

# THE Latest Scoop

JULY 2012 - Vol 1

LVDICE

Member  
eNewsletter

## Elicia Calhoun: Inspiration in the Desert

By Michelle Anthony

On Monday, June 11, 2012. I learned Elicia Calhoun had been in a serious accident with a semi-truck in southeastern Arizona while traveling back from an agility trial with her 6 dogs. Her car rolled several times resulting in her being taken to the hospital with a punctured lung. Her young Kelpie pup, Tsunami, did not survive the accident. The other five dogs survived with Iceman, BreeSea, and Destiny being taken to a nearby vet for treatment. Somehow, Nika and Tobie went missing in the desert.

Within hours, the story of the accident appeared on Facebook. Amber Abbott, who lives near where the accident took place, started a Facebook Page to help find the missing dogs. Hundreds then thousands of people began following the search for the two lost dogs.

My heart sank as I realized someone else was living my worst fear. We all travel to agility trials. I knew I needed to help in some way but I was in another state. When I read Amber's post that they were considering hiring a tracking dog to help find Nika and Tobie, I sent

Elicia and Nika at 2010 Cynosports Games



*"It really was an amazing experience of being a part of a community supporting each other and helping out another in need."*



*"OMG She is safe. She is found" Facebook posting seconds after the recovery of missing dog, Tobie.*

a private message to Amber saying I would donate to the search effort. She responded by thanking me and we will figure it out the money later. I set up a fund raising account on behalf of LVDICE with PayPal.

I thought that maybe \$2,000-\$5,000 might be raised to help in the search. Little did I know how MUCH the agility community would rally behind Elicia. As soon as I set up the account, donations started rolling. My email was blowing up, sounding like the slot machines at a casino. **To date, over \$30,000 has been donated.**

Many people came together in the search efforts in support of Elicia Calhoun. It really was an amazing experience watching people from all over the world take part in helping a fellow agility competitor. People paid for helicopters and small planes. They called in military favors and people sent positive thoughts when they were needed most.

This was one of those events that will impact our community forever. The feeling of being part of a group with a common goal was inspirational. As members of LVDICE, I hope we can take the energy generated and continue this generosity in our everyday life.

When we are at trials, take a moment to thank someone. Let's try to help the newer and out-of-town competitors feel welcome. When you see someone who needs help, jump in and lend a hand.

LVDICE, and the agility community at large, is a group of amazing people. Let's make the 2012-2013 trial season our best yet and support each other along the way.

*The rest of the story: Unfortunately, the evening after the accident, Nika was found dead, hit by a car. Tobie survived through the night and after a dramatic search, she was found the next morning near the freeway, alive and well. Elicia and her remaining dogs are safely home and continue to recover from their injuries. [www.facebook.com/CalhounE](http://www.facebook.com/CalhounE)  
**Rest in Peace-Nika and Tsunami.***

Elicia, her 4 surviving dogs and the wrecked car.



## Upcoming Events:

### LVDICE General Meetings

Jul 10, 2012 @ 7 pm

Aug 14, 2012 @ 7 pm

Sep 11, 2012 @ 7 pm

Toyota Scion Dealership

6300 W. Sahara Ave.

### CPE Agility Trial

#### LVDICE

July 21-22, 2012

Closes: July 11, 2012

Smartpaws Canine Coaching

Las Vegas, NV

### In Utah for Labor Day?

#### AKC Agility Trial

##### Intermountain Kennel Club

Aug. 31- Sept. 3, 2012

Closes: Aug. 15, 2012

Lynnleigh Farm

Salt Lake City, UT

Sheryl Harames-Trial Secretry

(801) 985-5263

schip2agility@msn.com

## LVDICE Board:

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famistler@cox.net

# Setting Goals: Commitment Equals Success

By Patricia Shaw

I am a novice agility competitor with two very different dogs. Because of this, I have had to clearly define two distinct sets of goals. During the time I have spent training them, I have learned that commitment, more than anything else, equals success.

**Cooper: the turbo-charged troublemaker.** My rescued yellow lab, Cooper, has above average intelligence and stamina. He expresses these talents on an endless hunt for getting into trouble.

*Our Challenge:* Cooper is a large dog with a long stride. He has struggled with tight handling and coursework. Also, repetitive exercises bore him leading to his disengagement at practice. I despaired at ever being able to compete where speed, tight turns and a strong work ethic are key.

*Our Commitment to Success:* I strongly encourage Cooper work independently, at a distance from me, to take advantage of his long stride, intelligence and fearlessness. I conduct short practice sessions with a rapid increase of difficulty to challenge him to stay engaged.

**Onyx: my shy shadow.** Onyx is an athletic dog that enjoys running, jumping and climbing.

*Our Challenge:* Onyx was very shy and fearful when I first got her. Her worst issue is a display of fear aggression when on-leash and hiding between my legs whenever off.

*Our Commitment to Success:* With our biggest stumbling block being a fear of the tire, meeting new dogs and people, this challenge was overcome with plenty of positive associations for Onyx whenever she interacted with these things. Persistence paid off as her fear gradually dwindled. Positive exposure to new people and dogs at class has been a huge plus. She will now approach



## COOPER

strangers for a butt scratch or a treat and gets along with other dogs while off leash. Though I will always be aware of her particular tendencies to be nervous on leash, I no longer have to be "on guard" non-stop.

With my success in training with the dogs, I was ready to move onto a higher goal: competition.

When I first started competing, I had the usual first time jitters plus some. With Onyx, I was so nervous of her leash related behavioral issues would get us kicked out of the trial. With Cooper's first run, I was terrified that he would lose interest and wander out of the ring.

I am grateful the support of my instructors, my fellow students and friends. Without them, my first competition may have been my last.

We can be fairly certain that any person entering a competition wants to be successful, but we should also be mindful to help them commit to success with their personal goals too.

Like mine, their goals could be as simple as not being asked to leave the show grounds, or to finish a course with our dog at our side.

For myself, commitment to my dogs means success.



Club Treasurer, Karin Fastow, calls her dog across a jump at April 2012 Teacup Agility Trial.

**LVDICE welcomes** in a new board. We thank the previous Board for all their hard work!

**The President would like to** encourage teamwork and positive interactions at club events. A culture of volunteerism encourages new membership, and shows that we can get the work done, and still have fun.

### **Announcing**

#### **“Roll the Dice”**

Game for workers at the July CPE Trial. For every class you work, you'll get a chance to “roll the dice”. The more rolls you get, the better your chance to WIN! Winners will get a \$15 voucher or a LVDICE Tee-shirt.

#### **Coming up for members:**

Come to general meetings to sign up for free agility practices.

Night-time Fun Match being planned for late summer.

Early registration opportunities for Seminars.

 Keep up with the Club!  
[www.facebook.com/LVDICE](http://www.facebook.com/LVDICE)  
[www.lvdice.org](http://www.lvdice.org)

# Recent Title Brags

### **MACH 2 Harley III**

*Cheryl Alfred  
Trainer/Owner/Handler*

On March 24, 2012, Harley entered 5-day trial in Pomona needing 79 points and 2 double Q's to get his MACH 2. On the last day, on the last run, Harley and Cheryl stepped to the line on a Standard course (SCT 69 sec). Cheryl knew that they had to finish in 50 seconds or less.... which very few dogs managed to do. On their run, with 6 obstacles left, it didn't look like they would make it. But all of a sudden, they kicked in their MACH speed and did a blindingly fast rush to the finish... with a time of 00:48 seconds.

Harley is the 5th mixed breed AKC dog to get a MACH. And now he is the 5th mixed breed AKC dog to get a MACH 2.

### **OTCh. 'Hello Dolly' of Arbeitsheim UDX12, AXP, AJP, RE**

*Bonnie Lee  
Trainer/Owner/Handler*

On March 24, 2012, Dolly finished both of her AXP & AJP titles, with clean runs, at the Shetland Sheepdog Club of So. NV's AKC agility trials. Well done Dolly & Bonnie!

### **PACH Isis Vom Stefanhaus CDX RAE MXP6 MJP5 PAX2 XFP CGC VX CGC**

*Frances Mistler  
Trainer/Owner/Handler*

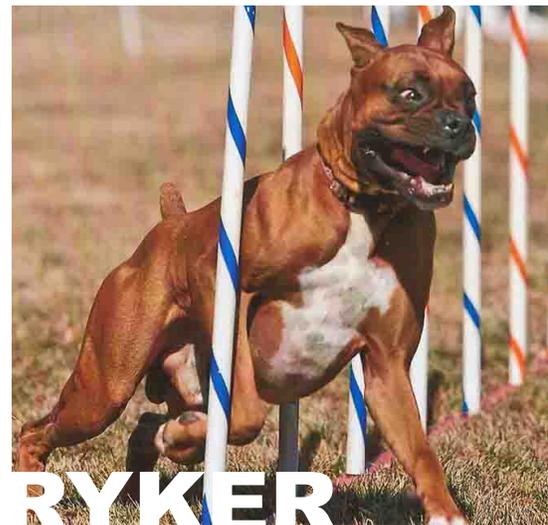
Frances and Gracie had a very good week-end at the Intermountain Kennel Club AKC agility trials held in South Jordan Utah May 3-6, 2012. Gracie ran clean 9 for 9 runs (including a 1st place T2B) and picked up her MXP6 and PAX2 titles. To end the month, Gracie also received the Versatility (V) and Versatility Excellent (VX) awards on May 24 by the American Rottweiler Club. As of the December 31 2011 AKC “Top Dogs” rankings, Gracie is the #2 PACH Agility dog in the Rottweiler breed rankings and #6 PACH Agility dog in the Working Group.

*Members can submit their Title Brags with photo to: [latestscoop.lvdice@gmail.com](mailto:latestscoop.lvdice@gmail.com)*

### **Ensign's Quest For Fortune CD GN RAE MX AXJ OF NFP CGC**

*Greg Mistler  
Trainer/Owner/Handler*

Greg and his Boxer, Ryker, earned their MX title on May 4 at the Intermountain Kennel Club AKC agility trials held in South Jordan Utah. Way to go guys!



## Random Trial Stats

### **Fastest Times of a Qualifying Run in Trial**

**February 10-11, 2012**

**STD: 00:33:68** Perk, Border Collie, Jennifer Yates, Excellent Sat

**JWW: 00:22:59** Isis, Belgian Malinois, Elizabeth Antos, Novice Fri

**FAST: 00:20:59** Teao, All American, Erika Balderson, Open Sat

**T2B: 00:25:18** Perk, Border Collie, Jennifer Yates, Sun

## Classified Ads

### Agility Practice Equipment

Made to order with 1" PVC. Jumps 4/\$130 or \$35 ea. 6 Weaves \$75. Tire \$40. [norahcats@gmail.com](mailto:norahcats@gmail.com)

### Private Lessons-Obedience

For advanced competition only! with Bonnie Lee, AKC Obedience Judge, trainer/owner/handler of two OTCH papillons. 702-255-7447

### Full Service Pet Grooming

Dogs by Cindy. For appointment call 702-870-3334. Mention LVDICE for a special deal.

### Free Vehicle Divider Grill

Will be at July CPE Trial@ Smartypaws. Willing to donate. See El Requa.

Send Classifies ads to: [latestscoop.lvdice@gmail.com](mailto:latestscoop.lvdice@gmail.com)

# Noseworthy News

## NEW AKC AGILITY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT TITLES

Now all of those 'extra' qualifying legs from the Excellent B classes that you often didn't think much about as you were not 'working on a double Q' that day, count towards the new Lifetime Achievement Titles. In order to recognize consistency and longevity in the Regular and Preferred Master Agility Excellent (MX, MXP), Master Excellent Jumpers With Weaves (MXJ, MJP) and Master Excellent FAST (MXF, MFP) classes, the AKC will record a Lifetime Achievement title on the dog's record.

There will be a Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Century title associated with both the regular and preferred standard, JWW, and FAST classes. The new titles take effect on July 1, 2012. However, they will be retroactive for any legs earned on or after January 1, 1999. For all Lifetime Achievement titles earned July 1, 2012 and after a title certificate will automatically be sent out.

Lifetime Achievement titles earned prior to July 1, 2012 will be added to your dog's record. If you would like a certificate mailed out for those titles you can go to the AKC Store and login to your store account. Then go to AKC Titles and Medallions and select your dog. Once you have selected your dog you can choose the title for which you would like to order a certificate. Certificates cost \$10 each.

<http://www.akc.org/enewsletter/agility/2012/june-2012-inthezone.html>

## LEASH FREE CATTLE DOG DIVIDES SMALL TOWN

Blue, 11 yo ACD, lives in Elephant Butte, N.M. where he has been no one's dog and everybody's dog, over time becoming the town's unofficial mascot. After a fatal mauling of a woman by loose dogs in a nearby town, Elephant Butte passed Animal Control Ordinance

131, which states that all dogs must be on leashes while in public. Blue's free-roaming lifestyle is now threatened.

Blue spends his days hanging out at the general store where he roams freely to "do his business". Currently the city council is debating a change to the ordinance, in the form of allowing the use of electronic fences, to allow Blue to keep his freedom.

Follow Blue on [www.facebook.com/bluedog.ebmascot](http://www.facebook.com/bluedog.ebmascot)



## MACH BAR TRADITION STARTED IN LAS VEGAS

Ever wonder how the tradition of the MACH Bar began?

On a hot night in Las Vegas 13 years ago, Marquand Cheek and his dog Wyatt crossed over the finish jump on a course. With that jump, Wyatt receive the first ever MACH title. A jump bar was taken off the finish jump and given to them as a memento. Evern since then, when a team earns a MACH, they are given a jump bar and a victory lap around the course.

Thanks to Franz Miller and Judge Larry Brockett who created the idea of the MACH Bar and of course to ADCH MACH7 Joy's Remar Wild West Wyatt for earning the memorable 'invention' that has become a staple of AKC agility trails across the country. MACH ON! <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanKennelClub>

## New LVDICE Members

### Welcome New Members!

We are so glad you joined our club. May you have many clean runs and lots of fun with your dogs.

Pat Shaw

Helen Zamba

Robin Ritchie

Michael Coers

Rebecka Christensen

### Pending New Members!

Veronica Selco

Jodi Mull

Sheryl Berenbaum

## New Member Spotlight

**Jen Saponas** started agility 4 years ago with Raja, her Rottie/Aussie Mix, who she is hoping will finish her Open titles in AKC shortly and is in Open and Elite in NADAC. Jacie, her 2.5 year old Aussie, is in Open AKC. Someday she is considering trying Rally or Obedience with Jacie as well.