



Leashes & Leads

2011 Trainer Biographies



Alice Howe-Head Trainer

From Saint Bernards to Papillions and puppies to MACH/OTCH dogs, head trainer Alice Howe trains them all. Alice and her husband Paul have been teaching for 30+ years. She has trained/handled multiple High in Trial Dogs in AKC and CKC venues. In fact she and her golden retriever Bobbi were the 1st Minnesota team to achieve both Agility and Obedience Championship titles!

Current Dogs:

MACH Brighteye Short Circuit CD
Ch. Amoure Beau's Life of the Party OA OAJ

Zap (Border Collie)
Riot (Papillion)



Paul Howe-Obedience/Competitive Obedience Trainer

Paul's primary focus is in Competitive Obedience. He has trained/handled multiple high in trial dogs, including springers, goldens, and saint bernards. He and his wife Alice have been teaching for 30+ years. Paul is really involved in the RMKC.

Current Dogs:

Webshire Pi in the Sky OA OAJ CD

Pi (Golden Retriever)



Tina Hince-Trainer

Tina originally started training at Leashes and Leads in March of 2009 when she got her first border collie, Max. She was so impressed with the intelligence and team work that she started inquiring about becoming a trainer. She started attending seminars and classes and got hooked on watching the dogs learn. Tina loves teaching her dog new tricks and watching them problem solve. She trains her border collies in agility and two of them are competing in AKC agility. Her favorite part of training is learning from the dogs

Current dogs:

Comebye Maximum Voltage OA NAJ CGC

Brighteye Rhapsody in Blue OA OAJ CGC

Brighteye Fancy Feet NA NAJ CGC

Max (Border Collie)

Rhap (Border Collie)

Jive (Border Collie)



Amy Edstrom-Agility Trainer

Amy's background is primarily in horses. She has been teaching, riding and training horses for Western Pleasure, Dressage and Hunter Jumper for more years than she will say. Agility follows many of the same principals. From her horse background her strengths are in the ability to see the most efficient lines between obstacles, bring the awareness of body language use for communicating, and years of adapting training techniques to meet the animal's individual needs. Amy started training in dog agility and got hooked. She is currently competing in AKC agility trials at Excellent level with her English Cocker Spaniel named Fern. Fern also competes in field trials and hunt test which means she splits her training time between agility with Amy and field work with her husband. Sharing a dog isn't very easy, but has taught her flexibility in training and caused her to find methods that will work without compromising the integrity of either agility or field work.

Current dogs:

Razr's Kung Foo MH OA AXJ NF

Razr's Rambl'n Bramble of Featherwood NAJ

Fern (Eng. Cocker Sp.)

Bramble (Eng. Cocker Sp.)



Amy Gau-Conformation Trainer

Amy has had collies her entire life. She has bred/handled/trained multiple nationally ranked collies. She has bred multiple dogs that have done well in obedience, tracking, agility and rally. She has recently received her AKC judge's license and is currently approved to judge collies and working on judging other breeds as well junior showmanship. She is very involved in the RMKC and the Collie Club of America.

Current dogs:

Ch Rosepoint High Tide HIC (Top 10 Collie 2010)

Ch Rosepoint Northstar Nikita HIC (Top 10 Collie 2002-2005)

Rosepoint Surf's Up HIC

Rosepoint Jamaican Sunrise

Rosepoint Tahitian Pearl

Peter (Collie)

Nikki (Collie)

Lizzie (Collie)

Coral (Collie)

Pearl (Collie)



Lynn Grovdahl-Rally Trainer

Lynn attended her first obedience training class when she was a junior in high school, with the family Collie. She bought her first dog, also a Collie, which she attended obedience training classes and tried conformation showing. In 1986 she bought her second dog, an Irish wolfhound, but it wasn't until she got her first sheltie puppy in 1992 that she started training for competition obedience. She has put four AKC Companion Dog titles on four shelties, two of which went on to earn their Companion Dog Excellent titles. The same two shelties also earned their Rally Advance Excellent titles, and AKC Excellent agility titles. Lynn has also competed in NADAC agility. Currently Lynn trains and competes in Rally and Agility with her sheltie Wav. Wav has earned his Advanced Rally titles and his Novice Jumpers and Weaves, and Open Standard Agility titles at two years old.

Current dogs:

MyDawn She's A Lady RAE CDX AX AXJ CGC
 Drumlin Guns And Roses
 Drumlin MyDawn's Wave On Wave RA OA NAJ

Sari (Sheltie)
 Rose (Sheltie)
 Wav (Sheltie)



Denise Wedel-Rally Trainer

Denise has bred and shown American Staffordshire Terriers in conformation for many years. After finishing a championship on one particularly energetic male, Barx, she decided he would benefit from obedience training. Barx introduced her to the challenges and fun of the performance world and earned his advanced obedience and agility titles on the way. Since that time Denise has put multiple obedience, rally, and agility on several Am Staffs and has taught obedience and rally classes. She and Blizzie show in obedience, rally and agility, and she is training her first non-terrier, a Labrador Retriever, named Rocki.

Current dogs:

Dauntless Winter Stormwatch CDX RA, AX, AXJ
 Ch Dauntless Barkley Indy Zimmer UD AX OAJ
 BISS Ch Dauntless Diamonds Are Forever CDX OA AXJ RA
 Ch Dauntless Diamond Lil UD AX AXJ RA
 Dauntless Sudden Departure

Blizzie (Am. Staff.)
 Barx (Am. Staff.)
 Bond (Am. Staff.)
 Lil (Am. Staff.)
 Rocki (Labrador Retriever)



Jennie Brass-Asst. Rally Teacher

Jennie's introduction to performance training was a Rally Class with her Border Collie Ashenpaw at Leashes and Leads in the late winter of 2009. By May of that next year Ash, a once humble housedog, entered the exciting world of dog shows handled by Jennie to earn their first green ribbon in rally. Thrilled with the passion of teamwork she started a retired show dog, Parker, in Rally as well. Jennie owes a lot of her rapid handling skill growth to assisting with the same Rally classes that were her foundation. Fall 2010 she brought home Ion, Parker's nephew. The goal is to run him in Agility in the future. She trains under the idea that every dog holds potential, it just requires finding the key to tap into it and harness a dog's desire. Jennie and Ash also run agility and Ion is a certified therapy dog.

Current dogs:

Ashenpaw RE NAP CGC
CH Rosepoint Signature RE CGC
Rosepoint Chain Lightning RN THD CGC

Ash (Border Collie)
Parker (Collie)
Ion (Collie)



Tekla Viker-Trainer

Tekla has been involved in showing and training English Springer Spaniels for 20+ years. She has bred springers that have been nationally ranked. Her dog, Evy, was one of the first 10 springers in the country to earn her grand champion title and also competed in the 2011 Westminster show. Tekla's experience, however, is not limited to the breed ring, she has also shown in obedience where she has won two specialty high in trials. Tekla has also taught puppy and obedience classes for over 15 years. Most recently she has competed in rally and agility. Over the years she has attended many seminars and clinics on behavior, training, handling, breeding and canine structure and health. Tekla is currently a member of ESSFTA (the national Springer club) and TCVESSA (a local Springer club).

Current dogs:

Ch. Eldamar Dartek Vision CD RA
G.Ch. Dartek Eldamar Envision
Dartek Chocolat Bliss
Northstar Dartek Brigitta
Eldamar's Dartek Starry Night

Emma (Eng. Springer Spaniel)
Evy (Eng. Springer Spaniel)
Bliss (Eng. Springer Spaniel)
Bridget (Eng. Springer Spaniel)
Caleb (Eng. Springer Spaniel)



Amy Lawson-Therapy Dog Trainer

Amy is active with her dogs in a variety of venues including therapy work, agility, field trialing, rally, service, mushing, weight pulling and tracking. Amy's focus is therapy dog work where she enjoys visiting an array of facilities and being active in the promotion of pet therapy. Amy has over fifteen years experience in veterinary medicine specializing in nutrition and behavior and has been training dogs since 1999. Amy is active in breed and kennel clubs and raises field English Setters and German Shorthaired Pointers.

Current dogs and titles:

Bane's Wicked Justice Service Dog, THD
Heaven Scent Chase THD

Bane (Doberman)
Chase (Mix)



Don Vaughan-Therapy Dog Trainer

Don has had a lifelong love of animals. His dog handling experience includes Tosa Inus, Saint Bernards, Boxers and English Springer Spaniels. Outside of the dog world, Don has extensive experience in herpetology as well as equestrian photography, specifically hunter/jumpers and saddlebreds. He and his wife, Stephanie, have volunteered in animal-assisted activities with their Tosa Inu, Majo, since 2002 through Therapy Dogs Inc., and are currently training their rescued Saint Bernard, Gaag, for therapy work. He and Stephanie are involved in draft work and weight pulling with their Saint Bernard and are members of the Rochester Minnesota Kennel Club and the Greater Twin Cities Saint Bernard Club. Don is a placement coordinator for giant breeds with Midwest Animal Rescue & Services, Brooklyn Park, MN, and co-instructor of Leashes & Leads' introductory therapy dog course. He has a strong passion for the difference animals can make in a person's life and enjoys sharing and helping nurture that interest in others.



Stephanie Vaughan-Therapy Dog Trainer

Stephanie Vaughan's love of giant breed dogs began almost 10 years ago when she spotted an English mastiff for the first time at a dog show near Milwaukee, WI. She and her husband, Don, have volunteered in animal-assisted activities with their Tosa Inu, Majo, since 2002 through Therapy Dogs Inc., and are currently training their rescued Saint Bernard, Gaag, for therapy work. She and Don are involved in draft work and weight pulling with their Saint Bernard and are members of the Rochester Minnesota Kennel Club and the Greater Twin Cities Saint Bernard Club. Stephanie is a placement coordinator for giant breeds with Midwest Animal Rescue & Services, Brooklyn Park, MN, and co-instructor of Leashes & Leads' introductory therapy dog course. She feels that the bonding experience both in therapy dog training and in animal-assisted volunteer work is a gift, and she enjoys helping others experience it.



Rebecca Rolstad-Co Puppy Teacher

Rebecca first came to leashes and leads with her two golden retriever puppies, Casey and Willow, for training. She has been training here since they were 1 year old. Rebecca, along with her husband, competes in agility and has earned numerous titles.

Additional Trainers: Renee McGovern-Agility Trainer, Julie Prentice-Conformation Teacher, Kate Thornton-Asst. Rally Trainer