

# NEW ENGLAND DOG TRAINING CLUB

INCORPORATED

Member Of The American Kennel Club



## PAW PRINTS

August 2005

*May I grow to be...*

**On 9/8 A New Year Begins!** The training schedule will be available online at [www.nedtc.org](http://www.nedtc.org). Watch for updates.

**On 6/25: The Old Year Ends!** The Annual Banquet was a huge success. The food was really good and the company even better. I vote for Marino's again next year!

**Trophies and Awards** (the reason we were all gathered in the first place) were presented by **Marjie Alonso**, our Training Director. First up were 9 **Canine Good Citizens!** **Laura LaFranchi** and **Blaze** (who also got 2 legs toward their CD this year); **Nancy Thompson** and **Lexi**, **Anya Wittenborg** and **Luca** (the baby of the group); **Sarah Mendlesohn** and **Stella**; **Lucy Grant-Ruane** and **Sarah**; **Abbey Brown** and **Issiah**; **Gert Foster** and **Kandi**; **Diane Kurkjian** and **Ebony**; and **Penny Shultz** and **Thorne**. Four members who earned their **Companion Dog (CD)** titles were **Abbey Brown** and **Issiah**, **Penny Shultz** and **Thorne**, **Nancy Thompson** and **Lexi** and **MaryAnne Dionne** and **Ozzie**. **Penny Shultz** and **Thorne** earned the trophy for the highest total CD score (588.5 out of a possible 600). **Penny Shultz** and **Thorne** also won for the most blue ribbons (1) with a score of 197.5. (Blue Ribbons do not come easy!) A **Utility Dog (UD)** Title was earned by **Joanie Muse**

and **Bessie**, who placed second in 2 of their legs. NEDTC also gives a trophy for other AKC performance titles. This year all the winners were in AKC Agility: An NAP and AXP for **Joanie Muse** and **Bessie** (novice agility preferred, agility excellent "A" preferred); an NAP for **Ruth Ivers** and **Spriggan**; an NAP and OJP to **Barbara Beckedorf** and **Annie**, whose title was earned with 2 firsts and 1 second place (open jumpers with weaves preferred); an OAJ for **Marissa Coppage** and **CH. Winslow-Summit Uptown Girl**, (open agility jumpers). They also got their pre-trial herding and VCX (Versatility Certificate Excellent for confirmation, herding, and performance) from the American Shetland Sheepdog Club (fewer than 50 dogs in the entire breed have one!) The **Selma Meyer Award** went to **Maryanne Dionne** and **Ozzie** who earned the highest qualifying score in any regular class at the Annual NEDTC Obedience Trial.

*OOOOPS* . . It was observed by one of our cracked team of investigative reporters that the club's highest trophy was *not* presented at the Banquet! *Mon Dieu! What have we here? Could this be a judging conspiracy (a la, the Olympics' French Skating Judge scandal of time past)?* Being the dogged reporters that they are, the team would not cease until they had sniffed out the truth! And shocking as it is, the

truth was finally unearthed. Blame it on Pluto! At the exact moment that Marjie was making the presentations, the backlash of a major meteor storm over Pluto caused meteor-induced amnesia in people occupying a small quadrant of the Earth's atmosphere! Expert sources (very high up) tell us that the malady was restricted to the 2400 block of Cambridge, MA and lasted only minutes. Those affected were totally unaware (as is the way with amnesia). In the bright light of the next days the oversight was discovered and will be remedied. Of course, the trophy goes to **Mary Anne Dionne** and **Ozzie** who (as mentioned above) earned the highest qualifying score in any regular class at the Annual NEDTC Obedience Trial. Expert sources (those even higher up...) tell us to expect a small presentation ceremony on the first night of classes (with appropriate trumpets and flourishes). Congrats **Mary Anne**(and **Ozzie**).

**Attaboy's and Well-Done's!** **Abbey Brown** and **Issiah** also completed their UKC CD this year. **Liz Sullivan** and **Spike** got a leg in Rally at the American Boxer Club. **Joel Wolff** and **Dixie** got their Therapy Dog certificate as did **Penny Shultz** and **Thorne**. **Penny** and **Thorne** also got 2 Junior Hunter legs and a Working certificate in Hunting. As we go to press, I understand it is now 3 hunter legs because they got their 3<sup>rd</sup> leg the weekend of the Banquet (which is why they weren't there). **Sharon Long** and **Shane** completed their UKC, CKC and ASCA CDs plus 2 CPE (Canine Performance Events) Agility titles. **Bessie** and **Joanie Muse** had a

real, Hollywood-style photo shoot, and **Bessie's** now the cover girl for Iams Low Residue dog food - **Tiara** and **Shades** were presented so **Bessie** could appropriately greet her public. **Leland Perry** and **Mathilda** are now second time AKC National Agility Champions in the 16" Class. These two are unstoppable.

**Jean Berman** was acknowledged for best personal accomplishment. We are very proud of you **Jean**. **Monica Halpern** and **Pat Sullivan**, who are leaving the Board, were also honored for their service to NEDTC.

**New Club Officers.** Elected on June 27, 2005 at the first meeting of the new Board of Governors were President: **Lucy Grant-Ruane**, Vice President/Training Director: **Marjie Alonso**, Treasurer: **Jean Berman**, **Diane Kurkjian** as Assistant Treasurer, Secretary: **Donna Culbert**, Trial Chair(s): **Karen Bernstein**, **Charlotte Moore**, AKC Delegate: **Liz Sullivan**, MassFed & Purebred Dog Breeders Delegates: To Be Determined. (Anyone want to volunteer?)

And **Joanie Muse** and her girls just keep on going. . . **Joanie** reports that "the Super Sisters have done it once again!!! In Springfield on July 7th and 8th they passed Rally Advanced Class B and on Friday they got their RA titles!! Also on Friday **Bessie** took a 4th place!!!!"

And more recently, this in from **Joanie Muse**: "To keep you up to date, **Bessie** and **Gretta** each got their first Ex. leg in Rally

on Thursday, Aug. 18th at the Wachusett K. C. show in Fitchburg.

It is so much fun!!! I really love talking to them in the ring and telling them how beautiful and smart they are! Of course that's my unprejudiced opinion (-;!!!!"

**Susan Crum** tells us that "Trooper earned his RN title at the Concord Dog Training Club trial in Topsfield on 6/19 with a first place score of 96 in Rally Novice A! Scout finished her RN title at the Greenwich KC show on 6/11, and then got her first Rally Advanced leg at the CDTC show on 6/19, and her second leg at the Central Maine KC show on 6/26, with a second place score of 97! She also got her second UKC leg (and first place) at the Marshfield KC trial in Wells, ME on 6/25! Earlier she got two legs at the ASCA trial in Auburn, MA on 6/4 and 6/5. I am very proud of my eight year old golden girl who is now officially "2/3 U-CD Drew Woods Scout Kendra 2/3 ASCA-CD, 2/3 RA CGC TDI"

**Monica Halperin** "[j]ust had to share the good news that Basie got his first leg for his C.D. at the Poodle Club Show 6/3. As the very nice judge said, it wasn't pretty but he passed. He actually did fine until a particularly wonderful smell stopped him in his tracks at the end of the heel free. But a second command got results. I was nervous but he was really nervous. So good for him. This was a tiny show with just 6 people entered in Novice B and 3 qualifiers. So he got second place. And as is not uncommon for poodles, several of them ran around the

ring like maniacs playing you can't catch me with big smiles on their faces (including one in Open B; you should have seen the expression on the face of that competitor). Altogether very exciting."

Eleanor Campbell is "delighted to report that Price earned his first UD leg on 5/9 at the Trenton KC Show! He was the only one out of 11 dogs to qualify and so he also won the class. And his 192 score was enough to put a big grin on my face!"

### **Rainbow Bridge Crossings.**

**Joyce Ellen Baker** has emailed me that "our beautiful **Fancy of Towne Lyne, CGC** went over the Rainbow Bridge on 4/30. She was 13 years and 8 months. Fancy will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by her family, both human and canine.

"O God, my master, should I gain the grace to see thee face to face when life is ended Grant that a little dog, who once pretended that I was God, may see me face to face." (B.C. Boulter, from the French of Francis Jammes)

**So long, Farewell, Auf Weidersen, Good Bye!** As most of you know, I have resigned as an Instructor with the New England Dog Training Club effective this fall. I leave in order to take advantage of the opportunity to teach my own classes in the South Shore. I'd like to thank you all for the opportunity to learn and grow as an obedience instructor and a trainer.

As outgoing president (instructor, newsletter editor...) I would like to share some final thoughts with you (as I did with banquet attendees). While I realize it's fun and exciting to follow the trends and get caught up in the new, I also caution that we keep a steady hand on what I perceive NEDTC is good at: nurturing the newcomer in the puppy and beginner classes so they continue on to heights they never dreamed of. People who had no thought of competing when they first started, found their niche because of NEDTC. **Leland Perry** and **Matilda** are 2 time National Agility Champions. **Emma Parsons** who, because of her work with her own dogs, has written a wonderful new book on working with aggressive dogs ([Click to Calm](#)). Might I add that **Emma** is also a highly sought after seminar speaker. Many of our members do therapy work with their dogs; agility in all its forms and now in rally. This club has not necessarily had the classes that taught the specifics of each person's chosen path, but this club is where the spark was lit and where they were supported and nurtured enough to began that journey. New England Dog Training Club has been a place that welcomes the pet trainer and teaches them not only the basics of sit, down, heel and come, but it also inspires its students to go on and find their own way; to enjoy working and playing with their dogs, to build the bond and get excited about that. And that translates into new people who find they love the work and the sport of competition obedience and want to continue to participate. NEDTC is doing a great job

promoting Competition Obedience as a sport among the uninitiated. May you continue in that good work.

As I prepare this last newsletter I wanted to tell you what an honor and a privilege it has been to be allowed into your homes these past years and to share the goings on of our human and canine friends. We've shared the joy of new puppies and the sadness of the passing of old friends. We've shared the thrills of triumphs in the ring and laughed with each other at the silly ways we can be defeated. (**Duncan and Nancy** in Connecticut come to mind. But you'll have to ask her for details.)

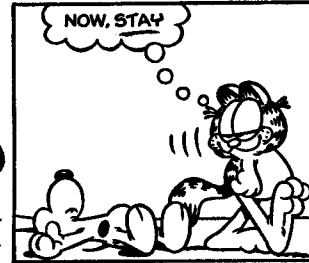
It's been a great journey. Thanks for letting me tag along.

Pat "Scoop" Sullivan

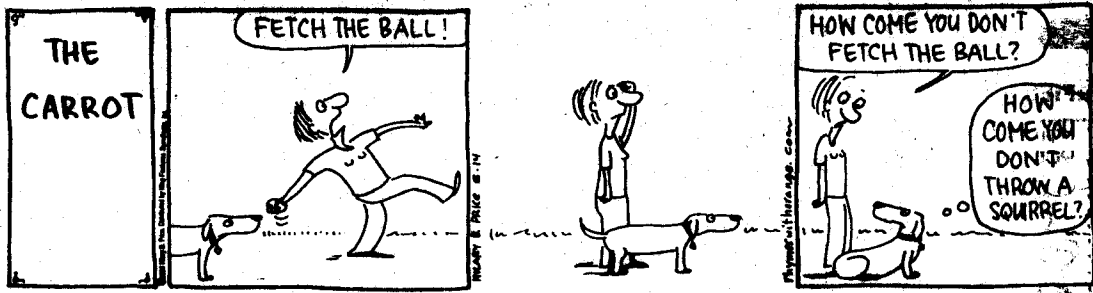
## JUST FOR LAUGHS

(This one is especially close to my heart. I just substitute **MaryBeth** for **Garfield** and **Zelda** for **Odie**...)

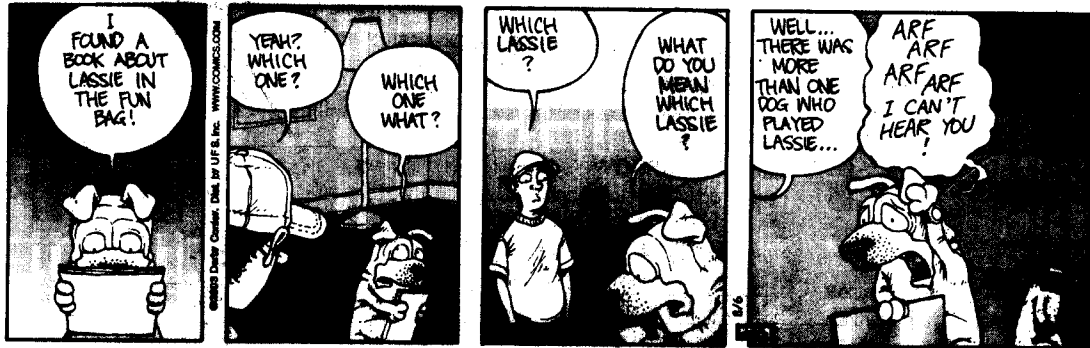
**GarFIELD** (ALIA MaryBeth)



**RHYMES WITH ORANGE** by Hilary Price



**GET FUZZY** by Darby Conley



"That obedience school was worth every penny."