve all of your Obedience exercises. Take a minute to read the board and include your accomplishments!

PLEASE CHECK OUT PSYCHOLOGY TODAY'S ARTICLE

Please check out Psychology Today's article by Stanley Coren that was posted online on 10/26/2016 regarding dog training. A synopsis of the article is that a test for memory that was used by researchers that involved a procedure called "relearning". This consists of retraining the dogs on exactly the same task they had learned the day before. It is usually expected that after an interval following training, the next day the dogs will not perform as well as they did at the end of the previous day's session. However, dogs who had received the play session after training relearned the task **40% faster than the dogs who rested after the training sessions**. So, it appears that playful activity following the teaching sessions helped to "stamp in" the memories of what the dogs had learned.

The lesson we can take from this new research seems to be that the simple addition of a session of playful activity after a period of training can significantly add to the effectiveness and performance of a dog who is learning a new set of skills. *So, find out what your dog likes to play with and add that to your training!!*

WHAT IS JOY STEALING?

(from the blog of Connie Cleveland @ Dog Trainers Workshop)

At the **Dog Trainers Workshop**, in addition to helping owners train their pets, we compete in the sport of obedience and teach many of our students to do so as well. Competitors are often oblivious to how the comments they make steal the joy of other competitors.

"You won that class? I can't believe it!"

"You know if my dog had not laid down on the long sit stay, I would have won the class!"

"Boy, aren't you glad Mrs. *Winallthetime* was not here today or you might not have won."

It happens in all aspects of our culture. My godson had been chosen to play quarterback on his middle school team and I had the pleasure of driving him to his first game. On the way, as I was telling him how excited I was for him, he told me his mother, an absentee parent, had called him and said, "They must not have any real football players to choose from."

My anger and revulsion were immediate. Fortunately, after a few deep breaths I was able to explain to him what it meant to steal someone's joy, and that we were not going to give her the power to do that. Many years later, as a young man, he called me to say he had passed the lesson of what it means to be a joy stealer on to his younger brother who was bereft over the unfeeling remarks that someone had made when he excitedly told them where he had chosen to go to college.

Are You a Joy Stealer?

Stealing joy is not always an unfeeling comment made after an accomplishment. It can be a doubt placed, or a negative statement given in response to a stated dream or goal. If you have ever told anyone that their dream or goal is "too lofty" for someone of their age, size, race or background, count yourself in as a joy stealer. If you are willing to destroy someone's dream, perhaps you don't realize that it is the **joy** of pursuing the dream that motivates the dreamer; not simply reaching the accomplishment.

Don't Ever Let Anyone Steal Your Joy

My first Labrador Retriever, Ezra, had already earned his field championship, his amateur field championship, and 65 of the necessary 100 points needed to become an obedience trial champion when a fellow competitor said to me, "No dog will ever be capable of earning field championships and an obedience trial championship. It can't be done!" My jaw still drops when I think about what this fellow competitor said to me. I remember this attempt at stealing my joy more than I remember all the congratulatory cards and letters I received when those last 35 points were earned and Ezra became an obedience trial champion.

When we compete in the sport of obedience, our dogs must earn at least 170 points of the 200 points available in order to qualify. The top four scores in the class receive placements. Occasionally a student will sheepishly report to me that they won first place, but add that no other dog in the class qualified, as if somehow this diminishes their accomplishment. My response is always this: *"Perhaps worse than allowing someone else to steal your joy is stealing your own joy. The other competitors had an opportunity to pass. This does not mean you won by default, it means you won by a landslide. Celebrate!"* (Ed. Note: **I LOVE THIS!!!!!!!**)

Prevent Joy Stealing -- by Ourselves and by Others

I think every single one of us has been a Joy Stealer, even if inadvertently. The sad thing is that we are all *victims* of Joy Stealing and *perpetrators* of Joy Stealing at some point in our lives.

Usually our Joy Stealing is inadvertent. We're often myopic and focused on ourselves -- our own performances, successes, and disappointments. So rather than respond to another's successes with encouragement, we focus on our failures.

Besides focusing on our own problems, we also find it difficult to look at the world from another's point of view. We don't recognize that we are saying something that might undermine another's accomplishment. Often, too, we crush people's dreams out of a misplaced kindness. We don't want them to be disappointed if they fail.

And of course, sometimes Joy Stealing comes from simple malice. Often, the person who is engaged in that kind of Joy Stealing has a long history -- perhaps lifelong -- of sadness and anger. Sometimes life can do that to people, because life is hard and full of losses. Those people get comfortable knocking others down, as they have been knocked down.

When confronted by your own tendencies towards Joy Stealing, focus first on the other person's triumphs, not your own disappointments. Then go back through your own life and notice the things for which you are grateful. I guarantee that even the worst of times will include some kindness, some good people, some unexpected blessings and benefits.

If you're the victim of Joy Stealers -- forgive them. Move on to the other people in your life who are confident, secure, and other-focused enough to celebrate your achievements. And always remember to celebrate the achievements of others.

Every dream, turned into a goal, involves a journey laden with set-backs, disappointments and milestones. There is joy in that journey. Guard that joy well so that in the end you rightly celebrate the accomplishment as well as the memories of the trip.

Connie

**MAKE SURE TO CHECK our Club Website for Class Schedules, Club News, Closing for weather, etc., etc.
Our website is: www.gndog.com**

Please feel free to send me any newsworthy tales, stories, jokes, articles (recipes?) or anything else you think may be of interest to our Members for inclusion in future newsletters! Emails are:
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Kathy Acosta, Editor