



# BAGPIPES *EXTRA Edition*

January 2013

## HIGHLAND HERDING

*Ann Witte*

**Take Stock - Part 1** So what sorts of indicators are there to tell us what the livestock's physical and mental status is? First - and most obvious - is that the sheep, cattle or fowl will begin panting to cool down. The very instant any of the stock pants, you should stop any training efforts and put the stock up to rest and relax. Watch these animals in that occasionally one will continue to overheat and should be cooled down with water.

More to the point, if your stock (regardless of type or experience) may react negatively to your Beardie and become flighty or feisty. If they are being chased by your dog at all, never stay anchored to your "place;" rather, run to stop the dog immediately. Remember - whether in practice or in a Trial - you must always put the health and well-being of the livestock first. Chasing stock is never a way to work the stock you have!

Always keep in mind that man uses dogs to round up livestock safely and quietly; barking is never to be included in this idea of "quietly" - rather it refers to the more casual attitude of the livestock. A good and properly trained dog is as much a protector of his stock as he is a herder for them. You should have a reliable stop and recall on your dog before you even try a Test, let alone a Trial. If you will learn how stock can react to dogs and help your dog as well, you will be there!

## HAVE EWE HERD?

*Ann Witte*

All AKC and AHBA titles listed below are taken from their respective official lists and will usually be 2 to 3 months delayed in reporting.

AKC Titles:

HT

Artisan Crystal Vision HT, Joanne Vaughn & William Vaughn III

HSAd

Lil'Clove True Grit CD, Sonja Blanchard

HSAs

Surfsong's Windward, Catherine McLaren & Lori Fournier

AHBA Titles:

HRD-Is

Jazz Life On Mars, Lotta Eranka & David Reeves

HRD-III's

Aellen The Playmaker, Carol & Ruth Colavecchio

NEW HICs

Spindrift Rookie of the Year, Jamie & Barry Stevens

Runningmtn Asti Spumante, Jamie & Barry Stevens

Runningmtn Native Dancer, Tish Pollack

Dunnachie Way To Be At Pentangle, Debra Thomas

Dunnachie My Way Or The Highway, Kathleen Harold &

Jacky Dunn

Harvest Midnight Melody, Barbara Ellen Jones

Bardic's Make It So, Barbara Ellen Jones

Bardic's Dark Knight, Barbara Ellen Jones

Bardic's Captain Angie, Barbara Ellen Jones

Bardic's Harvest Ready To Launch, Kathryn L Haas

Headline's Upcoming News, Matt & Suzi Beddoe

Culduneon-Runningmtn Aged To Perfection, Linda &

Allen Perkins

Woodsong's Smoke Jumper Of McVan, Vandra Huber &

Michael Krolewski

Dunnachie Way Of The Wizard, Suzanne Rau

Whyme's Daisy May Moon, William Rogers &

Sheryl-Jean Rogers

Meadows' Unique Sensation, Kathryn Haas

Harvest Highland Hocus Pocus, Wanda Packard

Lanark's They Call The Wind, Linda & Mark Glaman

Kinikia Captain, Leslie McManus

Brandmar Jenuwin Unforgettable Fire, Karen Reed

Moonstone I Wanna Talk About Me, Kim &

Mark Rickards

Stargate's Spaghetti Cowboy, Kim & Mark Rickards

## **Braggin' Rights**

*Laurie Lo*

### **Obedience**

CH MACH Sheiling Awesome Angel UDX3 OM4 RE PT MXS MTG AXP AXJ -- 'Conor' was the only Bearded Collie to compete in the AKC Invitational held in Orlando, FL this December. Elaine O'Carroll and her fabulous partner earned a total of 1,277 points.

### **Explorations and Excursions:**

Obedience Can Be Fun and Educational

*Sharon Domier*

Are you looking for a companion sport you can enjoy with your Bearded Collie for many years? Do you find AKC rules intimidating or too strict for you? Or perhaps you have already worked your way through the RE and are looking for more of a challenge? There are a number of alternatives that you can explore. One is Cynosport APDT Rally. The APDT (Association of Pet Dog Trainers) created a rally program that welcomes all dogs, whether purebred or mixed and accommodates any handicaps as long as the dog is not in pain.

Because of its origins as a place for pet dog trainers and their students to show off their training skills, APDT Rally has a number of features that stand out from AKC Rally. The first and foremost is the use of food or touch rewards that are allowed after stationary exercises. The second is the ability to proactively request course modifications on behalf of your dog, so that all dogs can have an opportunity to succeed in the ring. The third is that judges also show their dogs, but they are not competing against the people they are judging. There are more signs, but some can be "married" and share a common sit. Finally, additional commands are penalized and you can end up with a non-qualifying score if you repeat a command 3 times, for example.

There are also more opportunities to earn titles if you enjoy working towards goals. There are three levels that require progression: Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3. There are two optional levels that have age restrictions: Puppy Level for dogs between 6 and 12 months, and Veteran Level for dogs that are 8 years and older. Puppy and Veteran Levels have fewer signs and allow food and touch rewards at any time. Veteran Level uses signs from Levels 1 through 3, but there are no jumps and very few downs or sits to accommodate the older dogs and no time limits on the course.

There are also 3 junior levels for handlers aged 8 to 18 years old and one Pre-Junior Level for handlers under the

age of 8. In the case of junior handlers, all levels are run on-leash and food/touch rewards may be given at any time. There are no limitations on praise or encouragement.

APDT Rally runs start with 200 points, with deductions taken for faults. A qualifying score is 170. At the end of each course is a bonus exercise worth up to 10 points. Failing the bonus exercise does not lead to a non-qualifying run. Particularly in Level 3, there are many obedience skills required such as moving stands, a directed retrieve, a directed jump, drop on recall, and a signals exercise. Some of more difficult skills are used in the bonus signs, so even if you fail miserably at them you will not lose your qualifying score.

Each level has an A Class and a B Class. All dogs start in the A Class, which is a titling class. To earn a title, the dog must have 3 qualifying scores of 170 or over from at least two different judges. Qualifying scores of 190 or higher earn an Award of Excellence in addition to the title. The B Class is a championship class, and each time a dog has earned 10 qualifying runs in B Class, s/he can earn a new title RL1X, RL1X1, RL1X2, etc. There are also awards that are similar to the AKC RAE, which require qualifying scores two levels and later 3 levels at the same trial called ARCH, ARCHX, ARCHEX, and ARCHMX.

I particularly enjoy the fact that judges are allowed/encouraged to show their own dogs at events they are judging. Typically the judge is offered entries in the Judge's class as part of her compensation. Scores earned in the Judge's class are for titling purposes only and they may not compete against others for placements or special awards. Their runs are judged by another judge approved to judge at that level. Since there are often 2 trials in a day, the afternoon judge will be entered in the regular levels in the morning and judge the judge's class. And in the afternoon they switch.

As I said earlier, one of the features of APDT Rally is that all dogs not in pain are welcome in the ring and accommodations are made for their physical challenges. Competitors are expected to take a proactive role in suggesting modifications appropriate for their dog's needs. Dogs who have had ACL surgery will be allowed to jump at lower heights. Tri-pawed dogs, on the other hand, may need to replace downs with sits because of the strain placed on their other limbs by going down and then back up again in a timely manner. I have competed against and cheered for 3-legged dogs, dogs in carts, blind dogs, and deaf dogs. Of course, there are also handlers that need to request modifications for particular reasons. In each case, they use the modification form and tell the judge the sign number that they/their dog can't handle and what they

propose to substitute in its place (bar on ground for a dog with TPLO, remove bar from jump for a dog in a cart, tapping the jump for a blind dog).

I have only been involved with APDT Rally for the past two years and joined the trial committee for the Monadnock Humane Society last year, but I really appreciate the way people treat their companion dogs and support each other. While I appreciate the truly beautiful performances of my competitors, I am absolutely fine with losing points for crooked sits as long as my partner's tail wags throughout the entire event. If you are interested in seeing our progress, here is a video of Rupert (age 11) trying the Veteran's course for the first time, followed by Bliss trying Level 3 for the first time.

[http://www.blisshollow.org/K-9\\_Videos/APDT\\_Rally\\_Dec\\_2012.html](http://www.blisshollow.org/K-9_Videos/APDT_Rally_Dec_2012.html)

APDT Rally is going to undergo a few changes in the next year or so as the APDT has decided to let go of its rally program and has chosen the United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA) to take it over. During the transition year, it is being called World Cynosport APDT Rally. All old titles will be grandfathered in. All current exhibitors are being folded into USDAA memberships without additional charge. For now, see the APDT website for more information:

<http://www.apdt.com/rally/>

There are a number of Beardie people enjoying APDT Rally. Why not come out and join us?

Please e-mail your brags and stories to me at [Buckeyegumption@yahoo.com](mailto:Buckeyegumption@yahoo.com)