

## **Robin Harman, Committee Chair: Rally**

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I've spent much of my life in dogs, from a "dog walking business" at age of 12, to a B.S. in Animal Behavior, to service dog trainer with Canine Companions for Independence.

In 1993 I got my first Bull Terrier and embraced dog agility. "Willie" Ch. Icenl Islay VAX, CGC,CD, AX, ROM was one dominant and driven dog, but she loved agility! Over time we learned to work together and she earned her VAX title, Am/Can Championships and a ROM. She was my friend and partner for 13 years.

Five standards and one Mini later we are still at it, from Conformation to Nose Work, Tracking to Rally. There have been various titles and accomplishments, including 2 Versatility awards. But the reason that Performance is so rewarding is the amazing journey, the profound partnership formed with your Bull Terrier and sharing this experience with others.

Bull Terriers love to have a job! Performance gives new life to the retired show dog, is an outlet for the pet and gets our BTs out in public. Currently my focus is training for drive and attention, Rally and helping the beginner. I encourage you to explore these fun performance "games" with your Bull Terrier. There is nothing like it!

## **Rhoda Bennett**

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I am excited to continue on the Performance Committee! I've had at least one Bull Terrier for the past 30 years but didn't start "doing anything" with them until we got EZ (CH Baker St Back At The Ranch ROM,VA, BN, RA, CGCA, THDA, TT) the year our youngest child went to college. EZ is now 13.5 and retired from his many endeavors, but over the years we enjoyed Conformation, Rally, Beginning Obedience and Therapy visits. With our other BT's I've tried Barn Hunt and Agility and checked out Tracking (I was interested, Trooper was not). We currently have four Bull Terriers, ages ranging from 13.5 years to 7 months. I am the Secretary of the Buckeye Bull Terrier Club and a member of the Toledo Kennel Club.

Currently I am training in Rally and entry level Obedience, as well as "Puppy Class" and occasionally Barn Hunt. Other than enjoying activities with my dogs, I am passionate about encouraging and supporting others who are interested in trying performance with their BTs and also about representing our breed in all breed settings (still lots of misconceptions even among "dog people"). The photo is of "Saffron" (Baker St Butterfly Kachina) receiving her AKC S.T.A.R. certificate – our first steps on the "Team Saffy" performance journey!



## Diane Calden BTCA

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In the late 80's I was given my first Bull Terrier, Sophie. She was a "Protection Trained" 36 pound bundle of love and fun and I was hooked. Since then I have bred, raised, shown dogs in Conformation. I bred the 2015 Silverwood Best Colored Bitch.

I have also titled dogs in Agility, Obedience, Rally and K9 Nose Work, Temperament Tests and CGC. I earned a Versatility award in 2006. I'm currently competing with Aedan in Conformation and Nose Work and with Tegan in Nose Work and Rally. If I can ever convince Tegan to complete the Rally course with me instead of leaving the ring to visit with her friends, we will earn her Versatility Award too.

There is life and fun after the conformation ring and the whelping box. Come and join us. You won't regret it!

## Cleo Parker: Obedience and Trick Dog Titles

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I got my first Bull Terrier when I was 14 from the then-President of the BTCA, Douglas Rose. I showed Laura in Junior Showmanship and conformation and retired her when I left for college. My foundation show bitch, Ch Westbrook Walking Song ROM, VA, CD, TT was the recipient of the BTCA's first Versatility Award. Back then obedience was really the only AKC option for performance and I proved to myself I was more stubborn than she was to get that CD title!

I consider myself primarily a conformation person and have bred and shown some top winning Bull Terriers under the Nuance prefix. I've attended every Silverwood since 1972, served as the BTCA's Special Awards chairman and maintain an online list of judges who place Bull Terriers in the Terrier Group.

That said, I do train and title dogs in performance when they have the aptitude and I have the time. So far, I have titled dogs in both traditional and Rally obedience, Barn Hunt, Temperament Tests and CGC. I intend to pursue the new AKC Trick Dog title soon.

The thing I find most rewarding about performance is the partnership you develop with your dog, that ability to read and learn from one another. They can be so much more than a silly or pretty face. I truly believe anyone who can successfully live with a Bull Terrier is already an accomplished dog trainer. If you learn to channel their intelligence and enthusiasm, the reward for both of you will be great.



**Chris Mason, CNW1:K9 Nose Work, AKC Scentwork, and Tracking**

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I have been attempting to train Bull Terriers since getting my first one in 1989 from Bar Sinister award winner, Maggie Burns. Since then I have attempted Obedience, Agility and Flyball. Although I have yet to succeed in ever actually training any of them, I have had great success following them around in K9 Nose Work competition. I have multiple titles and placements at all levels, including the Elite , the highest level of K9 Nose Work competition. I have been in the sport since 2008 and became a Certified Nose Work Instructor (CNWI) in 2012. To date I have had over 20 Bull Terriers in my classes in addition to many other breeds and mixes.

I am also active doing behavior consultations for any Bull Terrier owners in the Los Angeles area who need advice or perhaps just a sympathetic listener.

I am devoted to this breed and to their health and soundness. With this in mind I strongly support showing our thoughtfully bred dogs in the conformation rings. I also firmly believe that the show ring is just the beginning. With this in mind I feel that a good dog is recognized in the show ring but proven in performance (or CGC or Therapy activities). These activities give our breeders the feedback needed to keep our breed sound and to test their temperaments. A Bull Terrier’s job is to have fun. Let’s go have fun with them. Bull Terriers 4-ever!

**Sharon Whalen Keillor:Barn Hunt and Farm Dog**

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Here is a little about me- I got my first Bull Terrier in 1978, a typical owner who knew nothing about the breed. Words of wisdom imparted from the breeder was to “NEVER” try to obedience train her as it would “break her spirit.” She finished her Championship with Mark and I promptly enrolled her in an obedience class where it took her 6 weeks to learn how to sit. Forty years later thank goodness for clicker training and positive reinforcement I have evolved.

I have enjoyed many dog sports and have titled dogs in Conformation, Agility, Rally, CGC/CGCA, Trick Dog, Farm Dog and Barn Hunt. I believe that Bull Terriers are a very versatile breed and with patience and rewards can do anything.



I welcome the opportunity to expose and enlighten other bully owners to try something new. Your dog will thank you and you will have a much stronger bond with a little teamwork.



I have included 2 photos - one is competing in Barn Hunt and the other is Simone running with the RockNRoll K9 Performance Team which performs agility and races - all to music. This group goes all over the MidWest at fairs and Pet Expos and my dogs have learned to focus as there is only a simple flag barrier between the course and a couple hundred spectators. She is quite the hit as I usually decorate her up pretty well.

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