

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: **Dog Scouts of America**

If you receive this email in full html, you can just [click on the events underlined and in light blue](#) to get to the correct page on our web site!

We have tons of NEWS for you this month, so please read through the next section carefully!

➤ **Kudos to our clients:**

Spring clean-up around our facility during the snow melting wasn't bad at all this year. Thanks to all our winter clients and students, who kept cleaning up after their (and probably other) dogs thoroughly!

➤ **2012 is BetCo's 10th anniversary:**

We will put **every class sign-up since April 1st into a drawing**, taking place on our anniversary celebration day, Doggy Day on Saturday, Sep 8th, 2012. You'll be automatically entered, and we'll give you one ticket for each class you sign up for between now and Sep 8th. **First prize will be a full free class!** There'll be other prizes, too! Don't forget to mark Sep 8th on your calendar to join our [celebration!](#) You don't have to be present to win, but we sure encourage you to come and join the fun!

➤ **We added several events to our EVENT section below:**

- **May 12/13: Alaska's first Nose Work trial:** The best way to learn about this sport is to volunteer! We still need volunteers for both days, and you don't need any knowledge of Nose Work. See below under EVENTS for more info and whom to contact.
- **June 3rd: Disc Dog (Frisbee) Competition:** Anybody with a Frisbee-driven dog can participate! Scoring will be for distance and accuracy, nothing fancy added. See below under EVENTS for more info and who to contact.
- **June 9th: Pet Expo at the Sullivan Arena in Anchorage:** This is the first time this event is brought to Alaska. 200 mostly local vendors, free entry for visitors, and you can bring your dog! BetCo will be there! More info below under EVENTS, updated as we learn more about it.
- **Workshops at BetCo in July/August:** Single day workshops, from 3 to 7 hrs. Some repeated from last year by popular request: **Recall** Workshop, **Treat/Retreat** Workshop for shy dogs, **Feisty Fido** and **Loose Leash Walking** workshops. **New Agility workshops: Go Weave!, Independent Contacts and Jumping Jack!**

➤ **Open Play Time/ Doggy Day Care:**

- Our **OPT** will be **closed** on May 25 (Memorial Day weekend) and July 6 (4th of July-week)
- Our **DDC** will be **closed** on July 5th (4th of July-week)

➤ **Upcoming classes!**

- **Elementary School and Rally College:** We still have some spaces left in those two classes, starting May 17. ES is for all P2 and FC graduates, RC is for ES graduates.
- **Flyball Beginners:** We'll offer a 4-week Flyball class outside starting May 31. This might be our only chance for a Flyball Beginner class this year, so don't delay!
- **Nose Work and Treibball:** June 4/5 we again offer beginner classes for Nose Work, our pet detection dog sport and Treibball, the urban ball herding sport. Both provide you with easy but dog-tiring activities to continue at home, improve special skills in you and your dog, and enhance the team aspect between you and your dog.
- **C.L.A.S.S. course:** Second round starting June 5, if you missed the first one! All students had a blast, playing games while teaching their dogs manners. For all levels after P2 and FC.

The online calendar can look very confusing. Please don't hesitate to call or email us with any questions about upcoming classes, workshops or practices.

Enjoy the spring,
Claudia

Below you'll find:

- 1) Information on upcoming **events/ workshops**
- 2) **New classes** and **workshops:** Dates and times of upcoming classes
- 3) **How to sign up for the classes**
- 4) Information on the **Doggy Daycare** and **Open Play Times**
- 5) This month's story: **Dog Scouts of America**

1) Information on upcoming events:

- **May 12/13 in Chugiak: Alaska's first Nose Work trial**

The best way to learn about this sport is to volunteer! We still need volunteers for both days, and you don't need any knowledge of Nose Work.

To read the job descriptions for the different volunteer positions, go to:

<http://www.akdogsports.com/k9nwevent.html/id5.html>

At the bottom of that page is a link to the sign-up form for volunteers.

Or just contact the volunteer coordinator: bettercompanion@gmail.com.

- **June 3rd at Lake Lucille Park in Wasilla at 1pm: Disc Dog Competition**

Anybody with a Frisbee-driven dog can participate! Scoring will be for distance and accuracy, nothing fancy added.

This is a very simple competition format. It consists of two 60 second rounds and 1 disc to score as many points as possible. The field is broke into 4 zones with more points awarded to the longer throws and catches.

This event is sanctioned by Skyhoundz and you can get a full set of rules at skyhoundz.com.

They really just want to introduce the sport to people and will be happy to get together and explain it to people if they are interested.

Sign up will be at noon on competition day.

For more info please call Chanelle at 841- 0532.

- **June 9th: National “Pet Expo” at the Sullivan Arena in Anchorage**

This is the first time this event is brought to Alaska. 200 mostly local vendors, free entry for visitors, and you can bring your dog! **BetCo will be there** with Claudia giving a **15 minute “mini-seminar”** on reward-based dog training right after the welcome speech of Shorty Rossi at 10:45am, and our **Treibball** and **Nose Work** demonstrations later. We’ll also have a **booth** with lots of give-aways, so stop by and visit us! Doors will open at 10am, and they’ll have other demos as well. Check out their schedule or reserve one of their last booths at www.anchoragepetexpo.com.

- **Workshops at BetCo in July/August:** Web page will be updated soon, click on links for description. 6 dogs maximum, unlimited audit. Offered once a year only! Our clients have been clamoring for these, so sign up early!

- 🐾 [Recall](#) Workshop Saturday, July 28, 10am-5pm

- 🐾 [Treat/Retreat](#) Workshop for shy dogs Saturday, Aug 4, 2-6pm

- 🐾 [Feisty Fido](#) Workshop for leash-reactive dogs Saturday, Aug 11, 2-6pm

- 🐾 [Loose Leash Walking](#) workshop Monday, July 30, 4-8pm.

- **New Agility workshops:** maximum 6 dogs each, 2-3 hours, regular fee \$50, pre-reg. \$45, audit (observing without own dog) \$25/\$20. (web page will be updated soon)

- 🐾 **Go Weave!** Saturday, Aug 4, 10am-1pm

- Improve your dog's weaves in accuracy and speed! Finding the entry, developing a faster weaving pattern, reliability without babying. We'll use different sets for different approaches, and can mostly work several dogs simultaneously. You can bring your own weave pole set to use for some of the exercises as well. Dogs of any level after one Agility Beginner class welcome!

🐾 **Independent Contacts** Saturday, Aug 11, 10am-1pm
Refining your dog's 2on2off performance on A-Frame, Dogwalk and Teeter, and/or helping your dog over contact anxiety. We'll work with all dogs on being more comfortable on the equipment, show you some exercises you can practice without any equipment at home and improve the dog's independent 2on2off performance with some fun games. Some of the exercises can be done simultaneously on the different equipment.

🐾 **Jumping Jack!** Saturday, Aug 25, 10am-1pm
Putting the fun back in the jumping! Dog/handler teams will mostly be able to work simultaneously at their jump, besides some exercises involving multiple obstacles (jumps and a tunnel or table). We'll show the dogs how much fun jumping is! No more going around the jump! We want the dog SEEKING the jump when we give the cue.

2) Dates and Times of Upcoming Classes:

- A) Drop-in Practices (Nose Work, Rally, Flyball)
- B) Behavior Classes (including Rally and Tricks class)
- C) Sports Classes (Agility, Treibball, Nose Work and seasonal sports)

A) Drop-in Practices:

Indoors or outside – please dress accordingly, preferably in layers. Training punch card available online. One card for all practices!

🐾 Nose Work Advanced For 'Intro to Odor' Graduates:
Supervisor: January/Claudia

Nose Work Practice on Mondays, 6:30pm: April 2nd **until May 7th** at the facility. **We'll be outdoors** (rain or shine) for vehicle and exterior searches, some outside box drills. Sign-up preferred. No student limit until May trials. **No practice May 8 - June 3.**
Starting June 4th: Mondays, 7:45pm - 6 dogs maximum

🐾 Rally Practice For Rally College Graduates and Rally trialers:
Supervisor: Ella-Kate

Rally Practice is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Wednesday, May 2nd.
Reservation required. Practice will **resume May 17th** (on space available basis) during Rally College class.

🐾 Flyball Practice:
Supervisor: Karla

No further practices planned so far.

We'll have a Flyball Beginner class May 31 - June 21

See below under sports classes

B) Behavior Classes (include Rally and Tricks class):

Listed are start and end dates. The classes will run once a week for 6 weeks.

Puppy 1 – Preschool:

Wednesdays, **May 16 - June 20**, 6:15-7:15pm. Instructors: Claudia and Karla, (Ella-Kate)

Sundays, **June 3 - July 8**, 5-6pm. Instructor: Claudia

Sundays, **July 22 - Aug 26**, 5-6pm. Instructor: Claudia

Foundation Class:

Wednesdays, **May 16 - June 20**, 7:30-8:30pm. Instructors: Claudia and Karla, (Ella-Kate)

Sundays, **June 3 - July 8**, 6:15-7:15pm. Instructor: Claudia

Sundays, **July 22 - Aug 26**, 6:15-7:15pm. Instructor: Claudia

Puppy 2 - Kindergarten:

Wednesdays, **May 16 - June 20**, 5-6pm. Instructor: Claudia

Thursdays, **May 17 - June 21**, 5-6pm. Instructor: Claudia

Thursdays, **July 26 - Aug 30**, 5-6pm. Instructor: Claudia

Elementary School:

Thursdays, **May 17 - June 21**, 6:15-7:15pm. Instructor: Claudia

Thursdays, **July 26 - Aug 30**, 6:15-7:15pm. Instructor: Claudia

Rally College:

Thursdays, **May 17 - June 21**, 7:30-8:30pm. Instructor: Claudia

Next: November 2012 or January 2013

Tricks 'N Clicks Class:

Next: November 2012 or January 2013

High School (CGC-prep class - 6 weeks):

Thursdays, **July 26 - Aug 30**, 7:30-8:30pm. Instructor: Claudia

C.L.A.S.S.-BA Course:

Tuesdays, **June 5 - July 10**, 5:15-6:15pm. Instructors: Karla, (Ella-Kate), Claudia

Wednesdays, **Aug 15 - Sep 26** (if break for week of Labor day), time TBA. Instructors: Karla and Ella-Kate

Evaluations:

CGC-Evaluation: Sunday, **Sep 16**, 2012 (one week later than originally planned)

C.L.A.S.S. Evaluation: Tuesday, **July 24**, 2012 (two weeks after the C.L.A.S.S. course)

C) Sports classes (Agility, Treibball, Nose Work and seasonal sports):

Listed are start dates. The classes will run once a week for 6 weeks.

Flyball Beginners (4-week course):

Thursdays, May 31 - June 21, 7:45-8:45pm (set-up at 7:30pm) Instructor: Karla

Next Start: **unknown**

Agility Puppy/Beginners:

Saturdays, **June 16 - July 21**, 10am-12pm (class 10:30am-11:30am). Instructors:

Claudia, Kat

Next: Saturdays, **Sep 15 - Oct 20**

Agility Skills Training:

Saturdays, **June 16 - July 21**, 11:30am-1pm (class 12-1pm). Instructors: Claudia, Kat

Next: Saturdays, **Sep 15 - Oct 20**

Agility Sequencing:

Saturdays, **June 16 - July 21**, 2-4pm (class 2:30-3:30pm). Instructors: Kat, Claudia

Next: Saturdays, **Sep 15 - Oct 20**

Agility Trialing:

Saturdays, **June 16 - July 21**, starting at 3:30pm. Instructors: Claudia, Kat

Next: Saturdays, **Sep 15 - Oct 20**

Treibball Beginners:

Tuesdays, **June 5 - July 10**, 7:45-8:45pm (set-up at 7:30pm) Instructor: Karla

Next Start: **tentatively Aug 15, Instructor: Ella-Kate**

Treibball Intermediate:

Tuesdays, **June 5 - July 10**, 6:30-7:30pm (set-up at 6:15pm) Instructor: Karla

Next Start: **Aug 15, Instructor: Ella-Kate**

Nose Work Beginners:

Mondays, **June 4 - July 9**, 5:15-6:15pm (set-up at 5pm) Instructors: January, Claudia

Next: Mondays, Aug 13 - Sep 24 (break on Labor Day)

Nose Work - Intro to Odor:

Mondays, **June 4 - July 9**, 6:30-7:30pm (set-up at 6:15pm) Instructors: January, Claudia

Next: Mondays, Aug 13 - Sep 24 (break on Labor Day)

3) HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE CLASSES:

It's easy!!! On our webpage www.bettercompanion.com, use the menu bar on the left. You'll find a button "Classes", with the subtitle "Registration", which brings you directly to the **one registration form for ALL classes and workshops**. After clicking "enroll" at the end, you'll get to the pricing and payment page, which explains all payment options, policies, and allows you to pay online, too. You can also check out the pricing page first, to learn about prices, payment and cancellation policies. Please note that **some workshops have their own cancellation policy**, even though they use the same registration form as the classes. Take advantage of our **pre-registration fee** by signing up a minimum of **14 days before the start of your class**. Different deadlines might apply to some of the workshops and seminars.

Puppy 1 Preschool clients, please remember you can also purchase the **Puppy School Packet**, including P1 and P2 class. You only have to commit to the six weeks of P1 class, and will receive a voucher for P2, valid for 1 full year! For P2 voucher holders, the voucher will be your payment. After you fill out the registration form for P2, you can email us the voucher number, mail the voucher to us or drop it off at the facility.

Reserve your spot! Please note **our registration policy: Only the payment will hold your spot.** Spots are reserved in the order we receive payment for them. **Always sign up for the class you want to join**, even if it could be full. Only the payment will keep you on the waiting list, in case somebody else drops out before the class starts. **Your payment is never lost**, even if the class is already full. Your payment will 1) save you a spot at the class, or 2) save you a spot on the waiting list, or 3) can be carried over to a later class, or 4) can be refunded if I couldn't get you in the class you chose, or 5) can cause me to open an overflow class ☺. Just as a note: I sometimes get up to three dogs per class moved in from a waiting list before the class even starts. **We can take credit card payments over the phone and at the facility.**

4) Doggy Daycare and Open Play Times:

Doggy Daycare: Offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays 6am-7pm, with their playtime ending at 5pm, at which time they'll be kenneled if not picked up before. Call us for details.

We'll be closed on July 5th in observance of Independence Day.

Open Play Time: Come with your dog for one hour of dog play and dog owner social time. Each dog must be supervised by an adult handler, one dog per handler only. Vaccinated dogs only (5-way/DHPPi, dogs over 6 mo: Rabies, Bordetella). We also require having the dog dewormed or a fecal sample checked.

No OPT on May 25th (Memorial Day Weekend) and July 6th (week of Independence Day)

First-timers: bring your vaccination papers, we want to see them! Larger dogs over 6 months, please call us before your first visit, so that we can decide together which hour would be best for your dog, and if we need to evaluate your dog first. We offer evaluations on Fridays at 8pm (see below).

Fee: \$7 at the door or punch card \$35 for a 6 visit punch card.

Our Open Play Times (indoors + outdoors, depending on the season and weather) have become a safe playground for dogs of any size due to our size restrictions for each group. Only timid and absolutely non-reactive dogs can be slightly heavier than the group limit. The group from 6-7pm (medium dogs) is limited to 12 dogs and the group from 7-8pm (large dogs) is limited to 8 dogs. Reservations can be made in advance. At this time no reservations are needed for the group from 5-6pm (small dogs/puppies). **Your dog can get on the waitlist and you will be called if we have a cancellation. If you reserved a spot for your dog in OPT, didn't show that day and we had someone on the waitlist, you WILL be charged for that day even though you weren't there.** Just call us and we explain the details.

Every Friday (not before holiday weekends e.g. Memorial Day, Labor Day, ...):

5-6pm: puppies, toy and small dogs up to 25#

6-7pm: puppies and medium adult dogs 30-50# (giant breed puppies can be heavier)

7-8pm: Large adult dogs over 60# (indoors: 8 dogs max; outdoors: 10 dogs max)

8-9pm: By appointment only –for evaluations. \$35/half hour

You can check our web page www.bettercompanion.com for more info on classes, facility, and schedule, read testimonies (“Happy Tales!”) from other students, print out the registration form and more.

Or contact us by email or phone: info@bettercompanion.com, (907) 357-2521.

5) DOG SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Excerpts from their web page: www.dogscouts.org:

Dog Scouts of America (DSA) was established in 1995. It is a non-profit organization people who are dedicated to enriching their lives and the lives of others with dogs. **Founder, Lonnie Olson**, has made it her life's ambition to experience as many dog sports and skills as possible with her dogs. If you believe that dogs really enjoy learning new things and spending time with their owners, you're our kind of dog person. Dogs were not meant to be "furniture." Working dogs want to work. Without having an acceptable activity in which to use up all of that energy that comes "built-in" with a dog, our canine companions often get into trouble. By better understanding how your dog thinks, how he learns, and what drives his behavior, and by participating in a variety of dog sports and activities, you will become a more responsible dog owner. We hope to prevent misunderstandings, communication failures and behavioral problems which often lead to dogs being given up as a "lost cause".

Lonnie's motto: "Our dog's lives are much shorter than ours - let's help them enjoy their time with us as much as we can."

Mission statement: To improve the lives of dogs, their owners, and society through humane education, positive training, and community involvement.

Training approach: To promote humane treatment of animals, DSA advocates only the most modern, scientific, behavioral approaches to training. DSA teaches the owners that everything you need to communicate to a dog can be done with operant conditioning, and without the use of force, punishment or abuse.

Joining: You can become a member and sign up your dog(s) as well. Your dogs become "**Cadet Scouts**" immediately. Then any dog can become a **Dog Scout**. The only requirement is that the dog and owner must be able to pass a test, proving that the owner is responsible and the dog is well mannered and not a danger toward humans and other dogs. This test is partly online for the owner and partly videotaping the dog's behavior in public in certain situations. Once there's a Dog Scout instructor and evaluator available in Alaska, the test can be taken directly without videotaping.

Merit badge system: You can only earn badges after you and your dog passed the Dog Scout Test. There are uncountable different badges your dog can earn. After learning and performing a particular skill, the owner will receive a patch to attest to the accomplishment. **Examples for badges** are: Backpacking, Hiking, Biking, Letterboxing, Geocaching, Camping, Cani-cross; various badges for water activities, agility, obedience, nose work, pulling and community services; Photography, Sign Language, Retrieve, Fundraising, Temperament Test (ATTS), Scent Hurdle, Triathadog, First Aid, Dog Care, Travel Safety, Disaster Prep, K-9 Fitness, Hunt Retriever, Lure Coursing, Steeplechase, Herding, Flyball, Frisbee (Distance), Frisbee (Freestyle), Earth dog, Treibball...

Other activities: [Hike-a-thon](#), [dog scout camps](#), [DSA sanctioned competitions](#) ...

Did you get curious? Time to go to www.dogscouts.org and check out those [badges](#)! I'm sure you and your dog can earn at least some of them!

Want to meet with other **Dog Scouts in Alaska**? The troop is called Trailside Dogs and can be found on Facebook! The troop can't be found on the Dog Scout web page yet, but hopefully soon.

Claudia

Claudia Sihler, CPDT-KA
(Certified Professional Dog Trainer - Knowledge Assessed)
BTW - results about my exam aren't in yet...
APDT C.L.A.S.S. Evaluator

AKC CGC® Evaluator

Your BetCo Team at

The Better Companion - Regine Dog Training Facility

Claudia Sihler, CPDT-KA

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