



Redfern Ramblings

April Showers 2009 Edition

Special Events

Mark your calendar NOW and plan to attend the following special events:

- **Redfern Therapy Group**
May 6, June 3 (Weds) 6:30 PM
- **Dog Scouts Troop 171**
Troop Meeting — May 17 (Sun) 4 PM
June 21 (Sun) 4 PM
Jul 19 (Sun) 4 PM
- Arthritis Walk — May 2 (Sat) 10 AM
- PhODOgraphy Badge Checkout
— May 20 (Weds) 6 PM
- Walk for a Healthy Community
— May 30 (Sat) 9 AM
- Hike — June 20 (Sat) 4 PM
- **Redfern Canine Assistants**
"Leash-Cutting" & Open House
— June 2 (Tues) 4 PM
- **Dog First Aid Seminar**
— June 27 (Sat) 2-6 PM
- **4th of July Party**
— July 4 (Sat) 4 PM
- **S.T.A.R Puppy & CGC Testing**
— June 13, July 11, (Sat) 2 PM
- **Teach Your Dog to Swim**
— July 18 (Sat) 1-3
- **Doggie Day Camp** — July 20-24
- **Assistance Dog Workshop**
— July 25 (Sat) 1-5
- **Keystone Cluster Dog Shows & Obedience Trials**
— August 8-10 (Fri-Sun) 8-4
- **The Power of the Click**
(2-day Seminar on Clicker Training)
— (Sat-Sun) Sept 12-13
- **Dog Scout Retreat** — Sept 5-7

Doggie Day Camp is Back!

Once again this year we will sponsor a week-long Day Camp for kids and their dogs. This year's camp is scheduled for the week of July 20-24. Registrations are already coming in, so don't wait to sign up your child (age 7+) and their dog. *Don't have a dog? We'll provide one!* See the website for details.

Worth Repeating

"I've seen a look in dogs' eyes, a quickly vanishing look of amazed contempt, and I am convinced that dogs think humans are nuts."

— John Steinbeck, *My Travels with Charlie* (1962)

Redfern Canine Assistants

Redfern Canine Assistants will hold a "Leash-Cutting" ceremony on **June 2 (Tues, 4 PM)** followed by an **Open House**. If you are involved with Redfern in any capacity, please stop by for a visit that afternoon and evening.

Redfern Canine Assistants Inc. has received approval as a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization. As a result we will now be able to accept tax-deductible donations and qualify for grants from charitable organizations to be able to expand our program. RCA is a training and education center for preparing Therapy and Assistance Dogs. We help you to teach your dog how to provide assistance for you and others.

We train dogs to assist individuals who have disabilities in their daily living activities. The dogs, who have been granted full public access through the 1990 Americans With Disabilities Act, are first taught to behave correctly in public locations and then are taught to do tasks which will mitigate the handler's disability. Assistance dogs may be found in schools, workplaces, theaters, restaurants, stores, and on public transportation.

Service dogs are dogs who are trained to assist an individual who has a mobility or developmental disability. These highly trained dogs may be taught to open & close doors, retrieve items dropped by the handler, turn lights on & off, assist the handler in changing positions or getting up from the floor or a chair, find a phone on command, assist with balance when the handler is walking, summon assistance when needed, help propel a manual wheelchair, and many other daily tasks.

Hearing dogs are dogs who are trained to assist an individual who has a hearing disability. These highly trained dogs are taught to alert their handler to sounds such as a doorbell, an oven timer, a telephone, an alarm clock, someone knocking on the door, someone calling the handler's name, and a smoke alarm.

Redfern Therapy Group (RTG) is a volunteer group of certified therapy dog teams who meet on the first Monday of each month. RTG's goals are to provide:

- Professional level therapy dog teams for the south-central PA area
- Training to enhance the knowledge and skills of member teams
- Training for new dogs and handlers in skills required for certification
- Opportunities for certification of new therapy dog teams
- A clearinghouse for therapy dog requests in south-central PA

Canine Freestyle

An introduction to Canine Freestyle ("dancing with dogs") will be presented May 2 & 9 by Mary Kotalakis of Fieldwood Dog Training Center in Carlisle (founder of the Steppin' Woofs Freestyle Team). Registration is limited, so sign up now.

Upcoming Seminars

Dog First Aid (June 27, 2-6 PM) is based on a program by the American Red Cross. Includes hands-on work with your dog for basic First Aid techniques. Participants will receive a First Aid Manual and DVD. Dog Scouts will be able to complete their checkout for the First Aid Badge at the conclusion of the seminar.

The Power of the Click (Sept 12-13) is a 2-day event to explore the details of operant conditioning, including demonstrations and hands-on practice with your dog. Topics include: theory and history; how NOT to use a clicker; choosing the best reinforcement; use of a partner to train; teaching the indicator; when and how to put a cue on a behavior; improving speed, dexterity and accuracy; shaping behaviors, rate and frequency of rewards; use of "jackpots", fading the use of rewards, teaching complex skills ("chaining behaviors") and more.

Assistance Dog Workshop (July 25, 1-5 PM) — Look for more information in the next issue.

2-day events include lunch and snacks. We recommend bringing note-taking supplies and a comfortable folding chair.

We're happy to answer questions after classes, by Email or phone. Pre-registration is required and is available online.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Some of our furry students have some brags from recent dog shows!

Dale Evans (Cairn Terrier) and owner-handler Eleanor Parker earned their Rally Novice Title at York, March 13.

Ivory (Golden Retriever) and owner-handler Peggy Witmer earned their Rally Novice Title at Harrisburg April 11.

Chloe (Yorkshire Terrier) had her theatrical debut in March at CD East's Musical My Favorite Year, starring in the role of the Fufu dog. She is owned by Carol Stansfield.

Scarlett (Labrador Retriever) and owner-handler Gayle Kohr passed their Delta Society evaluation March 29 with a perfect score!

Wilder (Irish Wolfhound) and handler Cindy McHenry earned their Rally Novice Title at Harrisburg April 11.

Frankie (Siberian Husky) and owner-handler LeeAnn Menut earned their Rally Novice Title at Harrisburg April 11.

Duni (Border Collie) and owner-handler Marilyn Wagner earned their Rally Novice Title at Harrisburg April 11.

Did we miss anyone? If so, let us know and we'll do your brag in the next issue..

Dog Scout Troop 171



Summer is almost here, and Troop 171 has much to report and a full schedule of activities over the next few months

The **Art of Shaping** badge practice session was lots of fun. Four budding artists donned

their paw-pads and created some truly original works of art. There is much interest in doing this again, so look for some future dates to take this to a new level. (Emma brought her premiere work to the last meeting fully framed. WOW! That dog could have a serious career!)

The **PhoDOGraphy** badge training sessions were well-attended, and now the photographers and their 4-legged subjects are practicing poses, and sharpening their technique to be ready for the Check-Out session on May 20 at 6 PM. People should come — WITH THEIR DOGS — prepared to explain what they have done, and demonstrate that they can get their dog to hold a pose, and bring photographs (good and not-so-good) to explain their work and answer the check-out questions.

Troop 171 will be coordinating the Dog Walk portion of the **Arthritis Walk** on Saturday May 2, under the able guidance of Paula Marinak. Dogs must be leashed (max 6 ft, no flexi-leads), current with shots, under control and handlers must clean up after their dogs. We will meet as a team in front of the HACC Student Union building at 9:30 AM. This is an opportunity for **Back-Packing**, **Fund-Raising** and **Community Service** badges.

An additional opportunity for **Back-Packing** and **Community Service** and **Fund-Raising** badges will be the Walk for a Healthy Community (May 30).

A **hike** will be held June 20 (Sat, 4 PM) at Shenk Park, near Hershey. Directions were distributed at the last meeting. If you need a copy, give us a call.

A **Dog First Aid Seminar** will be held June 27. Those who participate in the seminar and complete the check-out process will earn the **First Aid** badge. Plans are being pulled together for a **"Retreat"** over the **Labor Day weekend**. We're hoping to involve some of the Carlisle troop and offer a broad range of badge training and checkouts, as well as some fun activities. Stay tuned for more info as this develops.

Our next regular **Troop Meeting** will be **May 17** at 4 PM. Plan to attend so we can do some more work on up-coming events, projects and badges.

Some of the **Dog Scout Merit Badges** we're working on as a troop are:

- The **Art of Shaping**. Using clicker training to teach the dogs to PAINT!
- **Fundraising**. Dog & human team raise money to support local charities & community service organizations.
- **Community Service**. Dogs and humans team up to help out their local communities.
- **PhoDOGraphy**. Learning how to take better pictures of your dog, and how your training pays off by changing ordinary pictures into good composition and layout.
- **Backpacking**. Learning how to pack and hike with dogs.



Keep checking the website and announcements at the Training Center for additional future events.

Current Class Listings

Class Title	Beginning Date/Time	# Sessions
Rally -- Competition Level	April 30 (Thurs) 5:30 PM	6
Agility -- Level 1	May 1 (Fri) 6:30 PM	6
Freestyle ("Dancing With Dogs") - NEW -	May 2 (Sat) 2-4 PM	2 - (2-hr sessions)
Manners Class	May 9 (Sat) 9:00 AM	6
Rally -- Level 1	May 11 (Mon) 6:30 PM	6
Manners Class	May 11 (Mon) 7:45 PM	6
Conformation Prep Class	May 12 (Tues) 6:30 PM	6
Puppy Class	May 12 (Tues) 7:45 PM	6
Agility -- Advanced	May 15 (Fri) 5:30 PM	6
Manners Class	May 28 (Thurs) 6:30 PM	6
Puppy Class	May 30 (Sat) 10:15 AM	6
Beginners Class	May 30 (Sat) 11:30 AM	6
Retrieve Class	May 31 (Sun) 12 Noon	6
Rally -- Level 1 --- Afternoon Class ---	June 3 (Weds) 2:30 PM	6
Beginners Class	June 11 (Thurs) 7:45 PM	6
Puppy Class	June 14 (Sun) 1:15 PM	6
Obedience Competition Prep	June 14 (Sun) 2:30 PM	6
Rally -- Competition Level	June 18, (Thurs) 5:30 PM	6
Agility -- Level 2	June 19 (Fri) 6:30 PM	6
Agility -- Level 1	June 19 (Fri) 7:45 PM	6
Tricks Class	June 20 (Sat) 12:45 PM	3
Kids Klub	June 23 (Tues) 5:30 PM	6
Beginners Class	June 27 (Sat) 9:00 AM	6
Rally -- Level 1	June 29 (Mon) 6:30 PM	6
Beginners Class	June 29 (Mon) 7:45 PM	6
Manners Class	June 30 (Tues) 6:30 PM	6
Rally -- Level 2	June 30 (Tues) 7:45 PM	6
Puppy Class	July 9 (Thurs) 6:30 PM	6
Agility -- Advanced	July 10 (Fri) 5:30 PM	6
Manners Class	July 18 (Sat) 10:15 AM	6
Beginners Class	July 18 (Sat) 11:30 AM	6
Reliable Recalls	July 23 (Thurs) 7:45 PM	4
Rally -- Level 1	July 26 (Sun) 1:15 PM	6
Beginners Class	July 26 (Sun) 2:30 PM	6
Beginners Class --- Afternoon Class ---	July 29 (Weds) 2:30 PM	6
Rally -- Competition Level	July 30 (Thurs) 5:30 PM	6
Loose Leash Walking	August 1 (Sat) 12:45 PM	4
CGC/Therapy Dog Preparation	August 10 (Mon) 6:30 PM	5
Puppy Class	August 10 (Mon) 7:45 PM	6
Rally -- Level 1	August 11 (Tues) 6:30 PM	6
Agility -- Level 2	August 14 (Fri) 6:30 PM	6
Agility -- Level 1	August 14 (Fri) 7:45 PM	6
Manners Class	August 18 (Tues) 7:45 PM	6
Beginners Class	August 20 (Thurs) 7:45 PM	6
Obedience Competition Prep	August 22 (Sat) 9:00 AM	6
Puppy Class	August 27 (Thurs) 6:30 PM	6
Beginners Class	Sept 19 (Sat) 10:15 AM	6
Manners Class	Sept 19 (Sat) 11:30 AM	6
CGC/Therapy Dog Preparation	Oct 3 (Sat) 12:45 PM	5

NOTE — If the class you prefer is not scheduled at a time convenient to you, please let us know ... we may be able to make an adjustment, or schedule a new class based on general interest.

PLEASE REMEMBER (when registering online) to complete the Class Application AND Payment Forms. If a Payment Form is submitted without the Application it is necessary to contact you to get important information.

Worth Repeating

"If a dog's prayers were answered, bones would rain from the sky." — Turkish Proverb

Puppy Watch

Next litter hoped for in Mid-June. Up-to-date information will be announced on the website.