

## **The Talented Twelve – Utility Dog Excellent and Obedience Master Bouviers**

In obedience, there is a constant search for a steady and consistently good dog; that dog that will qualify at the upper levels of competition. The written proof of this elusive animal is a Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) and Obedience Master (OM) title.

The American Kennel Club implemented the UDX titling program in January 1994. This title, and multiples of it, allowed exhibitors to continue to show their dogs at a higher level of competition and still earn additional titles. Technically, a UDX leg is earned when a dog obtains qualifying scores in both Open B and Utility B classes at a trial. A dog earns a UDX title when he earns 10 UDX legs.

A new AKC Master (OM) title program was added in January 2009 to recognize consistently high scoring dogs, in which title points are recorded for dogs with a Utility title. The letters OM are added after a dog's name when it has earned a total of 200 OM points awarded to a dog earning a 190 or better from the Open B and Utility B classes, based on the schedule of points established by the AKC Board of Directors. The OM will be followed by a numeric designation indicating the number of times a dog has met the requirements of the OM title up to 10.

A total of twelve Bouviers have earned the prestigious UDX title. At this level the ladies have reigned supreme with eight of the twelve UDX title holders being females. Three of the twelve have earned Obedience Master titles (OM) and four of our twelve dogs moved on to earn the coveted Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH) title. Here is a brief look at "The Talented Twelve:"

### **"Max"**

#### **CH OTCH Susant's Emperor Maximilian UDX2, TDX, HT, TT, CGC, SchH AD, SchH BH**

"Max" was an Arizona male owned and trained by Erik Hoyer. Max was truly an outstanding dog. Max completed his first tracking title, on the first try, by 12 months of age. He later completed his championship in seven shows and earned his CD, CDX and UD within a 3-month period. He went from CD to OTCH within the short span of a year, with his UDX and OTCH titles being earned in 1994. By May of 1995, he had earned his UDX2.

Erik started training Max at a very early age, 7 weeks old. He started teaching only small things, but steadily built a good obedience foundation. Max was trained all the way through Utility before entering his 1<sup>st</sup> obedience trial. Even though they quickly went from CD to UD; Erik did not initially think of working toward an OTCH. The turning point was at an all-breed show and trial in Santa Barbara where Max scored 198.5 from the Utility B class.

Max accumulated numerous honors during his lifetime. His highest score was a 199.5. He was also the first dog of any breed to earn an OTCH, UDX (Utility Dog Excellent title) and breed championship. Erik and Max were invited to the first 3 AKC National Obedience Invitational trials and won many High in Trial and High Combined Score honors at all-breed and specialty trials. Max also earned 2 Schutzhund titles during the time he was competing in obedience.

Erik described Max as laid back, but protective and had a unique way of figuring out people. Summing up Max's personality, Erik says, "He was the most devoted dog."





### “Emilia”

#### **CH Blovet’s Emilia de la Nuit, UDX**

Emilia was the 1<sup>st</sup> Bouvier bitch to earn a UDX. Was owned and trained by Dr. Anthony Schnurer. Raised in sunny California, Emilia proved to be an obedience natural. This multifaceted Bouvier earned her CD a month before her conformation championship. She easily progressed through her titles, going from CD to UD in less than a year. Within the next 9 months, she had earned her UDX in 1996.

During her career, she placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the open class on 3 occasions and 1<sup>st</sup> in Utility on 8 occasions. She also earned 3 High Combined wins and one Highest Scoring Dog in Trial win. Two of her High Combined wins were earned in the highly competitive all-breed trials. She ended her stellar career in 1996 with two legs toward her UDX2 and 2 points toward an OTCH.

### “Gabby”

#### **Redwind’s Gabelle, UDX2**

“Gabby”, was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bouvier bitch to earn a UDX and went on to earn a UDX2 in 1998. Gabelle lived in the Sunshine State of Florida and was owned and trained by Reginald Cobb. She was shown occasionally in conformation, but her real love was obedience. She steadily progressed through her obedience titles, starting in 1993 with her CD then earning her UDX in 1997. She also earned back-to-back High in Trials at the 1997 and 1998 American Bouvier des Flandres National Specialty. The 1998 specialty was especially rewarding in that she earned her UDX2 title and also won High Combined. At the end of her career in 1998, she had earned 2 legs toward her UDX 3 and accumulated 2 points toward an OTCH.



### “Bronte”



#### **\*CH OTCH Emperor’s Mistic Bronte, UDX11 TDX**

The second Bouvier to earn an OTCH title was Max's daughter, “Bronte.” She earned her UDX in 1997 and her OTCH in 2001. Bronte was bred, owned and trained by Erik Hoyer.

Bronte continued the tradition of excellence in obedience set by her sire. She completed her CD through UD in 5 months 3 weeks. She passed her TD and TDX tracking titles on her first attempt. She is the most successful obedience Bouvier in AKC history with 112 UDX legs. Bronte earned multiple specialty and all-breed High In Trial and High Combined honors. She was also invited to the AKC National Obedience Invitational numerous times.

Erik described Bronte as a “firecracker.” “She was a Border Collie inside a Bouvier, too intense and quick.” Up until she was 3 years old, she would do the “Bouvier Bounce” over his head when they walked. She loved to work with Erik and was his constant companion from birth until she passed

away in November 2005 at the age of 11 ½.

## “Peaches”

### **CH Emperor’s Peaches and Cream DLX, UDX**

Peaches had many notable accomplishments in the show ring, performance ring and the whelping box. This fawn from arid Arizona was trained and owned by Erik Hoyer. Her flashy and upbeat personality was a definite plus in the show ring. At less than a year old, she earned a Group III and later completed her championship in 1994.

When it came to obedience, Erik described Peaches as a reactionary dog and not as consistent a worker as Max. Yet in 1994 she earned a championship, CD and HT titles. At 8 months old, she earned a TD. She went from CD to UD within 7 months. Her training routine slowed a bit after earning her UD in 1995. At that time she took a break and became a mother. She was bred to the Hoyer’s OTCH male, Max, during this time. From this breeding they produced a future OTCH – Bronte.

Erik split his time between training Peaches and Bronte. Peaches returned to the obedience ring in a serious way in 1998 and completed her UDX that year. She also received an invitation to the AKC National Obedience Invitational. At the end of her performance career in 1998, she won High Combined at the Southern California Bouvier des Flandres Club Specialty and had a total of 4 legs toward her UDX2 and gained 4 OTCH points.

Erik tells us that Peaches was the most happy-go-lucky Bouvier he had. Her tail was always up and the world was always fun to her. As a watch dog, she had a lot of bark, but not much bite to back it up. Peaches had a mischievous side and always seemed to like to pull tricks on Erik.



## “Yonnie”



### **\*OTCH Redwind’s Yonnie O’Mine, UDX RE**

In August of 2006, Reginald Cobb and his teammate, “Yonnie,” etched their place in breed history by becoming the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bouvier to earn the coveted AKC Obedience Trial Champion title (OTCH) title. Yonnie is the also the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bouvier bitch to earn this title.

Reg and Yonnie began their OTCH quest in January of 2003 and earned their UDX in 2005; traveling to numerous trials along the south and east coast. They amassed an impressive 116 qualifying scores with an average score of 196.2. Her highest score was a 199 out of a perfect 200.

Yonnie accumulated some remarkable wins including two 1<sup>st</sup> place wins in the Utility B class and 16 in the Open B class. She had six High In Trials and four High Combined honors. She retired with a total of 18 UDX legs and 176 OTCH points. Reg and Yonnie also garnered several invitations to compete in the prestigious AKC National Obedience Invitational.

## “Anchor and Grover”

Jean Nocilly is the proud owner and handler of two UDX Bouviers. She had these words to say about her two extraordinary dogs; Anchor and Grover:

### “Anchor”

#### **American/Canadian CH Eclipse Singular Sensation, UDX RE HSAd HIAd HXAd OA NAJ NJP**

My first UDX dog was “Anchor,” A/C CH Eclipse Singular Sensation UDX HXAd HSAs RE OA NAJ NJP. Anchor was born in 1996 and died in 2007 at the age of 11 ½. She was not the easiest dog to show in obedience. I showed her 13 times in utility before she earned her first leg. Then she started qualifying and ended up with 7 legs in utility A. I then started showing her for her UDX and she earned the title in 6 months. She earned her first leg in utility in November 2003 and her UDX in July 2004. Along the way, she won an all-breed HIT, 2 all-breed HC and one specialty HIT and HC. Anchor was also the first winner of the Owner-Handler Obedience Award at the ABdFC Nationals.



### “Grover”

#### **DC Mapleridge Babochon Illusion UDX RAE HSAd HSBd HIAd HXAd AX AXJ**



“Grover,” DC Mapleridge Babochon Illusion UDX HXAd HSBd AX AXJ RAE was completely different. I entered him in utility for the first time on a 4 day weekend and he qualified 3 out of the 4 days to get his UD in a weekend. On the way to his UDX, he also earned his herding championship. Grover earned his UDX in January 2007 and won enough OTCh points in 2006 and 2007 to be invited to the National Obedience Championship. I attended in 2006 and Grover made a great showing. Grover won the Owner-Handler Obedience award 2 years and has several specialty HIT and one all-breed HC. At the age of 10, he was mostly retired but still did tracking and an occasional rally trial. Grover passed

away in 2011.

### “Chance”

#### **Can Int. UKC CH U-GOTCH Agl-1 FO Quiche Chance Are At Normark VCD2 UDX OM1 RE TD AXP AJP CGC HCT TT Sch BH TD-I**

In January of 2012, Janet Weeks and “Chance” became the 9<sup>th</sup> of our breed to earn a UDX title. “Chance” is a very versatile dog; the kind many of us wish for in our competition careers. Janet described Chance as an “up dog” with a “bubbly” personality. “She likes to work,” says Janet, and has that Bouvier attitude of acting as though she is “in command of everything.”

Her ring history includes titles in Agility, Tracking, Rally, Conformation and Schutzhund. But her true talents lie in obedience. Besides earning the elusive UDX title, she is nearing the completion of the requirements for an Obedience



Master (OM) title. Chance is also well on her way to a Versatile Companion Dog title (VCD) this year since she has titled in Obedience, Tracking and Agility.

Chance and Janet are no strangers to the Canadian and UKC competition rings. They have earned a UKC Grand Obedience Trial Champion (GOTCH) title, along with Tracking, Agility and Conformation titles. Her resume` also includes a Schutzhund BH, Herding Instinct Certificate, CGC and Temperament Tests. Chance has also passed on her versatile nature to her progeny. Six of her offspring have earned Conformation, Obedience and Rally titles, which earned her the Top Producing Dam in 2011.

**“Nina”**

**OTCH Briarlea Nina De La Luz UDX4 OM3 GO VER RE**



“Nina” and Reginald Cobb is our 10<sup>th</sup> UDX title holder. They earned their title in March of 2012. Nina is an exceptional dog that followed in the footsteps of her remarkable predecessor, Yonnie. Nina and Reg started their obedience career in 2008 and have been familiar faces in Florida obedience rings ever since. Nina’s Companion Dog ring career started in April of 2008 with a CD title and followed with a CDX title in 2009. By 2011, she had earned a UD and

had officially started on the road to her OTCH title. 2012 and 2013 would prove to be extremely successful years for the two. In 2012, they earned a UDX and UDX2 title followed by an OM1 (Obedience Master) title. 2013 added even more advanced titles. A UDX3 and UDX4 were earned along with an OM2 title. The fall of 2013 brought even more honors for Nina and Reg; four All Breed High In Trials, five High Combined titles and a combined total of 19 first place wins in the Open and Utility classes. By the end of 2013 Nina was only 17 points away from their goal of an OTCH title. On January 18, 2014 the Bouvier history books were proud to add their fourth OTCH title recipient; OTCH Briarlea Nina De La Luz UDX4 OM2 GO VER RE.

Both are no strangers to other Obedience and Performance accolades. Nina qualified for the AKC National Obedience Championships in 2013, 2014 and 2015. They have earned a place on the ABdFC Performance Top Twenty each year since 2011. Reginald has also been a recipient of the ABdFC Max Award honoring the top Obedience Owner-Handler.

Reginald tells us “The Nina is a play girl and at times has difficulty in concentrating. However, I can smile and enjoy her play. The loss of Yonnie affected her significantly for some time. Yonnie was an excellent leader and model for her. They worked together quite well. He added, “Nina moves as fast as a Border Collie and has a nose second to none. She has the house completely and at night can be found in any room including the loft.”

### **“Miles”**

**Carrig's A Mile of Smiles UDX6  
PUTD OM3 BN GN GO VER RA  
CGCA**

“Miles” and Ed Hobby is our 11<sup>th</sup> UDX titleholder. “Miles” was born October 7, 2010 in Surrey, B.C. When he was 6 ½ months old he came to live with Ed and Karen Hobby in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

Miles showed that he had both the will and ability to excel in obedience. He completed his CDX on his second birthday. About three months later he had his UD and then his UDX before turning three. He then went on to earn his OM1, his UDX2 and his UDX3 before his fourth birthday.



Miles has been in the Bouvier Performance Top 20 for two consecutive years. He is proud to be one of the youngest Bouviers to be so honored both years. He will celebrate his fourth birthday shortly before the 2014AFdFC specialty. We expect to see Miles in the Performance Top 20 for some years to come.

### **“Jedi”**

**CH CHDD Adara's Jubelen Jedi VCD3 UDX VER RE PT MX MXJ XF DD BDD BH THDX CGCA  
VBCH**



“Jedi” and Chris Jurey is our 12<sup>th</sup> and newest UDX titleholder. This is what Chris had to say about Jedi’s experiences in obedience and his journey to a UDX:

Having some previous experience with Bouviers, I knew I needed to obedience train my new boy, Jedi. However, my Google search only turned up one nearby training facility, the competitive schutzhund club “O.G.Buckeye.” The schutzhund obedience training ended up being close enough to AKC novice that we had little trouble earning a CD title in three straight trials, even with his general lack of enthusiasm and precision.

The lagging, crooked sits, and lack of enthusiasm cost us points in AKC open, but the bigger problem was a total disinterest in retrieving. That issue was quickly solved after an intensive one month program of daily retrieving sessions with a personal instructor. After that, retrieving issues never cost us another open leg but the big wooden schutzhund dumbbell did raise a few eyebrows at trials. The jumping exercises were also not much of an issue due to our agility training. Our CDX title took four tries because of a down during a long sit.

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The utility title was much more challenging. There is very little cross over with schutzhund exercises, so it was whole new learning experience for my instructor, Jedi, and me. His lack of enthusiasm again really cost us here. More often than not Jedi would just stop and stare at me during the signal, directed jumping, and/or scent discrimination exercises. We suspect it was the Bouvier equivalent of blowing me a raspberry. It took a number of attempts but we eventually earned the required three legs for the UD title.

We kept plugging away at additional trials to pass the required ten double qualifying scores for the UDX title. Our lack of precision meant that even though we were qualifying, we were not scoring high enough to accumulate points towards an OM title or an OTCH. So after earning the UDX title, we retired from obedience to concentrate on events we found more stimulating, particularly agility along with tracking and carting.