

# O.L.A.E. Newsletter

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## INTRODUCING THE O.L.A.E. BOOK CLUB

We might not actually be a book club, but volunteers of O.L.A.E. decided it might be fun to review and recommend books relating to dogs, training, and life-with-animals. We welcome any member to recommend books of interest, or even provide a review like the one below for "Marley and Me" by John Grogan.

### Spring Review: *Marley & Me*

Whether you have "the world's best dog" or "the world's worst dog" or a dog that fits both categories, depending on the day, *Marley & Me* is a must-read. Simply described as "Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog", readers will both laugh and cry when reading this book which is now in paper-back. Written in the first-person narrative, the book portrays Grogan and his family's life during the thirteen years that they lived with their Labrador Retriever, Marley, and the relationships and lessons learned from this period.

If you say "I don't cry" - buy Kleenex. If you say "I have the world's best dog" - you will still relate to Marley's antics and personality traits, and laugh out loud. This book was on the Best Seller's lists for months and was so popular that it is now being made into a movie featuring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston (no less). However, for the real star, the directors will need a whole lineup to fill Marley's large paw prints - and 13 year span of life.

### Future Recommended Reads:

"From Baghdad, With Love: A Marine, the War, and a Dog Named Lava" by Jay Kopelman and Melinda Roth.

"Tell Me Where It Hurts: A Day of Humor, Healing and Hope in My Life as an Animal Surgeon" by Nick Trout.

## WHAT IS O.L.A.E. UP TO IN 2008?

In addition to maintaining the off-leash area on a daily basis, continuing to educate users, keeping the web site up-to-date, answering user emails, and producing a quarterly newsletter, what else

are O.L.A.E. volunteers up to in 2008? We plan on returning to the Edmonds Summer Market with another informational booth describing our role as stewards of the "doggie-beach". And, of course, we hope to encourage users of the off-leash area to become O.L.A.E. members and/or join us as volunteers.

We have started planning and securing donations for our major fundraiser, the Halloween Howl. Sound too early to start planning for an October event? Not for us: It takes many hours of planning and effort to organize vendors and secure great prizes for the doggie costume contest and silent auction items.

We are working with a local Boy Scouts group in hopes that they will help us with another project for this Spring or Summer. Remember that the double-entry gate system into the off-leash area is the result of a 2007 Eagle Scout project.

While it is still cost-prohibitive for O.L.A.E. to purchase bio-degradable bags, we continue to research alternative ways of providing plastic produce bags and pursue avenues of obtaining bio-degradable dog waste bags at the beach. Lastly, the **annual beach clean-up** is coming, so remember to keep that in mind as we always need help.

As shown, we have a lot on our plate for such a small group of volunteers. But, we are passionate about the off-leash area. So, please continue to support O.L.A.E. in whatever way you can: Be a responsible off-leash area user; Pick-up poop; Become a member or volunteer; or Donate money or services.

## SPRING PROJECT ANY TAKERS?

O.L.A.E. has a Boy Scout project in mind so if you are interested in becoming an Eagle Scout and would like to help O.L.A.E. please contact Diane at [dogsoffleash@olae.org](mailto:dogsoffleash@olae.org).

## CLOSE THE GATES!!!

Now that we have that neat double gate system, folks need to remember to close both gates. Also,

only let out your dog(s) as we have found dogs wandering the parking lot.

## DOG FIGHT – OH NO!

Last year there were very few formal complaints filed by dog-owners after visiting the dog park. Considering the number of visitors using the area, that was a good sign. However, recently there was a complaint regarding a dog fight, so let's review some common sense methods for preventing a dog fights.

### FIGHT PREVENTION:

The best way to keep a fight from occurring is to follow common sense. Here is a short list of ideas to keep in mind: 1) Pay attention to your dog and be aware of where he/she at all times. 2) Stay close enough to control or protect your dog. 3) Keep a collar on your dog at all times so you have something to grab, if needed. 4) Keep walking. Walking defuses defensive behaviors and helps keep the area neutral territory. 5) Avoid the temptation to stand around and chat or sit in one place for very long. When folks congregate, many dogs may become protective of their people and their space, making scuffles more likely to occur. 6) Leave the park. Some days it's just a bad mix. Go for a walk or come back later. Trust your instincts! If it doesn't feel right—leave. 7) If your dog exhibits aggressive behaviors, maybe it is time to take him/her to an obedience class.

## WATER NOW ON

The water is now on so please remember to turn the faucet completely OFF when you are done using it. Also, the bowls are for everyone's use, so don't take any of them home. We lost two bowls last year just because selfish people decided they need to have them at home.

## ABOUT US

O.L.A.E. (Off-Leash Area–Edmonds) was formed by a group of volunteers in August 2005 as a non-profit 501(c)3 organization in order to help steward, maintain and operate the off-leash dog area in Edmonds. Volunteers help sustain the area in many ways (clean-up, grass removal, fundraising, and education). If you are interested in becoming a volunteer contact [o.l.a.e@comcast.net](mailto:o.l.a.e@comcast.net) or visit [www.olae.org](http://www.olae.org) for more details.

## BECOME A MEMBER

There are a lot of great reasons to become a member of O.L.A.E. Member dues go towards promoting and improving our off-leash dog area and providing financial support to maintain the area. Members will receive a subscription to our quarterly newsletter which provides information on upcoming events, news and educational features. All donated funds are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

**O.L.A.E.**  
**P.O. Box 1562**  
**Edmonds WA 98020 - 1562**

Please check one:  New Member  Renewal

### **Please print clearly:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog(s) names: \_\_\_\_\_

Can we email you the newsletter:  Yes

Contact me to help volunteer:  Yes

### Annual Membership

- \$ 10 Individual
- \$ 20 Family
- \$ 50 Supporter
- \$100 Barking Business Lounge (free advertising on O.L.A.E. website).
- \$250 Yappie Club Level (free advertising on O.L.A.E. website and newsletter).

Remember to make check payable to O.L.A.E.  
Thank you.

### Current Yappie Club Sponsors:

Etta Says! [www.ettasays.com/home.php](http://www.ettasays.com/home.php)

Helping Hands Vet Clinic: [www.helpinghandsvet.com](http://www.helpinghandsvet.com)

Petosa's Family Grocery

Scub-a-Pup: [www.edmondsscubapup.com](http://www.edmondsscubapup.com)

Corinne Beuchet of The Hair Company-206-783-9898

B.B. Granda

Steve Tholl

O.L.A.E. is not responsible for any illness or injury incurred during park visit. For information, please visit [www.olae.org](http://www.olae.org) and look under rules and responsibilities.