

Dear Dog Lover,

**Our monthly story at the end of this email:** "APDT - a wonderful resource for dog owners and trainers"!

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

Stay safe,  
Claudia

## **Our March Newsletter:**

### **PART I: News**

1) Recent P1 Graduates: Schedule Changes for P2 Classes in March and April!

### **PART II: Events**

2) March 9: CGC®-Test at The Better Companion - Call for Volunteers

3) March 30: Nose Work Odor Recognition Test (ORT) at CIKC

### **PART III: Classes + Workshops**

4) Rally College starts March 6<sup>th</sup>

5) Summer Workshops! Feisty Fido, Shy Dog and Recall!

6) Summer Workshops! Agility!

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## **PART I: News**

### **Recent P1 graduates: Schedule changes for P2 classes in March and April!**

We're canceling the Puppy 2 class in March (Wednesdays at 5-6pm, starts March 5) and will maybe be offering a Foundation Class at that time instead. If you were told that our Foundation Class starting in March is full and decided not to bother signing up - sign up now and the overflow class is more likely to happen!

To accommodate all the P1 graduates from the Monday evening classes, we changed the April schedule and are now offering **Puppy 2 in April on Mondays from 6:15-7:15pm** instead of switching it over to Tuesdays. This class will start April 7 and run for 6 weeks until May 12.

## **PART II: Events**

### **March 9: Canine Good Citizen®-Test at The Better Companion**

Sign up to test your dog or come and volunteer!

Try it out and prove to yourself and to your community that **your dog is a good citizen!** This test consists of 10 everyday situations. If you and your dog pass all 10 items, you'll receive a certificate from AKC (after you mailed in paperwork and a little fee). You can sign up at any time. Fee until Feb 23: \$20, after that (including day of event) \$25. Sign-in for all participants (pre-paid and not paid) is at **10am on Sunday, March 9**. Test is expected to be finished by about noon.

**Volunteering** gives you the **best perspective and insights** of the test. Please contact our office by email or phone (907) 357-2521 to sign up as a volunteer. Volunteers will show up at 9:30am. No prerequisites necessary. Should be 14 years or older.

### **March 30: Odor Recognition Test at CIKC**

This is an event for our **Nose Work enthusiasts:**

Nose Work practicing students who's dogs have their ORT: please volunteer! ☺

Nose Work practicing students who's dogs don't have their ORT (yet): Get yourself and your dog registered with the NACSW now to have your scorebook in time and also be sure to sign up for the **NW yahoo groups:** With **NACSW** and in Alaska with **k9noseworkAK** (search the yahoo groups) to stay informed and get nose work related emails as well as info about how and when to sign up for ORTs, trials and practices directly from the source.

Nose Work class students: please volunteer! You can learn so much from volunteering! At ORTs, volunteering will allow you to observe the test, whereas spectators are usually not allowed unless they're family members or close friends of a specific dog.

The test will be held by Cheri Hagen at the Cook Inlet Kennel Club building in Palmer. Birch, Anise & Clove will be tested. You can test for one, two or all three odors! For more information contact Cheri Hagen at [stoneridgeak@gmail.com](mailto:stoneridgeak@gmail.com).

## **PART III: Classes + Workshops**

### **Rally College starts March 6<sup>th</sup>**

For all Elementary and High School graduates - this is YOUR class! A great way to improve your dog's obedience around other dogs, increase your dog's focus on you and have fun with your dog close by and on leash! Each week a new course of obedience signs will be arranged in our arena and your dogs will be either working simultaneously on single exercises or one-at-a-time running the course. Six dogs maximum ensure a lot of practicing time for each dog.

For all Rally College graduates: You can drop in using your sports punch card if we didn't fill this class with students. We'll keep you updated by email if there's an opening for drop-in practice.

### **Summer Workshops - Feisty Fido, Shy Dog and Recall**

They're back and on the calendar, so sign-up is open for our once-a-year specialty workshops!

May 31: Shy Dog Workshop - Learn techniques to help your dog warm up faster towards new people. Get lots of practice during this 4 hour workshop. Maximum 6 dogs and every dog will be worked

singly. Our only workshop where we allow a second person for free - to get more “strangers” for the dogs to meet, especially guys 😊. All participants should be 14 years or older.

June 14: Feisty Fido Workshop - Increase your toolbox with more techniques for encounters with other dogs on your walk. It doesn't matter if your dog wants the other dog to go away or to come and play - improper behavior on leash (called leash reactivity) is always undesirable and embarrassing, and will get worse without proper behavior modification. Maximum 6 dogs for this 4 hour workshop. Additional people can audit (come without their own dog) for half price.

June 28: Recall Workshop - Still not happy with your dog's recall? Use this 4 hour practice time to find out what makes your dog come (or not) and how to change your approach to increase your success. We'll use all participants as distractions, so friendly dogs only for this workshop. You can always come without your dog (audit) for half price and learn from the other participants how to improve your recall at home.

### Summer Workshops - Agility

To bridge our long gap of no agility classes during May and June, we again offer our three well-received agility specialty workshops. Each workshop will be about 2.5 hours long with 6 dogs maximum.

May 31: Go Weave! - learn to teach the weaves with different approaches not shown in class. Discover what training method works for your dog and get a lot of practice time under supervision. Find the correct entry, go from another obstacle to the weaves.

June 14: Contacts! - lots of practice time for A-Frame, Dog Walk and Teeter. We work at your dog's level to either help overcome fears, improve distance handling or increase the difficulty by changing the height and/or adding other obstacles in different configurations.

June 28: Jumping Jack! - showing you ways to improve the dog's love for jumping, play with just two jumps, and practice lead outs and send outs. Develop enthusiasm and speed! We'll add a few other obstacles like tunnel and table to lighten up the jump work and add variety.

## PART IV: Open Play Time and Doggy Daycare

### Next Scheduled Closures

OPT every Friday evening  
Next scheduled closure: May 23 (Memorial Day weekend)

DDC every Tuesday and Thursday  
next scheduled closure: Thanksgiving? 😊

## PART V: Class Schedule

Listed are start dates. The classes will run one hour, once a week for 6 weeks unless otherwise specified. A **“maybe” for a class means YOU can tell us** if you want this class to happen. Enough student interest could put it on the schedule! 😊

Click [here](#) to view the online calendar by month. To see who's instructing the class you're interested in, go to our online [calendar](#) and click on any week of that class to see the details.

Click [here](#) to register for a class.

Already registered? Click [here](#) to pay for a class.

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

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>Mar 2014</u>	<u>April 2014</u>	<u>May 2014</u>	<u>later</u>
<b><u>Behavior Classes</u></b>				
Puppy 1	Thu 3/6	Mon 4/7	Thu 5/15	July 2014
Foundation Class	Thu 3/6	Tue 4/8	Thu 5/15	July 2014
Puppy 2	CX	Mon 4/7	Wed 5/14	July 2014
Elementary School			Wed 5/14	July 2014
High School				July 2014
CGC-test (one day)	Sun 3/9			Sep 2014
C.L.A.S.S. - BA				July 2014?
CLASS Evaluation				Aug 2014?
Tricks 'N Clicks				TBA - fall?
<b><u>Sports Classes</u></b>	<u>Mar 2014</u>	<u>April 2014</u>	<u>May 2014</u>	<u>later</u>
Rally College	Thu 3/6			TBA - fall?
Rally Practice	Thu 3/6			TBA
Freestyle				TBA - fall?
Nose Work Beginner			Wed 5/14	TBA - fall
Nose Work Odor	Wed 3/5			May 2014 (if not March)
Nose Work Practice	Wed 3/5 (4 times)	Wed 4/2 (2 times)	Sat 5/10 (1 time)	summer 2014
Treibball Beginner				TBA - fall?
Treibball Intermediate		Tue 4/8		TBA - fall?
Treibball Practice	Tue 3/4 (4, 18 + 25)	Tue 4/8 (4 times)	Tue 5/6 (2 times)	May 2014
Flyball Beginner				Summer 2014?
Flyball Practice				Summer 2014?

Agility Puppy/Beg	Sat 3/8			July 2014
Agility Skills	Sat 3/8		Sat 5/31 (Workshop)	July 2014
Agility Sequencing	Sat 3/8		Sat 5/31 (Workshop)	July 2014
Agility Trialing	Sat 3/8		Sat 5/31 (Workshop)	July 2014
Weight Pulling				Fall 2014

You can check our web page [www.bettercompanion.com](http://www.bettercompanion.com) for info on classes, doggy daycare, Open Play Times, our facility and schedule, read testimonies from other students, print out the registration form (or fill one out online) and more.

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

## **PART VI: Monthly Story**

### **APDT - a wonderful resource for dog owners and trainers**

The **Association of Professional Dog Trainers** has had its own great journey in helping dog owners and dog trainers. They keep developing new ways to reach out and allow easy access to the newest developments in dog training, dog learning theory and scientific research about our four-legged friends. Check it out!

Here're some **great links specifically for pet dog owners** from their web page:

- [Trainer Search - nationwide or worldwide](#)
- [How to Choose a Trainer](#) - A list of short essays that help you understanding what you're looking for in a dog trainer or behavior consultant.
- [FREE APDT eLearning Courses](#) - Free webinars on different training or behavior topics, how to have fun with your dog, general pet information, bite prevention, and even cat topics. You choose when and how long your learning sessions are at the convenience of your home!
- [Downloads and Handouts](#) - Dog park information, info on how to choose a dog trainer, safety tips, tips before getting a dog and resources about training and behavior, including specific behavior issues you might have encountered.

January was **National Train Your Dog Month**, and the APDT was featured with three sessions about their [C.L.A.S.S. program](#) in [The Woof Meow Show - All About Dogs & Cats](#). This show is broadcast on the Voice of Maine radio. Here's a direct link to the [first part](#) that aired January 13, 2014. "**C.L.A.S.S.**" stands for **Canine Life and Social Skills**. We offer a C.L.A.S.S. course here at The Better Companion to students after graduating from either Elementary School or High School. Watch our schedule!

We hope you enjoy strolling through the APDT's web site and listening to the Woof Meow Show! And if [you](#) have a story to tell about how your own dog(s) improved using reward-based training - let us know and we might feature it in this newsletter!

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AKC CGC® and STAR® Evaluator  
Member of The Dog Gurus

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