

DOG SPORTS & TRAINING

PCOTC

PORT CHESTER OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB



Sit 'n Stay

Quarterly Newsletter of PCOTC • Fall 2017

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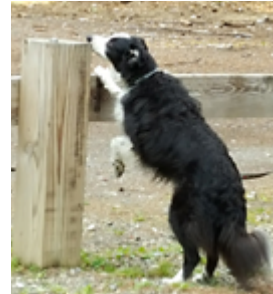
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Autumnal Dance, photo © Morgaana Photography

Calendar of Events

Events are held at the PCOTC facility unless otherwise noted

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| Sep 17 | PCOTC at Puttin' on the Dog
Greenwich, CT | Oct 29 | White Plains Weekends
(obedience run-thrus) |
| Sep 16-17 | Deb Jones Obedience Seminars | Nov 5 | AKC Obedience Trials |
| Sep 24 | White Plains Weekends
(obedience run-thrus) | Nov 19 | White Plains Weekend
(obedience run-thrus) |
| Oct 1 | WCRL Rally Trials—PCRE | Nov 25-26 | Judy Reilly Agility Seminars |
| Oct 7-8 | Vicki Ronchette Breed
Handling Seminars | Dec 3 | AKC Scent Work Trials |
| Oct 26 | Howl-o-ween Party & Club
Meeting | Dec 5 | Holiday Party & Club Meeting |

Port Chester Obedience Training Club

AN AKC MEMBER CLUB
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Phone: 914-269-8550

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SIT 'N STAY

Is a quarterly publication of Port Chester Obedience Training Club. Articles of interest to the membership are welcome and encouraged. The editor reserves the right to edit all material in the interest of space constraints and appropriateness.

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Next deadline: Nov. 15, 2017

Sit 'n Stay is produced for online delivery. If you need to receive the newsletter in print, please contact Jane Wheeler at 845-227-5116.

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President's Message

I'm thrilled to be writing my very first President's Message to start off another issue of the fabulous *Sit 'n Stay*. It is only my third month as President of Port Chester Obedience Training Club and I want to send out my greeting to all of our members. I love to hear what our members have to contribute to the club so feel free to reach out to me.

I'm excited to announce that we've already started working on getting one of the very first AKC Scent Work Trials organized for this area. In addition, as winter approaches and people start staying closer to home, we're hoping to offer more seminars, workshops and other fun events at the club to keep all our members informed and entertained. As always, none of these events would be possible without the members who lead the charge on them and they have my eternal gratitude for the work they do.

We've also finally located a new House Manager! I'm very happy to welcome Michele Cardone to the role. She'll do a wonderful job.

— Sara Gagnon, sara.gagnon13@gmail.com

New Board Member

In a Board meeting prior to the August 30 Annual Meeting, the PCOTC Board elected a new Board Director to fill a vacant seat. Katherine O'Donnell, the new director, has a sixteen-year history in animal assisted therapy, beginning with her Newfie Maddie. She worked with her Golden Retriever Pare in 911 and Katrina. She took a therapy dog class at PCOTC with George Berger. She also enrolled in nose work classes with her Golden Retriever Shiloh; the team is getting ready to take the ORT soon. She's a booster of PCOTC: "I am very impressed with the quality of the training, the variety of courses and the instructors. I also recommend PCOTC whenever anyone is looking for training for their dog."



Lisa McCarthy & "Mickey Mouse" at a past Howl-o-ween party. Costumes, for dog and person, or not? Your choice! Come have a *frightfully* good time! Photo: Jane Wheeler

Save the Dates: 2017 Club Meetings

- Thur., Oct. 26, Howl-o-ween Party/Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Tues., Dec. 5, Holiday Party/Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Club Doings

Awards Night 2017: Volunteer Members

Volunteers. On this page is a list of all volunteer members in the club. These are members who have worked 12 or more hours in the prior club year and are therefore entitled to the benefits of volunteer membership—including discounts on classes and the ability to rent the facility for private practice sessions.

Supervolunteers. Two red asterisks before a volunteer name designate a “super volunteer.” Special recognition is owed to these very special members who go well above and beyond for the club, volunteering for 30 hours and up—way up, in some cases—for the club. *Note: Board Members are not eligible for designation as Super Volunteers.*

Not on the list? If your name is not on this list and you think it should be, please contact Sara Gagnon at sara.gagnon13@gmail.com

Alemani, Joseph
Allen, Hadley
**Amen, Bob
Armisto, Ruth
**Baltz, Barbara
Bannon, Anne
Baschiera, Peggy
Berger, George
Berkeley, Linda (Weiss)
Bordins, Maureen
Boylen, Laurel
Brewer, Adrienne
Cardone, Michele
Carter, Alice
Cavallero, Lillian
Chen, Patricia
Collins, Ellen
Cooke, Ashlin
Coronetz, Melanie
**Defonce, Margaret
**DeGregorio, Anthony
DeGregorio, Marylyn
Del Rowe, Barbara Verdi
**DeSarno, Demetria
DeSimone, Kelly

DeVito, Denise
Dodds, Barbara
Domenicali, Dena
(Deedie)
Dwyer, Cecilia “CC”
Dwyer, Darrell
Ebenstein, Peter
Ehrlich, Evelyn
Emert, Ellen Gaw
Emmel, Heather
Fanok, Donna
Feldman, Leonore
Ferrar, Alberto
Frantzeskarou, Elpida
Freed, Kathleen
Freed, Stuart
Frumin, Betsey
Gagnon, Sara
Gankiewicz, Adam
Granata, Andrea
Green, Lauren
Grohoski, Cynthia
**Haas, Rickie
Hagan, Virginia
Halpern, Jonathan

Halpern, Lynn
Hanes, Yukiko
Harris, Deborah
**Heck, Grace
Hellman, Fran
Hempel, Carolyn
Horton, Michael -ripps
Huniyack, Marianne
Jochen, Katherine
Johnson, Sarah
Jollyman, Louise
**Jones, Mike
**Kalmanash, Andrew
**Kalmanash, Angela
Kaufman, Joan
Keehn, Linda
Kelly, Lawrence
Kelly, Shannon
Koren, Mary Jane
Kornienko, Olga
Lane, Rachael
Langendoen, Robert
Lavoie, Sue
Lebedin, David
**Lewis, Marci

Lynch, Elizabeth
Macy, Taylor
Margulis, Ashley
Margulis, Keith
Marlow, Beth
McCarthy, Lisa
McKay, Jamie
McKay, Stephen
McLoughlin, Jane
Meldrim, Jeanne
Menzel, Morgaana
Metzger, Janet
Mintz, Margaret
Mischel, Susan
**Moskovitz, June
Mustrangi, Meika
Napoli, Barbara
Nardi, Gale
Nardi, Tom
Nelson, Nancy
Ness, Judy
**Nurena, Kathleen
O'Donnell, Katherine
Oestreicher, Nancy
Ouchterloney, Ann
Ouchterloney, Joanne
Paese, Pat
Pisa, Marianne
**Poe, Debbie
Potter, John
Rahner, Priscilla
Rauch, Marcy
Reid, Beverly
Reilly, Karen
Rescigno, Keri
Ripps, Carolyn
Ripps, Sharon
Ritacco, Nancy
**Ritacco, Rick

Rocco, Dana
**Rogers, Karen
Romania, Bill
Rubin, Cindy
Rubinstein, Helene
Ryan, Jessica
Salerno, Deb
Sarsgard, Judy
**Shaw, Scott
**Savasta, Lisa
**Sheffler, Bruce
**Sheffler, Joanne
Shinoda, Karen
Shivers, Sandra
**Siegel, Barbara
Simpson, Mary-Elizabeth
Skirchak, Mary
Soccodato, Jacqueline
Sroka, Barbara
Sullivan, Cecilia
Sweet, Leslie
Thresher, Allison
Topol, Lisa
Torres, Sharon
Trummer, Michelle
Tucker, Meg
**Turschman, Jeanne
Vicari, Kathy
Wang, Yuanshuo Alice
Wellmaker, Rosanne
Wheeler, Jane
Woods, Audrey
Woods, Megan
**Wrey, Karen
Yaciuk, Debbie
Young, Peggy

Welcome New Members

- Kathleen and Stuart Freed & their Rottweiler, Harley
- Alberto Ferrer and his Border Collie
- Katherine Jochen & her Old English Sheepdog
- Adam Gankiewicz and Cecilia Sullivan & their Shepadoodle, Bella
- Joan Kaufman & her Toy Poodle
- Linda Keehn & her Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier
- Janine Manninen & her Mixed Breed and Chihuahua

- Krystina Murawski & her Pomerian
- Meika A. Mustrangi & her English Sheepdog
- Barbara Napoli & her Mixed Breed
- Sigrid Neilson & her Brussels Griffon, Sprout
- Marianne Shanley & her Mixed Breed
- Sharon Torres & her Mixed Breed
- Joanne von Essen & her Pembroke Welsh Corgi
- Debbie Yaciuk & her Schnoodle, Robin

Club Doings

PCOTC Annual Awards Night 2017

PCOTC's Awards Night on June 16 included recognition for the sports achievements and volunteer service of our club members.

First came a show of Annual Title Awards earned by members during the past club year, showcasing the dog/handler teams.

Sara Gagnon, aided by Morgaana Menzel, pulled together the award data. The data and photographs for the awards were turned into a slide show presentation by Sue Krevlin, and read by Morgaana. Title

plaques were presented by Sara Gagnon.

PCOTC's Super Volunteers, who gave 30 or more hours of their time for the club in the past club year (Board members are not eligible), were recognized.

The Awards presentations began with the Training Directors' Awards. These annual awards are determined and presented by each Training Director, to a student who has shown exceptional determination in the pursuit of excellence in her/his disci-

pline—Family Manners, Obedience, Nose Work, and Agility. Next came the presentation of PCOTC's 2017 winner of the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award. Next, the winner of this year's President's Award was named.

Last, George Berger (10 years on the Board) and Jane Wheeler (15 years on the Board) were recognized. They both resigned their Board positions to accomplish the change from 10 to 8 members on the Board, as provided in the new Club Bylaws.

Family Manners Training Director Award: Nancy Oestricher

I met Nancy Oestricher in the fall of 2015, when she enrolled her puppy, Redd, a Spinone Italiano, into my AKC STAR Puppy class. I had only encountered the breed in my classes a few times, and I was so impressed how Nancy answered my question about why she had gotten a Spinone: "Well, I really did a lot of homework selecting a breed, and this seemed like it would best match our lifestyle." Boy, was that an understatement! Redd has truly flourished in Nancy's hands, a rare feat for a first-time dog owner. She and Redd took Family Manners classes every session for over a year, being among my most devoted students. She worked diligently to socialize him in puppy class, even participating in a dog costume contest, and sending me photos of her children exposing Redd to the many things on the puppy scavenger hunt list. Nancy not only does a good job training Redd, but truly enjoys her training time with him. It was evident in Redd's enthusiasm in class, and their success together. She is patient and dedicated, and always has a great sense of humor about Redd's light-hearted view on life. They are a great pair and recently became registered by Intermountain Therapy Animals and



have been volunteering with a children's reading program in Pleasantville. Nancy became a club member this past fall and has been volunteering at club trials and events, lending a hand where needed with a generous smile, and learning about various dog sports. She and Redd have recently been enjoying nose work class. I am so proud to see Nancy receive this award, as she embodies the true spirit of the Family Manners Program.

— Jenn Michaelis

Obedience TD Award: Bruce Sheffler

In the years I have known Bruce Sheffler, I have always found him to have a desire to learn and a willingness to try new techniques. I remember one of the first classes Bruce took with me and he said, "I didn't know obedience could be this much fun." This began a renewed journey for Bruce and his dogs. In spite of painful knee and back conditions, Bruce persevered in his training. He continued to improve his obedience skills and relationships with his dogs so they can truly be the best they can be. For all of Bruce's hard work and dedication to his dogs and the club, it's my honor to award Bruce the Training Director's Award of Recognition.

— Rick Pisani



Club Doings

Annual Awards Night 2017

Nose Work TD Award: Ashlin Cooke

Ashlin's involvement in nose work goes back several years. As one of the original "Thursday nighters," Ashlin developed an interest in trying this sport with her St. Bernard, Bo, who has advanced through the different levels of the sport and is now an NW3 dog, needing just one more title to attain Elite status in the NACSW organization.

Ashlin recently added to her canine family Hank, a most handsome Boxer, and Sacha,

a St. Bernard puppy. Under Ashlin's guidance, both Hank and Sacha are demonstrating an excellent search ethic and obedience to odor. Hank has his NW1 title and is ready to compete at the NW2 level, and we expect to see Sacha trialing very soon.

The progress of all three dogs has been a true pleasure for all of the instructors to watch. As those of you who have more than one dog know, one of the challenges can be treating each one as an individual, and not bringing expectations to "new dogs" based on behaviors, preferences, and progress paths of previous dogs. Ashlin exemplifies

handlers who learn from previous dogs and yet are able to apply that knowledge to other dogs, in ways that will be uniquely successful for dogs with different search styles, and life experiences.

To know Ashlin and her dogs is to love all of them. Ashlin demonstrates immense kindness to her dogs in all types of challenging search environments, always maintaining a calm and collected manner, even when experiencing the unexpected (and who hasn't experienced that in a nose work search!). You will frequently see Ashlin volunteering and competing at nose work events, sharing stories with other competitors, and cheering others on. Her quiet insights and good humor endear her to fellow classmates and competitors.

It's my pleasure to present this year's Nose Work Training Director's award to Ashlin Cooke. Thank you for your contributions to nose work!

— *Kathe Baxter*



Agility TD Award: Deedie Domenicali

Deedie and Lucy are an exceptional team whom I have had the pleasure of working with over the last year. Deedie is a dedicated student who has worked incredibly hard to become the best possible handler for her teammate Lucy. The two have flourished into a fantastic team and I know they can achieve any goal they set for themselves.

— *Stefanie Rainier*



Club Doings

Annual Awards Night 2017

2017 AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award: Rick Ritacco

The description of this award on the AKC website reads, "In the American Kennel Club's ongoing efforts to recognize and celebrate its volunteer club members, The AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award program was established in 2006 to provide each member club with an AKC Medallion to award to one of its own on a yearly basis. This award honors those individuals who deserve special recognition that have made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs, embodied the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, and have been an active and valued member of an AKC member club."

President's Award: Lisa McCarthy

This person chaired the bylaws committee and did a great job. I was so impressed with how she kept the bylaws meetings running smoothly in spite of the many different opinions that were being voiced.

When a chairperson was needed for the agility trial in FDR park, I needed someone who could do the job without much help from me. I'm embarrassed to say that I had never even been to an agility trial. Lisa took over as chairperson and handled everything. I visited the trial and was so impressed with how well run it was and everything went smoothly. Several people told me how much they enjoyed the trial and how well run it was. She saved me! Lisa McCarthy, this award is for you.

— *Jeanne Meldrim*



Lisa McCarthy with Dobbie. Photo@ Barry Rosen

Retiring Board Members: George Berger

We have two long-time board members leaving the board through attrition tonight. George Berger is a past president and long-time board member (10 years). Thank you, George, this is for you.

— *Jeanne Meldrim*

Jane Wheeler

I don't know about you guys, but throughout my life, participation in sports, working on committees, going to work every day—just generally being out there in the world—there is always that one person: the first to volunteer, the first to raise their hand and say "I'll do it," the first to come up with an idea and nurture it to fruition. The person that is there when things are a little bumpy and need to put in those extra hours, putting their head down and pushing things forward

We have a person like that, yes, indeed PCOTC very definitely has a person like that. A constant in the Club. Has been here when we were a small club upstairs on the second floor. Saw us through growth and expansion with the move to the ground floor. More growth and we reclaimed the second floor.

Has helped PCOTC manage the changes in the world of the AKC; obedience, rally, agility, pet therapy, from pure breeds to mixed breeds; from paper to the electronic age of registration, volunteer hours and *Sit 'n Stay*.

We, PCOTC and the membership, would not be here if it was not for Jane Wheeler.

It is my honor and privilege to present this award to Jane in recognition of your dedication, commitment, hours and hours of work, making us better club members, handlers and volunteers.

— *Margaret DeFonce*, longtime member of PCOTC, former board member, former member of many committees.

Agility

Agility Tip: Training Your Start-Line Stay

by Stefanie Rainer, Agility Training Director, OMD Assistant Coach

While training your start line criteria may be one of the least fun parts of your agility training, it is one of the most important. Having a good start line routine is what sets the whole tone for your agility run. It's not uncommon to see dogs leaving the start line before their handlers have told them they have permission to do so. Often, the dog is eager to leave the start line because s/he is excited to play the game. Other times, the dog is anxious or stressed either about the environment or the lack of understanding of its criteria. Regardless, it is important to pick a routine and to stick to it.

My tip for training your start line is to make it a fun game. It should be as much fun and rewarding as running and jumping. First, I would let the dog pick its criteria. Whether the dog chooses to sit, down, or stand, if this is a behavior s/he already offers often, they are more likely to want to do it.

For dogs that are toy motivated, I would start by tugging with your dog. When they are engaged, I would "steal" the toy from the dog and hide the toy either behind your back or in your pocket. Wait for the dog to offer some sort of settling behavior. This will most likely be a sit or down. It may take seconds or it may take minutes. The important thing to remember is to not help your dog. They have to make the choice to settle on their own. When they do settle, praise and use your release command to give the dog permission to break stay and get her/him to reengage with the tug toy. Repeat until the offering behavior happens more quickly. When this becomes routine, build the duration of how long the dog has to wait for before releasing to play. Before you know it, you will have a dog that can wait until s/he is released and your new start line criteria. Other important things to remember are to start this in a small space or a less distracting environment. You can also have the dog on leash so s/he can't wander about during the moments when you have stopped the play and are waiting for the settling behavior.

For a dog that prefers food, teach a start line trick. My two favorites are to set up at my side and to set up between my legs. To teach the dog to set up at your side, start with the dog in front of you and line up near a wall. The wall is used as a guide to help the dog set up in line totally parallel to you. If you don't have a wall, you can use a gate, chair, or anything to help keep a bit of pressure on the dog to help her/him line up straight. Start with the wall on your left hand side. Lure the dog by taking one step backwards with your left foot and left hand. As the dog comes between you and the wall, turn the dog's nose into your leg and when the dog is at your side put your feet together and ask for a sit or down. Repeat the exercise with dog on right as well. Remember, it is important that this position is one that your dog likes best, so before even starting this training, observe whether your dog offers a sit or down more often. This is the position your dog favors and therefore is more likely to maintain in a trial or high-pressure environment. The other trick is to have the dog set up between your legs. Start with your dog in front of you and your feet separated. Lure the dog either around your left or right leg. Then lure her/him in between the two. After asking the dog to sit or down, take one step off to the side of them. Slowly build the duration of how long you ask the dog to stay. Some other things to remember are to not repeat your stay or wait command. Give one command and slowly build the duration of the wait and also the distance between you and your dog. Be consistent and only allow your dog to get up from their stay when she/he is given permission.

So the take-away: make your start line routine fun. Let your dog pick its criteria and, most of all, be consistent. If you are very black and white about your criteria, your dog will know exactly what to expect, which will take the pressure off of the start line making it a reliable skill.

New Agility Instructor, Grace Heck

Grace Heck has not been in the sport of agility for long, but what she lacks in experience, she makes up in passion. She started training agility with her first dog, Riley, four years ago, and has been competing with him for the past two years in USDAA, UKI, and AKC. Shortly after starting Riley, Grace started training her second dog, Casey, who has taught her much about working with stress down, and low-drive dogs. She is currently working Foundations with her Border Collie puppy, Fin.

Grace is constantly learning, and studying new techniques to be able to apply out-of-the-box methods to training challenges. She draws on expertise spanning everything from animal behavior to equestrian sports. Most recently, she has been an assistant teacher under Stefanie Rainer. Grace does not teach any one method, but believes in the power of the right tool, for the right team, at the right time.



Agility

Judy Reilly Thanksgiving Agility Workshops

by Grace Heck

Judy Reilly is offering a weekend of agility workshops at PCOTC on November 25 - 26.

Saturday morning's workshop, "Young Dog Foundations," will lay the groundwork for a successful team. It will be open to dogs 16 weeks and older, and to handlers with previous agility experience, or currently enrolled in agility classes.

Saturday afternoon's "Green Dog Skills" is about building and perfecting obstacle and handling skills. Open to dogs 6 months and over that already have strong agility foundations.

Sunday, all day, "International Courses" will provide a full day of coursework with international challenges. Dogs must be proficient on all obstacles at full height.

Registration will open soon and PCOTC members will have priority. The opening of registration will be posted on our web site and with a PCOTC e-blast.

Judy Reilly lives in upstate NY with her husband DJ and son Nick, as well as two Border Collies, a German Shepherd, and a mixed Breed. She works as a veterinary assistant for a holistic practice that does chiropractic, acupuncture, and herbal medicine for dogs, cats, and horses. Judy teaches agility, and is also a UKI judge, and USDAA Masters judge, and competes in both venues. She has attained many Top Ten and Final placements with her dogs.

Her dog, Rivet, was a two-time Biathlon Champion at Cynosport 2014 and 2015,



and three-time GP Finalist at two separate jump heights (22 & 18), placing second in 2014. Rivet also won National Agility Finals at the 2015 US Open. Tempest (mix) has many Top Ten placements and regional wins, and at five years old was a member of the 2016 WAO Team and 2017 IFCS Team.

Obedience

Deb Jones: Get Focused Seminar

PCOTC will be hosting a seminar given by Deb Jones Ph.D. on September 16 & 17. Deb Jones is a psychologist who specializes in learning theory and social behavior. She has taught a variety of psychology courses at Kent State University for the past 20 years. She is also an instructor with the Fenzi Academy and co-author, with Denise Fenzi, of the four-book series Dog Sport Skills.

In addition to teaching, Deb has been training dogs for performance events for the past 25 years and was an innovator in the use of clicker training techniques in dog training. She has owned and worked with a variety of breeds and has earned top-level titles in agility (MACH), rally



(RAE), and obedience (UD) competitions.

You cannot teach a dog who does not have focus. If your dog is unfocused, you need to identify the reasons why the dog is not engaged with you. Unfocused dogs may suffer from a lack of clarity, a lack of enthusiasm, a lack of control or a lack of confidence. Come join us in learning to diagnose why dogs do not have focus and to tailor a plan for each individual team to have an engaged and focused dog.

Working spots for the seminar are currently filled, but there is still plenty of room for auditors. To be waitlisted for a working spot in case a vacancy opens up, please contact Rick Pisani at luv2heel@me.com. You can sign up for an auditing spot [here](#).

Obedience

Obedience Tip: What Is a Match Show?

by Rick Pisani, Competitive Obedience & Rally Training Director, CPDT-KA

Here is the definition from the AKC rule book:

Sanctioned Matches: A sanctioned match is an informal event at which neither Championship points nor credit toward an Agility, Rally, Obedience, or Tracking title are awarded. They are events at which dog clubs, judges, stewards, and exhibitors and their dogs gain experience needed for licensed events.

Fun Matches: A fun match is an informal dog event that is not approved by The American Kennel Club as a sanctioned match.

Here at Port Chester Obedience Training Club we hold our matches almost monthly which we call "White Plains Weekend." This is our version of a "Fun Match." These are great opportunities for all club members to come out and expose their dogs to trial-like conditions. Club members don't have to do only obedience to participate in the match. They can practice any kind of training in the ring that will help their dogs prepare for the particular venue they participate in.

Let's say you have a young dog and you would like to acclimate him/her to the sights and sounds of a dog event. Obedience matches are great for young dogs that may become overly stimulated or aroused by watching other dogs perform obedience or run an agility course. Agility dogs can practice a start line stay with or without a jump at a fun match. You can play

with your dogs in the ring and move with them on and off leash in a controlled safe environment, creating a positive, no pressure experience to assist them in learning that Work= Fun! Rally, Freestyle and Obedience club members can use the time to practice their behaviors in the ring without having the pressure of performing a whole routine or sequence.

Here's how they work. The White Plains Weekends offer Novice, Open and Utility classes. Each level is given a time frame that allows for a formal routine of that class plus extra time to repeat exercises over again. Novice routines are given 7 minutes; Open 8; and Utility 10 minutes. You can enter any level without having to do a routine. You can mix up exercises or do bits and piece of a routine. Just be aware that if you are doing "your own thing," you must be prepared to supply and set up the equipment or props you want to bring in the ring. There are volunteer judges and stewards that are there to help with obedience routines, but are also willing to be the extra person that your dog may need for distraction training or desensitization. If you want more information or help in deciding if your dog should go to a match, speak to your instructor or contact me. I will help further explain the do's and don't's of a match show.

The White Plains Weekends (WPW) are in need of your support! Unfortunately, they are

manned and run by the same volunteer club members time and time again. We have an Obedience Committee that is trying to keep this event going, but we need help. Club members earn volunteer hours by assisting in the operation of the matches by being stewards and judges. No experience is needed to help out. Learn something new and perhaps get involved in keeping a very important part of our club's events from becoming extinct. Entering the WPW doesn't mean you have to be an expert or even ready to enter the ring. You do need control of your dog and a plan of what you would like to accomplish. Treats, toys, rewards and desire to have fun training your dog is all that is needed.

Hope to see you at a WPW in the future!



© Morgaana Photography

White Plains Weekends: New Format

by Karen Wrey

For the three upcoming White Plains Weekends (obedience run-thrus) scheduled for September through November 2017, Karen Wrey and Mike Jones are trying out a new format.

The dates for the three run-thrus are Sept. 24, Oct. 29 and Nov. 19. Six volunteers will be needed for each date from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Two volunteers (one in each ring) will call heeling patterns (acting as "judges"), and the four remaining people (two in each ring) will act as ring stewards, (setting jumps, keeping time, putting out articles and

gloves, being posts for the figure eights, etc.). No experience is necessary! We will train folks on the spot.

WPW volunteers who would like a free run with their dogs (in addition to their four volunteer hours) will be able to do so between 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. or right after the last paid run-thru.

There will no longer be afternoon time slots. We will all be out of the facility by 12:30 p.m. Lunches for our workers will no longer be provided.

"Priority" registration will be given to club members, who will be able to enter early, before the 10-minute time slots become available to the public on the Dogmatchshows.com website.

"Priority" entries will be at a reduced fee of \$10.00 per run. Entry information (name, phone number, email address, class, and jump height if applicable) along with checks (made out to PCOTC) will be sent to:

continued next page

Obedience

White Plains Weekends, *cont.*

Karen Wrey
22 Honeysuckle CT
Stormville, NY 12582

Early "priority" registrations (entry information and checks) for the Sept. 24 date must be received at the above address on or before Sept. 13. On September 14, all entries (if spots are available) will need to be made at Dogmatchshows.com, for a fee of \$12 per working spot.

The same procedure applies to Oct. 29. Priority entry information (and checks at \$10 per run) should be mailed to Karen Wrey. They must be received on or before Oct. 18. Beginning on October 19, registrations must be made at Dogmatchshows.com

For the Nov. 19th run thru, the "priority" entry window closes on Nov. 8. Beginning on Nov. 9, entries will only be taken at Dogmatchshows.com.

All people who enter (via snail mail or Dogmatchshows.com) will receive an email confirmation of the scheduled run order a day or two before each date.

Volunteers should contact Karen Wrey at kayray@optonline.net (preferred method) or at 845-592-1722 at least two weeks prior to each date. Without committed volunteers, we will not be able to hold these valuable training opportunities.

All "Priority" entries that are not received on time (see above) will be voided. There can be no refunds, exceptions, phone or email registrations. All online registrations must

be made at www.Dogmatchshows.com

The Obedience Committee looks forward to having these events be successful. Your cooperation and participation is essential!



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Rally News: **It's All New!**

by Ann Mandelbaum, CPDT-KA

There are so many changes coming to rally! Both AKC and WCRL have decided to make major renovations to their rules and regulations and to their exercises and signs at virtually the same moment. Who could have predicted such a thing???

Let's start with the AKC

- Some new scoring definitions have been clarified, which is a welcome addition.
- New signs have been added at all levels. Having incorporated all of the new Novice, Advanced and Excellent signs into various practice courses over the past few months, it seems as though they will add variety and interest (and in some cases clarity) to the courses we will be seeing beginning on November 1, 2017!
- More significant is the addition of two additional competitive levels and several new titles.

—There will be an Intermediate title (RI) available to provide a bridge between Novice and Advanced. It will incorporate all the signs used in Advanced as well as Novice with the exception of the jump, and will also use some additional exercises not

previously available. It will be performed on leash.

—There has also been a Masters (RM) title added with a whole new set of exercises.

—Finally, AKC will now offer a Championship title in Rally (RACH pronounced "ROCK"). To earn this title a team must earn 20 triple Q's as well as a total of 300 points (using a published formula) from the Excellent and Masters classes.

Now to WCRL

This venue has gone through a comprehensive overhaul of its philosophy, scoring system, descriptions of exercise performance and sign graphics.

The new rules and regulations will go into effect on January 1, 2018, with the exception of a few modifications that are currently in force (as of July 1 of this year). These include:

- Jump heights (12" dogs 4"; 16" dogs 4" allowed, 8" recommended; 20" dogs 8" allowed, 12" recommended; over 20" dogs 12" allowed, 16" recommended)
- Veteran class eligibility which is correlated to weight (90 lbs. or more, 6 yrs; 50-90 lbs. 7 yrs; under 50 lbs., 8 yrs)

- A new Intro class which will replace the Puppy class as of 2018, may be offered. In Level 3, only one jump is required (from any level) instead of any two jumps.

- Also the sign #44 (Halt, Leave, Call Front While Running) will be discontinued as of September 1, 2017 and also as of that date the new exercises 174, 176, 182, 184 and 186 (all newly included Level 1 signs) may be used.

- In general, judging has been much more carefully defined, both in terms of the spirit in which judges should approach their task and in the actual parameters within which they should evaluate the performances of the entries.

- At the same time, the performance of each exercise has been very carefully described and the graphics used on the signage is very uniform.

- An array of new exercises has been added at all levels which will make course design more flexible and, I think, more interesting.

All these changes are significant enough to make it unclear what effect there will be on the sport. I think we will all have to keep open minds and see what happens!

Obedience

November 5 Obedience Trial

PCOTC is offering two concurrent AKC obedience trials on November 5, 2017, our 109th and 110th obedience trials. Classes offered will be Novice A and B and Preferred Novice, Open A and B and Preferred Open, Utility A and B and Preferred Utility. Trial judges will be Mr. Frank Cardillino from Maryland and PCOTC member, Mr. Robert Amen.

The trial committee includes Karen Wrey,

chair; Lori Carver, Event Secretary; Chief Steward, Cindy Rubin; Hospitality, Joanne Sheffler; and Grounds, Bruce Sheffler.

Trial entries close on Wednesday, October 18. Entries also accepted for dogs listed in the AKC Canine Partners Program, listed in the Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) program, or recorded in the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) program

WCR Rally Trials

On Oct. 1, PCRE is hosting two World Cynosport Rally Obedience trials in one day at the PCOTC facility. Rally judges are Sara Jacobs and Natalene Lamming. Entries close on Sept. 1, or when limits are reached.

For more information, contact Audrey Woods at 914-591-7209. Link for the [trial premium](#).

Family Manners

Understanding Training Regressions

by Jenn Michaelis, Family Manners Training Director, BA, CPDT-KA

Your Portuguese Water Dog gets overly excited at the beach and eats sand by the mouthful. Your Bulldog mix goes haywire every time the mailman arrives. Your mouthy Doodle puppy resembles a squirmy velociraptor when you try to brush her.

You get started on a training program to address the problem, probably including a few lifestyle changes. You feel great when you start to see progress and then, despite all the training, the dog has a setback, falling off the bandwagon momentarily. We humans often find it surprising, disappointing and frustrating when the dog has a training regression. But we forget that the dog has been practicing this unwanted behavior long enough that it is nice and strong, has a good history of being rewarding (from the dogs point of view) and has probably been going on or brewing under the surface for the majority of the dog's entire life. (Six months is a *long* time for a one year-old dog!) Sometimes, bad habits are just darn hard to break.

Dogs, *and humans*, often fall off the bandwagon without ever making conscious decisions to do so. Much of it has to do with muscle memory, unconscious reactions, and general impulse control. We tend to give ourselves much more leeway than we do our dogs, even though we suffer from the same challenges when trying to change old habits.

I recently bought a new car with windshield wiper controls that are the exact opposite of my old car, which I drove for 10 years. Two years later, and I still sometimes hit the windshield wiper the wrong direction, even though intellectually I know the correct direction. It's hard to break 10 years of old muscle memory! When a sudden deluge starts on a super busy New York thoroughway packed with cars and semis going 65 mph, my muscle memory slams the windshield wiper controls up, yet the controls for my new car don't turn on unless I hit the windshield wiper controls downwards.

Am I a bad human? Am I stubborn or willful? Am I testing someone's authority? No, I'm not even consciously hitting the windshield wipers the wrong direction. In fact, I would love to get it right every single time, as it's actually quite annoying! I want to, and try to, do it correctly, but old habits are hard to break even when we consciously think about them. And dogs aren't even consciously aware that they *should* change their habits!

Anyone who has tried to stick to a diet or exercise program will tell you how hard it is to stay on the new path and integrate it into their life *forever*. And yet this is exactly what we expect our dogs to do: Quit that bad habit cold-turkey, and don't ever fall off

the bandwagon. Oh, and do it all without much constant practice or rewards for making new better decisions!

Remember this: when your dog's "bad habit" rears its ugly head, and he can't help himself when faced with a don't-pick-this-up sock, a don't-chase-that squirrel, or a don't-bark-at-that human/dog/car etc. He is probably not even making a conscious choice, it's just an old muscle memory habit. Make sure to give him some polite coaching and instructions, and reward him immediately and generously for making a better choice. He's only falling off the bandwagon momentarily, and with your help, he will be back on track in no time.



Old habits are hard to break!

Nose/Scent Work

2001 NACSW National Invitational

by *Kathe Baxter, NACSW National Invitational Trial Committee*

The National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW) is full speed ahead in the planning of the 2017 National Invitational to be held for the first time in the East Coast region at the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E), West Springfield, MA, on November 3-5, 2017.

It is an exciting three-day event hosting the top 47 Elite handler/dog teams from all over the country. Invited teams include those who have earned their Elite title and have scored the highest number of points

in a given Elite trial as of June 30th, 2017.

Teams will compete all three days against one another in a format based on professional detection with scoring to be cumulative over all three days of trialing. All search areas will allow for plenty of spectators! Lots of vendors, too!

Sign up to volunteer or just come out and be a spectator. The New England Friends of the National Invitational will be hosting a dinner on Saturday night at the Storrow-

town Tavern event grounds. All are invited! Come on out and enjoy the fun with your Nose Work friends, old and new, and support the exhibitors.

Please visit <http://nacsw.net/trial-calendar-information/2017-nacsw-national-invitational> for details on the 2017 NACSW National Invitational including lodging, volunteer sign-up, sponsorship and program ad information.

There is something for everyone!

PCOTC to Hold Its First AKC Scent Work Trials

by *Kathy Gregory*

We are excited to announce that Port Chester Obedience Training Club has been issued a license to hold Scent Work Trials by the American Kennel Club and that we have been approved to hold our first ever Scent Work Trials on Sunday, December 3!

All dogs six months of age or older, purebred or mixed breeds, can participate in AKC Scent Work, provided they are AKC-registered, enrolled with Canine Partners, listed in the Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) program, or recorded in the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) program.

On this day, we will be holding two Novice trials for Container and Interior searches.

There will be only one Birch hide to find, either somewhere in the Interior of the club or in one of ten carefully selected, identical Containers. The Novice A Class is for dogs that have not completed any title for that particular element, not completed a comparable title with another organization, and have never worked as a professional detection dog. The Novice B Class is open to all dogs. Females in season may not compete.

This is a great sport for your retired Agility or Conformation Champion, your couch potato Poodle, your shy Saluki or your mischievous, active Terrier!

The premium will appear on the AKC event calendar and the PCOTC website soon. Classes have a limit of 62 teams each. Registration with paper entries opens on Sunday, September 3rd and closes on Friday, November 3, 2017 or when maximum entries have filled.

We hope to see you all then!



Why Scent Work?

by *Kathy Gregory*

The most exciting news in the world of dog sports lately is the creation of the new AKC-sanctioned sport of Scent Work! Because you are seasoned veterans of dog competition, you may be wondering “What’s the fuss all about?” As a wildly enthusiastic participant in the world of scent sports, I would like to share some of my answers to the “why” with you!

First, scent work is the only dog sport where the dog takes the lead! There should be as little interference as possible from the handler. What a relief! No courses to memorize! No barked commands (from you, the human)! No hovering over your dog as he tries his best to follow you around a prescribed course that only you know! This sport showcases your dog’s natural hunting instinct and drive, and builds confidence and independence! Shy and environmentally-challenged dogs will blossom and shine with the reawakening of their natural instincts.

Any dog with a nose can do it! That’s right, old and young, purebred and All American, blind and sighted, dogs with mobility aids and dogs retired from all other sports can participate in Scent Work, as long as their noses still work. For all our dogs that are used to being off the couch and on the road with mom and dad every weekend, this is an excellent way to keep them physically

continued next page

Nose/Scent Work

Why Scent Work *continued*

engaged and mentally sharp well into their retirement years.

It's tremendous fun for the dog! How nice it must be to have a few moments to simply enjoy life as you were meant to experience it! After enduring all those things that dogs need to do for us—the primping, the combing, the wearing of rhinestone collars, the healing and no-pooing-on-the-carpet rules that our canine partners must observe, here is one sport where the dogs are free to be dogs, with all the joy, intelligence, vivaciousness and drive that attracted the first human to the first canine companion thousands of years ago. By the second lesson, most dogs can't wait to get to class! Here is a venue where dogs self-reward with food or toys, and then, when they locate the target odor, are given more food or toys! How great is that??? If you have ever played Hide N Seek with your dog, you know a little about how much fun Scent Work can be!

It's cheap! There is no expensive equipment

required in Scent Work. If you can find some cardboard boxes and have a collar, leash, dog treats and a dog, you have all you need to succeed!

It's only positive! We use only positive training methods in Scent Work. There will be no yelling, harsh commands or temper tantrums when we train. As a matter of fact, doing Scent Work in utter silence would be the ultimate goal. In this sport, the dog is always correct and any errors are the fault of the handlers, not the dogs. The job of the handler is to stand back and laser focus on the dog and appreciate the unique language with which our own dog communicates with us.

You don't have to trial! But if you do, every single team can win!

Perhaps, most importantly, Scent Work humbles us. It reminds us of how truly miraculous our dogs are and what remarkable gifts they possess to share with us. There is



nothing like experiencing the look of wonder when a student realizes that his little stay-at-home, couch potato dog has just located the scent on the end of one single Q-Tip thrown at random in the middle of a football field. This sport reminds us that dogs can truly make decisions on their own, can step out in front of us and confidently tap into their genetic core despite generations of human meddling and still, at the end of the search, return to us for a cuddle, ready to do it again tomorrow. I hope this little article encourages all of you to give Scent Work a try, and I look forward to hearing all about your successes!

Uncovering the Secrets of Buried Hides

by Cynthia Grohoski



Emma searches for a subsurface hide.

This summer, my dogs and I participated in a Buried and Subsurface Hides workshop in Machipongo, Virginia. As a handler and instructor, I was intrigued to learn about this topic in preparation for competing in, and teaching students about, how to be successful in the AKC Scent Work's Buried

Hides trials. As an AKC Scent Work judge, I wanted to be prepared to evaluate teams competing in this element. The Buried element was modeled after human remains detection. The target odor is concealed within a small dirt-filled container for the Novice and Advanced classes (which can take place indoors or outdoors), and buried underneath the ground for the Excellent and Masters classes, which take place outdoors.

The workshop was sponsored by Eastern Shore Dog and instructed by Tony Gravley. You may recognize Tony as a judge for NACSW trials: he has more than 25 years' experience handling and training working dogs and their handlers in explosive and narcotics detection. In this workshop, Tony drew on this deep experience and his familiarity with the AKC Scent Work program to give us a "survey course" on

his method of teaching dogs to find source when the hide is buried in dirt.

Although we work with our dogs to find source in many different objects and locations, the nose work curriculum to date has not fully addressed specific requirements and considerations for buried hides. Think about it: have you placed a scented Q-tip two to eight inches deep in the ground, and asked your dog to find it?

During the workshop, we progressed from searching for source in PVC pipes (without dirt on top, and then covered with dirt), to dirt-filled containers, and finally, to searching the ground. By the end of the workshop, all of the dogs had an understanding that a hide could be buried in dirt. For teams that are interested in getting started

continued next page

Nose/Scent Work

Buried Hides *continued*

on this activity, here are some things to consider, so that you set up your dog for success.

1. All of the dogs in the workshop were trained to find NACSW target odors, and most had competed and titled in nose work trials. If you are handling a less experienced dog, you may want to ensure that your dog has excellent foundation skills and is highly odor-obedient before introducing buried hides, to prevent unwanted habits from developing.

2. Is your dog a digger? Does your dog relieve him/herself during a search? How will you prevent these unwanted behaviors when training buried hides? Will pairing food with source help? You will want your dog to be able to work through a variety of challenges, especially when she is searching for a hide buried in the ground. Think about the animal smells that might be prevalent on that patch of grass, and keep in mind that AKC Scent Work judges are not required to move a hide if a dog pees in the search area.

3. Do you know what your dog's alert behavior is when the hide is buried in dirt? Is it different from other alert behaviors, for example, if a hide is placed under a bench? Nose work handlers train their eye to spot the difference between "crittering" and searching for odor: will you recognize when your dog is sniffing the squirrel that ran across the area where the hide is placed vs. when she is working to find source?

4. Is your dog shy or uncertain if walking across an unfamiliar surface? Clubs that offer Novice and Advanced Buried Hide trials may opt to put the containers on plastic sheets, tarps, or other barriers to make cleaning up any spilled dirt easier. This means that you and your dog may walk across these types of surfaces during the search. Help your dog get accustomed to these surfaces before asking her to perform a search and performing in a pressure situation such as a trial.

5. Do you have a method to remember where in the ground you placed the hide, so that you can reward your dog quickly at



Blossom learns that some hides are below surface

source? Will you know if you have covered the entire search area, or missed a section? Think about how valuable flags, grids, or other markers might be for this purpose, make a plan, and develop your skills at mapping an area in your mind.

6. AKC Scent Work regulations do not specify the type of dirt to use, apart from stating "Store-bought soil that is used for the Novice and Advanced Buried classes should be free from fertilizers and any chemical additives. Clubs should take care to ensure that the location chosen

for Excellent and Master Buried classes was not recently treated with insecticide (either chemical or "natural")." Your dog might search topsoil, potting soil, sand, or something else. The day of trial, the ground may be dry or wet, hot or cold. Just as you exposed your dog to a variety of circumstances when teaching other nose work elements, you will want to do that when training buried hides. For your dog's safety, when you are training, avoid soils that might have fertilizers, vermicu-

lite, perlite, or other foreign substances in them. Remember that you will also want to dispose of "contaminated" dirt—the dirt that had the hide in it—in a way that eliminates the possibility that your dog will be exposed to it when not actively searching.

The Buried Hides element offers us a new way to play nose work with our dogs, in this sport that we love to play together. We're looking forward to working with PCOTC nose work teams to develop their expertise in the buried hides element. In the meantime, enjoy searching with your dogs!

Public Event: Puttin' on the Dog

On Sunday, Sept. 17, we will need booth staff and agility guide volunteers for "Puttin' on the Dog," an annual benefit for Adopt-a-Dog in Greenwich, CT.

The event includes demonstrations, competitions, displays, and fun activities for the entire family.

PCOTC will staff a booth for the entire event. In addition, in the afternoon we will provide a "My Dog Can Do That!" ring for agility, offering "new" dog/handler teams a taste of agility.

To volunteer, please contact Jane Wheeler at jane Wheeler@optimum.net

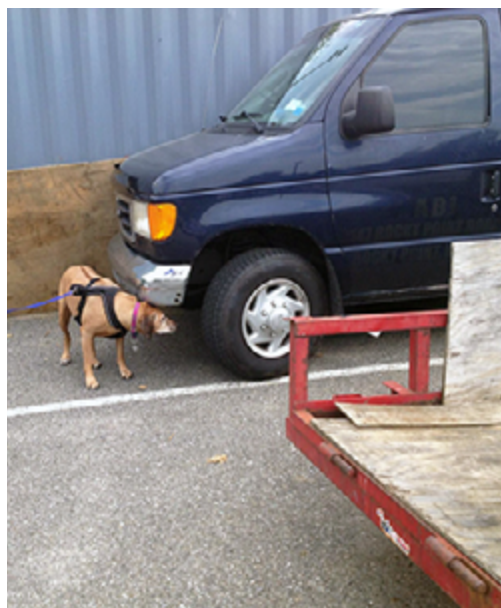
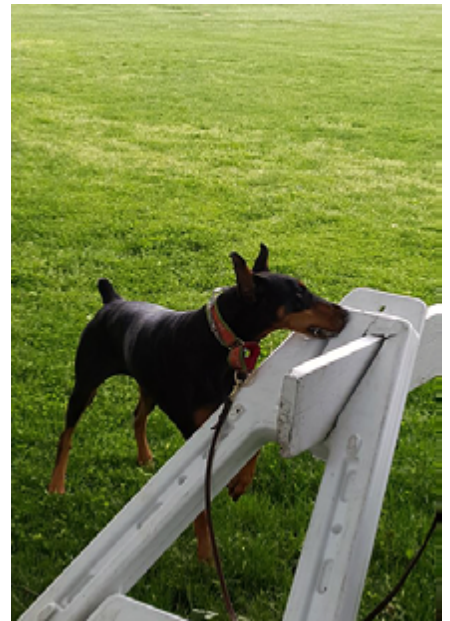
Please note that there will be no "Hounds on the Sound" event in this or future years. The New Rochelle Humane Society and Pet Rescue have cancelled the event.



Nose/Scent Work

In Nose Work Classes

The photos on this page were taken during PCOTC nose work classes—either in our facility, or on the road when we're able to get outside and go to other locations.



And More!

Vicki Ronchette Breed Handling Workshops

Vicki Ronchette is offering “Show Like the Pros!” consisting of two breed handling workshops, at PCOTC on October 7-8. She combines 30 years of successful handling of show dogs with certification and teaching experience as a professional dog trainer. She implements progressive training methods to shape top show dogs. Her wealth of knowledge enables her to troubleshoot and prevent handling errors as well as rehabilitate fearful show dogs.

Vicki has finished multiple champions both as owner-handler and for others, and has handled breeds from all the different groups. Many of her students have achieved top breed standings with their dogs. She coaches and guides people all over the world via webinars, and her Facebook group Positive Training for Show Dogs.

Vicki is the author of *Positive Training for Show Dogs: Building a Relationship for Success*, and *From Shy to Showy: Help for Your Shy Show Dog*. She is the owner of Braveheart Dog Training school, which will



offers conformation classes and workshops.

The Saturday workshop, “Shaping Show Dog Superstars,” focuses on training a successful show dog. Workshop participants

learn how progressive training methods are used to train the basic show ring behaviors, including gaiting and stacking, as well as problem solving issues associated with the show ring.

Sunday’s workshop, “Mastering Your Dog’s Movement and Show-Stopping Stacks” is about taking your dog’s show ring performance to the next level. This workshop will cover how to train and perfect your dog’s movement as well as learning the key points in how to teach a reliable and dynamic stack.

There is a maximum of 20 working spots each day. Working spots are \$130/day (\$98 for juniors), and \$65/day for auditors (\$49 for juniors).

For more information, go to <http://www.pcotc.org/documents/2017/VickiRonchette2017.pdf>.

To register, go to <https://form.jotform.com/71134557839161>

Therapy Dogs: Listening *by George Berger*

This article is reprinted from George Berger’s blog, Therapy Dog Insights, which provides information and discusses shared experiences of handlers and their therapy dogs. See <http://www.therapydoginsights.com/2017>

Early this summer, I attended an orientation, required by New York State for volunteers who will be working in various mental health facilities. (My therapy dogs and I are taking on an assignment with severely at-risk children.)

It is completely understandable that a great deal of “nuts and bolts” procedural matters must be covered, but, truthfully, the orientation—six days in all—was often tedious. There were, however, many sections that I found particularly compelling. A discussion on listening was one of them.

For a long time, I’ve held that listening—not just hearing, but listening—is the greatest skill that a therapy dog handler can bring to a visit. The NYS orientation confirmed my belief. There is nothing we can do that is more appreciated or respected than involved listening. These are some responses NYS calls “roadblocks” to meaningful conversation, productive listening:

- Ordering, directing, commanding
- Warning, cautioning, threatening
- Providing solutions
- Arguing, lecturing
- Moralizing



- Judging, blaming
- Shaming, ridiculing
- Interpreting
- Humoring, being dismissive

I agree!

AKC Delegate's Report

Third Quarter 2017 — by Kathy Gregory, PCOTC Delegate to AKC

The AKC has announced the relocation of its headquarters from Madison Avenue in Manhattan to Park Avenue in the Fall of 2018. Perhaps the most exciting part of this move is their intention to include The Museum of the Dog in their floor plan in early 2019. The Museum is currently located in St Louis, Missouri, and is home to the world's largest collection of art devoted to the dog. In addition to its standing exhibits, the Museum regularly features special seminars, displays and community attractions open to the public. It is a place that should be visited at least once by every dog lover!

The AKC has recently initiated a Farm Dog Certified Test for all dogs and owners of any age and experience level. The test judges a dog's willingness and suitability to be a working partner on a farm. This is a fun and useful event often referred to as "the Canine Good Citizen" test on the farm! Dogs are tested on their ability to experience the sights, sounds and scents of farm work while working on a loose leash. To pass the evaluation the dog must greet the judge politely, walk around the farm including through a gate and over unusual surfaces, walk past livestock and wait while the handler feeds the animals, stand politely while the handler inspects the dog and cleans off hay and debris, and several other items. To get this "FDC" title, a team must get a "Pass" grade under two different judges. For more information about participating in this welcoming and non-competitive sport, go to www.AKC.org/farmdog.

The AKC has reported to its Delegate body that the source of the recent canine flu outbreak can be traced to two dogs brought into the US by well-meaning rescue groups, saved from slaughter for human meat consumption. We have a Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act, an agency that inspects domestic commercial dog breeders to keep dogs safe, an organization that regulates the shipment of nursery and greenhouse plants in all 50 states to fight the spread of insects and diseases across the country and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) sets rules and regulations on goods that can and cannot be transported on highways to protect drivers and passengers.

Notwithstanding all these alphabet agencies and their overlapping jurisdictions and regulations, there is one ticking time bomb that remains ignored, and threatens the health and safety of American families, homeland security, and animals. Every year, hundreds of thousands of dogs are imported from other countries, transported across state borders, and sold at rescues and shelters with little to no oversight from any agency.

These problems could be mitigated if we had appropriate pet import laws and regulated commerce in pet rescues in similar ways as we regulate the commerce of pets sold in the retail supply chain — like other goods moved around the country. But we have yet to see any leadership on these matters coming from state houses or Capitol Hill. Based on industry data, there are between 70 and 80 million dogs currently residing in U.S. households, and it takes 6.5 million puppies just to replace the ones that die each year. As dog breeding has become highly regulated, overpopulation has been solved in

much of the U.S. — there are now fewer local dogs available for purchase or adoption. Each year, lawmakers draft bills to further restrict the breeding and commerce of American-bred dogs, based on the outdated belief that there is a dog overpopulation issue. This myth is fueling the explosion of importation and rescue transport activities, moving thousands of unregulated dogs all over the country that should never be put up for adoption.

It is time for policy makers to take a serious look at the state of not-for-profit animal transport, sheltering, and adoption practices in the U.S. To protect public health and safety and the welfare of dogs, our elected leaders must recognize the need to treat all pets in commerce with the same amount of care and regulation. Surely these pets deserve as much protection as houseplants.

And lastly,

The American Kennel Club convened a conference this year to discuss the possibility of creating a cooperative of private dog breeders in the United States to provide military and law enforcement agencies with high quality dogs.

From this conference, it was learned that two roadblocks hinder the development of a domestic breeding program designed to breed and train detection dogs which could be used by TSA and other government agencies to detect explosives and drugs. Dogs are the number one detector for explosives. Most of these dogs are purebred and 80 to 95% of detection dogs are imported from Europe. With more incidents of homegrown terrorism in the United States, the demand for detection dogs is increasing. But Europe also is facing mounting threats and is buying more of the supply of needed dogs and retaining the best dogs.

The first roadblock is government regulation requiring breeders to become authorized vendors before they can sell or donate dogs to the government. The second is the lack of organized effort to help breeders and citizens who are interested in meeting this need.

The Chairman of the conference suggested forming a committee to explore whether the AKC could improve the situation. After extensive research into the problems existing in the development of a national program to improve the domestic supply of detection dogs, it was agreed that the United States should take steps to develop its own breeding program to protect the country. With the closing of the last government sponsored breeding programs at Lackland Air Force Base due to budget cuts, the government produced the unintended consequence of terminating one of our country's most valuable national security programs, one that was producing trained dogs suitable for protecting our airports and borders.

The key takeaway from this meeting was that the AKC is in a unique position, as the largest professional breeder network in the world, to drive change. Their plan is to work with all interested parties to research the problem and develop actions that will best impact the U. S. domestic supply of superior detection dogs.

Summer Events

Anna Eifert Agility Workshops

by Grace Heck, Photography © Morgaana Photography

A great time was had by all at the “One Mind Dogs” Anna Eifert Agility Seminar on June 10 - 11. We started off the weekend with puppy fun, in our Puppy Foundations half-day seminar. Here, a diverse group of teams worked on their jump offering, and learned from each other about their preferences.

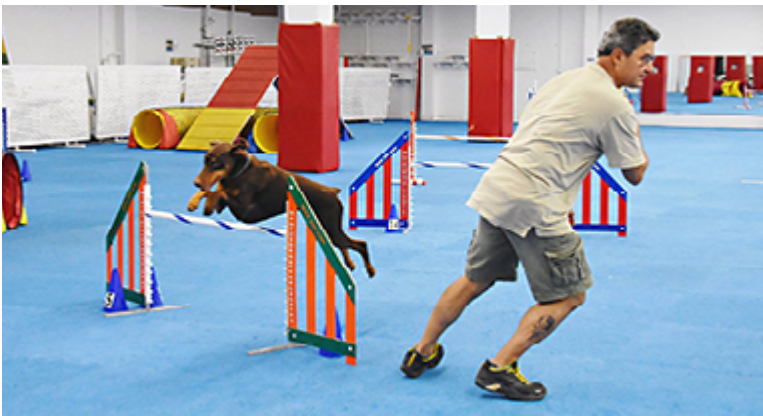
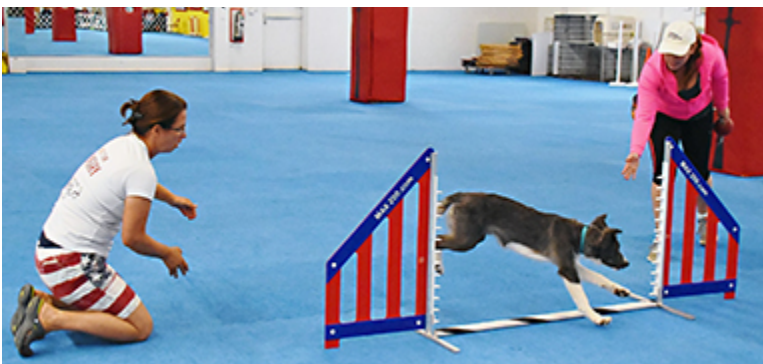
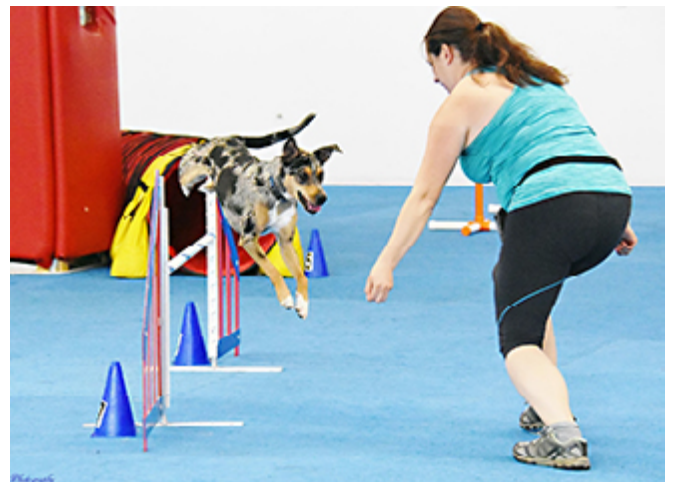
In the afternoon session, it was the green dogs’ turns to strut their stuff and test their

skills. Teams worked on a short sequence, perfecting their serpentines, back sides, and threadles.

On Sunday, we had a full day of advanced course work, with two different, very challenging courses. During the course walk-through, Anna gave tips on evaluating different handling options, and ultimately choosing the best for your team. Then, each team ran the course, pushing themselves

outside of their comfort zones with some novel handling approaches.

Anna’s attention to detail, and unique insights, helped each of the teams take away new nuggets of information, and her warm personality and encouraging style made stepping out of your comfort zone a little easier. Anna’s husband, Thomas, took amazing pictures and videos for each of the competitors to remember the event by. We can’t wait to have them back!



Summer Events

Anna Eifert Agility Workshops *continued*



Summer Events

July Obedience Trial

by Karen Wrey, Photography © Morgana Photography

Once again, our Summer Double Trial was a huge success! We held the event on Sunday, July 30. Our Judge for trial one was Mrs. Donna Blews-Pappas; for trial two we had Mr. Michael Mooney. In total for the day, we had 75 teams competing! Given the fact that obedience entries are generally on a bit of a decline nationwide, this was an impressive turn out.

As with any event of this size, it really does “take a village” to make it run smoothly. I’d like to thank everyone who stewarded or worked behind the scenes, but I’m afraid that I may inadvertently forget someone, so please let me just give a blanket “Thank You” for a job well done. However, a special acknowledgment must go to my cohorts, Bruce and JoAnne Sheffler. Without their continued hard work, our trials really

would not be happening with the smoothness and regularity that we’ve enjoyed over the past several years. Kudos to Cindy Rubin and Morgana Menzel, as well, who organize and manage our wonderful crew of volunteers and generally keep things moving throughout the day in countless little ways.

High In Trial for both Trial 1 and Trial 2 was awarded to Denise Arway with her Keeshond, CH OTCH Owenbriar’s Incredible Journey OM1. Several of our club members gave impressive performances by qualifying in both Trials. Special congratulations to Dana Rocco with Charlee and with Bea Sweet, Ruth Armisto with Chilena, and Mary-Elizabeth Simpson with Ch Anjoy’s Razzle-Dazzle. Many of our frequent White Plains Weekend partici-

pants joined us, as well. The practice in our PCOTC space certainly paid off for double qualifiers, Pricilla Keresey, Rena Dershowitz, Carol Raina, Mason Cable, and Susan Levine.

The obedience committee hopes that you will join us at our next double trial on November 5, by entering with your beloved canine, supporting fellow club members, and, of course, by continuing to volunteer! Help is always needed for hospitality, ring set up, stewarding, and clean up after the trialing is completed.

Every bit of help is greatly needed and appreciated. We are especially thrilled to be having our own Bob Amen judge for us along with Frank Cardillino. It promises to be a really fun day!



Summer Events

July Rally Trial

Photography © Morgaana Photography

A great time was had by all Exhibitors at the AKC Rally Trial on July 29. Rally is a fun and exciting team sport for dogs and their handlers! Dog and handler teams navigate a course at a brisk, continuous pace, with numbered signs indicating different exercises to perform such as Sit-Down-Sit, Straight Figure Eight, Send Over Jump, Pivot 180° Right, Spiral Right with Dog on the Outside, Side Step Right, Drop on Recall and many more challenging stations. It is a fun test of obedience and the trust in the relationship between dog and handler.



Summer Events

Kris Seiter/Chris Tucci Agility Workshops

by Lisa Topol, Photography © Debbie Poe

It was a great weekend for puppies and international competitors alike. Multiple World Team members, Kris Seiter and Chris Tucci, came to the club for a series of popular workshops that left every participant with a better skill set, a positive feeling, and great training ideas to take forward.

The weekend started with a series of young dog jumping skills (a second workshop was added by popular demand!). The group featured very young first time jumpers and slightly more experienced young dogs. Using jump grids, one-jump exercises and simple sequences, Kris and Chris were able to customize each exercise to the dog's level so everyone left with just the help they needed.

As one happy participant, Sara Pisani (with her amazing dog Buckle) put it, "What I loved about yesterday, was Kris was already advocating for my dog before I even need-

ed to! She was all in about 1) breaking it down; 2) not jumping too high; 3) changing it up before he failed more than twice; and 4) not drilling the dog by having three-minute turns. Just awesome!"

The weekend continued with more advanced work including a distance skills workshop with Kris Seiter where dogs really learned how to drive away from, and ahead of, their handlers to get to critical points faster. Keeping each turn to a quick-paced four minutes, everyone got multiple turns throughout the workshop with dogs who continued to stay driven and motivated every time they came to the floor. By the time it was over, to the delight of participants, dogs were driving away from their handlers with glee.

On to international handling with Chris Tucci, who set up fast-flowing and challenging courses featuring multiple options

for handling the same lines. Participants pushed themselves to the limit, really focused on footwork, and, in the end, skillfully handled sequences that once seemed daunting. It gave competitors the kind of confidence to make weekend competition courses feel like a piece of cake.

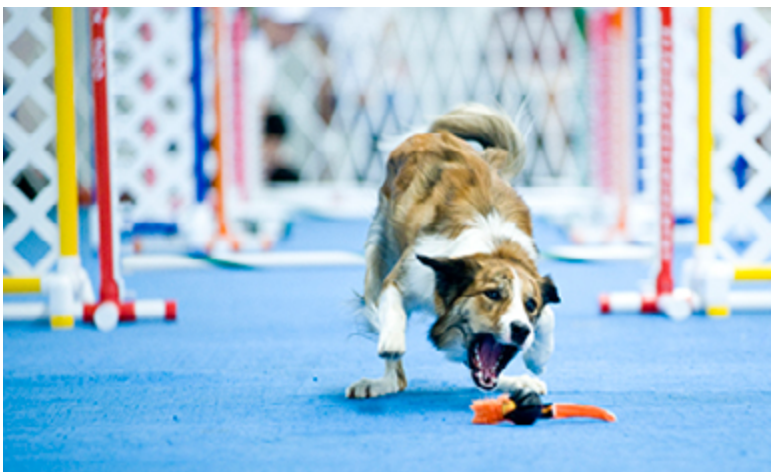
The weekend ended with Kris Seiter's "Building speed and accuracy on contacts" workshop. This was not a simple "get on the contact, get off the contact" workshop. This was about contacts in sequence as dogs/handlers learned how to set lines that encouraged speed and confidence over contacts and put the handlers in the best position upon exit. Participants were surprised and delighted to see their dogs pick up speed and tackle that teeter as if they owned it.

All the seminars were a hit and, by popular demand, Kris and Chris will be back soon!!



Summer Events

Kris Seiter/Chris Tucci Agility Workshops *continued*



Our Stars

New Titles & Honors Reported by Club Members As of 8/26/17

OBEDIENCE TITLES

American Kennel Club (AKC)

AKC Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)

5/20/17 Louise Jollyman, Brimwylf Calamity Jane, "CJ," German Shepherd Dog

RALLY TITLES

American Kennel Club (AKC)

AKC Rally Advanced (RA)

7/29/17 June Moskovitz, Cayberry Fetching A Smile To Juniper NA TDI, "Merrie," Golden Retriever

AKC Rally Excellent (RE)

7/29/17 Sarah Johnson, Daisy Furball, "Daisy," All American Aussie

World Cynosport Rally (WCR)

2017 WCR Award of Excellence Puppy

2/14/17 Morgaana Menzel, Sirrocco's Song Of The Sea, "Rhoswyn," Boxer Dog

WCR Rally Level 2 Championship (RL2X)

2/14/17 Morgaana Menzel, Sirrocco's Private Party, "Phouka," Boxer Dog

AGILITY TITLES

American Kennel Club (AKC)

AKC ACT 1 Agility Course Test 1

7/22/17 Jamie McKay, Bare Cove Hair Force One, "Tease," Shetland Sheepdog

AKC ACT 2 Agility Course Test 2

7/22/17 Jamie McKay, Bare Cove Hair Force One, "Tease," Shetland Sheepdog

Open Agility Jumper (OAJ)

8/22/17 Michelle Trummer, Win Winter Solstice BN OF OAJ TKN, "Winter," Shetland Sheepdog

Open FAST (OF)

8/19/17 Michelle Trummer, Win Winter Solstice BN OF NAJ, "Winter," Shetland Sheepdog

AKC Master Agility Champion (MACH)

7/23/17 Stephen McKay, Holther's Well Done, "Scorch," Border Collie

AKC Bronze Grand Champion (GCHB)

5/6/17 Olga Kornienko, GCHB Lacey's Ain't No Sour Grapes NW2, "Pinot," PBGV

United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA)

USDAA Relay Master (RM)

6/4/17 Stephen McKay, Holther's Well Done, "Scorch," Border Collie

USDAA Bronze Tournament Master (TMB)

7/23/16 Michele Cardone, "Zack," Border Collie

Jumper Master (JM)

5/21/17 Stephen McKay, Holther's Well Done, "Scorch," Border Collie

TRICK DOG TITLES

American Kennel Club (AKC)

AKC Novice Trick Dog (TKN)

4/20/17 Kathleen Foley, Ch Firehearts's Wild Irish Rose CDX RAE MXP MJP, "Kelly," Scottish Terrier

7/20/17 Morgaana Menzel, Sirocco's Private Party, "Phouka," Boxer Dog

AKC Trick Dog Performer (TKP)

7/12/17 Rachel Lane, Dustin Alexander Lane, "Dustin," All American

NOSE WORK

National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW)

NACSW Level 2 Containers (L2C)

6/24/17 Cynthia Grohoski, Aneleh Marshwiggle Oceana, "Blossom," English Springer Spaniel

6/24/17 Cynthia Grohoski, "Blossom"

United States Canine Scent Sports (USCSS)

UCSS Novice Container (CN)

2/26/17 Cynthia Grohoski, Aneleh Marshwiggle Oceana, "Blossom," English Springer Spaniel

UCSS Detective Dog Novice (DDN)

2/26/17 Cynthia Grohoski, Marshwiggle's Merriment, "Emma," English Springer Spaniel

BARN HUNT

Barn Hunt Association (BHA)

Barn Hunt Association Novice Barn Hunt (RATN)

6/1/17 Morgaana Menzel, Sirocco's Private Party, "Phouka," Boxer Dog

Barn Hunt Association Senior Rats (RATS)

6/20/17 Kathleen Foley, Cesare's Rome 'N The Gloamin, CD RE AXP AJP SE, "Brian," West Highland Terrier

AKC LURE COURSING TITLES

Coursing Ability Advanced (CAA)

5/10/17 Morgaana Menzel, Sirocco's Private Party, "Phouka," Boxer Dog

AKC CGC TITLES

8/4/17 Morgaana Menzel, Sirocco's Song of the Sea, "Rhoswyn," Boxer Dog

Our Stars: Reporting Titles

To submit your dog's new titles/awards for publication in the "Our Stars" column in this newsletter, please fill out the Our Stars form found on our web site at

www.pcotc.org/membership.

If you do not have web access, you may report your new titles by mail (or e-mail), to trummermrt@yahoo.com or to Michelle Trummer.

Summer home: 11 Lakeview Rd., North Salem, NY 10560.

Winter Home: 11988 61st Street North, West Palm Beach, FL 33412.

Volunteering Explained

Volunteers run all PCOTC activities except dog training, for which we pay qualified instructors. We ask each club member to volunteer a minimum of 12 hours during each club year (June 1 to May 31). Those who complete the minimum of 12 hours receive special Member Volunteer rates that provide year-round savings on all group classes.

In order to receive the special volunteer rates for a club year, members must complete their volunteer hours prior to the beginning of that club year.

Volunteer hours do not “carry over” from year to year. Each member in a family membership needs credit for 12 volunteer hours, but family members may credit hours to another person in the membership.

New club members must complete 6 volunteer hours prior to submitting their application for membership, and are eligible for the Volunteer Member privileges immediately upon admission to the club. They then must complete an additional 6 hours prior to the end of the club year to receive Volunteer Member status for the next year.

You can find volunteer opportunities in the Help Wanted column in Sit ‘n Stay and on the PCOTC Events bulletin board at the facility or by contacting our Volunteer Coordinator at pcotcvolunteer@gmail.com.

It is your responsibility to report your volunteer hours via a PCOTC Volunteer Reporting Form, kept in stock at the facility. The form is also available for download from the Membership page of our web site, <http://www.pcotc.org/membership>.

Volunteer members who log in 30+ hours in a club year will be considered “Super Volunteers” who will be honored at the annual club meeting and given a Certificate of Appreciation.

Change in the Fiscal Year

Note: Due to a Bylaws change, our fiscal year is changing from June 1 through May 31, to January 1 through December 30. Our current fiscal “year” extends from June 1, 2017, through December 30, 2018. For this fiscal “year,” volunteers must complete 18 volunteer hours to receive a volunteer discount in the following fiscal year, and super-volunteers, 45 hours.

HELP WANTED

PUTTIN’ ON THE DOG on Sept. 17. Volunteers needed for a benefit for Adopt-a-Dog in Greenwich, CT. This event will include a PCOTC booth and a “My Dog Can Do That!” agility ring. FMI contact Jane Wheeler at janewheeler@optimum.net.

WHITE PLAINS WEEKENDS COORDINATOR. Volunteer needed to schedule dates for obedience run-thrus, set up registration at www.dogmatchshows.com, request volunteers for the event as well as maintain a list of volunteers, and print the schedule for run-thrus.

Please contact Karen Wrey for more information at kayray@optonline.net

WHITE PLAINS WEEKENDS VOLUNTEERS, Sept. 24, Oct. 29, Nov. 19, mornings only. Volunteer hours & free runs. Contact Karen Wrey at kayray@optonline.net

AKC OBEDIENCE TRIALS, Nov. 5. Hospitality, ring set-up, stewarding, clean-up. Contact Karen Wrey at kayray@optonline.net

SEMINAR/WORKSHOP COORDINATORS for Family Manners and Nose Work (1 for each area). Please contact Jane Wheeler at janewheeler@optimum.net

AKC SCENT WORK TRIALS, Dec. 5. Contact Kathy Gregory, gregdobes@aol.com

CLASS ASSISTANTS, Sept-Oct. Class Sessions.

Would you like to volunteer as an instructional assistant in a PCOTC training class?

You must be a member of PCOTC, have a strong training background, plenty of experience in the relevant discipline, and be ready to work.

The assistant’s role will be to help set up and take down any equipment or ring gates, be a presence in the ring if the instructor needs to step away briefly, and to provide direct assistance to a working pair while the instructor is engaged with another student.

The assistant will be under the direct supervision of the instructor. Written guidelines will be provided prior to the class. Assistants must commit to attend all meetings of the class they are assisting. In return, the assistant receives volunteer hours and the opportunity to get some hands-on teaching experience.

Keeping in Touch with PCOTC

PCOTC’s Web Site: Go to www.TeachRover.com or www.pcotc.org for class registration and information about our classes, special events, facility, instructors, and membership.

MailChimp Mailing List: You can subscribe to this e-mail list via our web site, or go directly to <http://eepurl.com/bwbO5f>. You do not have to be a member or have taken classes yet. Mailings are sent out several times a month with news and information about upcoming training session registration, new events and classes added to our calendar, reminders of opening and closing dates, and club meetings, etc.

Having trouble receiving e-blasts from PCOTC through MailChimp? Be sure to enter teachrover@verizon.net into your computer’s address book or list, or messages from PCOTC may end up in your spam filter.

Facebook Page: Go to www.facebook.com/pcotc or search for “Port Chester Obedience Training Club” to bring up our page.

If you are interested in being considered for this role or have further questions, please email to Class Assistant Coordinator Fran Hellman at sunjaysgrs@aol.com by September 5, 2017 with the following information:

- Your name and contact information
- The Discipline for which you wish to assist (Family Manners, Obedience, Rally, Agility, Nose Work)
- A particular instructor with whom you wish to work, if any
- Days/times available
- A brief statement of your interest and experience.

The appropriate Training Director and relevant instructor will review applications as we try to pair you with an instructor.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES arise from time to time. Contact Sharon Shivers, Volunteer Coordinator at: pcotcvolunteer@gmail.com

PCOTC Club Meeting Minutes

6/12/17

Present: G. Berger, J Wheeler, M. Menzel, S. Gagnon, J. Meldrim, A. Woods, M. Woods, O. Kornienko

The recording secretary asked to waive the reading of the minutes from the last club meeting since they appeared in the last *Sit 'n Stay*. A motion was made from the floor and seconded. All were in favor.

President's Report: Explained "member in good standing." Members have to do one of three things to qualify as a "member in good standing." A member in good standing gets to vote, hold office and receive club awards. Kathleen Fried will take care of this and keeping the list up to date.

- Dues this year are 18 months as we transition to a calendar year.
- House Director: still looking. Candidate will get one free class a session.

• **Front Door:** will be installed next week. Will remind management to use the same cylinder so new keys will not be necessary.

Registration: Average is 420/session. This year it is 430/session up slightly. Looking into a new software system to keep better track of registration.

Corresponding Secretary: Reminded everyone that unless requested all information will be sent by email.

Treasurer: Agility trial entries were low. Total profit was about \$1800 which is 1/2 of what was expected. Future trials may need to be indoors.

Overall, revenue for the year ending May 2017 is up \$8,000 from the previous year. Still working on re-categorizing the accounts as reported to get a better picture of what is making money. Rent is also going up as we enter a new year. There is two years left on the lease and we should be looking around at other spaces.

Vice President: 156 members. Will put out an e blast to remind about renewing membership

Seminars: A committee will work with the TDs to come up with seminars. Whoever works the seminar will get a free audit spot at an upcoming seminar.

- Will be doing Open Houses at the club to highlight all the venues.

New Business:

Since there was no opposing slate of candidates, the slate as presented: Sara Gagnon, President, Grace Heck, second VP, Audrey Woods, recording secretary, and Barbara Del Rowe, director was voted in by the recording secretary who cast one vote.

Meeting was adjourned and club awards were given out.

PCOTC Board Meeting Minutes

5/16/17

Present: J. Meldrim, M. Menzel, J. Wheeler, A. Woods, M. Woods, B. Verdi, S. Gagnon

Election: There is no alternative slate. At the club meeting the recording secretary will cast one vote to accept the slate.

Awards: Candidates were chosen for the President's Award and the AKC Sportmanship Award.

Treasurer: Dee Dee and Grace Heck will help Megan with the treasurer's responsibilities and cleaning up Quickbooks.

Front Door: Management ordered it and it will be in and installed in 30 days.

Tricks Event: Several board members want to have an event. There is an AKC seminar for Scent Work in Stroudsburg coming up.

Biographies: Jane need bios from the candidates up for re-election and election for *Sit 'n Stay*.

Next meeting Tuesday, May 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the club.

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5/30/17

Present: G. Berger, B. Del Rowe, S. Gagnon, O. Kornienko, J. Meldrim, M. Menzel, A. Woods, M. Woods

President: Looked into cameras for the interior of the facility. The price is around \$300-\$400 to record and store on a hard drive. They also include motion sensors and are wireless. Decision was made to go ahead and get them.

Treasurer: Attempting to compile as much information together for the club meeting; cleaning up Quickbooks. Someone needs to contact Dinowitz and Bove to see if they filed a tax extension for this year.

• Grace and Dee Dee will help with the clean-up and the depositing after June 10.

• ASAP is only charging for transactions and for transaction detail; we roughly pay about \$6,000/year.

Corresponding Secretary:

- Sending out two emails; AKC Westminster

Agility and the outbreak of the canine flu H3N2

- Sending a reminder of June 1 membership renewal.

Seminars and Publicity: Jane will continue to do *Sit 'n Stay* and other things.

Membership: A motion was made to waive the 6 hours to get to be a member and make the change in the policy and procedure manual. The motion was seconded. All were in favor.

The following new members were voted in during this meeting:

- Katherine Jochen, Old English Sheepdog
- Meika Mustrangi, English Shepherd
- Barbara Napoli, Mix
- Joan Kaufman, Toy Poodle
- Sharon Torres, Mix

Registration: 386 enrollment/400

• 147 Family Manners, 131 Agility, 62 Nosework, 45 Obedience/Rally.

- Looking at software but the club does not fit any particular category. Barbara has

PCOTC Board Meeting Minutes

demos lined up all next week. Configio is a front runner, with no transaction fees.

Fire Safety: Inspection will take place tomorrow at 11:00 AM

Rally: Want to fill the 7/8 PM slot on Monday. Joanne Sheffler and Cindy Rubin are considering for July/August session but only at the beginner level. Still need someone at the higher level.

Agility:

- Mary Champagne is leaving again. July/August will be her last session.
- Diane Patterson demo was good. A motion was made to hire her, seconded and all were in favor.
- Grace Heck would like to teach. A demo will be set up to assess her teaching style.

Tricks and Parkour: Have not heard back from Jenn regarding a Tricks event. The club will go ahead and have one, then find a judge.

June Club Meeting: Preparations are underway for the slide show and awards.

Class Attendance: Instructors need to put on paper (if not directly into the system) who is in their class(es) week by week.

New Business:

- Need to create a written policy for removing dogs from classes. Instructors must contact TD and a discussion with the board must ensue.
- Policy needs to be written about unregistered class participants.
- Agility Trial 2018: We need to think about whether we want to continue outside. We will wait to see if there was any profit.
- Fitpaws Equipment: will buy

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 11, 7:30 PM

6/11/17

Present: S. Gagnon, B. Del Rowe, G. Heck, O. Kornienko, J. Meldrim, M. Menzel, A. Woods, M. Woods

Treasurer: Rent went up to \$16,820 as per the terms of the lease. Margaret DaFonce has stepped forward to find a new place.

Grace will begin to help the sorting process for the accounts.

Corresponding Secretary: Need to separate out the surveys into Family Manners and all other disciplines.

Membership: The following candidates were put up for vote for non-volunteer membership:

- Linda Kehn, Soft Coated Wheaton
- Krystina Murawski, Pomeranian
- Jeannine Manninen, mix
- Joanne VonEssen, Pembroke Welsh Corgi
- Marianne Shanley, mix

Motion was made to accept, seconded and all were in favor.

The following candidate was put up for vote as a volunteer member:

- Alberto Ferrer, Border Collie

Motion was made to accept, seconded and all were in favor.

Registration: Registration is off by 30-40 when compared to the same session last year. 11 classes had to be cancelled because of low enrollment.

Canceling classes poses a difficult problem especially with multi-class discounts. A discussion ensued as to what should be done when a class is under-enrolled.

Fire Safety: The inspection was done. We need carbon monoxide detectors and some ASP fire extinguishers. In addition, we need to label the storage closets, and get the emergency lights in working order (landlord is working on this).

Interior cameras will be mounted shortly and monitored. These will be on a motion sensor which will start recording the moment it detects motion.

House Manager: Michele Cardone has stepped up to be House Manager.

Procedure for removal of an individual or dog from a class: Needs to be discussed with training director and board president before action if any is taken. A policy will be placed in the policy handbook to this effect.

Instructors must notify registrars when someone is not on the roster within 24 hours.

Tricks/CGC Event: Judges can be paid per dog tested. Event would take place in September if possible.

Seminar Refund Policy: Serious injury with a vet certification and notification in a timely manner to fill the position vacated, refunds will be allowed.

Awards: Tags are being remade and we are looking for a new company. We will be polling members as to when they would like to receive awards: June at the annual meeting, or December, which is year end.

Obedience/Rally Jump: There is an unopened box upstairs with new jump in it. Will look at getting one 4" board rather than a whole new jump.

Agility Trial: need a trial committee and a location.

Next meeting: August 22.

Club Reminders

DOGS IN CLASS: Unless instructed otherwise by the class instructor, students should crate their dogs when not working, or have them on leash in close proximity.

PARKING: Students/Renters are not permitted to park in the lot behind PCOTC during weekday hours. You may park in the lot after 5:00 p.m. weekdays, and on weekends. If parking in the lot, your car must be in a designated space; you may not park next to the ramp. Please be aware that illegally parked cars are subject to towing.

CLEANUP: Please be aware of where your dog's nose is (if they are looking at it, they are thinking about it) when entering and exiting the facility, as well as what his/her rear end is doing!

For those dogs in season, please make sure panties are worn when inside the facility. Please clean up any bodily fluids thoroughly with the appropriate agents and if they eliminate on the outside stairs/deck, please rinse it off. Thank you for your help in keeping PCOTC clean!