

MEET THE INSTRUCTORS

Barbara Merkley

Barb is a second generation obedience trainer, conformation handler and breeder. Under the Startoga name, she has bred, trained and showed Shetland Sheep Dogs and Papillons. For many years, Barb has instructed all levels of obedience classes, from Beginner to Utility, as well as Rally O for the Vancouver Dog Obedience Club and the Capilano Dog Obedience Club. Barb's philosophy is to train you to train your dog.....and to have fun doing it! She helps you to develop a bond with your dog that's unbeatable.

Her students include Dr. Stanley Coren, author of many books including the *Intelligence of Dogs* and the star of the TV show ' Good Dogs' and Ward Falkner who, with his Sheltie and Golden Retriever, has been one of the top 10 Canadian obedience teams multiple times. Barb has trained many of her Shelties through to Utility and continues to handle her dogs in Obedience and Rally O. She earned eight Rally obedience degrees last year with her own dogs and others, including a Cairn Terrier. Barb has taken various judging classes to expand her knowledge and has judged many puppy sweepstakes classes at breed specialty shows.

Cindy Merkley

Cindy is a third generation obedience trainer, conformation handler and breeder of Shetland Sheepdogs and Papillons. Her dog addiction started as a teenager under the guidance of her mother and grandparents. Cindy's first dog was a gift from her grandparents, Jo and Vic Raymer, who were Obedience Judges. "Martin" was a blue merle Sheltie that Cindy handled to his Championship and CDX. Cindy started as a Junior, handling Nova Scotia Duck Tollers for Arlene McDonald (Areden Acres) and Jerry Wong (Starway Tollers). Her handling has expanded to include dogs in the sporting, terrier, herding, working, and toy groups. She has had a very successful handling career earning a multitude of Championships, multiple group placements and a Best in Show. She pays great attention to the presentation of her dogs, promoting a happy, well groomed, and friendly attitude. With her mother Barb, Cindy has been training dogs at the Capilano Dog Obedience Cub for years. Her goal is to provide guidance to help everyone improve their skills to be successful with their dogs in obedience and conformation.

The Lakes District Kennel Club knows that Barb & Cindy will help train you to train your dog - and to have fun doing it!!

The following hotels in the Smithers area are 'dog friendly':

Aspen Motor Inn	(250) 847-4551	Capri Motor Inn	(250) 847-4226
Fireweed Motel	(250) 847-2208	Round Lake Resort	(250) 846-9160
Hudson Bay Lodge	(250) 847-4581	Two Rivers Lodge	(250) 846-6000.

Check out the Town of Smithers web site <http://www.smithers.ca> for links to maps and more information.