

FRONT & FINISH[®]



June 2018

The Dog Trainer's News

Novice A&B 2017 Rating System

Marion Crain & G.CH. Wyndspell Spring Fling, CDX #1



Memorial
Lori Drouin

Airedale Terrier
CH Pipestone's Curious Georgie Explores
VCD2, PCDX, BN, MX, AXJ, TDX, RN

Cover Story



Photo's by
Lisa Pertile ~ Paws to Shoot Photography

The Joy of Honoring Georgie

by Mary Barker

Georgie and I toddle along in our daily training; some days its obedience other days agility or tracking. He's game for it all, but it's the obedience that he loves best. Through obedience, we developed a bond not experienced with any other dog venue. Agility has "running in the zone", tracking has "hot on the scent", but obedience... it's dancing with joy! It brings me great joy to honor my teammate, CH Pipestone's Curious Georgie Explores VCD2, PCDX, BN, MX, AXJ, TDX, RN (Airedale Terrier)... #1 Open A dog in the nation. Wow! In our 60 days, Georgie qualified in 23 of 27 trials with an average score of 197 which translated to 139 First and Foremost points. My hope was for 60 points and that's where the story begins....

Georgie came to me by way of an Airedale Halloween party; there he was this cute puppy dressed up like a Boy Scout getting passed around. I never got to hold him which bummed me out. The next day I got a call asking if I was interested in being his forever home and I'm thankful everyday for that good fortune. Thanks to Les Lueck and Mary Schuster for breeding Georgie; I feel privileged that you trusted sending him home with me... I know he was a favorite in your litter and you graciously let him go.

Training began with puppy playtime focusing on drive and attention. Puppy recalls, drive games, fetching games and tricks. Our training didn't really have focus until I attended a Bridget Carlsen seminar and at about the same I began training with Lois Ornat (Competition Dogs, LLC). Lois is affiliated with Tails Up Dog Training in Burnsville, MN... our training facility. In the subsequent years, I would end up attending 7 Bridget Carlsen seminars and it was Lois who graciously helped blend all the new training ideas together with her own successful past experiences that brought us to our success. But it didn't stop there...we also attended weekly classes taught by Kori Bevis at Tails Up... Kori's training rings were nonstop distractions forcing us to work on focus and drive. It's easy to get distracted when the team to your left is doing drop on recalls, the team to your right is doing retrieves on the flat and the team behind you is doing a Figure 8!! In the end, Georgie was always all business... I would call him Mr. Reliable.

The path to his steadiness was a bumpy one, he didn't trust that I knew what I was doing (well, frequently I didn't), he was sure he could do it his way on his timing (which would have been an NQ), he was sure my being firm with him meant I didn't love him anymore and he

would try to run away (I did love him) and he frequently injured himself just chasing squirrels in the backyard which would set us back. Lois, Bridget and Kori became a constant voice in my ear... "The level of emotion of your praise needs to match the level of emotion of your correction"... "You are just giving him information; don't be so emotional, just matter of factly." My timing would be off, my head would be spinning but Georgie was patient with me and soon his trust in me grew. Then our mutual respect and willingness to be part of the give and take of a team grew like a baby bird taking flight for the first time.

I worked hard at being consistent and predictable and Georgie flourished with this concept. He always loved doing tricks and the tricks helped him stay in drive and focused while training and then ultimately when we showed. Thank you ladies for helping me see training this way!

The story of leg #23 needs to be told to fully honor Georgie ... our last trial in Open A... we were showing in Duluth, MN in a soccer arena. We were moving smoothly through the Open exercises and enjoying our last time in the Open A ring together. I threw the dumbbell over the high jump and sent Georgie. A black streak coming toward the dumbbell caught my attention. I realized an exuberant black lab had jumped the ring gates and was bent on fetching Georgie's dumbbell. Georgie and the lab were rapidly merging on the dumbbell! I silently gasped and thought "Oh no! No good will come of this situation." You could hear a pin drop from the audience as everyone watched in shock. But Georgie spied the dog and accelerated! He grabbed the dumbbell just before the lab got there, spun around, and raced back with a perfect front! The audience broke out in amazement with loud chattering and people still come up to me and talk about that day.

We are currently getting ready for Utility; Georgie is a joy to train. Gone is the lack of trust. Georgie still has his terrier independence but he is so willing to train with me and so much more patient now. I'm privileged to be part of the team and have such great respect for him.

