

Linda F. Emmert

I started training with Tri-State Kennel Club over 25 years ago. As the Owner of American Pit bull Terriers/ American Staffordshire terriers, I initially wanted to prove the world these dogs were not as portrayed in the media. Since then, my family and I have trained and competed with several dogs and earned my advanced obedience and agility titles and honors.

My current best pal and competition dogs is sneakers, a nine year old APBT/AMStaff who has earned her AKC and UKC CDX in obedience, a UKC ACHX and AKC AX and AXJ in agility. Sneakers has also helped me earn UKC agility handler of the year two years in a row. We are currently competing at the Excellent Level in AKC and are about half way to our MX and MXJ titles. We are also training in Utility obedience. Sneakers is a dream Dogs in a work and play with her Best even being supreme couch potato.

Sneakers and dogs I trained in the past have earned top AKC obedience rankings in the American Staffordshire breed and the terrier group

Oreo, CDX, TDI (now deceased) earned a First and Foremost award as the top AmStaff in Open many years ago, Pumpkin CD, Kaiser CD, TD, Tugger (a weight pull champion) and Reno (my first obedience) dog, all earned various titles and taught me on training technique doesn't fit all. I am currently training my Husband's three year old dog, Dee and my newest baby, eleven month old Bess. Both Dee and Bess promise and interesting and fun Time!

I have filled many shoes at TSKC, assistant, instructor, training director, show chair, recording secretary, match secretary, vice president and I have trained a few of our instructors. Currently, I am able instruct just about any pet or competition class except for conformation or field classes.

I do Private instruction for people who either can't fit a regular class in their schedule or have a problem with their dog. I enjoy working with people and dogs and I get great satisfaction seeing people realize their dog isn't as bad or un-trainable as they thought. The right kind of training with positive methods, can make the difference between a dog that is merely a yard ornament and one that is a valued family companion.

Mary Patton

In the early 1970's a friend gave me a poodle/spitz puppy, we began obedience training and I was hooked!! Shortly I purchased a cocker spaniel so I could compete, and we were off. I also joined Tri-State Kennel Club, Inc. to be with other people interested in spending time with their dogs. My cocker and I earned our CD and CDX. I later got an English Cocker who also earned his CD and was working on his CDX at his untimely death. I have been teaching obedience classes for most of those years for Tri-State Kennel Club, Inc. and enjoy being able to see others gain a new relationship with their dogs. I have also attended many seminars during the years on how to better train and communicate with our canine friends.

Tri-State Kennel Club, Inc. offers a broad variety of classes to help the novice handler a great background for living with and competing with their dogs.

Joan Gardner

My name is Joan Gardner. I have been in dogs for 40+ years. I started in conformation with Saint Bernards and also had a few Cocker Spaniels. I had to leave the doggy world for a few years and raise my kids as a single parent but just as soon as I was able I was back. My breed then was Gordon Setters and one Bernese Mountain Dog. Life then got in the way again and I had to leave the conformation world. When we moved from California to Missouri in 2000 it was so I could get back into dogs. My breed now is Cairn Terriers.

I am passionate about responsible dog ownership and Tri State Kennel Club is also. I have been teaching conformation at Tri State for several years now. I have also served several terms as president, been on the board and worked as a show chair. I have done pet therapy, obedience and rally with my cairns along with conformation. I have bred 8 Champions and 7 of which I finished myself. I have finished a total of 10 champions one of which I took to his Grand Championship. I have also put several performance titles on my cairns.

BIO – Ronda Murphy



I became a member of TSKC in 2010 and currently serve on the Board of Directors.

My passion for showing animals started at a young age while in 4-H. My love for dogs, whether it was training them or raising them, has continued throughout my life.

I started showing my dogs in performance events in 2009 and since then have earned 25 titles on dogs so far.

Bailey, my standard poodle, has 14 titles between AKC and UKC, so far. He was the 2013 AKC Rally Obedience Excellent National Champion and finished 16th at Nationals in the Rally Advanced Excellent Class in 2014. Bailey has made the UKC National All Star Rankings every year since 2011 for the top 50 dogs in the nation.

Jake, another standard poodle has earned 6 titles between AKC & UKC. He made the UKC National All Star Rankings the first two years I showed him.

Bandit, a piebald, longhaired dachshund has earned 4 titles between AKC & UKC and also made the UKC National All Star Rankings for top 50 dogs in the nation. He now enjoys being retired.

Chase, is a miniature poodle, and has earned his first AKC title. I plan to show him in AKC and UKC as well.

Several of these dogs I plan to do therapy work with once I retire them from competition.

My passion for dogs and training them has inspired me to put my skills to use at TSKC teaching classes. I truly enjoy seeing new handlers and their dogs excel and become a great working team whether it is at home or whether they go on to competition!

An obedient dog makes a happy dog and this in return makes a very happy owner!