

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEWS

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**Janet Hellums, Frolic, and Judge Jackie Coyne
Kings Kennel Club March 26, 1992**

Janet L Hellums has had the privilege of showing 4 AKC Obedience dogs with the first one dating back to 1962. (College, teaching, twin boys were partly responsible for big breaks in training and showing.) Twelve years ago because of the need in her area, Janet began her Sebastopol School for Dogs. She had been helping people train their dogs, so decided to turn her efforts into a business. She has met some of the most wonderful and lifelong friends through this career and showing. She is also a high school teacher so train private dogs daily in afternoons after school either before or after she trains her own dog. On Saturdays Janet gives group lessons that run continuously except for an annual 2 week vacation in August.

Janet finds herself constantly setting deadlines for herself and strive continuously with time management and priorities while she has a competitive obedience dog. Her portable phone allows her to do yard work or she may be putting away laundry, watering house plants, etc while she is involved with the many phone calls with her dog school.

Janet began training her Golden Retriever, Frolic "DD's Frolicing Halo of Gold CD" at 6 1/2 weeks to 5 1/2 months of age with her puppy manners, submissive exercises, attention, and very simple obedience segments with lots of play training. She let her experience "the world" at every possible opportunity taking her everywhere. It was, and still is, important that she is a Family Dog First -- competitive dog, second. Since the Hellums are a sports oriented family, Frolic was introduced early to ball park environments, and at 4 1/2 months to all kinds of various water sports while boating and camping. Since Janet showing hobby is closely related to one on her careers, when Frolic was 5 1/2 months she decided she could use more motivation to avoid burnout. She contacted Dee Dee Anderson, one of Frolic's breeders, in Redwood City for private lessons. Janet like the way Dee Dee's dogs always worked with enthusiasm and big hearts for obedience. Frolic's mom, OTCH D D's Calaveras Sparklin' Gold (Kelli) is a beautiful obedience performer, and her dad, Glenhaven Devil's Advocate UDT, MH WCX (Luke) is an outstanding field/ob dog. She knew at an early date that Frolic had inherited some of their high energy, "UP" type genes and she wanted to keep these qualities during her training and showing. She also felt it was time for her to again become the student having weekly and monthly goals for her next private lesson thus being encouraged to be committed to Frolic's training come freeze, rain, or shine. Equally important was her desire for Frolic's companionship and training be a buffer for stress from her busy work schedule. Janet decided she would not show Frolic unless she was really enjoying those many hours spent during her training. She felt if she enjoyed the training, she would reflect that joy. She also did not want to be under any time pressure ... wishing to bring her along slowly.

Because of Frolic's natural love to perform and Dee Dee's expertise in nurturing and encouraging this attitude, she has been fun to train. She definitely can be silly and bratty at times reminding Janet that life should never be taken too seriously, and helping her maintain a sense of humor, an ingredient Janet feels is essential in dog training. Besides training with Dee Dee (averaging 1 long lesson every 4-5 weeks) Janet trains Frolic at her own school, a couple of evenings a week at County Wide DTC's drop in - group lessons in Santa Rosa, besides her many frequent outings at various parks in the area. She tries to have her fairly solid in new work before adding distractions in locations away from home. Janet likes Novice work because she enjoys heeling with her dogs, and like to practice variations of the heeling exercise around 20 minutes daily dispersed with play release. Frolic knows all of her work fairly well through Utility which seems to keep her challenged, interested and her self esteem high in the "old" exercises.

In the Spring of '91, Janet decided to give Frolic some match experience. She had to find ones held on Sundays. They suddenly and pleasantly found themselves involved with AOCNC (Associated Obedience Clubs of Northern CA, CSOC (CA State Obedience Competition) and WIOC (Western International Obedience Competition). They had the thrill and honor of winning Top Novice Dog at CSOC, and became a members of the CA State Obedience Team. What an enriching experience for both of them! Besides Frolic receiving great travel and ring experience, it was exciting to make friendships while sharing training methods and situations with handlers from other parts of the country. No longer was it an individual sport, but a TEAM Competition with everyone pulling and rooting for each

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other. The sportsmanship was incredible between state teams too. She personally would like to encourage others to enter meets that lead to state and inter-state competitions. Four months after WIOC in Portland, OR in October, 1991, Frolic began her AKC Novice B showing entering 10 shows. Her obedience career to date includes earning her CD with the Dog World Award. She received 3 HIT's and placed 1st 8 times, 2nd 1 time, 3rd 1 time. Her accumulative average score was 198.3. The last show was April 19, 1992.

March 26th they had a HIT at Kings Kennel Club under Judge Jackie Coyne with a 199. This for that 3rd leg. The next day at Sequoia Kennel Club they again went HIT under Judge Nancy Craig.

One of Janet's new goals now is to earn Frolic's CDX and UD titles maintaining the same zest and joy Frolic displayed during her quest for her CD, while at the same time enjoying her to the fullest as the family dog and her "best friend" and companion.