

**2006**  
**Archive Rally News**  
**For the Saint Bernard**



**Volume 1, 3 Issues**

July, 2006



# Rally News for the Saint Bernard

Volume 1, Issue 1

By John Cox

On January 1, 2005, Rally became a new American Kennel Club Companion Dog titling event. At that point in time the new sport did not do much for me as Kris and I were competing in Agility. We were having a blast racing through the complex courses in Excellent Agility and there were no plans to try Rally. Things were about to change for Kris and me in the near future.



My wife (Suzanne) made the decision to become a Rally judge. As a result, I became more aware of the sport and what was involved. As a new Rally judge she decided to title our Pembroke Welsh Corgi (Lina) in Rally. Kris and I sat outside the ring and watched them compete in this new event. Well, sitting on the sidelines is not something Kris and I do as a rule. We both like to try new things so when we had a spare weekend from agility, tracking and weight pulling, we entered a few Rally trials.

Come to find out, Rally was more of a challenge for this handler than for Kris. The Rally signs, located at stations along the course, were a challenge in learning the different symbols and execute what they implied. Not a hard or impossible task but, like with anything new, it took a bit to get used to.

There are fifty signs to learn. Of course, at the Novice level there are less. I was definitely the weak link of this team as Kris went into Rally after earning his Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) title.

I managed to get through the Novice Rally courses and not make too many mistakes. In fact, most of the points that were lost were by me not reading and executing what the sign said! Advanced Rally had a few more signs to learn and again a few more mistakes were made by me. Not enough to fail but our scores could have been higher had I done my homework! By the time we reached Rally Excellent, I finally I had my act together and we were a precision team earning **six perfect scores** on our way to Kris's Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE) title. The icing on the cake came when we finished our RAE title (and this breed first) at the Saint Bernard Club of Puget Sound's inaugural Rally trial on June 18, 2006.

In Rally one can constantly talk and encourage the dog through the course. Kris LOVED to hear daddy telling him how wonderful he was as he marched along my side. His tail wagged and he had the best time doing something different.

October, 2006



# Rally News for the Saint Bernard

Volume 1, Issue 2



## Saint Bernard Club of America's Rally Trials September, 2006

By John Cox



The 2006 SBC of America's 2nd Rally Trial drew well in all levels. **The entry was 3 in Rally Novice A, 8 in Novice B, 2 in Advanced B and 2 in Excellent B.** Our judge was Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) Elvidge from Pennsylvania. Betty has owned Saint Bernards for decades and has titled many in conformation, Obedience and Rally.

Rally was also held at one of the Saint Bernard Club of America's Regional shows preceding the National. Mr. Barry Roland, from Georgia, judged Rally and Obedience at the Regional.

In Rally, there is not a High in Trial award—just prizes for 1st through 4th in each class (AKC regulation).

A perfect score in Rally is 100.

### Rally Novice A

1. Revilos Quinella, **score 99**
2. **CH Shadow Mtn Cracker Jax**, **score 93**

### Rally Novice B

1. Echos Xtra Sweetie Von Eddy, **score 100+** (won 1st as this team had a faster time than the 2nd place dog)
2. Echos Utmost VCD2 UD TDX, **score 100**
3. Matakis's Arickara V Morris, **score 96**
4. **CH Vicdorys Julius Ceasar**, **score 93+**
5. Who Daknews Biggie Red, **score 93**

### Rally Advanced A

1. **CH Vicdorys Indiana Bones CD RA**, **score 81**

### Rally Advanced B

1. **CH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder VCD2 UDX RAE MXP4 MJP3**, **score 100**

### Rally Excellent B

1. **CH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder VCD2 UDX RAE MXP4 MJP3**, **score 99**



November, 2006



# Rally News for the Saint Bernard

Volume 1, Issue 3



## HOW DOGS CHANGED ONE TROUBLED YOUNG LIFE

This is a story about **Chelsea Cowen**, a young lady whose life has been completely changed with her involvement in the sport of dogs. And who better to tell the story than her loving and totally supportive mother, Vonna Cowen. Chelsea's father, Ken Cowen, is also a big cheerleader for his daughter. They are a remarkable family!

"It's not easy to fit in when you are different. That's what we experienced when we had Chelsea. At the age of six-years, she was diagnosed with ADHD and Tourettes Syndrome. We found ourselves trying to find a way for her to fit in and make friends. Unfortunately, she was ostracized at school and became the object of much torment. A lot of the time she would spend her days in the principal's office because of her reaction to these children. I was desperate to find her just one friend—someone who would love her unconditionally. Then we found her the perfect friend in a big drooly Saint Bernard named Artie. Artie was the answer to our prayers.

"After he grew out of his puppy-ism, we decided to involve them in the Pierce County 4-H dog project. This turned out to be the best thing we could have done. The 4-H leaders worked with Chelsea and Artie, training them to do pre-novice obedience and junior showmanship the first year, and to our surprise they earned the privilege to represent Pierce County at the Puyallup State Fair. Since Artie weighed 180 pounds at that time and Chelsea was less than half that weight, Artie's breeder, Vicki Graves,

thought that maybe Artie's dam would be a better match for Chelsea and that's when Dawn came into our lives. Dawn had already acquired her C.D. title and she taught Chelsea how a great obedience dog performs. Chelsea and Dawn became a fantastic team, becoming Grand Champions in the 4-H obedience ring several years in a row. She also brought both Artie and Dawn one year and was awarded a Grand Champion for Brace. At the Saint Bernard Club of Puget Sound winter specialty, they were awarded High in Trial, besting several adult contenders. We took Chelsea and Dawn to the Saint Bernard national specialty in Tucson, where they were entered in Veterans Obedience, and their score was higher than the team which won High in Trial.

"After the Tucson National, Dawn was diagnosed with osteosarcoma of the leg and we decided to retire her from the obedience and show rings. Artie had only been able to go as far as Novice obedience at 4-H before he was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy. Vicki Graves again gifted us another fantastic obedience dog—Artie's sister, Amber. Amber had acquired her C.D.X. title with Vicki and, once again, Chelsea was taught how a gifted Open dog performs. Not many 4-H'ers make it into the Open ring. Ambers last year in 4-H led them to State Champions in Open at the Puyallup State Fair finals.

"For the last two years, Chelsea has been blessed with another Saint Bernard, Indiana Bones, who is 2 ½ years old. She has trained him herself and has done a fantastic job because she was 'trained' by three exceptional dogs. Last year they received a Grand Champion in Obedience, and also received a Reserve Grand in Junior Showmanship at the State Fair. They have earned the Novice Rally title and are starting to enter Novice obedience trials. They have been dabbling in agility in 4-H, and plan to try for their draft dog title at our September national specialty in Wyoming, plus she is now showing Indy in AKC Junior Showmanship. In fact, at the Peninsula Dog Fanciers show in March Chelsea won Best Junior Handler from the Novice Senior class, and Indy earned his Champion title. If it hadn't been for Artie, Dawn, Amber and Indy, I don't think Chelsea would be this confident and self-assured young 15-year-old. She challenges people to accept her, Tourettes and all, and is more than willing to educate anyone about her disorder. Her ambition now is to go to the Westminster KC show and the AKC Invitational in Long Beach and compete in Junior Showmanship with her Champion Indiana Bones.

"All that's not bad for a 15-year-old whose mother's biggest worry was for her to fit in."

PS: Chelsea just finished CH Indiana Bones CD, RN and RA titles! On to Open!

**2007**  
**Archive Rally News**  
**For the Saint Bernard**



**Volume 2, 6 Issues**

February, 2007



Rally Duo

By  
Elizabeth (Betty) Elvidge

# Rally News for the Saint Bernard

Volume 2, Issue 1

My rally duo consists of a mother and daughter Rally Advanced Excellent title holders. Lil'Jon's Fremonts Finola CD, RAE (Nola, pictured below) came from a breeder in NY. When she arrived in December it was difficult to train her outside during the Pennsylvania winter. I started heeling with her around the house and down the hallway. Motivated by slices of hot dogs she would attentively heel along except that every time we passed the recliner in the family room she wanted to jump in it. Figuring that the chances of finding a recliner at ringside were nil, we entered Novice obedience classes at some shows. Her first show was a disaster. A large umbrella over the stewards' table blew into the ring just as she was doing the Recall. On the Long Down she decided to follow the Pointer next to her as he headed for his handler. Eventually she got her Companion Dog title at the age of 15 months. Then we started working towards a CDX title.

In the meantime Nola was bred to Fremont's Ticker Tape (my 14-point "champion"). This is where the other half of the Rally duo comes into the picture. She was born several hours after her littermates. For all appearances she seemed to be dead. I worked on her and brought her around. She was very tiny, weighing only one-third of what the other pups weighed. She had trouble nursing, so we used an eyedropper and a bottle to feed her. Finally on the second day she began to nurse. On the third day we were off to the vet to have dewclaws done. The vet was very concerned about the little pup. She thought she might have a heart murmur and then there were her feet. Her back legs dangled like a rag doll's legs. On the bottom of her feet there was the main pad but the four individual pads had not yet developed. The vet gave me exercises to do to strengthen her legs. The sheepskin in the whelping box gave her something to dig her feet into. She needed constant watching. I was afraid that not only the mother would roll over on her but I was afraid that the other pups would roll over on her. At 6 weeks we went back to the vet. Her feet had developed normally, there was no sign of a heart murmur, and she had fought off a case of the puppy strangles. In fact, she was the first puppy to get up on her feet and walk around the whelping box. We decided to keep her rather than placing her in another home in case she developed any further health problems. My husband was already calling her "Peanut" as he cradled her under his chin. We needed a registration name. I have a very good friend who helps with my Saint Bernard breeding. This friend has had to face some difficulties in life and just like Peanut she has always persevered. Her initials are V.V.D. Since Peanut persevered very much like her, Peanut was registered as Fremonts Very Ve Vee Dee.

Both dogs are easy to train because they are food motivated. Nola is very sensitive and wants to please, and becomes worried when she doesn't do something correctly. Training Nola involved a lot of luring with food and praise in a happy tone of voice. Peanut is happy go lucky. So calm praise and food worked best with her.

We hit a stumbling block with Nola's CDX training. Why should she bring that dumbbell back to mom when mom only throws it away again? Why should she stop and lay down when mom is calling her? About this time there were rumors that AKC would be adding Rally as a titling event. I had two littermates that had competed in APDT (Association of Pet Dog Trainers) Rally trials. Both girls had two legs each and were never able to find another trial before the two of them went to the Rainbow Bridge. I knew how much fun Rally could be so I was "chomping at the bit" to enter an AKC Rally trial.

Many of the Rally exercises were things that the girls were already doing as we trained for obedience titles. In March 2005, Nola was finally entered in a Rally trial in Syracuse, NY. In the first three days of the cluster she qualified for her Rally Novice title. I told you she likes to please. On the fourth day she was moved up to the Advanced class. Since we had never worked on any of the Advanced exercises, we went outside to the parking lot and tried those that were on the course. **Nola qualified and became the first Saint Bernard to earn a leg in Rally Advanced** (Archive link to the *First*: <http://clubs.akc.org/saints/Archives/2005firstrallyadvancedscore.pdf>). That weekend was not as easy it sounds. We were commuting back and forth to Syracuse (2 hr. and 15 min ride each way). The Rally Excellent class was scheduled to start at 8 AM with Advanced and Novice "to follow." So you never knew what time your class was going to start. The classes were extremely large and often judging did not finish until 8 PM. These were an exhausting four days, but Nola stuck with me and did what she was asked to do.



Nola sailed through her next two Advanced legs and we started to work on Excellent exercises. The one exercise that was most difficult for Nola to master was the back up three steps in heel position. She was getting confused because I was waving my hand and telling her "back." This is the command I use when she has to make a tight circle to the left. She was curling around behind me instead of staying in heel position. I had to come up with a different command and signal. I came up with "beep, beep" and used a chopping motion with my hand. Looping the lead under her belly and heeling alongside a fence or bushes, Nola finally got it after three weeks. It only took Peanut three hours to learn to back up. In the ring when we come to this sign I tell the girls "watch" so they know something different is coming up.

While Nola was mastering "beep, beep," Peanut had obtained her Rally Novice title. Nola earned an Excellent leg at the 2005 Saint Bernard Club of America National Specialty and Peanut earned an Advanced leg. *Nola was the first dog and Peanut was the second dog to obtain a leg in Rally at a Saint Bernard National.*



Nola finished up her Excellent title at the Syracuse shows in November 2005. Peanut earned her Companion Dog title and her Rally Advanced title at these same shows. I moved Peanut up to the Excellent class. After navigating a complicated Excellent course, I thought we were headed for a leg. The Honor exercise was a down in the corner of the ring. She could do this. After all, she had been doing downs in the Novice obedience ring. To Peanut this was different. Mom was standing next to her, not on the other side of the ring and there were no other dogs lying beside her. When crates and dollies start to roll by the tight corner at the end of the ring, Peanut became unsure of herself and broke the down. This incident made me realize that dogs are really into body language. What was a down to me had a whole new set of situations that made it appear different to Peanut. Now during the Honor exercise I always quietly reassure my dogs that they are doing fine. I keep up a babble of sweet nothings. You are allowed to talk to your dog in Rally, so take advantage of this. Peanut finished her Rally Excellent title in the spring of 2006.

What next? The girls were being trained for Open but just didn't have it all together. Peanut kept dropping the dumbbell on my foot and Nola would select a different Open exercise each month to be dumb about. Since they both enjoyed Rally so much, why not pursue a Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE) title for mother and daughter. To earn a RAE title a dog must qualify in both the Advanced B and the Excellent B classes at the same show and do this ten times.

I had this all figured out. We would start in August and finish in October, or at least early November, before they came into heat. At Peanut's first show she knocked down the bar on the jump. This was my fault as I slowed down, Peanut pulled back to watch me, and her tail hit the bar. I slowed down because there was a slow pace right after the jump. I should have continued forward and let Peanut jump at her own rhythm even if it meant passing the slow sign. This would have been a three-point deduction for repeating the slow exercise whereas knocking the bar down was a definite NQ.

Another problem I had with Peanut was that she was so anxious to jump that she would run up to the jump like crazy. She would wind up ticking the jump. I used a "watch" command to slow her down and get her to focus on the jump. Considering how her legs and feet were when she was born, it's amazing to see her eagerly take jumps with her ears flying.

Then the girls threw a monkey wrench into my plans to finish their RAE titles by October. Both came in heat EARLY! Bitches don't read textbooks or look at the calendar. My girls must have looked at my checkbook and saw how much I spent for entries at a cluster. So after heat cycles we started out again. Things were going along great with Peanut even earning some placements. At ringside we became known as the Saint Bernard lady and her girls. People couldn't resist petting the girls. They have very sweet dispositions and who could ignore those "saintly" faces.



**Peanut (ears a flying) runs and jumps the High Jump**

Nola needed one more RAE leg. The course had a broad jump in it. This was the Open exercise that Nola went dumb about in our training. After two attempts she just wouldn't do it. The next day was another show and no broad jump so Nola got her tenth and final RAE leg.

Peanut was now up to eight legs. It was November and show season in the northeast was coming to an end. There were still some shows in November in Syracuse, NY. I could only enter Peanut in the Saturday and Sunday trials as I was judging rally elsewhere on Thursday and Friday. I drove home from the show on Friday evening (2 hr. ride) and left home on Saturday at 4:30 AM to drive to Syracuse. Here we go again—driving back and forth to Syracuse. It was worth every sleepless hour because Peanut earned her RAE title. Both girls got their RAE titles in eleven attempts.

The great thing about rally is that you can talk to your dog and use signals. This seems to have really built up the confidence of the girls in the show ring. Nola is ready to compete in Open. Peanut is working very hard on the Open exercises.

I've started to train Peanut's littermate in Rally. He is also being shown in conformation. You can do both because dogs are situational. Change your body language. Stand beside the dog facing the same direction for Obedience and Rally. Turn into the dog (sideways) and slightly ahead of the dog for the breed ring.

As I've been judging and exhibiting around the Rally ring, I've noticed that there are many different breeds exhibiting in Rally that you don't normally see in obedience. Breeds such as Black Russian Terrier, Akita, Basenji, PBGV, Bassett Hound and even Saint Bernards.



**Nola with a few of her qualifying ribbons**

**March, 2007**



# Rally News for the Saint Bernard

Volume 2, Issue 2

## 2006 In Review

Rally grew leaps and bounds with our breed in 2006. Titles were earned at all levels including three Saint Bernards which earned the top Rally Advanced Excellent title. The new RAE dogs (breed firsts) are listed below in the order the RAE title was earned:

- 1) **CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder VCD2, UDX, RAE, MXP4, MJP3, DD, WPS** (photo below on the left)
- 2) Lil' Jons Fremonts Finola CD, RAE (photo below on the right)
- 3) Fremonts Very Ve Vee Dee, RAE

Rally was also offered at our national for the 2nd year in a row. The entry was large, plus we had entries in all levels and the trend looks good for 2007.

The title tally count for Rally in 2006:

- 13 Rally Novice (RN)
- 4 Rally Advanced ( RA)
- 3 Rally Excellent (RE)
- 3 Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE)

Last year the Rally Advisory Committee met and made recommendations for a few changes in 2007. If you plan to compete in Rally be sure to make note of the changes. There will be a new set of Rally Regulations printed well in advance of the changes taking place. One can track Rally and its proposed changes on the AKC web page at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)



July, 2007



# Rally News for the Saint Bernard

Volume 2, Issue 3

By John Cox

The Saint Bernard Club of Puget Sound (SBCPS) held their first back-to-back Rally & Obedience trials on June 16 & 17, 2007 in conjunction with the conformation shows. The turnout in Rally was good and we had dogs entered at all three of the Rally levels, Novice, Advanced and Excellent. The judges were Mr. Allan Immerman from Olympia, Washington on Saturday and Mrs. Joyce Ostby from Spokane, Washington on Sunday.

The passing rate was VERY good and many new Rally legs were earned towards the different titles. We had dogs earning Novice legs, Advanced legs and Advanced/Excellent legs on BOTH days! Next year we are looking forward to even a larger entry in all levels as dogs advance up the title ladder and new ones step-up to the challenge!

Our entry was as follows:

SATURDAY

Rally Novice A 3  
Rally Novice B 5  
Advanced A 1  
Advanced B 1  
Excellent B 1

SUNDAY

Rally Novice A 3  
Rally Novice B 5  
Advanced A 1  
Advanced B 1  
Excellent B 1

The placements were as follows:

SATURDAY

Novice A:  
Stoans D'Alice of Loramar 93 1st  
Vidorys Manhattan Transfer 90 2nd  
Novice B:  
CH Vidorys Julius Ceasar 94 1st (best time)  
CH Stoans Yum Yum of Mistihil 94 2nd  
CH Vidorys Golden Krugerrand 93 3rd  
Stoans Yitzhak of T' Ace 92 4th  
Revilos Quincys Cover Girl 74  
Advanced A:  
Save I Love Lucy With Nac RN 98 1st  
Advanced B:  
CH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder VCD2 UDX RAE MXP5 MJP4 100 1st  
Excellent B:  
CH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder VCD2 UDX RAE MXP5 MJP4 98 1st

SUNDAY

Novice A:  
Stoans D'Alice of Loramar 93 1st  
CH Shadow Mtn Hot August Night 74 2nd  
Novice B:  
Revilos Quincys Cover Girl 93 1st  
CH Stoans Yum Yum of Mistihil 87 2nd  
Stoans Yitzhak of T' Ace CD 75 3rd  
Advanced A:  
Save I Love Lucy With Nac RN 85 1st  
Advanced B:  
CH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder VCD2 UDX RAE MXP5 MJP4 100 1st  
Excellent B:  
CH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder VCD2 UDX RAE MXP5 MJP4 98 1st



September, 2007



# Rally News for the Saint Bernard

Volume 2, Issue 4

By John Cox

On **August 26, 2007**, Kris completed the requirements for the Rally Advanced Excellent Two (RAE2) title. This is a 20-legged Rally title requiring twenty double qualifying scores from the Advanced and Excellent classes. A double qualifying score is when a dog passes the Advanced and Excellent classes on the same day.

We really had no intention or goal in obtaining this title after the completion of the RAE title. That all changed when we went to the Saint Bernard Club of America's Regional and National Specialty in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Traveling that distance from Seattle, Washington we entered Rally to support the shows and were successful in earning two RAE2 legs. Then came the local Saint Bernard Club of Puget Sound's back-to-back specialties in 2007 where we entered Rally again to support their trials. Two more RAE2 legs were earned and then we set our goals for going the distance to complete the RAE2 title.

Kris is a dog that does not like to sit still. He just LOVES going to shows, being busy and mingling with the crowds of onlookers! It was a pure pleasure showing him in Rally as he responds so well to the exercises. At many of the trials Kris earned perfect scores (11 overall) and placed high in the classes amongst the other breeds at the all-breed trials.



CH, WDCH XmaxKris Van 'T Hof Ten Eynder CD, CDX, UD, UDX, RN, RA, RE, RAE, RAE2, TD, NAP, NJP, OAP, OJP, AXP, AJP, MXP, MXP2, MXP3, MXP4, MXP5, MJP, MJP2, MJP3, MJP4, NFP, OFP, VCD1, VCD2, DD, WP, WPX, WPS

October, 2007



# Rally News for the Saint Bernard

Volume 2, Issue 5



Saint Bernard Club of America's  
Rally Trials— September, 2007

## RALLY OBEDIENCE CLASSES

JUDGE - MR. KENNETH BUXTON

### RALLY NOVICE A

**1/0.0O607** (\_\_\_) SUBIRA'S NEEDLESS TO SAY. .WS202114/09. 12/11/06. DOG. BREEDER(S): ROBIN DARAKJY, WM BUELL, ERIN HINES. BY: CH SCANDIA'S EDISON - SUBIRA'S UNDER THE BIG TOP. SAINT BERNARDS. (BR 47) **OWNER(S):** TOM BROWN, VIOLA BROWN, SONDR A BUELL, ERIN HINES. P.O. BOX 374, MERLIN, OR 97532.

### RALLY NOVICE B

**1/97.0O608** (\_\_\_) VICDORY'S LUMP O'COAL. .WS190072/05. 09/12/06. DOG. BREEDER(S): VICKI GRAVES, DOROTHY JAEGER. BY: CH LORAMAR N VICDORY'S BOZLEY - CH VICDORY'S GOLDEN KRUGERRAND. SAINT BERNARDS. (BR 99) **OWNER(S):** VONNA & KEN COWEN, VICKI GRAVES. 2201 27TH PLACE SE, PUYALLUP, WA 98372.

**2/97.0O611** (\_\_\_) CH VICDORY'S GOLDEN KRUGERRAND CD. WR075989/03. 10/13/02. BITCH. BREEDER(S): VICKI GRAVES, DOROTHY JAEGER. BY: STOAN'S FRANCIS OF FIRTH - CH VICDORY'S AMBER ICE V STOAN CDX WPS D. SAINT BERNARDS. (BR 140) **OWNER(S):** VICKI J GRAVES, DOROTHY M JAEGER. 13104 50TH AVE. E., TACOMA, WA 98446.

### RALLY ADVANCED B

**1/95.0O606** (\_\_\_) I LIKE IKE CD, RE. WP969855/06. 04/02/00. DOG. BREEDER(S): BRENDA MANDICH. BY: MANDICH'S AL CAPONE - MADICHS POOH BEAR. SAINT BERNARDS. (BR 33) **OWNER(S):** MARTHA LAROCCA. 12567 WHITE PLAINS RD, MILAN, IN 47031.

**2/94.0O610** (\_\_\_) VICDORY'S INDIANA BONES. .WS064067/12. 10/21/03. DOG. BREEDER(S): VICKI GRAVES, DOTTY JAEGER, LORELEI MARENCO. BY: LASQUITE'S BRINX X STOAN - CH VICDORY'S CITRINE VON STOAN. SAINT BERNARDS. (BR 105) **OWNER(S):** VONNA & KEN COWEN, VICKI GRAVES. 2201-27TH PLACE S. E., PUYALLUP, WA 98372.

### RALLY EXCELLENT B

**1/93.0O606** (\_\_\_) I LIKE IKE CD, RE. WP969855/06. 04/02/00. DOG. BREEDER(S): BRENDA MANDICH. BY: MANDICH'S AL CAPONE - MADICHS POOH BEAR. SAINT BERNARDS. (BR 33) **OWNER(S):** MARTHA LAROCCA. 12567 WHITE PLAINS RD, MILAN, IN 47031.

**2/90.0O610** (\_\_\_) VICDORY'S INDIANA BONES. .WS064067/12. 10/21/03. DOG. BREEDER(S): VICKI GRAVES, DOTTY JAEGER, LORELEI MARENCO. BY: LASQUITE'S BRINX X STOAN - CH VICDORY'S CITRINE VON STOAN. SAINT BERNARDS. (BR 105) **OWNER(S):** VONNA & KEN COWEN, VICKI GRAVES. 2201-27TH PLACE S. E., PUYALLUP,



December, 2007



# Rally News for the Saint Bernard

Volume 2, Issue 6

## GETTING AROUND THE RALLY RING IN 2008

By Sue Cox

You may have heard there will be some changes in Rally beginning January 1, 2008. But just what are all the changes which will be taking place and how will they affect you and your training? This article will touch on a few of the changes which affect exhibitors.

The one big change is that each exercise includes a **principal part** and that portion must be performed correctly and as defined to avoid receiving an Incomplete Performance (IP) (-10 points) on the exercise. The new Glossary of Terms describes Incorrectly Performed Station (IP) as, "One or more principal parts of a station not performed or performed incorrectly." That's pretty much the way Rally is to be judged now, but that isn't always the case. This change should go a long way in improving the judging of the Rally classes. For instance, it will now be very clear that when you come to a halt, using your feet to assist the dog will lead to incurring a handler error penalty (1 to 10 points, up to non-qualifying). There will be a limit of **one retry** per station (subject to a 3-point penalty), which is one less retry attempt than is currently permitted. A few other changes under **General Scoring** (Section 9) should be reviewed to be sure you understand that aspect of Rally. The new Regulations include a **Glossary of Terms** to help clarify terms used in describing Rally exercises and performance; these supplement the Glossary of Terms found in the Obedience Regulations. What do the Rally Regulations require when a pivot is a part of an exercise? The answer ("turning in the circle occupied by the handler before they started the turn; a turn in place") is another example of what you'll find in the Glossary of Terms.

At the Excellent level, the **Honor exercise** has several major changes. The judge will still determine if the dog will be in the sit or down position. Once at the Honor station, you will place your dog in the required position standing next to your dog. When the judge says "Forward" to the working team, you will command your dog to stay, walk to the end of your **required 6' leash**, and turn to face your dog. When the working team passes the Finish sign the Honor Steward will say "Exercise Finished," at which point you'll return to your dog and release the dog from the stay. Not completing the Honor exercise correctly has been changed to an IP instead of a non-qualifying (NQ) score. The judge will no longer be required to use a volunteer team to honor for the first working team. The judge may use the last dog in a small section of the class or the last dog in a small class to honor the first dog running the course. The A and B divisions, if the combined total is 22 or fewer dogs, may be combined for the walk-through and judging.

**Course designs** have new requirements and guidelines. The Novice class, which was not changed, must have a minimum of three and a maximum of five Stationary Exercises per class. The Advanced courses must now have a minimum of 3 Advanced exercises, 3-7 stationary exercises and one jump. Excellent courses must now have a minimum of 3 Advanced exercises, 2 Excellent exercises, 3-7 stationary exercises and two jumps. The Honor exercise is not considered as one of the stationary exercises. The Bar jump may be used in both directions, but the uprights must be offset so if the bar is struck it will fall without the whole jump falling over. There has been a 4" jump height added for dogs under 10".

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Signs which indicate a change in direction are to be placed directly in front of the handler. That will include the Moving Side Step Right (#20) and Halt, Side Step Right, Halt (#40) signs and they must be executed in front of the sign and passed with the sign on the left.

Each team is timed while they run the course, starting with the judge's "Forward" and ending when the team crosses the Finish line. The time is used to break ties for award placements with the team completing the course in the least amount of time receiving a higher placement. The 2008 Regulations will now clarify how to handle those instances when there is a timer malfunction. There are two options from which you can choose and that's another aspect of the Regulations you should review so you'll know what to expect if faced with not having a time on your initial course and being among the top-scoring dogs in the class.

There have been a couple changes to sign wording, plus one new sign. The Moving Down (#27) has been changed to **Stop and Down**, which reads, "While moving with the dog in heel position, the handler commands and/or signals the ***dog to down as the handler comes to a stop*** next to the dog. Once the ***dog is completely down***, the handler moves forward, commanding the ***dog to move forward from down position.***" (The portion in bold and italics is the principal part of the exercise.) This sign may be used in all three course levels.

Sign #34 has been changed to **Send Over Jump—Handler Passes By** and reads as follows: "***While moving*** with the dog in heel position, the handler directs the ***dog to take the jump*** as the ***handler passes by the jump without*** any pause, hesitation or ***stopping***. When the ***dog has completed the jump in the proper direction***, it is called to heel position and the team continues to the next exercise." (The present requirement on this exercise is that the handler "runs by" the jump.) The jump(s), which might be a High Jump, Bar Jump or Broad Jump, are in the Advanced and Excellent courses.

A new sign has been added to the Excellent level--#48A, **Moving down—Walk around dog**. "***While heeling and without pausing***, the ***handler will down the dog*** and ***walk around the dog to the left***, returning to heel position. The ***handler must pause*** in heel position after returning to the dog. ***The dog must move forward from the down position.***"

Several new Rally classes have been added—all **Non-Regular classes**. **Rally Pairs** consists of one handler working two dogs at one time through a rally course at a level selected and offered by the event-giving club (there will be no jumps on the course). **Rally T Challenge** will be based on the Regulations for the Rally Advanced class. There are some new non-regular exercises which can only be used in the Rally T Challenge class and those will be found in the new Rally Regulations. **Rally T Challenge Team Competition** is a team competition where the course time is multiplied by the number of dogs defined as a team by the event-giving club. Team time runs continuously from the start of the first dog until the finish of the last dog on the team. **Rally Team Competition** will consist of four handlers running any of the regular Rally class levels individually, with the team time running continuously. The time starts when the judge gives the first member the "Forward" command and ends when the last team member passes the Finish sign. Lastly, the new Non-Regular class called **Rally Plus** will be based on the exercises and performance being judged based on the AKC *Obedience Regulations* with a perfect score being 200 points. The course will contain 20 to 25 stations. The exercises will include heeling (with the handler being permitted to give encouragement or additional commands up to a course marker. After that point the handler cannot talk to their dog again during the heeling). The class will include a stand for examination during the performance of sign #36 (Halt-Stand-Walk-Around-Dog), a Recall the length of the ring, and a one-minute off leash Sit and Stay Honor exercise (handler 15' away) while the next team runs the course. I don't imagine we'll see these Non-regular classes offered all that frequently.

To read more about these and all the other changes, visit the Newsroom of the Saint Bernard National Archives [http://clubs.akc.org/saints/Archives/Rally\\_Regulations.pdf](http://clubs.akc.org/saints/Archives/Rally_Regulations.pdf) . The updated printed Obedience and Rally Regulations, which will include the exercise signs, should be available from AKC soon. If you plan to compete in Rally, it's in your own best interest to be totally familiar with the requirements for each Rally station and the Regulations governing competing in the classes so you can confidently move through the course and enjoy the satisfaction of doing the best job you and your dog can do. Let's hope 2008 finds even more dog owners entering Rally trials and adding those titles to their dog's name. And maybe from there we'll start to see many more handlers continue training their dogs and showing in Novice Obedience and on through to Open and Utility.

Good luck in the Rally ring!